

JUNE 23, 2008

Wabash County Council met in regular session on Monday, June 23, 2008. Prayer was offered by Jim Kaltenmark. Chairman Bob Fuller called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M., with six members present: Dean Eppley, Bob Fuller, Gary Nose, Jim Kaltenmark, Mike Ridenour, and Claude Markstahler. The proceedings of the minutes were recorded by County Auditor Jane Ridgeway.

The minutes of the May 27, 2008 meeting were reviewed. Eppley made a motion to approve the minutes as written. It was seconded by Markstahler and passed by a 6-0 vote.

Ridenour suggested holding an informational meeting with Association of Indiana Counties Executive Director David Bottorff explaining the 2008 Legislation Wrap-up of HEA 1001 concerning the Circuit Breaker and its effect on all the taxing units of the county. It was decided to invite representatives from each of the county's Taxing Units. The special public meeting will be held at the Honeywell Center on July 7th at 6:00 P.M.

Representatives of the Purdue Extension Office, Teresa Witkoske and Pandora Woodward, presented an overview of several of the Consumer and Family Services, 4-H programs, and others provided by their office. They introduced Curt Campbell who will be starting on June 30th as the Wabash County Ag and Natural Resources Program Director. Ridenour asked about the budgeted positions funded by the Council and the Master Gardner program. The representatives also discussed some of the funding provided by Purdue.

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

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS
ORDINANCE 2008 NO. VI**

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
---------------------	------------------------	-----	-----

COUNTY GENERAL FUND

COUNTY ASSESSOR

0001-0010-01-412-012 Personal Services

– Deputy Assessor	\$ 2,273.05	\$ 2,273.05	6	0
-------------------	-------------	-------------	---	---

Jean Schuler, who is presently the Noble Township Deputy, is transferring to the position of County Assessor Deputy as of 7-1-08. This is the extra amount needed for her to receive deputy pay in the County Assessor's Office. Requested by County Assessor Kelly Schenkel.

JUNE 23, 2008

County Assessor Kelly Schenkel explained that she has extra funds available from her Reappraisal Fund that were not needed for F-11 Processing and would like to transfer these funds to the County General Fund to provide for an increase in salary for Schuler. Schenkel also stated she will be asking for another additional deputy position in her 2009 Budget. The Additional Appropriation as well as the Transfer of Funds as requested for the County Assessor's budget was passed on a motion by Ridenour, a second by Eppley and a 6-0 vote.

PLANNING COMMISSION

0001-0022-03-431-021 Other Services & Charges

Legal Consultant	\$14,132.08	\$ 14,132.08	6	0
------------------	-------------	--------------	---	---

Legal services (billed by Larry C. Thrush) for Terra Nova vs. Wabash County Board of Zoning Appeals, for Indiana Court Of Appeals proceedings from 2/18/2008 through 5/21/2008. Requested by Mike Howard, Wabash County Planning Director

In discussion of this request, Nose asked for an estimate of the additional amount of legal expenses yet to be billed for this court action. Howard did not have an estimate at this time. Markstahler moved to approve the additional appropriation requested. His motion was seconded by Ridenour and passed 6-0.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

0001-0029-01-413-074 Personal Services

– Sheriff's Pension	\$ 5,676.00	\$ 5,676.00	6	0
---------------------	-------------	-------------	---	---

May 2008 283 Claims @\$13.00-Superior Court – 149 Claims @\$13.00-Circuit Court, Clerk's Report, Secretary's Report

Markstahler made a motion to approve. It was seconded by Eppley and passed by a 6-0 vote.

0001-0029-03-439-087 Other Services & Charges

Wabash County Council of Aging	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	6	0
--------------------------------	-------------	-------------	---	---

Beverly Ferry, Executive Director of Wabash County Council on Aging, Inc. requested the following along with County Commissioners, Scott Givens, Les Templin and Brian Hauptert:

With soaring gasoline prices, we need the additional appropriation to go toward the cost of the gasoline for Wabash County Public Transit. As of June 2, we have reduced service to four days a week, Tuesday through Friday, and have eliminated eleven hours from the remaining four days. We hope to be able to restore some of the service hours in the fall. For each additional appropriation of \$5,000, we project being able to restore eight hours of service divided between the four remaining days. Each increment of two hours will help going into the fall, when demand for rides tends to grow as the weather gets colder.

