

## **WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL**

The Wabash County Council met in session on Monday, December 9, 2024, 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, Philip Dale, Nick Kopkey and Gary Ridenour, Matt Dillon and Sam Hann via zoom. Bowman opened with a word of prayer and Bowman led the Pledge of Allegiance. The proceedings of the meeting were recorded by County Auditor.

First order of business was a review and approval of the minutes from the October 21, 2024 meeting. Dillon made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Kopkey seconded the motion; it passed by a 7-0 roll call vote.

Alan Zimmerman, Attorney, was not present for the Public Defender Misdemeanor Pilot Program; however, Bauccho indicated that he had come in front of the Commissioners for permission to apply for the program and the Commissioners gave their approval. Bauccho indicated it would be a reimbursable program and currently they are not being reimbursed for misdemeanors. It is a pilot program of 12 counties and they applied to be one of the counties. Dale made a motion for them to proceed with the program. Mize seconded the motion; it passed by a 6-1 roll call vote with Dillon voting nay.

Sandy Beeks, Central Dispatch, and Ryan Baker, Sheriff, indicated they are looking to update their CAD and the computer system throughout the County. At budget time, she did not have a quote or a price. The quote she has obtained is for \$202,542.98 and they would like to take it out of PSAP. She indicated they have not updated their computer system in 14 years and there is a lot of technology they can use. The costs will be split close to 50% between PSAP and the Sheriff's Department. Manchester City Police, Wabash City, and other departments will be going in so they are all on the same system. The \$202,542 is just the Counties portion, with the Sheriff's Dept. is \$94,599.48 and Dispatches is \$107,943.50. Dillon made a motion to give Dispatch the consent to pursue and then Dispatch will be coming back in January for official approval. Ridenour seconded the motion; it passed by a 7-0 roll call vote.

### **THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF WABASH COUNTY, INDIANA**

#### **ORDINANCE NO. 2024-85-13**

#### **AN ORDINANCE TRANSFERRING MONIES TO THE RAINY-DAY FUND**

WHEREAS, I.C. 36-1-3-1 *et seq.* permit any county in the State of Indiana to exercise any power or perform any function necessary to the public interest in the context of its county or internal affairs, which is not prohibited by the Constitution of the United States or of the State of Indiana, or denied or pre-empted by any other law, or is not expressly granted by any other law to another governmental entity;

WHEREAS, the Wabash County Council is the County fiscal body and is by law authorized to adopt ordinances and resolutions for the administration of Wabash County fiscal matters;

WHEREAS, the Council has previously adopted Ordinance 85-04-2016, which amended Ordinance 85-12-2007, which created the Wabash County Rainy Day Fund ("Rainy Day Fund"), pursuant to I.C. 36-1-8-5.1.

WHEREAS, I.C. 36-1-8-5.1 authorizes a political subdivision to transfer any unobligated cash balances from any fiscal year up to fifteen percent (15%) of its total annual budget adopted to its Rainy-Day fund at any time during the fiscal year; and

WHEREAS the Wabash County Auditor has recommended the transfer of certain monies to the Rainy-Day Fund in accordance with the terms and provisions of this Ordinance;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED, ESTABLISHED, AND ORDAINED by the Wabash County Council as follows:

- 1. Transfer of Money. The Wabash County Council hereby approves, authorizes, and directs the Wabash County Auditor to transfer and deposit Two Million dollars (\$2,226,060.00) from the General Fund, identified as Fund No 1000, to Rainy Day Fund, identified as Fund No. 1186.
- 2. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall be effective upon its date of adoption.

ADOPTED this 9th day of December, 2024.

Baucco indicated they could transfer up to 15% of their budgeted funds that are unused. There is a surplus in the general fund and up to \$2,226,06.00 can be transferred. There were two options to transfer to the Rainy-Day fund. The first one being for the total amount and the second option is for 2 million. The only difference between the two options is the amount. To get the money out of the Rainy-Day fund is to do a new ordinance specifying what the money should be spent on. Kopkey made a motion to go with option #1 the \$2,226,060.00. Dillon seconded the motion; it passed by a 7-0 roll call vote.

**ORDINANCE 2024-85-14  
AMENDING ORDINANCE 2023-85-10  
THE 2024 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, 2024 are as follows:

