TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
April 13, 2010

The Tippecanoe County Council met at 8:30 a.m. on April 13, 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, Jeffrey A. Kemper, Betty J. Michael, Kevin L. Underwood, and Kathy Vernon. Others present were: Auditor Jennifer Weston, Attorney David W. Luhman, and Secretary Kay Muse

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Councilmember Kemper moved to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2010 regular meeting, second by Councilmember Michael; motion carried.

AUDITOR'S REPORT–*Jennifer Weston*

Beginning Net Balance	$	549,081.52
Total Additional Appropriations	$	500.00
Total Budget Reductions	$	0.00
Miscellaneous Expenditures (to date)	$	0.00
Uncommitted Funds	**$**	**548,581.52**

Auditor Weston stated the General Fund Financial Statement is unchanged from last month. However, an adjustment to be made for the May meeting, due to circuit breaker, will lower the uncommitted fund balance by about $76,000. Requests for the month of April total $22,183.

First Quarter General Fund Revenue actual versus the budget shows that receipts are stable at this time, with about 23.4% of the budget received compared to about 20% for the same quarter last year. Councilmember Vernon asked Auditor Weston if there were any foreseeable issues which would prevent the County making up the difference. Auditor Weston replied she is not aware of any at this time, yet it is still early to tell.

TREASURER'S REPORT–*Bob Plantenga*

Treasurer Bob Plantenga stated that February's interest was $36,350 compared to January at $38,000. The General Fund is consistent at $23,000 in January and $22,000 in February. The county has received 11 responses to the Request for Proposals (RFP's), but it will be some time before any changes are made. The monthly average interest rate for Chase is now at .42 %, First Financial is steady at .25%, and Lafayette Bank & Trust has stayed at .60%. The overall average is .40%. The weighted average has increased from last month due to a re-distribution of funds.

Tax bills will be mailed today. Printing the tax bills on site has proven to be a substantial cost savings to the County. Councilmember Basham asked Treasurer Plantenga if the dollar amount of uncollected property tax was available. Auditor Weston stated the amount of delinquent property tax billed this time totals $13.8 million. Treasurer Plantenga stated that amount would be lower due to tax payments received prior to the tax sale. Councilmember Gutwein asked the

amount of unpaid taxes collected due to the tax sale. Treasurer Plantenga stated that about $2,000,000 was collected and of that amount, $600,000 in unpaid taxes and $1.2 million in surplus. There are approximately 100 taxpayers on a payment plan. Treasurer Plantenga stated that of the $90 tax sale fee, $65 goes to the sale vendor and $25 goes for the County's expenses, advertising cost being the bulk of the County's expenses. Councilmember Basham asked the dollar amount of the interest earnings on the 10% late penalty. Treasurer Plantenga said that he did not have that information at this time. Councilmember Kemper stated that when combining the $500,000-$600,000 that was collected before the sale and the $600,000 collected at the time of the sale totals about $1.2 million in collected taxes.

Councilmember Vernon thanked Treasurer Plantenga and all of the volunteers from other departments for their efforts in assuring the tax bills will be mailed on time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

CIRCUIT COURT
Family Court Grant "C" Fund 623

Attorney Cindy Garwood requested the appropriation of a $24,000 annual grant, adding this is a Supreme Court Grant to provide services such as mediation for the courts, paternity cases, and information sharing with all participating judges. Auditor Weston stated the funds have been received for this grant.

Appropriation $24,000

$ 24,000	Contracts / Consultant

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

PROSECUTOR-*Pat Harrington*
Internet Crimes Against Children Grant Fund 194

Prosecutor Pat Harrington requested an appropriation in the amount of $2,500 of grant funds from the state and federal government. This will provide equipment to allow the monitoring of Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC). Prosecutor Harrington added that there have been three arrests in the past 30 days and all three will be going to the federal court for indictment.

Appropriation $2,500

$ 2,500	General Operating / Misc

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

Prosecutor Drug Enforcement Fund 257

Prosecutor Harrington requested the transfer of $5,000 from office supplies to general operating and miscellaneous. This will be used to help fund the drug task force. Fund 257 is the County's forfeiture fund; funds are replenished when money is seized after an arrest.

