

Tippecanoe County Board of Commissioners  
Meeting  
Monday, November 21, 2016  
10:00 a.m.  
Tippecanoe Room, Tippecanoe County Office Building  
20 N 3rd Street, Lafayette, Indiana

The Tippecanoe County Commissioners met on Monday, November 21, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in the Tippecanoe Room in the County Office Building. Commissioners present were: President David S. Byers, Vice President Tracy A. Brown and Member Thomas P. Murtaugh. Also present were: Attorney Doug Masson, Auditor Robert Plantenga, Commissioners' Assistant Paula Bennett, and Recording Secretary Caitlin Thomas.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Murtaugh moved to approve the minutes from the November 7, 2016 as presented, second by Commissioner Brown. Motion carried.

**PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE VOUCHERS AND PAYROLL- PAULA BENNETT**

Commissioners' Assistant Paula Bennett recommended the claims from November 9, 2016 through November 21, 2016, including payroll from November 18, 2016 be approved without exception.

- Commissioner Brown moved to approve the Accounts Payable Vouchers and Payroll as presented, second by Commissioner Murtaugh; motion carried.

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT- DR JEREMY ADLER**

**Public Hearing for Syringe Exchange Program**

Dr. Adler presented the symptoms and effects of Hepatitis C as well as information about the rise in the number of cases in Tippecanoe County. From 2014 to 2015, new cases of the disease rose by about 50%. Most cases had been infected through injected drug use. A Syringe Exchange Program seeks to stop the spread of infectious diseases by providing free sterile syringes as part of a comprehensive public health program. Other benefits include the following: saving money, encourage safe disposal of syringes, serve as a link to drug treatment, healthcare, and social services.

The title of this proposed program is Gateway to Hope Program. It will include education, treatment referrals, testing for Hepatitis C and HIV, vaccines, health insurance enrollment through a certified health insurance navigator, safe syringe disposal, personal care kits, and referrals to an Indiana State Department of Health Disease Intervention Specialist. There are over 200 exchange programs in the US. These programs have received broad support from organizations both nationally and internationally.

Commissioner Murtaugh asked Dr. Adler to explain the severity score. Dr. Adler stated that it is a measure done by the Indiana State Department of Health that takes into account various factors with substituted abuse and scores every county. Tippecanoe County ranks in the top 10%.

## Public Discussion

President Byers opened the public hearing up to public comment.

## Supporting

Reverend Charlie Davis, Pastor at Unitarian Universalist Church - Revd. Davis stated he used to work as case manager for South East Wisconsin AIDS project. From experience, he knows that needle exchange programs work and assumed they were common practice. He believes that exchange programs do not encourage more drug use. He stated that this is an opportunity to show drug users that someone cares.

Bryan Kelly, Purdue Professor – Mr. Kelly said that he has studied substance abuse and infectious disease transmission for 15 year and seconded the information that Dr. Adler presented. The programs have almost 30 years of research backing exchanging. They connect drug users to health care community. Empirical evidence based on 30 years of research show that they do not increase drug use. Needle exchange programs decrease number of used syringes in the public community (e.g. parks, streets, etc.). These programs transform something that people throw away into something they can exchange for something they want, a new syringe. They also lower the risk of accidental needle sticks to first responders and law enforcement personnel.

Dr. Diane Begley, Family Practice Doctor – She has been living here since 1992 and has seen lots of changes. The goal is to get everyone off drugs, but we don't say we won't give you a blood pressure meds until you lose ten pounds. The cost of treating Hepatitis C is devastating. Asked the commissioners to treat to lower risk because it will affect community so much more than what they can imagine right now.

Tammy Lowe, Member of Drug Free Coalition – Ms. Lowe stated she is a member of the Drug Free Coalition and the chair of their policy advocacy committee. Funding for this group comes from grants and local counter measure fees. They meet once a month to discuss issues in community and award over \$100,000 in grants each year. Members voted to prioritize supporting needle exchange programs at November meeting. They didn't delve into what that looks like to support it and acknowledges it is a complex issue, but the majority of the group voted to support program.

Nick Pietrowski, Addiction Psychiatrist – He lives and practices in Lafayette. He asked them to support this program. These are important harm reduction tools designed to work alongside other prevention programs and law enforcement all with the goal of reducing the negative impact of opioid use.

Dr. Carrie Lawrence, Rural Center for AIDS/STD Prevention at IU Bloomington – This problem in Tippecanoe County is an echo of larger problem in the US. These problems are trying to prevent transmission of diseases between users. She said the Surgeon General stated drug usage needs to become more of a public health priority. This is not just a metropolitan issue; it is an Indiana issue. Many users use needles multiple times. In other exchange programs, syringes end up being around 6 cents each. Study found that for every dollar invested in preventative syringe access programs, \$3-\$7 will be saved in treatment costs.

