TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
May 12, 2009

The Tippecanoe County Council met at 8:30 a.m. on May 12, 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 April 14, 2009 regular meeting, second by Councilmember Michael; motion carried.

AUDITOR'S FINANCIAL REPORT – Jennifer Weston

Beginning Net Balance	$ 1,215,120.15
Total Additional Appropriations	$ 747,274.00
Total Budget Reductions	$ 178,514.00
Miscellaneous Expenditures (to date)	$ 608.00
Uncommitted Funds	**$ 645,752.15**

Auditor Weston reported miscellaneous expenditures were around $20,000 last month; after researching those amounts it was determined expenditures were $608. May 1st, 2009 was the last due date for the installment plan for property taxes. The Treasurer turned over approximately $488,000 which will be distributed this week to the units.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Bob Plantenga

Treasurer Bob Plantenga reported the average interest rate dipped from .48% to .747%. The Cumulative Bridge CD will be due this month; $40,000 of interest will be deposited from the CD into the local road and street account. He explained First Financial has made a proposal to the county to assist in the collection of property taxes. First Financial located on the corner of Concord Road and 350 South will collect taxes and provide a report to the county weekly with payment information. Treasurer Plantenga added First Financial will take payments from any taxpayer and provide receipts.

PRESENTATION OF PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS FOR VOLUNTEERS – Sheriff Brown

Sherriff Brown honored nine members of the Volunteer in Police Service (VIPS) program. The volunteer program was introduced nationally by President George Bush after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks as a way for citizens to help out local emergency responders and public safety agencies. Sheriff Brown explained the VIPS program allows the Sheriff's Department to stretch its resources with no cost to the taxpayers. The program started locally in 2006 and has put in more than 2,000 hours of service saving taxpayers $35,000. These volunteers assist with clerical duties, traffic control, school safety checks, and attend neighborhood watch group meetings. Another component of the VIPS program is the Sheriff's Auxiliary program which has volunteers on the street assisting with night watch for schools and businesses, traffic direction, and neighborhood watch programs. Also created was the Chaplaincy Program which provides counseling services for Sheriff's Department personnel and assistance in

interacting with the public. The Sheriff thanked staff members Capt. Denise Saxton and Sgt. Doug Caldwell for their assistance with the volunteer program. Volunteer members honored were:

George Bittles
Bill Coghill
Dan Grayson
Sue Grayson
Jane Harper
Anna Mae Hatke
Cynthia Jordan
Ellie Mlynarik
Margaret Patterson

Sheriff Brown invited the public to the Sheriff's Department Fish Fry and Car Show on June 5, 2009 at the Tippecanoe Fairgrounds.

ANCILLARY COURT
General Fund 001

Councilmember Gutwein reported Judge Busch did indicate his interest in reinstating a Court Reporter position the court had in the past but lost funding. He suggested the judge was requesting part-time to carry the court through the year. Councilmember Kemper stated he would like additional information regarding the request.

Additional Appropriation: $10,765

$10,000	Part-Time Employee
$765	Social Security

- Councilmember Kemper moved to table the request until further information is available, second by Councilmember Gutwein; motion carried.

➢ Judge Williams entered the meeting after the motion to table the additional appropriation request. He reported between the three upper courts additional staff is desperately needed to maintain the current workload. Between the three court reporters covering the courts, the current staff is struggling to keep up and unable to use paid leave without additional help.

Councilmember Kemper stated he would still like to meet with the other judges to discuss the option of job sharing possibly with the clerk's office.

CIRCUIT COURT
Family Court Grant "B" Fund 627

Attorney Cindy Garwood requested approval of an additional appropriation for alternative dispute resolution services for the courts. These funds are from a grant received from the Supreme Court for $40,000 to expand mediation services and additional work for the IV-D Court.

Additional Appropriation: $40,000

$3,500	Contracts
$26,500	Contracts/IV-D Mediation
$10,000	Contracts/Consultant

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

SUPERIOR COURT 3 – Laurie Wilson
Juvenile Record Grant Fund 159

Grant Coordinator Laurie Wilson requested a reduction of appropriation for unspent funds.

Reduction of Appropriation: $2,313

$1,825	Salaries & Wages/Part-Time
$139	Social Security
$245	Insurance Benefits
$104	Office Equipment

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

SUPERIOR COURT 5

Human Resource Coordinator Shirley Mennen stated the salary statement request reflects a reclassification of duties. Additional funds will not be requested due to longevity of previous employee which has retired.

Salary Statement: $31,994

$31,994	Office Manager/Protection Order Coordinator

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

PROSECUTOR – Pat Harrington
Pre-Trial Diversion Fund 260

Prosecutor Pat Harrington requested an additional appropriation for court expenses and witness fees.

Additional Appropriation: $5,000

$5,000	Court Expenses/Witness Fees

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

Project Safe Neighborhood Fund 189

Prosecutor Harrington requested a transfer of funds to pay for contracted services. ICJI is requiring all contracted services be paid from Admin/Other Professional Services rather than Salaries & Wages.

