

CARROLL COUNTY COMET

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Guest commentary

An explanation of Carroll County taxes, part 2

Editor's Note: The following article was written by the Carroll County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) to help explain the county's tax structure. This is the second of a two-part series.

Local Option Income Tax (LOIT)

There is another relatively new tax that counties can implement called the Local Option Income Tax. The LOIT has multiple parts that can be used to freeze property tax levies, provide property tax relief, and fund county and municipal public safety expenditures.

Not many counties have adopted this tax so far because of the unknowns associated with this new tax. More counties are considering it now, however, with the recently-enacted property tax caps and the caps' future effect on government funding levels. With Carroll County already facing a serious lack of funding, the Carroll County Council's financial consultant, Umbaugh and Associates, has recommended that LOIT be adopted in some form.

This new tax was explained in some detail at a meeting sponsored by Carroll County Focus on the Future last November. Larry DeBoer of Purdue University presented detailed information on how this tax would apply specifically to Carroll County. That complete report is available on his website at http://www.agecon.purdue.edu/crd/localgov/Topics/Materials/Carroll_LOIT_handout_1107.pdf

Economic Development Income Tax (EDIT)

The EDIT tax was made available to Indiana counties in 1987. It was to be used as a funding source for counties and municipalities to help

generate economic development. The goal is to create jobs, jobs which are obviously needed in Carroll County. The EDIT tax was described in the March 5 *Carroll County Comet* article about the Carroll County Economic Development Corporation.

The EDIT rate may be set between .1% and .5%. Carroll County is at the minimum level at a rate lower than all our neighbors. Our 2008 EDIT rate of .1% raised \$338,860 for all governmental units. It is proposed that the rate be moved to .25% beginning next year. The County Council will be asked to consider this change on or before the Oct. 31 deadline. Such an increase would cost each resident worker the price of a cup of coffee, or less than \$1, a week. It is estimated that the move could generate an additional \$470,000 for the county and municipalities to use for projects that would directly or indirectly create jobs and investment.

The County Chamber of Commerce and the EDC have created a plan to help the county move forward. The plan is based upon the recent Strategic Directions study. It targets projects to help generate a better climate for business in Carroll County. These projects would be funded by an EDIT increase. They include finalizing county-wide planning and zoning, securing sites for future development, establishing a coordinated branding and marketing plan for the county, using signs to promote the county and its assets, and much more. These proposals have been shared in County Council and Commissioners meetings.

The County Chamber and EDC is available to answer questions about this plan of action.

Last week I was the beneficiary of a very nice hand me down. It's a Bose radio with quite a bit of listening mileage on it - it was purchased in the early '90s.

The radio was handed to me quite unceremoniously in a shopping bag complete with original receipt and owner's manual. The Bose is so simple and self contained that I brought it home, plugged it in, hit "on" and commenced listening.

The only task left undone was to find a home for the owner's manual. Those pesky little manuals have a way of hiding when you need them. I surveyed the lay of the land and decided to tuck the manual under the radio. I reasoned that there was no better place to keep the manual than with the radio itself.

Upon arriving home, my wife questioned me about the radio sitting in the middle of the kitchen table. I explained the origin of the unexpected gift and proceeded to give her a sample listen. She proceeded to suggest the kitchen table was not going to work for the Bose's new home.

I once again surveyed the household landscape and determined that the radio would do nicely on the end table next to the sofa in the living room. A little rearranging of the objects on the end table yielded space for the Bose. The rearranging also required unplugging the answering machine and moving it slightly.

Our answering machine must have been manufactured in



Owner's manual

France because whenever I unplug it the message portion of the machine reverts to speaking French. Whenever this occurs it confuses both friends and family and even I wonder if I have the right place when I phone home. Fortunately I learned early to keep the owner's manual for the answering machine right under the machine itself. At first my wife objected to what she referred to as clutter. I explained it was either this set-up or we had to learn French in order to translate the message we were broadcasting to friends, family and telemarketers. Who knows what that machine has been saying to our callers over the years.