Charles Hawthorne, student at Purdue University – Mr. Hawthorne explained that he has worked with syringe exchange in Washington D.C. He found that users were more likely to seek treatment through exchange program than traditional channels. This provides them with a really unique opportunity to repair relationships. He explained they were able to link users to further help through conversations about using, history, HIV testing, and other issues. Through this program, he had the opportunity to learn a lot about the people he worked with. He stated these programs are about helping people.

Reverend Lore B. Gibson, Senior pastor of Grace UMC – Her church started a ministry called A Better Life; Brianna’s Hope. She supports exchange program because have seen types of people affected by this. These people we are trying to help are veterans, young moms, and others. A program like this would provide structure and an avenue for people who need it to get help.

Kevin Hunter, Ft. Wayne Police Department Narcotics Division– Mr. Hunter stated that some people think these programs are against the law. He reminded that many government agencies have to agree on this for a program to begin. A person leaving doesn’t have to be arrested when they leave the site. Their exchange program in Allen County is not being targeted by law enforcement. Some people believe crime will increase. Tippecanoe County probably already has a heroin problem and the problems are only increasing. In the Allen County Jail, approximately 80% are there on drug related charges. He believes a program with wrap around services is a great idea. When trust is established, the addicts will use services and seek help. Something like this might be the only program that helps these people. Another issue is if this will bring people in from other counties issue. From his experience, he has learned a heroin addict’s world is very small and highly doubts that people will drive to get new needles. One less syringe is one less chance for first responders to be accidentally infected by needle.

Peter Bunder, Chaplain at Episcopal Church at Purdue – He wanted to make the Commissioners aware of the Interfaith Drug Policy Initiative. It is a group of churches that have been involved in needle exchange or syringe service programs since 1990. The Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis covers lower 2/3 of state. The clergy in Scott and Clark Counties have had the most experience with this issue. They say “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.”

Ben Rockwell –He stated that this is a crisis in our community and by the time patients get to him it is too late. They need access to patients that are in the midst of their addiction. This is an evidence based program that he supports and he believes pharmacists in general support. It has always been a policy in his profession to support clean needles.

Dr. Jim Bean, IU Arnett – Dr. Bean strongly recommends this program. He sees it as evidence based program that will help reduce burden of preventable, fatal diseases in patients.

Rhonda Stein – Ms. Stein explained that her son, TJ, passed at age 25 from OD. She has found this is a more widespread problem than most understand. She gave statistics about drug usage and its effects in the US and stated that she is frustrated that we are still discussing the same issues from four years ago. These programs are proven to save lives and provide help and resources. She asked the commissioners to support the syringe exchange program.

Dr. Diane Reis, Psychiatrist with IU Arnett – Dr. Reis echoed Dr. Bean’s support for the program and answer questions. The goal of needle exchange is harm reduction, not necessarily preventing substance abuse. Other people are affected by this, like sexual partners, first responders, etc. These programs look to reduce potential harm to entire community. She agrees that we need greater addiction treatments.

### **Against**

Patrick Flannelly, Chief of Police for Lafayette Police Department – Chief Flannelly stated he is not opposed to needle exchange program. He is concerned about initiating needle exchange program without fully understanding how it will function, what the location will be, and what will be the unintended consequences. Lafayette Police Department has recognized the issue for a long time. He reported that an officer was intentionally spit on and then the woman told him she had Hepatitis C. He worked narcotics for 6 years and learned heroin use is really a different type of addiction. People will travel anywhere and do whatever they have to in order to get more heroin. The Police Department would never target a program, but when we offer people help, we need to understand this different type of addiction. Scott

County programs did have people come from Louisville, Cincinnati, and other cities. He stated that he needs more questions answered before he can support the program being established at this time.

Mayor Tony Roswarski – Mayor Roswarski thanked Commissioner Brown and Dr. Adler for starting this conversation. He acknowledged that this is not just a public health issue; it is related to law enforcement and public safety too. He doesn't have problem with one being created, but there is no accountability for the people using the services. We need some sort of other motivation for people to get well. He also expressed concern about the program's location. Could we work with other counties? He said if we are viewing it as a medical health issue, he would love to see IU Arnett house the program. He is not opposed to concept, but believes we are not to the point where the public understands what this is. The public is just now starting to hear about it. He said he needs more questions answered and other things to be looked at before he can fully support one being established.

