

Shut down

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was difficult for the city and its residents, he was still upbeat about the future.

"Perhaps it is hard to understand, but we are still positive that good things are going to happen for us," he added. "We knew from the time the company asked for tax abatements a few years ago it was possible the plant would close," he added. "They were no less susceptible to the global market than any other high-risk business. What is important is that Delphi remains focused on its goals for growth and development."

"The resilience of this community during hard times is unbelievable," he concluded. "We cannot simply focus on the negative. When other companies show interest in Delphi, they will see that when we are

handed lemons, we make lemonade."

Delphi Chamber of Commerce President Krista Watson said she knew the company was considering downsizing locally since she met with Peters-Revington leadership about a year ago. She said she was told the company would do what they could to remain in the area, but consumer interests forced them to make the changes.

Watson said though it was distressing to see P&R and other businesses scale back or close, it was important to continue to strive for success.

"The point is we must keep our focus," she explained. "Any time we lose traffic it affects many others locally, but we have to go after it and mold the future to what we need."

No FEMA

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communication," Brown said.

She said county leaders did not share financial information in public meetings. Brown said she did not know why council was not informed about the error when it was discovered.

"Why were we not advised of

the error and why did we learn of it in the press release?" she asked at the meeting.

According to the report, Musgrave said DLGF thought the information "had been passed on to the council."

Brown blamed "lack of sufficient leadership" for the miscommunication. The report stated that in the meeting, Myers said she shared concerns and financial information "numerous times with the leadership and it was not acted upon or obviously not relayed to others."

Watson said one way residents can help retain local businesses is to shop at them.

"The Delphi Chamber will continue to encourage businesses to support each other," she concluded. "And we encourage the community to support its local businesses."

Carroll County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Sana Booker said Peters-Revington was an "excellent company that provided local revenue for more than 60 years" whose name was "known all over." She said the county lost a sense of security and a bit of history, but not all was gone.

"Right now is bad and difficult," she said. "But I have every faith we will stand and make progress. We may not know exactly what to do today, but we

are actively trying to help."

Booker said the county chamber was available to help displaced employees find help and resources as they searched for new jobs. She explained the chamber could assist workers who need to make connections to other businesses, even in surrounding counties.

"We are ready and willing to help," she said. "There are many resources from which we can get assistance. It's as simple as a phone call for those who need help."

Those in need of such assistance from the county chamber should call (765) 564-6757.

During the past 18 months Chromcraft Revington closed and sold facilities in South Carolina, North Carolina and Tennessee. Chromcraft Revington

CEO and Chairman Ben Anderson-Ray said those closures and the downsized local facility were planned as part of the company's new global strategy.

Anderson-Ray explained the company was in the process of transitioning its operating and organizational models. The company will seek greater use of global sourcing and shift its U.S.-based operations toward built-to-order customization and distribution logistics.

The release stated the company anticipated it would sell the site's manufacturing equipment during its conversion to a warehouse and distribution center.

"The purposes of this restructuring are to improve the utilization of the global supply chain, enhance competitiveness, im-

prove operating margins, reduce fixed costs and re-deploy assets," the release stated. "This action is consistent with the company's previously reported transformation of its business model, which includes the reduction of its reliance on U.S. manufacturing by shifting its business toward the use of the global supply chain and progressively outsourcing existing furniture lines."

Anderson-Ray said nearly half of recent shipments from the Delphi plant were imported products. He added the decision to shift the balance of products to global suppliers, and effectively close the Delphi factory, was "the next logical step" to achieve the company's stated strategy and enhance its competitiveness.

communication," Brown said.

"Why were we not advised of

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Brown concluded the bottom line was that all accounts are not balanced between the auditor and treasurer's offices.

"The reason we didn't find the error is because the books didn't balance," she said. "They still don't balance."

"This isn't acceptable. We've got to get that done," Brown continued. "It's not acceptable that this goes on. If we don't balance, we really don't know where we stand. Unfortunately, that's where we still are."

Auditor's report
Myers responded to the DLGF report with a written statement. See inset for the content of her statement.

"I don't believe the investment mistake was understood," she added.

She explained she was a new auditor in 2003 and there were new council members and one new commissioner at that time. She said she would like to move forward together with the council and other county leaders.

Budget
As discussion turned to paying county bills, it was decided to only pay payroll for April out of available county funds because it became difficult for council members to find additional

Donnelly shares views

Editor's note: Recent fiscal events in Carroll County have not escaped notice of Congressman Joe Donnelly. He had comments about the announced closing of Peters Revington and the news that there would be no FEMA reimbursement for the county for costs associated with recent flood damage.