<u>Fund and Title of Position &amp; Employee Classification</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<b><u>COUNTY GENERAL</u></b>	
1000.11405.000.0006 – Assistant Surveyor, Braden See	\$1792.00
1000.11700.000.0029 – Circuit Court Security, James Kirk	\$4,969.00
1000.11204.0000.0018 – Election Secretary Stipend, Mika Clark	\$2,000.00
1000.12000.000.0033 – Jail Overtime	\$134,000.00
1000.11614.000.0000 – 2 Resource Officers	\$42,548.00
1000.11909.000.0005 - Front Desk Receptionist, Drue Adams	\$10,964.00
1000.11307.000.0025 – Veterans Part-Time, Angela Miller	\$975.00
<b><u>HEALTH DEPARTMENT</u></b>	
1159.11117.0000.0000 – Health Officer, David Roe	\$1,244.00
1159.11302.0000.0000 – Registrar, Diane Engel	\$2,602.00
1159.11506.000.0000 – County Nurse, Lori Faust	\$3,387.00
1206.11611.000.0000 – EHS Supervisor, Chris Straub	\$3028.00
1159.11707.000.0000 – Director, Rich Mofield	\$11,947.00
1159.11806.000.0000 – FT Nurse Assistant, Marcia Payne	\$3,387.00
1159.12106.000.0000 – Admin Assistant, Rebecca Ellis	\$2,602.00
1206.12700.000.0000 - EHS Supervisor Stipend, Chris Straub	\$1,260.00
1159.11707.000.0000 – EHS I, Amanda Cash	\$22,305.00
1168.11126.000.0000 – Public Health Educator, Brandi McCann	\$27,778.00
1159.11611.000.0000 - EHS II, Jeremy Seacat	\$29,798.00
<b><u>COMMISSARY CLERK</u></b>	
4949.11315.000.0000 – Commissary Clerk, Stacey Kelley	\$27,403.38
<b><u>PROBATION</u></b>	
9465.11810.024.0000 – Grant Admin Stipend, Kimberly Lundmark	\$2,000.00

Baucco indicated this is a list of updates to the Salary Ordinance for 2024 based on approvals throughout the year by Council. Dillon made a motion to approve the Ordinance. Dale seconded the motion; it passed by a 7-0 roll call vote.

Dillon made a motion to suspend the rules and move to second reading on both Ordinance No 2024-85-13 and 2024-85-14. Dale seconded the motion; it passed by a 7-0 roll call vote.

Dillon made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2024-85-13 and Ordinance No. 2024-85-14 on second reading. Kopkey seconded the motion; it passed by a 7-0 roll call vote.

Mize made a motion to reinstate the rules. Kopkey seconded the motion; it passed by a 7-0 roll call vote.

Diane Morris, Board Member of the Wabash County Animal Shelter, and Jennifer Castro, acting Manager of the Animal Shelter, came before the Council with an update in regards to the Animal Shelter. Morris indicated that the former manager and wife are no longer in the building, they have brand new staff, and that half of the Board is new. She indicated that she has never seen anything out of line and the public is more than welcome to go to the Shelter to look around. She indicated the condition of the Animal Shelter is being updated. There will be an audit at the end of the year by DWD in Fort Wayne and it will be a full audit of 2024. Alot of people are dedicating time to improve the shelter and get it on its feet. They have accountability of any monies coming in. Morris indicated the Wabash City Mayor has given them \$100,000 for the next year, contingent on an Animal Control Officer being hired. They made a request from the Council for funding to help see them thru the year. Their goal is to build a new shelter and they have a 5-year campaign to do so. Bowman indicated that the Council along with the Commissioners were not willing to fund the Shelter in the past year because of discrepancies they were concerned about. Bowman indicated that the Council told the Commissioners that they would be willing to fund some solution to this. Dillon indicated he thinks they are moving in the right direction.

Alex Downard, Director of Imagine 85, Zack Sand and Luke from the BEAD Program gave an update on Wabash County Broadband Efforts.

Dave Terflinger, spoke in regards to rehabbing the old Jail for the Health Department. He reached out to Garmann Miller and invited them to the meeting to discuss what it would take in rehabbing the old Jail into an office complex. Chris Monnin from Garmann Miller indicated that he would recommend doing a study on the building and then getting preliminary floor plans which would lead up to setting a budget. Terflinger asked if there was an estimate on what it would costs to replace the building if it was torn down. Monnin indicated that 31,000 sq ft and it would be approximately \$450 per square foot. Terflinger had also invited Adam Whitmer to come and speak with the council in regards to funding the project.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REQUEST:

<u>LIT Public Safety</u>	
Other Services & Charges – Bond/Lease Payment	\$648,640.00
<u>Commissary - Sheriff</u>	
Personal Services	\$ 6,958.00

Baucco indicated that they did not budget the full Bond payment for 2024 and this amount is what is needed to get to the full amount. Dillon made a motion to approve the request. Dale seconded the motion; it passed by a 7-0 roll call vote.

Baucco indicated that the Sheriff did not budget for his FICA and PERF payments as he was hoping the Council would fund this at budget time. This appropriation is just cleaning up the fund. Dillon made a motion to approve \$6,958 additional appropriation request for Personal Services. Hann seconded the vote; it passed by a 7-0 roll call vote.

