

**TIPPECANOE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**March 16, 2015**

The Tippecanoe County Commissioners met on Monday, March 16, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. in the Tippecanoe Room in the County Office Building. Commissioners present were: President Thomas P. Murtaugh, Vice President David S. Byers and Commissioner Tracy A. Brown. Also present were: Attorney Doug Masson, Auditor Bob Plantenga, Commissioners' Assistant Paula Bennett, and Recording Secretary Tillie Hennigar.

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

**PROCLAMATION – SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK**

Commissioner Murtaugh, West Lafayette Fire Department Chief Tim Heath, and Carol Shelby from Purdue University read the Proclamation declaring the week of March 15<sup>th</sup> through 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015 as Severe Weather Awareness Week.

TIPPECANOE COUNTY	
LAFAYETTE, WEST LAFAYETTE AND PURDUE UNIVERSITY	
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT	
PROCLAMATION	
"SEVERE WEATHER PREPAREDNESS WEEK"	
MARCH 15th - 21st 2015	
WHEREAS:	The months of March through June present the highest risk for severe thunderstorms and tornadoes to strike Tippecanoe County; and
WHEREAS:	Tippecanoe County is located within the nation's "Tornado Belt", becoming a prime target of devastating tornado outbreaks and other types of severe weather; and
WHEREAS:	A statewide tornado warning exercise will be held on March 19, 2015 at 10:15 AM and 7:35 PM EDT for the purpose of testing communications systems, equipment and procedures; and
WHEREAS:	During this week, the Tippecanoe County Emergency Management is emphasizing its safety procedures involving tornado activity;
NOW, THEREFORE,	
We, the undersigned do hereby proclaim the week of March 15th - 21st 2015 as	
SEVERE WEATHER PREPAREDNESS WEEK	
in Tippecanoe County and encourage all citizens to become aware of tornado danger signs, and to learn how to safeguard the lives of their families, friends, and citizenry in the event of severe weather activity in our area.	

TEMA Director "Smokey" Anderson added that Tippecanoe County had more tornadoes reported than any other county in Indiana from 1950 through 2014.

### ***APPROVAL OF MINUTES***

**March 2, 2015**

- Commissioner Byers moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held March 2, 2015, second by Commissioner Brown; motion carried.

### ***PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE VOUCHERS AND PAYROLL***

- Commissioner Brown moved to approve the accounts payable vouchers for March 3 through March 16, 2015 and payroll vouchers for March 13, 2015 as submitted to the Commissioners, second by Commissioner Byers; motion carried.

Auditor Plantenga said there were two claims submitted with items that were not in accordance with the travel policy. The first one is for Carrie Costello. The amount submitted was \$3003.03; two items were reduced and/or removed in the amount of \$655.00 and \$753.54. The second claim was for Marc Grupe which was submitted in the amount of \$80.39; \$47.33 was paid.

### ***GRANTS - Sharon Hutchison***

#### **Permission to Accept Grant**

Grant Facilitator Hutchison requested permission to accept a grant from the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) in the amount of \$65,206.04 for reimbursement of LEPC salaries January 1 through December 31, 2014 and \$13,750 for TEMA District equipment.

- Commissioner Byers moved to approve permission to accept the grants for TEMA as presented, second by Commissioner Brown; motion carried.

### ***PUBLIC DEFENDER- Amy Hutchison***

#### **Professional Services Contracts**

Public Defender Hutchison presented six Professional Services Agreements for: Yazmin Bronkema; Indy Translations, LLC; Richard Weinstein, Ph.D.; Katherine Bolyard; Claudia Rubio Samlowitz, DBA The Language Connection; and Forensic Bioinformatics.

- Commissioner Brown moved to approve the six agreements for the Public Defender as presented, second by Commissioner Byers; motion carried.