Re: Lack of FEMA funding
"We are looking at what options that might be available to help the county," he told the *Comet* Tuesday afternoon. "We are casting our net as far as we can."

Donnelly said his office would report to county leaders as information became available.

Re: P&R
"Clearly this is the result of our country's trade policy being so wrong for so long," Donnelly told the *Comet* Tuesday. "Our government has stood by as jobs have gone to Asia without providing a fair trade policy."

Donnelly said he co-sponsored the China Currency Valuation Act that would require China to put a fair market value on their currency or the U.S. would impose a tariff on goods entering the country that would make the price fair. He said China's currency is undervalued 25 to 40 percent which gives them an unfair trade advantage.

money for claims.

"We can sit here all day but we're never going to pay this because we don't have enough money," Ashby said. "We need at least \$1 million to get to May."

Council voted to apply for a tax anticipation warrant for \$1.2 million from Lafayette Bank and Trust. Council member Carl Abbott volunteered to make initial contact with the bank to set the plan in motion. Ashby said he would also discuss arrangements with bank representatives.

Financial report
Hired to provide a summary of past activity and begin development of a recovery plan, H.J. Umbaugh and Associates representative Paige Gregory advised short-term financial solutions included reduced expenditures, deferred capital costs, institution of a hiring freeze, delay of seasonal hires and consideration of adoption of the local option income tax as an additional revenue stream. She suggested re-appropriation of expenditures from the general fund to Rainy Day, Riverboat and EDIT funds.

No new options not already under consideration were offered for cash flow needs. However,

privatizing some services, such as Carroll Manor, was recommended.

Slavens noted the numbers used in the report were provided by the county and were not necessarily accurate. Council members requested Umbaugh and Associates make LOIT taxpayer-specific (what it would mean to different classes of taxpayers) projections and for an effect-comparison with like-counties (with little industry) to support the tax and generate revenue.

Other business
A request to extend the employment date of one deputy leaving county employment due to budget decreases was granted. The deputy is in a refresher town marshal course, but must be employed by a law enforcement agency when the course ends. The employment was extended from April 4 to April 18.

Slavens will develop a plan to present to the Carroll County Re-development Commission in order to borrow from the surplus Tax Increment Financing fund.

An inter-fund loan from Local Health Maintenance account to the health department for \$43,657.83 was approved. Ac-

ording to Brown in a follow-up interview Tuesday, the measure was needed because DLGF shifted a portion of the tax rate for the department to help the general fund balance remain positive. The council was not given the information during budget time.

Health department clerk Mary Jones was directed to communicate with the state group that provides funding for restaurant inspections about hiring a part-time worker for the position.

Council recessed for lunch and re-convened at 1 p.m. to discuss further budget reductions. No revised budget was adopted. Another meeting was scheduled for today, Wednesday, at 5:30 p.m. It is expected for final budget numbers to be achieved. The final budget meeting will be Thursday morning, April 3, at 8:30 a.m. to adopt the revised budget.

The *Comet* will post the revised budget with explanations at www.carrollcountycomet.com after adoption. The information will be posted on the 'County Government Meetings and Agenda' page found under 'links' in blue on the left of the home page.

Auditor breaks the silence...defends position



Myers

Editor's note: The following was forwarded to the *Comet* by county auditor Beth Myers from a prepared statement she read at the Monday morning county council meeting.

"I stated the funds are in balance and I still stand behind this. The funds the auditor is responsible for are in balance with the treasurer's office. The cash book in the treasurer's office does not balance with the bank statement which does not involve the auditor - SBOA (Indiana State Board of Accounts) representative has indicated to me that she has stated this to the (council) finance committee, treasurer and to me, the auditor. I also know that SBOA has stated this same statement to the county council president, Nancy Cripe, just recently. SBOA has also indicated that she has not examined the cash sheet that the treasurer says is in balance. This is what I am being told - maybe I have been misinformed.

"...It was also stated the treasurer and auditor acknowledged the excess of funds over and over the reporting of the accounts. I stated the CASH SHEET not the accounts.

"About overstating the investment - DLGF (Department of Local Government Finance) knew this amount was included. It is not their error when I reported this amount. My office was misled to believe that this was county general money. Information was provided by the treasurer, who did not realize or did not know how much of this money was county general.

