

TAX MATTERS

MARCH 19, 2009, Issue #09-11, by Bernard Ridens, Executive Director
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1. ANNUAL MEETING DATE CHANGE
2. FLOOD NOTES AND TAXES
3. DUMP TRUCKS
4. HOME SHOW – TACKS, DOLLARS & CENTS
5. PUBLIC MEETINGS

REVIEW OF PAST TAX MATTERS

MARCH 12, 2009 (#09-10)

- DUMP TRUCKS – BIDDING IS OVER
 - The reverse auction for two dump trucks for the City of Terre Haute started March 12 at 2:00 PM and lasted 47 minutes. Cory Masters of Bidbridge.net conducted the process.

MARCH 5, 2009 (#09-09)

- BIDDING WARS – SOMETHING NEW FOR THE CITY
 - The City of Terre Haute used a “reverse auction” and the web site bidbridge.net to collect bids related to the purchase of dump trucks
- INDIANA GRAD REQUIREMENTS – HB 1581 (A GOOD IDEA)
 - Finally, something good is in the making for Indiana K-12 education. It is proposed that a course in financial responsibility be required for graduation
- TEN INVESTMENT RULES
 - As an example of some great investment wisdom that’s freely available, a June 2008 *MarketWatch* article published ten investment rules developed by Bob Farrell over his many decades in the investment business

FEBRUARY 26, 2009 (#09-08)

- 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>
- TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT
 - 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.

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. ANNUAL MEETING DATE CHANGE

The date for the Taxpayers Association Annual Meeting has been **changed**. It will now be **Tuesday, April 21, 12:00 noon**, at the Idle Creek Banquet Center. Invitations will be sent soon. The charge will be \$15.00 per person and must be paid in advance.

2. FLOOD NOTES AND TAXES

This was originally published August 7, 2008. We are publishing this again due to the recent increased interest in flood planning and logjam clean-up. See this Sunday's edition of the Tribune-Star for a feature article on the topic of flooding.

Now that the flood water has diminished, and dusty yards are returning, it's time to give serious thought to the possibilities of future flooding in Vigo County. The impact of flooding should be a serious concern to each and every citizen of Vigo County and our neighboring counties. Economic causes are the reasons why. The many properties damaged or totally destroyed will reduce the total assessed value of the county and if spending remains constant, taxes will be higher for all property owners. It is imperative that all Vigo County elected and appointed officials begin to work together and find solutions that will minimize future damage due to heavy rainfall.

Here is a table of Wabash River flood crest records sorted three ways:

a) ranked by feet

| RANK | FEET | MONTH | YEAR |
|------|-------|-------|------|
| 1 | 31.10 | 3.27 | 1913 |
| 2 | 30.50 | 5.20 | 1943 |
| 3 | 28.00 | 3.15 | 1828 |
| 4 | 27.70 | 2.18 | 1883 |
| 5 | 27.65 | 1.16 | 1950 |
| 6 | 27.60 | 6.16 | 1958 |
| 7 | 27.38 | 1.16 | 2005 |
| 8 | 26.90 | 2.15 | 1959 |
| 9 | 26.70 | 8.03 | 1875 |
| 10 | 26.60 | 4.15 | 1858 |
| 10 | 26.60 | 2.26 | 1985 |
| 12 | 26.08 | 1.02 | 1991 |
| 13 | 25.70 | 3.27 | 1904 |
| 14 | 25.30 | 2.21 | 1867 |
| 15 | 25.16 | 6.08 | 2008 |
| 16 | 25.14 | 2.10 | 2008 |
| 17 | 25.03 | 7.13 | 2003 |
| 18 | 23.89 | 6.17 | 1998 |
| 19 | 22.98 | 6.18 | 2004 |
| 20 | 22.84 | 1.18 | 2005 |

b) ranked by month of the year

| RANK | FEET | MONTH | YEAR |
|------|-------|-------|------|
| 12 | 26.08 | 1.02 | 1991 |
| 20 | 22.84 | 1.08 | 2005 |
| 5 | 27.65 | 1.16 | 1950 |
| 7 | 27.38 | 1.16 | 2005 |
| 16 | 25.14 | 2.10 | 2008 |
| 8 | 26.90 | 2.15 | 1959 |
| 4 | 27.70 | 2.18 | 1883 |
| 14 | 25.30 | 2.21 | 1867 |
| 10 | 26.60 | 2.26 | 1985 |
| 3 | 28.00 | 3.15 | 1828 |
| 1 | 31.10 | 3.27 | 1913 |
| 13 | 25.70 | 3.27 | 1904 |
| 10 | 26.60 | 4.15 | 1858 |
| 2 | 30.50 | 5.20 | 1943 |
| 15 | 25.16 | 6.08 | 2008 |
| 6 | 27.60 | 6.16 | 1958 |
| 18 | 23.89 | 6.17 | 1998 |
| 19 | 22.98 | 6.18 | 2004 |
| 17 | 25.03 | 7.13 | 2003 |
| 9 | 26.70 | 8.03 | 1875 |

c) ranked by year

| RANK | FEET | MONTH | YEAR |
|------|-------|-------|------|
| 3 | 28.00 | 3.15 | 1828 |
| 10 | 26.60 | 4.15 | 1858 |
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It should be noted that 13 of the 20 record flood stages have occurred since 1943, with two in 2005 and two in 2008. It should also be noted that the recent flood encountered a 25-foot river. Could it be that the river could have handled more of this water if all ditches, channels and creeks were fully functional?

CURRENT INFORMATION

An analysis of the last page of the Christopher B. Burke Engineering report prepared for the Honey Creek-Vigo Conservancy District graphically shows the following:

| Flood Period | Average feet of water above the Honey Creek Bed (bottom of creek) |
|--------------|---|
| 10-year | 10 feet |
| 50-year | 10.5 feet |
| 100-year | 11 feet |
| 500-year | 12 feet |

A 10-year flood event yields potential water levels about two feet less than the event Vigo County endured in 2008. QUESTION – ARE WE PREPARED?

3. DUMP TRUCKS

Here is the summary report on the purchase of two dump trucks for the city of Terre Haute by way of an internet reverse auction bid which took place March 12, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. There were 135 bids and 37 first-place turnovers. The average time between bids was 22 seconds. The original allotted time for bidding was 30 minutes, but a 39-minute extension occurred due to bids being placed in the ending three minutes. The

minimum bid increment was \$250, and the average bid increment was \$1,840.88. The two trucks were ultimately bid at \$125,158.99 each. The low bidder out of eight was Meyer Truck Equipment. The company managing the sale was BidBridge. You can acquire complete details on BidBridge at

<http://www.bidbridge.net/doc/BidBridge%20Getting%20Started%20Guide.pdf>

The following is the BidBridge Frequently Asked Questions page:

How much does this service cost?

There is no direct cost to the buyer. A small transaction fee is paid by the winning bidder.

Is a buyer obligated to accept the lowest bid?

No, each buyer may evaluate the online bids against their own criteria for value, price and supplier qualifications.

Is the buyer obligated to award the bid?

No, if the buyer is not satisfied with the bids, they are free to reject all bids and there is no cost to anyone.

Do suppliers have to lower their bids?

No, they are required to submit their bids online by the deadline but are under no obligation to lower their bids.

Who invites and approves suppliers?

The buyer provides a preferred supplier list. However, BidBridge offers the buyer the option to supplement the list with additional suppliers from the BidBridge database and those that result from our sourcing efforts. The buyer ultimately approves all suppliers that are invited to bid.

What if problems occur during the online event?

During the training of all suppliers, a toll free telephone number is provided allowing for “off site” assistance, up to and including suspension of the event until corrections are made.

What if the prospective supplier’s company does not have internet access?

Since the entire BidBridge bidding process utilizes the internet, the supplier can access the bid package from libraries, schools, home or anywhere internet access is offered.

What is the length of the BidBridge event?

The buyer determines the length of the event. Most events are planned to run 30 minutes long and extensions are allowed as competitive bidding continues.

Where is the BidBridge event viewed?

Just as sealed bids are opened in a public venue, BidBridge Electronic Sealed Bid events are viewed in a public setting determined by the buyer.

4. HOME SHOW – TACKS, DOLLARS & CENTS

Last weekend, the Taxpayers Association was represented in the Home Builders Association Home Show at Hulman Center. We talked to over 300 people at our table. During the show, we held a contest where participants tried to guess the amount of “tacks” in a jar (*tacks, tax, get it?*). There were 688 total tacks in the jar. Joe King won a \$50 prize for having the best estimate of 714 tacks.

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. 23 | 2:00 pm | <u>Board of Public Works and Safety</u> | City Hall – 1 st Floor | Robin 232-4767 |
| Mon. Mar. 23 | 4:00 pm | <u>County Park Board</u> | County Annex | Julia 462-3391 |
| Mon. Mar. 23 | 5:30 pm | Terre Haute Housing Authority | 2001 N. 19 th Street | |
| Mon. Mar. 23 | 7:00 pm | <u>Vigo County School Board</u> | VCSC Board Room | Judy 462-4216 |
| Tue. Mar. 24 | 9:00 am | <u>County Commissioners</u> | County Annex | Judy 462-3367 |
| Tue. Mar. 24 | 4:30 pm | <u>County Council</u> | County Annex | Auditor 462-3361 |
| Wed. Mar. 25 | 4:30 pm | <u>City Park Board – Business Meeting</u> | Deming Park | Eddie 232-2727 |
| Wed. Mar. 25 | 5:30 pm | <u>Information Technology Advisory Board</u> | City Hall – 1 st Floor | Brad 244-2316 |
| Wed. Mar. 25 | 7:00 pm | <u>Airport Authority</u> | Airport | Kara 877-2524 |
| Tue. Mar. 31 | 9:00 am | <u>County Commissioners</u> | County Annex | Judy 462-3367 |
| Wed. Apr. 1 | 9:00 am | <u>City Board of Zoning Appeals</u> | City Hall – 1 st Floor Conf. Room | Judy 462-3367 |
| Wed. Apr. 1 | 7:00 pm | <u>County Area Planning Commission</u> | County Annex | Vickie 462-3354 |
| Thur. Apr. 2 | 7:00 pm | <u>City Council – Sunshine Meeting</u> | City Hall – Courtroom | Michelle 232-3375 |
| Mon. Apr. 6 | 4:00 pm | <u>Vigo County Drainage Board</u> | County Annex | David 898-2685 |
| Mon. Apr. 6 | 6:30 pm | Riley Town Board | Riley Town Hall | Wanda 894-2410 |
| Tue. Apr. 7 | 9:00 am | <u>County Commissioners</u> | County Annex | Judy 462-3367 |
| Tue. Apr. 7 | 10:00 am | <u>City Board of Sanitary Commissioners</u> | City Hall – 3 rd Floor | Sally 235-5458 |
| Tue. Apr. 7 | 4:30 pm | Honey Creek Conservancy District | 3241 S. 3 rd Place | Craig 232-4311 |
| Wed. Apr. 8 | 2:00 pm | <u>E-911 Advisory Board</u> | County Jail – Sheriff's Training Room | Greg 462-3226 ext. 320 |
| Wed. Apr. 8 | 4:30 pm | <u>City Park Board – General Meeting</u> | Deming Park | Eddie 232-2727 |
| Wed. Apr. 8 | 7:00 pm | <u>Airport Authority</u> | Airport | Kara 877-2524 |
| Thur. Apr. 9 | 7:00 pm | <u>City Council – Regular Meeting</u> | City Hall – Courtroom | Michelle 232-3375 |
| Tue. Apr. 21 | 12:00 pm | TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING | Idle Creek Banquet Center | Bernard 235-1361 |

END

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