

## WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL

The Wabash County Council met in session on Monday, December 11, 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, Sam Hann, Philip Dale, Gary Ridenour. Matt Dillon participated via Zoom. Nick Kopkey was absent. Bowman 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 October 16, 2023 meeting. Dale made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ridenour seconded the motion; it passed by a 5-0-1 roll call vote; Hann abstained.

Resolution 2023-85-08 Declaratory Resolution approving Personal Property Tax Deduction for CFC. Auditor Shepherd reported this resolution is for the personal property Abatement that was approved in the October 16, 2023 meeting. Dale made a motion to approve the Resolution 2023-85-08. Mize seconded the motion; it passed by a 6-0 roll call vote.

Resolution 2023-85-09 Authorizing County office holders and/or employees to open accounts. This resolution is for Crossroads Bank to clarify who can open accounts and be on the bank accounts for the county. The bank requested this for audit purposes. Hann made a motion to approve the Resolution 2023-05-09 Authorizing County office holders to open accounts. Dale seconded the motion; it passed by a 6-0 roll call vote.

Resolution 2023-85-10 Authorizing a loan to Finance Reconstruction of the Leffel Drain #596. The Reconstruction loan with cost up to 237,000 will be assessed to the owners of the land to be paid over a five (5) year period. Dale made a motion to approve the Resolution. Ridenour seconded the motion; it passed by a 6-0 roll call vote.

Interlocal Agreement with North Manchester for Ambulance service in the north part of the county. Shepherd explained that after several meetings and discussions concerning the services the Commissioners approved the contract earlier in the day. Eppley reported they will be doing a study to see if the County could provide the services themselves at a lower cost. Hann made a motion to approve the 5-year agreement. Dale seconded the motion; it passed by a 5-0-1 (Mize) Abstained.

Geoff Schortgen, Purdue Extension Director gave the annual update on services in Wabash County and thanked Council for their support. Schortgen informed the Council that the state has added Keri Salb-Mertz, Community Wellness Coordinator for Wabash and Grant County. Salb-Mertz reported her roll will be working with community partners for a healthier community. Jessi Huston, 4-H Youth Development Educator outlined the progress of the program and reported that the fair will be July 16-21, 2024.

Keith Walters, EMA Director requested approval to apply for the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Grant. This grant will fund the update to the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (MHMP). Dale made a motion to approve the application. Ridenour seconded the motion; it passed by a 6-0 roll call vote.

Dr. David Roe, County Health Department along with Chris Straub, Diane Engel, Marcia Payne, Lori Foust came to discuss the current offices for the Health Department; new salaries and new responsibilities. Roe said the current office is not adequate and requested the status of getting them into an

appropriately accessible building. Roe went over some of the new requirements with the Health First Indiana funding. He stated they need more space to perform the duties required by the new funding. Barry Eppley, County Commissioner reported they are looking at the building the county has at 808 Manchester Ave for the Health Department along with other options.

Dr. Rickenbaugh said the State Health Commissioner visited last week and he is excited that the funding is coming to help improve the health in the County. He said that the Health Department needs help from the Council to reach the goals. The two points he took from the meeting was this is an investment that will continue to be funded, and this is a State wide effort that will help with the local programs.

Roe said he tried to get on the agenda with the PAC (Personal Administration Committee) because he feels due to the new responsibilities his employees need salary increases. Eppley expressed concern with a 50% increase in wages. Roe stated he is concerned he will lose employees if he doesn't get the salaries increased. Mize wants to see what all needs funded beside salaries. Mize and Bowman requested new job descriptions showing the added responsibilities to be able to warrant the salary increase.

Sheila Paul with the State Health Department, said they will help with setting the KPI (Key Performance Indicators) required with the Health First Indiana during the first year they. The County will be in control because they set the KPI's for our community. 2024 will be to get the KPI's set and getting the department set up to meet the requirements. The Department will need meet the indicators to continue to be in compliance. Paul said the State understands it could take a couple of years to get the service going to meet the indicators.

In wrapping up the discussion Bowman said during the organizational meeting next month he would schedule quarterly PAC meetings so they could review the salary and personal requests. Bowman said he would forward the e-mail he received from the Health Department to the rest of the Council to review. Bowman asked that the Commissioner's give an update on the status of a new Health Department space in the January Council meeting. Dawes said that Kerri Mattern has offered to assist with sorting the items that need to be accomplished. Cheryl Ross asked if we could lease a building? Ross said this was more of a comment than a question.

The next order of business was the consideration and adoption of Ordinance 2023-85-11 Amendment #1 to the Salary Ordinance 2022-85-10.

**ORDINANCE 2023-85-11  
AMENDING ORDINANCE #2022-85-10  
TO THE 2023 SALARIES AND WAGES ORDINANCE**

Whereas: Public Law No. 231 requires County Councils to fix salaries of County Officials and Employees for the year.

