TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 27, 2007

The Tippecanoe County Council met at 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 27, 2007 in the Tippecanoe Room in the County Office Building. Council members present were: President Jeffrey A. Kemper, Vice President Thomas P. Murtaugh, David S. Byers, Andrew S. Gutwein, Betty J. Michael, and Kathy Vernon. Others present were: Auditor Jennifer Weston, Attorney David W. Luhman, and Secretary Jennifer Prange. Absent was Kevin Underwood.

President Kemper called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. President Kemper also called for a moment of silence to reflect on the duties ahead for the council and to those that have lost our lives.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Councilmember Byers moved to approve the minutes from the January 9, 2007 regular meeting, Councilmember Vernon seconded; motion carried.

AUDITOR'S FINANCIAL REPORT: Jennifer Weston

Auditor Weston presented a General Fund Financial Statement for February 2007. This included Fund Balances for January to with receipts and disbursements.

Financial Report

Uncommitted Funds as of February 2007	$1,981,908.39
Council Approved Appropriations for January	$ 40,532.00
Council Approved Reductions	+$ 13,148.00
Miscellaneous Expenditures	$ 2,539.00
Uncommitted Funds available:	$1,981,908.39

TREASURER'S INTEREST REPORT: Robert Plantenga

Treasurer Bob Plantenga reported that 2007 Interest summary for January is down a tick. He noted that currently interest on the General Fund is higher than budgeted due to the excess of funds in the account. Treasurer Plantenga also presented a report of interest on individual funds and stated that interest rates are currently 5.50%. He added that perhaps the council would like to take the current rate under advisement when loaning funds to the Department of Child Services.

VETERAN'S SERVICE: Randy Fairchild

Director Randy Fairchild presented information to the county council regarding his request for additional appropriations. Director Fairchild mentioned that he is in desperate need of individuals to drive the disabled veteran's van to out-of-town facilities. Director Fairchild noted that in the past he could rely on volunteers and most recently the number of volunteers has decreased dramatically. Director Fairchild stressed the importance of the DAV van to our community and strongly urged the council to consider his request.

Additional Appropriations: $10,000
$10,000 Contracts

- Councilmember Michael moved to approve additional appropriations for $10,000, seconded by Councilmember Byers; motion carried.

CIRCUIT COURT: Judge Don Daniels

Judge Don Daniels is requesting $50,000 for pauper attorney fees. He noted that a portion of the request is for pauper attorney fees remaining from 2006. Judge Daniels added that these fees are higher than last year based on two murder cases currently in the system and an increase in appeals. Currently, unpaid claims total $21,303 and he mentioned that additional funds are needed to carry them for the next few months. Councilmember Byers stated he is reluctant to appropriate funds for future services.

Additional Appropriations: $50,000

$50,000	Pauper Attorney Fees

- Councilmember Byers moved to approve $40,000 for Pauper Attorney fees, seconded by Councilmember Murtaugh; motion carried.

PROSECUTOR: Pat Harrington

Prosecutor Pat Harrington requested additional appropriations from the general fund to hire part-time staff to assist in scanning documents for electronic storage.

Additional Appropriations: $55,000

$51,000	Part-time staff
$ 4,000	Social Security

- Councilmember Michael moved to approve additional appropriations as stated, second by Councilmember Vernon; motion carried.

Prosecutor IV-D Incentive Fund 526

Prosecutor Harrington noted that additional appropriations are needed for part-time staff to reduce the paternity case overload remaining from 2006. He added that these funds, once spent, are eligible for two-thirds federal reimbursement.

Additional Appropriations: $30,000

$15,000	Part-time
$ 1,100	Social Security
$ 900	Retirement
$10,000	Equip/office
$ 3,000	Equip/DP-Hardware

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

Prosecutor Harrington asked for approval of a salary statement. He noted that this position has been reclassified and has been through the appropriate channels.

Salary Statement: $34,206
$34,206 Office Manager/Assistant to Prosecutor

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

SUPERIOR COURT 2: Judge Tom Busch

Family Counseling Fund 526

Judge Busch requested additional appropriations for contracts and educators. He noted that these funds are for services of divorced parents and guardian ad-lidems. These funds are received from individuals filing for divorce and paid directly to the clerk.

