

## **TAX MATTERS**

**MAY 2010, Issue #10-05, by Bernard Ridens, Executive Director  
Taxpayers Association of Vigo County, Inc.**

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### **REVIEW OF PAST TAX MATTERS**

**APRIL 2010 (#10-04)**

- TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING PACKET

**MARCH 2010 (#10-03)**

- TAX RATES 2009 PAY 2010
  - The Vigo County tax rate table is here!
- TERRE HAUTE NORTH VIGO H.S. WINS THE EAGLE
- TRAILS AND GREENWAYS SURVEY
- BIDDER ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS
  - The City Council passed an amendment that creates a “City of Terre Haute Responsible Bidder Ordinance.” It can be found here:  
<http://www.taxtopics.org/Go2,2010.pdf>
- TAXPAYER ASSOCIATION MEMBER BENEFITS

**FEBRUARY 2010 (#10-02)**

- THE CAPS QUESTION
  - Based on [data collected from past yes/no ballot questions](#), it is possible that the caps amendment vote could rest in the hands of less than 40% of Indiana voters
- STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS BY MAYOR DUKE BENNETT
  - State of the City PowerPoint Presentation:  
<http://www.terrehaute.in.gov/2010%20State%20of%20the%20City%20presentatio%20n.pdf/view>
  - State of the City Audio: <http://www.terrehaute.in.gov/SOTC2010.mp3/view>
- ANNEXATION – PARTS OF HONEY CREEK TOWNSHIP
  - The Indiana Municipal Annexation Law –  
<http://www.in.gov/legislative/ic/code/title36/ar4/ch3.html>
  - A map of the proposed zones to be annexed -  
[http://media2.wthitv.com/pdf\\_files/10/02/rs-7-10-attachment.pdf](http://media2.wthitv.com/pdf_files/10/02/rs-7-10-attachment.pdf)

The Taxpayers Association is a not-for-profit 501(c)(4) 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. THE HIT LIST – WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST?

Local government budgets continue to be difficult to build as revenues continue to decline due to the property tax caps. Officials are now looking for new revenue streams and/or increasing other taxes currently in place while preparing their budgets.

Depending on your idea of what services governments should provide, a great variety of possibilities exist for reducing the cost of government services for the 2011 calendar year budget.

It is time for the Taxpayers of Vigo County to have an opportunity to determine what services are most important to them. We are suggesting that a list of all ideas that might save money or reduce taxes be developed and encourage the local media to publish it in the form of a survey.

The format of the survey should allow the responder to rank or prioritize **THE HIT LIST** according to what he/she perceives as important and worthy of the taxpayers' money. We already know that services very important to one taxpayer might be of minimal importance to another taxpayer. But if a significant number respond, we may see some major trends which would then be submitted to the appropriate officials for consideration.

Here are a few examples that have been mentioned already and will be on **THE LIST**:

- To all units of government, "mow less grass" (example – Meadows Elementary School)
- Close a park (city and/or county), "to some, parks are less needed than library branches"
- Raise user fees – golf, parking garage, library materials, park shelter rental, city trash pickup, pool fees, establish new user fees
- Close a swimming pool
- Relocate the Terre Haute Police Department to the Booker T. Washington site

Your ideas, no matter how much someone else might disagree, are needed for this **HIT LIST**. As always, your name will remain anonymous. We also suggest that when the economy rebounds, the closed library branches be added to the list as a matter of fact and the high-demand services be reinstated, if at all, on a priority basis. Please submit your suggestions to me by email, fax or snail mail.

## 2. ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES AND 2010 TA BOARD MEMBERS

Annual Meeting of the Taxpayers Association of Vigo County  
May 10, 2010

The annual meeting for 2010 was held at Idle Creek Convention Center. Members and guests signed in, socialized, and visited the buffet from 11:30 to 12:00. At this time, the formal meeting introduction was made by Bernard Ridens. He welcomed all attending, and introduced Vice-President John Ragle who presided over the meeting.

Members moved and seconded to accept the minutes of the 2009 annual meeting and the March 16, 2010 board meeting. They also accepted the treasurer's report showing a balance of \$35,065 as of April 30, 2010.

A call was made for election of board members, and the following new board members were accepted for a three year term: Will Frankel, Matt McFarland, and James Stolt.

