TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
June 12, 2007

The Tippecanoe County Council met at 2:00 p. m. Tuesday, June 12, 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, Kevin Underwood, and Kathy Vernon. Others present were: Auditor Jennifer Weston, Attorney David W. Luhman, and Secretary Jennifer Prange.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Councilmember Byers moved to approve minutes from the May 15, 2007 regular meeting, second by Councilmember Michael; motion carried.

AUDITOR'S REPORT – Jennifer Weston

Auditor Weston presented a General Fund Financial Statement for May 2007.

Financial Report

Uncommitted Funds as of January 2007	$ 1,981,908.39
YTD Council Approved Appropriations as of April	$ 184,676.00
YTD Council Approved Reductions	+$ 13,148.00
YTD Miscellaneous Expenditures	$ 4,864.84
Uncommitted Funds available:	$ 1,535,320.55

TREASURER INTEREST REPORT – Robert Plantenga

Treasurer Plantenga noted interest rates are steady. The bulk of revenue has varying interest rates generating 5.64%, 5.48%, and 5.0% with an average of 5.50%. He noted the projected revenue from property tax collections for the cash balance should be $1.8 million by the end of June 2007.

COMPLIANCE WITH STATEMENT OF BENEFITS – Voestalpine Elmsteel, Inc.

Frank Maggio spoke on behalf of Voestalpine Elmsteel, Inc. He noted the employee rate has been steady as well as the business. He projects that this trend will continue through 2007.

- Councilmember Michael moved to find Voestalpine Elmsteel, Inc. compliant with statement of benefits, second by Councilmember Vernon; motion carried.

COMPLIANCE WITH STATEMENT OF BENEFITS – Atlas Excavating

Atlas Excavating did not have a representative present. President Kemper noted that there is a significant shortfall in the number of employees. He added that last year's employee rate was also short of the projected amount.

- Councilmember Michael moved to find Atlas Excavating not in compliant with the statement of benefits and requested a hearing date scheduled for the next County Council meeting July 10, 2007, second by Councilmember Gutwein. The motion carried with 1 no vote by Councilmember Byers.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT – Ron Cripe

Tobacco Settlement Fund 762

The Health Department is requesting $6,000 for adult vaccines.

Additional Appropriation: $6,000

$6,000	Medical Supplies

- Councilmember Byers moved to approve the request for additional appropriations in the amount of $6,000, second by Councilmember Underwood; motion carried.

Emergency Preparedness B Fund 476

This transfer is for color-coded vest used by emergency personnel to indicate different areas of responsibility in case of a public emergency.

Transfer: $1,550

$1,250	Office Supplies to Equipment
$300	Phone to Equipment

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

WIC – Colleen Batt

WIC Grant Fund 881

Director Batt is requesting additional appropriations based on a mid year grant revision. The funds are divided as required to support the state breast feeding program and summer dietetic students.

Additional Appropriation: $249,393

$5,000	Full Time Employee
$28,000	Part Time Other
$1,500	Social Security
$3,325	Worker's Compensation
$51,100	Miscellaneous
$160,468	Supplies

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

Salary Statement: $19.25 per hour

$19.25 hr	Lactation Management Coordinator

- Councilmember Byers moved to approve the salary statement of $19.25 an hour for a Lactation Management Coordinator, second by Councilmember Underwood; motion carried.

COUNTY ASSESSOR – Samantha Steele

Reassessment Fund 281

Assessor Steele requested additional appropriations for part time in the Wabash Assessor's office.

Additional Appropriation: $20,992
$19,500 Part Time
$1,492 Social Security

- Councilmember Byers moved to approve additional appropriations as requested, second by Councilmember Underwood; motion carried.

TIPPECANOE VILLA – DeAnna Sieber

Fund 001

Director DeAnna Sieber is requesting a transfer to purchase a new lawn mower for the villa. The Villa has an older mower that will be traded in on the new mower to reduce the cost.

Transfer: $8,775
$8,775 Full Time to Capital Outlay

- Councilmember Michael moved to approve the transfer as stated, second from Councilmember Murtaugh; motion carried.

PROSECUTOR – Pat Harrington

Prosecutor Drug Enforce Fund 257

Prosecutor Harrington is requesting a transfer for a new copier for the Drug Task Force Team.

Transfer: $2,300
$2,300 Office Expenses/Supplies to Equipment Data Processing Hardware

- Councilmember Murtaugh moved to approve the transfer as stated, second by Councilmember Vernon; motion carried.

AREA PLAN COMMISSION – Sallie Dell Fahey

Director Fahey presented a salary statement for approval. Her request to increase the maximum per hour is based on the skills needed to perform a large task in a short amount of time.

Salary Statement: $10-$40 per hour
$10-$40 hr Part Time Planner or GIS Technician or Intern

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

CASA

CASA Fund 501

Additional Appropriation: $14,356
$8,356 Office Expenses
$6,000 Department/Miscellaneous

- Councilmember Byers moved to approve the additional appropriation as stated from Fund 501, second by Councilmember Underwood; motion carried.

CASA Donation Fund 151

Additional Appropriation: $250
$250 General Donations/Misc.

- Councilmember Byers moved to approve the additional appropriation from Fund 151, second by Councilmember Gutwein; motion carried.

Salary Statement: $69,502
$38,054 Director
$31,448 Assistant Director

Salary Statement: $19,808
$19,808 Office Manager

- Councilmember Byers moved to approve the salary statements as presented, second by Councilmember Murtaugh; motion carried.

