

TAX MATTERS

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REVIEW OF PAST TAX MATTERS

DECEMBER 30, 2010 (#10-12)

- RATES 2010 PAY 2011
 - For several years, property tax rates have been certified for Vigo County by the State of Indiana later than expected. For taxes based on March 1, 2010 assessments and payable in 2011, rates are now known.

DECEMBER 2, 2010 (#10-11)

- 2011 DUES INVOICES
 - Dues renewal invoices were mailed on December 1, 2010 to all current members and members who recently could not renew due to the economy.
- HOOSIER SURVEY 2010
 - According to a Ball State University survey, job creation, upgrading K-12 education and improving government efficiency should be the state legislature's top issues:
<http://cms.bsu.edu/~media/DepartmentalContent/Bowen/HOOSIER%20SURVEY%202010.ashx>
- ECONOMIC IMPACT OF HOME BUILDING IN THE STATE OF INDIANA
 - Dr. Elliot Eisenberg, an economist with the National Association of Home Builders, made a presentation called "The Economic Impact of Home Building in Indiana" at a NAHB meeting in Indianapolis:
<http://www.taxtopics.org/IndianaREPORT.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. HELP! SPONSORS NEEDED

The Taxpayers Association Annual Meeting and 75th Birthday Celebration to be held on Wednesday, April 20, 2011 is rapidly approaching. Special invitations will be mailed to over 900 addresses. Our goal is to have at least 250 people attend. Due to the fact our revenues are still below normal, we are asking you to consider sponsoring a portion of this monumental occasion. All sponsor names and/or logos will be shown on the invitations and programs. Sponsorship money will be used for such things shown on the following list:

For a minimum contribution of \$200.00, your name and logo will be printed on all materials related to this event. You may sponsor a specific item on this list (i.e. birthday cake).

ITEMS IN NEED OF CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP

- 1 DOOR PRIZES
- 2 THE EAGLE TAX COMPETITION
- 3 INVITATIONS-- ADDRESS LABELS, POSTAGE
- 4 PROMOTIONAL ADS
- 5 A SPECIAL WORKSHOP
- 6 BANQUET ROOM DÉCOR
- 7 SPECIAL MEAL ITEM (EX. DESSERT)
- 8 PROGRAM PRINTING
- 9 BOARD TERM OF SERVICE PLAQUES 5, 10, 15, 20, ETC. YEARS
- 10 TABLE FAVORS
- 11 RADIO & TV ADS
- 12 NEWSPAPER ADS
- 13 DEFRAID MEAL COSTS MEMBERS at X NON MEMBERS A fraction of X
- 14 SPONSORSHIP MONEY MAY CONTRIBUTE TO NEW MEMBER DUES

SPONSOR'S NAME/ LOGO WILL BE DISPLAYED ON ALL PRINTED MATERIAL

2. SPECIAL WORKSHOP

At the Annual Meeting, Guest Speaker Dr. Larry DeBoer will also be doing a one-hour special workshop after the Annual Meeting. The topic will be "Recession and Indiana Local Governments." At this time, we are seeking permission to offer Continuing Education Credits for those attending the Annual Meeting and the workshop. More details about this workshop will be given in the next issue of *Tax Matters*.

3. 2011 DUES DUE 2011 DUES DUE 2011 DUES DUE

Dues letters and invoices were sent out early in December. Many have paid their dues, but several have not at this time. We are in the process of following up on outstanding dues. If, for some reason, you do not feel that you have received your invoice please call or e-mail Bernard (235-1361 or taxtopics@aol.com). If you feel that you cannot afford the dues amount that you have been invoiced, we would still like for you to maintain your membership, and we will work with you.

4. HONEY CREEK CONSERVANCY DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT

Honey Creek-Vigo Conservancy District 2010 Annual Report

The final phase of the District's Watershed Project, Part C was launched in December 2010, bringing into sight the conclusion of a 20-year effort to provide additional flood and drainage control to the Honey Creek watershed. Phases 2B and 3 of the project—located west of U. S. 41 along Thompson's Ditch to the confluence with Honey Creek—will complete the original District Plan with an expected completion date of not later than September 30, 2011. Funding for the project was made possible by a grant from the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service. Through the able leadership of State Conservationist Jane Hardisty and her outstanding team, additional funding was earmarked for the project, thus assuring that the entirety of both phases could be completed.

