TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
May 10, 2011

The Tippecanoe County Council met Tuesday, May10, 2011 at 8:30 a. m. in the Tippecanoe Room in the County Office Building. Council members present were: President Andrew S. Gutwein, Vice-President Roland K. Winger, John R. Basham II, Jeffrey A. Kemper, Kevin L. Underwood, Kathy Vernon, and David R. Williams. Others present were: Deputy Auditor Dawn Rivera, Attorney David W. Luhman, and Secretary Kay Muse.

President Gutwein called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Councilmember Basham moved to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2011 regular meeting as presented, second by Councilmember Williams; motion carried.

AUDITOR'S FINANCIAL REPORT *– Deputy Auditor Dawn Rivera*

Deputy Auditor Dawn Rivera said the final property tax settlements total was $1,851, 310.92. She added the Circuit Breaker Report is also complete and shows the allowance for circuit breaker is $664,968.74. The beginning net balance is $1,100,815.88. Council has approved addition appropriations of $81,307, reductions of $828, and miscellaneous expenditures of $2,822.86; leaving an uncommitted fund balance of $1,017,514.02.

Beginning Net Balance	$1,851,310.92
Total Additional Appropriations	$ 81,307.00
Total Budget Reductions	$ 828.00
Miscellaneous Expenditures (to date)	$ 2,822.86
Uncommitted Funds	**$1,017,514.02**

TREASURER'S REPORT

Deputy Auditor Dawn Rivera said Treasurer Bob Plantenga could not attend today's meeting due to today's due date for property taxes. She added Treasurer Plantenga reported no significant changes from last month. Interest rates remain unchanged.

PUBLIC COMMENT *– Agenda Items*

None

RESOLUTION 2011-12-CL *– Designation of an Economic Revitalization Area and Application of voestalpine Rotec Inc. Declaratory Resolution*

Andrew Ball, president of voestalpine Rotec Inc. thanked the Council for their support over the past eleven years. Mr. Ball said this application relates to a $2,500,000 investment in real property and equipment. voestalpine Rotec Inc. currently employs 93 people. An additional 15 employees will be hired for this expansion. Growth is due to voestalpine Rotec Inc.'s safety-related component division expanding and the upturn in the economy. Councilmember Gutwein said this resolution would extend the Economic Revitalization Area to include 10 acres of adjacent property. Attorney Dave Luhman stated the original designated 7.5 acre Economic Revitalization Area has expired. This application will renew the original Economic Revitalization Area and include the additional 10 acre tract allowing for expansion. It will allow voestalpine Rotec Inc. to apply for property tax abatements for a 10 year period.

Councilmember Vernon asked when the hiring of the additional 15 employees would begin. Mr. Ball replied that hiring has begun.

- Councilmember Winger moved to approve Resolution 2011-12-CL, second by Councilmember Kemper; motion carried.

Attorney Luhman stated the confirmatory vote for this item would be placed on the agenda for the June meeting.

PROSECUTOR
Federal Drug Forfeiture Fund 263

Additional Appropriation $25,414

$24,414	General Operating / Misc

- Councilmember Kemper moved to table the Prosecutor's request to next month, second by Councilmember Williams; motion carried.

PUBLIC DEFENDER *– Amy Hutchinson*
General Fund 001

Public Defender Amy Hutchinson reported the $10,000 budgeted for part-time help is mostly depleted. A full-time employee does payroll and claims, but part-time employees are used for tasks such as answering the phone, typing, and other miscellaneous tasks. Councilmember Kemper said aggressive cuts were made to the Public Defender's budget this year since it was anticipated Public Defender fees would generate enough revenue to offset those cuts. However, collecting those fees has not been as productive as hoped and the part-time account currently has less than $1,000. Councilmember Vernon suggested researching the possibility of using employees from other departments during slow periods. Ms. Hutchinson said she would look into that possibility. Councilmember Basham said he understands the situation but has concerns the budget cuts were made solely to get the budget approved. Councilmember Kemper said when making those aggressive cuts the prospect of revenue from public defender fees was very optimistic. Director Hutchinson said she has been working with other departments to create a system that will allow for increased collection of fees. Ms. Hutchinson added the legislature has approved an additional $2,000,000 for the State public defender defense fund, which means the County should be reimbursed approximately 40% next year.

