TIPPECANOE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
December 30, 2013

The Tippecanoe County Commissioners met on Monday, December 30, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. in the Tippecanoe Room in the County Office Building. Commissioners present were: President David S. Byers, Vice President John L. Knochel, and Commissioner Thomas P. Murtaugh. Also present were: Attorney Doug Masson, Auditor Jennifer Weston, Commissioners' Assistant Frank Cederquist, and Recording Secretary Tillie Hennigar.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Commissioner Knochel moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held December 16, 2013, second by Commissioner Murtaugh; motion carried.

PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE VOUCHERS

- Commissioner Knochel moved to approve the accounts payable vouchers for December 19, 20, 23, 27, and 30, 2013 as submitted without exception, second by Commissioner Murtaugh; motion carried.

Commissioner Knochel voiced a concern regarding the last meeting of the year, stating that in the past the meeting was held to pay claims only. He questioned why the agenda deviates from past practices as it includes several items needing attention from the public and there are only two people from the public present. He feels the agenda should have remained as before with claims only. Commissioner Murtaugh said the original intent of the third meeting in December was to approve claims; however, in 2012, the last meeting of the year included a contract for the Recorder, a Professional Services Agreement for the Courts, an employee position change at the Fairgrounds, and appointments. In 2011, there was an approval for admissions to Cary Home and an Ordinance approving Commissioner's and Council's districts.

AWARD PARKING GARAGE CONTRACT

Attorney Masson said the Commissioners issued a Request For Proposals (RFP) for the management of the County parking facilities. Two proposals were received and opened on December 16, one from Link Management and the second from Mainstreet Management. The Commissioners reviewed the proposals and interviewed both companies. Based on the cost associated with the management, Link Management presented a flat fee proposal for staffing which resulted in a lower fee overall. Attorney Mason prepared a written evaluation and recommended it be endorsed by the Commissioners. The next step would be to authorize a contract for Link Management. Commissioner Murtaugh thanked both companies for submitting an RFP. The contract for Link Management is $4,350.00 per month; Denison is currently charging $5,024.00 per month. The Link Management contract will be effective January 1, 2014.

- Commissioner Murtaugh moved to approve endorsement of the evaluation as presented, second by Commissioner Knochel; motion carried.

- Commissioner Knochel moved to approve the contract between Tippecanoe County and Link Management as presented, second by Commissioner Murtaugh; motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AMTRAK CONTRACT

Commissioner Murtaugh said the Amtrak contract refers to continuance of the inter-state service through Lafayette for the corridor from Indianapolis to Chicago. The agreement is with INDOT who has been instrumental in putting the agreement together, covering half of the cost. The contract is for one year with a potential three month extension and a 30 day termination of the contract. If terminated, service would continue while an oversight board reviews and critiques the performance of Amtrak and possibly negotiates with a different vendor. The investment is being made by Beech Grove, Indianapolis, Crawfordsville, West Lafayette/Lafayette, and Rensselaer. Tippecanoe County's investment would be $25,000 per month during the initial one year contract. A 3% increase would be incurred for the additional three months if the contract is extended. Commissioner Murtaugh stated that the Amtrak contract is crucial for economic development purposes; if it goes away, it will never return. We owe our community and also those along the corridor an adequate and reliable service for the future. The contract is retroactive to October 1, 2013; upon approval, $75,000 is due.

President Byers invited public comment in favor of or opposed to the Amtrak contract.

Paul Wright – 4523 S County Line Rd, Westpoint – Mr. Wright said the State has limited their investment with a maximum and removed their liability. Commissioner Murtaugh said the maximum investment for Tippecanoe County is $25,000 per month with the 3% increase if extended three months. If there are changes such as any of the entities drop out, the contract can be terminated or renegotiated. Attorney Masson said liability responsibility would depend on who is negligent and there would be limitations under the Indiana Tort Claims Act. Looking at the investments from other cities, Mr. Wright asked why Renssalear was the last one making an investment. Commissioner Murtaugh said there are no additional stops after Renssalear until the train arrives in Chicago, which is the hub. President Byers said the train used to stop at Dyer but Dyer is not contributing; their city is no longer a stop. Mr. Wright asked if the board would be paid or volunteers. President Byers said there would be a non-paid representative from each entity. Mr. Wright quoted a paragraph stating "*local parties are required to employ people*" and asked if Tippecanoe County plans to employ people to operate the station. Commissioner Murtaugh replied that the section Mr. Wright is referring to is if there will be an RFP to solicit other companies other than Amtrak. The State is funding an RFP of the specifications and requirements of the rail service, at the cost of $190,000. Mr. Wright asked why Chicago is not contributing. Commissioner Murtaugh said from a ridership standpoint, Chicago has trains coming in from numerous areas; the potential of getting them to contribute is a slim possibility. Mr. Wright referred to an article from the Chicago Tribune regarding the contribution of Illinois for the ridership from Chicago to St. Louis and from Chicago through Detroit, commenting that both states are in serious financial shape because of programs like this. The Amtrak is a huge losing proposition in his opinion. Is there $60,000 per month of financial benefit between the County, Lafayette, and West Lafayette? Commissioner Murtaugh said the key is to make the investment in marketing and performance to become consistent and reliable. Mr. Wright said he could agree with Commissioner Murtaugh if the partnership was with an entity that operated at a profit – Amtrak is not that entity.