The April gasoline bill for Wabash County Public Transit was \$5,490.89, 60% more than April 2007 and 30% over our 2008 budget. Without service reductions, we would either end up a projected \$70,500 over budget and in the red, or we would have to totally shut down at some point in the fall. We are making the request for additional allocations in combination with instituting drastic service reductions.

The Council questioned Ferry as to the use of the transportation services by the public, Nose and Fuller asked for a copy of the entire Council of Aging budget during the 2009 Budget Hearings as well as a usage report. Following discussion, Ridenour moved to approve the request for the additional \$5,000

JUNE 23, 2008

and his motion was seconded by Eppley and passed by a 6-0 vote. Nose commented that the Council is going to have to learn to say "NO" as they cannot increase all budgets by this percentage and that "additional appropriations are to be for emergencies".

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

0001-0031-01-412-014 Personal Services

– Wages – Assistant \$ 1,063.80* = 0 = 1 5

*Balance of 2008 with 60% reimbursement from the State of Indiana. New requirements for EMA at the local level have added to the work load of this position. Recently completed training includes: National Incident Management System courses for Incident Command (ICS-700, ICS 100, ICS-200) and Homeland Security Comprehensive Assessment Model for counties less than 50,000 population. Requested by EMA Executive Director Robert D. Brown.

EMA Director Bob Brown reviewed some of the new grants and programs his department is currently working on as well as some of the new state requirements. Following discussion, Eppley moved for approval and his motion was seconded by Markstahler. The request was denied on a vote of 1 aye (Eppley) to 5 nay (Fuller, Markstahler, Nose, Kaltenmark and Ridenour) vote.

0001-0031-04-445-043 Capital Outlay

– Motor Vehicles \$ 4,000.00 \$ 4,000.00 6 0

This is a re-submission for the reimbursement to the County Highway for a 1998 Chevrolet Pickup Truck requested to be transferred for EMA use. The total cost is \$4,800.00 with \$800 being transferred from the current EMA budget. (\$400 from Communications, \$250 from Telephone and \$150 from Printing.) Requested by EMA Executive Director Robert D. Brown.

NOTE: At the May 27th meeting the Commissioners requested an Additional Appropriation from their Cumulative Capital Development Fund in order to pay the Highway Department for this pickup truck no longer needed due to a new purchase. Council discussed the funds suggested to be used and Kaltenmark made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Markstahler – but then withdrawn after discussing that funding should not be from CCD but from County General EMA funds instead. Kaltenmark amended the motion to use the County General Fund and made a motion to approve the purchase with the County General Fund. This motion died due to no second. Ridenour then moved to TABLE this request until the June 23rd meeting and suggested Brown resubmit a request from EMA funds. This motion was seconded by Kaltenmark and the request was TABLED by a 7-0 vote.

Following discussion, Markstahler moved to "re-open" the TABLED request. Eppley seconded the motion and it was passed 6-0. Eppley then moved to DENY the previous request from the CCD Fund. His motion was seconded by Ridenour and the original request was DENIED by a 6-0 vote. Markstahler then moved to approve the \$4,000 Additional Appropriation from the General Fund-EMA Budget. His motion was seconded by Eppley and approved by a 6-0 vote of the Council.

Following a break, the Council considered the Additional Appropriation request by the Auditor:

JUNE 23, 2008

COUNTY AUDITOR

0001-0002-01-412-015 Personal Services

– GIS Deputy \$ 709.20 = 0 = 1 5

County Auditor Jane Ridgeway requested an increase for the GIS Deputy position that is shared 40/60 with the EMA Department:

Rachel Guenin has worked now for over 2 years as a Part-Time Deputy in my office. When I asked her last year to become my primary GIS Deputy, to be responsible for maintaining Taxpayer Ownership, Transfers, Splits and Combines of the county’s nearly 23,000 parcels on the new GIS system, she willingly accepted. She has enthusiastically and successfully completed intensive training in order to perform this duty. In addition, Rachel has worked with the GIS Committee throughout the conversion of the manual maps to the computerized system and is now also serving as Secretary to the committee. The duties and functions of her work load have increased this year with the Wabash County GIS Online Beacon Website being opened to the public and will only continue to increase in the future. Rachel has also acted as our training instructor for other courthouse employees as well as the public to help us all understand and better utilize the capabilities of our new GIS system.

