

APRIL 27, 2009

Wabash County Council met in regular session on Monday, April 27, 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 all members present: Gary Nose, Jim Kaltenmark, Mike Ridenour, Ted Little, Daryl Evans, Randy Curless, and Claude Markstahler. 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 March 23, 2009 meeting. Curless made a motion to approve as written; his motion was seconded by Evans and approved by a 7-0 vote. Wabash resident Herbert Mullen requested that the minutes of the March 23rd meeting be read aloud. Mike Ridenour proceeded to read the additional appropriations and transfer requests. Ridenour requested that the remainder be copied and given to Mullen. Mullen agreed.

The next order of business was to address the Additional Appropriation requests as advertised for Additional Appropriations Ordinance 2009 NO.4:

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS
ORDINANCE 2009 NO. 4**

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 FUND				
TREASURER				
0001-0003-03-431-010 Other Services & Charges				
- Legal Consultant	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	6	1
This request is regarding the ongoing Jason Chrismar court case; legal fees.				

Treasurer Sharon Shaw reviewed the ongoing case with Council. Little made a motion to approve legal fee payment to County Attorney Steve Downs totaling \$500; his motion was seconded by Evans and passed with a 6-1 vote. Markstahler opposed.

PLANNING COMMISSION

0001-0022-03-431-021 Other Services & Charges				
- Additional Legal Services	\$ 85.00	\$ 85.00	7	0
Title work completed for filing of Unsafe Premise Order by Wabash County Plan Commission for Roberta Zubowski.				

Plan Director Mike Howard stated there are currently no monies in this fund. Council had requested Howard inform them when monies were needed for this fund. Ridenour stated the service was actually completed in February. Nose asked if the land owner still owned the property and if the land owner paid for the tear down of the home. Howard stated the owner did retain ownership of the land and does pay for the demolition. Nose stated the burden of this fee should be placed on the property owner and questioned why we had to pay. Howard stated instead of going to court we decided to absorb the \$85 fee. Nose stated something should be done to make the property owner pay for this. Little made a motion to approve legal services totaling \$85; his motion was seconded by Markstahler and passed by a 7-0 vote. Ridenour requested Howard speak with his attorney to inquire on how this \$85 legal fee be paid for by the property owner in the future.

WABASH COUNTY POLICE PENSION FUND

0022-0000-05-451-001 Personal Services – Sheriff’s Pension Fund				
– Claims served - March ‘09	\$ 4,961.00	\$ 4,961.00	7	0
247 Claims @ \$13 for Superior Court, 129 Claims @ \$13 for Circuit Court, and Secretary’s Report.				

Nose stated last week there was concern that the Clerk’s report was being submitted from two offices, duplicated. Ridgeway stated this month there is no Clerk’s Report included. Ridgeway said this issue has been corrected and the financial amount will be adjusted; she also stated this appropriation has not been overpaid, only over appropriated. Markstahler made a motion to approve the claims request totaling \$4,961; his motion was seconded by Curless and passed by a 7-0 vote.

CUMULATIVE BRIDGE FUND

0003-0000-03-439-052 Other Services & Charges				
– Bridge Inspection – Phase II	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	7	0
This is needed to pay for Special Feature Inspection Services for Phase II of the Annual Bridge Inspection.				

Amones stated this is for the bridge inspection on the steel truss bridge in Liberty Mills, the North Manchester covered bridge, and the Roann covered bridge. This is part of a four year contract which is spread over a two year billing cycle. This portion is for the second half of the contract. The original cost was set at \$111,700 but it was only funded at \$100,000. Amones stated we are still within the contract cost even with this extra expense. Next year we will start a new four year contract. Kaltenmark made a motion to approve request totaling \$5,000 for the Special Feature Inspection Services of the Annual Bridge Inspection; his motion was second by Curless and passed by a 7-0 vote.

LOCAL ROAD AND STREETS FUND

0011-0000-02-422-042 Supplies

-Bituminous Mixes \$ 250,000.00 \$ 250,000.00 7 0

This request removes bituminous mixes from the Motor Vehicle Highway Fund and moves it to the Local Road & Street Fund.