John Durell – Mr. Durell stated that he hasn't made up mind either way. He asked "What can we do for people who are suffering from illness as a consequence of using?" He believes this program will help this aspect of drug use. He also asked what does it do, if anything, about continued drug abuse? Is there data that proves these programs help users get clean? There is data that says there is no increase in drug users, but wonders if the number of users then just stays the same. He said he wants to see not only helping with clean needles but getting off the drugs and healing.

President Byers called public comment to a close and invited Dr. Adler to answer questions and explain details.

Dr. Adler – Dr. Adler thanked for opportunity to have public hearing. He acknowledged that this is a widespread problem and this program is part of solution. Reducing number of addicts and users are the other part. We need to do something now to stop spread of disease in Tippecanoe County. He thanked everyone who came out and spoke. He explained that the next step, if do receive approval of the commissioners, he would apply to Indiana State Department of Health to have program in county. They would then begin to work on funding (no tax dollars used in funding) and a location. They have several ideas, but they need an accessible location and location acceptable to surrounding community. He addressed the questions about data for reducing number of users. He explained that it doesn't increase users and the programs try to link individuals to programs that will help them stop using drugs. However, the program's priority is stopping spread of disease.

Commissioner Murtaugh asked about the cost of operating a program like this. Dr. Adler said he would like to have counselors on staff, but that might not be a possibility at first. As previously explained syringes are not expensive. Other programs have budgets varying from \$20,000-80,000 per year. Commission Murtaugh asked if the grants are renewable annually. Dr. Adler explained that state law allows them to run a program for one year and have to reapply annually. It would be staffed by Tippecanoe County Health Department employees.

Commissioner Murtaugh asked if there was legislation stipulating an agreement with a substance abuse health provider? Dr. Adler said they cannot require users to take part in counseling programs. They want to build trust with individuals so that they will be more likely to seek treatment.

Commissioner Murtaugh asked what happens if a pregnant woman comes in to get syringes. Dr. Adler says have to consider the risk to the infant as well. HIV can be passed from mother to infant. He would think that would still provide needles to prevent the mother from contracting a disease and transmitting it to the fetus.

Commissioner Murtaugh asked about minors since the program would not be checking ID's. Dr. Adler said will focus on people over the age of 18 and if sees younger children they will want t be more

aggressive with getting the other interventions in place. Commissioner Murtaugh expressed concern about the items kits contain. Dr. Adler said diseases are carried through blood and can get onto other equipment so must provide other equipment to prevent transmission

Commissioner Brown wanted to make known that received letters of support from Karen Combs, Cindy Murphy, Dr. Daniel Wickerd and Dr. Jeffery Brown, Dr. McQuad-Jones from Riggs Community Health, Jennifer Layton from Lafayette Transitional Housing, Tippecanoe County Coroner Donna Avolt, Don Teater from Teater Health Solutions, and Justin Philips. Commissioner Brown voiced appreciation for everyone being here today. He asked "If not now, when?" and stated he believes this is the right thing to do.

Commissioner Brown moved for adoption of Resolution 2016-32-CM, second by President Byers.

Commissioner Murtaugh said he was encouraged by the conversation about how we can help people in need. He believes there are risks to community and the numbers are relatively new. With the risks, he has concerns about establishing a program at this time. He stated he is not opposed, but does not think he has enough information.

Auditor Plantenga recorded the vote.

Byers – Yes

Brown – Yes

Murtaugh - No

Resolution 2016-32-CM passed 2-1.

#### **HIGHWAY- OPAL KUHL**

##### **Ordinance 2016-27-CM - Amending Tippecanoe County Code Chapter 72, Schedule I Traffic Schedule regarding Speed Limits – Second Reading**

Director Kuhl presented Ordinance 2016- 27-CM.

- Commissioner Murtaugh made a motion to hear ORD 2016-27-CM on second reading, second by Commissioner Brown. Motion carried to pass.

##### **Resolution 2016-31-CM – Resolution Concerning TCF Equipment Finance Master Equipment Lease Purchase Agreement No. 708742L and Schedule No. 001-0708742-300 Thereto**

Commissioner Brown moved to hear Resolution 2016-31-CM, second by Commissioner Murtaugh.

Director Kuhl presented Resolution 2016- 31-CM. Representatives from TCF available to sign paperwork after the meeting.

- Resolution passed.

##### **Professional Engineering Services Agreement– Tippecanoe County and Butler, Fairman, and Seufert, Inc. in connection with Traffic Study for CR 50 West from CR 500 North to CR 600 North**

Director Kuhl presented agreement with Butler, Fairman and Seufert, INC. for traffic study of intersections to cut down on accidents.

- Commissioner Brown moved for approval as presented, second by Commissioner Murtaugh. Motion carried.

**Donation Agreement – Tippecanoe County Klondike Road Project, Parcel 39F – John R. and Marilyn A. Weilbaker**

Director Kuhl presented the Donation Agreement for Parcel 39F.