Markstahler moved to approve this request and it was seconded by Eppley to “call for the question.” After discussion the request failed to pass by a vote of 1 aye (Eppley) and 5 nays (Fuller, Markstahler, Nose, Kaltenmark and Ridenour).

RAINY DAY FUND

0148-0000-01-412-013 Personal Services - Accrued Unused Employee Benefits

– Retirement – F. Wertenberger \$ 2,740.00 \$ 2,740.00 6 0

Estimated Unused Employee benefits for FAYANNE WERTENBERGER upon her Retirement (6-30-08):

Approximately 192.25 hours @ \$14.25 per hour. (Final Pay-out to be confirmed and verified by Human Resources Coordinator Jim Dils).

Human Resource Director Jim Dils stated he does not have a confirmed balance of the unused employee benefits due at this time. Ridenour moved to approve the request and his motion was seconded by Kaltenmark. It was approved by a 6-0 vote. Dils will have the final verified amount next month and it will be an additional appropriation request at the next meeting. The Council also discussed the possibility of “buying out” all unused benefits from previous years and proposed amendments in the Employee Personnel Policy and changes in the County’s “comp time” practices. The Auditor and Dils will have an updated schedule of the total unfunded liability at budget time.

CUMULATIVE CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

0124-0000-03-NEW Other Services & Charges

– Profession Services – Jail Study \$ 7,000.00 \$ 7,000.00 6 0

The cost of Consultant services for Jail Study. Requested by County Commissioner, Scott Givens, Brian Hauptert and Les Templin.

Council discussed the Commissioners’ request to fund a feasibility study by RQAW Consulting Engineers and Architects of Indianapolis to determine the adult detention needs and how those needs may be satisfied through renovation/expansion of the existing facilities or construction of new facilities and/or identification of alternate solutions. Eppley suggested they should look at the “bigger picture” for the jail needs, including the long-term trends for

JUNE 23, 2008

population growth for the county; possibly a 20 year projection. Following discussion this motion was approved on a motion by Ridenour, second by Markstahler and a 6-0 vote.

Presented to the Wabash County Council, read in full and adopted on the 23rd day of June, 2008 by the above recorded aye and nay votes.

County Auditor Jane Ridgeway provided an Amended (Form 144) Statement of Salaries and Wages Proposed to be Paid Officers and Employees for the Calendar Year 2008 to document the increased salary for County Assessor Deputy Jean Schuler and retirement benefits for Fayanne Wertenberger. The Council approved and signed the Form 144.

The Council next addressed the Transfer Resolution requests as follows:

2008-11: The request by County Assessor Kelly Schenkel approved along with the previous Additional Appropriation for a salary increase for Deputy Assessor Jean Schuler on a motion by Ridenour, a second by Eppley and a 6-0 vote.

**TRANSFER RESOLUTION
NO. 2008-11**

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 expense of said county government and its institutions for the year ending December 31, 2008 the following additional sums of money are hereby transferred and ordered set apart out of the several funds herein named and for the purposes herein specified, subject to the laws governing the same:

	Amount Requested	Amount Appropriated	AYE	NAY
DECREASE:				
REASSESSMENT FUND				

0041-0000-03-431-014 Other Services & Charges				
-F11 Processing	\$ 2,273.05	\$ 2,273.05	6	0

SEC. 2 WHEREAS, it has been shown that certain existing appropriations now have unobligated balances which will not be needed for the purposes for which appropriated, it is further resolved that the following existing appropriations be reduced in the following amounts:

INCREASE:				
COUNTY GENERAL FUND – COUNTY ASSESSOR				

0001-0010-01-412-012 Personal Services				
– Deputies	\$ 2,273.05	\$ 2,273.05	6	0

Presented to the Wabash County Council, read in full, and adopted on the 23rd day of June, 2008, by the above recorded aye and nay vote. The Auditor was directed to present to above emergency transfers to the Department of Local Government Finance for approval as by law provided.