"This investment was called 'Cash Book' and was cashed in 2003 and placed in a savings account that would receive more in interest. This amount was listed separately on the Form 4B which is used to determine tax rates and budgets. DLGF, members of the county finance committee, a former auditor also received copies of this form.

"In February 2007, the county finance committee (not Ann Brown) (met) with Melissa Hardy and (first deputy in the auditor's office) Pat and myself to have these explained. This information was reported and explained to them by DLGF and myself. The information was also relayed and talked about with council members - not all of them, and my mistake, not in a meeting. I don't believe they understood. I did state several times that I had to put some of the savings account in the formula for additions (appropriations).

"My mistake was not reporting in a public meeting. But I believe there is enough blame to go around - auditor and treasurer for not balancing, commissioners and council (for not) studying claims and reports, department heads for unnecessary spending. There are still claims being turned in - that are not necessary.

"I agree that communication is a key for our county's future. But I also hope that the county finance committee follows their own advice...to communicate with all. Several meetings with the DLGF and SBOA have been held without the auditor and treasurer - which could answer questions or give information. Since county finance committee have met with DLGF - I assumed that this info was discussed, which I should not have assumed. I had to request to be present at the SBOA accounts meeting and I invited (took) the treasurer with me. The treasurer and auditor should be included in the committee and work closely together, not behind each other...

"This investment mistake gave us a bigger budget - but the bottom line is we spent more than received in revenue. Reports or no reports, this was done. The county finance committee has set guidelines for the county to use with reports and other procedures and this will help.

"I believe Carroll County needs to adopt a budget soon - the sooner the better for the county. Let's move forward working together."

Looking Back

From the files of Hoosier Democrat, Delphi Journal, Journal-Citizen and Carroll County Comet.

10 YEARS AGO

Robert L. Blue of Flora has received notification from the National Library of Poetry that his poem entitled "Lonely Love" has been selected for publication in its edition, Best poems of 1998.

The National Library of poetry previously published another of Blue's poems, "Faith Without Works".

Blue who is self-employed in landscaping and interior/exterior painting, writes poetry for his own enjoyment.

Carroll Consolidated School Corporation authorities working with law enforcement K-9 teams from Carroll and Tippecanoe County Sheriffs' Departments, and Logansport Police Department, conducted drug prevention operations at the Carroll Junior/Senior High School. Lockers and book bags were inspected by school au-

thorities and law enforcement K-9 teams. Nothing of any significance was found.

25 YEARS AGO

Mr. and Mrs. John Ayres of Flora have sold Ayres Plumbing & Heating in Bringhurst to Tom Allbaugh of Rt. 1 Bringhurst. The sale includes the firm's building in Bringhurst.

Allbaugh, has been employed at Wisler Electric for seven years.

No major changes are planned although electrical work will be included.

Ayres, established the business 14 years ago. He has no immediate plans.

Seventeen new volunteer donors responded to the blood needs of their friends and neighbors in Carroll County and helped to exceed the 150 pint quota set for the Red Cross Bloodmobile.

50 YEARS AGO

The mayhem of the police shooting and subsequent man-

hunt last week gave way to a few more stories.

Providing officers with food and the ever-welcome hot coffee was the Red Cross. Solid support in the time of need is a criterion of the Red Cross, and in picking up the "tab" for the hungry officers, the organization came through with a vitally needed service at a time when all-out cooperation was essential.

Stephen Stafford took his duties seriously. A few weeks ago Sheriff Carey swore in Stephen as a junior deputy, an honor which he regarded as on a level with President of the United States. On the morning after the shooting, Stephen arose and armed himself with his bow and arrows. It was with great difficulty that his mother persuaded him to abandon his one-boy manhunt.

75 YEARS AGO

The Delphi Ice, Coal and Supply Co. of this city, has received the license as the whole-

sale distributors of beer in Carroll county and arrangements are being made at press time to have beer here for delivery Friday and Saturday.

Adams and Afflis have received the first government permit in Delphi to sell medical whiskey on doctor's prescription. It is estimated over 2,000 drug stores in the state will sign the dotted line. The local druggists will be ready for business Friday morning and state they will have only the best grade.

100 YEARS AGO

The water works plant is now in course of completion and the contractors expect to have no further delays in getting the rest of the mains laid and the fire hydrants installed. The balance of the hydrants arrived the first of the week and have been distributed over town, where they are to be connected with the mains as soon as they are put in and the piping for the balance of the 4 and 6 inch mains is expected at any time.