

**TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 15, 2000**

The Tippecanoe County Council held a special meeting on Tuesday, February 15, 2000 at 1:00 P.M. in the Tippecanoe Room in the County Office Building. Council members present were: President Jeffrey Kessler, Connie Basham, Margaret K. Bell, David S. Byers, Ronald L. Fruitt, Jeffrey A. Kemper, and David S. Koltick; Auditor Robert A. Plantenga, Attorney David W. Luhman, and Secretary Pauline E. Rohr.

Sheriff David Murtaugh and Commissioner Ruth Shedd were also present. (NOTE: The meeting was posted as a joint meeting with the Council, Sheriff, and Commissioners but, due to the lack of a quorum because of Commissioner Hudson's vacation and Commissioner Knochel's illness, the meeting was held only between the Council and the Sheriff.)

President Kessler called the meeting to order.

JBI AGREEMENT

Sheriff Murtaugh said he will ask the Commissioners to approve an agreement with Justice Benefits, Inc. to research and recoup reimbursement opportunities from the federal government for the Sheriff's Department. These reimbursements will be deposited in the General Fund. He said JBI recouped approximately \$400,000 for Marion County. JBI's charge is 22% of the revenues recouped for the term of the Agreement which is four (4) years. The Agreement may be terminated after two (2) years with 30 days notice on the condition that JBI is entitled to 2 years' revenues with respect to each source they find.

SALARIES

The job study did not encompass the Sheriff's merit officers and he would like the Council to look at getting their salaries more in line with law enforcement in Lafayette and West Lafayette.

ANNUAL CALLS FOR SERVICE

Sheriff Murtaugh credited the mild weather in 1999 for the reduction of accidents (80) and the calls for service (70).

CIVIL PROCESS

Papers served by Civil Process increased 1,434 in 1999.

Sheriff Murtaugh said he will not request funding for new employees from County General Funds in 1999.

PORTABLE RADIOS

Ra-Comm, the local Motorola dealer, notified the Sheriff that the Motorola STX portable radios purchased in 1989 by his department are no longer repairable because replacement parts are not available. He said he will request EDIT Funds for 2001 to replace these radios. He suggested passing the portables now in use to non-emergency County personnel. Sheriff Murtaugh also proposed establishing a board similar to the Information Services Management Board to plan future radio purchases for County personnel.

JAIL REPORT

On Sunday, February 13th, 228 inmates were incarcerated. 30 were DOC inmates, 35 were serving jail time, and 163 were awaiting trial. There are 36 inmates in holding today.

He has spent approximately \$9,000 for housing prisoners in Boone and Warren Counties since the first of the year. Total cost for housing prisoners in Boone Co. in 1999 totaled \$24,000.

JAIL EXPANSION

Sheriff Murtaugh pointed out that the County's Fiscal Plan includes a new jail pod for 2001. He said he will ask the Commissioners to hire an architectural firm that specializes in jails to do a design study and provide an estimated cost to expand the jail. He estimates the cost for this service could range from \$5,000 to \$15,000 and may be reimbursed by the selected architect.

When the Jail was built in 1990, the population in 1 pod was limited to 50 inmates. Due to a change in regulations, 120 to 150 inmates can be housed in 1 pod.

Overcrowding and ADA issues need to be addressed in the holding area of the Jail. The number of overnight inmates may range from 20 to 40.

The old Work Release area can be converted to useable space for inmates, storage, etc.

Because the Jail has never been ADA compliant, compliance for the entire building is a necessity.

Due to the type system initially installed, the Electronic System in the Jail will only need an upgrade.

The Jail Building Authority, owner of the Jail, presently has no funds but could play a role in the financing of a Jail expansion.

If a new pod is built larger than presently needed, the County could contract with the DOC to house prisoners for income. Approximately 1400 DOC prisoners are currently housed in county jails around the State.

The Indiana Constitution does not allow for regional jails. The Jail is the Sheriff's first responsibility.

COMMUNICATIONS

Because the Sheriff's Department is now receiving all 911 calls made in Tippecanoe County from cell phones, the number of 911 calls answered in January 2000 totaled 3,274 compared to 747 in January 1999. For the first 13 days of February 2000, 600 more calls were received than for the first 13 days of February 1999. Due to the increase in 911 calls due to cell phone usage, the State is currently reimbursing the 911 Fund approximately \$10,000 per month. Sheriff Murtaugh predicts it will be necessary to hire additional Dispatchers and proposes to pay their salaries from these reimbursements to the 911 Fund. If an additional Dispatcher were hired in April, he said the cost would be \$22,000 for salary and benefits for the remainder of 2000.

AREAS OF CONCERN

Institutional Care: If cost for housing of inmates continues, this account may need additional funds.

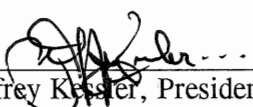
Food: \$70,000 was cut from the 2000 Budget in this account.

Animal Control: Because no budget was established for Animal Control, he has used the Garage account to purchase traps, cages, snares, etc. and plans to use his Professional Services Account to pay for a pathology report if the cause of death of an animal becomes a criminal proceeding.

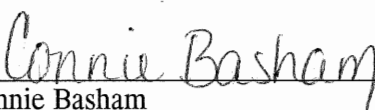
ADJOURNED

Robert A. Plantenga, Auditor

TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL

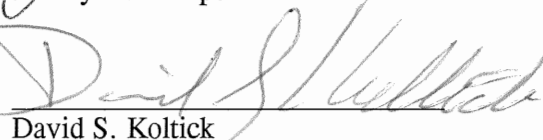

Jeffrey Kessler, President

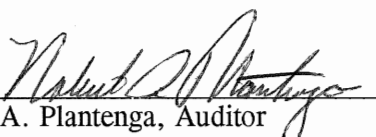

David S. Byers

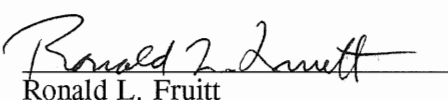

Connie Basham


Jeffrey A. Kemper


Margaret K. Bell


David S. Koltick

Attest: 
Robert A. Plantenga, Auditor


Ronald L. Fruitt