

**TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 10, 2000**

The Tippecanoe County Council held its regular meeting on Tuesday, October 10, 2000 at 2:00 P.M. in the Tippecanoe Room in the County Office Building. Council members present were: President Jeffrey Kessler, Vice President David S. Byers, Connie Basham, Margaret K. Bell, Ronald L. Fruitt, Jeffrey A. Kemper, and David S. Koltick; Auditor Robert A. Plantenga, Attorney David W. Luhman, and Secretary Pauline E. Rohr.

President Kessler called the recessed meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. He then called upon Regina Todd Hicks, Director of Minority Programs at Purdue University School of Science, to offer a prayer.

PRESENTATION: County Achievement Award

Auditor Plantenga reported that Tippecanoe County received one of the County Achievement Awards presented by the Association of Indiana Counties (AIC) at the annual meeting in French Lick on October 4, 2000. The Award is presented to counties that exercise good judgment in planning that other counties can use as an example. The County received a road sign proclaiming the award as well as a plaque that reads:

(quote)

Association of
Indiana Counties, Inc.
proudly presents the
County Achievement Award
to
Tippecanoe County
For innovative leadership in
recognizing and addressing
difficult challenges in
county government.
presented on October 4, 2000

(unquote)

President Kessler thanked Councilmembers, the Commissioners, and the County's Financial Advisor, Greg Guerrettaz, for the award that he said proves the fiscal wellness of Tippecanoe County.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Councilmember Byers moved to approve the August 28 thru August 30, 2000 Budget Hearings' minutes as distributed, seconded by Councilmember Fruitt; motion carried.
- Councilmember Kemper moved to approve the September 12, 2000 Special Meeting minutes as distributed, seconded by Councilmember Basham; motion carried.
- Councilmember Koltick moved to approve the September 12, 2000 Regular Meeting minutes as distributed, seconded by Councilmember Bell; motion carried.

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION: Dale Grimes

Commissioner John Knochel and Surveyor Steve Murray presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Dale Grimes who is leaving the County after ten years of service. Mr. Grimes was Project Manager for the Tippecanoe County Section Corner Project.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT: Auditor Robert Plantenga

Auditor Plantenga reported the estimated 2000 uncommitted County General Funds through September 30, 2000 are \$288,450.43.

Discussion was held on possible uses for Fund 139, Traffic Fine Late Fee Fund, that was established by Order of County Court 2 Judge Laura Zeman. Attorney Luhman commented that Judge Zeman does not list restrictions on use of the funds in the Order.

Fund 161, Jury Pay Fund, was discussed as a source for paying Jury Expenses. Auditor Plantenga was asked to investigate how Fund 45, Court Costs, can be used.

INTEREST REPORT: Treasurer Ruth Davidson

Interest earned in July 2000 was \$555,242.33 and in August 2000 was \$544,182.14 with an average interest rate of 6.4%. MBIA interest earned in July 2000 was \$29,184.25 and in August 2000 was \$29,129.37 with an average interest rate of 6.35%.

Treasurer Davidson reported that twenty two of the thirty five parcels offered at the Tax Sale held on September 28th were sold for a total of \$117,783.06.

Mrs. Davidson expects the Treasurer's new Cashiering System will be installed and working during tax collections this November.

TREASURER

TRANSFER: \$750.00

| | | | |
|-------|--------------|----------------|--------|
| From: | 01-03-221000 | Printed Forms | 750.00 |
| To: | 01-03-400300 | Capital Outlay | 750.00 |

Treasurer Davidson requested the transfer of funds to purchase a refurbished drop box that will be installed outside the front entrance to TCOB for drop-off tax payments. She said there will be no temporary Tax Office at the Fairgrounds this fall.

- Councilmember Koltick moved to approve the transfer, seconded by Councilmember Basham; motion carried.

SIA STATEMENT OF BENEFITS

General Counsel Tom Easterday explained that the Statement of Benefits is for new manufacturing equipment for new Isuzu and Subaru models. They are requesting a 10 year abatement on this equipment. Resolution 97-14-CL declared the area an Economic Revitalization Area for a period of 10 years on the Real Estate Improvements and 10 years on Machinery.

