

## TAX MATTERS

FEBRUARY 19, 2009, Issue #09-07, by Bernard Ridens, Executive Director  
Taxpayers Association of Vigo County, Inc.

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1. HONEY CREEK – VIGO CONSERVANCY DISTRICT PLAN
2. HIGH SCHOOL TAX AND GOVERNMENT CONTEST
3. TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE REPORT
4. STIMULUS WATCH
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### REVIEW OF PAST TAX MATTERS

FEBRUARY 12, 2009 (#09-06)

- THE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM
  - **BREAKING NEWS UPDATE:** The Meadows branch of the library will close tomorrow (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

FEBRUARY 5, 2009 (#09-05)

- T.H. POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS – ANNUAL REPORT
  - Information given by Mayor Duke Bennett during his State of the City Address
- WE DO NOT HAVE IT AS BAD AS SOME OTHER HOOSIERS
  - The Elkhart-Goshen area was hit by the worst unemployment rate increase in the nation. After we mentioned this in this publication, President Obama visited Elkhart and mentioned the city in his prime-time news conference to promote his economic stimulus plan.

JANUARY 29, 2009 (#09-04)

- STATE LEGISLATURE INFO
  - The state legislature web site has a large wealth of information to research what goes on in the State Capitol. The site is found at <http://www.in.gov/legislative/>.
- VIGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT – 2008

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. HONEY CREEK – VIGO CONSERVANCY DISTRICT PLAN**

The preliminary evaluation of the district plan for the Honey Creek – Vigo Conservancy District is now available. The analysis was done by Christopher B. Burke Engineering, LTD. – Indiana. The complete report, presented at the February 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the conservancy district and approved by its board of directors, is available at the following web address: <http://mywabashvalley.com/media/pdf/HoneyCreekCD-PlanEvaluation2009-02-18-1234991493.pdf>. It is a 14-megabyte Adobe Acrobat document.

## **2. HIGH SCHOOL TAX AND GOVERNMENT CONTEST**

The Taxpayers Association is sponsoring a competitive contest for Vigo County high school students. A 100-question test on local and state taxation and government will be taken at 10 a.m. April 18. Members of the TA and others are sponsoring the cost of the test production and prizes. The winners will be honored at the April 28 Annual Meeting of the Taxpayers Association.

[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.](#)

## **3. 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](http://www.in.gov/sboa).

There is a list of 37 duties, listed as the most important and most frequently performed duties, indicating that it is a sub-list of all duties.

A few of these are:

- 1) Keep a written record of official proceedings
- 2) Manage all township property interest
- 3) Keep township records open for public inspection
- 4) Attend all meeting o the township board
- 5) Receive and pay out township funds
- 6) Examine and settle all accounts and demands chargeable against the township
- 7) Administer township assistance
- 8) Perform the duties of fence viewer
- 9) Act as township assessor when the population in the township is eight thousand or less
- 10) Provide and maintain cemeteries
- 11) Provide fire protection
- 12) Provide and maintain township parks and community centers
- 13) Destroy detrimental plants, noxious weeds, and rank vegetation
- 14) Provide insulin to the poor
- 15) Enter into certain oil and gas leases of township property

And there are many more. With all the talk of possibly merging assessor and trustee duties into multi-county zones, do we really need someone from outside Vigo County to take on these responsibilities?

The following table was compiled from all the township annual financial reports that were published in the *Tribune-Star* during the past 30 days.

### VIGO COUNTY TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE STUDY

TOWNSHIP	TRUSTEE	BOARD CHAIR	TRIBUNE AD DATE	YR. END BALANCE	TOWNSHIP POPULATION	2008 EXPEND	EXPEND PER PERSON
FAYETTE	PAUL ALLSUP	LARRY DAVISON	2.10.09	40,809.74	2,611	84,093.82	\$32.21
HARRISON HONEY CREEK	DEBRA KIRK PETERS CHARLES E. BECKWITH	JOHN BRENTLINGER JOSEPH KENWORTHY	1.26.09 2.04.09	1,693,346.00 118,575.63	50,447 14,027	588,372.32 24,625.56	\$11.66 \$1.76
LINTON	BIONCA GAMBILL	JEFF GORMONG	2.16.09	22,366.63	1,301	99,200.41	\$76.25
LOST CREEK	RICK D. LONG	THOMAS NICOSON	1.28.09	332,818.58	10,508	314,863.37	\$29.96
NEVINS	CARL H. GREGORY	ROBERT MORELAND	1.29.09	135,245.00	2,258	77,772.29	\$34.44
OTTER CREEK	ROBERT D. SALMON	BETTY EASTHAM	2.16.09	215,299.99	8,859	533,940.52	\$60.27
PIERSON PRAIRIE CREEK	ROBIN BROWN C. DOYLE PIETY	DUANE DALTON ALLAN HODGES	2.05.09 1.26.09	62,730.47 69,818.74	1,353 1,323	84,772.36 78,425.90	\$62.66 \$59.28
PRAIRIETON	DAVID F. PHELPS	DAN SHIELDS	2.02.09	45,536.63	1,354	13,072.04	\$9.65
RILEY SUGAR CREEK	ROBERT F. FLESHER JAMES CHRISMAN	ERNEST WEDDLE CHARLES STRANAHAN	2.06.09 1.30.09	42,630.13 422,222.84	2,857 8,017	28,240.97 267,027.74	\$9.88 \$33.31

#### 4. STIMULUS WATCH

[www.stimuluswatch.org](http://www.stimuluswatch.org) is a web site which was “built to help the new administration keep its pledge to invest stimulus money smartly, and to hold public officials to account for the taxpayer money they spend.” The site lists “shovel-ready” projects that municipalities around the nation have submitted for consideration to be funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The site also allows users to review and comment on each project and vote on whether each project is critical or not.

The following lists the projects that Terre Haute submitted in the 2008 U.S. Conference of Mayors report. The total cost of all the projects submitted by Terre Haute is **\$77,385,000**.

Description	City	State	Jobs	Cost	Program Type	Vote Ratio
Relocation of Railroad yard - Margaret Ave Crossing improvements and Baker Yard relocation to Ft. Harrison Yard. Will ELIMINATE East-West traffic congestion and expand yard capacity. Part of Terre Haute Joint Rail Plan with CSX and IN Railroad.	Terre Haute	IN	50	\$35,000,000	Streets/Roads	0
Margaret Avenue - From SR46 to East of Fruitridge Ave. Upgrades to traffic flow to/from new Eastside commercial, retail and airport areas.	Terre Haute	IN	20	\$6,000,000	Streets/Roads	6
Lafayette Avenue - 4th St. to Haythorne.	Terre Haute	IN	20	\$5,500,000	Streets/Roads	4

Description	City	State	Jobs	Cost	Program Type	Vote Ratio
Removal/Relocation of Railroad Line - Graham Grain Line - will increase flow of traffic and reduce costs of new street construction including US-41.	Terre Haute	IN	25	\$5,500,000	Streets/Roads	3
Brown Avenue - Locust St. to Maple Ave.	Terre Haute	IN	20	\$4,000,000	Streets/Roads	1
Hunt Rd. Phase II - technology / industrial park adjacent to Terre Haute International Airport. Road improvements, fiber optics and utility upgrades needed for logistics, trucking and aerospace use. Possible ISU/Rose Hulman incubator area.	Terre Haute	IN	15	\$3,500,000	Streets/Roads	2
Hunt Rd. Phase I - technology / industrial park adjacent to Terre Haute International Airport. Road improvements, fiber optics and utility upgrades needed for logistics, trucking and aerospace use. Possible ISU/Rose Hulman incubator area.	Terre Haute	IN	15	\$2,000,000	Streets/Roads	-1
Brown Avenue - Wabash Ave. to Locust St.	Terre Haute	IN	15	\$1,500,000	Streets/Roads	0
Single axle and tandem dump trucks for maintaining State Road 63 that was recently given to the City.	Terre Haute	IN	3	\$225,000	Streets/Roads	-4
Deerfield Project - Upon completion of the first part of the US-641 bypass, additional lift stations, extensions and sewer connectors for residential and commercial development.	Terre Haute	IN	35	\$1,200,000	Water	0
Wastewater Treatment Plant - Phase II Digester Replacement	Terre Haute	IN	25	\$1,100,000	Water	11
Terminal Expansion - necessary area for expanded passenger service and TSA requirements.	Terre Haute	IN	35	\$3,700,000	Airport	-4
New Warehouse / Sort Facility for Increased FTZ Operations	Terre Haute	IN	30	\$1,200,000	Airport	-8
ARFF Fire Truck - currently, the only two trucks covering this International Airport are 1975 and 1976 models. Air National Guard flying mission removed due to BRAC. ARFF coverage also removed.	Terre Haute	IN	6	\$600,000	Airport	-2
ARFF Firefighting Equipment - to replace incomplete sets that are ten or more years old. This would be five complete sets.	Terre Haute	IN	0	\$20,000	Airport	-4
Public Safety Center - Police, Fire and EMA. New building that also serves Indiana DHS	Terre Haute	IN	30	\$3,200,000	Public Safety	2

Description	City	State	Jobs	Cost	Program Type	Vote Ratio
and Task Force 7. Currently, all three facilities are spread out, have structural, mold and utility issues.						
Radio Equipment - Police Department - will enable THPD to communicate with all other agencies as THPD is NOT on the State system	Terre Haute	IN	0	\$1,600,000	Public Safety	-2
Radio Equipment - Fire Department - will enable THFD to communicate with all other agencies as THFD is NOT on the State system	Terre Haute	IN	0	\$1,000,000	Public Safety	2
Fire Department EMS Rescue Truck - Shared asset for DHS response with Task Force 7 and Vigo County EMA	Terre Haute	IN	4	\$300,000	Public Safety	-7
Hybrid Public Bus	Terre Haute	IN	2	\$180,000	Transit	-1
ADA Hydraulic Lifts for three City Buses - Increases route service	Terre Haute	IN	0	\$60,000	Transit	-1

## 5. ARTICLE OF SPECIAL INTEREST

If you should desire a different perspective on the global economy, this paper will do just that. This essay is called "Foreclosures, Ecosystems, and the Economy: Issues, Problems, and Complications." It is a nine-page article with 22 references by Greg Gerritt, ex-Green Party delegate from Rhode Island. It can be found at [http://prosperityforri.org/?page\\_id=29](http://prosperityforri.org/?page_id=29).

## 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.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Public Meeting</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Contact Info</b>
Mon. Feb. 23	2:00 pm	<u>Board of Public Works and Safety</u>	City Hall – 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor	Robin 232-4767
Mon. Feb. 23	4:00 pm	<u>County Park Board</u>	County Annex	Julia 462-3391
Mon. Feb. 23	5:30 pm	<b>Terre Haute Housing Authority</b>	2001 N. 19 <sup>th</sup> Street	
Mon. Feb. 23	7:00 pm	<u>Vigo County School Board</u>	VCSC Board Room	Judy 462-4216
Tue. Feb. 24	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Wed. Feb. 25	4:30 pm	<u>City Park Board – Business Meeting</u>	Deming Park	Eddie 232-2727
Wed. Feb. 25	5:30 pm	<u>Information Technology Advisory Board</u>	City Hall – 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor	Brad 244-2316
Wed. Feb. 25	7:00 pm	<u>Airport Authority</u>	Airport	Kara 877-2524
Mon. Mar. 2	6:30 pm	<b>Riley Town Board</b>	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 <sup>rd</sup> Floor	Sally 235-5458
Tue. Mar. 3	4:30 pm	<b>Honey Creek Conservancy District</b>	3241 S. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Craig 232-4311
Wed. Mar. 4	9:00 am	<u>City Board of Zoning Appeals</u>	City Hall – 1 <sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> Floor	Robin 232-4767
Mon. Mar. 9	6:00 pm	<b>West Terre Haute Town Board</b>	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	<b>Seelyville Town Board</b>	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

**END**

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