The District's directors acknowledge the support of Ms. Hardisty, State Engineer Mike Cox, as well as Alyson Keaton, Elana Cass, Eddy Adams, and Denise Held. Mr. Adams and Ms. Held have a long relationship with the District during their local assignments for NRCS and their counsel and support have been invaluable in completing the various projects.

The award of the final phase to S & G Excavating, Inc., came on the heels of completing Phase 2A of the project (the Ditch area between 7th Street and U. S. 41). That project was completed on time and without problem except for an unusually dry summer and fall that will necessitate additional seeding in 2011. S & G was the contractor on that project as well. In addition to contracting with S & G for Phases 2B and 3, the District entered into an agreement with Myers Engineering to be the owner's representative on the project. Larry Bennett is providing those services.

Other projects completed in 2010 included a major restoration of a hill near Corn Creek impacting the residence of Clarence and Terrie Brink. This work was completed with a 75% grant from NRCS and the agreement of the Brinks to fund the remaining 25% with the District as project sponsor. The project was necessitated by damage inflicted by the major rainfall and flood of June 2008.

Funding also was earmarked at year-end for removal of a logjam on Honey Creek that endangers the already constructed flood works along Part B. An award for that project is expected early in 2011 and funding is from the NRCS Emergency Watershed Program. The District also continued its longstanding operations and maintenance plans for completed phases.

Laura Simmons was appointed by the Vigo County Commissioners to fill the seat of Ferne Price, who resigned in 2009 for health reasons. The Board also marked the passing on December 5, 2010, of original director Carl S. Riddle, who served two stints as a District director.

Rick Jenkins served as Chairman. Kurt Jones was Vice Chairman. Brian Payne was Secretary. Jane Hadley serves as financial clerk. Craig M. McKee is the District's attorney. Parker Manning and Ms. Simmons fill the remaining director's positions.

5. THE EAGLE IS PREPARING FOR FLIGHT

The EAGLE Taxation, Government and Citizenship Competition is in the final stage of organization. Questions are being written, students are studying, and rewards are being prepared. The contest will be held on Saturday, February 19, at 10:00 AM at the Vigo County School Corporation Administration Building. It is open to any high school student in Vigo County. Monetary awards will be presented to the top three individual place holders, the high scoring school, and that school's advisor for use in his or her classroom. The EAGLE trophy will land in the trophy case of the winning school.

If you know of any students who would be interested in participating in this contest, please have them contact the TA office or their government teacher.

Donations toward this contest are always welcome, and several have been received at this time. If you wish to donate, please do. The budget for this competition is \$1200. This project is not supported by member dues.

6. CALCULATING YOUR 2011 PROPERTY TAX BILL – MORE INFORMATION

For those of you whose property includes some components that are not classified as strictly homestead, you need to calculate each component separately. For example, a building outside of the home used as a workshop would not be a part of the homestead, and therefore would not be confined to the 1% cap value. You must use the appropriate cap value for each classification. In the case of the workshop, it would be classified as "other" and have a 3% cap.

Also, if your homestead or land is a part of one of the conservancy districts, you must add the conservancy rate to your township rate. The conservancy rates are included in our rate comparison chart this time around.

Again, if you cannot match your calculations to the ["tax calculator"](#) found on the DLGF website, please feel free to call the TA office at 235.1361 or send e-mail to taxtopics@aol.com and we will investigate your bill.