Ken McCammon – address not provided – Mr. McCammon said recently INDOT announced an eight mile expansion between SR38 and SR25. The expansion will increase the roadway to three lanes at a cost of $69 million or $8.6 million per mile. To subsidize 120 miles of rail service from Lafayette to Chicago for $300,000 or $2,500 per mile is something that needs considered for the long term. Mr. McCammon stated he does not ride the train frequently because it is not on schedule but he is in favor of the Amtrak contract.

Arviel Olson – address not provided – Mr. Olson said at the bequest of Greater Lafayette Commerce, he created a task force to study and preserve the current Hoosier state route and the current train service for a 15 month period. Passenger rail service has been a part of Tippecanoe County for 160 years. Lafayette and Tippecanoe County has always been a transportation hub; first by the river, then by canal, followed by railroads, roads, aviation, and interstates. Every mode of transportation considered requires some subsidy. The goal is to make it effective and efficient to meet the needs and demands of the current and long range market. The study commissioned by Greater Lafayette Commerce cost approximately $70,000. One of the points of the study was to maintain and improve transportation options between Lafayette, Chicago, and Indianapolis. Improved transportation is important for the future perception of Lafayette and Purdue University to attract and retain millennial age graduates and bright, sharp people. The millennial age group drives later and less, they prefer to carpool or use buses, they commute by riding bicycles, and they ride trains. States such as Michigan are in the process of reinventing itself with multiple trains throughout the state and into Chicago. The subsidy has dropped from $80 to $25 per person. Mr. Olson agrees that Amtrak is not a great model; however, when Amtrak enters into a partnership with States, the rules change; it is no longer a Federal/Amtrak relationship. Several trains in the east are profitable. The Hoosier state line is not profitable and possibly the worst train on Amtrak. It has poor on-time performance, has never been promoted or had a marketing budget, and departs and returns to Indianapolis at a dismal time. The opportunity of a 15 month contract, along with an RFP, pressures Amtrak to begin improving their route and service. Currently Amtrak is in the process of changing some of their route north of Dyer into Chicago; reducing the time by 35 minutes. Mr. Olson applauded Tippecanoe County for the willingness to be part of the experiment while work is being done to improve service and reduce the cost to make Amtrak a viable transportation method in our community.

Commissioner Knochel said he disagrees with Commissioner Murtaugh and Arviel Olson. The track has a terrible history and to think that Tippecanoe County would invest $25,000 a month is ludicrous. The community has other things that are just as pressing such as housing needs, the courts, and roads. He is opposed to the Amtrak contract.

Commissioner Byers said he understands both sides. He also knows that large amounts of money is given to businesses moving into the county for job training or other needs; without knowing their success. He is willing to stand behind the Amtrak contract due to the time limit. If Amtrak doesn't improve service and performance; the contract will end. Commissioner Byers said money was spent for a study to attract and improve air travel in the past; however the backing for air travel was $1 million and the County dropped their support.

- Commissioner Murtaugh moved to approve the Amtrak contract as presented, second by Commissioner Byers; motion carried. Commissioner Knochel was opposed.

***HIGHWAY** – Mike Spencer*
Awarding Quote – SR26/McCarty Lane Drainage Improvement Project

Highway Assistant Director Spencer presented a contract with Fairfield Contractors for the SR26 and McCarty Lane drainage project in the amount of $21,960.

- Commissioner Knochel moved to approve the drainage project as presented, second by Commissioner Murtaugh; motion carried.

Assistant Director Spencer presented the Performance Bond, the Payment Bond, and the Maintenance Bond with Fairfield Contractors for the SR26 and McCarty Lane project.

- Commissioner Knochel moved to approve the three Bonds as presented, second by Commissioner Murtaugh; motion carried.

Street Acceptance – Hawthorne Lakes, Section Two, for Westfalen Way–489.25', Percheron Place–508.09', and Clydesdale Drive-615.68'

Assistant Director Spencer recommended street acceptance for County maintenance of Westfalen Way, Percheron Place, and Clydesdale in Hawthorne Lakes.

- Commissioner Knochel moved to approve the street acceptance as presented, second by Commissioner Murtaugh; motion carried.

