

OCTOBER 24, 2005

The Wabash County Council met October 24, 2005 at 8:00 A.M. in the former Circuit Court Room of the Wabash County Courthouse. Vice Chairman Leon Ridenour called the meeting to order with six Council members present. Chairman Paul Sites was not present, being detained in Cancun due to a hurricane. Paul Bergman offered prayer.

State Representative Bill Ruppel was present at the invitation of the council to discuss the difficulties with funding of the 2006 budget in the General Fund, especially ambulance service, due to the maximum tax levy allowed by the state. Ruppel was questioned as to whether there could be legislation for Emergency Medical Services. He explained that Committee Chairman Tom Weiss has limited the bills this session. Nose stated he thought that Wabash County residents were willing to pay for ambulance service throughout the county but that due the lack of local control that the council has, there is no way we have found to be able to collect a fee for the service from the taxpayers. He questioned if the current law is letting the local people make their own decisions. Little asked if there couldn't be special legislation for specific purposes such as was recently done for the Colts stadium and what mechanism we as an individual county can implement to take this before the people. Ruppel stated he "would check with the Ways and Means Committee" but he stated that it would have to be done in a budget bill which would be in 2007 not 2006, allowing counties and local governments to go outside the levy. Bergman said, "We are serious about this and it is important this year". Ridenour added that we must start as soon as possible. Little asked Ruppel to give us the opportunity to take our case to the state to "put us on the agenda". Ruppel suggested we get everyone in the county working together such as the Mayor of Wabash, the Town Officials of North Manchester, Cities and Towns and AIC organizations as well as local groups. He also said he knew that the County Council and Commissioners have a thankless job. The Council thanked him for coming.

Also present by invitation was Wabash County Hospital CEO Jeff Buckley. He said that he felt contacting the State Government is a good idea and suggested getting an appointment with the Governor to create a sense of urgency. Buckley agreed that local control is something that has to happen and reported on the ambulance studies that the hospital had approved to pay by a grant which all almost done but not yet as he has no hard figures. He also stated that the Hospital Board is inclined to help and has learned to ask a lot of financial questions. He believes if the county is going to subsidize the services there needs to be some accountability built in. Buckley said he felt it would be appropriate to appoint a "blue ribbon group" of people from healthcare, government and the health department to set some groundwork and strategically plan to fix the situation once and for all. Eppley questioned if the

hospital would take a leadership role as perhaps a single entity ambulance operation would co-ordinate service and be a positive thing. Buckley said he feels the overall operation of ambulance service in Wabash County is very good with only occasions when individuals fall through the cracks. The council thanked Buckley for attending and asked that he report back when the studies are completed.

Minutes for the September 7th meeting were reviewed and approved as written on a motion by Eppley, seconded by Little and a 6 to 0 vote.

The council then addressed the following Additional Appropriations Ordinance 2005-X as advertised as recorded below.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS
ORDINANCE 2005 NO. X

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				
Auditor				
350 Other Services & Charges - Computer Software	\$100,000.00	Tabled	6	0

Requested to purchase a new computer Financial Accounting program to replace the old ATEK/Manathron/Harris system running on the outdated VAX operating system. A new windows based program will update the Auditor's Office financial accounting and reporting, payroll operations and the Treasurer's fund accounts. It would be desirable to purchase a new system as soon as possible in order to be ready to start on the new system for the new calendar year January 1, 2006.

Following a discussion of other funding sources (because the General Fund budget is so tight) including the Cumulative Capital Improvement Fund and Debt Service Funds; Fuller, supporting the upgrade of hardware and software for the county offices, moved to table this request with the understanding that we will appropriate funds when we have a specific proposal by the users of the system and have checked into funding alternatives such as the Indiana Bond Bank as well as local lenders. The motion was seconded by Little and tabled on a 6-0 vote.

Sheriff				
221 Supplies - Gas & Oil	15,000.00	15,000.00	6	0

Projected 3 month shortage of funds: 3 x \$5,000 = \$15,000.

