

TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
April 14, 2009

The Tippecanoe County Council met at 8:30 a.m. on April 14, 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

The first page was amended in regards to Resolution 2009-10-CL as to the time when the bonds will be paid. In the meeting, Jerry Withered stated the bonds would be paid off earlier than anticipated.

- Councilmember Kemper moved to approve the minutes from the March 10, 2009 regular meeting with the correction, second by Councilmember Vernon; motion carried.

AUDITOR'S FINANCIAL REPORT – Jennifer Weston

Beginning Net Balance	\$1,205,854.15
Total Additional Appropriations	\$ 569,088.00
Total Budget Reductions	\$ 61,148.00
Miscellaneous Expenditures (to date)	\$ 18,933.57
Uncommitted Funds	\$ 678,980.58

Auditor Weston presented a spreadsheet showing 1st quarter receipts and 2009 revenue projections.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Bob Plantenga

Treasurer Bob Plantenga reported the average interest rate is .48 for February due to the increase in Lafayette Bank & Trust interest rate from .25 to .60 for the county. The Highway funds are affected the most by the increase in interest. \$2 million from the EDIT Landfill fund has been invested in two different CD's in an effort to increase the total interest. He reported collections on judgments for personal property are up this year by \$30,000 due to a change in vendor.

SUPERIOR COURT 1
General Fund 001

Judge Randy Williams requested approval of an additional appropriation for additional expenses in Superior Court 1. He provided an update reflecting the request compared to the budget amount for 2009. Judge Williams stated believe these are the only bills remaining from 2008.

Additional Appropriation: \$60,700

\$20,000	Evaluation Services
\$500	Judge Pro-Tem
\$40,000	Pauper Attorney
\$200	Office Expense/Office Supplies

- Councilmember Kemper moved to approve the additional appropriation as presented, second by Councilmember Michael; motion carried. *Councilmember Gutwein abstained from the vote.*

SUPERIOR COURT 3

General Fund 001

Judge Loretta Rush requested a reduction of appropriation for DOC funds. With the state taking over payments for DOC, she reported several juveniles were released back into the system leaving additional funds in the account. Judge Rush explained appropriating the funds to Probation will allow for additional Juvenile Probation Officers to work around the clock ensuring youth offenders have an immediate assessment after an offense.

Scott Angstadt, Deputy Chief Juvenile Probation, proposed creating four additional Juvenile Probation Officer positions to assist with intake assessments. The officers will provide services to better serve youth, allow for immediate placement in secure detention, residential placement, or psychiatric placements. Probation Officers will be placed in a centralized location to allow better collaboration between probation and law enforcement. He proposed with more officers' additional school visits, field work, home visits, and off-peak hour drug-screens for youth and families will be completed. Also, it will allow for an increase in after school contact with juveniles allowing them to remain in school. Mr. Angstadt reported if the positions are approved, probation will complete a time study to determine the best place for officers.

Councilmember Winger reported a team has been established to discuss the need for additional juvenile services in the county. Members decided this approach with additional officers to perform intake assessments would be a great start in conquering the issues in Tippecanoe County. He recommended the council move forward with the additional officers.

Councilmember Gutwein agreed viable options are available to address intake assessments. He believes this is a step in the right direction to offer youth the right treatment. He is comfortable with adding additional officers now and continuing to look for an appropriate office space for placement.

Councilmember Basham stated he received positive feedback in the community regarding immediate intake assessments; some feedback from individuals whom were totally opposed to the youth center.

Reduction of Appropriation: \$117,366

\$117,366	Administrative/DOC
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- Councilmember Vernon moved to approve the reduction of appropriation as presented, second by Councilmember Michael; motion carried.

Judge Rush requested a transfer for equipment for additional workstations in her chambers.

Transfer: \$5,000

\$5,000	Administrative/DOC to Equipment/Data Proc
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- Councilmember Vernon moved to approve the transfer as presented, second by Councilmember Michael; motion carried.

PROBATION – Scott Angstadt
General Fund 001

Additional Appropriation: \$117,366

\$68,292	Salaries & Wages/Full-Time
\$5,225	Social Security
\$4,610	Retirement
\$3,000	Office Expense/Office Supplies
\$8,500	Equip/Data Proc-Hardware
\$24,827	Insurance Benefit/Health
\$308	Insurance Benefit/LTD
\$213	Insurance Benefit/Life
\$2,391	Insurance Benefit/Work Comp

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

Salary Statement: \$117,366

\$29,268	Juvenile Probation Officers (4)
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- Councilmember Gutwein moved to approve the salary statement as presented, second by Councilmember Vernon; motion carried.