Positioning the Bose and moving the answering machine meant that the Art Deco clock on the end table had to move across the room. This particular clock is an old 1950s-looking electric, motor run contraption. It has a sweep second hand on it and the thing makes a nice little hum. I suspect that the clock predates the concept of an owner's manual for every purchase. In order to restart the clock after unplugging it, the clock requires a counterclockwise spin of a dial on the back of the timepiece. The

instructions for this counterclockwise spin are printed on a metal stamped piece attached to the back. If not for this permanent abbreviated owner's manual, this clock would have been tossed out long ago with the erroneous assumption that it didn't work.

Of course tucking the owner's manual under the object is not always possible. We received a cute looking Dirt Devil vacuum for a Christmas gift this year. The vacuum is designed to look like an art object, rather than a device for cleaning. Somehow, without explanation, the owner's manual for the Dirt Devil landed in with our monthly mortgage coupons - and there it stays. And when we did our income taxes last month, we found a surprise hiding amongst the assorted receipts saved for tax deductions. There with the "meals and entertaining" was the owner's manual for my wife's Conair hair dryer.

I suppose there's no one right answer for how to manage one's owner's manuals. Somewhere in the household we have a file marked "owner's manuals." The last time I rummaged through that file I didn't find much help. It was more like a trip down appliance memory lane.

And in case I can assist anyone out there who needs instructions for an electric carving knife, just call. I've got owner's manuals for 11 of them dating back three decades. And yes, should you need it, I have the turkey carving owner's manual in French.

Superior Court Judge Jeffrey Smith

Superior Court judgments are gathered from public records on file in the Carroll County Clerk's office on the second floor of the courthouse, Delphi.

New Filings

Charles E. Herman was charged with operating while intoxicated - endangering a person, operating with an ACE of .15 percent or more, driving left of center and throwing burning material from a vehicle.

Billie Ann Brown was charged with strangulation, criminal confinement and battery resulting in bodily injury.

Bryon K. Mebak was charged with maintaining a common nuisance, possession of marijuana, possession of paraphernalia, false or fictitious registration and operating a motor vehicle without financial responsibility.

Stephen J. Darnell was charged with domestic battery and battery resulting in bodily injury.

Steven C. Allen was charged with possession of marijuana, possession of paraphernalia and illegal consumption.

Joshua Stevens was charged with illegal consumption and illegal possession of alcoholic beverage.

Misty G. Conklin was charged with operating while intoxicated - endangering a person and driving while suspended.

Christopher W. Bradford was charged with operating while intoxicated - endangering a person and disregarding a stop sign.

Matthew McClain was charged with maintaining a common nuisance, possession of marijuana, speeding and no insurance.

Marriage Licenses

Robert Lee Lucas, 19 and Tiffany Anne Rowley, 22, both of Flora.

Jose M. Dominguez, 28, of Delphi, and Erica L. VanMeter, 36, of Lafayette.

Joe Tristan Sr., 49, and Delia Paxon Rodela, 26, both of Flora.

Juan Guijosa, 21, of Frankfort, and Alejandra Licona Guarneros, 18, of Delphi.

Dennis D. Lytle, 51, and Michelle M. Holda, 50, both of Flora.



Letters to the Editor

The Comet welcomes letters to the editor responding to articles and events in the news. They must include the author's name, address and telephone number. The letter writer's name and city/town will appear in the paper - no exceptions. Letters must be 400 words or less in length. Please send your letters to: editor@carrollcountycomet.com; Letters to the Editor, Comet, P.O. Box 26, Flora, IN 46929 or P.O. Box 179, Delphi, IN 46923; or fax 574-967-3384 or 765-564-2010. By submitting a letter or opinion article, the author grants the Comet the right to publish, distribute, archive or use the work in print, electronic, on-line or other format.