Auditor Plantenga commented that special tools and dyes are depreciated so quickly that the amount abated may be more than their assessed value. Mr. Easterday responded that he is unsure of the lifetime of some of the special tools, but the dyes are kept for a long period of time. He said an abatement is an Economic Development tool that is used to give companies an incentive and is not supposed to coordinate with the life of a tool.

Auditor Plantenga clarified that, if approved, this abatement will be effective until 2010. The ERA expires in 2007.

Councilmember Koltick said the new engine plant SIA plans to build will bring growth to the community. He supports a 10 year abatement on this equipment.

- Councilmember Koltick moved to approve a 10 year abatement for the SB1 filed by SIA, seconded by Councilmember Fruitt; motion carried.

TABLED REQUESTS (9/12/2000)

- Councilmember Byers moved to take the requests for Probation and Superior Court III from the table, seconded by Councilmember Kemper; motion carried.

PROBATION

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION: \$4,320.00

4,320.00 Health Insurance

The request for additional funds for Health Insurance for the Probation Department is due to the rate increase that became effective August 1, 2000.

- Councilmember Byers moved to approve the request for an additional \$4,320.00 for Health Insurance, seconded by Councilmember Kemper; motion carried.

SUPERIOR COURT III**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS: \$1,165,224.00**

| | |
|------------|---|
| 633,975.00 | Institutional Care (Boys' School) (prior years) |
| 178,643.00 | Institutional Care (Boys' School) (current year) |
| 303,937.00 | Institutional Care (Girls' School) (prior years) |
| 48,669.00 | Institutional Care (Girls' School) (current year) |

Councilmember Basham reported that she spoke to Judge Rush about these requests, but Councilmember Basham would like to try negotiating with the State on the amount owed. President Kessler asked Councilmembers Kemper, Byers, and Basham to meet to discuss a solution.

- The request for additional funds from Superior Court III died for lack of action.

CLERK**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS: \$26,913.00**

| | |
|-----------|-----------------|
| 25,000.00 | Part-time |
| 1,913.00 | Social Security |

This request was not taken from the table but discussion was held at the request of the Auditor who asked for direction from the Council since there is a deficit of \$3,100 in this account. Councilmember Kemper suggested using funds from the Traffic Late Fee Fund 139 if Judge Zeman is agreeable. Councilmember Byers said this situation seems to be running rampant and the account shouldn't be showing a deficit. Clerk Betty Michael said Clerk's part-time employees work in all six courts and the Clerk's Office. She said the courts cannot operate without part-time help. In 1999, 10,400 traffic tickets were processed but over 11,000 have been processed so far this year. Mrs. Michael said she intended to lower her request to \$15,000. It was established that she has already spent \$41,000 for six part-time employees.

Councilmember Byers reported that he has been told that some of the Clerk's part-time employees are working on jobs that have been let go for some time and are not high priority. Mrs. Michael responded that she doesn't know what jobs he is referring to but, in her opinion, the cost is less to hire six part-time employees than two full time employees who could not accomplish the same amount of work. She said two part-timers work three days per week, three part-timers work two days per week, and one part-timer works four days per week. These part-time employees are performing regular clerk duties as well as processing traffic fines. Mrs. Michael said she has discussed Fund 139 with Judge Zeman and thinks the Judge will not object to using those funds for part-time.

Auditor Plantenga reiterated that the Clerk's Part-time Account has a deficit of \$3,100. He said if Judge Zeman agrees to using Fund 139 to pay part-time, it will have to be advertised. Councilmember Byers responded that funds shouldn't be spent that aren't available. Mrs. Michael said work ordered by a judge has to be done without question. She said the Clerk's employees do the initial paperwork for the courts.

Councilmember Basham said the Auditor needs direction on how to proceed with the negative account. Councilmember Koltick agreed this issue needs to be resolved. Attorney Luhman explained that, because its the Auditor's job to see that nothing is paid without an appropriation, there will be a month without part-time in the Clerk's Office because there are no funds. Even though monies could be forthcoming from Fund 139, he advised not putting the Auditor into the position of allowing part-time until that money is appropriated.