Transfer $ 5,000

$5,000	Office Supplies to General Operating /Misc

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

PROBATION
Probation Pregnancy Supervision ICJI Grant Fund 513

Grant Facilitator Laurie Wilson requested an appropriation in the amount of $24,136 of an Indiana Criminal Justice Institute Grant to fund a part-time position of a Pregnancy Probation Supervisor. This position is currently funded through the Community Foundation for juveniles who are pregnant or at risk of pregnancy. This position will work closely with Cary Home, but is a position within the Probation department.

Appropriation $24,136

$ 20,250	Salaries & Wages / Part Time
$ 1,625	Social Security
$ 450	Office Expense / Office Supplies
$ 324	General Operating / Mileage Reimb
$ 648	Equipment / Data Processing Hardware
$ 839	Departmental / Educational

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

CLERK*-Linda Phillips*
IV-D 1099 Child Support Fund 162

Clerk Linda Phillips requested an appropriation in the amount of $46,993. Clerk Phillips stated that this is child support incentive monies that are received from the state based upon performance to supplement child support enforcement activities. The Clerk's office will continue to digitize divorce and juvenile paternity case files, reducing the cost to retrieve records. This will greatly benefit the county in cost savings when comparing the cost of around .19¢ to retrieve a digital record and between .50¢ and $2.00 to retrieve a paper record.

Appropriation$46,993

$ 39,000	Salaries & Wages / Part Time
$ 2,984	Social Security
$ 5,009	Equipment / Capital Outlay – Misc

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

HEALTH DEPARTMENT-*Laurie Wilson*
MRC - CBA Grant Fund 482

Grant Facilitator Laurie Wilson requested an appropriation in the amount of $5,000. This grant is for the Medical Reserve Corp, adding that if guidelines are continued to be met the Health department will receive funding for this program annually. The funds are targeted for travel and training to conferences for continued education. A percentage of the grant will also go toward the purchase of emergency kits and supplies for new doctors and nurses who sign up for service.

Appropriation $5,000

$ 4,000	Travel & Training / Training Costs
$ 1,000	General Operating / Misc

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

Master Tobacco Settlement Fund 762

Councilmember Kemper stated that Director Ron Cripe could not be present but said that this appropriation will be used to purchase and administer adult vaccines.

Appropriation $17,500

$15,000	Departmental / Medical
$ 2,500	Travel & Training / Training Costs

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

JUVENILE ALTERNATIVES-*Laurie Wilson*
Restorative Justice ICJI Grant Fund 539

Grant Facilitator Laurie Wilson requested an appropriation in the amount of $40,000. This will fund a re-allocation of a full-time position in the Juvenile Alternatives department for a program to help juveniles who are in danger of returning to the justice system. Ms Wilson stated that this program is a more intense program and shows the potential of having a better success rate. Ms. Wilson added that there is a match required and has been met. Auditor Weston asked Ms. Wilson what defines a re-allocation of a position. Ms. Wilson stated that it essentially would be the same job using a different evidence based program; adding the salary will remain unchanged.

Grant Appropriation$40,000

$ 28,083	Salaries & Wages / Full Time
$ 2,149	Social Security
$ 1,966	Retirement / PERF

$ 7,572	Insurance Benefit / Health
$ 137	Insurance Benefit / LTD
$ 93	Insurance Benefit / Life

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

COMMISSIONERS-*Frank Cederquist*
General Fund 001

Commissioner's Assistant Frank Cederquist requested the approval of an additional appropriation in the amount of $22,183. Mr. Cederquist stated that the unexpected expense of advertising cost for the tax sale has depleted the advertising budget for the year. Councilmember Kemper said that it is state statute that tax sales be advertised three times and in two different publications prior to the sale. Mr. Cederquist said that in 2006 the County spent a total of $24,999 including the advertising cost for that year's tax sale and did not foresee the additional cost for 2010. Councilmember Kemper stated that fees collected from the tax sale would offset these costs. Councilmember Vernon stated that the average cost advertising cost, prior to the tax sale, was $700 per month, adding that the County may not need the entire amount today. Auditor Weston stated that another tax sale is anticipated later in the year and will require advertisements again. Mr. Cederquist stated that he could return later in the year for an additional appropriation if needed.