### ***SUPERIOR COURT 6- Dan Moore***

#### **Magistrate Court Reporter**

Magistrate Moore said currently in the Magistrate Court there is one full time and one part time Court Reporter; the part time employee works 30 hours and the position includes benefits. He requested the part time position be made a full time position. When the Magistrate position was created, the purpose was to serve Superior Courts 4, 5, and 6. Serving the lower courts is still the bulk of his work; however, the role expanded to two mornings per week for Circuit Court and has most recently expanded to include Superior Courts 1 and 2. He now devotes a portion of Friday morning into the three upper courts. The State of Indiana allocates what a full time court should work. Currently, including the two Magistrates, the Courts

in Tippecanoe County are at 1.5 which means the judges are utilized at 1.5 times what the State determines a full time judge should be.

Magistrate Moore continued to say part of the reason a Magistrate position exists is to balance the over utilization. Most of the time when he does work for the courts, he uses his staff which allows the court staff to work for their court; doubling the efficiency of the court. He goes to the jail every afternoon and takes a staff person – two full time staff persons will allow work to continue while he and the staff person are away; allowing maximum efficiency for other courts. All of the judges are in unanimous agreement that two full time positions are necessary to benefit the court system.

Commissioner Murtaugh asked about a full time person having enough work in six months or a year since filings are down. Magistrate Moore said he does not anticipate that happening as the numbers have gone up historically. Even with a small temporary downturn, it's unlikely to be significant. There would have to be a major reduction in the amount of the work the courts are doing collectively to create a lack of work for the second full time person.

Commissioner Murtaugh said the regular part time position would need to be eliminated. Magistrate Moore said the full time position would add seven hours to court time and also add PERF benefits.

- Commissioner Byers moved to approve the full time Court Reporter position, eliminating the part time Court Reporter position for the Magistrate, second by Commissioner Brown; motion carried.

***ASSESSOR- Eric Grossman***

**Permission to Cancel ARCvantage Contract**

Assessor Grossman requested approval to cancel a contract with Appraisal Research Corporation for a product called ARCvantage. ARCvantage is a cloud based assessment tool that takes State extract files and links them with County map files. It uses the same maps and data as Beacon and is an unnecessary duplication.

- Commissioner Brown moved to approve the termination of the ARCvantage contract as presented by Assessor Grossman, second by Commissioner Byers; motion carried.

***SPONSORSHIP AGREEMENT - 'ROUND THE FOUNTAIN ART FAIR - Janie Peters***

Jane Peters, sponsor representative requested permission to use the Courthouse square on Saturday, May 23, 2015 for the 'Round The Fountain Art Fair. The insurance is in place and it will be the same setup as previous years.

- Commissioner Byers moved to approve the Sponsorship Agreement for 'Round the Fountain Art Fair as presented, second by Commissioner Brown; motion carried.

***UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS***

Sheriff Richard and Human Resource Director Shirley Mennen said a former Jail Deputy left the County to join the military. He was in the military for two years which qualifies for the prerequisite to use USERRA to obtain his former position. Currently, the County is at full staff but obligated to create the position for the person to return at the rate as if they had been employed continuously. When a Jail

Deputy/Corrections Officer position opens up, the position will be eliminated at that time. The position must be created and a salary statement prepared prior to the person returning; he is aware of those steps.

- Commissioner Brown moved to approve the creation of the Jail Deputy position as presented, second by Commissioner Byers; motion carried.

**REPORTS ON FILE**

The following reports will be on file in the Commissioners' office:

- Clerk of the Circuit Court
- Public Library
- Treasurer

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Highway Director Kuhl said her department has been entering the data from the calls received over the weekend – it appears every gravel road in the County blew up this weekend. Temporary fixes started today, more permanent fixes will begin on gravel and paved roads potholes as soon as possible.

As there were no other public comments, Commissioner Byers moved to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 10:22 a.m.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF  
THE COUNTY OF TIPPECANOE

*absent*

Thomas P. Murtaugh, President

*David S. Byers*

David S. Byers, Vice President

*Tracy A. Brown*

Tracy A. Brown, Member

ATTEST:

*Robert A. Plantenga*  
Robert A Plantenga, Auditor 04/06/2015