TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
OCTOBER 6, 2009

The Tippecanoe County Council met on Tuesday October 6, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. in the Tippecanoe Room at the Tippecanoe County Office Building. Council members present were: President Kevin L. Underwood, Vice President Andrew S. Gutwein, Roland K. Winger, John R. Basham, Kathy Vernon and Jeffrey A. Kemper; Betty J Michael was absent. Also present were Attorney David W. Luhman, Auditor Jennifer Weston and Acting Secretary Dawn Rivera.

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

BUDGET REVIEW – Auditor Jennifer Weston

Auditor Weston presented the proposed 2010 General Fund budget as well as historical budgets set by the County as follows:

Year	Budget	% change
2010	$37,319,727	0.1%
2009	$37,266,771	4.3%
2008	$35,729,486	4.6%
2007	$34,158,101	6.9%
2006	$31,960,620	2.9%
2005	$31,052,078	6.4%
2004	$29,172,973	

In addition, the breakdown of the proposed 2010 General Fund by category is 78% Personal Services, 5% Supplies, and 17% Other Services & Charges. Revenue estimates for 2010 consist of 50% Property Tax Levy, 20% County Option Income Tax, 7% Residential Facility User Fees, 5% Public Safety Fees, and 18% all other fees, fines, and reimbursements.

The 2009 budgets, levies, and rates were compared to other counties of similar size and demographics as Tippecanoe.

County	Population	2009 Budget	2009 Levy	2009 Tax Rate	Levy as % of Budget	Per capita Budget	Per capita Levy
Hendricks	104,093	$33,771,614	$13,491,688	0.1550	40%	$324.44	$129.61
Vigo	105,848	$28,796,242	$20,201,439	0.5666	70%	$272.05	$190.85
Delaware	118,769	$30,197,876	$15,934,830	0.4663	53%	$254.26	$134.17
Monroe	120,563	$28,712,455	$13,462,801	0.2283	47%	$238.15	$111.67
Madison	133,358	$34,998,736	$17,454,712	0.5137	50%	$262.44	$130.89
Tippecanoe	148,955	$37,266,771	$18,954,249	0.2856	51%	$250.19	$127.25
Vanderburgh	171,922	$63,607,773	$32,618,660	0.4663	51%	$369.98	$189.73
Hamilton	182,740	$85,763,948	$26,833,195	0.1529	31%	$469.32	$146.84
Allen	331,849	$88,615,383	$50,437,857	0.3793	57%	$267.04	$151.99

Sources: AIC Fact Book, www.in.gov/dlgf

Other major funds of the county have proposed budgets as follows:

Fund	2009 Approved	2009 Net	2010 Proposed	% Change
Cumulative Capital Development	$ 1,741,292	$ 2,722,930	$ 1,219,159	-30.0%
Cumulative Bridge	$ 15,730,069	$ 32,243,972	$ 7,458,225	-52.6%
Highway	$ 4,624,662	$ 4,828,475	$ 4,725,614	2.2%
Reassessment	$ 577,596	$ 1,186,164	$ 310,681	-46.2%
Economic Development	$ 5,967,465	$ 11,606,653	$ 3,941,835	-33.9%

The complete presentation is on file in the Tippecanoe County Auditor's Office.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Michelle Blaas – Small increases add up and hurt the average citizen. Citing a comment made by Dr. Larry DeBoer, not using the max is like giving the property owners a permanent tax break and asked to council to reign in budget and levy increases. She presented a petition with over 400 signatures asking the council to set the monthly meeting times for 2010 to evenings to match both city councils and make it easier for the public to attend.

John Knochel – Informed the council that the County will be assessed around $20,000 for storm water fees for 2010. This will come out of a storm water fund that they have been setting aside for the past five years and will not affect the general fund budget.

John Basham – Expressed his disagreement with the addition of the storm water fees and assessments. He feels this will greatly impact consumers as the rates are passed down; someone needs to tell the State legislature the timing is not right.

Paul Wright – Asked the council why they would choose to adopt the maximum possible tax levy. Councilmember Winger replied there are several reasons; doing so keeps the tax rate solid without a lot of year-to-year fluctuation; it prepares a foundation for future budgets; and provides the citizens of Tippecanoe County with great services with one of the more reasonable tax rates in the state. Councilmember Vernon stated this council is charged with planning for next year and future years as well. In preparing for the future we must ask ourselves what is our tolerance level for services we are willing to give up? Councilmember Kemper pointed out the county's part of the overall levy is a small portion. He explained the maximum increase takes into consideration all other taxing entities in the county and the aggregate must be within that growth quotient; if one entity requires a larger portion, all other entities would be reduced to stay within the maximum. Councilmember Winger stated in future years the citizens will very likely be asked what services they would be willing to forego in order to balance the budget and hold tax increases to a minimum.

- Councilmember Kemper moved to adjourn the meeting.

TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL

Kevin L. Underwood, President

Betty J. Michael

Andrew S. Gutwein, Vice President

John R. Basham II

Roland K. Winger

Jeffrey A. Kemper

Attest:
Jennifer Weston, Auditor

Kathy Vernon