

# INCOME TAX BOARD

City of Findlay  
May 3, 2023

---

## MINUTES

### **ATTENDANCE**

Members Present: Mayor Christina Muryn, Don Rasmussen, Susan Hite, Jim Staschiak II, Jeff Wobser.

Staff Present: Mary Price and Kathy Launder.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion to approve minutes of the February 1, 2023, meeting as presented, by Auditor Staschiak, second by Councilman Wobser. Motion passed 5-0.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Year-To-Date Collections: Price reported that collections came in strong in April. Collections were up 8.667% year-to-date April 30, 2023.

As far as quarterly estimates from businesses are concerned, Price has communicated with businesses to make sure that they are making conservative estimates so that the City isn't having to refund large sums.

Auditor Staschiak stated that he did a follow up on a related issue on the number that came out that surprised him on the average wage in the county being the highest in the state. He further stated it being directly related to MPLX. According to Auditor Staschiak, there is a law that was passed in the seventies for LLPs, which MPLX is, all the revenue flows through, and he doesn't think it affects City Income Tax, but in the numbers when they do the calculations it goes directly to the average wages. It's a glitch in how the fed evaluates wages, and it's impacting us. It's making our average wage look great which he doesn't want to contradict in a meeting publicly because the Alliance is using it to promote our wealth, but it's not real. It's an inflated number based on the MLP. Auditor Staschiak wanted the Board to be aware of that. Mayor Muryn asked Auditor Staschiak if it is the shareholders that it's reflecting. Auditor Staschiak replied that it has to do with their profits. So when MPLX has a great year, that money flows through and it looks like our County wage is huge. That's why it jumped so high so quickly and it can fall just as fast. He further stated that there is legislation under consideration in the House of Representatives to eliminate that calculation but it's federal so it could take 20 years to change it or never change it. He states we just need to be aware that the numbers are artificially inflated. Mayor Muryn asked Auditor Staschiak if he could email the Board a one page summary. Auditor Staschiak replied that he does not want to do that. He doesn't want to jeopardize what the Alliance is doing. He doesn't want to make it look like we are attacking them. He just wants this group to be aware of it. Mayor Muryn stated that she wants to understand what Auditor Staschiak is saying, so she requested that Auditor Staschiak write just down on a piece of paper and distribute it to the Board's mailboxes. She stated that if Auditor Staschiak is making references to certain things, it would be helpful for the rest of the Board to be able to better understand it. Auditor Staschiak stated that it will be in our minutes. Mayor Muryn disagreed. She stated that what Auditor Staschiak just explained did not provide any clarity. Mayor Muryn said that Auditor Staschiak stated that he did research on a certain thing so requested Auditor Staschiak to give the Board better direction on what he's stating would be helpful. Auditor Staschiak stated he would see what he could do. He said that he is not going to quote the federal rules. Mayor Muryn asked if Auditor Staschiak could tell her what the federal rules are that he referenced. Auditor Staschiak stated that he does not have to quote the federal rules. He

clarified the law regarding the LLPs, which is what the MPLX is. Councilman Wobser corrected him stating MPLX is an MLP (Master of Limited Partnership). Auditor Staschiak agreed and said further that those rules, that money, those profits are flowing through into the average wage calculations of our county and are officially skewing the numbers up significantly. He stated that's what we need to know. Councilman Wobser stated that he wasn't sure if that is right or wrong it would tend to make sense because an MLP, if anyone owns a share of that stock would know that how complicated your tax return is because of that one share. Technically you have to file an income tax return in every state they do business in. Auditor Staschiak stated it's a federal thing that took place in the seventies. He further stated that he is relying on what an economist told him. Mayor Muryn stated that she will do some research because she would like to better understand that if it is something that has been around since the seventies why would we see such a drastic change so quickly. Auditor Staschiak stated because of the profits. Councilman Wobser stated that MPLX has not been terribly profitable. Mayor Muryn stated that she would like to understand it better. Because if that is how it has been reported over time, what has shifted recently that has caused the increase in our overall wage change.

Collections, Estimates, Delinquencies: Price stated that past due collections are up 21.608% year-to-date. Price is happy with the effort the team has concentrated toward collecting past due accounts. Some of it comes from small claims cases that we have filed. A lot of has come from sending out delinquent notices and the billing that was sent out earlier this year. The numbers are looking better than last year. It is helpful having full-time consistent employees rather than temporary employees.

Legal Actions in Process and Contemplated: Price stated year-to-date we are down 9.8% in court cases and down 8.6% in wage garnishments. She stated that we would rather do wage garnishments rather than send them to a third party collection attorney.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Next Meeting: Meeting schedule for 2023: August 2, and November 1. All meetings will be held at 2:30pm in the third floor conference room of the Municipal Building.

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy K. Launder  
City Clerk