TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
February 10, 2009

The Tippecanoe County Council met at 8:30 a.m. on February 10, 2009 in the Tippecanoe Room in the County Office Building. Council members present were: President Kevin Underwood, Vice-President Andrew S. Gutwein, Jeffrey R. Kemper, John R. Basham II, Roland K. Winger, Betty J. Michael and Kathy Vernon. Others present were: Auditor Jennifer Weston, Attorney David W. Luhman, and Secretary Jennifer Prange.

Councilmember Underwood called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Councilmember Kemper moved to approve the minutes from the January 13, 2009 regular meeting, second by Councilmember Basham; motion carried.

AUDITOR'S FINANCIAL REPORT – Jennifer Weston

Cash Balance 1/1/09	- $10,978,609.12
2008 Property Tax Deposited in 2009	$13,589,135.73
Cash Balance w/Property Tax	$ 2,610,526.61
Council Approved Projected Misc Revenue 2009	$ 18,766,771.00
Projected Property Tax Levy 2009 (98% of estimated)	$ 18,130,000.00
Total Available	$ 39,507,297.61
Beginning Net Balance	$ 1,250,763.61
Total Additional Appropriations	$ 0.00
Total Budget Reductions	$ 0.00
Miscellaneous Expenditures (to date)	$ 0.00
Uncommitted Funds	**$ 1,250,763.61**

Auditor Weston provided General Fund Actual Receipts for December 31, 2008.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Bob Plantenga

Treasurer Plantenga reported with the decrease in interest rates, the budgeted $900,000 for 2009 may be difficult to obtain. He added Lafayette Bank & Trust and Chase Bank are giving the county more interest than required by the Cash Management Agreement. In 2008, $138 million was collected from taxpayers with $206 million distributed to schools, cities, and the county. Treasurer Plantenga is projecting two billing cycles for 2009 with the first bill sent in June.

CIRCUIT COURT – Cindy Garwood

Alt Dispute Resolution Fund 545

Cindy Garwood requested an additional appropriation for mediation services on behalf of the court. Fees collected are for court expense for divorces and paternity fees.

Additional Appropriation: $15,000

$15,000	Court Expenses/Mediation

- Councilmember Kemper moved to approve the additional appropriation as requested, second by Councilmember Michael; motion carried.

IV-D COURT

Salary Statement: up to $14.00 per/hr

$14.00per/hr	Part-Time

- Councilmember Kemper moved to approve the salary statement up to $14.00 per hour, second by Councilmember Gutwein; motion carried.

CLERK – Linda Phillips

Clerks Record Perp Fund 160

Clerk Linda Phillips requested an additional appropriation for additional part-time and office equipment. She added the funds in this account are accrued from late fees on traffic tickets and statutory fees charged for each case.

Additional Appropriation: $35,307

$18,000	Part-Time
$1,377	Social Security
$3,500	Office Supplies
$12,430	Equip/Capital Outlay-Misc.

- Councilmember Michael moved to approve the additional appropriation as requested, second by Councilmember Winger; motion carried.

Clerk IV-D Incentive Fund 162

Clerk Phillips requested an additional appropriation for the incentive money received in 2008 and 2009. These funds are received once a year and are only used to supplement the IV-D program.

Additional Appropriation: $49,390

$34,000	Part-Time
$2,601	Social Security
$2,789	Office Supplies
$8,000	Other Professional Services
$2,000	Equipment/Capital Outlay-Misc

- Councilmember Michael moved to approve the additional appropriation as requested; second by Councilmember Kemper; motion carried.

CASA – Colleen Hamrick

CASA CAPTA Fund 506

CASA Director Colleen Hamrick requested an additional appropriation for part-time staff and advertising. She reported CASA is currently serving 400 children; with a shortage of volunteers Director Hamrick will join a state-wide campaign for additional volunteers.

Additional Appropriation: $15,000

$7,440	Part-Time
$560	Social Security
$7,000	General Operating/Advertising

- Councilmember Kemper moved to approve the additional appropriation as requested, second by Councilmember Vernon; motion carried.

CASA Fund 501

Director Hamrick requested an additional appropriation for part-time salaries received each year from the state.

Additional Appropriation: $14,049

$12,949	Part-Time
$1,100	Social Security

- Councilmember Kemper moved to approve the additional appropriation as requested, second by Councilmember Vernon; motion carried.

JUVENILE ALTERNATIVES – Rebecca Humphrey

Youth Services Director Rebecca Humphrey requested approval for a Full-Time Therapist. The position is currently part-time and the recruitment and retention for part-time qualified applicants has been difficult. Juvenile Alternative Director Tammy Patrick and Director Humphrey evaluated services and agreed JAMS could utilize additional treatment hours. With a full-time position, 8 hours each week will be dedicated to additional treatment hours, assessments, and truancy mediation. The difference in funding of this position at full-time will be paid by Community Corrections does not affect the General Fund.