		2010	2011	Change	% Change
TOWNSHIP					
1	FAYETTE	1.6844	1.6607	-0.0237	-1.41%
2	T H HARRISON	3.6216	3.5126	-0.1090	-3.01%
3	HONEY CREEK	1.8896	1.8894	-0.0002	-0.01%
4	HONEY CREEK SAN	2.2008	2.1109	-0.0899	-4.08%
5	T H HONEY CREEK	3.5773	3.4696	-0.1077	-3.01%
6	LINTON	1.7005	1.6922	-0.0083	-0.49%
7	LOST CREEK	1.7155	1.7121	-0.0034	-0.20%
8	LOST CREEK SAN	2.0267	1.9336	-0.0931	-4.59%
9	T H LOST CREEK	3.6027	3.4960	-0.1067	-2.96%
10	TOWN OF SEELYVILLE	2.3171	2.1981	-0.1190	-5.14%
11	NEVINS	1.7301	1.7185	-0.0116	-0.67%
12	OTTER CREEK	1.6993	1.6964	-0.0029	-0.17%
13	OTTER CREEK SAN	2.0105	1.9179	-0.0926	-4.61%
14	T H OTTER CREEK	3.5868	3.4800	-0.1068	-2.98%
15	PIERSON	1.7008	1.7012	0.0004	0.02%
16	PRAIRIE CREEK	1.9176	1.9062	-0.0114	-0.59%
17	PRAIRIETON	1.9215	1.9095	-0.0120	-0.62%
18	RILEY	1.8981	1.9486	0.0505	2.66%
19	RILEY SAN	2.2093	2.1701	-0.0392	-1.77%
20	TOWN OF RILEY	2.2840	2.2696	-0.0144	-0.63%
21	SUGAR CREEK	1.9680	2.0105	0.0425	2.16%
22	WEST TERRE HAUTE	3.3535	3.5321	0.1786	5.33%
23	T H RILEY	3.5915	3.4835	-0.1080	-3.01%
24	LINTON SAN	2.2147	2.1239	-0.0908	-4.10%
25	NEW GOSHEN FIRE	1.7416	1.7340	-0.0076	-0.44%
	PRAIRIETON PRAIRIE CREEK - VIGO	0.0136	0.0130	-0.0006	-4.41%
	PRAIRIE CREEK PRAIRIE CREEK - VIGO	0.0136	0.0130	-0.0006	-4.41%
	HONEY CREEK PRAIRIE CREEK VIGO	0.0136	0.0130	-0.0006	-4.41%
	LINTON PRAIRIE CREEK VIGO	0.0136	0.0130	-0.0006	-4.41%
	LINTON BUSSERON	0.0093	0.0091	-0.0002	-2.15%
	PIERSON BUSSERON	0.0093	0.0091	-0.0002	-2.15%
	HONEY CREEK - VIGO	0.1622	0.1678	0.0056	3.45%
	GREENFIELD BAYOU	0.7916	0.7701	-0.0215	-2.72%

7. STATE OF THE STATE

On January 11, 2011, Governor Mitch Daniels gave his State of the State address to the Indiana State Assembly. The complete text and video can be found here: <http://www.in.gov/gov/11stateofstate.htm>.

8. A TALE OF TWO TOWNSHIPS – REVISITED

Here is a comparison of two homestead properties located in different townships in Vigo County: <http://www.taxtopics.org/Harrison%20Honey%20Creek%20Comparison.pdf>. The main point of this comparison is to show the unequal distribution of tax dollars paid to government units. One township, Honey Creek does not pay tax to the City of Terre Haute, and the other township, Harrison does. Each is based on a \$200,000 assessed valuation with a \$45,000 homestead deduction. The property is residential, and property tax is capped at 1%. Note that the extra expenditures toward the city result in the Harrison property exceeding the cap. When this occurs, only a percentage of the assessed rate is paid toward all entities receiving the Harrison payment. The end result is that two residences, equal in value, are supporting the county, the library, the airport, and especially the schools with unequal contributions. These four entities are receiving a reduced rate from any property exceeding the 1% cap.

9. RANKING STATE AND LOCAL SALES TAXES

By Kail Padgitt

Fiscal Fact No. 258

Introduction

Retail sales taxes are correctly described in textbooks as "transparent" taxes; citizens are aware of how much they pay and when. On any particular purchase, an individual can easily identify the amount and percentage he paid in sales tax; it's right there on the receipt. As a result, even people with no interest in taxation have an idea of the general sales tax rate where they live.

However, in two-thirds of the country, local-option sales taxes make it somewhat more difficult for citizens to know what the rates are, and transparency suffers. Thirty-three states allow localities to charge a local sales tax. The rates vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, and here we average those in a way that gives an accurate impression of the sales tax in each state (see Table 1: State and Local Sales Tax Rates, Ranked by Total Rate).

