

Superior Judge Commissioner Commissioner County Council County Council County Council County Recorder County Surveyor County Clerk County Coroner



Some old, some new faces to lead county

Comet staff report

Of Carroll County's 14,136 registered voters, 8,911 or 63.04 percent cast ballots in Tuesday's General Election. Absentee ballots cast numbered 1,450.

County Democrats gained two positions - recorder and county council. The remainder of the office holders are Republican.

The composition of the Carroll County Council will change with two new members - Scott Ayres

(R) and Marion C. Huffer (D). Republican Carl Abbott retained his seat for a third term. Vote totals were: Abbott 5,240 (25.12%), Ayres 4,697 (22.52%), Huffer 4,045 (19.39%), Rolland "Dick" Roe (D), 3,855 (18.48%) and Richard N. DePoy (D), 3,019 (14.48%).

Democrat Mary Ann Burton pulled an upset, defeating incumbent Republican Barbara Ann Chapman for county recorder. Burton had 4,417 (52.15%) votes

to Chapman's 4,053 (47.85%) votes.

Republican Wayne E. Chapman was elected to a fourth term as county surveyor. He defeated Democratic candidate Dale Snipes by 4,785 (56.62%) votes to 3,666 (43.38%) votes.

Republicans William "Bill" J. Brown and Patrick F. "Pat" Clawson were unopposed in county commissioner districts 3 and 2, respectively. Brown had 5,993 votes and Clawson, 6,623 votes.

Other Republicans elected with no opposition were: Carroll Superior Court Judge Jeffrey R. Smith with 6,534 votes; Carroll Circuit Court Clerk Nancy Mattox with 6,508 votes; and county coroner Jay Dee Cree with 6,723 votes.

There were 1,648 straight party tickets cast for the Republican Party and 1,221 for the Democratic Party.

(State and national results were not complete at press time.)

The John McCain/Sarah Palin

ticket garnered 4,845 (55.31%) votes in Carroll County compared to the Barack Obama/Joe Biden (D) ticket with 3,733 (42.62%). Libertarian party candidates Bob Barr/Wayne A. Root received 132 (1.51%) votes.

For governor/lieutenant governor, Republicans Mitch Daniels and Becky Skillman received the most votes with 5,575 (63.77%) compared to 2,922 (33.42%) for

See Election page 5A

Council holds the line on the 2009 budget

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

Carroll County Council met all day Thursday for what was hoped to be the final 2009 budget workshop. When the marathon session concluded, the 2009 budget was pared down from the \$6,321,162.50 in requests submitted by department heads via county commissioners to less than \$5 million.

"Revenues will not reach predictions," council member Ann Brown announced at the beginning of the day.

She explained due to local economic conditions, homeowners who can no

longer afford mortgage payments are walking away from property. It is then sold at auction for a fraction of the true value which in turn negatively impacts county coffers. Council members' consensus was, they could rely on receiving no more money flowing into county general in 2009, than did in 2008. For those departments which requested more money for 2009 than 2008, the decision was made to appropriate the 2008 amount and let the department heads decide the specific line item amounts. What will be appropriated will include staff

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Dillman named Distinguished SS Teacher

Comet staff report

The Indiana Council for the Social Studies (ICSS) announces that Carroll teacher Glen Dillman will receive the Distinguished Social Studies Teacher Award for 2008.

Dillman will be recognized at the ICSS Conference on Nov. 6. The statewide conference will be held at the University Place Conference Center on the campus of IUPUI in Indianapolis.

The award recognizes, promotes, and rewards excellence in the teaching of social studies. Dillman teaches eighth grade



Dillman

social studies and high school world history at Carroll Junior-Senior High School. This is his 40th year at Carroll.

The ICSS cited Dillman's exceptional teaching ability and his leadership as the reasons for his selection.

The Indiana Council for the Social Studies is a voluntary, professional organization for social studies teachers, supervisors, and administrators at the elementary, secondary, and collegiate levels. The ICSS works for improvements in the teaching of history, geography, government, economics, psychology, sociology and other social studies disciplines. It is affiliated with the National Council for the Social Studies.



Deer Creek Trustee Neda Kay Duff asks voters Tuesday to participate in a referendum on spending surplus township funds. Comet photo by Debbie Lowe

Deer Creek voters confronted with question at the polls

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

Deer Creek Township voters were greeted by a township volunteer at a card table prior to entering their voting arena on Election Day. The volunteers asked for the voters' "opinion" about a proposal to bestow \$10,000 to Carroll Manor and \$60,000 to the Historical Museum from surplus township funds. The questions were posed on two forms with the heading, "referendum," although expressing an opinion was not an official voting action. A signature was required on the forms as they were submitted.

