TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
February 9, 2010

The Tippecanoe County Council met at 8:30 a.m. on February 9, 2010 in the Tippecanoe Room in the County Office Building. Council members present were: President Andrew S. Gutwein, Vice-President Roland K. Winger, John R. Basham II, Kevin L Underwood, and Kathy Vernon; Others present were: Auditor Jennifer Weston, Attorney David W. Luhman, and Secretary Kay Muse.

President Gutwein called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Auditor Jennifer Weston stated that the list of attendees at the tour of the jail did not include Cary Home Director Rebecca Humphrey. She stated a correction to the minutes would be made to include Ms. Humphrey.

- Councilmember Basham moved to approve the minutes as presented with amendment, second by Councilmember Winger; motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Councilmember Gutwein announced that beginning next month; public comment for specific agenda items will be heard at the beginning of each council meeting, a time limit will be in place. Public comment will also be heard at the end of the meeting on any topic.

AUDITOR'S REPORT–*Jennifer Weston*

Auditor Jennifer Weston reported that last month's uncommitted balance was $221,642. The Council approved an additional appropriation of $500 leaving an uncommitted balance of $221,142. Auditor Weston said she would have an updated version of the financial report at next month's meeting due to several variables that would be known by that time, including the final property tax settlement for 2009 and the 2010 property tax levy.

TREASURER'S REPORT–*Bob Plantenga*

Treasurer Bob Plantenga presented the Treasurer's Report through the end of 2009. The average interest rate decreased from .44% to .43% and the weighted average is down. The weighted average changes from month to month based on the distribution of funds. The Chase Bank high balance savings account is currently at .45%. Interest rates for the other funds have remained constant and will be that way in the near future now that the cash management contract is over. Certificates of Deposit do offer a higher rate of return, but funds cannot always be tied up for an extended period of time. Councilmember Basham inquired about the interest rates at Lafayette Bank & Trust for last month. Treasurer Plantenga explained the interest rate has been .6 for close to a year.

RESOLUTION 2010-10-CL
Authorizing and Approving the Entry into an Inter-local Agreement for the Investment of Public Funds

Treasurer Plantenga presented Resolution 2010-10-CL for approval. This resolution will allow the county to enter into an agreement with Hoosier Fund, an investment tool for municipalities only. Hoosier Fund has been approved by the Attorney General, the State Board of Accounts, and an independent firm that says it does meet all state requirements. Hoosier Fund Program Administrator Curt R. Fritsch and President of CRF Financial Group, Inc. state that funds are invested with banks approved by the State Board of Depositories. Investments of the Hoosier Fund are limited by state statute. The thirty-day average interest rate is currently .82% and close to that for the year. Hoosier Fund could significantly increase the county's earnings in interest and it is flexible in that it allows municipalities to deposit one day and withdraw the next if needed. Treasurer Plantenga stated that Hoosier Fund has been in existence for one year; adding that several other entities in the state are participants. Councilmember Winger inquired what other Indiana government agencies are participating. Mr. Fritsch reported that the Indianapolis Airport Authority, Marion County Public Library, Gary Sanitary District, City of Frankfort, and four other participants are members at this time. Mr. Fritsch stated that funds are kept in Indiana Banks or Banks with Branches in Indiana. Fees are charged before the yield of .82%. U.S. Bank is the custodian; CRF does not have access to the funds. CRF works with Treasurer L. Misen of the Hoosier Fund who is the CFO of Center Township. CRF cannot make any investments without prior approval from a member of the Hoosier Fund. Attorney Dave Luhman stated he has reviewed the documents; the fund is governed by a board of directors made up of representatives from each entity that is a participant. This resolution would appoint Treasurer Bob Plantenga to be Tippecanoe County's representative. Each entity must enter into an inter-local agreement approved by both the fiscal body and the executive entity. The Board of Commissioners has approved the use of this fund. Councilmember Gutwein stated that while he prefers to keep funds in local banks, this allows for another option for investing the county's money.

