TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
March 10, 2009

The Tippecanoe County Council met at 8:30 a.m. on March 10, 2009 in the Tippecanoe Room in the County Office Building. Council members present were: President Kevin Underwood, Vice-President Andrew S. Gutwein, Jeffrey R. Kemper, John R. Basham II, Roland K. Winger, Betty J. Michael, and Kathy Vernon. Others present were: Auditor Jennifer Weston, Attorney David W. Luhman, and Secretary Jennifer Prange.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Councilmember Michael moved to approve the minutes from the February 10, 2009 regular meeting, second by Councilmember Winger; motion carried.

- Councilmember Michael moved to approve the minutes from the February 11, 2009 Special Meeting, second by Councilmember Kemper; motion carried.

AUDITOR'S FINANCIAL REPORT – Jennifer Weston

Beginning Net Balance	$ 1,250,763.61
Total Additional Appropriations	$ 0.00
Total Budget Reductions	$ 0.00
Miscellaneous Expenditures (to date)	$ 0.00
Uncommitted Funds	**$ 1,250,763.61**

TREASURER'S REPORT – Bob Plantenga

Treasurer Plantenga reported the average interest rate as .34%. January ended with $60,000 collected in interest; $40,000 of this amount will be deposited in the General Fund. The commissioners have requested the first $500,000 of Cumulative Bridge Funds be deposited into the Local Road and Street Fund. Installment Plan participants have paid ¾ of the total amount due; the last installment will be in May 2009.

TIPPECANOE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY – Jerry Withered

Resolution 2009-10-CL; General Obligation Bonds 2000

Jerry Withered, Board of Trustee Member for the Tippecanoe County Public Library, requested approval for re-financing bonds to decrease the interest rate. If approved, the refinance would save taxpayers $100,000. The bond would be for $2,690,000 but is expected to be $2,670,000 if the refinance is completed as planned. The interest rate in 2000 for the original bonds was 5.56% and the new rate is 3.28%. Mr. Withered stated the payments would remain the same but the bonds will be paid off earlier. The levy remains unchanged

- Councilmember Kemper moved to approve Resolution 2009-10-CL to included amending the amount of the bonds at $2,690,000, second by Councilmember Gutwein; motion carried.

SUPERIOR COURT 3

Sup 3 Reentry Fund 149

Grant Coordinator Laurie Wilson requested approval of grant funding from the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute to expand the re-entry program to include 5 additional slots.

Additional Appropriation: $34,250
$34,250 Contracts/Consultants

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

CLERK – Linda Phillips

IV-D 10-99 Child Support Fund 162

Deputy Clerk Christa Coffey requested approval to transfer funds to purchase a software license for electronic imaging. The Prosecutor, MITS, and the Clerks Office will purchase a joint license with unlimited use.

Transfer: $ 2,789
$2,789 Office Supplies to Capital Outlay/Misc

- Councilmember Basham moved to approve the transfer as requested, second by Councilmember Vernon; motion carried.

CASA

CASA Donation Fund 151

Additional Appropriation: $5,844
$5,844 Training Costs/Travel

- Councilmember Vernon moved to approve the additional appropriation as requested, second by Councilmember Michael; motion carried.

PROSECUTOR – Kristen McVey

General Fund 001

Deputy Prosecutor Kristen McVey requested approval for a reduction in an effort to better utilize funding. The Prosecutor receives 2/3rd reimbursement from Child Support Incentive monies from the state and must have a specific use. Auditor Weston explained the $69,088 is the amount received from the state in the past two years.

Reduction of Appropriation: $61,148
$61,148 Salaries & Wages/Full-Time

Additional Appropriation: $69,088
$69,088 Salaries & Wages/Full-Time

- Councilmember Michael moved to approve the additional appropriation and reduction as requested, second by Councilmember Gutwein; motion carried.