JUNE 23, 2008

2008-12: Requested by Liberty Township Assessor Larry Manning, this transfer request was approved on a motion by Markstahler, a second by Nose and a 6-0 vote.

**TRANSFER RESOLUTION
NO. 2008-12**

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 expense of said county government and its institutions for the year ending December 31, 2008 the following additional sums of money are hereby transferred and ordered set apart out of the several funds herein named and for the purposes herein specified, subject to the laws governing the same:

	Amount Requested	Amount Appropriated	AYE	NAY
DECREASE:				
COUNTY GENERAL FUND – LIBERTY TOWNSHIP ASSESSOR				
0001-0013-03-437-023 Other Services & Charges- Travel & Mileage	\$ 150.00	\$150.00	6	0

SEC. 2 WHEREAS, it has been shown that certain existing appropriations now have unobligated balances which will not be needed for the purposes for which appropriated, it is further resolved that the following existing appropriations be reduced in the following amounts:

INCREASE:				
COUNTY GENERAL FUND – LIBERTY TOWNSHIP ASSESSOR				
0001-0013-02-421-011 Supplies- Office Supplies	\$ 150.00	\$150.00	6	0

Presented to the Wabash County Council, read in full, and adopted on the 23rd day of June, 2008, by the above recorded aye and nay vote. The Auditor was directed to present to above emergency transfers to the Department of Local Government Finance for approval as by law provided.

2008-13: The Commissioners submitted the following transfer request that may be approved without the Council’s approval as it is within the same budget classification category; it was brought to the Council for a confirmation approval for (Phase One) of an Employee Job Description and Evaluation project: To contract with Waggoner – Irwin – Scheele and Associates to conduct a job classification and compensation study. Eppley moved for the approval of the transfer. His motion was seconded by Ridenour and approved by a 6-0 vote.

**TRANSFER RESOLUTION
NO. 2008-13**

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 expense of said county government and its institutions for the year ending December 31, 2008 the following additional sums of money are hereby transferred and ordered set apart out of the several funds herein named and for the purposes herein specified, subject to the laws governing the same:

JUNE 23, 2008

	Amount Requested	Amount Appropriated	AYE	NAY
DECREASE:				
COUNTY GENERAL FUND – COUNTY COMMISSIONERS				
0001-0029-03-439-099 Other Services & Charges- Wards of County & State Institutions	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 35,000.00	6	0

SEC. 2 WHEREAS, it has been shown that certain existing appropriations now have unobligated balances which will not be needed for the purposes for which appropriated, it is further resolved that the following existing appropriations be reduced in the following amounts:

**INCREASE:
COUNTY GENERAL FUND – COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

0001-0029-03-431-000 Other Services & Charges- Professional Services – Job Study	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 35,000.00	6	0
---	---------------------	---------------------	----------	----------

Presented to the Wabash County Council, read in full, and adopted on the 23rd day of June, 2008, by the above recorded aye and nay votes. The Auditor was directed to present to above emergency transfers to the Department of Local Government Finance for approval as by law provided.

County Auditor Jane Ridgeway presented a proposed petition to the Department of Local Government Finance asking to defer a portion of the HEA 1001-2008 Homestead Credits to the '08 pay '09 tax year that can not be applied this year. Ridenour moved to approve the petition and his motion was seconded by Eppley. The motion was approved by a 6-0 vote and the Letter of Petition was signed as follows:

June 23, 2008

**Department of Local Government Finance
Indiana Government Center North
100 North Senate Avenue N1058 (B)
Indianapolis, IN 46204**

Attn: Cheryl A. W. Musgrave, Commissioner

Whereas the Wabash County Council has adopted a county adjusted gross income tax prior to January 1, 2008 and also adopted local option income taxes for property tax operating levies and property tax relief prior to January 1, 2008; with the approval of the Wabash County Council as the fiscal body of Wabash County Government on June 23, 2008, We hereby respectfully petition your department to defer a portion of Wabash County's allocation of HEA 1001-2008 to 2009 payable taxes.