SEC.1. BE IT ORDAINED by the Wabash County Council of Wabash County, Indiana that the salaries and wages of County Officials and Employees and its institutions for the year ending December 31, 2023 are as follows:

<u>Fund and Title of Position &amp; Employee Classification</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<b><u>COUNTY GENERAL</u></b>	
1000.11106.000.0025 -Veteran Service Officer- Sam Daugherty	\$3,116.00
1000.11215.000.0033 -Court Officer Stipend- Justin Wilcox	\$2,224.00
1000.12105.000.0033- PT-Cook – Hourly to \$18.72	
1000.12500.000.0035- Security Officer – Duane Coburn	\$ 633.00
1000.11408.000.0035 - Bailiff/Court Administrator – Kara Bever	\$2,043.00
1000.11214.000.0035 - Bailiff/Court Administrator – Andrea Smith	\$2,043.00
1000.11310.000.0035 - Court Reporter -Brandy Rayn	\$2,043.00
1000.11212.000.0036 - Administrative Assistant- Sarah Oliver	\$ 871.00
1000.11409.000.0036 - Bailiff/Court Administrator – Trisha Abell	\$2,043.00

1000.11310.000.0036 - Court Reporter – Connie Striggle	\$2,043.00
1000.12501.000.0036 - Security Officer – Steven Gatchel	\$2,043.00

**HIGHWAY FUNDS 1176/1173/1169**

11123 CDL Stipend – James Bright - \$192.31	\$ 3,077.00
11123 CDL Stipend – Ron Deeter - \$192.31	\$ 3,077.00
11123 CDL Stipend – Mason Dillon - \$192.31	\$ 3,077.00
11123 CDL Stipend – Jeffrey France - \$192.31	\$ 3,077.00
11123 CDL Stipend – Andrew King - \$192.31	\$ 3,077.00
11123 CDL Stipend – Todd Kline - \$192.31	\$ 3,077.00
11123 CDL Stipend – Jeffrey Mast - \$192.31	\$ 3,077.00
11123 CDL Stipend – Anthony Reahard - \$192.31	\$ 3,077.00
11123 CDL Stipend – Colton Shepler - \$192.31	\$ 3,077.00
11123 CDL Stipend – Braxton Worthington - \$192.31	\$ 3,077.00
11123 CDL Stipend – Aaron Burton - \$ 76.92	\$ 1,231.00
11419 Operator/TL- Jim Bright	\$ 23.63 per hour
11419 Operator/TL- Dillon Curlis	\$22.00 per hour
11125 Equipment Trainer Stipend – Ed Fitch - \$96.15	\$2,500.00 year

**PROSECUTOR-IV & PRE-TRIAL DIVERSION**

8897.11500 Secretary -Christi Bland	\$ 22.12 Per hour
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**COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS GRANT**

1122.11705.023.0000 – Probation Quality Assurance-Jason Fry	\$3,715.00
1122.11403.023.0000 – Work Release – Jesse Henderson	\$2,417.00

**ADULT PROBATION USER FEES**

2100.11808.000.0000 Recovery Court PO -Hourly	\$ 3,250.00
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**FAMILY RECOVERY COURT**

9664.11810.000.0000 Admin Stipend -Kimberly Lundmark	\$2,000.00
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**COMMISSARY**

4949.18200.000.0000 Education Stipend – Derek Leckrone	\$4,598.58
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Hann made a motion to approve the Salary Amendment #1 to the 2023 Salary Ordinance 2022-85-10. Ridenour seconded the motion it passed by a 6-0 roll call vote. Dale made a motion to suspend the rules and move to the second reading. Hann seconded the motion; it passed by a 6-0 vote. Hann made a motion to approve the Ordinance on second reading. Dale seconded the vote it passed by a 6-0 vote.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS**  
**ORDINANCE #2023-85-09**

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:

<b>SOLID WASTE</b>					
	Requested	Appropriated	AYE	NAY	
Outsource Tax Service	6170	\$30,000	\$30,000	6	0
Medical Insurance	6173	\$25,000	\$25,000	6	0
Materials Management	6391	\$25,000	\$25,000	6	0

Ken Ahlfeld, Controller with Wabash County Solid Waste reported the tax service was over charged and they should receive a credit back, but they had to pay the bill this year. The Medical Insurance was raised 11% but the increase ended up being 20%. Hann made a motion to approve the additional appropriation. Dale seconded the motion; it passed by a 6-0 roll call vote.

<b>FIREARMS FUND # 1156</b>					
	Requested	Appropriated	AYE	NAY	
<b>Equipment Capital Outlay</b>					
1156.24600.000.0000	\$1,350	\$1,350	6	0	

Tyler Guenin, Wabash County Sheriff's Department requested funding for 3 new Sig Sauer P320's. Hann made a motion to approve the request. Ridenour seconded the motion; it pass by a 6-0 roll call vote.