President Kessler said this issue will come back next month since the Council has said they will not pay part-time if the money isn't there. Clerk Michael said she will tell the judges there will be no part-time.

Councilmember Kemper stressed that, until there is funding, Mrs. Michael will have to tell her part-time employees that there is no work. He said the Council is saying to the Auditor, the judges, and the Clerk there will be no more part time until there are available funds. Mrs. Michael said she will tell them.

COUNTY COURT II/COMMISSIONERS: Commissioners' Assistant Jennifer Weston**Traffic Fine late Fee Fund 139****ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION: \$25,000.00**

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|-----------|---------------------|
| 25,000.00 | Courthouse Security |
|-----------|---------------------|

This request includes \$7,000 for a Heat Exchanger for the elevator, \$2,500 for a Position Indicator for the elevator, \$15,000 for installation of 16 Cameras, and \$500 for contingency. Judge Zeman has agreed that Traffic Fine late Fees Fund 139 may be used for these expenditures.

- Councilmember Kemper moved to approve the appropriation of \$25,000 for security equipment for the Courthouse, seconded by Councilmember Byers; motion carried.

PUBLIC DEFENDER: Amy Hutchison

Public Defender Fee Fund 42

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION: \$7,500.00

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|----------|-----------------------|
| 6,000.00 | Professional Services |
| 1,500.00 | Overtime |

- Councilmember Kemper moved to approve an additional appropriation of \$7,500 from the Public Defender Fee Fund 42, seconded by Councilmember Byers; motion carried.

County General Fund 01

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION: \$16,700.00

| | |
|-----------|-----------------------|
| 14,000.00 | Professional Services |
| 1,000.00 | Overtime |
| 400.00 | Office Supplies |
| 300.00 | Law Books |
| 1,000.00 | Training |

Mrs. Hutchison said she needs additional funds in the Training Account to pay for two attendees at a required Death Penalty Seminar. Additional funding is needed in Professional Services due to an increased caseload. She offered a \$200 cut to the Office Supplies request.

- Councilmember Kemper moved to approve \$7,000 for Professional Services, \$1,000 for Overtime, \$400 for Office Supplies, \$1,000 for Training, and \$300 for Law Books, seconded by Councilmember Koltick; motion carried.

SUPERIOR COURT: Court Reporter Christa Coffey

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION: \$3,670.00

| | |
|----------|----------------|
| 3,670.00 | Capital Outlay |
|----------|----------------|

Ms Coffey said they are experiencing problems with the 10 year old recording equipment that is used daily in the courtroom. The quality of the recording affects how well the Court Reporter can hear when preparing transcripts. The cost increases with poor quality. When the equipment is no longer functional, Ms Coffey said other recording equipment can probably be moved and used until a replacement can be delivered.

- Councilmember Kemper moved to table the request, seconded by Councilmember Basham; motion carried.

ANCILLARY: Court Reporter Christa Coffey

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION: \$19,116.00

| | |
|-----------|----------------------|
| 15,000.00 | Overtime/Transcripts |
| 890.00 | Social Security |
| 300.00 | Retirement |
| 926.00 | Health Insurance |
| 2,000.00 | Pauper Transcripts |

Although the fee for transcripts increased to \$4.50 per page on July 1, 2000, Councilmember Byers suggested raising the fee again to increase revenue. Councilmember Kemper suggested using the Court Costs Fund 45 to pay for these requests. Auditor Plantenga said he will have to research how that fund can be used.

President Kessler suggested approving a very small amount today and addressing these requests again in November. Auditor Plantenga noted that, as of the last payroll, the Overtime Transcript Account has a deficit of \$1,250. Ms Coffey said she has sufficient funds in Social Security, Health Insurance, and Retirement to last until next month.

- Councilmember Byers moved to approve \$5,000 for Overtime/Transcripts and \$1,000 for Pauper Transcripts, seconded by Councilmember Kemper; motion carried.

GIS: Director Keith Paris**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION: \$750.00**

750.00 Supplies

- Councilmember Koltick moved to approve the appropriation, seconded by Councilmember Kemper; motion carried.
- Councilmember Fruitt left the meeting.

COUNTY COURT II**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION: \$8,250.00**

5,000.00 Jury Expense
 750.00 Witness Fees
 2,500.00 Part-time

Councilmember Kemper said he will ask Judge Zeman to request Jury Expense from the Jury Pay Fund 161 and Witness Fees and Part-time from Court Costs Fund 45.

- Councilmember Kemper moved to table the requests until the November meeting, seconded by Councilmember Basham; motion carried.

CIRCUIT COURT: Bailiff Sue Lohrman**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION: \$5,146.00**

646.00 Guardian Ad-Litem
 2,500.00 Law Books
 2,000.00 Jury Expense

Mrs. Lohrman said she has a bill for \$982.20 and a balance of \$337.00 in Guardian Ad-Litem. Because the balance in Jury Expense is less than \$600.47 there will be insufficient funds to pay the jury that was called today. As of today, 8 jury trials are scheduled for the remainder of 2000. She has \$2,928.48 in outstanding bills in the Law Books Account for updates. Mrs. Lohrman noted that Judge Melichar does not subscribe to West Law on the computer which is an annual savings of approximately \$6,000. Because Judge Melichar is not covered by the County Health Insurance, she asked if funds can be transferred from this account.

- Councilmember Koltick moved to transfer \$2,000 to Jury Expense and \$2,000 to Law Books from Health Insurance, seconded by Councilmember Kemper; motion carried.
- Councilmember Kemper moved to approve an appropriation of \$646.00 for Guardian Ad-Litem, seconded by Councilmember Bell; motion carried.

SHERIFF**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION: \$60,000.00**

60,000.00 Operational Supplies/Food

- Councilmember Byers moved to approve an additional \$60,000 for Operational Supplies/Food, seconded by Councilmember Koltick; motion carried.

DRAINAGE BOARD: Surveyor Steve Murray, Commissioner John Knochel**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION: \$2,100.00**

2,100.00 Attorney Fees

Commissioner Knochel said additional funds are needed because subdivisions and rezonings are directly related to the Drainage Board. In addition, it is necessary for the attorney to attend required hearings for numerous petitions that have been filed for obstructed drains.

- Councilmember Bell moved to approve the appropriation of \$2,100, seconded by Councilmember Byers; motion carried.

COUNTY COURT I: Court Reporter Deb Long**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION: \$13,650.00**

13,650.00 Overtime

Ms Long said the account is overdrawn due to an error in their office. Judge Donat has agreed to pay no more Overtime for the remainder of the year.

Councilmember Kemper urged County Court I to request the appropriation from Court Costs Fund 45.

- Councilmember Kemper moved to table this request until the November meeting, seconded by Councilmember Koltick; motion carried.

INFORMATION SERVICES: Director Dan Gentry

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION: \$10,000.00

10,000.00 Capital Outlay

Director Gentry explained that a firewall is an electronic barrier placed between a public network (Internet) and a private one (County net). It is used to limit the access that the public users have to County computers, and to limit the access that County users have to the public Internet. Director Gentry said we are using a MS Proxy Server installed in 1997 for this purpose, but there are two problems with it. As hackers have become more sophisticated, it is no longer considered a safe solution. Secondly, we have new needs that the software cannot address. Plans to allow access for input to the Quest Program by police departments, schools, Cary Home, and DFC can create problems since they are outside the County's control. A Firewall will allow secure information between departments located at other sites in the County such as the 629 Building or the Highway Garage.

Auditor Plantenga pointed out that Mr. Gentry has \$290.00 left in his Capital Outlay Account.

- Councilmember Koltick moved to approve an appropriation of \$9,710.00 for Capital Outlay for a Firewall, seconded by Councilmember Bell; motion carried.
- Councilmember Basham left the meeting.

RESOLUTION 2000-34-CL: Funding Mental Health Centers

The Council can set an annual tax rate from \$0.04 up to \$0.10 outside the tax freeze for Mental Health Centers.

(quote)

RESOLUTION 2000-34-CL

**RESOLUTION CONFIRMING FUNDING
OF COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTERS**

WHEREAS, Indiana Code 12-29-2-2 requires counties to fund the operation of community mental health centers in an amount not less than the amount that would be raised by an annual tax rate of four cents (\$0.04) on each one hundred dollars (\$100.00) of taxable property within the county; and

WHEREAS, the Tippecanoe County Council did on September 12, 2000 duly adopt the 2001 budget for Tippecanoe County, which budget provided for funding for community mental health centers in an amount equivalent to an annual tax rate of six cents (\$0.06) on each one hundred dollars (\$100.00) of taxable property within the county; and

WHEREAS, the Tippecanoe County Council desires to confirm the amount of such funding and such tax rate.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the funding for the operation of community mental health centers in the County of Tippecanoe, State of Indiana for the year 2001 shall be and the same is hereby confirmed in an amount equivalent to the amount that would be raised by an annual tax rate of six cents (\$0.06) on each one hundred dollars (\$100.00) of taxable property within Tippecanoe County.

ADOPTED by the Tippecanoe County Council, this 10th day of October, 2000.

TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL

Jeffrey Kessler, President

David S. Byers, Vice President

 Connie Basham

 Margaret K. Bell

 Jeffrey A. Kemper

 David S. Koltick

 Ronald L. Fruitt

ATTEST:

 Robert Plantenga, Auditor

(unquote)

- Councilmember Byers moved to approve Resolution 2000-34-CL, seconded by Councilmember Kemper; motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Wea Township Assessor Nancy Moore brought to the Council's attention that her Clerk II is not paid the same as others in that position. Councilmember Koltick said he will contact Councilmember Fruitt and set a time to meet with Mrs. Moore to discuss this issue.

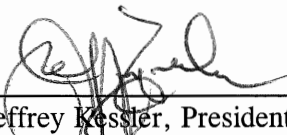
ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Byers moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Kemper; motion carried.

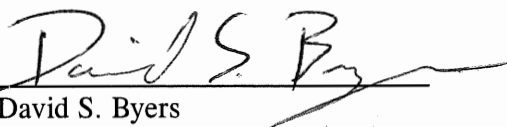
The Council will meet with officials from West Lafayette at 2:00 P.M., Thursday, November 9, 2000 followed by the Working Session at 3:30 P.M. The Council will meet with Judge Loretta Rush at 1:00 P.M., Tuesday, November 14, 2000 followed by the regular meeting at 2:00 P.M.

Robert A. Plantenga, Auditor

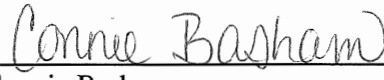
TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL



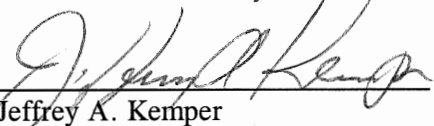
 Jeffrey Kessler, President



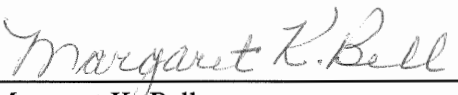
 David S. Byers



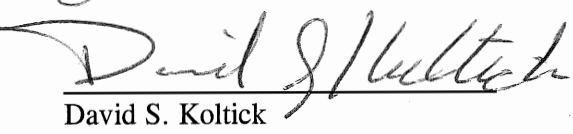
 Connie Basham



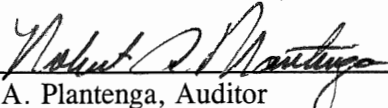
 Jeffrey A. Kemper



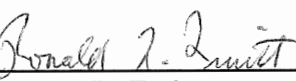
 Margaret K. Bell



 David S. Koltick

Attest: 

 Robert A. Plantenga, Auditor



 Ronald L. Fruitt