Ridenour stated in the 2009 budget order that State-mandated highway funds be cut approximately \$1,011,000. This request will make funds available to maintain Wabash County's excellent county roads. Little asked what the cost for road repair would be this year compared to last year. Amones stated last year we paid approximately \$3.82 per gallon for oil. This year one company speculated a \$3 per gallon price. Amones stated no one will quote a price on oil beyond a 48 hour period so they are not sure the actual cost at this time. Little asked "How many firms we are registered with?" Amones stated we are not registered. We do an annual bidding process. We buy from the lowest bidder unless a problem occurs then we go to the next lowest bidder. Amones said the State Board of Accounts no longer requires bids be taken. Highway is considering a non-bidding process. Evans asked if Wabash County could do a cooperative effort with other counties for needed supplies like salt or oil. Amones stated the city did try with salt this year, but there has been no evaluation on this effort yet this year. Amones said he was able to obtain a good price and a good delivery service on salt for the county; under \$70 per ton where other counties were paying over \$120. Also, many counties use different kinds of additives with different combinations in mixes. This makes it difficult to do a co-operative effort. Nose asked if the LRS transfer could be done next year as well. Amones stated the LRS carries around a \$3,000,000 balance and this transfer of funds could be maintained for about a five (5) year period. Nose made a motion to approve moving bituminous mixes (\$250,000) from MVH to LRS; his motion was seconded by Little and passed with by 7-0 vote. Evans praised Amones for the good job the Highway Department has done this year on the roads.

0011-0000-02-422-060 Supplies

- Liquid Bituminous \$ 500,000.00 \$ 500,000.00 7 0

This request removes liquid bituminous from the Motor Vehicle Highway Fund and moves it to the Local Road & Street Fund.

Nose made a motion to move liquid bituminous (\$500,000) from MVH to LRS; his motion was seconded by Kaltenmark and passed by a 7-0 vote.

RECORDER'S RECORD PERPETUATION FUND

0098-0000-03-436-065 Other Services & Charges

- Computer Maintenance \$ 700.00 \$ 700.00 7 0

This request is for new server expenses. The 2009 quote is more than was budgeted.

Ridenour stated the Recorder’s server is a separate entity that does not connect with the other offices. The money being spent for the server is not out of general fund. It is from fees collected in the Recorder’s office. Ridenour stated the current balance of the Recorder’s Perpetuation Fund totals \$197, 600. Wabash resident Herbert Mullen asked Recorder Nancy Gribben if the fees could be lowered. Gribben stated the fees collected by the Recorder’s office are set by the State and cannot be lowered. Little made a motion to approve \$700 from Recorder’s Perpetuation Fund for a new server; his motion was seconded by Evans and passed with a 7-0 vote.

LETTP GRANT – GIS

0151-0000-05-451-001 Other Services & Charges

– Web-hosting GIS Information \$ 14,894.00 \$ 14,894.00 7 0

This is a reimbursement grant provided by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security for the purpose of sharing GIS information with that department and other state agencies. The grant also provides funding for other equipment used by the Planning Commission, Surveyor, Health Department, and EMA. The equipment portion of the grant will purchase; GIS related equipment in the form of a digital camera with a Wi-Fi capability and software to integrate pictures with equipment in the Surveyor’s Office, a GEO XH Sub-foot accuracy unit to be used by the environmentalist at the Health Department for locating failed septic systems and wells and can be used for damage assessment by EMA, Juno SC Handheld with ESRI ARC PAD & GPS Correct for pinpoint addressing and integral photography for structures- Will be used by the Plan Commission and Assessor, and 2 Laptop Computers with GIS Software and mapping for use by EMA for search and rescue grids, damage assessment during incidents and disasters plus Incident Command applications.

Brown stated this is a technology reimbursement grant from 2007. The State just decided in the last 6 months how they want this money spent. Brown stated the equipment purchased with this grant will allow Surveyors, Health Department, County Planning, and EMA offices to do their jobs more efficiently. It affords these offices equipment that could not easily have been purchased without the grant. At present, we have sold our GIS data to the State. Ridenour stated there will come a time when the State will demand GIS information. Little asked if this grant adds any employees to the county. Brown stated it does not. \$5,000 of this grant covers the cost of updating data and access to a web portal for a two year period for the State. After that, we are not obligated to maintain the updates or web access. Evans made a motion to approve the LETTP Reimbursement Grant totaling \$14,894; his motion was seconded by Kaltenmark and passed by a 7-0 vote.

This was presented to the Wabash County Council, read in full and adopted on the 27th day of April by the above aye and nay vote.

