

**TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
JULY 11, 2006**

The Tippecanoe County Council Meeting began at 2:00 P.M. Tuesday, July 11, 2006 in the Tippecanoe Room in the County Office Building. Council members present were: President David S. Byers, Ronald L. Fruitt, Betty J. Michael, Thomas P. Murtaugh, Kevin L. Underwood, and Kathy Vernon. Others present were: Auditor Robert A. Plantenga, Attorney David W. Luhman, and Secretary Pauline E. Rohr. (Councilmember Jeffrey A. Kemper was absent.)

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

**AUDITOR'S FINANCIAL REPORT: Robert Plantenga**

Auditor Plantenga reported the 2006 total uncommitted County General Funds through June 30, 2006 are \$803,693.36. Of that amount, uncommitted court related funds total \$458,748.00 and uncommitted other than courts funds total \$344,945.36. The Revenue Report shows collections of 96% of projected Property Tax and 107% of projected Excise Tax. Line 42-20, Sheriff-Inmate House-DOC, shows collections of \$176,540 for charges incurred in November and December 2005. The 8 month collection total for 2005 is \$733,905. Line 61-10, Interest, totaling \$289,287.11 is close to the projection for the entire year. Auditor Plantenga noted General Fund 001, Cum Cap Fund 010, Cum Bridge Fund 011, and Jail Lease Rental Fund 020 are quite high because they are Property Tax supported. The General Fund balance as of 6/30/06 is \$1,254,876.30. Welfare Family & Children Fund 570 shows a 6/30 balance of \$3,474,403.34 that includes the \$1 million loan from the County.

Referring to lengthy discussions previously held regarding projected income for E-911 Fund 176, Councilmember Vernon noted that June receipts of \$184,059.20 are quite a bit larger than June disbursements of \$106,729.45. Auditor Plantenga responded that May receipts of \$56,500.81 were very small because of possible timing issues. He pointed out that income is lower during the two months when large lease payments are made.

**TREASURER'S INTEREST REPORT: Chief Deputy Shannon Withers**

Mrs. Withers distributed the Interest Report showing the average interest rate for May 2006 was 4.84%. She explained the interest is higher because of Property Tax payments.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- Councilmember Fruitt moved to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2006 Special Meeting with the Commissioners and Financial Consultant, seconded by Councilmember Underwood; motion carried.
- Councilmember Murtaugh moved to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2006 Regular Meeting, seconded by Councilmember Michael; motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Lafayette Mayor Tony Roswarski asked to address the Council early regarding Resolution 2006-20-CL that appears later on the Agenda because he has a scheduled meeting at 2:30 P.M. Although he said he is not opposed in theory or practice to the Vote Center concept, he wants the Council to be aware of his concerns before anything is decided. He pointed out the 2007 Municipal Elections will be the first time this concept is implemented if the County's application is approved.

1. Site selection by the Steering Committee is very important. Because there is the possibility that as many as 2/3rds of the voters will vote prior to election day, Mayor Roswarski thinks a lot of mailings will be necessary to educate voters. After examining the preliminary list of vote centers, he is concerned there won't be enough locations on election day if 2/3rds of the voters don't vote early.
2. Mayor Roswarski wondered how the cost will be divided between the cities if, for example, a West Lafayette resident votes at a Lafayette location.
3. The Mayor asked Attorney Luhman who will have the final say on voting places but Mr. Luhman said he had no answer.
4. Mayor Roswarski encouraged selection of back-up locations that meets the requirements in case the primary locations don't work out for some reason.

**CIRCUIT COURT**

**Additional Appropriation: \$3,301**  
3,301 Pauper Attorney

- Councilmember Underwood moved to approve \$3,301 for Pauper Attorney, seconded by Councilmember Michael; motion carried.

**SUPERIOR COURT III: Judge Loretta Rush**

**Additional Appropriation: \$4,806**  
500 Office Supplies  
4,000 Part-time-Other  
306 Social Security

Judge Rush explained she is using Part-time employees to help with the increased workload due to the addition of the Juvenile Magistrate. She estimated that \$4,000 will be enough to get them through the remainder of the year. Because of the increased caseload, she needs an additional \$500 for Office Supplies

- Councilmember Michael moved to approve the appropriation as requested, seconded by Councilmember Murtaugh; motion carried.

