

**TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 12, 2003**

The Tippecanoe County Council held its Regular Meeting at 2:00 P.M., August 12, 2003 in the Tippecanoe Room in the County Office Building. Council members present were: Vice President Ronald L. Fruitt, Jeffrey Kessler, Betty J. Michael, and Jeffrey A. Kemper. Others present were: Auditor Robert A. Plantenga, Attorney Douglas J. Masson, and Secretary Pauline E. Rohr. (Councilmembers Connie Basham, David S. Byers, and Kathy Vernon were absent.)

Vice President Fruitt called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. He then called upon Rev. Steve Redman, Pastor of Immanuel United Church of Christ, to offer a prayer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Councilmember Kessler moved to approve the minutes of the July 8, 2003 Special Joint Meeting with the Commissioners and Financial Consultant, seconded by Councilmember Michael; motion carried.
- Councilmember Kemper moved to approve the minute of the July 8, 2003 Regular Meeting, seconded by Councilmember Kessler; motion carried.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT: Auditor Robert Plantenga

Auditor Plantenga reported the 2003 uncommitted County General Funds through July 31, 2003 are \$203,963.27. The Auditor's handouts included a year to date Revenue Interest Report, a Statement of Receipts & Disbursements for funds through July 2003, an Order for Payment of Pauper Counsel Fees from Superior Court Judge Don Johnson, and a letter from the Indiana Department of Correction (DOC). The letter from the DOC informs us that, due to a change in per diem calculations for housing juveniles at the Boys and Girls Schools we have a credit of \$31,485.37 for the previous two years. The credit will be applied to Tippecanoe County's debt balance.

INTEREST STATEMENT: Treasurer Oneta Tolle

Treasurer Tolle distributed the Interest Report showing the average interest rate for June 2003 was 1.31%. She said she expects to mail Property Tax Bills by the end of the month. Auditor Plantenga interjected that interest earned is 56% of where it should be.

ALLOY CUSTOM PRODUCTS, INC.: Compliance with Statement of Benefits: Louis M. Brubaker, CFO

The CF-1 Form showed:

	Estimated on SB-1	Actual
Current number of employees	49	60
Salaries	2,000,000	2,350,000
Number of employees retained	34	34
Number of additional employees	15	26
Salaries	800,000	1,150,000

- Based on increases in both employment and salaries, Councilmember Kessler moved to find Alloy Custom Products, Inc. is in substantial compliance, seconded by Councilmember Michael; motion carried.

SIA UPDATE: Tom Easterday, Vice President of Human Resources & Corporate Affairs and General Counsel

Due to the decline of Isuzu sales, SIA laid off 385 associates last year. They recalled 27 associates in July but additional lay offs will be necessary since 2004 is the last year the Isuzu Rodeo and Axiom vehicles will be produced in Lafayette. Because of this, Mr. Easterday said SIA is looking at attrition figures and will try to move some employees to the car side of the plant. Of the 122,432 vehicles produced in 2003, 97,193 will be Subarus and 25,239 will be Isuzus. He noted this is the last model year for the Subaru Legacy and Outback which will make them more difficult to sell. The new \$80 million flexible manufacturing system will allow four different body styles running down the production line after the leaving the body assembly area. Their goal is to produce 160,000 Subaru vehicles in 2006 compared to 122,000 in 2003. The

possible expansion of the engine plant in 2004 or 2005 may be an opportunity to add employees. If they can meet their goal of producing 200,000 vehicles by 2010, they should be able to recall laid off associates. He said the production wage for associates is \$22.79 per hour. As Tippecanoe County's largest taxpayer, he said SIA pays over 5% of property tax collected, 10% of Tippecanoe School Corp. tax, 6% of County Library Tax, and 2/3s of Sheffield Township's tax levy.

SUPERIOR COURT V: Judge Les Meade

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION: \$5,200.00
5,200.00 Pauper Attorney

Judge Meade explained they paid some 2002 Pauper Attorney bills with 2003 funds but recently received two additional bills for work done in 2002. Their 2003 request for \$10,000 was cut at Budget time to \$5,000. If approved, he hopes this request will carry this line item until the end of the year.

Councilmember Michael asked the criteria for determining eligibility for Pauper Counsel. Judge Meade responded he appoints a Public Defender if the person is indigent (no job or disabled). However, he may have to appoint an outside attorney if there is a conflict of interest with using a Public Defender. If the person is able to work, he will be expected to pay a portion of the cost of the Public Defender. He said each judge has his own criteria for determining if a person is indigent.

Councilmember Kemper asked if fees are tracked. Judge Meade said the Probation Department monitors to be sure the defendant meets the obligation.

- Councilmember Kessler moved to approve \$5,200 for Pauper Attorney, seconded by Councilmember Michael; motion carried.

SUPERIOR COURT II: Judge Tom Busch

General Fund 001

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION: \$31,075.00
2,600.00 Overtime
5,900.00 Part-time
651.00 Social Security
124.00 Retirement
300.00 Office Supplies
1,500.00 Psych & Physicians
20,000.00 Pauper Attorney

Jury Pay Fund 550

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION: \$10,000.00
10,000.00 Jury Expense

Judge Busch said most of their budget is spent and he projects they will spend as much in the second half of the year.

Jury Expense: They have spent the full \$5,000 budgeted in the General Fund and are holding two claims because of insufficient funds. They have spent almost all of the \$15,000 budgeted in the Jury Pay Fund and have a 1 week trial scheduled for October.

Psych & Physicians: This line item began with \$2,000 but has a zero balance. Judge Busch said Psychiatric exams are required for individuals convicted of certain sex crimes or to test for competency.

Pauper Attorney: They have a balance of \$2,100 of the budgeted \$30,000. He explained he hires an outside attorney for indigent appeals because the Public Defender does not handle those. It may also be necessary if the Public Defender has an insufficient number of attorneys to handle a case with multiple defendants, or if there would be a conflict of interest for the Public Defender to defend two defendants who are testifying against each other such as in drug cases.

Overtime: He is required to pay Overtime to the Bailiff and Court Reporter if they work more than eight (8) hours in a day during a jury trial.

Office Supplies: This account had a beginning balance of \$500 but now has a minus \$8 balance.

In an effort to save money, Judge Busch informed the Council the three felony courts have begun conducting Settlement Conferences to try to resolve court cases that are at least one year old. The Prosecutor presents his best offer in writing to the defendant's attorney for consideration. On Settlement Day, the defendant will be given the opportunity to take the offer or leave it. The judges' only involvement is to take a plea. They hope this will help decrease the jail population.

Auditor Plantenga interjected that the balance of approximately \$71,000 for Jury Pay Fund 550 showing on the Fund Report is the balance as of the end of July. Because payments have been made since that time, the amount that can be appropriated is closer to \$35,000. If this amount is depleted, there will not be a balance to appropriate for 2004. To give the Council an option, he reported that Superior Court II's request for Jury Expense was advertised in the General Fund as well as the Jury Pay Fund. Councilmember Kemper countered that, if the requests are granted today, one or the other fund will eventually run out.

Auditor Plantenga interjected that approximately \$11,000 of unused Health Insurance can be transferred to Part-time and Overtime without Council's approval since only one employee is on the County's plan.

- Councilmember Kemper moved to approve appropriations of \$300 for Office Supplies, \$1,500 for Psych & Physicians, and \$10,000 for Pauper Attorney from General Fund 001 and \$10,000 for Jury Expense from Jury Pay Fund 550, seconded by Councilmember Kessler; motion carried.

PARKS DEPARTMENT: Superintendent Ron Dye

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION: \$6,009.00

3,638.00 Workers Comp Insurance
2,371.00 Insurance

Mr. Dye requested additional funds to pay outstanding insurance bills. They owe \$3,638 for Workers Comp Insurance, \$463 for Liability Insurance, and \$1,908 for Property Insurance.

- Councilmember Kemper moved to appropriate \$3,638 for Workers Comp Insurance and \$2,371 for Insurance, seconded by Councilmember Michael; motion carried.

PUBLIC DEFENDER: Amy Hutchison

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION: \$29,810.00

25,833.00 Part-time Regular
1,977.00 Social Security
2,000.00 Office Supplies

Mrs. Hutchison requested the funds for Part-time Regular to pay three (3) attorneys and two (2) secretaries. She said she saves money by hiring two part-time secretaries rather than one full time with benefits. The three attorneys are Public Defenders. Auditor Plantenga reported that the Council cut \$42,000 from this line item at Budget time. With a \$4,000 balance at the end of July, Mrs. Hutchison projected the requested amount will carry her through the end of the year. She reported that she has already had 77 more cases for Superior Courts I and II and Circuit Court. The number of conflict of interest cases in which a client is a potential witness against another client has also increased.

- Councilmember Michael moved to appropriate \$25,833 for Part-time Regular, \$1,977 for Social Security, and \$750 for Office Supplies, seconded by Councilmember Kessler.

Councilmember Kemper said it is not consistent to give the full amount for Part-time, but he won't vote no today because four votes are needed to pass any action.

- The motion carried.

SHERIFF: Major Tracy Brown**Misdemeanant Fund 178****ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION: \$98,901.00**

23,901.00	Uniforms & Clothing
50,000.00	Medical
25,000.00	Supplies

Major Brown explained this is an annual appropriation from the State for housing misdemeanants in our Jail.

- Councilmember Kessler moved to approve the appropriation, seconded by Councilmember Michael; motion carried.

PROBATION**JAIBG Fund 602****ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION: \$10,200.00**

7,175.00	Salary (SHOCAP)
549.00	Social Security
341.00	Retirement
1,432.00	Health Insurance
450.00	Travel
252.00	Workers Comp

These are the cash match disbursements for the 4th quarter for the SHOCAP position for JAIBG Fund 602.

- Councilmember Kessler moved to approve the appropriation of \$10,200 for SHOCAP, seconded by Councilmember Kemper; motion carried.

CARY HOME: Director Rebecca Humphrey**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION: \$1,500.00**

1,000.00	Cleaning Supplies
500.00	Travel & Training

Mrs. Humphrey explained she has a balance of \$65.56 in her Cleaning Supplies budget that was cut for 2003. With an increase in census, they are running out of supplies such as necessary paper products. An appropriation of \$1,000 should be enough to get them through the rest of August, September, and October and she said she will ask for donations to get them through November and December. The Travel & Training appropriation will pay for complete CPR and First Aid training for four employees and updates for 7 employees through October. She is working with other sources to fund this required training for November and December.

- Councilmember Kemper moved to approve \$1,000 for Cleaning Supplies and \$500 for Travel & Training, seconded by Councilmember Michael; motion carried.

Councilmember Kessler asked Mrs. Humphrey if she anticipates a revenue reduction for 2004. She responded that the JAMS Program may not be funded by grants for 2004 in which case she will ask the Council to provide approximately \$89,000 from the General Fund for JAMS. She expects her revenue estimate of \$600,000 for 2004 will be doable.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: Director Steve Wettschurack**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION: \$2,700.00**

500.00	Siren Repair & Maintenance
300.00	Office Equipment Lease
600.00	Telephone
1,000.00	Garage
300.00	Dues & Subscriptions

Mr. Wettschurack explained he has unpaid bills totaling \$473 for Siren Repair & Maintenance to PSI/Cinergy and \$275 for Office Equipment Lease for weather information equipment. Due to

recent incidents such as the flood and tornados, bills for cell phones and pagers in the Telephone line item and fuel in the Garage line item have increased. The Dues & Subscriptions' request is for the Deputy Director and Secretary, but Mr. Wettschurack said that amount can be reduced to \$100 and he will find the remainder elsewhere.

Mr. Wettschurack said the County will receive reimbursement from FMA for all costs including time spent during the recent flood. He is working with the Sheriff's Department, the Parks Department, and within his own department to determine those costs.

- Councilmember Kessler moved to approve \$500 for Siren Repair & Maintenance, \$275 for Office Supplies, \$600 for Telephone, \$750 for Garage, and \$100 for Dues & Subscription, seconded by Councilmember Michael; motion carried.

SUPERIOR COURT: Judge Don Johnson

General Fund 001

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION: \$43,000.00

15,000.00 Overtime
 8,000.00 Part-time
 20,000.00 Pauper Attorney

TRANSFER: \$4,496.00

From:	001-7101-413-46-60	Central Law	4,496.00
To:	001-7101-411-13-10	Overtime	4,000.00
		Social Security	306.00
		Retirement	190.00

Jury Pay Fund 550

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION: \$10,000.00

10,000.00 Jury Expense

Judge Johnson said he requested amounts to carry these line items to the end of the year. He has \$17,310.43 in outstanding Pauper Attorney bills and \$0 balances in Overtime and Part-time. The spending pattern for Overtime is approximately \$3,000 per month and Part-time is \$1,500. He noted, as of August 12th, \$12,645 was spent for Part-time but he had projected \$18,000 would be spent. He credits the Settlement Conferences for the decrease in Part-time.

- Councilmember Kemper moved to approve an additional \$7,500 for Overtime, \$4,000 for Part-time, and \$20,000 for Pauper Attorney in the General Fund and \$10,000 for Jury Expense in the Jury Pay Fund, seconded by Councilmember Kessler.

Auditor Plantenga noted a balance of \$8,300 in the Central Law line item.

- Councilmember Kemper moved to approve the Transfer of \$4,496, seconded by Councilmember Kessler; motion carried.

When Judge Johnson was asked if he thought adding a Court Administrator position would be beneficial, he predicted such a position would cost the County more.

VETERANS

TRANSFER: \$4,000

From:	001-2810-411-17-10	Health Insurance	4,000.00
To:	001-2810-413-56-45	Burial Allowance	4,000.00

- Councilmember Kessler moved to approve the Transfer, seconded by Councilmember Kemper; motion carried.

SURVEYOR

EDIT Section Corners Fund 301

TRANSFER: \$3,000

From:	301-0420-411-11-10	Salaries & Wages Full time	3,000.00
To:	301-0420-413-32-10	Travel & Training	3,000.00

- Councilmember Kemper moved to approve the Transfer, seconded by Councilmember Kessler; motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS

TRANSFER: \$38,668.00

From:	001-1110-413-38-40	Vehicle Insurance	11,697.00
	001-1110-413-38-20	Liability Insurance	26,971.00
To:	001-1110-411-17-50	Workers Comp	38,668.00

- Councilmember Kessler moved to approve the Transfer, seconded by Councilmember Michael; motion carried.

FYI: Commissioner Ruth Shedd

- The Commissioners have been working with victims of the recent flood. Approximately ten homeowners may take advantage of the buy-out of their properties.
- Bobbie Huskey, Huskey & Associates, has begun interviews with County officials regarding construction of a Juvenile Detention Center.
- The Department Heads Luncheon will be held at Noon, Wednesday, August 13th. Topics of discussion will be the 2004 Budget, tax bills, and a flood update.

OTHER BUSINESS

The 2004 Budget Hearings will begin at 8:00 A.M., Monday, August 25, 2003.

Auditor Plantenga:

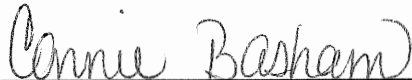
- Information from the State indicates a .9% reduction in COIT for 2004.
- User Fees revenue estimates submitted by departments are down from 2003 estimates.
- The Commissioners increased the Cum Bridge Fund levy to \$.04 for 2004. Since this increase will shift more money to Cum Bridge, there will be less available for the General Fund Budget.
- No interest from the Cum Bridge Fund is figured into the 2004 Revenue Estimates. It will be up to the Commissioners to offer interest to help the General Fund.

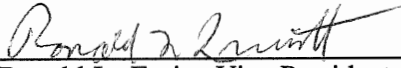
Councilmember Fruitt suggested holding a Working Session prior to Budget Hearings. Councilmember Kessler agreed the Council needs a game plan. The Commissioners were asked to meet with the Council in a joint session at 3:30 P.M., Thursday, August 21st.

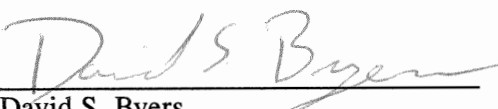
ADJOURNMENT


- Upon the motion by Councilmember Michael and the second by Councilmember Kessler, the meeting adjourned.

TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL

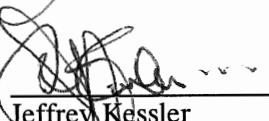

 Connie Basham, President


 Ronald L. Fruitt, Vice President

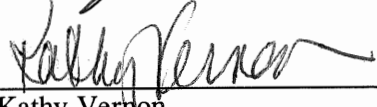

 David S. Byers

Attest: 
 Robert A. Plantenga, Auditor


 Jeffrey A. Kemper


 Jeffrey Kessler


 Betty J. Michael


 Kathy Vernon