<b>GENERAL FUND #1000</b>				
	Requested	Appropriated	AYE	NAY
<b>Jail</b>				
<b>Inmate Transfers</b>				
1000.30331.000.0033	\$233,000	\$0	6	0
<b>Food for Prisoners</b>				
1000.28600.000.0033	\$ 15,000	\$15,000	6	0

<b>GENERAL FUND #1000</b>				
	Requested	Appropriated	AYE	NAY
<b>Sheriff</b>				
<b>Gasoline &amp; Oil</b>				
1000.22100.000.0005	\$10,000	\$10,000	6	0
<b>Garage &amp; Motor</b>				
1000.22500.000.0005	\$ 5,000	\$5,000	6	0

Tyler Guenin, Wabash County Sheriff's Department requested funding to meet the shortfall in these line items due to not being in the new building and rising costs. Mize made a motion to approve the request for all but the Inmate Transfers. Dale seconded the motion; it pass by a 6-0 roll call vote.

<b>JAIL LIT #1233</b>				
	Requested	Appropriated	AYE	NAY
<b>Bond Payment #1</b>				
1233.30340.000.0000	\$1,329,500	\$1,329,500	6	0

Auditor Shepherd reported the First Bond payment is due on January 2, 2024. Dale made a motion to approve the request. Ridenour seconded the motion; it pass by a 6-0 roll call vote.

<b>ARPA #8961</b>				
	Requested	Appropriated	AYE	NAY
<b>Building Repairs</b>				
8961.30600.000.0000	\$500,000	\$189,640	6	0

Auditor Shepherd reported that the bills she was anticipating did not come in so if they would approve the request it could help with the inmate transfers. Mize made a motion to approve the request. Dale seconded the motion; it pass by a 6-0 roll call vote.

**TRANSFER RESOLUTION  
#2023-85-05**

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 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:

INCREASE		Amount	Amount	AYE	NAY
GENERAL FUND		Requested	Approved		
Group Health Insurance	1000.17300.000.0029	\$53,000	\$53,000	6	0
Janitorial Supplies	1000.21600.000.0029	\$20,000	\$20,000	6	0
Operating Supplies	1000.20000.000.0029	\$75,000	\$75,000	6	0
<b>HIGHWAY</b>					
Workers Comp Insurance	1176-30000-000-0038	\$20,295.66	\$20,295.66	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.

DECREASE		Amount	Amount	AYE	NAY
GENERAL FUND		Requested	Approved		
Wards of the Courts	1000.30992.000.0029	\$148,000	\$148,000	6	0
<b>HIGHWAY</b>					
Building Repairs	1176.30600.000.0038	\$20,295.66	\$20,295.66	6	0

Auditor Shepherd for the Highway Department said they have a person on work comp and need to increase the line item. Hann made a motion to approve the transfer. Ridenour seconded the motion; it passed by a 6-0 vote

Auditor Shepherd, for the Wabash County Commissioners, explained that due expenses for the new jail and a shortfall in the Health Insurance she needs to do this transfer. Dale made a motion to approve the transfer. Hann seconded the motion; it passed by a 6-0 vote.

Brian Hauptert informed the Council Jan Renkin has retired from the Wabash County Solid Waste Management.

The Organizational Meeting Monday, January 8, 2024 @ 5:00pm.

With no other business to come before the Council, Chairman Bowman adjourned the meeting. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Wabash County Council is January 22, 2023 @ 6:00pm.

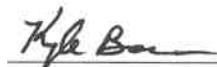
Items for Review: Auditor & Treasurer Financial Reports for Oct & Nov 2023  
Solid Waste Management District Income Statements for Nov & Dec 2023  
Wabash County Soil & Water Conservation Sept, Oct & Nov 2023

**The following individuals also attended the County Council meeting:**

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

Chief Deputy Auditor Shelly Bauccho, Jeff D. Dawes, Steve Downs, Connie Rich, Nicky Burnsworth, Bill Burnsworth, Cheryl Ross, Chris Hickman, and Nancy Halderman. Via Zoom: iPhone.

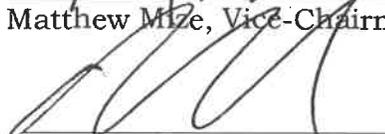
**WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL**

  
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Kyle Bowman, Chairman

  
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Matthew Mize, Vice-Chairman

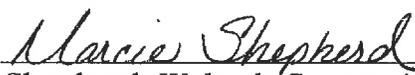
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sam Hann

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Matt Dillon

  
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Nick Kopkey

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Philip Dale

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary Ridenour

Attest:   
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Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor