

TAX MATTERS

**JULY 23, 2009, Issue #09-29, by Bernard Ridens, Executive Director
Taxpayers Association of Vigo County, Inc.**

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REVIEW OF PAST TAX MATTERS

JULY 15, 2009 (#09-28)

- **AIRPORT TAX – WHERE IS IT?**
 - Now that tax statements have been mailed for Vigo County properties, questions are abundant. Although the airport is not shown on table three (property tax distribution amounts applicable), tax deductions for the airport are hidden in the line named Special District.
- **TRENDING WORKSHOP DATE**
 - We have made arrangements for a guest presenter from the DLGF (department of local government finance) to be in Terre Haute on Wednesday, August 12 at 2:00 P.M. If held at the Vigo County Public Library, seating will be limited to 40. However, if more interest is shown, we will find a location where we can accommodate more people. This is initially for members only.
- **PROPERTY TAX DEDUCTIONS**
 - From the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance:
www.in.gov/dlgf/2344.htm
- **STRATEGIES FOR GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY: WHERE DID OUR TAXES GO?**
 - By Gary Malone of Umbaugh Footnotes

JULY 9, 2009 (#09-27)

- **YOUR OPINION PLEASE – COUNTY SERVICES?**
 - As most Vigo County budgets for 2010 are being reduced due to lower revenue, it is obvious that some services must be reduced or eliminated. The Taxpayers Association can and should provide input to Vigo County budget builders concerning services we could or could do without.
- **THE TRANSITION**
 - How the decrease in land-based phones and increase in wireless/cell phones is affecting surcharges for E-911 service
- **A PIECE OF U.S. HISTORY**
 - Information on the Stamp Act of 1765

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.

1. TRENDING WORKSHOP

Response was very good for the idea of an education workshop on the trending process.

We have made arrangements for a guest presenter from the DLGF (department of local government finance) to be in Terre Haute on **Wednesday, August 12 at 2:00 P.M.** If held at the Vigo County Public Library, seating will be limited to 40. However, if more interest is shown, we will find a location where we can accommodate more people. This is initially for members only.

2. AIRPORT REPORT

As reported last week, your Vigo County property tax statement did not include the line item breakout for Terre Haute International Airport. I quizzed authorities on the reason, and the answer provided Wednesday of this week was that the state has the airport in a "Special District" unit as defined in the budget order. The county could petition the state to change the tax unit the airport is placed in, but it is not currently known whether it can be placed in its own unit or would have to be in an existing unit.

The Treasurer Form TS-1A is a generic state form used for every county. Since Vigo is one of the few counties with an airport, this was the reason the airport was classified as an item of many possibilities called "Special Districts."

3. CITY HISTORIC PRESERVATION

The following is an outline of a proposed city ordinance to establish a historic preservation commission and historic preservation districts. The complete 15-page ordinance is available at the following link: <http://www.taxtopics.org/go-10-09historicpreservationord.pdf>

GENERAL ORDINANCE NO. 10, 2009

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING *TERRE HAUTE CITY CODE*, CHAPTER 2, TO ESTABLISH A HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION AND CHAPTER 10, TO ESTABLISH HISTORIC PRESERVATION DISTRICTS AND GUIDELINES.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Terre Haute, Indiana, declares that the research, protection, maintenance, restoration, rehabilitation, reconstruction, or development of historic districts is in the public interest; and,

WHEREAS, it is the intent of this Ordinance to provide a means to promote the cultural, economic, and general welfare of the public through the preservation and protection of structures and areas of historic and cultural interest within the City of Terre Haute and,

WHEREAS, it is the intent of this Ordinance to implement a comprehensive program of historic preservation by the creation and appointment of a Historic Preservation Commission and

by the establishment of a historic preservation district or districts in accordance with the provisions set forth below, now therefore;

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA:

SECTION 1. That *Terre Haute City Code*, Chapter 2 is hereby amended by inserting the following Section:

Sec. 2-68 Historic Preservation Commission.

- a. **Establishment.**
- b. **Composition; Appointment.**
- c. **Term.**
- d. **Commission Administrator.**
- e. **Officers.**
- f. **Rules.**
- g. **Meetings.**
- h. **Powers and Duties.**

SECTION 2. That *Terre Haute City Code*, Chapter 10 is hereby amended by inserting the following Article:

**CHAPTER 10
ARTICLE 4. HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

- Sec. 10-380 Purpose and Intent.**
- Sec. 10-381 Definition and Terms.**
- Sec. 10-382 Historic Districts and Guidelines.**
- Sec. 10-383 Interim Protection.**
- Sec. 10-384 Certificates of Appropriateness (COA).**
- Sec. 10-385 Staff Approvals.**
- Sec. 10-386 Visual Compatibility.**
- Sec. 10-387 Preservation of Historical and Architectural Character Upon Alteration or Relocation Mandated.**
- Sec. 10-388 Maintenance.**
- Sec. 10-389 Relationship with Zoning Districts.**
- Sec. 10-390 Interested Parties.**
- Sec. 10-391 Enforcement, Penalties, and Judicial Review.**

4. FAQ – LARGEST TAXPAYERS

LARGE TAXPAYERS

The following is a list of the ten largest taxpayers located within Vigo County, as provided by the Vigo County Treasurer's office and the Department of Local Government Finance.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type of Business</u>	2008/2009 Net Assessed <u>Valuation</u>	Percent of Total Net Assessed <u>Valuation</u>
Duke Energy/PSI/CINergy, Inc.	Electric utility	\$138,865,840	3.9%
Digital Audio Disc Corp./Sony	Mfg. optical media products	75,831,160	2.1%
Southern Indiana Investment Company Four LLC	Real estate company	59,708,070	1.7%
Bemis Co., Inc.	Printed polyethylene plant	51,596,960	1.4%
Companhia Siderurgica formerly, Heartland Steel (1)	Intermediate processor of steel coils and sheets	48,811,710	1.4%
Applied Extrusion Technologies, formerly Hercules, Inc.	Mfg. plastic film products for snack food industry	48,062,870	1.3%
Verizon North Incorporated	Telephone utility	47,981,940	1.3%
Novelis Corporation, formerly Alcan Properties	Mfg. aluminum foil for packaging industry	40,420,330	1.1%
Pfizer Inc. (1)	Pharmaceutical company	36,534,730	1.0%
Terre Haute Regional Hospital	Health care facility	<u>35,994,500</u>	<u>1.0%</u>
Totals		<u>\$583,808,110</u>	<u>16.4%</u>

The total Certified Net Assessed Valuation of Vigo County is \$3,565,379,224 for taxes payable in 2009, according to the Vigo County Auditor's Office.

(1) Located in a tax increment allocation area; therefore, no property taxes of the taxpayer are distributed to the County.

5. PERSONAL SAVINGS RATE

AMERICANS SOCKED AWAY MONEY AT THE HIGHEST MONTHLY RATE IN 15 YEARS last month, according to the Department of Commerce, and that's good news – mostly. The personal savings rate rose to 6.9% in June, which is well above the average savings rate over the past decade. The personal savings rate is the percentage of personal disposable income that is saved each month.

A higher savings rate may reduce our dependence on foreign countries financing our deficits – a good thing – but, paradoxically, it might lengthen our recession. If we collectively save “too much” it could stunt economic growth as consumption slows down and fewer goods and services are produced and delivered. This “paradox of thrift” may hurt the economy in the short-term, but could be very beneficial in the long run. A higher savings rate also helps cushion families against unforeseen financial setbacks like the loss of a job, so that’s good, too.

