

## MAY 27, 2008

Wabash County Council met in regular session on Tuesday, May 27, 2008. Prayer was offered by Jim Kaltenmark. Chairman Bob Fuller called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M., with all members present: Dean Eppley, Bob Fuller, Gary Nose, Jim Kaltenmark, Mike Ridenour, Ted Little and Claude Markstahler. The proceedings of the minutes were recorded by Wabash County Auditor Jane Ridgeway.

The minutes of the April 28, 2008 meeting were reviewed. Eppley made a motion to approve as written. It was seconded by Ridenour and passed by a 7-0 vote.

The first order of business was to address the Additional Appropriation requested as advertised:

### ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE 2008 NO. V

WHEREAS, it has been determined that it is now necessary to appropriate more money than was appropriated in the annual budget; now, therefore:

SEC. 1, Be it ordained by the Wabash County Council of Wabash County, Indiana, that for the expenses of the taxing unit the following additional sums of money are hereby appropriated out of the funds named and for the purposes specified, subject to the laws governing the same:

Amount Requested	Amount Appropriated	AYE	NAY
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#### COUNTY GENERAL FUND CORONER

0001-0007-03-431-012 Other Services & Charges				
– Autopsies	\$ 11,411.65	\$8,872.00	7	0

Due to over extended budget, claims are submitted for Council Approval.

Council reviewed the request from County Coroner Marilyn McDonald. Following discussion Council will hold a portion of the claim for review – Little questioned why there were charges from the Wabash County Hospital as three (3) autopsies that were also billed as autopsies done in Fort Wayne. Little made a motion to approve the request withholding the questioned claims until further information could be obtained. His motion was seconded by Eppley and passed by a 7-0 vote.

#### COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

0001-0029-01-413-074 Personal Service				
– Sheriff's Pension	\$ 8,237.00	\$ 8,237.00	7	0

April 2008 275 Claims @\$13.00-Superior Court – 166 Claims @ \$13.00-Circuit Court, Clerk's Report, Secretary's Report

Eppley made a motion to approve. It was seconded by Nose and passed by a 7-0 vote.

#### PROBATION

0001-0037-03-431-065 Other Services & Charges	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	7	0
– Computer Maintenance				

Chief Probation Officer Dallas Duggan (This officer) is respectfully requesting that this Council approve for two separate projects: 1) As this officer has previously reported, the probation department has three (3)-eight (8) year old computers. After consultation with Visionary Computers, we believe that we can extend the life of the computers;

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hopefully at least for another year by replacing the existing RAM chip. The cost of a new 512 MB is \$72.77; (NOTE: Installation will be \$20 per each) thus multiplying that amount by three (3) computers would be \$60.00.—2) The State of Indiana has provided the Superior and Circuit Courts of Wabash County with laptops as well as a printer for Superior Court. The purpose of this equipment is to provide the Courts with the ability for immediate on-line notification, of No-Contact orders, to law enforcement. This office is responsible for No-Contact orders issued from Superior Court; thus, the Court has allowed this officer to use the provided laptop computer. This officer is requesting permission to have Visionary Computers install a Wireless Router (\$77.00) as well as a Wireless Print Server (\$131.71) to facilitate wireless communication for the Probation Department and both Courts.

Nose made a motion to approve request. It was seconded by Kaltenmark and passed with a 7-0 vote.

### COUNTY HIGHWAY FUND MAJOR MOVES PROJECTS

0002-0039-03-439-079 Capital Outlay				
- 800N Reconstruction	\$ 895,000.00	\$ 895,000.00	7	0

This money is the Major Moves Account. It will be used to pay for the improvement to SR 13 and CR 800N at the Poet Refinery. This is to be repaid with funds from the sale of Bonds; Requested by Highway Supt Phil Amones. Eppley made a motion to approve request. It was seconded by Little and passed by a 7-0 vote.

### ADULT PROBATION USER FEE FUNDS

0060-0000-03-431-000 Other Services & Charges	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	7	0
- Drug Screening				

From Dallas Duggan, Chief Probation Officer: As this Council is very aware, Wabash County has a significant drug problem; furthermore, as this council is aware, this officer has basically kept this account static through the years at \$10,000.00. However, in late 2007, this officer determined that a more aggressive approach toward drug screening our clients was necessary; thus, this officer made changes to our drug screening procedures and mandated specific drug testing requirements. Unfortunately, the additional testing comes at an increased cost. The cost of urine drug testing is borne by the client; thus, a majority of this money will be collected and returned to the probation department.

Ridenour made a motion to approve the request. It was seconded by Nose and passed by a 7-0 vote.

### CUMULATIVE CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

0124-0000-04-444-new Capital Outlay – Vehicle (EMA)	\$ 4,800.00	\$0		Tabled
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To pay County Highway for a 1998 Chevrolet K2500 Cheyenne pickup Truck with Western Snow Plow transferred to EMA by Commissioners.

Council discussed the current funds being used- (CCD)- Kaltenmark made a motion to approve. It was seconded by Markstahler – but was then withdrawn after discussing that the funds should not be from CCD; but funding should be from County General EMA funds. Kaltenmark amended the motion to use the County General Fund and made a motion to approve purchase with the County General Fund. This motion died due to no second. Ridenour then moved to table this request until the June 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting and resubmit a request from EMA funds. This was seconded by Kaltenmark and passed with a 7-0 vote.

### HOMELAND SECURITY – HEALTH FUND

0146-0000-04-444-044 Capital Outlay – Other Equipment	\$ 1,107.00	\$ 1,107.00	7	0
Computer for Public Health Nurse				

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The Public Health Nurse (Lori Foust stated in this request that she) must have a working computer to be able to access the state programs such as: Homeland Security, CHIRP and Indiana State Department of Health. Quotes were submitted and one marked that meets the requirements.