PROSECUTOR – Pat Harrington
Drug Enforcement Fund 257

Prosecutor Pat Harrington requested an additional appropriation for utilities for 12 months for the Drug Task Force.

Additional Appropriation: \$8,100

\$8,100	Utilities/Misc
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- Councilmember Gutwein moved to approve the additional appropriation as presented, second by Councilmember Michael; motion carried.

WIC – Colleen Batt

Director Colleen Batt requested approval of a salary statement for two additional Nutritionist positions, a rate change for part-time staff, and Health Professional positions. She reported sufficient funds are available from grants for the requested positions.

Salary Statement

\$30,794	Nutritionist (2)
\$11.50 per/hr	Part-Time
\$19.25 per/hr	Health Professional Positions

- Councilmember Winger moved to approve the salary statement as submitted, second by Councilmember Michael; motion carried.

COUNTY ASSESSOR – Samantha Steele
Reassessment Fund 281

County Assessor Samantha Steele requested an additional appropriation for the General Reassessment contract. She reported the commissioners accepted the contract from Tyler Technologies and an appropriation is needed to enter into the contract. As dictated by the state, counties must have signed a contract by April 16, 2009. She reported she currently has a contract with Tyler for commercial and industrial assessing in the amount of \$627,930. Attorney Luhman confirmed the bid specs were based on review of 55,000 parcels in the first year; additional charges would apply if more parcels are added. He added the bids are based on the assumption initial screenings will have been completed using aerial photos or pictometry. Assessor Steele reported the reassessment fund does not have enough money in it to cover the amount of the contract for this year. Councilmember Underwood reported more was spent in 2008 out of reassessment than any other year for the past 10 years. Assessor Steele added any additional work completed on the commercial & industrial cost tables will need to be paid out of the fund as well as unemployment claims.

Commissioner Knochel stated the commissioners understand the funding issue, but the state mandated contract needs appropriated funds for execution before April 16, 2009.

Attorney Luhman confirmed a separate tax levy is required for reassessment which is reviewed by the DLGF. The DLGF has the authority to increase the levy if needed to fund the general reassessment. Councilmember Vernon suggested the contract be executed based on the funds currently available in the account and review the reassessment fund thoroughly this budget session.

Auditor Weston reported the levy generates approximately \$300,000; the assessor's budget for 2009 is approximately \$577,000. With no cash balance, there will be a \$277,000 deficit for 2010. Councilmember Gutwein stated in 2010 \$1,000,000 will be needed to complete residential and agriculture and approximately \$500,000 to complete the commercial and industrial trending. Attorney Luhman suggested the assessor provide a monthly report to the council for spending in the reassessment fund. Councilmember Vernon suggested the assessor look at how best to utilize the current staff for reassessment to avoid additional cost.

Additional Appropriation: \$650,000

\$650,000	Contracts/Consulting
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- Councilmember Gutwein moved to approve \$500,000 for General Reassessment specifically for Tyler Technologies for the residential and agricultural contract, second by Councilmember Kemper; motion carried.

DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES – Angela Smith Grossman
Children's Psychiatric Residential Treat Fund 569

Director Angela Smith Grossman reported the Children's Psychiatric Residential Treatment Funds are set aside for Medicaid payments to residential facilities when children need specific psychiatric care. Bills are received quarterly or semi-annually and she believes this is the final tally of bills for 2008. Director Grossman added the account currently has approximately \$500,000 available.

Additional Appropriation: \$160,000

\$160,000	Medicaid/Preservation Svcs
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- Councilmember Vernon moved to approve the additional appropriation as presented, second by Councilmember Michael; motion carried.

CARY HOME
General Fund 001

Director Rebecca Humphrey requested an additional appropriation for a rebate received from purchasing food items.

Additional Appropriation: \$120

\$120	Departmental/Food
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- Councilmember Vernon moved to approve the additional appropriation as stated, second by Councilmember Michael; motion carried.

SURVEYOR – Jennifer Weston
Phase II Stormwater Fund 247

Auditor Weston reported during the 2009 budget hearings there was an error in calculating benefits for three employees paid from this fund. This appropriation covers the full year for the three employees.

Additional Appropriation: \$31,157

\$30,499	Insurance Benefits/Health
\$260	Insurance Benefits/LTD
\$398	Insurance Benefits/Life

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

AUDITOR
Plat Book Fund 165

Auditor Weston requested a transfer for printing plat book pages in-house. In the past, plat book pages were updated by hand; the printer would allow the auditor to update the pages as needed with the county's GIS parcel layer.

Transfer: \$1,286

\$541	Maint/Rebinding to Office Supplies
\$745	Maint/Rebinding to Equip/Capital Outlay

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

RESOLUTION 2009-14-CL

Attorney Luhman stated Resolution 2009-14-CL amends the Economic Development Income Tax Capital Improvement Plan. Attorney Luhman gave details regarding an amendment to the EDIT plan. Resolution 2009-14-CL amends the plan to include the additional funding for 2009 for prior projects 3, 6, 7, 10, 19, 24, 27, 38, 40, 43, 46, 49, 53, 57 and add two new projects.

Project #62 is for improvements at the Tippecanoe County Highway Garage to bring the garage in compliance with the NPDES Phase II Stormwater Plan not to exceed \$1,140,000.

Project #63 will provide funding for the Fairground Improvements Project to fund capital improvements at the Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds. This will include design and construction of an exposition hall. In 2009 a maximum of \$25,000 can be spent for planning of the project.

- Councilmember Kemper moved to approve Resolution 2009-14-CL endorsing the adoption of the amendment to the EDIT Capital Improvement Plan, second by Councilmember Michael; motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilmember Gutwein reported the Revenue Committee met to discuss the Wheel Tax which passed five years ago. The tax passed had no sunset provision but it was recommended the tax be reviewed in five years to determine if the revenue is still needed. Highway Director Opal Kuhl provided information to the Revenue Committee on how the wheel tax funds have been spent; \$832,000 was spent in 2008 on road improvements from wheel tax funds and \$840,000 was spent from Local Road and Street funds. He reported if the tax was rescinded one-half of the funds generated would be lost for road and street improvements. The committee concluded no other options were available for generating revenue for repair of roads; the consensus was to continue with the Wheel Tax.

UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS

Attorney Luhman reported the Resolution 2009-18-CL addresses changes made to the Romney Regional Sewer District. IDEM recommended the district have a five member board instead of a seven member board. The council has one appointment on the board. The commissioners have approved the resolution and have made their appointment to the board.

- Councilmember Kemper moved to table Resolution 2009-18-CL until the May meeting, second by Councilmember Basham; motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Paul Wright – West Point, stated homes appealed in 2007 should not be included in the general reassessment which would save the county money. He believes a local company should be involved with the assessor's employees to complete the job. Mr. Wright said the number of county employees has increased this year and funds are still being spent on new projects. He said if the reassessment budget was a problem the county should stop spending tax dollars on other projects.

Councilmember Basham said he will not approve any positions that are not needed.

Pearl Speakman – Lafayette, said if Judge Rush was sitting on the money for new probation officers she should have spent it sooner. He thinks the wheel tax should be rescinded and suggested the council talk to state legislature and consider imposing a gas tax instead. Mr. Pearlman asked the council to start thinking about the poor people that elected them into office.

COMMISSIONER'S FYI

Commissioner Byers congratulated Councilmember Kemper on the arrival of a new grandchild.

Doug Cripe from Weights and Measures is retiring and a reception will be held on April 30th, 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 at 629 N. 6th Street.

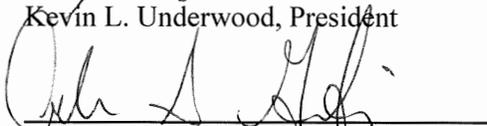
He thanked the council for keeping the wheel tax; 30-40 miles of road will be resurfaced this year which would not have been completed otherwise.

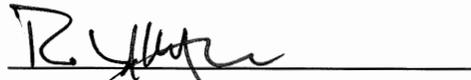
Commissioner Byers congratulated Rebecca Humphrey on her appointment to the National Advisory Committee for Juvenile Justice by the governor.

- Councilmember Kemper moved to adjourn.

TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL


Kevin L. Underwood, President

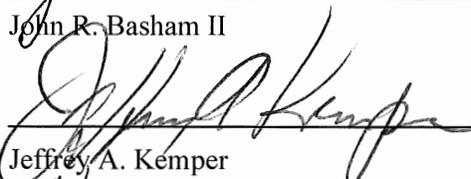

Andrew S. Gutwein, Vice President


Roland K. Winger


Attest:
Jennifer Weston, Auditor


Betty J. Michael


John R. Basham II


Jeffrey A. Kemper


Kathy Vernon