

EDC proposes second TIF district

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

Carroll County's only Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district, which is the land which Indiana Packers owns, was established in 1992 according to Carroll County Redevelopment Commission Attorney Barry Emerson. He explained at Monday morning's county commissioners meeting that in addition to financing the extension of sewer and water service to the hog plant, the measure provided for improvements to Delphi's wastewater treatment plant and water tower. He said those were benefits of the district to the community.

During a 2008 summary report of activities, Carroll County Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Daryl Smith said the EDC would explore making the "shovel ready" land, formerly Gray's Turkey Farm, which EDC

purchased an option on, a second TIF district in the county. He explained the measure is "designed as a way to run water and sewage services to the area without raising property taxes."

"Quite honestly, to run water and sewage you need money," he said.

Smith said two county sites optioned by EDC, Gray's Farm and the Johnson Farm near Flora, are listed on the Indiana State site database. Information about them was also shared with the Indiana EDC and will be added to the Tippecanoe County Prospector Web site in February.

EDC member George Mears distributed a list of EDC members which include:

- Burlington – Jay Bordner, Ruth Johnson, and EDC president Milt Rodgers;
- Camden – Robert McCain, Bob Overman, and Richard Fite;
- Delphi – Brad Burton, EDC sec-

retary Bonnie Maxwell, and Joe Mayfield;

- Flora – Bret Hanaway, EDC treasurer Joe Moss, and Bret Rinehart; and

- Carroll County – Pat Clawson, EDC vice president Mears, and Miriam Robeson.

Highway Department

Engineer Paul Coutts explained he would provide a written activity report to commissioners at the first meeting of each month. He said the department nearly depleted the salt supply due to inclement weather in January. Road treatment was "spread as thin as possible" to maximize the remainder.

Coutts said the department is now utilizing smaller trucks equipped with blades to plow snow on roads in areas of diminished maneuverability or with low load limits in the county's 17 districts, such as those around the lake and some bridges.

"This is working well," he said.

"It is definitely working out."

Coutts learned in a relinquishment meeting with the Indiana Department of Transportation about the Hoosier Heartland Highway, the county will inherit seven and one-half miles of road, five bridges and a total 43 miscellaneous structures which are more than 70 years old when the new road is finished through Carroll County.

Commissioner Bill Brown explained it was necessary to understand relinquishment issues because the county did not want to "get handed some road that's a real liability."

"We're trying to get a handle on this," Coutts said.

Coutts reported the county road extension to SR75 north of Camden is in a state selection committee. He said the project will need the committee's approval to proceed with federal funding.

Other business

Commissioners will advertise for a \$1,000 additional appropriation from the cumulative capital projects fund for computer hardware for the Veterans Office.

Victor Brown will farm 38.2 acres of county-owned land around Carroll Manor for \$175 per acre.

Commissioners will advertise for contractor bids for a Tippecanoe River Clean-Up Project.

First Presbyterian Church of Delphi will post a sign on courthouse grounds to advertise thrift shop hours held every third Saturday of the month.

Edward Johnson was appointed to the Common Construction Committee for Carroll Consolidated School Corp.

The next meeting will be Feb. 16 at 6 p.m.

Drainage Board

Brown was elected president of the 2009 Carroll County Drainage

See TIF page 5A

Delphi acts quickly to preserve fire funds

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

What the state legislators might do about turning the recommendations contained in the Kernan-Shepard report into law has put a scare into township trustees. Their fears are about the future of the trustee offices and the tax money collected from property owners in the township. One area of concern to them is area fire departments.

Delphi Mayor Randy Strasser is also concerned about what might happen to township money for the fire department. Delphi is a partner in the Delphi Tri-Township Volunteer Fire Department

"Legislators are moving toward eliminating township trustees by the end of 2010," Strasser told Delphi City Council members at a Monday night meeting. "This is what's going to happen."

Strasser announced a workshop would be held Thursday, Feb. 5, at 7 p.m. at the city building. It is designed specifically to educate council members, township trustees and advisory board members about the issue. He said a firefighter from Tippecanoe County will introduce a power-point presentation about how to develop a fire department district or territory with an advisory board, to be ready for a change in county government.

Strasser reported a fire district or territory would need to be organized by March 1.

"Timing is of the essence on this project," Strasser said. "This will give us the ability to move forward."

Dennis Randle was introduced as the new fire chief. He said a pump truck and other department equipment were repaired from breakdowns incurred while fighting the cob fire at The Andersons recently. He said roughly 12 to 14 million gallons of water were pumped to battle the blaze.

"We are real proud of all the guys who were out there the

whole week," he said.

Representatives from The Andersons formally thanked the city and the fire department for the effort to suppress the fire.

"It made us appreciate the community," The Andersons representative Dale Theis said. "It was a tremendous effort. We certainly learned a lot about our own capabilities and what things we could change."

Theis noted the 14,000 man-hours employed to fight the fire. He offered the use of The Andersons tanker truck to the community as aid when needed to fight other fires.

"You are down on our list already," Randle said.

Other business

Resolution 2009-01 was adopted to transfer \$20,000 unused appropriations into the Rainy Day Fund. Clerk-treasurer Janice Roe told council members she determined the amount to transfer.