**TRANSFER RESOLUTION  
NO. 2024-10**

**WHEREAS, it has been determined that it is now necessary to transfer appropriations from one major budget classification to another within the same fund;  
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, 2024, the following sums of**

money are hereby transferred and ordered set apart out of the appropriated accounts herein specified, subject to the laws governing the same:

		Amount Requested	Amount Transferred	AYE	NAY
<b><u>INCREASE</u></b>					
<b>GENERAL FUND – SHERIFF</b>					
Suppressors	1000-24602-000-0005	14,005.00	14,005.00	7	0
<b>GENERAL FUND – SURVEYOR</b>					
Office Equipment	1000-40420-000-0006	4,000.00	4,000.00	7	0
<b>Motor Vehicle Highway – Administration</b>					
Liability Insurance	1176-30420-000-0038	15,215.42	15,215.42	7	0
<b>ARPA</b>					
Imaging	8961-30444-000-0000	296,879.29	296,879.29	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 Transferred	AYE	NAY
<b><u>DECREASE</u></b>					
<b>GENERAL FUND – SHERIFF</b>					
Deputies	1000-11600-000-0005	14,005.00	14,005.00	7	0
<b>GENERAL FUND – SURVEYOR</b>					
Computer Software	1000-22000-000-0006	400.00	400.00	7	0
Travel / Mileage	1000-30230-000-0006	250.00	250.00	7	0
Vehicle Repair	1000-30590-000-0006	200.00	200.00	7	0
Equipment Repair	1000-30620-000-0006	350.00	350.00	7	0
Leases & Services	1000-30651-000-0006	2,800.00	2,800.00	7	0
<b>Motor Vehicle Highway – Administration</b>					
Health Insurance	1176-17300-000-0038	15,215.42	15,215.42	7	0
<b>ARPA</b>					
Building Repairs	8961-30600-000-0000	77,185.33	77,185.33	7	0
Operating Supplies	8961-20000-000-0000	99,196.09	99,196.09	7	0
Jail Officers	8961-11504-000-0000	120,497.87	120,497.87	7	0

GENERAL FUND: Sheriff Baker is requesting the transfer of \$14,005.00 from Deputies to purchase suppressors for 25 rifles. Dillon made a motion to approve the transfer. Hann seconded the motion; it passed by 7-0 roll call vote.

GENERAL FUND: Bauccho spoke on behalf of the Surveyor. She has extra funding in line items and would like to purchase a stand-up desk. Dillon made a motion to approve the transfer. Kopkey seconded the motion; it passed by 7-0 roll call vote.

HIGHWAY: Bauccho indicated that the Highway needs to transfer funds for liability insurance. Dillon made a motion to approve the transfer. Ridenour seconded the motion; it passed by a 7-0 roll call vote.

ARPA: Bauccho indicated that the Recorder's contract was previously approved and this transfer is to cover the contract. Dillon made a motion to approve the transfer. Mize seconded the motion; it passed by 7-0 roll call vote.

In regards to the 1782 Notices for Budget Year 2025, Bauccho reported the County came in under operating levy of \$1,022.00. There will not have to be any changes made to the budget according to the State.


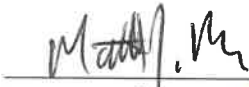






After further discussion regarding the old Jail, Bowman indicated that Jeff Kumfer had previously looked at the building and indicated that approximately 1.2 million would be needed to renovate the building. Shepherd indicated they cannot move forward until the plans have been submitted to the State and once,

they have been approved by the State, they can then get more detailed plans for the renovation and obtain quotes that will have actual pricing. Mize indicated that they should probably look at demo before renovation starts. Shepherd indicated that Metal Source has been in and looked at it and would come in and remove the cells and the County would then be able to recouped the costs of the metal. Bowman made a motion to keep going on the renovation project with a \$750,000 budget to house the Health Department. Hann seconded the motion; it passed by a 7-0 roll call vote.

Items for Review: Auditor & Treasurer Financial Reports for October, 2024  
Solid Waste Management District Income Statements for October, 2024  
Wabash County Soil & Water Conservation Update – November, 2024

The following individuals also attended the County Council meeting: \*If any names are spelled incorrectly, we apologize.  
Kandy Barker, Conrad Morris, Diane Morris, Jennifer Castro, Bill Burnsworth, Nicky Burnsworth, Tyler Niccum, Adam Whitmer, Steve Smith, Zach Sand, Alex Downard, Tammy Ingalls, Suzanne Kattan, Amy Ford, Cheryl Ross, Chris Monnin, Derek Luth, Dave Terflinger, LuAnn Layman, Dan Metzger, Lethida Metzger, Tyler Guenin, and Minda Parish. Via Zoom: Rich Mofield, Guest, iPhone, Citizen10, Toni Metzger, M.

**WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL**

 _____ Kyle Bowman, Chairman	 _____ Matthew Mize, Vice-Chairman	 _____ Sam Hann
 _____ Matt Dillon	 _____ Nick Kopkey	 _____ Philip Dale
 _____ Gary Ridenour	Attest:  _____ Shelly Bauccho, Wabash County Auditor	