

TAX MATTERS

**AUGUST 6, 2009, Issue #09-31, by Bernard Ridens, Executive Director
Taxpayers Association of Vigo County, Inc.**

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REVIEW OF PAST TAX MATTERS

JULY 30, 2009 (#09-30)

- **TRENDING WORKSHOP LETTER FROM TOM WOODASON**
 - The Taxpayers Association of Vigo County is offering a Property Tax Workshop on understanding the current property tax law as it applies to you. This workshop will take place **August 12th, at the First Financial Bank Conference Center, located at 4353 S. 7th Street, in Terre Haute, from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm** and will include a question and answer period.
- **AN OVERVIEW OF THE INDIANA TRENDING PROCESS**
 - An essay from David Schwab, the presenter of the upcoming property tax workshop

JULY 23, 2009 (#09-29)

- **AIRPORT REPORT**
 - The Treasurer Form TS-1A is a generic state form used for every county. Since Vigo is one of the few counties with an airport, this was the reason the airport was classified as an item of many possibilities called "Special Districts."
- **CITY HISTORIC PRESERVATION**
 - An outline of a proposed city ordinance to establish a historic preservation commission and historic preservation districts
- **FAQ – LARGEST TAXPAYERS**
 - Ten largest taxpayers located within Vigo County

The Taxpayers Association is a not-for-profit organization supported by membership dues. Any citizen or group of citizens in Vigo County may be a member. Current members are encouraged to promote membership in the organization by giving the attached application to a potential member. [See the TA application and dues structure.](#) This is **NOT** an invoice for your dues.

1. TRENDING WORKSHOP

Remember that the Taxpayers Association of Vigo County is offering a property tax workshop on trending on **Wednesday, August 12 at 2:00 P.M. at the First Financial Bank Conference Center, located at 4353 S. 7th Street.** Please call or e-mail Bernard to reserve your space by Tuesday, August 11, 12:00 Noon.

2. COUNTY PROPOSED BUDGET IS AVAILABLE

The 2009 Proposed County Budget is now available in the Taxpayer Association office. If you should like to review a specific department budget, just let Bernard know. The budget has been prepared for the following departments of county government:

Air Pollution	Veteran's Assistance	Pre-Trial Diversion
Area Planning	Courts	Supplemental Public
Assessor	Public Defender	Defender
Auditor	Voter Registration	Drug Court
Emergency	Weights & Measures	Supplemental Adult
Management	Group Homes	Probation
Clerk	Adult Protective	Guardian Ad Litem
Commissioners	Services	CASA Expansion Grant
Council	Health	~ 2008
Highway	Park & Recreation	CAPTA
Human Resources	New Clerk Incentive	CASA Expansion Grant
Coroner	Plat Mapping	~ 2009
Courthouse	Enhanced Access	Jail Bond
Maintenance	Clerk's Perpetuation	Courthouse Bond
Information Services	Alcohol & Drug	Surveyor Cornerstone
Drainage Board	Court IV-D Incentive	Security Protection
Election Board	Cumulative Bridge	(Recorder)
Extension	Drug Free Community	Cumulative Capital
Harrison Assessor	Reassessment	Development
Building Inspection	Tobacco Settlement	Local Emergency
Jail	Health Maintenance	Planning Commission
Communications	Seized Assets/DTF	(LEPC)
Dispatch	Park Non-Reverting	(Emergency Right
Juvenile Detention	Operating	to Know)
Juvenile Court	Park Capital	E-910
Prosecutor	Air Pollution	E-911
Recorder	Non-Reverting	Local Road & Street
Sheriff	Air Pollution Title-V	Engineering
Crime Victim Assistance	Convention & Tourism	Highway I
Soil & Water	Riverboat Wagering	Highway II
Surveyor	EDIT	Highway III
Title IV-D (Prosecutor)	Sales Disclosure	
Treasurer	Infraction Deferral	

Budget proposals will soon be available for the Vigo County School Corporation, the City of Terre Haute, Vigo County Public Library, and Hulman Airport.

3. SALES DISCLOSURES

A sales disclosure form is required whenever there is a transfer or sale of property. You can find this form at <http://www.in.gov/icpr/webfile/formsdiv/46021.pdf>. The sales disclosure forms collectively become a ratio study which is then submitted to the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance where trending is established.

4. FILING AN APPEAL

When a taxpayer wants to appeal an assessment, they would have to file a property tax appeal with the Harrison Township or County Assessor by August 27, 2009. This appeal should contain the taxpayer's name, address and parcel/key number of the property, and taxpayer's address and telephone number.

Form 130 (<http://www.in.gov/icpr/webfile/formsdiv/21513.pdf>), which is the Petition for Review of Assessment by Local Assessing Official, may also be used but it is not required. However, using this form may help expedite the process. The filing of the appeal initiates a review and constitutes a request by the taxpayer for a preliminary informal meeting with the assessing official. The complete appeals procedure can be found at http://www.in.gov/dlgf/files/Memo_Appeals082407.pdf.

