

COUNTY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING – MAY 30, 2007

The meeting was called to order by President, John Price.

I. ROLL CALL

The following members were present: Anita Knowles, Josh McCarty, Beth Boyce, Steve Hollenbeck, Ron West, and Charles Canary. Phil Wilson was present as Council's attorney.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. INVOCATION

IV. 2008 BUDGET GUIDELINES

Mr. Price distributed a proposed 2008 Budget Guidelines, Hearing Dates, and Budget Workshops to each Council member to review.

Mr. McCarty moved to approve the following as submitted. Mr. Hollenbeck seconded the motion that unanimously carried.

2008 BUDGET WORKSHOPS, GUIDELINES, & HEARING DATES

2008 Budget Workshops – June 7, 2007

Three Council members will be available on June 7, 2007 in the Annex Auditorium to answer any questions or concerns that you may have prior to submitting your 2008 budget. Times have been scheduled throughout the day to keep things moving along (see attached schedule).

If the Elected Official or Department Head cannot make it when their time is scheduled, they may send a representative on their behalf. Also, as always, each Elected Official or Department Head can feel free to contact any Council member at their convenience. In addition, the Council welcomes any new ideas that can make the County run more efficient through cost saving measures.

The County Council has set the 2008 Budget Guidelines as follows:

100 Series – 3% raise calculated per full-time line item, including Elected Official and Department Heads, as of January 1, 2007. Salary adjustments approved in 2007 will be treated the same as in 2006 for the 2007 budget hearings in relation to the 3% calculation. The Elected Official and /or Department Head would have the discretion to distribute the overall 3% increase among the salary line items within their budget.

Social Security rate is 7.65% and PERF is 9.25% for 2008.

200 Series – remain at the 2007 amounts, unless you can document increase with explanation and justification

300 Series – remain at the 2007 amounts, unless you can document increase with explanation and justification

400 Series – remain at the 2007 amounts, unless you can document increase with explanation and justification

2008 Budget Hearing Dates:

- First Reading – (Tuesday) August 21, 2007 – 8:30 a.m.
- First Reading – (Thursday) August 23, 2007 – 8:30 a.m.
- Second Reading – (Tuesday) August 28, 2007 – 8:30 a.m.
- Date of Adoption – (Monday) September 10, 2007 – 6:30 p.m.

2008 Budget Workshops - June 7, 2007 (in Annex Auditorium)

8:30 am – 8:45 am	#210 – Health Department #214 – Health Maintenance #463 – Tobacco Settlement #215 – WIC
8:45 am – 9:00 am	#101 – Clerk #114 – Election Board #115 – Registration Of Voters #313 – Clerk’s Perpetuation Fund #908 – Voting System Reimbursement
9:00 am – 9:15 am	#103 – Treasurer
9:15 am – 9:30 am	#104 – Recorder
9:30 am – 9:45 am	#106 – Surveyor #119 – Drainage Board #269 – Surveyor Corner Perpetuation Fund
9:45 am – 10:00 am	#141 – Computer Services #901 – Enhanced 911
10:00 am – 10:30 am	#105 – Sheriff #124 – Jail #126 – Courthouse Security
10:30 am – 11:00 am	#109 – County Assessor #265 – Property Reassessment #110 – Blue River Township Assessor #111 – Franklin Township Assessor

	#112 – Pleasant Township Assessor #113 – White River Township Assessor
11:00 am – 11:15 am	#102 – Auditor #904 – Plat Map Maintenance
11:15 am – 11:30 am	#117 – Plan Commission #276 – Inspection & Testing
11:30 am – 11:45 am	#128 – County Park #271 – Park Non-Reverting
11:45 am – 12:00 pm	#127 – Emergency Management #212 – Local Emergency Planning/Right to Know
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	LUNCH BREAK
1:00 pm – 1:30 pm	#108 – Prosecuting Attorney #118 – Prosecutor IV-D #286 – Pretrial Diversion #327 – Prosecutor Deferral #295 – Prosecutor Regional Gang #305 – Victim Assistance #336 – S.T.O.P. Grant # 1
1:30 pm – 2:00 pm	#132 – Superior Court No. 1 #297 – Supplemental Adult Probation #282 – Adult Probation Admin. Fees #133 – Superior Court No. 2 #332 – Alcohol & Drug Fund #134 – Superior Court No. 3 #136 – Magistrate Court #131 – Circuit Court #137 – Title IV-D Juvenile Court #140 – Juvenile Detention Center #296 – Supplemental Juvenile Probation #281 – Juvenile Probation Admin. Fees #274 – CASA/GAL #361 – CASA Fee/Donation #344 – Court Improvement Project Grant #353 – Family Court #389 – Circuit Court ADR Fund
2:00 pm – 2:10 pm	#107 – Coroner
2:10 pm – 2:20 pm	#116 – Cooperative Extension