Re-elected to the board for additional three year terms are: Rick Braden, Bart Douglas, Don Ireland, Rick Jenkins, Mike Morris, John Ragle, Robert Thompson, and Carolyn Toops.

The meeting was adjourned and Bernard Ridens introduced the 2010 winning team of The Eagle Government, Taxation, and Citizenship contest. Terre Haute North was this year's winner and was represented at the meeting by the first and second place individual winners Mitchell McCord and Kacey Martin, and their teacher-sponsor Mrs. Linda Lambert. Mitchell McCord stated that he learned a lot about county government while he studied for the exam, and thanked the Taxpayers Association.

The meeting was then turned over to Mr. Ron Hinsenkamp, Chief Transportation Planner of the Metropolitan Planning Organization of the West Central Indiana Economic Development District. Mr. Hinsenkamp gave a transportation update related to the local area. His material was presented via Power Point with the entire presentation provided as a hand out. Following the presentation, Mr. Hinsenkamp answered questions related to the transportation update.

A flyer was presented with the names of those offering door prizes and support of the Eagle contest, with an opportunity available for members to donate.

At 1:05, thirty-six door prizes were distributed with an average value of over \$25.00 and the meeting was adjourned.

Statistically, there were 44 attendees and 1 representative of the Terre Haute Tribune. Of these 44, 17 were board members, 2 students, 1 teacher, 2 parents, and 22 other members and guests.

Respectively submitted by Susan Clements

### **Board Members 2010**

<b>Marla J. Ames</b>	<b>First Financial Bank</b>
<b>Vicki Barrett</b>	<b>T.H. Savings Bank</b>
<b>Amy Cleveland</b>	<b>Digital Audio Disc Corp.</b>
<b>Brian Bauer</b>	<b>T.H. Regional Hospital</b>
<b>Charles Beckwith</b>	<b>Turner Travel</b>
<b>Rick Braden</b>	<b>T.H. Bowling Center</b>
<b>Kim Dillion</b>	<b>Dillion Real Estate</b>

<b>Bart Douglas</b>	<b>Forrest Sherer Inc.</b>
<b>William S. Frankel, IV</b>	
<b>Cindy Gordon</b>	<b>Thompson Thrift Development</b>
<b>David Hannum</b>	<b>Hannum, Wagle &amp; Cline Engineering</b>
<b>John Hilderbrand</b>	
<b>Don Ireland</b>	<b>Industrial Supply</b>
<b>Rick Jenkins</b>	<b>Rick Jenkins Construction</b>
<b>Joe Kenworthy</b>	<b>Old National Insurance</b>
<b>Matthew McFarland</b>	<b>Old National Bank</b>
<b>Eric McGlone</b>	<b>Novelis Corporation</b>
<b>Mike Morris</b>	<b>Morris Trucking Corp.</b>
<b>John Ragle</b>	<b>T.H. Realty Corporation</b>
<b>Patrick R. Ralston</b>	<b>First Financial Bank</b>
<b>Gregg Scott</b>	<b>Duke Energy</b>
<b>James Stolt</b>	<b>Overhead Door Company of Terre Haute</b>
<b>Thomas E. Templeton</b>	<b>Templeton Coal Company</b>
<b>Paul Thiemann</b>	<b>Thiemann Office Products</b>
<b>Robert Thompson</b>	<b>Thompson's Honda, Toyota &amp; Motorsports</b>
<b>Carolyn Toops</b>	
<b>Mark Zimmerly</b>	<b>Zimmerly Development, Inc.</b>

### **3. 2010 DIGEST**

The following is a digest of the bills that were passed by the 2010 Indiana State Legislature: <http://www.taxtopics.org/2010%20DIGEST.pdf>.

### **4. NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERSHIP**

The minutes of the April 27, 2010 Terre Haute Neighborhood Partnership meeting can be found here: <http://www.taxtopics.org/NeighPart.min.052510.pdf>. The next meeting will be held on June 22.