Salary Statement: $41,209

$41,209	Full-Time Therapist

- Councilmember Michael moved to approve the salary statement as requested, second by Councilmember Vernon; motion carried.

COURT SERVICES

Court Services Donation Fund 113

Additional Appropriation: $183

$183	Depart/Recreation & Crafts

- Councilmember Gutwein moved to approve the additional appropriation, second by Councilmember Michael; motion carried.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT – Ron Cripe

Health Dept-Foundation Grant Fund 119

Health Department Administrator Ron Cripe reported the Health Department is working with the Auditor to balance grant accounts.

Reduction of Appropriation: $9,562
$9,562 Administrative/Prof Svs

- Councilmember Michael moved to approve the reduction of appropriation, second by Councilmember Kemper; motion carried.

Master Tobacco Settlement Fund 762

Mr. Cripe requested an additional appropriation to balance the account.

Additional Appropriation: $5,917
$5,917 Departmental/Medical

- Councilmember Michael moved to approve the additional appropriation as requested, second by Councilmember Kemper; motion carried.

Local Health Maintenance Fund 460

An additional appropriation was requested to balance the account.

Additional Appropriation: $8,788
$6,000 Departmental/Medical
$2,788 General Operating/Misc

- Councilmember Michael moved to approve the additional appropriation as requested, second by Councilmember Kemper; motion carried.

Emergency Preparedness B Fund 476

Mr. Cripe requested a reduction of appropriation to balance the Emergency Preparedness Fund. The funds are granted when deliverables are met by the Health Department and will be appropriated as completed.

Reduction of Appropriation: $10,000
$3,000 Office Supplies
$3,000 Travel & Training
$3,000 Contracts/Misc
$1,000 Cell Phone

- Councilmember Michael moved to approve the reduction of appropriation as requested, second by Councilmember Kemper; motion carried.

PARKS DEPARTMENT – Allen Nail

Parks IDEM Grant Fund 270

Director Allen Nail requested approval for additional appropriation to purchase a commercial wood chipper. The grant portion will fund ½ of the chipper and the other portion will be paid by the commissioner's capital equipment and funding from the Parks Foundation.

Additional Appropriation: $26,206
$26,206 Equipment/Parks Equip

- Councilmember Basham moved to approve the additional appropriation, second by Councilmember Vernon; motion carried.

BUILDING COMMISSION – Ron Highland

Unsafe Building Ordinance Fund 410

Building Commissioner Ron Highland requested an additional appropriation to demolish an unsafe structure. These funds are available for removal of unsafe structures when an owner is unable to fund removal.

Additional Appropriation: $8,662
$8,662 Unsafe Structure

- Councilmember Michael moved to approve the additional appropriation as requested, second by Councilmember Gutwein; motion carried.

SHERIFF – Tracy Brown

Sheriff's Donation Fund 127

Sheriff Brown requested an additional appropriation to expend donations for various projects.

Additional Appropriation: $4,400
$4,400 General Oper/Misc

- Councilmember Michael moved to approve the additional appropriation as requested, second by Councilmember Gutwein; motion carried.

False Alarm Fees Fund 174

Sheriff Brown requested an additional appropriation for general operating expenses from fees paid by individuals and alarm companies.

Additional Appropriation: $14,000
$14,000 General Operating/Msic

- Councilmember Michael moved to approve the additional appropriation as requested, second by Councilmember Gutwein; motion carried.

Sheriff Continuing Ed Fund 175

Sheriff Brown requested an additional appropriation for general operating expenses from funds received from each traffic citation.

Additional Appropriation: $25,000
$25,000 General Operating/Misc

- Councilmember Michael moved to approve the additional appropriation as requested, second by Councilmember Gutwein; motion carried.

Firearms & Training Fund 177

Sheriff Brown requested an additional appropriation for general operating expenses from funds received from firearms permits.

Additional Appropriation: $30,000
$30,000 General Operating/Misc

- Councilmember Michael moved to approve the additional appropriation as requested, Councilmember Gutwein; motion carried.

Sheriff's Accident Report Fund 179

Sheriff Brown requested an additional appropriation for general operating expenses received from accident reports.

Additional Appropriation: $14,000
$14,000 General Operating/Misc

- Councilmember Michael moved to approve the additional appropriation as requested, second by Councilmember Gutwein; motion carried.