2:20 pm – 2:30 pm	#120 – Veterans Office
2:30 pm – 2:40 pm	#121 – Weights & Measures
2:40 pm – 2:50 pm	#125 – Museum
2:50 pm – 3:00 pm	#130 – Soil & Water
3:00 pm – 3:15 pm	#208 – Community Corrections Adult Grant #209 – Comm. Corr. Adult Project Income #216 – Comm. Corr. Juvenile Project Income #217 – County Misdemeanant
3:15 pm – 3:30 pm	#122 – Board of Commissioners #254 – Cumulative Capital Development
3:30 pm – 3:45 pm	#123 – Courthouse
3:45 pm – 4:00 pm	#219 – Animal Shelter
4:00 pm – 4:30 pm	#202, #203, #204, #205 - Highway #206 – Cumulative Bridge #207 – Local Road & Street

V. DISCUSSION OF REVENUE FOR ROADS – STATE SENATORS AND STATE REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Price thanked the following State Senators and State Representatives for attending the meeting to discuss funding for the county roads:

Patricia Miller – State Senator
Milo Smith – State Representative
Greg Walker – State Senator
Woody Burton – State Representative

Gary Vandegriff, Highway Director, appeared to give everyone an overall picture of why the county cannot maintain an adequate maintenance program for the county roads. He distributed and explained a graph showing the MVH and LRS funding from 1998 thru 2006. The county is experiencing infrastructures that is failing and costs that are rising and as Highway Director he supports the search for additional revenue. Since he became Director last July, they have looked at the highway department and have identified surplus equipment, which they plan on disposing of in the near future. They are exploring construction opportunities that will build longer life roads so maintenance can be reduced and preventative maintenance measures to keep the roads in reasonable shape.

Mr. West proposed he would like to see the State of Indiana do a redistribution of the 6% sales tax on gasoline. He suggested the State could rebate six cents per gallon of gas purchased back to all 92 counties based on a formula similar to the Local Road and Street distribution. The State currently receives 18 cents per gallon in taxes plus an additional 18 cents per gallon in sales tax at the \$3.00 per gallon price. Johnson County has in excess of 100,000 of vehicles. Based on those vehicles purchasing 25 gallons per week at \$3.00 per gallon that amounts to \$390,000,000 a year that the residents in Johnson County pay for fuel. The State will collect \$23,400,000 for the 18 cents per gallon and \$23,400,000 for the 6% sales tax. That totals \$46,800,000 of which the State will receive. He proposed the State to consider a rebate of the 6% sales tax of which would total \$7,800,000 for Johnson County. This would benefit all 92 counties regardless of the politics. Johnson County Highway funding has decreased over the last ten years and the costs have tripled while the population (road usage) has increased by twenty percent. He also stated the county received \$16 million in excise tax and not one dollar went to the Highway Department for roads. The Cumulative Bridge Fund did receive a small portion of the excise tax.

Woody Burton, State Representative, distributed a report prepared by the House Ways & Means Staff showing fuel taxes and road funding for Johnson County, also a summary of key property tax provisions. He applauded Mr. West for trying to come up with a solution for road funding. He explained the sales tax that is being collected from the purchase of gasoline is being diluted by the loss of and purchase of other durable goods in the sales tax market. Over the last ten months sales tax income has only increased less than ½ percent. The State Treasury is not realizing a windfall in sales tax collections as a result of the high price for gasoline.

Discussion was held that the Wheel Tax would only give the county a small portion of funds when the county needs millions for the roads.

Patricia Miller, State Senator, explained she has figures that show all of the revenue the county receives from the State. The State funds State Government from all sales and income tax. She asked what are the counties actual needs for road infrastructure.

Mr. Vandegriff appeared stating if the county could fix what is perceivable wrong right now the amount would be in the millions.

Mr. Price noted that in 2004 the amount was \$93 million to bring the county roads up to standard.

Milo Smith, State Representative, asked if the county had \$90 million to fix all road issues what would be the yearly costs to maintain the roads.

Mr. Vandegriff replied preventative maintenance is far less expensive than reconstruction of roads. At this time he could not give an actual figure.

Mr. West remarked in conjunction with Association of Indiana Counties (AIC), he plans to do an email to all county officials in the State to try for a State movement on a rebate of the 6% sales tax on gasoline.

Mr. Canary stated right now the only funding mechanism the county has to obtain additional revenue for the roads is the Wheel Tax. If the county would receive an increase in revenue from the State, he would be the first to repeal the Wheel Tax. He does not want the State Legislators to think if the county passes the Wheel Tax then we don't need additional funding.

Greg Walker, State Senator, remarked he was surprised at what a small percent of the vehicle excise tax is coming back to the county.

Mrs. Boyce commented she appreciated the State Legislators taking their time to attend this meeting. She noted the State's Budget will not be heard for another two years and the Council is elected to help the county.

Mr. McCarty asked if the State would partner with the county to find a solution.

After further discussion, the Council and State Legislatures concurred to work together on finding other means of revenue for county roads.

There being no further business, Mrs. Knowles moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Canary seconded the motion that carried unanimously.