For the rest of this article, click here:

<http://www.taxfoundation.org/publications/show/27023.html>.

10. 2011 BUSINESS OUTLOOK

Are Hoosiers optimistic about how 2011 will unfold? Inside INdiana Business asked the Indiana Business Council how they felt about the coming year. Are they confident? How do they feel about their own jobs? Do they feel their company is growing? And how do they feel about the support they get from state and federal government?

For this report, click here: http://www.indianabusinesscouncil.com/report_2011-business-outlook.asp.

11. 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
Tue. Feb. 8	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Tue. Feb. 8	4:15 pm	<u>Vigo County Redevelopment Commission</u>	County Annex	Amanda 234-2524
Tue. Feb. 8	7:00 pm	Seelyville Town Board	Seelyville Water Office	Tamara 877-2665
Wed. Feb. 9	10:00 am	<u>County Board of Zoning Appeals</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Wed. Feb. 9	2:00 pm	<u>E-911 Advisory Board</u>	County Jail – Sheriff's Training Room	Greg 462-3226 ext. 320
Wed. Feb. 9	6:30 pm	<u>Local Emergency Planning Committee</u>	Idle Creek – Dawg Leg Restaurant	Jon 232-5411
Wed. Feb. 9	7:00 pm	<u>Airport Authority</u>	Airport	Kara 877-2524
Thur. Feb. 10	6:00 pm	<u>City Council – Regular Meeting</u>	City Hall – Courtroom	Michelle 232-3375
Sat. Feb. 12	10:00 am	LEGISLATIVE CRACKERBARREL	Vigo County Public Library	Nancy 232-1113
Mon. Feb. 14	2:00 pm	<u>Board of Public Works and Safety</u>	City Hall – Board of Public Works Room	Robin 232-4767
Mon. Feb. 14	4:00 pm	<u>Vigo County Drainage Board</u>	County Annex	David 898-2685
Mon. Feb. 14	5:30 pm	<u>Human Relations Commission</u>	Booker T. Washington Center	Jeff 232-0110
Mon. Feb. 14	6:00 pm	West Terre Haute Town Board	500 W. Nat'l, WTH	Melody 533-2034
Mon. Feb. 14	7:00 pm	<u>Vigo County School Board</u>	VCSC Board Room	Judy 462-4216
Tue. Feb. 15	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Tue. Feb. 15	10:00 am	<u>City Board of Sanitary Commissioners</u>	City Hall – 3 rd Floor	Sally 235-5458
Wed. Feb. 16	9:30 am	Clay-Owen-Vigo Solid Waste District	109 E. Nat'l, Brazil IN	Janet 800-387-3380
Wed. Feb. 16	4:00 pm	<u>City Redevelopment Commission</u>	City Hall – 1 st Floor	Phenny 232-0018
Wed. Feb. 16	4:30 pm	<u>City Park Board</u>	Deming Park	Eddie 232-2727
Thur. Feb. 17	2:00 pm	Tree Advisory Board	City Hall Mayor's Conf. Room	Jennifer 232-4028
Mon. Feb. 21	7:00 pm	<u>Vigo County Public Library</u>	Vigo County Public Library	Nancy 232-1113
Tue. Feb. 22	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Public Meeting</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Info</u>
Tue. Feb. 22	5:00 pm	<u>County Council</u>	County Annex	Auditor 462-3361
Wed. Feb. 23	5:30 pm	<u>Information Technology Advisory Board</u>	City Hall – 1 st Floor	Brad 244-2316
Wed. Feb. 23	7:00 pm	<u>Airport Authority</u>	Airport	Kara 877-2524
Mon. Feb. 28	2:00 pm	<u>Board of Public Works and Safety</u>	City Hall – Board of Public Works Room	Robin 232-4767
Mon. Feb. 28	4:00 pm	<u>County Park Board</u>	County Annex	Julia 462-3391
Mon. Feb. 28	5:30 pm	Terre Haute Housing Authority	2001 N. 19 th Street	Jeff 232-1381
Mon. Feb. 28	7:00 pm	<u>Vigo County School Board</u>	VCSC Board Room	Judy 462-4216

END

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