Fund 001

Additional Appropriation: $5,383
$3,000 Pauper Attorney
$2,000 Part Time Other
$383 Social Security

- Councilmember Gutwein moved to tabled the request from the general fund, second by Councilmember Murtaugh; motion carried.

DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES UPDATE – Angela Smith Grossman

Director Grossman noted outstanding bills are approximately two months behind in the amount of $1.9 million. Relative placements have increased recently from 11% to 18% in one month. She noted the tax draw is expected in late July. One million will go directly to pay off the loan obtained earlier in the year and DCS bills will be paid to date. She expects the cash balance will be zero for the December tax draw with an additional loan requested again in August.

YOUTH SERVICES UPDATE – Rebecca Humphrey

Site visits are scheduled with Mike McMillen in the next few weeks. Director Humphrey will provide a written report as to the possibility of the sites and estimated cost at the next commissioner meeting. According to a report from Mr. McMillen, the modular home at the fairgrounds is a good fit for the women's residential facility. The estimated cost is $29,000 and Director Humphrey suggested utilizing funds from the Juvenile Facility account through EDIT funding.

Director Humphrey stated Superior Court 3 and the Coalition for a Safe and Drug Free Tippecanoe have applied for alternative funding through Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) for $1.3 million. These funds will be used to expand services in mental health and substance abuse for youthful offenders. Also, an application for funding has been sent to the Indiana Juvenile Justice Task Force for re-entry funds for youth returning from correctional facilities.

An outcome study was completed by Director Humphrey for the Cary Home aftercare program. She added the executive director and the advisory board have reviewed the study and will be making changes accordingly. Tammy Patrick, former JAMS Coordinator, will serve as the new Juvenile Alternatives Director as of July 2, 2007.

LOCAL OPTION INCOME TAX (LOIT)

Greg Guerrattaz spoke regarding the Local Option Income Tax. He prepared a draft study for the purposes of demonstrating the impact of LOIT options to Tippecanoe County. He stressed that these estimates pertain to Tippecanoe County only and that they are contingent on several unanswered questions of the DLGF.

Greg Guerrattaz noted Non –Homesteads are 60% of assessed valuation. He added legislature has given the option of a "shift" from property taxes to income taxes under House Bill 1478. He reviewed items that affect the Tippecanoe County tax rates.

The draft study is available in its entirety in the office of the Tippecanoe County Auditor.

The focus of the presentation was on the following three options:

Local Income Taxes for Property Tax Relief

Provides that a county may impose a CAGIT or COIT tax rate of not more than 1% for: (1) property tax replacement credits; (2) an increase in the homestead credit percentage; or (3) property tax replacement credits for qualified residential property.

Mr. Guerrattaz presented charts showing the impact to the average homeowner, average taxpayer, and average qualifying residential property which could include homeowners and rental units.

Local Income Taxes to Freeze Property Tax Levy

Authorizes a county to adopt an additional county adjusted gross income tax (CAGIT) rate or an additional county option income tax (COIT) rate. Provides that the tax rate shall be set by the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) at an amount sufficient to raise tax revenue to replace the estimated increase in the following year of certain property tax levies in the county. Specifies that the tax rate may not exceed 1%. Provides that in the first year the tax rate is imposed, the tax rate shall be set for

each of the following two years. Provides that the tax rate set for the first year must be increased a specified amount above the amount needed to replace the tax levy growth, and that the excess tax revenue raised in the first year must be deposited in the county stabilization fund. Establishes a county stabilization fund in each county that imposes the additional tax rate. Provides that if the certified distributions exceed the estimated replacement amount used to determine the tax rate, the excess shall be deposited in the county stabilization fund. Specifies when money shall be distributed from the county stabilization fund. Provides that the tax rate may not be reduced or rescinded, but that the tax rate may be increased each year to replace the property tax levy growth that would otherwise occur in the following year.

Based on the county's business plan for growth in the maximum levy an estimated 3.7% in the first year, the second year 4.10% and in the third year 4.40% estimates were prepared for the needed income if the levies were frozen.

Local Income Taxes for Public Safety

Authorizes a county to impose an additional CAGIT or COIT tax rate for public safety. Specifies the conditions under which a county may impose the additional tax rate for public safety and specifies the maximum additional tax rate. Requires this tax revenue to be distributed to the county and municipalities in the county and to be used for public safety purposes.

Mr. Guerrattaz estimated how much each municipality in Tippecanoe County would receive as the result of a .1% and .25% increase in income for public safety.

The consensus of the council was to continue investigating the impact of these options throughout the coming year and to not make an immediate decision by the August 1st deadline.

CEDIT Homestead Credit

Auditor Weston spoke regarding the CEDIT Homestead Issue. She recapped events from February 2006 where an additional Homestead Credit was discussed to offset the affect of inventory deduction. It was also discussed the Homestead Credit be funded with an additional local option income tax of .1%.

The current proposal includes a decreased rate and/or distribution of credits based on tax dollars needed to offset loss of inventory taxes on an allocated basis as well as distribute remaining dollars based on uniform basis. In order to adopt any of the proposed changes, a public hearing is needed, which requires advertising 10 days in advance and an advertisement of the proposed ordinance.

Councilmember Gutwein suggested other options are available as well, such as rescinding the tax.

Councilmember Murtaugh expressed his interest in waiting another year for additional data since the decision to impose the tax has had only one year history.

- Councilmember Byers moved to adjourn.

TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL

Jeffrey A. Kemper, President

Betty J. Michael

Thomas P. Murtaugh, Vice President

absent

David S. Byers

Andrew S. Gutwein

Kevin L. Underwood

Attest:

Jennifer Weston, Auditor

Kathy Vernon