5. OUR TRENDING WORKSHOP PRESENTER

David Schwab is the Assistant Director of Information Technology for the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance. Prior to joining the Department, David earned his MA in Political Science from Indiana University and taught at Indiana University-Purdue University: Indianapolis. He is co-author of the chapter "The Vital Role of Norms and Rules in Maintaining Public and Private Economics," in the book *Moral Markets* (Princeton 2008), and is currently writing his doctoral dissertation on public goods investment under uncertainty. A Level II assessor, David specializes in mass appraisal of real property; his recent work focuses on developing automated valuation models for unimproved and improved real property in several Indiana counties.

Mr. Schwab's paper, "An Overview of the Indiana Trending Process", is available as an attachment in your July 30, 2009, *Tax Matters*.



6. PUBLIC MEETINGS

The purpose of this calendar is to encourage taxpayers to attend public meetings. Taxpaying persons working at your business or living in your neighborhood should be encouraged to attend a meeting of their choice at least once per year. The date and time for the meetings listed below are always subject to change. Organizations that are underlined have a web page that can be accessed by clicking on their respective hyperlinks. The contact person is also listed. You should call the appropriate office and confirm the date and time if you plan to attend.

Date	Time	Public Meeting	Location	Contact Info
Thur. Aug. 6	7:00 pm	<u>City Council – Sunshine Meeting</u>	City Hall – Courtroom	Michelle 232-3375
Mon. Aug. 10	2:00 pm	<u>Board of Public Works and Safety</u>	City Hall – 1 st Floor	Robin 232-4767
Mon. Aug. 10	6:00 pm	West Terre Haute Town Board	500 W. Nat'l, WTH	Melody 533-2034
Mon. Aug. 10	7:00 pm	<u>Vigo County School Board</u>	VCSC Board Room	Judy 462-4216
Tue. Aug. 11	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Tue. Aug. 11	4:15 pm	<u>Vigo County Redevelopment Commission</u>	County Annex	Amanda 234-2524
Tue. Aug. 11	7:00 pm	Seelyville Town Board	Seelyville Water Office	Tamara 877-2665
Wed. Aug. 12	10:00 am	<u>County Board of Zoning Appeals</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Wed. Aug. 12	2:00 pm	Property Assessment Trending Workshop	First Financial Conference Center (4353 S. 7th St.)	Bernard 235-1361
Wed. Aug. 12	4:00 pm	<u>Air Pollution Control Department</u>	103 S. 3 rd St.	George 462-3433
Wed. Aug. 12	4:30 pm	<u>City Park Board – General Meeting</u>	Deming Park	Eddie 232-2727
Wed. Aug. 12	7:00 pm	<u>Airport Authority</u>	Airport	Kara 877-2524
Thur. Aug. 13	7:00 pm	<u>City Council – Regular Meeting</u>	City Hall – Courtroom	Michelle 232-3375
Mon. Aug. 17	5:30 pm	<u>Human Relations Commission</u>	Booker T. Washington Center	Jeff 232-0110
Mon. Aug. 17	7:00 pm	<u>Vigo County Public Library</u>	Vigo County Public Library	Nancy 232-1113
Tue. Aug. 18	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Tue. Aug. 18	10:00 am	<u>City Board of Sanitary Commissioners</u>	City Hall – 3 rd Floor	Sally 235-5458
Wed. Aug. 19	9:30 am	Clay-Owen-Vigo Solid Waste District	109 E. Nat'l, Brazil IN	Janet 800-387-3380
Wed. Aug. 19	4:00 pm	<u>City Redevelopment Commission</u>	City Hall – 1 st Floor	Phenny 232-0018
Thur. Aug. 20	2:00 pm	Tree Advisory Board	City Hall Mayor's Conf. Room	Jennifer 232-4028
Mon. Aug. 24	2:00 pm	<u>Board of Public Works and Safety</u>	City Hall – Board of Public Works Room	Robin 232-4767
Mon. Aug. 24	4:00 pm	<u>County Park Board</u>	County Annex	Julia 462-3391
Mon. Aug. 24	5:30 pm	Terre Haute Housing Authority	2001 N. 19 th Street	Jeff 232-1381
Mon. Aug. 24	7:00 pm	<u>Vigo County School Board</u>	VCSC Board Room	Judy 462-4216
Tue. Aug. 25	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Tue. Aug. 25	5:00 pm	<u>County Council</u>	County Annex	Auditor 462-3361
Wed. Aug. 26	4:30 pm	<u>City Park Board – Business Meeting</u>	Deming Park	Eddie 232-2727
Wed. Aug. 26	5:30 pm	<u>Information Technology Advisory Board</u>	City Hall – 1 st Floor	Brad 244-2316
Wed. Aug. 26	7:00 pm	<u>Airport Authority</u>	Airport	Kara 877-2524

7. SOME FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Doing your best is more important than being the best.

- John Wooden

END

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