Sub-Division Street Maintenance Bond – Valenti-Held Contractor/Developer, Inc. for Hawthorne Lakes, Section Two

Sub-Division Street Maintenance Bond – Milestone Contractors, L.P. for Hawthorne Lakes Subdivision, Section Two

Assistant Director Spencer presented two Maintenance Bonds for the streets in Hawthorne Lakes, Section Two. The first bond is for Valenti-Held Contractor/Developer, Inc. in the amount of $6,563.50 and a second bond is for Milestone Contractors in the amount of $18,500.

- Commissioner Knochel moved to approve the two Maintenance Bonds as presented, second by Commissioner Murtaugh; motion carried.

Continuation Certificate – Eldon Emond DBA Emond Drainage

Assistant Director Spencer presented a Continuation Certificate for Eldon Emond, DBA Emond Drainage in the amount of $5,000 to continue work in the right-of-way.

- Commissioner Knochel moved to approve the Continuation Certificate as presented, second by Commissioner Murtaugh; motion carried.

***GRANTS** – Laurie Wilson*
Permission to Accept Grant

Grant Facilitator Wilson requested permission to accept a grant for the Health Department from the Indiana State Department of Health for the Bioterrorism Hospital Planning Grant in the amount of $6,500.

- Commissioner Knochel moved to approve permission to accept the grant as presented, second by Commissioner Murtaugh; motion carried.

Grant Facilitator Wilson requested permission to accept a grant for TEMA from the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) for LEPC Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant to fund Hazmat training in the amount of $9,350.

- Commissioner Knochel moved to approve permission to accept the grant as presented, second by Commissioner Murtaugh; motion carried.

Grant Facilitator Wilson requested permission to accept a grant for Superior Court 3 from the Supreme Court of Indiana for the Family Court Grant to fund mediators for alternative dispute resolution in the amount of $12,500.

- Commissioner Knochel moved to approve permission to accept the grant as presented, second by Commissioner Murtaugh; motion carried.

SUPERIOR COURT 3 *– Judge Faith Graham*
Business Class Service Order Agreement with Dr. James Ascough

In the absence of Judge Graham, Commissioner Murtaugh said the agreement with Dr. Ascough was heard previously but included a typing error. The addendum states a $400 payment for each individual psychological evaluation performed.

- Commissioner Murtaugh moved to approve Addendum A to the agreement for Dr. Ascough as presented, second by Commissioner Knochel; motion carried.

CARY HOME *– Rebecca Humphrey*
Ratifying Residential Contract Agreement

In the absence of Cary Home Director Humphrey, Commissioner Murtaugh presented the Residential Contract Agreement. Attorney Masson said his office reviewed the contract; it is similar to past contracts. Commissioner Murtaugh said the agreement was approved in 2012 as a two year agreement; therefore it needs approval for the next two years.

- Commissioner Murtaugh moved to ratify the Residential Contract Agreement as presented, second by Commissioner Knochel; motion carried.

Lease with Wabash Valley Alliance (for Medicaid Billing Purposes)

Commissioner Murtaugh said the lease with Wabash Valley Alliance for 2014 is the same as 2013 in the amount of $1,171.18 per year. The lease is for desk space at Cary Home for billing purposes.

- Commissioner Murtaugh moved to approve the Wabash Valley Alliance office space lease agreement as presented, second by Commissioner Knochel; motion carried.

UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS – none

REPORTS ON FILE

The following reports will be on file in the Commissioner's office.

- Clerk
- Treasurer

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ken McCammon – no address provided – Mr. McCammon said he is the President of Friends of Downtown. Approximately two years ago, Friends of Downtown approached the Commissioners requesting permission to replace the holiday lighting. After two years of research and gathering funds,

the lampshade consisting of about 600 incandescent bulbs was replaced with 1200 LED bulbs, using about 10-15% of the energy. He thanked the Commissioners for their permission. He thanked Houston Electric, funding from Community Foundation, and a number of individual citizens that contributed. Mr. McCammon said he would return in the next few months regarding additional changes to the Courthouse square. Within the next five years, the plan is to create a corridor of lighting from hilltop to hilltop to create a destination for those inside and outside the county to spend money and enjoy the downtown area.

Paul Wright – 4523 S County Line Rd, Westpoint – Mr. Wright said if Governor Pence eliminates business personal property tax, he wonders what it will do for Tippecanoe County's tax revenue. Auditor Weston said it will go down. Mr. Wright asked where that money will be made up. President Byers said the tax caps will probably be maxed on everyone. Auditor Weston said it depends on the tax rate. Some property owners are already at the cap and won't see a change in the tax bill, yet the County will lose money. Others will see an increase, up to the cap.

As there were no additional comments, Commissioner Knochel moved to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 10:48 a.m.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
THE COUNTY OF TIPPECANOE

David S. Byers, President

John L. Knochel, Vice President

Thomas P. Murtaugh, Member

ATTEST:

Jennifer Weston, Auditor 01/21/2013

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