Transfer: $ 27,192

$27,192	Salaries & Wages/Full-Time to Admin/Other Professional Svs

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

Prosecutor Harrington thanked the Sheriff for allowing his department to partner with the Sheriff's Department to purchase another K-9 bomb dog.

PUBLIC DEFENDER – Amy Hutchison

Public Defender Amy Hutchison requested approval of a salary statement for a full-time Deputy Public Defender. She received approval from the commissioners for a full-time position in place of two regular part-time positions. A reported $40,000 will be saved by combining the position into one full-time position.

Salary Statement: $54,680

$54,680	Full Time Deputy Public Defender

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

PROBATION – Kipp Scott

Chief Probation Officer Kipp Scott requested approval of a salary statement for part-time. With the loss of a full-time Probation Officer, additional help is needed to maintain the case log. Allowing up to $22.00 per/hr. will allow the Probation Department to hire former officers at a fair market rate.

Salary Statement: up to $22.00 per/hr (retro-active to 4/7/09)

$22.00per/hr	Part-Time Probation Officer

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

HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Emergency Prep B Fund 476

Health Department Administrator Ron Cripe requested an additional appropriation of grant funds for Emergency Preparedness. The funds will be used to purchase supplies for use in a county-wide emergency.

Additional Appropriation: $10,000

$1,000	Medical Supplies
$500	Office Supplies
$800	Educational
$2,000	Travel & Training
$500	Miscellaneous
$5,200	Emergency Equipment

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

TEMA – Laurie Wilson
TEMA Exercise Fund 419

Grant Coordinator Laurie Wilson explained a reduction of appropriation is being requested to return grant funds received for training. She reported TEMA held a full scale exercise as mandated by the state and was able to complete the exercise under the budgeted amount.

Reduction of Appropriation: $10,812

$5,164	General Operating/Printing
$5,390	Training Costs/Meals
$258	Training Costs/Travel & Training

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

TREASURER – Bob Plantenga
General Fund 001

Treasurer Bob Plantenga requested a transfer to purchase forms for tax bills. He explained tax bills were previously printed and mailed by an outside vendor; bills will now be printed in house allowing the county to mail multiple bills in one mailing to save the county money.

Transfer: $12,000

$12,000	Other Professional Services to Printed Forms

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

ASSESSOR
Reassessment Fund 281

Human Resource Coordinator Shirley Mennen explained a large portion of the funds being requested by the assessor are to cover unemployment cost for employees whose positions were eliminated by House Bill 10.01. Auditor Weston stated the requested amount is anticipated through the end of the year. Councilmember Kemper requested the County Assessor provide a breakdown of the employees and the amount paid for the year.

Additional Appropriation: $10,000

$10,000	Unemployment

- Councilmember Gutwein moved to approve the additional appropriation as presented, second by Councilmember Vernon; motion carried. *Councilmember Michael and Basham were opposed.*

COMMISSIONERS – Frank Cederquist
EDIT Fund 301

Commissioners Assistant Frank Cederquist requested a transfer of funds for part-time. He reported the Auditor is requesting a part-time Project Liaison position to assist in the transition of the new tax software. Auditor Weston stated the liaison will assist the staff with training and the change of workflow processes.

Transfer: $9,150

$8,500	Data Processing/Software to Part-Time
$650	Data Processing/Software to Social Security

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

Salary Statement: up to $10.00 per/hr

$10.00 per/hr	Project Liaison

- Councilmember Kemper moved to approve the salary statement as presented, second by Councilmember Winger; motion carried.

Mr. Cederquist also requested approval of a salary statement for part-time in the Weights and Measures Department. Former Director Doug Cripe will be hired part-time to train the new Director. He added an additional appropriation will not be needed due to the longevity difference between the former Director and the new Director.

Salary Statement: up to $22.88 per/hr

Up to $22.88 per/hr	Trainer

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

RESOLUTION 2009-15-CL; ROMNEY REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT

Members agreed to table Resolution 2009-15-CL; Romney Regional Sewer District.

- Councilmember Michael moved to table the resolution until the June council meeting, second by Councilmember Kemper; motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Youth Center Action Team

Councilmember Kemper reported the Youth Center Action Team met and discussed possible locations for the new Probation/Intake Officers for Juvenile Probation. The team has met several times and concluded to move forward with a small expansion of space for office use at the jail. If funding is approved by the council, the office may be up and running by the fall. He anticipates updating the council at their next meeting.

Councilmember Basham stated he will spend more time in the assessor's office to better understand the process to assist both the office and the council with additional information.

UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Byers stated the commissioners have received a proposal regarding the use of the fairgrounds and have also discussed several options for generating revenue funds.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Pearl Speakman – said the Wheel Tax was meant to be a crutch for the City of Lafayette and they voted to keep the tax. He believes changes should be made to the tax if there are plans to keep it; he said limited use vehicles like boats and trailers should be taxed different. He suggested the council form a committee to discuss other tax options.

- 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

absent
Kathy Vernon