Ridenour questioned the Sheriff about a plan to conserve fuel and asked about deputies taking home cars, overtime and comp hours. Sheriff Striker responded that they are economizing on a routine basis and still keep the services running 24/7. Bergman moved to approve the request, seconded by Fuller and passed on a 6-0 vote.

	Coroner			
310 Other Services & Charges - Autopsies	4,500.00	\$ 0.	6	0

Can not predict how many cases may come up that will require a autopsy.

Because the coroner was not present to question on the requested funding, Little moved to deny the request at this time, seconded by Fuller and agreed by a 6-0 vote.

	Plan Commission			
111 Personal Services - New Director	2,400.00	Withdrawn		

Planning Director Chad Dilling withdrew the request for an additional appropriation. Fuller moved to recognize the withdrawn request, seconded by Bergman and agreed by a 6-0 vote.

	County Commissioners			
174 Personal Services - Sheriff's Pension Fund (Aug)	4,620.00	4,620.00	6	0
174 Personal Services - Sheriff's Pension Fund (Sept)	4,068.00	4,068.00	6	0

For Civil Papers Served, Superior & Circuit Court for August and September 2005.

Nose moved to approve the appropriations for the Sheriff's Pension Fund, seconded by Bergman and approved by a 6-0 vote.

	County Commissioners			
394 Other Services & Charges - City Ambulance	25,000.00	25,000.00	6	0
395 Other Services & Charges - County Ambulance	18,833.51	18,833.51	6	0

To pay the balance of contracts with the City of Wabash and Town of North Manchester to provide Ambulance Services for the remainder of 2005.

Approved on a motion by Fuller, seconded by Little and a 6-0 vote.

	County Commissioners			
442 Capital Outlay - Computer Hardware	50,000.00	Tabled	6	0

To purchase new computers, laser printers and a new server for the Auditor's, Treasurer's, Surveyor's and Assessor's offices to be used for a new financial accounting system, a new tax billing system and G.I.S.

Following a discussion of other funding sources (because the General Fund budget is so tight) including the Cumulative Capital Improvement Fund and Debt Service Funds; Fuller, supporting the upgrade of hardware and software for the county offices, moved to table this request with the understanding that we will appropriate funds when we have a specific proposal by the users of the

system and have checked into funding alternatives such as the Indiana Bond Bank as well as local lenders. The motion was seconded by Little and tabled on a 6-0 vote. (This request was tabled along with the request from the Auditor as stated above.)

	Jail			
352 Other Services & Charges - Gas	3,750.00	3,750.00	6	0

Projected 3 month shortage of funds: 3 x \$1,250 = \$3,750.

353 Other Services & Charges - Water	1,375.00	1,375.00	6	0
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Projected 2+ month shortage of funds: 2.5 x \$550 = \$1,375.

354 Other Services & Charges - Sewage	2,700.00	2,700.00	6	0
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Projected 3 month + shortage of funds: 3 x \$900 = \$2,700.

All three items requested by the Sheriff for the Jail supplies were approved on a motion by Fuller, seconded by Little and a 6-0 vote.

	COUNTY HIGHWAY			
221 Supplies - Fuel, Gas, Oil, Lubricants	43,000.00	43,000.00	6	0

Requested by Highway Supervisor Larry Rice: We average 5,000 gallons per month usage of fuel. At current prices we will need \$40,000.00 for Diesel, and \$3,000.00 for Unleaded Gas and Oil.

Little moved to approve, seconded by Eppley and approved by a 6-0 vote.

	PRE-TRIAL DIVERSION FUND			
361 Other Services & Charges -Repairs & Maintenance	2,500.00	2,500.00	6	0

Several work areas needed repainting due to flat paint being used prior and the walls could not be cleaned. Those areas were painted by Williams Custom Remodeling with a semi-gloss paint. The entire area of the prosecutor's office lobby had to be redone as well as the receptionist's area, together with a door frame around the child support door that has never been finished (these items were added after the initial quote.)