Additional Appropriations: $35,000
$35,000 Contracts/Educator

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

CIRCUIT COURT

Alternate Dispute Resolution Fund 545

Judge Busch and Judge Don Daniel noted that this request is for state grant money that is appropriated each year to assist low-income families with divorce mediation.

Additional Appropriations: $15,000
$15,000 Court Expenses/Mediation

- Councilmember Murtaugh moved to approve $15,000 from ADR Fund 545, second by Councilmember Michael; motion carried.

CLERK: Linda Phillips

Clerk IV-D Incentive Fund 162

Clerk Linda Phillips requested appropriations for IV-D expenses. She added that these funds are also eligible for two-thirds federal reimbursement from if spent before September 30, 2007.

Additional Appropriations: $31,062
$19,000 Salaries & Wages Part Time
$1454 Social Security
$2608 Office Supplies
$8000 Equipment/Office

- Councilmember Murtaugh moved to approve the additional appropriation as presented for Fund 162, second by Councilmember Gutwein; motion carried.

HIGHWAY: Opal Kuhl

Motor Vehicle Fund 101

Director Opal Kuhl requested funds granted for Major Moves in 2006 and 2007. Director Kuhl noted that these funds will be spent on rural improvements in 2007.

Additional Appropriations: $1,503,503
$1,503,503 Roads-Infrastructure

- Councilmember Byers moved to approve these appropriations as presented from Fund 101, second by Councilmember Gutwein; motion carried.

CASA

Donations Fund 151

Auditor Weston informed the council that Director Coleen Hamrick will be requesting appropriations for donations as they are received on a monthly basis for general operating expenses of the CASA program.

Additional Appropriations: $500
$500 General/Operating

- Councilmember Murtaugh to approve the request for additional appropriations in the amount of $500 for Fund 151, second by Councilmember Michael; motion carried.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS: Pat Scowden

Director Pat Scowden requested approval for a Truancy Mediation Assistant that was recently re-evaluated by Waggoner, Irwin and Scheele. He also requested approval for a Reentry Case Manager.

Salary Statement: $30,831
$30,831 Truancy Mediation Assistant

Salary Statement: $ 30,831
$30,831 Reentry Case Manager

- Councilmember Byers moved to approve the salary statements for both positions, second by Vernon; motion carried.

SURVEYOR

Watershed Grant Fund 247

Councilmember Vernon noted that this position has been through the Job Reclassification committee and unanimously approved.

Salary Statement: $38,054
$38,054 Stormwater Technician

- Councilmember Vernon moved to approve the Stormwater Technician salary statement, second by Councilmember Murtaugh; motion carried.

TEMA

K-9 Grant Fund 429

Auditor Weston noted that this request was submitted based on the grant agreement approval for lighting of the local K-9 facility.

Additional Appropriations
$ 3,434 Improvements/Lighting

- Councilmember Michael moved to approve appropriations for Grant 429 as stated, second by Councilmember Vernon; motion carried

HOUSING AND HOMELESS ISSUES GRANT FUND 470

Auditor Weston informed the council that Aimee Jacobson from the City of Lafayette and the Lafayette Housing Consortium has spearheaded this grant request. This grant has been approved by the commissioners for $27,500 and Auditor Weston noted that there was a cash match of $2,500 offered by the City of Lafayette.

Additional Appropriations
$27,500 Admin/Other Professional

- Councilmember Michael made a motion to approve appropriations as requested, second Murtaugh; motion carried.

TIPPECANOE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY – Capital Projects Resolution 2007-06-CL

Library Director Jos Holman and board member Van Phillips presented a Capital Project Plan for 2008. This plan includes renovations in 2008 for the downtown facility as well as the branch facility located in West Lafayette. Mr. Holman noted that the downtown facility was renovated in 2005 but did not include the youth services area. Plans for the youth services area include new carpet and restroom renovations. Mr. Holman added that a portion of the funds will also be used for the new branch facility set to open in June in West Lafayette. The branch facility funds will be used to provide an internal network, wide area network, and broadband internet. Mr. Holman mentioned that detailed information including a cost summary is available in the packet presented to the council. He noted that the total cost for the project is $125,000. Mr. Holman added that the Library Capital Projects Fund currently has $59,000 that will be used to help fund this project.

- Councilmember Byers moved to approve Resolution 2007-06-CL as presented, seconded by Councilmember Vernon; motion carried.

DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES

Angela Smith Grossman presented information regarding a request for funds. Ms. Grossman noted that 422 children a month were receiving services in 2006 in Tippecanoe County. In 2007, the amount of children served is approximately 382 per month. She stated that in 2006 and 2007 largest areas of growth were therapeutic homes and preservation services. Ms. Grossman stated that therapeutic homes are private agencies that provide foster homes to children that have been removed and preservation services include mental health counseling, substance abuse treatment, home-based case management and visitation. She provided case scenarios for the board in attempt to communicate the cost associated with different types of children in the system. Ms. Smith Grossman added that currently her staff is three times the size it was in January 2005. She stated that the previous case load was fifty-five children and thirty-five investigations per case manager; currently the case load is twenty-five cases and fifteen investigations. Ms. Smith Grossman added that has been a 40% increase in the number of kids in the system from two years ago.

Attorney Luhman summarized the Resolution 2007-05-CL Permitting Transfer of Monies between funds for cash flow purposes. IC 36-1.8-4 authorizes the county council to permit transfer of monies from one fund to another for cash flow purposes. The Tippecanoe County Family and Children's Fund has incurred unanticipated expenses in calendar year 2007 and will need to borrow $1,000,000.00 for cash flow purposes. There are currently sufficient monies on deposit in the Tippecanoe County Economic Development Rainy Day Fund that can be transferred to the Family and Children's Fund for cash flow purposes. The amendment then authorizes the transfer of $1,000,000 from Economic Redevelopment Fund that provides that the loan will bear interest of 5.625% per annum until repaid. It will be repaid by deduction of principal and accrued interest from monies otherwise due DCS from the June 2007 tax settlement.

- Councilmember Vernon moved to approve Resolution 2007-05-CL permitting transfer of monies for a loan between funds for cash flow purposes, second by Councilmember Murtaugh; motion carried.

YOUTH SERVICES UPDATE

Director Rebecca Humphrey mentioned that she is currently working with Director Angela Smith Grossman on the needs of children in our community. Director Humphrey is also researching foster care provided by the county in an effort to decrease cost incurred by the DCS. She discussed establishing a multi-disciplinary committee that will be comprised of critical partners in Tippecanoe County to be involved in the process of child welfare. This process will echo the efforts in the early 1990's that identified gaps in services and continuum of care. She added that a review of programming for alternative services will be presented to the council in March as well as a review of statistics and expenditures at the April meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

County Assessor Samantha Steele provided an outline to the council for trending bids. She noted that the county needs to begin a three year evaluation of commercial/industrial property that she estimates is 20% undervalued. Assessor Steele added that neighborhoods need new delineation and stratification in Tippecanoe County to provide fair and equitable assessments to taxpayers.

COMMISSIONERS FYI

President KD Benson noted that Department Head Luncheon is scheduled for February 28, 2007. The home on the fairground will be vacated within the next month and President Benson mentioned that the commissioners will visit the home and ultimately decide on the best placement of the home within the county. She added that a public thank you was in order to acknowledge the tremendous efforts put forth by Sheriff Brown and the Sheriff's Department, Mark Kirby and TEMA members, Joe Buntin and the Highway Department as well as Mike Haan and his maintenance staff. President Benson applauded the staff of the 24-hour facilities in the county that worked longer shifts and resided on property to maintain the services needed for those institutions. President Benson noted that water damage was incurred to the Loeb building during the blizzard which affected eight staff members of the Juvenile Alternatives Program. Lastly, she mentioned that the Wabash River Parkway Commission has combined with the Wabash River Enhancement Corporation.

COUNCIL ASSIGNMENTS AND APPOINTMENTS

- Councilmember Michael moved to approve the 2007 Council Appointments, second by Councilmember Murtaugh; motion carried.

President Kemper noted that he will be representing the county on a trip to Washington D.C. which will include 25-30 members of community to meet with area legislators.

Councilmember Byers stated that currently the general fund has a large amount of uncommitted funds and questioned whether or not the funds should be transferred to Rainy Day Funds or used to fund capital projects. President Kemper suggested that the council meet with the commissioners to discuss these funds in March.

ADJOURNMENT

- Councilmember Byers moved to adjourn.

TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL

Jeffrey A. Kemper, President

Betty J. Michael

Thomas P. Murtaugh, Vice President

David S. Byers

Andrew S. Gutwein

Absent

Kevin L. Underwood

Attest:

Jennifer Weston, Auditor

Kathy Vernon