Additional Appropriation $22,183

$ 22,183	General Operating / Advertising

- Councilmember Kemper moved to approve appropriation of $11,000 for general operating and advertising, second by Councilmember Underwood; motion carried.

SHERIFF-*Tracy Brown*
Salary Statement

Sheriff Tracy Brown presented a Salary Statement for the position of part-time Correction Officer for approval. Sheriff Brown stated that this is an amendment to allow the Sheriff department to pay a part time rate for a Correction Officer as a temporary position due to a permanent employee's deployment with the U.S. Military. Sheriff Brown requested this be retroactive to March 1, 2010.

Salary Statement $15.00 per hour

Part Time Correction Officer Up to $15.00/hour

- Councilmember Kemper moved to approve the salary statement as presented, second by Councilmember Underwood; motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2010-13-CL; *Approving Sheriff Commissary Fund Expenditures*

Sheriff Tracy Brown stated that on an annual basis the Sheriff's Department has come before the Council asking the approval of a resolution approving the Sheriff Commissary Fund Expenditures. After talking with County Attorney Dave Luhman and making a few minor changes to the language, the approval of this resolution will eliminate the need for annual approval. Councilmember Basham asked about the Special Events for Inmates on the potential list of expenditures. Sheriff Brown provided an example such as the Sheriff's Department hosting a ceremony for inmates that had completed their GED. Sheriff Brown added that the list was intended to be a catch-all, eliminating the need for a special exception.

- Councilmember Kemper moved to approve Resolution 2010-13-CL, Approving Sheriff Commissary Fund Expenditures as presented, second by Councilmember Michael; motion carried.

Sheriff Brown gave an update on the Department of Correction (DOC) reimbursements. The DOC has paid through August 2009 and has been billed through February 2010. When looking at the previous twelve months the billed amount is $1.6 million. In comparison, the billing for 2009 was $1.5 million.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilmember Kemper stated that the Revenue Committee met but did not have a quorum at the last meeting and agreed to meet in May or June.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilmember Basham questioned why the appropriation for Fund 762 could not have come from the H1N1 grant fund that will be expiring soon.

Grant Facilitator Laurie Wilson stated that the H1N1 Fund can only be used for H1N1 vaccine and supplies and other cost associated with the H1N1 virus. Ms. Wilson said that the Health department is attempting to use the H1N1 funds as efficiently as possible before the expiration date of that grant, adding that expenditures must be approved by the state.

NEW BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dan Altepeter, *Lafayette*–inquired about the TEMA facility and the status of that issue. Mr. Alteper said that the worse season for the storing of equipment outside is summer, adding the sheep barn may not be the perfect solution, but it is a solution with minimum cost. The old armory that has been suggested as a solution will revert to the school corporation and he believes the use of the armory by the County would be unattainable. Mr. Altepeter said he would like to see a vote to move to the sheep barn.

Councilmember Basham asked Attorney Dave Luhman the functions of the council.

Attorney Dave Luhman stated that the County Council only has authority to approve the annual budget and any additional appropriations. The Commissioners are responsible for administering the County properties and the Commissioners will ultimately make the decision on the solution pertaining to the TEMA facility. The TEMA advisory board is responsible to provide input and advice as to the needs of TEMA. Councilmember Winger stated that until TEMA Board makes a recommendation to the Commissioners thereby bringing forth an appropriation, the Council could not move forward on the issue. Councilmember Vernon stated that the Council made it clear not to spend any unnecessary funds during this economic downturn. Councilmember Gutwein added that it is not the Council's responsibility to give direction to TEMA on this issue. Councilmember Winger said the many options to the storage problem must be considered.

Paul Wright, *West Point*–said that he has concern about the increase in his property tax rate this year. Mr. Wright added that in a slow economy when property values are down, the increase of property tax is an added burden especially to those people on a fixed income.

Councilmember Michael 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