TEMA

HAZMAT Team Capability Fund 418

Grant Coordinator Laurie Wilson recommended approval of an additional appropriation for funds received from the Department of Homeland Security. The funds will be used to purchase protective suits and equipment for the HAZMAT Team. Tippecanoe County will serve as the fiscal agent and distribute the equipment to other agencies.

Additional Appropriation: $42,268
$42,268 Equipment/Emergency Equipment

- Councilmember Gutwein moved to approve the additional appropriation as requested, second by Councilmember Michael; motion carried.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT – Ron Cripe

MRC CBA Fund 482

Health Administrator Ron Cripe requested an additional appropriation to establish a Medical Reserve Corps in Tippecanoe County. The corps will serve as an alternative resource in the event of a large community medical emergency. A portion of the funds will be used for recruitment of volunteers.

Additional Appropriation: $5,000
$2,200 General Operating/Misc
$500 Office/Printed Forms
$2,000 Travel/Training
$300 General Operating/Software

- Councilmember Michael moved to approve the additional appropriation as requested, second by Councilmember Basham; motion carried.

COUNTY ASSESSOR – Samantha Steele

Reassessment Fund 281

County Assessor Samantha Steele requested an additional appropriation to fund a contract for the General Reassessment for 2011. Indiana law requires counties to enter into a contract for General Reassessment by April 16, 2009. The previous bid received was rejected and new bids will be accepted on April 1, 2009. Assessor Steele urged council to approve the appropriation which would allow her to sign a contract before the deadline. Councilmember Winger acknowledged the need but added the county should work within its means. Council members suggested the County Assessor prepare a plan to provide more information regarding the distribution of funds

being requested. Commissioner Knochel did confirm there is a bill in the House that could delay the General Reassessment for one year. Assessor Steele confirmed regardless of the action taken for the General Reassessment, funds will be needed for Commercial and Industrial assessments. Assessor Steele reported previous funds appropriated for the Commercial and Industrial cost tables have been depleted. Councilmember Vernon questioned the legality of the signing a contract for a full General Reassessment if there is a possibility it will be delayed or scaled down. Attorney Luhman confirmed a stipulation will be included in the contract. Councilmember Kemper requested the County Assessor request a draft timeline from the vendor to present to the council at their April meeting.

Additional Appropriation: $650,000
$650,000 Contracts/Consultants

No action taken.

COMMISSIONERS

Wabash River Hydrology Fund 333

Stan Lambert, Executive Director of the Wabash River Enhancement Corporation requested approval for an additional appropriation. He reported funds were received from North Central Health Services to develop a Corridor Master Plan for the unincorporated sections of the corridor in Tippecanoe County. This a partnership with the Army Corps of Engineers which has a one-one local match to federal funds requirement.

Additional Appropriation: $250,000
$250,000 Administrative/Other Professional Services

- Councilmember Gutwein moved to approve the additional appropriation as requested, second by Councilmember Michael; motion carried.

AUDITOR (For Council)

General Fund 001

Auditor Jennifer Weston provided information regarding balances and historical data for the Rainy Day Funds and COIT Reserve Fund. With the possibility of property taxes declining she suggested reviewing the shortage of $460,000 to maintain a three month reserve. In 2003 the statutory requirement to maintain a three month reserve was repealed and the county was authorized to establish a Rainy Day Fund, however, the local ordinance is still in effect regarding the reserve.

Additional Appropriation: $500,000
$500,000 Administrative/COIT Reserve

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

SHERIFF

Attorney Luhman provided details regarding the Sheriff's Compensation Agreement for 2009. He reported the agreement reflects the amount approved by the council at the 2009 Budget Hearings. The contract for $106,676 has been approved by the commissioners.