- Councilmember Winger moved to approve Resolution 2010-10-CL as presented, second by Councilmember Basham; motion carried.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Donation Fund 118

Grant Facilitator Laurie Wilson requested appropriation of a $1,000 donation. This donation is in favor of the Health Department working in conjunction with Purdue University and the Public Health Association. They are working toward accreditation and partnership issues and had four meetings in August 2009. The Health Department was granted $1,000 for participating in that program. There are no restrictions; funds will be spent within county guidelines.

Additional Appropriation	**$1,000**
$1,000	General Operating/Miscellaneous

- Councilmember Underwood moved to approve the appropriation as presented, second by Councilmember Vernon; motion carried.

CLERK

Record Perpetuation Fund 160

Chief Deputy Christa Coffey requested appropriations of Fund 160. These are fees collected by the Clerk's office. Councilmember Gutwein asked if there is a particular function of these funds. Ms. Coffey stated funds would be used for coordinating records.

Additional Appropriation	**$28,000**
$18,000	Salaries & Wages/Part Time
$ 1,377	Salaries & Wages/Soc Sec
$ 3,000	General Operating/Software
$ 5,623	Capital Outlay/Equipment

- Councilmember Vernon moved to approve appropriations as submitted, second by Councilmember Winger; motion carried.

CASA
GAL Fund 501

Director Coleen Hamrick requested approval of appropriations for fifty percent of the state funding received yearly for staff salaries. The remaining fifty percent will come in later this year. Ms. Hamrick stated CASA is required to match the grant and does so with General Fund appropriations.

Additional Appropriation	**$41,268**
$35,994	Salaries & Wages/Full Time
$ 2,754	Salaries & Wages/Soc Sec
$ 2,520	Retirement/PERF

- Councilmember Winger moved to approve appropriations as presented, second by Councilmember Vernon; motion carried.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Tracy Brown requested approval of the following appropriations from five different funds. The Sheriff's Department collects these funds through donations and fees, such as false alarms, gun permits, and copies of accident reports.

Donation Fund 127

Additional Appropriations	**$1,780**
$ 1,780	General Operating/Miscellaneous

- Councilmember Basham moved to approve appropriation as presented, second by Councilmember Winger; motion carried.

False Alarm Fees Fund 174

Additional Appropriations	**$14,000**
$14,000	General Operating/Miscellaneous

- Councilmember Basham moved to approve appropriation as presented, second by Councilmember Vernon; motion carried.

Continuing Education Fund 175

Additional Appropriations	**$23,000**
$23,000	General Operating/Miscellaneous

- Councilmember Basham moved to approve appropriation as presented, second by Councilmember Winger; motion carried.

Firearms & Training Fund 177

Additional Appropriations	**$30,000**
$30,000	General Operating/Miscellaneous

- Councilmember Basham moved to approve appropriation as presented, second by Councilmember Underwood; motion carried.

Sheriff Accident Reports Fund 179

Additional Appropriations	**$12,000**
$12,000	General Operating/Miscellaneous

- Councilmember Basham moved to approve appropriation as presented, second by Councilmember Vernon; motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2010-05-CL DETERMINING NEED FOR LEASE OF FACILITIES
4602 Swisher Road

- Councilmember Winger moved to remove Resolution 2010-05-CL from the table, second by Councilmember Underwood; motion carried.

Commissioner John Knochel stated this resolution was defeated at the last commissioner's meeting, citing several phone calls from taxpayers voicing their concern about the cost of the lease. Commissioner Knochel requested approval for Commissioner Byers to investigate the possibility of building a pole barn on the North Ninth Street Property. Commissioner Byers and Commissioner Knochel would meet with the architect that did the original planning on the juvenile facility, insuring that the structure would not interfere with the plans for the juvenile center. The $200,000 that has been appropriated for leasing a storage space would be used for this project. Since the county owns this property, it would eliminate the need to lease storage space for emergency equipment. Commissioner Byers said preliminary estimates for the building only, not including site preparation, water, electricity etc. is around $150,000. Commissioner Byers stated that receiving support from surrounding counties is being explored. Councilmember Basham stated that he had investigated the cost of an 81 x 210 feet steel pole barn with a fifty-year guarantee and