Additional Appropriation $20,000

$18,578	Salaries & Wages / Part Time
$ 1,422	Social Security

- Councilmember Kemper moved to approve the appropriation as presented, second by Councilmember Underwood; motion carried.

CASA *– Colleen Hamrick*
CASA GAL Fund 501

Director Hamrick said the State of Indiana awarded CASA $750 for the attendance of two volunteers to a training program. The State of Indiana is a pilot state for the "Fostering Futures for Older Children" program. This appropriation will be used for educational materials and mileage reimbursement for volunteers when they must travel out of the county.

Additional Appropriation $750

$150	Departmental / Education Materials
$600	General Operating / Mileage Reimbursement

- Councilmember Vernon moved to approve the appropriation as presented, second by Councilmember Williams; motion carried.

PARKS DEPARTMENT
General Fund 001

Director Allen Nail said this appropriation is for maintenance and upkeep of park grounds. It will be used to purchase flowers, grass seed, fertilizer, and other landscaping needs. It also includes the cost for contracted services in the use of restricted herbicide application.

Transfer $1,500

$1,500	Utilities / Misc to Maintenance / Grounds

- Councilmember Vernon moved to approve the transfer as presented, second by Councilmember Basham; motion carried.

HEALTH – Ron Cripe
H1N1 Grant Fund 462

- Councilmember Williams moved to remove this item from the table, second by Councilmember Underwood; motion carried.

Director Cripe said this portable shelter is climate controlled and has the approval of the Center for Disease Control. It would provide shelter for vaccine clinics and serve as a temporary shelter for emergency responders in the event of an emergency or catastrophic event. The shelter is portable, easy to set up, and very durable. The shelter would be available for use by local schools and other government agencies when not in use by the County. He added he has spoken with TEMA Director Smokey Anderson and storage of the shelter has been arranged. Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Tilara Treece said delivery time for the shelter is 45 days. She added other agencies such as the Coroner's Office or Sheriff's Department would utilize the shelter year round, adding that several other counties in the State have purchased similar shelters, which would allow the systems to be joined together if needed during an emergency event. Other possible uses are special events, such as the upcoming Super Bowl in Marion County (they have asked for help in the way of first aid tents) and emergency centers. Councilmember Vernon said a County the size and population of Tippecanoe County should have seven emergency shelters available. Director of Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Jeff Houston said that while Tippecanoe County does not have any portable shelters at this time, they are necessary and an enormous benefit in an emergency. Red Cross Director Bob Wollenburg said the American Red Cross works with the Sheriff's Department, Health Department, and TEMA and expressed the willingness of the Red Cross to help transport and store the shelter. He added that Tippecanoe County has needed this shelter for some time and the American Red Cross supports the purchase. Councilmember Winger asked if there are any planned uses for the shelter that are not emergencies. Director Cripe said the tent would be used for vaccine clinics and they are not considered actual emergencies.

Grant Appropriation $52,015

$52.015	Equipment / Emergency Equipment

- Councilmember Williams moved to approve the appropriation as presented, second by Councilmember Underwood; motion carried.

Mr. Wollenburg added that WorkForce One is training misplaced workers in an effort to help them re-enter the workforce. Since they are paid by the State, the County could utilize their skills to assist with office duties at no cost.

SHERIFF / TEMA
Sheriff Bomb Equipment Grant Fund 184

Sheriff Brown said this grant will be used to purchase equipment for the bomb team. The bomb team serves District 4 and is available for call-out service throughout the State of Indiana. Sheriff Brown said before accepting a grant three questions are asked; can the grant support the program, are there any ongoing costs, and can other partners in the public safety realm benefit from the program. This grant meets all the requirements. Sheriff Brown went on to say grant funding will almost certainly be cut by 17% next year so it is essential for public safety agencies to consider sharing equipment as an alternative to purchasing duplicating equipment. Councilmember Winger said that he has concerns with maintenance cost on certain equipment. Sheriff Brown said the mechanic for the Sheriff's garage would do all routine maintenance on the equipment. Councilmember Vernon suggested other counties within District 4 assist with the cost associated with maintaining emergency equipment acquired through the Homeland Security Grants. Councilmember Winger said TEMA is working on a document that would help recover those costs.

