

WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL

The Wabash County Council met in session on Monday, February 20, 2023 in the Commissioner’s meeting room of the Wabash County Courthouse. Chairman Kyle Bowman called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. Council members present: Bowman, Matthew Mize, Barbara Pearson, Matt Dillon, Nick Kopkey, Sam Hann and Philip Dale. Pearson opened with a word of prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance. The proceedings of the meeting were recorded by County Auditor Marcie Shepherd.

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.

First order of business was a review and approval of the minutes of the January 17, 2023 meeting. Mize made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Dale seconded the motion; it passed by a 5-0-2 with Pearson and Dillon abstaining.

Mike Keaffaber and Danielle Gargiulo with the Wabash County Drug Prevention Steering Committee gave a presentation on the services they offer. Keaffaber informed the council that while it is challenging to ask organizations year after year for donations, many of the committee members and others in the community have worked diligently to raise funding for programs provided. The main focus will be on the K-12 students in Wabash County (prevention). Last summer was the largest community event, when the committee raised approximately \$18,000. Keaffaber explained they are still short for the program this year and need additional funds to plan for future years’ programs. The Wabash County Drug Prevention Committee is asking for funding from the Opioid Settlement for the schools’ programs. Bowman requested they put their requests in writing and submit them to Council.

Danielle Gargiulo for the Bowen Center requested matching funds for a grant that is due to be submitted on 02/27/2023 which is in connection with the States part of the Opioid Funds. The grant would fund a program with the jail for mental health services to be provided in the jail. Gargiulo requested \$75,000 for the two-year program. After discussion, Dale made a motion to match \$12,000 a year for the first two years with the money coming from the Opioid settlement. Pearson seconded the motion; it passed by a 7-0 vote.

Dan Gray, Wabash County Tobacco Free Coalition, said they have the Aaction grant process going again and will award \$40,000 a year. Gray said that the committee would be happy to allocate the funds on behalf of the Council from the opioid settlement, as this way the funds can be used on a broader scale. Bowman asked that he submit a request in writing.

Terry Burnworth, owners’ rep for the Jail project, gave an update on the progress of the new jail. In the general overview, Burnworth said the project is 75% complete based on billing and the building is 90% enclosed. They are currently looking into fixing the roof leak problem. Burnworth estimates the job to be complete in August, with a September move-in date.

Next on the agenda were the requests for additional appropriations.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS
ORDINANCE #2023-85-01

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, 2023 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:

FIREARMS FUND #1156				
	Requested	Appropriated	AYE	NAY
Flares & Ammunition				
1156.24600.000.0000	\$2,351.00	\$2,351.00	6	1

Auditor Shepherd, for the Sheriff, said the reason submitted is to cover ammunition that is above the budgeted amount. Dillon made a motion to approve the additional appropriation. Hann seconded the motion; it passed by a 6-1 with Mize voting nay.

STATEWIDE 911 #1222

	Requested	Appropriated	AYE	NAY
Equipment Repairs				
1122.30002.000.0000	\$83,407.00	\$83,407.00	7	0

Sandy Beeks, Director of Central Dispatch, said that the radio vendor informed her in November that her radios needed to be upgraded. The project was not in the budget as she found out too late. While doing the upgrades, she would like to upgrade the radio console in her office to use as a backup in case all consoles are busy. There is only Sheriff and Fire in her console currently. Dillon made a motion to approve the appropriation. Dale seconded the motion; it passed by a 7-0 vote.

LOCAL ROAD & STREET #1169

	Requested	Appropriated	AYE	NAY
Budget as presented during hearings.				
	\$671,050.00	\$671,050.00	7	0

Cole Wyatt, Superintendent Wabash County Highway, said this is the same budget the state removed and said to reestablish the funds through an additional appropriation. Dillon made a motion to approve the appropriation. Dale seconded the motion; it passed by a 7-0 vote.

GENERAL FUND #1000

	Requested	Appropriated	AYE	NAY
Personal Services				
Veteran Service Officer				
1000.11106.000.0025	\$3,116	\$3,116	4	3

Barry Eppley, Jeff Dawes, and Brian Haupert requested the 8% raise for this position to match the other employees. Eppley explained they are meeting with him monthly and he is serving the community well. Hann made a motion to approve the increase. Dale seconded the motion; it passed by 4-3, Pearson, Bowman, Dillon Nay.

GENERAL FUND #1000

	Requested	Appropriated	AYE	NAY	ABS
Personal Services					
Circuit Court					
1000.12500.000.0035	\$ 633.00	\$ 633.00	4	2	1
1000.11408.000.0035	\$2,043.00	\$2,043.00	4	2	1
1000.11214.000.0035	\$2,043.00	\$2,043.00	4	2	1
1000.11310.000.0035	\$2,043.00	\$2,043.00	4	2	1
Personal Services					
Superior Court					
1000.11212.000.0036	\$ 871.00	\$ 871.00	4	2	1
1000.11409.000.0036	\$2,043.00	\$2,043.00	4	2	1
1000.11310.000.0036	\$2,043.00	\$2,043.00	4	2	1
1000.12501.000.0036	\$2,043.00	\$2,043.00	4	2	1

Auditor Shepherd explained this is the appropriation needed to fund the mandate. Mize made a motion to approve the appropriation. Hann seconded the motion; it passed by 4-2, Pearson, Dillon Nay; Kopkey Abstained.

Personal Services

Courthouse Complex				
1000.30000.000.0032	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	Died from lack of a motion	

Auditor Shepherd explained this is the appropriation needed to fund the mandate. This will be paid from funds already in this line item.

With no other business to come before the Council, Chairman Bowman adjourned the meeting. The next scheduled meeting of the Wabash County Council is March 20, 2023.

Items for Review:


Auditor & Treasurer Financial Reports for January 2023
Solid Waste Management District Income Statements for December 2022
Wabash County Soil & Water Conservation Update – February 2023

The following individuals also attended the County Council meeting:

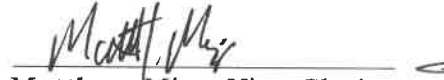
**If any names are spelled incorrectly, we apologize.*

Chief Deputy Auditor Shelly Bauccho, Brian Swihart, Kimberly Lundmark, Steve Downs, Jeanne Rehak, Mike Rehak, Matt Riggle, Jeff Hobson, Gary Ridenour, and Jan Williams. Via Zoom: Amanda Redman

WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL



Kyle Bowman, Chairman




Matthew Mize, Vice-Chairman




Sam Hann



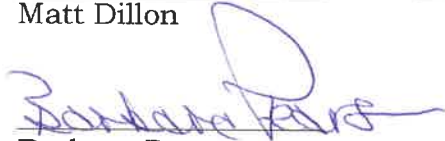
Matt Dillon




Nick Kopkey



Philip Dale



Barbara Pearson

Attest: 

Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor