

TAX MATTERS

DECEMBER 18, 2008, Issue #08-50, by Bernard Ridens, Executive Director
Taxpayers Association of Vigo County, Inc.

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1. 2009 MEMBERSHIPS
2. TAXPAYERS MEMBER SURVEY
3. VCSC COMMUNITY FORUM – SCHOOL BUILDING \$\$\$
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REVIEW OF PAST TAX MATTERS

DECEMBER 11, 2008 (#08-49)

- 2009 DUES – EXCELLENT RESPONSE, THANK YOU

DECEMBER 4, 2008 (#08-48)

- SURVEYS AND DUES
 - If you will be paying after January 31, 2009, please let us know so that we may develop the 2009 budget accordingly.
- WHAT COSTS MORE PER YEAR THAN THE IRAQ WAR?

NOVEMBER 20, 2008 (#08-47)

- FLOOD ROAD REPAIR
 - Though not all the money promised by FEMA has been received, most of the repair projects have been completed. We commend the highway department for doing an excellent job in a short period of time.
- 2008 ANNUAL REPORTS/SURVEY
 - By now, you should have received a copy of the Taxpayers Association Annual Report. You should also find a survey accompanying this report. Please complete the survey at your convenience and return it using the pre-addressed envelope provided.
- TA ANNUAL MEETING DATE CORRECTION
 - The Taxpayers Association Annual Meeting will be held **Tuesday, April 28, 2009** instead of May 18 as was previously announced

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. 2009 MEMBERSHIPS

2009 memberships continue to grow at a greater pace than in past years. In just 18 days since 2009 invoices were mailed, we had 49 members pay in full. We are \$2400 ahead of this date last year. If your payment will be made after January 21, 2009, please let us know and we will not mail you another invoice. **It would be a tremendous show of support if each member could provide us with just one new member lead.**

2. TAXPAYERS MEMBER SURVEY

Surveys continue to be returned. If you haven't had a chance to submit feedback to the survey, it is not too late. The survey is reprinted below. You can copy and paste the survey with your answers as a reply to this e-mail. You can also fax or mail your survey answer to the TA office. Our fax number is 234-0568. Remember, your survey answers will remain strictly anonymous and confidential. Some of the results will be published next week in *Tax Topics*.

TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION 2009 QUESTIONNAIRE

NAME _____
COMPANY _____
ADDRESS _____

e-mail _____
telephone _____
fax _____

These questions are intended to upgrade the TA database and acquire a general opinion on our service to the membership. Please respond with yes or no to the following.

- 1___ Do we have your address information correct? If no, please put correct information above.
- 2___ Are you receiving TAXTOPICS? (First week of each season)
- 3___ Are you receiving TAX MATTERS? (Thursday of each week)
- 4___ Can you help acquire an additional member by suggesting a contact person? If so, please supply name and company if applicable.
- 5___ Do you think the 1% residential, 2% rental, and 3% business proposed property tax caps should be supported by the TA?
As you know from previous TA publications, there is opposition to classifying property tax and the issue may not be constitutional.
- 6___ Would you accept a position on the TA board of directors? Terms are for 3 years, and we should have 27 board members with 9 new members each year.
- 7___ Should the TA object to any and all new taxes, especially the local option income tax (LOIT) option?
- 8___ Can you attend the TA annual meeting to be held April 28, 2009, at 12:00 noon at Idle Creek Banquet Center? Dr. Dan Bradley (ISU) will be the guest speaker.
- 9___ Can you bring a guest to the annual meeting? A formal invitation and reminder will be sent to those answering yes to # 8 above.

THESE ARE OPINION QUESTIONS

The 2009 TA income might not be enough to meet expenses. What services do you suggest we reduce in order to save money?

We are developing a WEBSITE to promote tax related information to all that may be interested. What do you think should be included?

It is clear that under the current economic conditions, local government services must be reduced. What services would you suggest that Vigo County units reduce or eliminate?

3. VCSC COMMUNITY FORUM – SCHOOL BUILDING \$\$\$

The following shows the December 8, 2008 results from the last VCSC Community Forum. Another forum will be held on January 8, 2009 at South Vigo High School. It is desired that a full house attend. Those attending and participating interactively with electronic clickers will have a major impact on decisions made by the Community Task Force concerning future Vigo County School Corporation facilities.

VCSC Community Forum Results for December 8 - <http://www.schmidt-arch.com/owners/VigoCounty.html>

4. LINE ITEM, 2009 VIGO COUNTY BUDGET

Please review this budget and give us your opinion of items that might be reduced for calendar year 2010.

Vigo County 2009 Budget - http://www.vigocounty.org/egov/docs/1228855013_206756.pdf

5. VIGO COUNTY AGRICULTURE STATISTICS

The following are the latest figures concerning Vigo County's agricultural output. These statistics are from the *Indiana Agricultural Statistics 2007-2008* book published by the United States Department of Agriculture's Indiana Field Office.

		RANK			RANK
2000 Census Population	105,848	15	2006 Cash Receipts	\$36,377,000	69
2002 Total Land Area	258,109	43	Crop Receipts	\$32,854,000	59
2002 Number of Farms	476	69	Livestock Receipts	\$3,523,000	84
2002 Land in Farms (acres)	122,859	68			
2002 Average Size of Farm (acres)	258	46	2006 Other Income	\$5,503,000	66
			Government Payments	\$4,862,000	58
2002 Value of Land & Bldgs (avg/acre)	\$2,165	75	Imputed Income	\$641,000	87
2002 Cropland (acres)	104,565	66			
2002 Harvested Cropland (acres)	96,733	62	2006 Total Income	\$41,880,000	70
2002 Pastureland, all types (acres)	6,562	68	Less: Expenses	\$37,512,000	69
2002 Woodland (acres)	12,023	40	Realized Net Income	\$4,368,000	54

<u>2007 CROPS</u>	<u>PLTD</u>	<u>HARV</u>	<u>YLD</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>PROD</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>LIVESTOCK</u>	<u>NUMBER HEAD</u>	<u>RANK</u>
Corn	59,500	59,200	167	Bu	9,892,000	50	Jan 2008 All Cattle	2,700	84
Soybeans	46,900	46,800	45	Bu	2,109,200	51	Beef Cows	1,300	70
Wheat	*	*	*	Bu	*	*	Milk Cows	*	*
							2002 All Hogs	10,869	60
Hay	---	3,300	2.76	Ton	9,100	66	2002 All Sheep	108	86
							2002 Chickens	1,048	20
Popcorn	---	*	---	Lbs	*	*	2002 Turkeys	19	25

6. END OF YEAR

This is the last *Tax Matters* to be published for 2008.

HAVE A GREAT HOLIDAY SEASON

From the Staff of the Taxpayers Association
(Bernard, Susan, Matt, Jim, John, Sharon, and Randy)

7. 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
Fri. Dec. 19	4:15 pm	<u>City Park Board – General Meeting</u>	Deming Park	Eddie 232-2727
Mon. Dec. 22	2:00 pm	<u>Board of Public Works and Safety</u>	City Hall – 1 st Floor	Robin 232-4767
Mon. Dec. 22	4:00 pm	<u>County Park Board</u>	County Annex	Julia 462-3391
Mon. Dec. 22	6:00 pm	<u>City Council – Special Call</u>	City Hall – Courtroom	Michelle 232-3375
Tue. Dec. 23	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Mon. Jan. 5	6:30 pm	<u>Riley Town Board</u>	Riley Town Hall	Wanda 894-2410
Tue. Jan. 6	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Tue. Jan. 6	10:00 am	<u>City Board of Sanitary Commissioners</u>	City Hall – 3 rd Floor	Sally 235-5458
Wed. Jan. 7	9:00 am	<u>City Board of Zoning Appeals</u>	City Hall – 1 st Floor Conf. Room	Judy 462-3367
Wed. Jan. 7	7:00 pm	<u>County Area Planning Commission</u>	County Annex	Vickie 462-3354
Thur. Jan. 8	6:00 pm	<u>VCSC COMMUNITY FORUM</u>	TH South Vigo H.S.	Judy 462-4216
Thur. Jan. 8	6:30 pm	<u>City Council – Reorganization</u>	City Hall – Courtroom	Michelle 232-3375
Thur. Jan. 8	7:00 pm	<u>City Council – Sunshine Meeting</u>	City Hall – Courtroom	Michelle 232-3375
Sat. Jan. 10	10:00 am	LEGISLATIVE CRACKERBARREL	Library – Main Branch	Nancy 232-1113
Mon. Jan. 12	2:00 pm	<u>Board of Public Works and Safety</u>	City Hall – 1 st Floor	Robin 232-4767
Mon. Jan. 12	6:00 pm	<u>West Terre Haute Town Board</u>	500 W. Nat'l, WTH	Melody 533-2034
Mon. Jan. 12	7:00 pm	<u>Vigo County School Board</u>	VCSC Board Room	Judy 462-4216
Tue. Jan. 13	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Tue. Jan. 13	4:15 pm	<u>Vigo County Redevelopment Commission</u>	County Annex	Amanda 234-2524
Tue. Jan. 13	7:00 pm	<u>Seelyville Town Board</u>	Seelyville Water Office	Tamara 877-2665
Wed. Jan. 14	10:00 am	<u>County Board of Zoning Appeals</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Wed. Jan. 14	2:00 pm	<u>E-911 Advisory Board</u>	County Jail – Sheriff's Training Room	Greg 462-3226 ext. 320
Wed. Jan. 14	4:30 pm	<u>City Park Board – General Meeting</u>	Deming Park	Eddie 232-2727
Wed. Jan. 14	5:00 pm	<u>Vigo County Board of Health</u>	County Annex	Louise 462-3428
Wed. Jan. 14	7:00 pm	<u>Airport Authority</u>	Airport	Kara 877-2524
Thur. Jan. 15	1:30 pm	<u>Tree Advisory Board</u>	City Hall Mayor's Conf. Room	Jennifer 232-4028
Thur. Jan. 15	7:00 pm	<u>City Council – Regular Meeting</u>	City Hall – Courtroom	Michelle 232-3375
Fri. Jan. 16	1:30 pm	<u>Honey Creek Conservancy District</u>	3241 S. 3 rd Place	Craig 232-4311

END

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