To put the 6.9% in context, here’s how the number looks over roughly the past 50 years:

	1960s Average	1970s Average	1980s Average	1990s Average	Jan 2000 – Sep 2008 Average	Oct 2008 – Jun 2009 Average
Personal Savings Rate	8.3%	9.6%	9.0%	5.2%	1.5%	4.4%

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce: Bureau of Economic Analysis
From: *Weekly Market Commentary* – A publication available at Love Financial Services (a member)

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.

Date	Time	Public Meeting	Location	Contact Info
Mon. Jul. 27	2:00 pm	<u>Board of Public Works and Safety</u>	City Hall – Board of Public Works Room	Robin 232-4767
Mon. Jul. 27	4:00 pm	<u>County Park Board</u>	County Annex	Julia 462-3391
Mon. Jul. 27	5:30 pm	Terre Haute Housing Authority	2001 N. 19 th Street	Jeff 232-1381
Mon. Jul. 27	7:00 pm	<u>Vigo County School Board</u>	VCSC Board Room	Judy 462-4216
Tue. Jul. 28	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Tue. Jul. 28	5:00 pm	<u>County Council</u>	County Annex	Auditor 462-3361
Mon. Aug. 3	4:00 pm	<u>Vigo County Drainage Board</u>	County Annex	David 898-2685
Mon. Aug. 3	4:30 pm	Animal Control Board	City Hall – 1 st Floor	
Mon. Aug. 3	6:30 pm	<u>Local Emergency Planning Committee</u>	Vigo County Public Library	Jon 232-5411
Mon. Aug. 3	6:30 pm	Riley Town Board	Riley Town Hall	Wanda 894-2410
Tue. Aug. 4	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Tue. Aug. 4	10:00 am	<u>City Board of Sanitary Commissioners</u>	City Hall – 3 rd Floor	Sally 235-5458
Tue. Aug. 4	4:30 pm	Honey Creek Conservancy District	3241 S. 3 rd Place	Craig 232-4311
Wed. Aug. 5	9:00 am	<u>City Board of Zoning Appeals</u>	City Hall – 1 st Floor Conf. Room	Judy 462-3367
Wed. Aug. 5	7:00 pm	<u>County Area Planning Commission</u>	County Annex	Vickie 462-3354
Thur. Aug. 5	7:00 pm	<u>City Council – Sunshine Meeting</u>	City Hall – Courtroom	Michelle 232-3375
Mon. Aug. 10	2:00 pm	<u>Board of Public Works and Safety</u>	City Hall – 1 st Floor	Robin 232-4767

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Public Meeting</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Contact Info</i>
Mon. Aug. 10	6:00 pm	West Terre Haute Town Board	500 W. Nat'l, WTH	Melody 533-2034
Mon. Aug. 10	7:00 pm	<u>Vigo County School Board</u>	VCSC Board Room	Judy 462-4216
Tue. Aug. 11	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Tue. Aug. 11	4:15 pm	<u>Vigo County Redevelopment Commission</u>	County Annex	Amanda 234-2524
Tue. Aug. 11	7:00 pm	Seelyville Town Board	Seelyville Water Office	Tamara 877-2665
Wed. Aug. 12	10:00 am	<u>County Board of Zoning Appeals</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Wed. Aug. 12	2:00 pm	Property Assessment Trending Workshop	Vigo County Public Library	Bernard 235-1361
Wed. Aug. 12	4:00 pm	<u>Air Pollution Control Department</u>	103 S. 3 rd St.	George 462-3433
Wed. Aug. 12	4:30 pm	<u>City Park Board – General Meeting</u>	Deming Park	Eddie 232-2727
Wed. Aug. 12	7:00 pm	<u>Airport Authority</u>	Airport	Kara 877-2524
Thur. Aug. 13	7:00 pm	<u>City Council – Regular Meeting</u>	City Hall – Courtroom	Michelle 232-3375

7. SOME FOOD FOR THOUGHT

*If you want to kill Time,
Try working it to Death.*

END

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