The next order of business was to address Transfer Resolutions No. 2009-3 and No. 2009-4:

TRANSFER RESOLUTION
NO. 2009-3

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 expense of said county government and its institutions for the year ending December 31, 2009 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
DECREASE:				
COUNTY GENERAL FUND – WABASH SUPERIOR COURT				
0001-036-03-431-032 Pauper Counsel –Trans/Depos	\$570.00	\$570.00	7	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
INCREASE:				
COUNTY GENERAL FUND –WABASH SUPERIOR COURT				
0001-0036-04-444-044 Other Equipment	\$570.00	\$570.00	7	0

Judge Goff's Computer crashed and a new computer had to be purchased.

Kaltenmark made a motion to approve purchase of a new computer for Superior Court Judge Goff; his motion was seconded by Curless and passed by a 7-0 vote.

This was presented to the Wabash County Council, read in full, and adopted on the 27th day of April, 2009, by the above aye and nay vote.

TRANSFER RESOLUTION
NO. 2009-4

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, 2009 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
DECREASE:				
COUNTY GENERAL FUND –WABASH CIRCUIT COURT				
0001-0035-02-422-018 Law Books	\$900.00	\$900.00	7	0
0001-0035-03-432-092 Criminal Depositions	\$900.00	\$900.00	7	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:

INCREASE:

COUNTY GENERAL FUND – WABASH CIRCUIT COURT				
0001-0035-01-412-026	Part Time/Over Time	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00	7 0

This is to cover expected costs of vacation for employee B.J. Cantrell. The Part Time/Over Time funds have been depleted due to Mr. Cantrell taking time off for surgery, as well as a death in the family.

Kaltenmark made a motion to approve transfer request No. 2009-04 totaling \$1,800; his motion was seconded by Nose and passed by 7-0 vote.

This was presented to the Wabash County Council, read in full, and adopted on the 27th day of April, 2009, by the above aye and nay vote.

IN OTHER BUSINESS:

Reassessment Contracts – Assessor Kelly Schenkel stated:

1. She currently has four (4) deputies with one, Kay Hapner, retiring on June 5th. Schenkel stated she would like to try to maintain the same workload with only three (3) deputies. Schenkel requested Council give her the permission, if working with only three (3) deputies is not sufficient, to hire a fourth deputy. The Assessor’s office may have extra data entry every year if the State requires a “rolling reassessment” each year. Little questioned how the average taxpayer would benefit from the rolling re-assessment? Schenkel said this mostly helps the Assessor’s office.
2. Schenkel stated she may need some part-time funds to help with the extra work as they will still be doing trending on top of the rolling re-assessment. They will physically go and look at the buildings and make sure the property matches the record. Schenkel is considering Hapner, with her many years of experience, returning on a part-time basis.
3. Schenkel stated we have been one of the first counties done every year and would like to continue that record. Ridenour stated it seems like Wabash County is one of the first on the state website to have re-assessment data available. Ridenour extended his appreciation for Schenkel attempting to work with only three (3) deputies and he agreed with the idea of Hapner coming back on a part-time basis if needed.
4. Schenkel also requested Council not pay her deputies out of the reassessment fund. With the changes the State has made, she is concerned this fund will run out of money. Currently this fund balance is \$292,262. Wabash County resident Phil Dailey asked if there was a way to get around the rising assessment

values by State. Schenkel stated last year (2007 pay 2008) we were using sales disclosure values from 2005, 2006 so the assessed value is higher. This year (2008 pay 2009) we should see a decrease from the 2006, 2007 sales disclosure values.

5. Paul Lewis questioned why there is such inequity in the way the properties are assessed. Ridgeway stated LOIT credits have been applied to homestead residences and up to one acre. If you had a detached building, you will pay a little more. The lowered taxes last year were due to the state property tax replacement credit. (Wabash Noble had 100% homestead credit while other townships were between 98% and 80 %.) Ridgeway stated the state PTRC varied by taxing units; that will not be the same this year. This year all properties with homestead deductions will have uniform credits; this will result in all homestead properties being around \$0. If you have any outbuildings on your property or more than the one acre, that will have a tax due. This is a result of the 1.04% Local Option Income Tax.