Roe said Tuesday that \$217,363.83 remained in the general fund as of Dec. 31. She said the Rainy Day Fund held \$51,774.77 before the \$20,000 transfer. Roe advised the law allowed the council to transfer 10 percent of the total budget into the Rainy Day Fund annually.

Carroll County Economic Development Executive Director Daryl Smith presented a summary of 2008 EDC activities. He said EDC consulted with Carroll County Redevelopment Commission attorney Barry Emerson about establishing a tax increment financing district at the site of Gray's Turkey Farm. He said EDC purchased an option on the property and is marketing it as "shovel ready."

Main Street president Hank See Delphi page 5A

Ahoy mate!



Children could not wait for summer to play on the canal boat replica at the Wabash & Erie Canal Park on N. Washington St. in Delphi. The boat was initially built roughly a year ago and was used throughout the summer. It was burned and destroyed by an arson fire the end of August, rendering it useless. Volunteers began as soon as the arson investigation concluded to rebuild the structure, which was basically completed within five weeks. Neighborhood children (l-r) Bray and Caydence McClain, who reside in North Delphi near Canal Park, were found playing on the boat in the snow with their father Brody last Friday. Photo provided

Convicted boat-burner to appeal

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

Larry Farner, 62, of Delphi, was convicted Dec. 10 of arson for burning a replica canal boat at the Wabash & Erie Canal Association Park in August. On Dec. 18, he was adjudicated a habitual criminal in a court order filed by Carroll Circuit Court Judge Donald Currie. Friday

afternoon Farner was sentenced to execute 20 years in prison.

The convicted felon refused to speak at the sentencing hearing except to tell the judge he would appeal the conviction. He said he had no income but he owned a house with his wife. He also said he owned three vehicles which



Farner

could be sold.

Currie immediately assigned Lafayette attorney Steven Knecht as public defender to represent Farner. He said the appointment was subject to reimbursement to the county. Currie noted in open court the local media reported Farner was provided a public defender for the

criminal proceedings, which was not correct.

Farner was ordered to pay the Canal Association \$5,519.27 in restitution. He will pay \$300 per month while serving five years on probation after being released from prison.

Canal Association representative Dan McCain said Friday the experience of See Appeal page 5A

BZA grants special exception amid protests

By Debbie Lowe
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The Carroll County Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) granted a special exception to permit a commercial hunting operation in an agriculturally-zoned district Tuesday night. However, it was not without controversy and objections.

The request for an exception was granted to Camp Kay Outfitters, owned by Mark Liebner. Liebner leased approximately 2,100 acres in three Carroll County townships, Deer Creek (23 parcels and roughly 1,010 acres), Rock Creek (15 parcels and 859 acres) and Adams (four parcels on 214 acres), from MKR Farms LP, Logansport. The tract of land is located

roughly on the south and east banks of the Wabash River from the southern end of the Bondie Preserve north to include the Dix Weaver property (see map). Another 10,900 acres in White and Cass counties have been leased by the company.

Liebner told the BZA he charges \$1,300 to take hunters into the woods for semi-guided hunting trips. He said after the customer takes a tour of the hunting grounds led by a guide, the customer is assigned a specific area in which to hunt and the guide leaves the area.

"I give them a point A to B. If they wander around, they get ejected," Liebner said. "If they kill anything, they have to get the guide before they can retrieve the animal."

All hunters were required to abide by Indiana hunting laws.

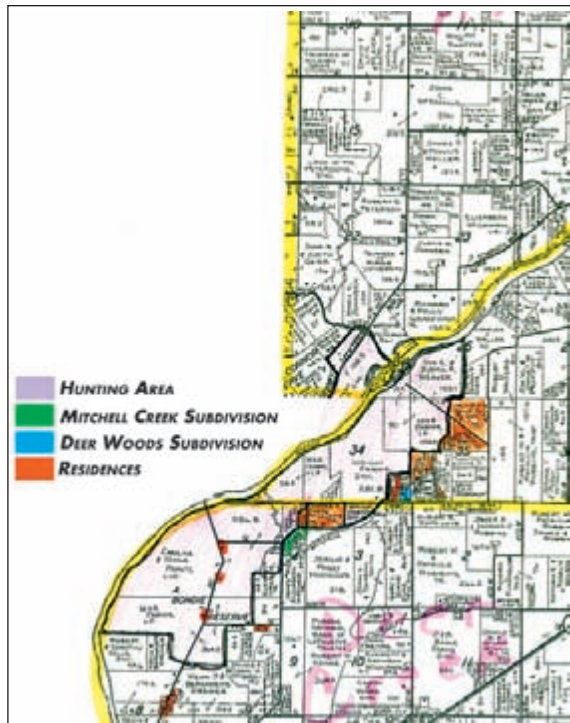
Hunters from out-of-state are required to adhere to the home state guidelines.

Liebner said his operation would benefit Carroll County because hunters buy auto fuel and groceries while in the area. He said out-of-state hunters pay six times the Indiana rate for a hunting license. Liebner said last year 70 hunters visited per week, however this season he plans for 25 each week. He said his business is exploring the possibility of building a hunting lodge.

"I guess I can see where this would have some advantage," BZA president Pat Baker said. "Laws are in order to protect properties from trespassing."

Several local residents protested the request vocally, in writing or both. Several were

See BZA page 5A



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