includes, ten 14-feet high overhead doors, and six-inch concrete floor for approximately $350,000. If the equipment is moved to the fairgrounds, it will eliminate all rental income and the equipment would have to be moved for the entire month of July during fair time. Councilmember Vernon stated that she would like to look at space utilization for the entire county. Commissioner Byers said estimates it would cost around $200,000 to have a space study done. Councilmember Vernon suggested checking with Purdue University to see if a class may be willing to take this on as a project, adding there needs to be a roadmap in place before moving forward. Councilmember Winger stated that he felt Commissioner Byers had a well laid out plan with the original proposal of the lease, which allowed the relief on 629 N 6th Street building for the health department, which allowed for the freeing of space for Wildcat Creek Waste District and thus increasing options for Community Corrections and TEMA. He added that he would like to see an estimate for a new structure on the North Ninth Street property. Councilmember Basham suggested looking at the Fairgrounds again as he is opposed to spending any funds in these difficult economic times. Commissioner Byers felt that the dynamics of the buildings at the Fairgrounds would not allow for easy storage of TEMA equipment. Councilmember Vernon stated that she is not willing to spend any money at this time, but does feel it is in the best interest to continue gathering information pertaining to this issue. Commissioner Knochel stated with no resolution at this time they will keep looking for solutions.

- Resolution 2010-05-CL died for lack of a motion.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Basham reported that the Romney Sewer District Board continues to meet.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Auditor Weston recommended scheduling the joint meeting with County Commissioners and Financial Consultant Greg Guerrettaz. Councilmember Gutwein suggested March 1, 2010 at 8 a.m. prior to the Commissioner meeting that is scheduled at 10:00 a.m. Auditor Weston stated that she would check with Greg and confirm to all parties.

NEW BUSINESS
None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Prosecutor Pat Harrington– invited all city and county public servants along with the public to attend a Gang Awareness Identification program on February 23, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at Faith Community Center. The speaker is a national expert who has been on multiple news shows, including FOX and Dateline. Being a former DEA agent and expert in gangs, he has testified numerous times in federal and state court.

Sadie Harper-Scott–voiced concerns about the county taking on so many projects. Ms. Scott said, "Our children should be the number one concern of Tippecanoe County."

Paul Wright–expressed gratitude that the council is considering the financial situation of the county. He asked if the county can reduce the amount of equipment owned/stored. The property that is adjoining the TEMA property could be utilized for the addition of a lean-to.

John Bryant–is in favor of a Juvenile Justice Center.

Mike Simpson–is in favor of pursuing a good financial plan and a long-term strategic plan.

Sadie Harper-Scott–asked for evening meetings so community members can attend.

Councilmember Gutwein–noted that the council is more than willing to schedule evening public meetings when substantial action is to be taken.

Councilmember Winger–said the council is available through email, adding most of the council's deliberations are done throughout the month leading up to the meeting.

Commissioner Knochel–conveyed an overview of Highway overtime costs for spreading salt and sand as follows:

Overtime 08/09	$102,435.57
Overtime 09/10	$ 80,021.88

Sand 08/09	6,862.93 tons @ 3.75 = $25,735.99
Sand 09/10	6,064.87 tons @ 5.00 = $30,324.35

Salt 08/09	2,109.61 tons @ 61.47 = $129,677.73
Salt 09/10	1,529.26 tons @ 64.50 = $ 98,637.27

Clearlane 08/09	861.98 tons @ 75.99 = $65,501.86
Clearlane 09/10	370.17 tons @ 73.50 = $27,207.50

Commissioner Tom Murtaugh– explained a change being made when hiring for vacant positions. Departments will be asked to provide essential job functions on job postings and provide the funding source for that position. The personnel committee will make a recommendation on replacement of that position to the Commissioners. The Commissioners will then make the final determination. An email will be going out to department heads to make them aware of the change.

Councilmember Vernon moved to adjourn.

Tippecanoe County Council

Andrew S. Gutwein, President

Roland K. Winger, Vice President

John R. Basham II

Jeffrey A. Kemper

Betty J. Michael

Kevin L. Underwood

Kathy Vernon

Attest:
Jennifer Weston, Auditor