**PUBLIC DEFENDER: Amy Hutchison****General Fund 001****Additional Appropriations: \$74,348**

|        |                       |
|--------|-----------------------|
| 60,000 | Professional Services |
| 1,500  | Office Supplies       |
| 8,500  | Overtime              |
| 3,000  | Part-time-Other       |
| 880    | Social Security       |
| 468    | Retirement            |

| <u>Salary Statement</u> | <u>Position</u> | <u>Rate</u> | <u>Salary</u> |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------|
| Part-time-Other         |                 | 10/hr       |               |

**Public Defender Fee Fund 555****Additional Appropriation: \$16,000**

|        |                       |
|--------|-----------------------|
| 16,000 | Professional Services |
|--------|-----------------------|

Mrs. Hutchison explained that her requests will pay additional expenses incurred for the Gauvin trial that is now scheduled for October. She said she elected to hire an additional Part-time employee to provide support services for the Gauvin trial instead of hiring an additional Investigator because she thought it would be less expensive. She projected these requests will be sufficient to carry them until the end of the year. Because she anticipates a total amount of \$60,000 will be needed for Professional Services, she said the \$60,000 request in the General Fund can be reduced if the \$16,000 request in Fund 555 is approved.

Auditor Plantenga confirmed there should be \$16,000 in Fund 555. He said there was a balance of \$14,400 at the end of June and that Fund increases approximately \$2,000 per month.

- Councilmember Fruitt moved to approve General Fund 001 requests of \$44,000 for Professional Services, \$1,500 for Office Supplies, \$8,500 for Overtime, \$3,000 for Part-time-Other, \$880 for Social Security, and \$468 for Retirement, seconded by Councilmember Michael; motion carried.
- Councilmember Michael moved to approve the Salary Statement for Part-time – Other at \$10 per hour, seconded by Councilmember Fruitt; motion carried.
- Councilmember Fruitt moved to approve the Public Defender Fee Fund 555 request of \$16,000, seconded by Councilmember Michael; motion carried.

***SUPERIOR COURT VI: Race & Gender Grant Fund 548*****Additional Appropriation: \$3,496**

|       |            |
|-------|------------|
| 3,496 | Translator |
|-------|------------|

Auditor Plantenga explained this action will appropriate the cash in the grant that can be used to pay translating expenses.

- Councilmember Michael moved to appropriate \$3,496 in Race & Gender Grant Fund 548, seconded by Councilmember Murtaugh; motion carried.

***SHERIFF: Traffic Safety Grant Fund 183: Capt. Rick Walker*****Appropriation of Budget: \$5,901**

|       |                     |
|-------|---------------------|
| 5,901 | Equipment/Emergency |
|-------|---------------------|

Capt. Walker explained these funds will be used to purchase radar and portable breath test equipment.

- Councilmember Underwood moved to approve the appropriation of \$5,901 in Traffic Safety Grant Fund 183, seconded by Councilmember Vernon; motion carried.

***COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS: Executive Director Pat Scowden***

Mr. Scowden announced that Community Corrections was recently elevated to a Level 1 rating by the DOC because they are exceeding the expectations and meeting all the requirements because of their programs and personnel. As a result, their DOC Grant was increased \$110,000. Mr. Scowden requested approval of their annual fund budgets and salary statements for their grant year that runs from July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007.

**Project Income Fund 215**

|                         |             |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Appropriation of Budget | \$2,213,386 |
| Salary Statement        | \$1,201,782 |
| PT Secretary            | \$9/hr      |

President Byers said when the County built the Community Corrections Facility there was a "handshake" agreement with the DOC that money would come back to the County from Community Corrections to help pay for the building. However, the DOC has not allowed the payment. Mr. Scowden confirmed that the DOC will not approve payment for the building nor will they approve payment for rent. In response, President Byers asked what will happen if the County Council does not approve their budget. Mr. Scowden said the DOC will close Community Corrections and approximately 700 individuals will go into the County Jail because their programs defer individuals from Jail and the DOC. Because they are required to show the County's contribution on every grant application, he said they list the building as the County's in-kind payment.

Councilmember Michael remarked that, if the Council doesn't have a yea or nay in approving their budget, then they are a "rubber stamp". Mr. Scowden responded he can't spend a dollar without the County Council's approval.

President Byers asked if the Community Corrections Advisory Board approved the Budget. Mr. Scowden confirmed they did and said their salary increases are only as much as allowed for all other County employees.

- Councilmember Vernon moved to approve the Budget for Project Income Fund 215 and the Salary Statement, seconded by Councilmember Fruitt; motion carried with Councilmember Michael abstaining.

**Adult Grant Fund 217**

|                             |           |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Appropriation of Budget     | \$882,589 |
| Salary Statement            | \$477,106 |
| PT Day Reporting Supervisor | \$9/hr    |

- Councilmember Vernon moved to approve the Budget for Adult Grant Fund 217 and the Salary Statement, seconded by Councilmember Underwood; motion carried with Councilmember Michael abstaining.

**Community Transition Fund 219**

|                         |           |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Appropriation of Budget | \$110,772 |
|-------------------------|-----------|

- Councilmember Vernon moved to approve the Budget for Community Transition Fund 219 and the Salary Statement, seconded by Councilmember Underwood; motion carried with Councilmember Michael abstaining.

**Juvenile Grant Fund 641**

|                         |            |
|-------------------------|------------|
| Appropriation of Budget | ✓\$232,177 |
|-------------------------|------------|

- Councilmember Vernon moved to approve the Budget for Juvenile Grant Fund 641 and the Salary Statement, seconded by Councilmember Underwood; motion carried with Councilmember Michael abstaining.

**CASA**

**CASA Fund 501**

**Additional Appropriations: \$3,676**

|       |                                 |
|-------|---------------------------------|
| 1,500 | Computer Supplies               |
| 665   | Departmental Supplies/Education |
| 1,511 | Departmental Supplies/Misc      |

- Councilmember Fruitt moved to approve the appropriation of \$3,676 in CASA Fund 501, seconded by Councilmember Michael; motion carried.

**CASA Donations Fund 151**

**Additional Appropriations: \$6,500**

|       |                 |
|-------|-----------------|
| 6,038 | Part-time       |
| 462   | Social Security |

Auditor Plantenga explained this is a donation from the Community Foundation that is to be used to fund part-time.

- Councilmember Murtaugh moved to approve the appropriation of \$6,500 in CASA Donations Fund 151, seconded by Councilmember Vernon; motion carried.

***CARY HOME***

| <u>Salary Statement</u> | <u>Position</u> | <u>Rate</u> | <u>Salary</u> |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------|
| Full Time               | LPN             | 3,108.92    | 37,307        |

Councilmember Murtaugh explained this is a reclassification of the LPN, Medical Coordinator, due to additional responsibilities to qualify for State reimbursement. Since it is his understanding this reclassification was recommended by Wagner, Irwin, & Scheele several months ago but overlooked due to the change in the Executive Director position, he asked if the reclassification could be effective as of June 1, 2006. Auditor Plantenga didn't advise going back. Attorney Luhman agreed and said a reclassification should be effective from date it is approved or within the same pay period. It should not go back to include pay periods the employee already worked and received pay for.

- Councilmember Murtaugh moved to approve the salary statement for the LPN effective July 1, 2006, seconded by Councilmember Vernon.

Councilmember Vernon commented this reclassification was discussed during the last meeting of the County Reclassification Committee approximately two weeks ago.

- The motion carried.

***RESOLUTION 2006-20-CL: Authorize Application for Designation as Vote Center County: Election Board Member & Clerk Linda Phillips and Board of Election & Registration Co-Director Heather Maddox***

Resolution 2006-20-CL will appear in its entirety in the Ordinance and Resolution in the County Auditor's Office.

Mrs. Phillips reported the County's application to be designated as a Vote Center County is due by July 31<sup>st</sup> including a resolution from the County Council authorizing submittal of the application. She explained that, under our traditional method of precinct voting, every voter has only one correct place to vote on election day which means Tippecanoe County has 70 to 85 polling places with the same number of poll workers. The vote center concept has radically fewer polling places with only 1 per 10,000 voters required by State Law. Tippecanoe County would need 8 voter centers but she estimated we will have anywhere from 10 to 30. The vote centers will be linked electronically for voter check-in to enable a voter to vote at any one of the vote centers on election day.

Because notification to voters is essential, voters will be mailed a post card notifying them of which vote centers will be open for that election and the hours of voting. If the voter brings the post card and their picture ID to a vote center, voting will be very easy. Mrs. Phillips characterized vote center voting as a lifestyle voting change.

Another important component of the vote center concept is the satellite voting center that will go to the voters in such places as nursing homes, hospitals, and small rural communities prior to election day.

Referring to Mayor Roswarski's concerns expressed earlier in the meeting regarding voter center sites, Mrs. Phillips stressed that the list is preliminary and other site locations will be explored before they are determined by the Steering Committee. She listed the requirements for selection as a voter center:

- ADA accessible
- Adequate parking
- Room with minimum of 2,500 square
- Internet access within 300 feet of the voting room.

Ms Maddox said it is hard to think outside the box when picking places that are not traditionally used such as churches and schools.

Mrs. Phillips pointed out that elections are very expensive and vote centers can be a way to reduce costs. However, there will be initial one-time expenses that will occur such as massive voter education. They think the most cost effective way to reach voters before the Municipal Election in 2007 will be by a mass mailing to households with registered voters.

Mrs. Phillips discussed projected vote center costs: She reported there were 5,541 voters in the last Municipal Election when operational costs totaled \$19,879 or \$3.58 per vote compared to an estimated \$7,000 or 1.25 per vote for a vote center. The County already has adequate computers for the vote centers. However, one-time costs will total an estimated \$41,000 for the following:

- Laptops for absentee locations
- Firewall hardware
- Additional PC MIA cards for voting machines
- Directional signage to stations within the vote center.
- Re-doing and re-printing the voter manual.
- Testing
- Signs at former voting locations advising of voter center locations.

**2007 Budget Requests:**

|                       |           |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Conventional Precinct | \$295,245 |
| Vote Centers          | \$244,260 |

Councilmember Fruitt asked who will pick poll workers. Mrs. Phillips said State Law suggests that 5 precincts pick the workers for 1 vote center. She estimated 119 workers will be needed for the next Municipal Election and 411 for the next Presidential Election working split shifts. She explained that split shifts will be allowed for vote centers and should make it easier to get poll workers.

If the Council approves the Resolution today and the application is submitted by July 31<sup>st</sup>, Mrs. Phillips said the County will know by October 1<sup>st</sup> if we are designated as a Vote Center County. Political parties will be asked to appoint their members to the Steering Committee by October 16<sup>th</sup>. She thinks our chances are very good that we will be selected. Because of the time frame, Ms Maddox and Mrs. Phillips said they have not had time to seek public input on the vote center concept. Mrs. Phillips said the Election Board voted unanimously to proceed with the application process but the Council and Commissioners must approve submission of the application.

- Councilmember Murtaugh moved to approve Resolution 2006-20-CL, Authorizing Application for Designation as Vote Center County, seconded by Councilmember Vernon; motion carried.

***OTHER BUSINESS***

**2007 Budget Hearings**

The 2007 Budget Hearings are scheduled to begin at 1:00 P.M., Monday, August 21, 2006 in the Tippecanoe Room in the County Office Building. President Byers asked Councilmembers to discourage department heads from coming to the Hearings unless they have new information.

The next regularly scheduled County Council Meeting will be held at 2:00 P.M., Tuesday, August 8, 2006 in the Tippecanoe Room in the County Office Building.

**Dog Tax**

Auditor Plantenga asked the Council to examine a handout from the State Auditor's Conference regarding the County's options resulting from the rescinding of the State Dog Tax Fund, as of July 1, 2006. He said the Tax was used to replace any animal killed by dogs. Now that the Tax is rescinded, any such claims have to be paid from the County General Fund. Auditor Plantenga noted that the County Council has the option to impose a \$5 per dog County Option Dog Tax.

***FYI: Commissioner Ruth Shedd***

- The Council and Commissioners are invited to tour the new Journal & Courier facility at 10:00 A.M., Thursday, July 20, 2006.
- Lt Governor Becky Skillman spoke at the YMCA earlier today regarding the proposed 2007 State Budget.
- Three ribbon cuttings: Brady Lane & Concord intersection opening, Roadworks, and Wabash River River Fest and Dragon Boat Race.

***PUBLIC COMMENT***

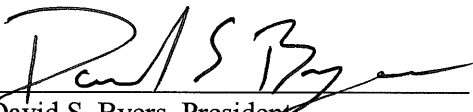
None.

Councilmember Byers announced he is competing in the "Kiss a Pig" contest at the upcoming 4-H Fair. All proceeds go toward 4-H scholarships.

**ADJOURNMENT**


- Upon Councilmember Fruitt's motion, the meeting adjourned.

**TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL**

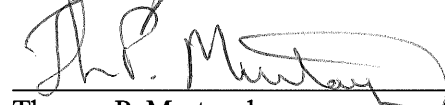
  
David S. Byers, President

Absent  
Jeffrey A. Kemper, Vice President

  
Ronald L. Fruitt

Attest:   
Robert A. Plantenga, Auditor

  
Betty J. Michael

  
Thomas P. Murtaugh

  
Kevin L. Underwood

  
Kathy Vernon