This request had been tabled from the September 7th meeting requesting a more itemized invoice. Following review of the amended invoice, Bergman moved to approve the request with the statement that "Tammy (Burnsworth) is not to OK any more repairs for the current office and approval is to be received before the work is done." The motion was seconded by Little and passed on a 6-0 vote.

	CUMULATIVE CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT			
441 Capital Outlay - Memorial Hall Renovation -II	150,000.00	150,000.00	4	2

For remodeling/refurbishing second floor space in Memorial Hall for the full-time Prosecutor's Office.

443 Capital Outlay - Courthouse 2nd Floor Renovation	100,000.00	100,000.00	4	2
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To renovate the old law library on the second floor of the courthouse as well as the former Superior Court office to be used as the Surveyor's Offices and the old Clerk's Office -East to accommodate the Veteran's Service Office.

Following discussion about the contracts for remodeling being drawn up prior to council funding, Commissioner Brian Hauptert stated that the commissioners established the CCD fund to help with the tight commissioners budget in the General Fund. Little moved due to the timeframe to approve both the requests for the Courthouse Second Floor Renovation and the Memorial Hall Renovation for the Prosecutor's office, seconded by Eppley and passed on a 4-2 vote (with Nose and Bergman casting the opposing votes.)

HOMELAND SECURITY - PUBLIC HEALTH COORDINATOR				
211	Supplies - Office Supplies	200.00	200.00	5 1
315	Other Services & Charges - Public Health Contract	16,000.00	16,000.00	5 1
323	Other Services & Charges - Travel	900.00	900.00	5 1
324	Other Services & Charges - Telephone & Pager	300.00	300.00	5 1
441	Capital Outlay - Furniture & Fixtures	1,087.56	1,087.56	5 1

Establishing a budget for grant money to fund Public Health Coordinator's contract pay and expenses to perform the job.

A discussion as to the County Council position on approving grant budgets was held. Fuller stated we are accepting responsibility of the grants. He said we do not have the desire to be in charge of the grants, except to manage them. They are state appropriated but there is a paper trail of the grants when they come before the council for approval. Little stated that 95% of the grants are "rubber-stamped" as we have so many funds and perhaps that minimizes our decisions on other funds. The contract was established between the Commissioners and the Public Health Coordinator but funded by the grant. Bergman, stating that they are in the contract now and we cannot get out of it but we do want to approve appropriations of the grants, moved to approve the funds as requested. The motion was seconded by Little and passed on a 5-1 vote with Fuller casting the opposing vote.

The Chairman of the Council requested the County Auditor to proceed with the reading of the Additional Appropriation Ordinance 2005-X requested by county officials to meet the requirements of the various departments of county government as heretofore advertised. After the second reading and after giving careful consideration by all members present, and upon proper motion and second and by unanimous vote, the County Council made the recommendation as indicated on the various pages of the Additional Appropriation. The Auditor was directed to present the above additional appropriations to the Department of Local Government Finance for approval as by law provided.

TRANSFER RESOLUTION

NO. # 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, 2005 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
COUNTY GENERAL FUND				
INCREASE:				
	Emergency Management			
Supplies				
222 Gas, Oil & Maintenance	\$ 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:

	Amount Requested	Amount Appropriated	AYE	NAY
COUNTY GENERAL FUND				
DECREASE:				
	Emergency Management			
Personal Services				
182 Education & Training	\$ 150.00	\$150.00	6	0

Presented to the Wabash County Council, read in full, and adopted on the 24th day of October, 2005, by the following 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.

Transfer Resolution #11 was approved on a motion by Eppley, seconded by Nose and a 6-0 vote.