Presentation by Governmental Consulting Services – Director Melissa Ambre:

1. Services include budget training, GASB training, employee benefits, strategy with health plan analysis and circuit breaker projections.
2. Presented two proposals: 1) general overview of general budget cycle with the “16 line statement”, 2) work with County Council and Auditor on a 3 year review: 2006, 2007 and 2008. Ambre stated they would also look at the current year and project on the budget, tax rates, and property tax dollars for the next three (3) years. Ambre stated they would compile data from county leaders, Wabash County Auditor, Auditor of State, DLGF and the State Budget Agency and then present a report on Wabash County’s financial situation.
3. Ridenour stated this would cost around \$10,000 for the assessment. Ridenour also stated this could be of great assistance when it comes time to do our county budgets this year. Resident Mullen stated he would rather not see the county spend that kind of money on an analysis. Council would take this under advisement.

Resident Phil Dailey of Lagro expressed his opinion and concerns on the Jail situation.

Chairman Mike Ridenour announced:

1. We have just completed the job study report which has been needed for sometime. We have also formed a salary and wages review committee that will consist of the following members: County Coordinator/ Human Resource Director Jim Dils,

Auditor Jane Ridgeway, two (2) Councilmen: Randy Curless and Daryl Evans and Commissioner Barry Eppley. Since we are approaching budget time, Ridenour requested that each department head or elected official refrain from completing the salary and wages portion of their 2010 budget requests. The Council and Commissioners would like to meet with all department heads and elected officials in June to present evaluations, facts and findings from this study that we would like you to use in finalizing the salary and wages portion of the 2010 budgets. This should allow plenty of time for each of you to submit your budgets in a timely manner.

2. David Bottroff, Executive Director of the AIC (Association of Indiana Counties), Timothy Rushenburg, Commissioner of DLGF (Department of Local Finance), DLGF Budget Director Karen Large, and Larry DeBoer, Professor of Agricultural Economics at Purdue, will be hosting an informational/question and answer seminar in regards to LOIT for Councilmen, Commissioners, and Auditors from Wabash, Huntington, Miami, Cass, Kosciusko, and Grant Counties. It will be held in the Crystal room at the Honeywell Center on Thursday, May 14th at 5:00 P.M.
3. Saturday, June 27th State called meeting of the Indiana Association of County Councils
4. Council and Commissioners will hold a joint Executive Session on Monday, May 4th at 5:00 P.M to discuss wages.
5. Public meeting to be held Monday, May 11th at 5:00 pm. This is a presentation by LTAP to discuss the LOHUT excise tax.
6. Wabash County received \$450,000 in additional HEA 1001 homestead credits for pay 2009. We deferred \$1.2 million from 2008 to this year because we had too many credits to use. We will be using \$690,000 on property owner's property taxes this year which will leave \$975,000 for the pay 2010 property taxes. This credit will leave most residents with a low or zero property tax bill this year.
7. To Council: Ridgeway had informed them that in some counties council members work independently with separate department heads on budgets. Little wanted to be sure all departments would still come before the entire council. Ridenour stated "absolutely". Nose said we are a small county and we get this done in 2 ½ days and feels this is repetitious. Ridenour stated he liked this idea because it might give a clearer understanding of each department by having more one on one time to review in detail line by line with department heads. Ridenour also stated we are overloaded and this would help alleviate work. Ridenour stated this is something to consider. Sheriff Striker said as a department head he liked this idea he felt it would give him a better idea of where his department stands.

COUNCIL REVIEWED:

March 31, 2009 Financial Reports – Auditor & Treasurer

Wabash County Police Retirement Plan and Benefit Plan Actuarial Valuation –
January 1, 2009

Statement of Opinion – Ford Meter Box Employees

Revised MVH and LR&S Financial Reports – Cash, Receipts, Disbursements &
Balances 2000-2008

Reminder: AIC North District meeting on May 6th in Auburn Indiana

Indiana County Council Association dues totaling \$20/member –Council unanimously
agreed

Curless made a motion to adjourn; his motion was seconded by Evans
and passed with a 7-0 vote.

The next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, May 26th, 2009 at 5:00
P.M. in the Commissioner's Meeting Room at the Wabash County
Courthouse.

Following the Council meeting, Council reconvened for the Jail
Feasibility Informational meeting with Mark Van Allen of RQAW.

The following individuals attended the April 27th Council meeting:

Melissa Ambre, Bonnie Corn, Sheila Rhoades, Phil Dailey, Steve
Emrick, Chris Shultz, Brad Fleck, Jim Dixon, Herb Miller, David &
Shelly Faust, Treasurer Sharon Shaw, Darren Bates, Heather Hannan,
Jack Krause, and Paul Lewis.

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