

TAX MATTERS

FEBRUARY 26, 2009, Issue #09-08, by Bernard Ridens, Executive Director
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1. BIDDING WARS – SOMETHING NEW FOR THE CITY
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3. TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT
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REVIEW OF PAST TAX MATTERS

FEBRUARY 19, 2009 (#09-07)

- HONEY CREEK – VIGO CONSERVANCY DISTRICT PLAN
 - The preliminary evaluation of the district plan for the Honey Creek – Vigo Conservancy District is now available - <http://mywabashvalley.com/media/pdf/HoneyCreekCD-PlanEvaluation2009-02-18-1234991493.pdf> (14-megabyte Adobe Acrobat document)
- HIGH SCHOOL TAX AND GOVERNMENT CONTEST
 - If you haven't donated to this contest, and you choose to do so, please send your donation to Taxpayers Association at 7 S Meadows Shopping Center, Terre Haute, IN 47803
- TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE REPORT
 - The Accounting and Uniform Compliance Guidelines Manual for Townships is a 223-page document that describes the numerous responsibilities that township trustees have or had. It can be found at www.in.gov/sboa

FEBRUARY 12, 2009 (#09-06)

- THE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM
 - The Meadows branch of the library closed Feb. 20. The Plaza North branch will close March 13, and the Southland branch will close April 3. More info can be found here: <http://mywabashvalley.com/content/fulltext/?cid=50691>
- FARMLAND ASSESSMENTS WILL KEEP INCREASING
 - Article by Larry DeBoer
- KOKOMO BEGINS PRODUCING K-FUEL
 - The city of Kokomo has launched the first phase of its Renewable Energy Partnership by producing its own biofuel

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. BIDDING WARS – SOMETHING NEW FOR THE CITY

The city of Terre Haute will be involved in a new process for the collection of bids relating to the purchase of two dump trucks for the City of Terre Haute Street Department. Companies choosing to bid on the trucks have already submitted the bid information relating to specifications, and those companies meeting the requirements have been invited to submit bids in a process referred to as a “reverse auction” system.

On March 12, 2009, at 2:00 PM the reverse auction will be held online through the BidBridge company. Those submitting bids will be able to see the bids offered by their competitors and will have a chance to “outbid” their competitors. The public and the members of the Board of Works and Safety will be able to view the bidding as it occurs. When the time limit is met, the low bid will be accepted.

For more information on the BidBridge company, visit BidBridge.net.

Leslie Ellis, City Controller, can be credited with the discovery of this company and the process involved. She and Brad Miller, Transportation Director, are excited about using this process and hope that it turns out to be a money saving endeavor.

2. LEGISLATIVE ACTION NETWORK

Are you interested in what is happening in the Indiana Senate and House? If so, you can watch the sessions that are held on Monday and Tuesday at <http://www.in.gov/legislative/session/video.html>

The committees have met and the remaining bills that have passed out of committee will now be heard and debated on Monday and Tuesday by the full House and Senate. Those that pass the house of origin will be assigned to committee in the opposite legislative body and the process will begin again.

3. TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT

According to the Associated Press, the Indiana Senate passed a bill that would eliminate three-member township boards. The township boards’ duties of adopting the annual township budget and acting as the township’s fiscal and legislative body would be shifted to the county council. Township trustees (the executive branch) would remain. This is despite Gov. Daniels’ proposal to eliminate township government completely.

The township table that was published in last week’s *Tax Matters* is updated here to include all the board members of each township. Each township also includes its respective tax rate. The population of the federal penitentiary was subtracted from the Honey Creek township figure, so the expenditures per person listed now better reflects that township.

VIGO COUNTY TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE STUDY

TOWNSHIP	TRUSTEE	BOARD	TRIBUNE AD DATE	YR. END BALANCE	TOWNSHIP POPULATION	2008 EXPEND	EXPEND PER PERSON	TOWNSHIP RATE
FAYETTE	PAUL ALLSUP	LARRY DAVISON VIRGINIA DUNKLEY DON VERMILLION	2.10.09	40,809.74	2,611	84,093.82	\$32.21	0.0823
HARRISON	DEBRA KIRK PETERS	JOHN BRENTLINGER BARBARA FORD	1.26.09	1,693,346.00	50,447	588,372.32	\$11.66	0.0404
HONEY CREEK	CHARLES E. BECKWITH	JOSEPH KENWORTHY JON FORD STEVEN SHROEDER	2.04.09	118,575.63	10,627	24,625.56	\$2.32	0.0036
LINTON	BIONCA GAMBILL	JEFF GORMONG JANICE HARTMANN DEBRA HASKELL	2.16.09	22,366.63	1,301	99,200.41	\$76.25	0.0550
LOST CREEK	RICK D. LONG	THOMAS NICOSON ROBERT ALL DAVID MASON	1.28.09	332,818.58	10,508	314,863.37	\$29.96	0.0222
NEVINS	CARL H. GREGORY	MARIETTA COOPER ROBERT MORELAND KELLY HARTZLER	1.29.09	135,245.00	2,258	77,772.29	\$34.44	0.0814
OTTER CREEK	ROBERT D. SALMON	BETTY EASTHAM JOHN MEYERS J. MICHAEL SMITH	2.16.09	215,299.99	8,859	533,940.52	\$60.27	0.0619
PIERSON	ROBIN BROWN	DUANE DALTON DIANA BROWN DONNA McCOSKEY	2.05.09	62,730.47	1,353	84,772.36	\$62.66	0.1036
PRAIRIE CREEK	C. DOYLE PIETY	ALLAN HODGES REX SWALLS	1.26.09	69,818.74	1,323	78,425.90	\$59.28	0.0873
PRAIRIETON	DAVID F. PHELPS	WARREN PIGG DAN SHIELDS	2.02.09	45,536.63	1,354	13,072.04	\$9.65	0.0354
RILEY	ROBERT F. FLESHER	ERNEST WEDDLE ROBERT ROGERS	2.06.09	42,630.13	2,857	28,240.97	\$9.88	0.014
SUGAR CREEK	JAMES CHRISMAN	CHARLES STRANAHAN LEWIS BRACKA MIKE ANDERSON	1.30.09	422,222.84	8,017	267,027.74	\$33.31	0.0923
TOTALS				3,201,400	101,515 51,068	2,194,407	\$21.62	