Grant Appropriation $34,557

$34,557	Equipment / Emergency Equipment

- Councilmember Williams moved to approve the appropriation as presented, second by Councilmember Vernon; motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2011-13-CL – *Establishing Sheriff's Firearms Destruction Fund*

Sheriff Brown stated certain firearms collected could not be returned to the owner for a variety of reasons, such as missing serial numbers, felony conviction, the firearm may have been stolen, or the owner cannot be located. Certified Firearms Solutions breaks down those firearms and destroys the frame or serialized parts. Non-firearm, non-serialized parts are salvaged and/or recycled. Certified Firearms Solutions does not charge for that service and will pay the Sheriff's department a set amount for these salvaged parts. These funds are to be used to purchase equipment for the Sheriff's department.

- Councilmember Williams moved to approve Resolution 2011-13-CL Sheriff's Firearm Destruction Fund, second by Councilmember Vernon; motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Uncollected user fees

Councilmember Underwood reported that a number of Council members and Commissioners have met with representatives from Court Services, Community Corrections, and Probation in an attempt to collaborate on issues of user fees in respect to the court system. Community Corrections has $2,800,000 in outstanding fees. Judge Morrissey, Judge Donat, and Clerk Christa Coffey also attended and discussed how the Clerk's office can help track those fees. Councilmember Kemper said these three departments work closely with the courts in an attempt to prevent over population at the jail, but have not always communicated with each other in the past. He added some items do need to be discussed between the

different departments. One way of assuring fees are paid is to prevent fees from being waived. Councilmember Underwood said another way of making sure these departments stay viable is to eliminate the overlap of services. Clerk Coffey said currently these departments collect their own fees and upon the completion of a program, any unpaid fees can be forwarded to the Clerk's office and put on the docket. Alerts can be placed on that file and Judges will have access to all unpaid fees.

TEMA Tornado Damage

Councilmember Basham reported that Tippecanoe Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) reviewed pictures of damage caused by the recent tornado in the Red Oaks subdivision located in the southeast corner of the county. Although many trees were uprooted and strewn in many directions, most homes in the area received minimal damage.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Wellness Center

Councilmember Vernon reported the Council received an update by way of an email on the Wellness Center. However, Director Mennen could not attend today's meeting so this item will be discussed at next month's meeting. Councilmember Vernon added questions about the Wellness Center could be discussed at that time.

June Agenda

Councilmember Williams asked that two items be placed on June's agenda: the idea of a consent agenda for line item transfers and a budget discussion. Councilmember Gutwein replied that those items will be placed on the agenda for next month's meeting.

COMMISSIONER FYI

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Paul Wright, *West Point* – said he appreciates the comments on the budget. He went on to say this morning in the Journal & Courier a "letter to the editor" referred to CityBus spending $2,500,000 for windmills with a possible return of $30,000 per year. The actual return could be less when considering maintenance cost. It will take 54 years to break even when you consider the interest charged. When government allocates funds, return is rarely considered on the investment. More income could be generated on interest from those funds and taxpayers end up paying for those items.

Clerk Christa Coffey, *Tippecanoe County Clerk* – said a fire in an offsite storage facility resulted in water damage to stored court records. She thanked all the many County departments that helped with the drying of those records. She added it has forced the Clerk's office to look at the permanency of the County's records. State standards are quite expensive to comply with, but it is necessary to move in that direction.

Sheriff Tracy Brown, *Tippecanoe County Sheriff* – said tickets are available for the sixth "Annual Sheriff's Fish Fry" scheduled for June 3, 2011. Approximately $70,000 has been raised for the American Red Cross over the last few years. Caterpillar was a tremendous help during last week's "Medal of Honor Bridge" dedication. Seven Medal of Honor recipients attended the dedication.

Councilmember Jeff Kemper, *Tippecanoe County Councilmember* – said the County Council is monitoring several departments to be aware of their self-sufficient status. Court Services has shown great improvement and Community Corrections is attempting to collect unpaid fees. He went on to say there should be more information in a month or two.

Councilmember Winger moved to adjourn.

Tippecanoe County Council

Andrew S. Gutwein, President

Roland K. Winger, Vice President

John R. Basham II

Jeffrey A. Kemper

Kevin L. Underwood

Kathy Vernon

David R. Williams

ATTEST:

Jennifer Weston, Auditor 6-14-2011