ASSESSING UPDATE – Samantha Steele

Barry Wood from the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) gave a brief presentation regarding the requirements and guidelines for the General Reassessment. Mr. Wood reported approximately eight counties are performing the work in-house for the General Reassessment mostly by assessing officials with several years of experience. All General Reassessment contracts need authorization from the DLGF where a staff attorney reviews all contracts for compliance. Each county's contract may vary depending on the size, but DLGF ensures and enforces the criteria is met. Mr. Wood confirmed it is at the County Assessor's discretion as to which parcels are assessed and which method is used. Vendors must be certified by DLGF, have a Level II Certified Assessor on staff, and enough staff to perform the duties. Assessor Steele stated a vendor charging by the parcel will allow her office to do a portion of the work. Mr. Wood discussed an active legislative bill which may delay the General Assessment by one year. Senate Bill 561, if passed, will spread the General Reassessment over four years allowing more time for assessing officials to complete the work. Councilmember Kemper shared his

concern regarding the General Reassessment and the amount it will cost the taxpayers. He suggested if parcels were inspected in the last few years the information should be used in the General Reassessment. Councilmember Vernon stated if Senate Bill 561 is passed and there is a delay in the General Reassessment, Tippecanoe County should work diligently to preserve funds for the job in 2010 and suggested a work-plan be established by the County Assessor.

Attorney Luhman confirmed the deadline to sign a General Reassessment contract is April 16, 2009 and the County Assessor is required to have the amount of contract appropriated before entering into any agreement. Mr. Luhman explained Tippecanoe County has a levy to raise funds for reassessment. The DLGF reviews the levy and the reassessment budget as projected by the County Assessor. If sufficient funds aren't available the DLGF may require an additional levy.

President Underwood and Commissioner Knochel thanked Mr. Wood and Assessor Steele for the presentation.

APPOINTMENTS

- Councilmember Gutwein moved to approve the Council Appointments for 2009, second by Council Michael; motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Greg Guerrattaz, Financial Solutions Group, presented the council with documents to prepare for the public hearing February 11, 2009. He reported the county is proposing the Economic Development Income Tax (EDIT) funds will be used for repayment of bonds for the Juvenile Center without using property taxes. The bond issue for the project has decreased from $19.5 million to $18.5. He provided a sustainability analysis showing historical and projected data for a large number of county funds. Projections were provided from 2010 through 2013. He explained he has reviewed the financial projections and is comfortable with the proposed plan and the financial projections.

Councilmember Winger asked if any legislative action is projected that will affect ongoing support of operations; he is struggling with the ongoing operations of the Juvenile Center.

Councilmember Basham asked Mr. Guerrattaz to speak on how a major job loss would affect the center. Mr. Guerrattaz reported if 800 jobs were lost the overall adjusted gross income would be affected by 1-2%; worst case scenario the adjusted gross income was figured at a loss of 15%. He described the different options for the county should the need arise for additional revenue.

Attorney Luhman stated tomorrow's meeting was planned for a public hearing as well as a final determination for the council on the progress of the Juvenile Center. The council will then have the option to either rescind any prior motions or confirm to proceed with the project.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Paul Wright, West Point – said he has attended commissioner meetings and presented letters with questions to which he has had vague or no answers at all. Mr. Wright presented information he titled Exhibit A - questions for the council and Exhibit B - a survey from taxpayers with their opinion of the Juvenile Center. He said every increase the council approves are tax dollars out of someone's pocket. Mr. Wright's concern is elected officials are responsible for spending tax dollars and if misused there are no repercussions. Councilmember Basham said he appreciates Mr. Wright's comments. He understands

Mr. Wright's point, but added Department Heads and Elected Officials are taxpayers and they understand the need to be frugal.

Michelle Blaas, Lafayette – said the economy is not good and increasing other taxes to build the Juvenile Center is not fair. She said the General Fund will suffer in the long run with yearly wage and benefit increases; operational expenses for the center will be depleted.

Greg Guerrattaz explained in his presentation he did not suggest, allege or state the Wheel Tax, LOIT, or Food Beverage Tax needed to be enacted to complete the project. He said these items are in the "tool box" if the county needed other revenue options. He confirmed juvenile operation expenses will come from user fees, out-of-county fees, and current expenses paid from the General Fund.

COMMISSIONER'S FYI

Commissioner Byers provided information regarding grant funds received in this community; over $9.5 million was received in 2007.

The Wabash River Enhancement Planning session will take place this evening at 7:00 p.m. at Ivy Tech/Ivy Hall.

The City of Lafayette has asked approached the county to discuss hiring a lobbyist to assist in facilitating stimulus funds.

In regards to General Reassessment, he reported Elkhart County will spend $1 million on General Reassessment; Commissioner Byers added they have considerably more parcels than our county.

- Councilmember Kemper moved to adjourn.

TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL

Kevin L. Underwood, President

Betty J. Michael

Andrew S. Gutwein, Vice President

John R. Basham II

Roland K. Winger

Jeffrey A. Kemper

Attest:
Jennifer Weston, Auditor

Kathy Vernon