The computer is needed for more capacity for large programs. Ridenour stated that he had looked at the computer, and made a motion to approve request. It was seconded by Little and passed by a 7-0 vote.

**This was presented to the Wabash County Council, read in full and adopted on the 27th day of May, 2008 by the above aye and nay vote.**

The next order of business was to discuss additional funding from the State Legislature –HEA 1001. The State Legislature is returning \$612 million to the counties borrowed by the O’Bannon administration back in 2002. Wabash County’s portion will be \$2.8 million. 99.5% of the monies are set to give relief on property taxes to Wabash County residents. The remaining .5% will be set aside for future need. Council discussed applying all of the credits for property taxes this year or the option of deferring it over a three (3) year period. Ridgeway informed the Council that at the Auditor’s Spring Conference last week she was told that the Auditor of State’s office would begin working on the Wabash County LOIT Credit calculations this week and she would then know the exact amounts of the LOIT Tax Credits and the HEA 1001 Credits to be applied on Homestead Properties. She suggested Council consider holding a special meeting in the middle of June in order to review the effects of deferring or not deferring the credits. Eppley presented his Memo – 2009 LOIT Proposal- that discussed deferring the effect of distribution over a three (3) year period on property taxes and as to not have what was referred to as a “boomerang” effect- 2008 no payment then in 2009 back to a big hike in property taxes. The consensus of the Council was this money was promised for property tax relief and belongs to the people. After much discussion, Ridenour made a motion to apply all the monies on property taxes this year for Wabash County Residents; not defer it. It was seconded by Nose and passed by a 6-1 vote. Eppley was opposed.

Council also discussed whether or not there was a need to consider any changes to the Wabash County LOIT Tax as passed in December of 2007. Eppley stated his suggestions in the 2009 LOIT Proposal Letter presented previously: “Shift 0.25% of present property tax relief rate to a 0.25% public safety rate with a pre-agreed upon usage (among Wabash County, City of Wabash, and North Manchester) of the revenue being committed to ambulance service or some other public safety program, possibly jail addition if deemed appropriate.” Following discussion it was decided they would like to wait and see if any changes would need to be done after the results of the taxes this year. Council will revisit this idea for the 2009 year.

Beverly Ferry, Executive Director of the Wabash County Council on Aging, reported on needs and changes with the Wabash County Transit. Due to the rise in gas prices, rates will be raised: one way rates for folks 59 and under will rise from \$1 to \$2 in Wabash and N. Manchester. Outside Wabash and N.

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Manchester will rise from \$3 to \$4 one-way – those over 60 will be under a grant as in the past; no transportation on Monday but only Tuesday through Friday 6 am to 6pm- the dispatch office will still be open on Monday. Ferry stated funds are received from Wabash City, Wabash County, N. Manchester, Wabash County United Fund, and some from INDOT. Funding is still an issue and there is a concern of going over the budget this year as much as \$40,000.00. Ferry stated they are looking into other sources of assistance for this need. Ferry also invited one of the Councilmen to sit on the Advisory board. Commissioner Les Templin attends as a representative for the Commissioners.

Teresa Witkoske, County Extension Office, informed Council that the Ag. Position had been filled by Purdue as Curt Campbell was appointed and will be starting on July 1, 2008.

The State Board of Accounts held a called meeting for County Councils on June 14, 2008 in Indianapolis. Reservations for attendance were set for Nose, Markstahler, Kaltenmark, Ridenour, and County Auditor Jane Ridgeway.

The Council discussed the published opinion of the Indiana State Attorney General on the Township Assessors position changes. The office is not abolished; the legislation is just transferring the duties to the County Assessor. Township Assessors are entitled to receive salaries set through the end of the 2008 year. Brenda Conner, Noble Township Assessor, could be hired as a deputy in the County Assessor office. Conner stated County Assessor Kelley Schenkel has asked her to stay on in County Office. Schenkel is planning to request one more full-time deputy and two more part-time employees to help with the transfer and Conner could be one of those. Schenkel and Conner discussed with Council on how salaries would be addressed. Following discussion, Council stated a budget needs to be presented for them to act on any salary decisions.

Council discussed that they would like to be able to give a concrete direction for salary and wage increases to Department heads and Elected Officials for the 2009 Budget. Fuller stated he would like to see Department Heads and Elected Officials present realistic budget requests for their individual employees and departments. The Auditor reminded Council and Department Heads that the 2009 Department Budgets will need to be turned into her office no later than July 3<sup>rd</sup>, in order to prepare the County's budget for the Council to review during Budget Hearings to be held August 19, 20 and 21, 2008; with final approval on September 8<sup>th</sup>.

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Council then reviewed:

1. April 30, 2008 Auditor's Financial Report and Treasurer's Monthly Report.
2. The revised Council Meeting Schedule as amended on May 28<sup>th</sup> with 2009 Budget Hearings to be held August 19, 20, 21 starting at 4:00 P.M. until 11:00 P.M.
3. 2008 Annual Actuarial Valuation of the Wabash County Police Retirement Plan and Benefit Plan and the Actuarial Valuation Report from McCready and Keene, Inc. Chairman Fuller was given the report by the Auditor for further review.

No other business, Eppley made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Little and the meeting closed with a 7-0 vote. The next regular meeting will be held Monday, June 23, 2008 in the Commissioner's Meeting Room at the Wabash County Courthouse at 8:00 A.M.

\* Approved as noted on June 23, 2008.