

WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

The Wabash County Council met in session on Monday, June 25, 2018 in the Commissioner's Meeting Room of the Wabash County Courthouse. Due to the absence of Chairman Randy Curless, Vice-Chairman Kyle Bowman called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M. Five Council members were present: Bowman, Matthew Mize, Barbara Pearson, Matt Dillon, Lorissa Sweet, and Philip Dale. Councilman Bowman led in a word of prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. The proceedings of the meeting were recorded by the County Auditor's office.

Vice-Chairman Bowman requested that those present silence their cell phones and stated that all public comments regarding agenda and non-agenda items are permitted and encouraged.

The first order of business was to review the minutes of the May 29, 2018 Council meeting. Dillon made a motion to approve the minutes. Pearson seconded the motion and it passed by a 5-0 vote with one abstention by Sweet who was not in attendance at the May meeting.

The next order of business was the discussion of additional sheriff deputies requested by Sheriff Bob Land who was present to explain the request. Land stated that he met with the wage and personnel committee last week and requested an additional four sheriff deputies and two new jail officers because of concerns with safety issues when understaffed. Land stated that he has two officers at the law enforcement academy, one off work for medical leave and one officer has recently resigned. He stated that he and his chief deputy are currently working the road and this results in administrative duties not being covered adequately. Council member Mize spoke on behalf of the wage committee and stated that it is the recommendation of the committee to hire two new sheriff deputies and one new jail officer as soon as possible and then budget an additional two deputies and one jail officer for 2019. Mize stated that Wabash County's salaries are comparable to other counties with the same size population but the number of officers and jailers is much less compared to those counties. Dillon made a motion to approve the recommendation of the committee to seek and hire two new deputies and one new jail officer this year and consider two additional deputies and one jailer in the budgeting for 2019. Dale seconded the motion and it passed by a 6-0 vote.

The next order of business was the discussion of school safety. Present for this discussion were Mike Keaffaber, Superintendent of MSD school district, Chris Kuhn, Assistant Superintendent of MSD school district, and County Sheriff Bob Land. Keaffaber had submitted an outline to Council of school safety issues which included the Indiana Dept. of Education protocol and U. S. shooting statistics and a request to collaborate with the County Council and the County Sheriff's department in order to provide a safe environment for the students and staff at MSD schools. The outline proposed that the sheriff's department

provide 1-2 officers for MSD during the school year and the costs of employment similar to the Wabash City Council and the Wabash City Schools' collaboration. The outline also proposed shared services; those services to be provided by MSD to be paid for with grant monies and those services and equipment that would need to be paid for by the County including a possible \$15,000 per officer with those officers being able to work for the Sheriff's department on non-school days similar to the North Manchester Town Board and Manchester Community Schools' collaboration. Council member Mize voiced a concern that the school resource officers should not come from the current staff needed in the Sheriff's department in light of the need and approval of two new deputies and that the Council will need to see actual costs to the County during the upcoming 2019 budget hearings. Council members Dillon and Bowman encouraged collaboration and suggested that the discussion between MSD and the Sheriff's department continue and that grant monies should be pursued and hard costs be determined.

Two organization representatives were present to explain the requested allocations for the upcoming 2019 county budgets. The first representative for the 4-H program was Purdue Extension Director, Angela Christopher and 4-H members Travis Corn and Emme Hanes. Christopher submitted the 4-H Council's profit and loss statement and explained that the budget has operated at a loss since 2015 because of new computer and internet costs. She stated that 4-H enrollment has increased by 7% and that ½ of the \$30.00 fee charged to each 4-H member goes to the state for insurance liability. The annual \$5,000 budget request traditionally funded by the County Commissioners' budget within the County General Fund pays for non-livestock judges and to send 4-H members to camp where they learn new life skills. She stated that nineteen 4-H kids attended camp this year. Two of the 4-H members, Travis Corn (camp counselor) and Emme Hanes spoke about their camp experiences and some of the skills they learned.

Also present to explain their 2019 budget request was Doug Bogert, Director of the Animal Shelter of Wabash County and Shelter board member Pat Lynn. Bogert submitted a copy of the profit and loss statement of the non-profit organization and requested \$70-75,000 for the 2019 budget allocation traditionally funded by the County Commissioners budget within the County General Fund. He explained that the Shelter building needs to be expanded to accommodate a dog quarantine area to prevent contamination to other healthy shelter animals. He stated that the building's roof will need to be replaced in the near future. He explained that a solicitation letter is sent out annually to raise revenue along with many other events to raise funds for the Shelter. He noted that the county's contribution has decreased in recent years and hoped that he demonstrated reasons for the allocation to be increased for 2019.

The next order of business was a request from the Wabash Carnegie Public Library Board for the re-appointment of Charlie Miller to the library board for

another four-year term. Dillon made a motion to reappoint Charlie Miller to the library board as requested. Dale seconded the motion and it passed by a 6-0 vote.