TRANSFER RESOLUTION
NO. # 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, 2005 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
INCREASE:				
LOCAL HEALTH MAINTENANCE				
Other Services & Charges				
313 Flu & Pneumonia Vaccines	\$ 5200.00	\$5200.00	6	0
323 Hep B Shots	\$ 1541.00	\$1541.00	6	0
HOMELAND SECURITY – HEALTH				
Other Services & Charges				
324 Telephone	\$ 575.00	\$ 575.00	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:

DECREASE:

		LOCAL HEALTH MAINTENANCE			
Supplies					
216	Supplies	\$ 1541.00	\$ 1541.00	6	0
216	Supplies	\$ 5200.00	\$ 5200.00	6	0
		HOMELAND SECURITY - HEALTH			
Other Services & Charges					
183	Conference Fees	\$ 575.00	\$ 575.00	6	0

Presented to the Wabash County Council, read in full, and adopted on the 24th day of October, 2005, by the following 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.

The Transfer Resolution#12 for the Local Health Maintenance Fund was approved on a motion by Bergman, seconded by Eppley and a 6-0 vote. The Transfer Resolution for the Homeland Security Fund was approved on a motion by Nose and seconded by Eppley and a 6-0 vote.

TRANSFER RESOLUTION
NO. # 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, 2005 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	Amount	AYE	NAY
		Requested	Appropriated		
		COUNTY GENERAL FUND			
INCREASE:					
Circuit Court					
Capital Outlay					
440	Equipment	\$ 477.95	\$ 477.95	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:

		COUNTY GENERAL FUND			
DECREASE:					
Circuit Court					
Other Services & Charges					
392	Continuing Education	\$ 477.95	\$ 477.95	6	0

Presented to the Wabash County Council, read in full, and adopted on the 24th day of October, 2005, by the following 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.

Transfer Resolution #13 was approved on a motion by Fuller, seconded by Nose and a 6-0 vote.

TRANSFER RESOLUTION
NO. # 14

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, 2005 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
COUNTY GENERAL FUND				
INCREASE:				
County Jail				
Personal Services				
122 Part Time Jail Officers/Dispatch	\$ 2000.00	\$ 2000.00	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:

COUNTY GENERAL FUND				
DECREASE:				
Sheriff				
Personal Services				
120 Overtime	\$ 2000.00	\$ 2000.00	6	0

Presented to the Wabash County Council, read in full, and adopted on the 24th day of October, 2005, by the following 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.

Transfer Resolution #14 was approved on a motion by Bergman, a second by Fuller and a 6-0 vote.

Lynn Dannacher, Health Department Food Sanitarian, appeared before the Council requesting an increase salary for Sharon Pattee who was hired in as a clerk and has been trained into the food division as her assistant. Dannacher said she needed an assistant due to the increase in the food permits, vendors and events that must be inspected. She requested an increase of \$ 4000 a year for the new position. Nose stated that all we can deal with is 2005 at this time

and not 2006. Eppley reminded that the council had denied the increase for 2006 instead giving the same 2% increase of all county employees. Fuller said that they had not paid attention to the Department heads requests for individual increases in other departments either. They concluded that the Health Department could come back in December for an increase request for part of the 2005 salary year and then again in January for a request for the 2006 salary.

Jennifer Swango, Environmental Sanitarian, requested a transfer for the West Nile Virus fund to be made to the Solid Waste District. This transfer had been approved.

Michele Leach, a County Council appointee to the North Manchester Public Library Board of Trustees is resigning her position on the board and the James Garber, President of the Board requested the appointment of Terri Heckman to complete Michele Leach's term which would end on July 28, 2006. Fuller moved to accept the recommendation Garber and to appoint Ms. Heckman. This motion was seconded by Bergman and approved by a 6-0 vote.

Council then reviewed the Financial Statements ending September 30, 2005 and October 21, 2005. The Auditor presented a complete financial statement and tax return from the Otis Bowen Center as requested at the last meeting and Little took the full report for further review.

The Council declined to set the meeting dates for 2006 wanting to wait until Sites could be present for the scheduling.

No other business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Eppley, seconded by Fuller and a 6-0 vote. The next meeting will be December 5, 2005. The council will meet on the second floor of the Wabash County Courthouse at 8:00 A.M.