Offers fix for financial woes

You know when you sit around with friends and talk generally it's about solving the world's problems or anyone else's. Well, I was talking to a friend about Carroll County's financial crisis and my friend came up with what I think is a very good idea.

Instead of doing away with law enforcement, emergency people and/or people taking care of the elderly at the county home, cut all overtime and slash hours worked from all county employees. I don't know how many people are employed by the county, but I'll bet if you would cut a half-a-day's pay or a full day of pay from each and every county employee you'd be surprised how much money the county would save. It would be a lot better than doing away with a person's job.

And yes, I have taken pay cuts myself and have also worked four-day (30 hour) work weeks during tough times.

John Riley
Delphi

Disputes dairy 'facts'

This letter is in response to Daryl Johns' statements at the April 21 commissioners' meeting, which were published in the April 23 *Comet*.

Apparently, Mr. Johns' new group, "We Americans Love Our Land" is not as much "for" the truth as they are "against" dairies. Mr. Johns should check his facts before making such inaccurate statements. I was at the meeting where he presented his "information." Since I

did not have the data with me, at the time, I submit the factual information, now.

A CFO is a livestock facility with at least 300 cattle, or 600 swine or sheep, or 30,000 fowl. A CAFO is a livestock facility with at least 1,000 cattle (or 700 dairy cows), 2,500 swine, 10,000 sheep or 30,000 fowl. More details about the difference between CFOs and CAFOs can be found at the IDEM Web site: <http://www.idem.gov/ide/agriculture/livestock/cfo/index.html#what>.

According to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, as of April 23 the following is a summary of CAFOs/CFOs permits issued by the State of Indiana. The top five CAFO/CFO counties in Indiana are: Carroll - 117 CAFO/CFOs; DuBois - 108 CAFO/CFOs; Wabash - 97 CAFO/CFOs; Jay - 89 CAFO/CFOs; and Decatur - 83 CAFO/CFOs.

The State of Indiana has issued permits for a total of 2,226 CAFO/CFOs, 515 of which are CAFOs. Carroll County has 18 CAFOs and 99 CFOs. If you do the math, you will see that Carroll County has 3.5% of all CAFOs in Indiana, 5.8% of all CFOs in Indiana, and 5.2% of all CAFO/CFOs (combined) in the State of Indiana. That is far below the 50% Mr. Johns threw out at the commissioners' meeting.

The frustrating thing is that this kind of misinformation is standard practice for many folks fighting the dairies. It's tough for the agriculture industry to address consumer and resident concerns when the anti-dairy folks make irresponsible and completely inaccurate statements. My sympathy is with our county commissioners, who are forced to listen to these inaccuracies-presented-as-

facts, time after time.

Yes, Carroll County leads the way in livestock production - but, we already know that! All along, the agriculture industry has been telling Carroll County government officials and residents that Carroll County ranks #1 in the state for swine production and #1 in the state for corn production. However, Carroll County ranks #61 in the state for cattle production including milk cows.

The Carroll County Strategic Directions report specifically states that Carroll County has two major assets which must be developed if Carroll County is to succeed: agriculture and the Hoosier Heartland Highway. Particularly as we face a county budget that is insufficient for our needs, we must focus on developing our agriculture strengths in a way that will bring tax revenue, jobs and new business to our county.

I encourage anyone with questions about agriculture and livestock to check the Purdue University Web site: <http://www.agriculture.purdue.edu/> to get the true facts about agriculture in Indiana.

Miriam Robeson
Flora

File for economic stimulus check

I am writing to remind Social Security beneficiaries who earned at least \$3,000 in Social Security income in 2007 that they are eligible to file their tax returns up until October 15, 2008, in order to receive a rebate check as part of the economic stimulus package.

It is my priority to make sure that our retired seniors who have worked hard, paid Social Security taxes, and are now struggling to make ends meet in a slowing economy receive an economic boost like the rest of

us. In order to receive this boost, however, a tax return must be filed.

