

## **TAX MATTERS**

**JUNE 30, 2011, Issue #11-06, by Bernard Ridens, Executive Director  
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### **REVIEW OF PAST TAX MATTERS**

**JUNE 2, 2011 (#11-05)**

- **NEW MAPLE AVENUE CITY PARK**
  - Possible plans for the new city park at US 41 and Maple Avenue
- **PROPERTY TAX CAP COMPARISONS**
  - We studied property tax contributions related to homestead tax caps of 1% pertaining to Terre Haute City versus Non Terre Haute City homestead property
- **PUBLIC ACCESS HANDBOOK**
  - The Handbook on Indiana's Public Access Laws has recently been updated and is available [here](#).

**APRIL 27, 2011 (#11-04)**

- **DEBOER PRESENTS AT ANNUAL MEETING AND WORKSHOP**
  - Dr. Larry DeBoer, professor of agricultural economics at Purdue University and an expert on state and local public policy, was the speaker at the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary meeting of the Taxpayers Association. DeBoer spoke on "Indiana's Property Tax After the Constitutional Caps: How Are They Working and What Comes Next?"
- **WE NOW HAVE PAYPAL**
  - There is a Paypal button on our [web site](#) which allows for easy secure donations to the TA.
- **HEALTH BILL IN ITS ENTIRETY – AT THE TA OFFICE**
  - If you wish to study the contents of HR 3200 and/or HR 3962, they are available for loan.

**APRIL 5, 2011 (#11-03)**

- **2011 TAX RATES ARE PUBLISHED**
  - This year's property tax rates were published in the *Tribune-Star* today. If you would like a readable copy you may access one on the Taxpayers Association website by following this link – [2011 Tax Rates](#).

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. TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING – TUESDAY, JULY 19

The next meeting of the board of directors of the Taxpayers Association will be held at the I S U Foundation Office located in the Barnes & Noble building (ground floor) on the east side at 5<sup>th</sup> and Cherry. Business will be conducted at 12:00 noon. We try very hard to end these meetings by 1:00 P.M. A **Starbucks** box lunch can be ordered and ready for you at 11:30 A.M. All members are always welcome to attend board meetings and share concerns. This is a very convenient location for many members and easy parking is available in the parking lot located on the south side of the B/N building. You can enter the parking lot from 4<sup>th</sup> Street or 5<sup>th</sup> Street. If you can attend, please call the office by noon on Monday, July 18, and let us know if you want lunch. The cost of lunch will be \$5.00. If you cannot attend, do you have a concern that could be added to the agenda?

## 2. CITY AND NON-CITY PROPERTY TAX ALLOCATION

We have prepared several bar graphs demonstrating the allocation of property tax dollars comparing the averages of non-city locality taxes and city locality taxes. You can go to <http://www.taxtopics.org/TM2011/HomesteadGraphComparisonCityVsNon-City.pdf> and get a clearer view of where our tax dollars are going.

## 3. RAILROAD STUDY      Please study the web and do the survey.

The first public input meeting of the **Terre Haute Urbanized Area Railroad Corridor Study** was held Tuesday, June 28, at the local Girl Scout Headquarters at 6:00 P.M. An article about this meeting was published June 29 section A3 in the *Tribune-Star* and written by Arthur Foulkes. At the peak of the meeting, I counted 48 people present, most, of which were committee members such as me or presenters and elected officials. This was a disappointing attendance by the citizens of Terre Haute and Vigo County. This was an excellent opportunity to let ideas be heard or vent frustrations. All of us working on the study truly want to here from as many people as possible. Please go to this web site [www.terrehauserailstudy.com](http://www.terrehauserailstudy.com) and read many documents about this study and do the survey by clicking on the box on the right side of the home page. The survey will require less than six minutes of your time. A federal earmark of \$450,000 is being spent on this study and it is very likely that something will be done to improve the rail crossing situation in Terre Haute and Vigo County. The results will only be as good as the best ideas brought forward. Millions of taxpayer dollars will be spent on railroad crossing improvements in the local urbanized area.

The next public meeting for this study is scheduled to be held in November 2011.

## 4. INFORMATIONAL TAX READING

Here are three great sources of information regarding the new laws passed by the 2011 Indiana Legislature. Simply click on the highlighted sources and find useful information regarding your property taxes now and in the future. Each of these sources will then give you many additional topics to click on and learn about tax issues that affect your business.

Tax Notes by Bill Waltz - Indiana Chamber of Commerce  
<http://tinyurl.com/6dzkw35>

Inside Indiana Business by Gerry Dick - Indiana Chamber of Commerce  
[www.insideindianabusiness.com/newsitem.asp?id=48503](http://www.insideindianabusiness.com/newsitem.asp?id=48503)

Farmland Values expected to Rise by Craig Dobbins – Purdue University  
[www.insideindianabusiness.com/newsitem.asp?id=48143](http://www.insideindianabusiness.com/newsitem.asp?id=48143)

## 5. QUESTION OF THE MONTH

An item on the agenda for the Taxpayers Association Board Meeting:

### **SHOULD THE WEST TERRE HAUTE BRANCH OF THE VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY BE CLOSED, MOVED, REMODELED, OR NEWLY BUILT?**

All of these options except closing will cost all the taxpayers of Vigo County. Please send your opinion to the Taxpayers office or any board member.