## 5. 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.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Public Meeting</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Contact Info</b>
Tue. Jun. 1	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Tue. Jun. 1	10:00 am	<u>City Board of Sanitary Commissioners</u>	City Hall – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor	Sally 235-5458
Tue. Jun. 1	4:30 pm	<u>City Council – Annexation Study Ad Hoc Committee</u>	City Hall – Courtroom	Michelle 232-3375
Tue. Jun. 1	4:30 pm	<b>Honey Creek Conservancy District</b>	3241 S. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Craig 232-4311
Wed. Jun. 2	9:00 am	<u>City Board of Zoning Appeals</u>	City Hall – 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor Conf. Room	Judy 462-3367
Wed. Jun. 2	7:00 pm	<u>County Area Planning Commission</u>	County Annex	Vickie 462-3354
Thur. Jun. 3	7:00 pm	<u>City Council – Sunshine Meeting</u>	City Hall – Courtroom	Michelle 232-3375
Mon. Jun. 7	4:00 pm	<u>Vigo County Drainage Board</u>	County Annex	David 898-2685
Mon. Jun. 7	4:30 pm	<b>Animal Control Board</b>	City Hall – 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor	
Mon. Jun. 7	6:30 pm	<b>Riley Town Board</b>	Riley Town Hall	Wanda 894-2410
Tue. Jun. 8	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Tue. Jun. 8	4:15 pm	<u>Vigo County Redevelopment Commission</u>	County Annex	Amanda 234-2524
Tue. Jun. 8	7:00 pm	<b>Seelyville Town Board</b>	Seelyville Water Office	Tamara 877-2665
Wed. Jun. 9	10:00 am	<u>County Board of Zoning Appeals</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Wed. Jun. 9	2:00 pm	<u>E-911 Advisory Board</u>	County Jail – Sheriff's Training Room	Greg 462-3226 ext. 320
Wed. Jun. 9	4:30 pm	<u>City Park Board – General Meeting</u>	Deming Park	Eddie 232-2727
Wed. Jun. 9	7:00 pm	<u>Airport Authority</u>	Airport	Kara 877-2524
Thur. Jun. 10	7:00 pm	<u>City Council – Regular Meeting</u>	City Hall – Courtroom	Michelle 232-3375
Mon. Jun. 14	2:00 pm	<u>Board of Public Works and Safety</u>	City Hall – Board of Public Works Room	Robin 232-4767
Mon. Jun. 14	5:30 pm	<u>Human Relations Commission</u>	Booker T. Washington Center	Jeff 232-0110
Mon. Jun. 14	6:00 pm	<b>West Terre Haute Town Board</b>	500 W. Nat'l, WTH	Melody 533-2034
Tue. Jun. 15	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Tue. Jun. 15	10:00 am	<u>City Board of Sanitary Commissioners</u>	City Hall – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor	Sally 235-5458
Wed. Jun. 16	9:30 am	<b>Clay-Owen-Vigo Solid Waste District</b>	109 E. Nat'l, Brazil IN	Janet 800-387-3380
Wed. Jun. 16	4:00 pm	<u>City Redevelopment Commission</u>	City Hall – 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor	Phenny 232-0018
Thur. Jun. 17	2:00 pm	<b>Tree Advisory Board</b>	City Hall Mayor's Conf. Room	Jennifer 232-4028
Mon. Jun. 21	7:00 pm	<u>Vigo County Public Library</u>	Vigo County Public Library	Nancy 232-1113
Mon. Jun. 21	7:00 pm	<u>Vigo County School Board</u>	VCSC Board Room	Judy 462-4216
Tue. Jun. 22	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Tue. Jun. 22	5:00 pm	<u>County Council</u>	County Annex	Auditor 462-3361
Wed. Jun. 23	4:30 pm	<u>City Park Board – Business Meeting</u>	Deming Park	Eddie 232-2727

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Public Meeting</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Contact Info</b>
Wed. Jun. 23	5:30 pm	<u>Information Technology Advisory Board</u>	City Hall – 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor	Brad 244-2316
Wed. Jun. 23	7:00 pm	<u>Airport Authority</u>	Airport	Kara 877-2524
Mon. Jun. 28	2:00 pm	<u>Board of Public Works and Safety</u>	City Hall – Board of Public Works Room	Robin 232-4767
Mon. Jun. 28	4:00 pm	<u>County Park Board</u>	County Annex	Julia 462-3391
Mon. Jun. 28	5:30 pm	<b>Terre Haute Housing Authority</b>	2001 N. 19 <sup>th</sup> Street	Jeff 232-1381
Tue. Jun. 29	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367

**END**

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