4. MORE STIMULUS INFO

The web site that we referenced in last week's *Tax Matters*, www.stimuluswatch.org, is NOT an official stimulus web site. The projects listed on the site and in our article were part of a wish list compiled by the U.S. Conference of Mayors. No projects have yet been approved as stimulus projects. Approved stimulus projects will be listed on the federal government site www.recovery.gov.

Several regional stimulus meetings of the Governor's Task Force will be conducted throughout the state. The meeting for our area will take place this Monday at Greencastle.

Area 30 Career Center Community Room
1 N. Calbert Way, Ste A
Greencastle, IN
Monday, March 2nd – 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM

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.

Date	Time	Public Meeting	Location	Contact Info
Mon. Mar. 2	9:00 am	Regional Stimulus Meeting of the Governor's Task Force	Greencastle, IN	
Mon. Mar. 2	6:30 pm	Riley Town Board	Riley Town Hall	Wanda 894-2410
Tue. Mar. 3	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Tue. Mar. 3	10:00 am	<u>City Board of Sanitary Commissioners</u>	City Hall – 3 rd Floor	Sally 235-5458
Tue. Mar. 3	4:30 pm	Honey Creek Conservancy District	3241 S. 3 rd Place	Craig 232-4311
Wed. Mar. 4	9:00 am	<u>City Board of Zoning Appeals</u>	City Hall – 1 st Floor Conf. Room	Judy 462-3367
Wed. Mar. 4	7:00 pm	<u>County Area Planning Commission</u>	County Annex	Vickie 462-3354
Thur. Mar. 5	7:00 pm	<u>City Council – Sunshine Meeting</u>	City Hall – Courtroom	Michelle 232-3375
Mon. Mar. 9	2:00 pm	<u>Board of Public Works and Safety</u>	City Hall – 1 st Floor	Robin 232-4767
Mon. Mar. 9	6:00 pm	West Terre Haute Town Board	500 W. Nat'l, WTH	Melody 533-2034
Mon. Mar. 9	7:00 pm	<u>Vigo County School Board</u>	VCSC Board Room	Judy 462-4216
Tue. Mar. 10	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Tue. Mar. 10	4:15 pm	<u>Vigo County Redevelopment Commission</u>	County Annex	Amanda 234-2524
Tue. Mar. 10	6:30 pm	<u>County Council – Public Forum</u>	County Annex	Auditor 462-3361
Tue. Mar. 10	7:00 pm	Seelyville Town Board	Seelyville Water Office	Tamara 877-2665
Wed. Mar. 11	10:00 am	<u>County Board of Zoning Appeals</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Wed. Mar. 11	4:30 pm	<u>City Park Board – General Meeting</u>	Deming Park	Eddie 232-2727
Wed. Mar. 11	7:00 pm	<u>Airport Authority</u>	Airport	Kara 877-2524
Thur. Mar. 12	7:00 pm	<u>City Council – Regular Meeting</u>	City Hall – Courtroom	Michelle 232-3375
Sat. Mar. 14	10:00 am	LEGISLATIVE CRACKERBARREL	Library – Main Branch	Nancy 232-1113
Mon. Mar. 16	5:30 pm	<u>Human Relations Commission</u>	Booker T. Washington Center	Jeff 232-0110
Mon. Mar. 16	7:00 pm	<u>Vigo County Public Library</u>	Library – Main Branch	Nancy 232-1113
Tue. Mar. 17	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Tue. Mar. 17	10:00 am	<u>City Board of Sanitary Commissioners</u>	City Hall – 3 rd Floor	Sally 235-5458
Tue. Mar. 17	12:00 pm	Taxpayers Association Board Meeting	Garmong & Son, 3050 Poplar St.	Bernard 235-1361
Wed. Mar. 18	9:30 am	Clay-Owen-Vigo Solid Waste District	109 E. Nat'l, Brazil IN	Janet 800-387-3380
Wed. Mar. 18	4:00 pm	<u>City Redevelopment Commission</u>	City Hall – 1 st Floor	Phenny 232-0018
Thur. Mar. 19	2:00 pm	Tree Advisory Board	City Hall Mayor's Conf. Room	Jennifer 232-4028

END

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