Sincerely,

WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL

**Jane Harper Ridgeway
Wabash County Auditor**

**T. F. (Bob) Fuller
Chairman
James Kaltenmark
Gary S. Nose
Claude Markstahler
Dean Eppley**

Council then reviewed a letter from Clerk of the Courts Lori Draper concerning legislative changes for referendums on the ballot that could require a special

JUNE 23, 2008

election and could cause additional expense in a non-election year such as 2009. She asked for direction on including this possible expense in the 2009 Budget. Following discussion, the majority of the Council (4-2) voted that they would like to see it included in her budget whether or not it might be needed. Ridenour and Fuller voted nay.

Ridgeway asked the Council to review a memo concerning an increase in the State mileage rate for a determination of whether or not they would consider increasing the Wabash County allowable rate. Following discussion, Ridenour moved to increase the county rate to \$.44 (equal to the State rate). Eppley seconded his motion and the rate was increased as of July 1, 2008 by a 6-0 vote.

Sheriff Striker and Community Corrections Administrative Assistant Kandy Barker reviewed the Community Correction Budget for the Fiscal Grant Year of July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009 as approved by the State Department of Corrections. The budget appropriations and any increase in Salaries and Wages will need to be advertised for the next Council meeting in order for the Council to officially approve or accept the budget as approved by the State.

Council next addressed a letter from Sheriff Leroy Striker dated June 11, 2008 concerning a recommendation of the Wabash County Sheriff's Department Merit Board to amend the Wabash County Police Retirement Plan. Striker asked the Council to consider and adopt the recommendation to enhance the current plan with an adoption of a Normal Retirement Age of 50 from 55 and a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) until Social Security Retirement Age. Following discussion, Markstahler moved to approve the recommendation of the Merit Board with the option of "looking at trust funds." The motion was seconded by Kaltenmark and approved by a 5-1 vote of the Council. (Eppley casted the nay vote)

The Auditor offered an update on the portion of the Coroner's additional appropriation claims that were tabled on June 23rd at the request of Councilman Ted Little. The Council decided to not act on the TABLED requests because neither Coroner Marilyn McDonald nor Little were present.

County Coordinator Jim Dils was asked by Ridenour to send an email with proposed directions to Department heads for 2009 Budget Salary and Wage requests. In an open discussion with elected officials and department heads present, it was suggested that salary and wage increases should not go above 4% within each department budget. Several of the Council also expressed that longevity, in the form it was previously structured, would not be funded pending the results and recommendations of the job classification and evaluation study.

JUNE 23, 2008

County Auditor Jane Ridgeway then introduced a proposed resolution for a Temporary Loan as a precautionary measure due to the delayed Spring Property Tax collections this year. The following Resolution 2008-2 was passed on a motion by Eppley, a second by Nose and a 5-0 vote:

**A Resolution Authorizing a Loan of Local Road and Street Revenue
to the County General Fund**

WHEREAS, the Wabash County Council has determined under authority of Indiana Code: 36-1-8-4, that it would be in the best interest of Wabash County to authorize a loan of Local Road and Street funds to the County General Fund due to an inadequate operating balance. Council has determined an emergency situation exists as timely payment of employee benefits and vendor claims is at risk;

NOW, THEREFORE, as there are sufficient funds on deposit in the Local Road and Street account for current needs, this Council does hereby sanction a temporary loan not to exceed the amount of one million dollars (\$1,000,000.) from the Local Road and Street Fund to the County General Fund. Said appropriation is to be used for operating expenses of Wabash County. Per Indiana Code: 36-1-8-4, the Local Road and Street Fund must be reimbursed in the total amount of loan made on or before December 31, 2008.

Council then reviewed the May 31, 2008 Auditor's Financial Report and Treasurer's Monthly Report.

No other business, Eppley made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Markstahler and the meeting closed with a 6-0 vote. The next regular meeting will be held Monday, July 28, 2008 in the Commissioner's Meeting Room at the Wabash County Courthouse at 8:00 A.M.

*Approved with discussion for clarification of changes in the Sheriff's Pension Plan on July 28, 2008.