

## MARCH 23, 2009

Wabash County Council met in regular session on Monday, March 23, 2009 at the Wabash County Courthouse. Prayer was offered by Mike Ridenour. Chairman Mike Ridenour called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M. with six members present: Gary Nose, Jim Kaltenmark, Mike Ridenour, Ted Little, Daryl Evans and Randy Curless. Claude Markstahler was not present. The proceedings of the meeting were recorded by Wabash County Auditor Jane Ridgeway.

The first order of business was to review the minutes of the February 23, 2009 meeting. Curless made a motion to approve as written; his motion was seconded by Evans and approved by a 6-0 vote.

The next order of business was to address the Additional Appropriation requests as advertised for Additional Appropriations Ordinance 2009 NO.3:

### ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE 2009 NO. 3

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
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#### COUNTY GENERAL FUND JAIL

0001-0033-01-412-015 Personal Services

- Jail Officers	\$ 44,958.48	0	<i>TABLED</i>
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Per annual jail inspection report, two additional jail officers are needed to increase jail officer to inmate ratio. One of these officers would be a Transport Officer, therefore requiring that line item to become active again.

Striker expressed how important it is to add additional staff at the jail. Since 2005 the numbers at the jail have been increasing. The average daily population has been running around 108 continuously from 2005 to December 2008. March of 2006, the rate of capacity at the jail was increased from 60 to 72. This increase has helped but the numbers are still averaging over 100 currently. In 2006, a jail analysis recommended the jail staff be increased by 2.5 to accommodate the number of inmates. Striker stated they were able to add some additional part-time staff to help, but the staff deficit was never fully addressed. Striker stated the State's average ratio of staff to inmate is 1 to 3. Wabash County is running at a ratio of 1 to 10. Striker stated the greatest need is Monday thru Friday from 12 P.M. to 5 P.M. There are scheduled times for inmates to appear at Superior and/or Circuit Court. But, schedule changes happen and Striker stated they have to

shuffle staff to cover transports to the courts. Striker stated the courts are a priority and we accommodate but it leaves jail staff strained. Striker stated there are also issues with staff having to transport inmates out of the county and that leaves staff strained as well. Striker stated he is aware that the economy is tough and requesting an increase in staff is a difficult issue, but additional staff is a necessity. Striker stated even two or three part-time workers at 20 hours per person per week would help and would save the county money due to reduced benefit costs. Ridenour stated with the current budget constraints adding staff full or part-time would not be prudent. Evans made a motion to table until the April 27<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting; his motion was seconded by Little and passed with a 4-2 vote. Ridenour and Kaltenmark opposed. Nose requested Striker expand on who would take the part-time staff positions. Evans questioned where the funds would be coming from to cover the increase.

**WABASH COUNTY POLICE PENSION FUND**

0022-0000-05-451-001 Personal Services – Sheriff’s Pension Fund				
– Claims served - February ‘09	\$ 8,481.00	\$ 8,481.00	6	0

February 2009 – 299 claims @ 13.00 for Superior Court, 109 claims @ 13.00 for Circuit Court, Secretary’s Report & Clerk’s Report.

Ridenour asked Striker why the Clerk and Secretary reports were much higher than usual this request. Ridenour also asked Striker how they quantify the reports in regard to the claims. Due to time restraints, Ridenour requested Striker answer this at another time. Nose made a motion to approve; his motion was seconded by Little and passed with a 6-0 vote.

**CUMULATIVE CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND**

0124-0000-04-444-040 Capital Outlay – Computer Equipment				
– Upgrades to Servers	\$ 17,227.00	\$ 17,227.00	6	0
This request is for new Computer Servers and IT upgrades to separate Property Tax billing records from Financial accounting records to increase speed of applications and data storage.				

0124-0000-04-444-040 Capital Outlay – Computer Equipment				
– Store-IT Advanced Backup	\$ 5,302.00	\$ 5,302.00	6	0

This request is for Store-IT Advanced Backup service to six (6) servers and for off-site and additional storage.

Kaltenmark made a motion to approve; his motion was seconded by Evans and passed with a 6-0 vote.

**This was presented to the Wabash County Council, read in full and adopted on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of March by the above aye and nay vote.**

**COUNCIL REVIEWED:**

February 28, 2009 Financial Reports  
General Fund, Highway, LRS (Local Road and Street); January &  
February – revenues and expenditures report  
USDA – *2007 Census of Agriculture (Indiana and Wabash County)*  
LTAP (Indiana Local Technical Assistance Program) Presentation of  
LOHUT (Local Option Highway Use Tax) by John Habermann Program  
Manager from Purdue University School of Civil Engineering and  
Highway Superintendent Phil Amones

State Certification

Auditor Jane Ridgeway reviewed with Council that over the last several years the State has been working to make all data for property taxes compliant with State rules. Last year the State had Phase I; certification of all vendors' data, processes, and software. At the AIC Legislative meeting this year, the State conveyed they are now ready for Phase II; counties to be certified. This will be a review of the data and compatibility between the Assessor's, Auditor's, and Treasurer's Offices when processing property taxes. The cost to test compatibility of each county could be \$7,000. The certification must be done by December 31, 2009. The State wants to test live data which will be a difficult process. We are allowed to hire our own company if they have been certified and qualified by the State. An association team of county offices would like to work together where teams from different counties review one another's data, but then we get into liability issues. Currently Wabash county offices are compatible. We are able to process and get our taxes out in an organized manner. The State wants to verify this through quantifiable testing. Ridgeway stated we are still waiting to hear more specifics from the State on how to proceed. Ridgeway stated we currently have our rates and values but we are waiting on Manatron's calculations on the circuit breaker cap. This will put our property tax collection date at mid-June.

DLGF

Ridenour stated at the AIC meeting he had spoken with Jeff Volz of the DLGF in regards to the levy freeze portion of LOIT. Volz stated he would get right back with Ridenour on several questions that he and Volz discussed. That conversation was about one month ago. Ridenour stated he has contacted Volz repeatedly with no response. Ridenour stated he would encourage Council members and the public to send e-mails to Volz with questions on LOIT. Auditor Jane Ridgeway suggested Wabash County have the DLFG assist us in holding a regional conference on LOIT and invite other interested counties with similar questions to participate. Ridenour stated he would begin this process and keep Council informed.

JAIL MODERNIZATION MEETING

County Coordinator Jim Dils stated RQAW and Umbaugh will present an informational meeting on the Jail Feasibility Study at the April 27<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. Ridenour stated we will start the Council meeting at 5:00 P.M. and the jail review will start around 6:30 P.M.

NOTES:

Larry DeBoer, Professor of Agricultural Economics at Purdue, will be at the Farm Bureau Office, 594 Miami Street, on Wednesday at 7:00 P.M. DeBoer will be reviewing Assessment of Farm Values.

Nose stated in past Council meetings we would read the official writing of the appropriations. We have gotten away from this and on occasion there has been some confusion on what is being done. Nose would like to reinstate the process of reading the official documents to clarify what action is precisely being taken.

Little made a motion to adjourn; his motion was seconded by Kaltenmark and passed with a 6-0 vote.

The next meeting will be held Monday, April 27, 2009 at 5:00 P.M. in the Commissioner's Meeting Room at the Wabash County Courthouse.

Approved as written – April 27, 2009