

**TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL PUBLIC HEARING  
SEPTEMBER 7, 2005**

The Tippecanoe County Council Special Public Hearing began at 7:00 P.M. Wednesday, September 7, 2005 in the Tippecanoe Room in the County Office Building. Council members present were: President Kathy Vernon, David S. Byers, Jeffrey A. Kemper, Betty J. Michael, Thomas P. Murtaugh, and Kevin L. Underwood. Others present were: Auditor Robert A. Plantenga, Attorney David W. Luhman, and Secretary Pauline E. Rohr. (Councilmember Ronald L. Fruitt was absent.)

President Vernon called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. She announced this Public Hearing is being held to give members of the public the opportunity to ask questions or comment on the proposed 2006 Budget. She reported that the Council scrutinized the proposed budget on August 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, it has been posted on the County's website, and hard copies were made available in the County Auditor's Office. She asked those wishing to speak to give their name, address, and to limit their comments to 3 minutes.

President Vernon asked Auditor Plantenga to comment on the latest COIT information. Auditor Plantenga said he used the 2005 certified COIT amount for the 2006 Budget Hearings because he has not received definite numbers from the DLGF (Department of Local Government Finance). The COIT amount is supposed to be calculated on actual collections so the 14.4% increase that is being circulated seems like a big jump to him. He is especially skeptical since this same information gives a 37.4% increase for Benton County. Because the DLGF is still checking numbers, Auditor Plantenga said he is not ready to increase COIT 14.4% at this time.

**Public Hearing**

Jerry Bean, County Prosecutor: Mr. Bean requested the 6% increase for the Deputy Prosecutors and Investigators. He said, because the Investigators attend the law enforcement academy, they are law enforcement officers and deserve the same pay increase as Deputy Sheriffs received last year.. One Investigator does polygraphs, one is DTF, one Investigator received extensive training to conduct interviews with children, and Investigators also serve subpoenas, etc. He thinks most citizens are concerned about public safety. He said he would have to add 12 Deputy Prosecutors to be staffed at the same level as the Public Defender. Deputy Prosecutors are not paid Overtime, don't get longevity, and have no case limits.

Councilmember Byers asked if our Weights & Measures Officer can charge a fee for service. Attorney Luhman said Doug Cripe is checking into this possibility.

Councilmember Byers thinks the Building Permit fees for towns such as Battle Ground, Dayton, Shadeland, and Clarks Hill should be charged at the same level as the rest of the County. Attorney Luhman said the towns would have to agree to raise the fees. He said Area Plan Executive Director Sallie Fahey agreed to approach the towns to increase their fees but cannot force them to do so.

Councilmember Byers noted legislation that will increase judicial salaries every year until legislation to the contrary is passed. Attorney Luhman commented this causes the County to pay increased salaries for positions such as the Public Defender that are tied to judges' salaries.

Councilmember Byers asked if new legislation regarding storm water violations can be used to bill property owners for clean-up such as log jams. Attorney Luhman responded the County doesn't have a local ordinance to require landowners to pay for log jam clean-up.

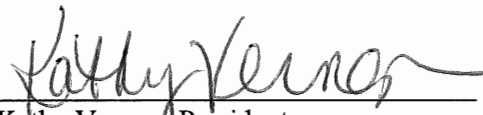
**Corrections: Auditor Plantenga**

Fund 240	Surveyor Cornerstone Perpetuation (\$16,193 added to Full Time Employee)	
	Social Security increased to	\$1,851
Fund 247	Phase II Stormwater (benefits for full time employee were not requested)	
	Health Insurance to	\$7,000
	Long Term Disability to	\$137
	Life to	\$93
	Workers Comp to	\$2,063
	Flex to	\$120
Fund 281	Reassessment (Fairfield Township Assessor employee listed in two budgets)	
	Full Time Employee reduced to	\$104,579
Fund 001	Fairfield Township Assessor	
	Full Time Employee longevity - increased to	\$26,932
Fund 301	EDIT Surveyor Cornerstone	
	Retirement reduced to	\$5,474
Fund 601	Criminal Justice Grant	
	Full Time Employees reduced to	\$93,989
	reduces from 6% increase to 2% increase	
	Benefits were adjusted accordingly	

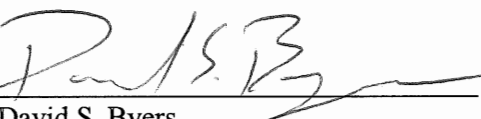
**ADJOURNMENT**

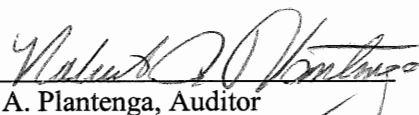
- Councilmember Michael moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Underwood; motion carried.

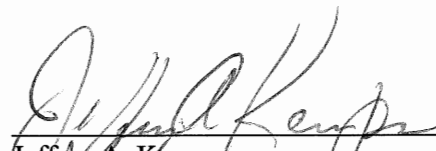
**TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL**

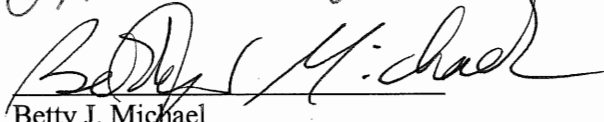
  
Kathy Vernon, President

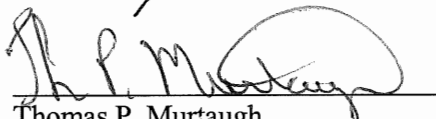
Absent  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ronald L. Fruitt, Vice President

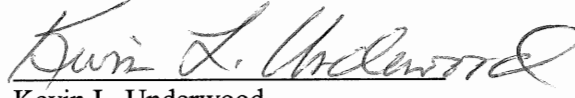
  
David S. Byers

Attest:   
Robert A. Plantenga, Auditor

  
Jeffrey A. Kemper

  
Betty J. Michael

  
Thomas P. Murtaugh

  
Kevin L. Underwood