According to county clerk Laura Sterrett, township authorities called her office for guidelines and proceeded to follow them when placing the tables outside of all the Deer Creek Township

polling places.

Advisory board members Sherry Mears, Mary Clifford and Melissa Darling developed the two forms, with the help of township attorney Jim Huffer. Huffer said the use of the word "referendum" was appropriate and fitting.

"It meets the definition of the word," he told the Comet Tuesday. "They wanted to have the opinion of the constituents of the township government."

According to township trustee Neda Kay Duff, the subject of a monetary gift to the two entities was brought to the attention of the advisory board last fall when a museum representative requested financial support to purchase land. Discussion ensued about how to divest the township of excess funds and it was decided a portion could also be donated to

Carroll Manor. Duff said she did not consider the matter a conflict of interest for her township to provide financial backing to Carroll Manor, although her sister is Martha Lewis, the Manor superintendent.

Duff said it was a misconception that townships were out of money because of the county financial situation.

"People seem to think that because the county general is out of money, the townships are out of money," she told the Comet Tuesday. "That is not always the case."

Duff stated the money accumulated over several years and was in the bank, collecting interest. She said she was unsure of the exact amount of surplus funds, but the advisory board desired to ensure the money was used for township needs. Duff said it has been predicted township

government would be disbanded by the state in two years and there was no way to know where the surplus money would go.

Duff said advisory board members would count the "opinion" forms in the next two days and decide how to proceed. If the decision is to expend the funds, based on voter opinion, the proposed expenditure would appear as a legal advertisement in the Comet and there would be a public hearing.

Duff said she did not think offering forms to weigh in on the issue was newsworthy.

"All we're trying to do is get an idea how people feel," she concluded. "We felt like we were trying to do the right thing by getting the taxpayers' opinion about how they felt about these two issues."



Mailing label goes here

Commissioners contend with EMS issues

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

Two of the three Carroll County Commissioners were faced with two situations involving a lack of funding for the Emergency Medical Service at Monday morning's meeting. And in both instances they made no decision to proceed with recommendations provided. Commissioner Bill Brown, who was ill, did not attend.

The county leaders heard a recommendation from the county council to advertise for bids to privatize the ambulance service currently offered by the county. Council member Steve Ashby said the council would vote Nov. 24 to appropriate approximately \$250,000 less to EMS than

last year, bringing the operating budget to roughly \$673,000 for 2009.

"I think it would be wise to look at this avenue to trim our expenses," Ashby said. "Maybe this isn't the answer but we need to look at all of the options we can. We've absorbed all that we can absorb."

He suggested commissioners advertise for a "like service" which would employ current employees as professional staff. He said the council suggested not advertising for a lesser service than already provided.

Commissioners' attorney Barry Emerson recommended county leaders develop specifications for which to advertise if they decided to issue a request for

proposals.

Commissioners' president Loren Hylton said he was concerned about the current level of service possibly being jeopardized with privatization. George Mears said hiring a new service not familiar with Carroll County roads was "scary."

EMS Director Mike Durr said he would be forced to reduce services which would close both the Burlington and the Yeoman sites as a result of the budget reduction. He indicated closing the Yeoman site would put the Yeoman Community Center/EMS Garage project in jeopardy. Hylton said no council member suggested commissioners not pursue the joint project in relation to the budget.

A committee to determine

specifications to be used if commissioners seek bidders to outsource the ambulance service which included council members Ashby, Ann Brown, commissioner Hylton, Durr and a private citizen. It was noted there would be no guarantee commissioners would pursue privatization of the service after bid specifications were developed.

Commissioners were presented with a recommendation by Yeoman engineer/architect Ken Smith to hire Hern Construction to construct the Yeoman Community Center/EMS Garage. No decision was made about proceeding.

Yeoman Community Center/EMS Garage
Grant coordinator Amy

Miller presented the recommendation. When asked exactly what the grant required for ambulance service participation for compliance, See EMS page 8A

Property taxes due Nov. 10

The second installment of property taxes is due Monday.

The Carroll County Treasurer's Office is open Mon., Tues., Thurs., and Fri. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Wed. 8 a.m. to noon.

Taxes may be paid by mail and must be post-marked by Nov. 10 and mailed to the treasurer at 101 W. Main Street, Delphi, IN 46923.