To receive guidance on how to file your tax return or where to obtain the forms, visit my webpage at www.donnelly.house.gov or call the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) at (800) 829-1040.

If you have any concerns or questions, contact my office at (574) -288-2790.

Joe Donnelly
Member of Congress
D-Granger

Because the public has a right to know...

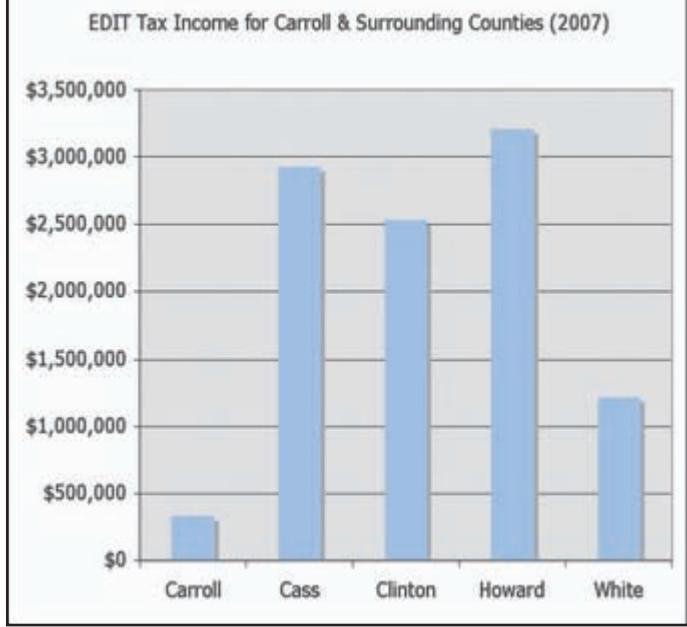
In an effort to help our readers understand what government meetings are happening when and where, the Comet will now print upcoming meetings on a weekly basis.

- Monday, May 5**
- ✓ Carroll County Drainage Board: 8:30 a.m.
- ✓ Carroll County Commissioners: 9 a.m.
- ✓ Flora Town Council: 6 p.m.
- ✓ Delphi Board of Works: 6:30 p.m.
- ✓ Delphi City Council: 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 6**
- ✓ Carroll School Board: 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, May 8**
- ✓ Camden Town Council: 7 p.m.
- ✓ Twin Lakes Regional Sewer District: 7 p.m., White County Government Building, Monticello

Public Notices appearing in this issue of the Comet:

- Sheriff Sale-Maloy.....5B
- Sheriff Sale-Funkhouser.....6B
- Sheriff Sale-Johnson.....5B
- Sheriff Sale-Denton.....5B
- Sheriff Sale-Brooks.....6B
- Camden-Bid Instructions.....5B
- Isom Name Change.....6B
- Lowry Estate.....6B
- Storey Estate.....6B
- Brafford Name Change.....5B
- Funkhouser Estate.....5B
- Area IV.....5B
- Sheriff Sale-Hyman.....5B
- Sheriff Sale-Daily.....5B
- DLGF.....5B
- Highway Claims.....5B
- General Claims.....5B

Questions concerning Indiana's Open Door and Public Access Laws may be directed to the state's public access office, at 1-800-228-6013.



Web poll

Tell us starting Wednesday at our web site, carrollcountycomet.com Each week the *Comet* polls its readers on a different topic. Vote online at carrollcountycomet.com starting each Thursday, and then click the *Comments* link to send us an email voicing your opinion. The best responses will be printed the following week.

If there was a possible legal remedy to overturn the latest judicial mandate because it would adversely affect the county, should the county council press the issue in a court of law?

- % Yes, the judges should not be able to do this to the county finances.
- % No, the council cannot afford to hire an attorney.
- % Maybe, if they are sure they could win the case.

Last Weeks results

If you felt the earth quake last Friday, did you immediately know what it was?

- 49% Yes
- 36% No
- 15% I thought that's what it was, but I didn't believe it!
- Total responses: 104