A request was presented to reappoint Lisa Ulrey to the North Manchester Public Library Board for another four-year term. Dillon made a motion to reappoint Lisa Ulrey as requested. Pearson seconded the motion and it passed by a 6-0 vote.

The next order of business was to address the additional appropriations request. Present for the request was Jen Rankin, Wabash County Solid Waste Management District Director.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS **ORDINANCE #2018-85-04**

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, 2018 the following additional sums of money are hereby appropriated and ordered set apart out of the several funds herein named and for the purposes herein specified, subject to the laws governing the same:

WABASH COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

(The Solid Waste District is not a county department but is under the jurisdiction of the County Council to approve all budget appropriations)

	Requested	Appropriated	AYE	NAY
Capital Outlays –Outdoor Improvements	\$245,000.00	\$245,000.00	5	1

Explanation from Solid Waste Director, Jen Rankin: This is the cost of the new drop site construction expense. Rankin was present and explained that the purpose of the improvement project is to monitor the recycling dump site in order to contain costs. She stated that the project will combine four recycling sites throughout the county that cannot be monitored for contamination that currently costs the Solid Waste District \$77,000 per year and relocate them to the Solid Waste location. She explained that this cost is part of the total cost of the recycling contract based on an approximate 18% charged by the recycling vendor. She reasoned that if contamination costs were less, then the total recycling contract cost could be decreased. Some of the costs will be for a surveillance system that will immediately detect violations as they happen. Rankin submitted a site picture of the project and explained that decorative metal panels with participating local business names written on them will be installed parallel to SR 13 along the property. Council members and the public in attendance had questions concerning the Solid Waste revenue sources and Rankin explained that the department receives a percentage of landfill tipping fees from materials management as well as the annual user fees charged to all county residents.

Dillon made a motion to approve the request. Sweet seconded the motion and it passed by a 5-1 vote with Bowman voting against the motion.

The next order of business was a continuation of the proposed purchase of a building in order to relocate the County Health Department from their current location in Memorial Hall and in addition, to house the County Coroner's office and a county morgue that had been tabled from the previous month's meeting. At the previous meeting, Commissioner Eppley had explained that the project

had been considered because of the need for space by the Probation Department since adding four new probation officers. He stated that Probation needs to be housed in the Court building because security is a priority and that it was determined that the Health Department and Coroner would need 4,400 square feet of space. He reported that many options had been considered and that one proposal was to purchase the Family Physicians building located at 1025 Manchester Avenue Wabash, IN. A committee consisting of Commissioner Eppley and Council members Mize, Pearson and Sweet had been formed to investigate the proposal further and to give their recommendation at the June Council meeting. Mize stated that the committee had met and determined that the proposed purchase should be rejected. Mize made a motion to reject the proposed purchase of the building and the accompanying Resolution #2018-85-05 indicating an interest in purchasing real estate located at 1025 Manchester Avenue, Wabash, IN. Pearson seconded the motion and it passed by a 6-0 vote. County resident, Bonnie Hawn suggested that she has a real estate property that the County may be interested in considering located at 645 N Spring Street, Wabash IN. Vice-Chairman Bowman referred Hawn to the Commissioners and requested that the existing committee continue to explore options for relocation.

Auditor Shepherd reported that the County has received a special local income tax distribution in the amount of \$178,289.41 to be allocated to all taxing units with the county's share totaling \$53,977.00. She stated that the State explained that the distribution is due to two issues that were identified by the Department of Revenue; the first was an imaging/bar code problem that failed to recognize the county of resident on income tax returns and the second issue was caused by those who failed to file on time and would eventually pay their bill but failed to file a return along with the tax payment causing processing problems for county distributions. DOR has revised its internal processing to prevent this error from occurring in the future.

Council reviewed:

May 2018 Auditor & Treasurer Financial Reports

May 2018 Wabash County Solid Waste Mgmt. District Income & Expense Statement

With no other business to come before the Council, Vice-Chairman Bowman adjourned the meeting. The next scheduled meeting of the Wabash County Council is Monday, July 23, 2018.

The following individuals also attended the June 25th Council meeting:

**If any names are spelled incorrectly, we apologize.*

County Commissioners Barry Eppley, Brian Haupt, and Scott Givens, Sheriff Department Deputies Tyler Guenin and Ryan Baker, County Coroner Suzie Lewis, Attorney Mark Frantz, Wabash Carnegie Public Library Director Ware Wimberley, Bonnie Corn, Louella Krom, David Compton, Loraine Sorrell, Sheryl Ulshafer, Lisa Shanabarger, Kaitlin Gebby, Jeff Dawes, and "The Paper" reporter, Josh Sigler.