Note – The majority of people living in the West Branch area actually live closer to the main library branch than Vigo County citizens living in the townships outside of Harrison.

## 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.

<i><b>Date</b></i>	<i><b>Time</b></i>	<i><b>Public Meeting</b></i>	<i><b>Location</b></i>	<i><b>Contact Info</b></i>
Tue. Jul. 5	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Tue. Jul. 5	10:00 am	<u>City Board of Sanitary Commissioners</u>	City Hall – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor	Sally 235-5458
Tue. Jul. 5	4:30 pm	<u>Honey Creek Conservancy District</u>	3241 S. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Craig 232-4311
Wed. Jul. 6	9:00 am	<u>City Board of Zoning Appeals</u>	City Hall – 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor Conf. Room	Judy 462-3367
Wed. Jul. 6	7:00 pm	<u>County Area Planning Commission</u>	County Annex	Vickie 462-3354

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Public Meeting</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Contact Info</b>
Thur. Jul. 7	6:00 pm	<u><a href="#">City Council – Sunshine Meeting</a></u>	City Hall – Courtroom	Michelle 232-3375
Mon. Jul. 11	2:00 pm	<u><a href="#">Board of Public Works and Safety</a></u>	City Hall – Board of Public Works Room	Robin 232-4767
Mon. Jul. 11	5:30 pm	<u><a href="#">Human Relations Commission</a></u>	Booker T. Washington Center	Jeff 232-0110
Mon. Jul. 11	6:00 pm	<u><a href="#">Vigo County School Board</a></u>	VCSC Board Room	Judy 462-4216
Mon. Jul. 11	6:00 pm	<b>West Terre Haute Town Board</b>	500 W. Nat'l, WTH	Melody 533-2034
Tue. Jul. 12	9:00 am	<u><a href="#">County Commissioners</a></u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Tue. Jul. 12	4:15 pm	<u><a href="#">Vigo County Redevelopment Commission</a></u>	County Annex	Amanda 234-2524
Tue. Jul. 12	5:00 pm	<u><a href="#">County Council</a></u>	County Annex	Auditor 462-3361
Tue. Jul. 12	7:00 pm	<b>Seelyville Town Board</b>	Seelyville Water Office	Tamara 877-2665
Tue. Jul. 12	6:00 pm	<u><a href="#">City Council – Special Call</a></u>	City Hall – Courtroom	Michelle 232-3375
Wed. Jul. 13	10:00 am	<u><a href="#">County Board of Zoning Appeals</a></u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Wed. Jul. 13	2:00 pm	<u><a href="#">E-911 Advisory Board</a></u>	County Jail – Sheriff's Training Room	Greg 462-3226 ext. 320
Wed. Jul. 13	7:00 pm	<u><a href="#">Airport Authority</a></u>	Airport	Kara 877-2524
Thur. Jul. 14	6:00 pm	<u><a href="#">City Council – Regular Meeting</a></u>	City Hall – Courtroom	Michelle 232-3375
Mon. Jul. 18	7:00 pm	<u><a href="#">Vigo County Public Library</a></u>	Vigo County Public Library	Nancy 232-1113
Tue. Jul. 19	9:00 am	<u><a href="#">County Commissioners</a></u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Tue. Jul. 19	10:00 am	<u><a href="#">City Board of Sanitary Commissioners</a></u>	City Hall – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor	Sally 235-5458
Tue. Jul. 19	12:00 pm	<u><a href="#">Taxpayers Association Board Meeting</a></u>	ISU Foundation (30 N. 5 <sup>th</sup> St.)	Bernard 235-1361
Wed. Jul. 20	9:30 am	<b>Clay-Owen-Vigo Solid Waste District</b>	109 E. Nat'l, Brazil IN	Janet 800-387-3380
Wed. Jul. 20	4:00 pm	<u><a href="#">City Redevelopment Commission</a></u>	City Hall – 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor	Phenny 232-0018
Wed. Jul. 20	4:30 pm	<u><a href="#">City Park Board</a></u>	Deming Park	Eddie 232-2727
Wed. Jul. 20	5:00 pm	<u><a href="#">Vigo County Board of Health</a></u>	County Annex	Louise 462-3428
Thur. Jul. 21	2:00 pm	<b>Tree Advisory Board</b>	City Hall Mayor's Conf. Room	Jennifer 232-4028
Mon. Jul. 25	2:00 pm	<u><a href="#">Board of Public Works and Safety</a></u>	City Hall – Board of Public Works Room	Robin 232-4767
Mon. Jul. 25	4:00 pm	<u><a href="#">County Park Board</a></u>	County Annex	Julia 462-3391
Mon. Jul. 25	5:30 pm	<b>Terre Haute Housing Authority</b>	2001 N. 19 <sup>th</sup> Street	Jeff 232-1381
Mon. Jul. 25	7:00 pm	<u><a href="#">Vigo County School Board</a></u>	VCSC Board Room	Judy 462-4216
Tue. Jul. 26	9:00 am	<u><a href="#">County Commissioners</a></u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Wed. Jul. 27	5:30 pm	<u><a href="#">Information Technology Advisory Board</a></u>	City Hall – 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor	Brad 244-2316
Wed. Jul. 27	7:00 pm	<u><a href="#">Airport Authority</a></u>	Airport	Kara 877-2524

**END**

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