- Commissioner Murtaugh moved to accept, second by Commissioner Brown. Motion carried.

**Temporary Easement Grant – Tippecanoe County Klondike Road Project – Parcel 39C, 39D, 39E – John R. and Marilyn A. Weilbaker**

Director Kuhl presented the Temporary Easement in the amount of \$700.

- Commissioner Murtaugh moved to accept, second by Commissioner Brown. Motion carried.

**Temporary Easement Grant – Tippecanoe County Klondike Road Project – Parcel 39F – John R. and Marilyn A. Weilbaker**

Director Kuhl presented the Temporary Easement Grant in the amount of \$1.

- Commissioner Murtaugh moved to accept, second by Commissioner Brown. Motion carried.

**Warranty Deed - Tippecanoe County Klondike Road Project – Parcel 39, 39A, 39B – John R. and Marilyn A. Weilbaker**

Director Kuhl presented the Warranty Deed in the amount of \$850.

- Commissioner Murtaugh moved to accept, second by Commissioner Brown. Motion carried.

**Continuation Certificate – Superior Structures, Inc.**

Director Kuhl presented the Continuation Certificate with Superior Structures, Inc. in the amount of \$5,000.

- Commissioner Brown moved to accept, second by Commissioner Murtaugh. Motion carried.

**HUMAN RESOURCES- SHIRLEY MENNEN**

**Consulting Agreement with RE Sutton & Associates**

Shirley presented the consulting agreement and advised there is no increase in rates.

- Commissioner Brown moved to accept, second by Commissioner Murtaugh. Motion Carried.

**COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS- JASON HUBER**

**Opening of Bids for sale of 2013 GMC Sierra**

- No bids presented

**Grant Agreement/MOU**

Mr. Huber asked for approval to accept the TANF grant in the amount \$161,744. Tippecanoe County is one of nine counties to receive grant. It will go to participates who are eligible for TANF. The goal of the grant is to reduce the number of people on government assistance through classes and therapy. TANF stands for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.

- Commissioner Brown moved to approve grant, second to Commissioner Murtaugh. Motion carried.

**PURDUE COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE – ROBERTA CRABTREE**

Ms. Crabtree asked for a renewal of the contract with Purdue Extension. She explained the benefits and services of the extension center. Commissioner Murtaugh asked if it will be the same dollar amount as last year. She explained there was an increase of about \$1000. President Byers asked if it pro-rates down for personnel leaving. She explained we pay the entire amount but that funding goes into a fund at Purdue and they utilize that instead of asking for more money.

- Commissioner Murtaugh moved to approve contract agreement, second by Commissioner Brown. Motion Carried.

**CHANGE ORDERS FOR 111 N 4TH STREET PROJECT**

Shepler Construction – decrease in the amount of \$2,526.01 for air handler motor repair

Everhart Heating and Cooling – increase in the amount of \$2,526.01 for air handler motor repair

Material and Labor to repair shower heads in basement in the amount of \$4,037.00.

- Commissioner Brown moved to accept changes, second by Commissioner Murtaugh. Motion carried.

**UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS**

None

**REPORTS ON FILE**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

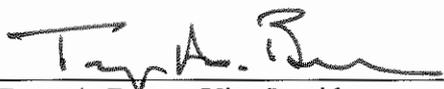
Cindy Murrey, Lafayette City Clerk – Thanked commissioners for contribution to the “Santa’s Needs A New Ride” fund and invited them to parade.

Sallie Fahey, Area Plan – Reported that tomorrow morning (Nov. 22) her office along with Tippecanoe School Corporation, Highway Department, law enforcement, and other traffic engineering experts will be doing a road safety audit for McCutcheon High School stretch and Mayflower stretch of Hwy 231. It should be eligible for highway safety improvement program money (HSIP), but HSIP projects are not automatic. They have to go through an approval process with the state safety committee first. One at McCutcheon and Harrison did not meet the committee's requirements to use HSIP. These audits will assist at obtaining funds. Creative traffic solutions and ideas come out of these audits. The audit is scheduled from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Commissioner Brown moved to adjourn. President Byers adjourned the meeting at 11:35 a.m.

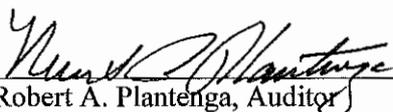
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF  
THE COUNTY OF TIPPECANOE

  
David S. Byers, President

  
Tracy A. Brown, Vice-President

  
Thomas P. Murtaugh, Member

ATTEST:

  
Robert A. Plantenga, Auditor 12/19/2016

Minutes prepared by Caitlin Thomas, Auditor Administrative Assistant