- Councilmember Gutwein moved to approve the Sheriff's Compensation Agreement, second by Councilmember Winger; motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

MOTION TO RESCIND THE MOTION PASSED AT THE FEBRUARY 11, 2009 MEETING TO POSTPONE JUVENILE CENTER

- Councilmember Michael moved to rescind the motion passed at the February 11, 2009 meeting to postpone the Juvenile Center for at least three months. ***Motion failed with no second.***

UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Commissioner Byers reported Interim MITS Director Dave Sturgeon has been selected as the new MITS Executive Director.

Pearl Speakman – said there are more lay-offs now then there has been in the last 40 years. He asked the council to consider the declining economy when spending taxpayer's dollars.

Joe Vanable – said he is disappointed with the decision of the council postponing the center. He believes the county will save money and will eventually save lives by building the center and treating the children locally. He said most children placed in confinement have treatable mental illnesses.

Lynn Flint – said we should keep our money in our county. She stated you cannot send a troubled child home where the problem began; treatment needs to be with the entire family. Ms. Flint said there is a disaster in this county and we need to do something about it.

Sadie Harper-Scott – said she is saddened by the decision of the council to maintain the three month delay on the juvenile center. She invited the public to attend a meeting on April 16, 2009 at the Library to discuss the need for a juvenile facility. Ms. Harper-Scott said we have a great community and resources to assist our children. She asked the council to revisit the issue and strongly consider the need.

Judge Rush – stated she respects the decision made by the council. She reported the county has been discussing this issue since 1999; to date $3 million has been spent on the idea of building a center. Judge Rush stressed the importance of the project and stated it shouldn't lose momentum just because the council chose to delay it for three months. In 2008, parents reimbursed the county $450,000 for fees related to incarceration. She intends to continue with parent reimbursements and added grant opportunities are being pursued. Judge Rush acknowledged the

importance of rehabilitating these children for community accountability. She recommended as we move forward the council consider the work done in the last ten years and the critical need for the facility.

Norm Childress – stated he is disappointed by the motion made by Councilmember Michael dying for a lack of second. With the tax relief granted by the State Legislature to engage in the project, especially consider the $4.5 million spent on sending children out-of-county. He stated his step-daughter was in a facility two hours away from home. He said it was nothing more than a boot camp; he said she needed discipline and organization, but also needed some compassion and the only compassion received was from the parents.

Doug Mulhaupt – President of Mulhaupt's in Lafayette said his company successfully bid the juvenile center project. He said he respects the conservative approach by the council but implored the council to reconsider. In the last 90 days, his company has had four privately funded projects put on hold or cancelled indefinitely. He suggested if the center is destined to be built, let's build it and move forward.

Kurt Wolfe – Captain, Lafayette Police Department – expressed his concern regarding the juvenile justice system as a detective. He has seen first hand how children have been sent away and return worse. He said the cycle has not been broken with parents and children offenders. If a center was available children would have been assessed and treated properly. Immediate assessments are critical for the children and the community safety. Captain Wolfe said construction of the center will employ local taxpayers and also provide sustainable jobs in the community. He said "Let's not forget where we are, where we have come and where we want to go".

Michelle Blaas – thanked the council for the integrity they have maintained through the postponement of facility. She said we would all like to see something happen with our children but suggested the county address the small problems first and move forward slowly.

Terry Masterson – thanked the council for their careful consideration in their decision for the juvenile center. He suggested a great deal of money will be saved and if it is returned to taxpayers it could be available for use in other forms of treatment. Mr. Masterson said the county should spend this time addressing other issues such as Wheel Tax. He suggested the county get property tax caps in place and then consider building the center. Mr. Masterson agrees the county will have to build a juvenile center, but the need is not great enough at this point.

Charlie Gunther – said if the lord wanted this project approved he wouldn't have put 20 years of roadblocks in place. He said the children the children need GOD.

Margaret Blaas – said thanks for not jading a new young registered voter in the world of politics. She appreciates the vote not being revisited before May; it is an important but expensive decision. She said thousands of good children will pay for the juvenile center as they enter the workforce.

- Councilmember Winger moved to adjourn.

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