TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
October 29, 2008

The Tippecanoe County Commissioners and County Council met on October 29, 2008 in the Tippecanoe Room in the Tippecanoe County Office Building. Council members present were Thomas P. Murtaugh, Kevin Underwood, Betty J. Michael, Andrew S. Gutwein, David Byers, and Kathy Vernon. Also present were Attorney David Luhman, Auditor Jennifer Weston, and Secretary Jennifer Prange.

Also present were Commissioners President Ruth E. Shedd, Vice President John L. Knochel, and Member KD Benson.

Council President Tom Murtaugh called the council meeting to order.

Auditor Weston reported the final budget will be approved on November 12, 2008. Two separate sub-committees have met to review compensation and employee benefits as well as review revenue and expense lines budgeted for 2009.

Health Benefits

Human Resource Coordinator Shirley Mennen spoke regarding health insurance for 2009. She reported with a high claims history the county was facing a considerable increase in health insurance costs. After reviewing quotes from other insurance carriers, Ms. Mennen explained a hybrid between the current plans was formed and Great West provided the best rates for the new plan. The County's maximum and expected claims liability under the new plan would decrease and most employees will benefit from a decrease in rates and an increase in benefits.

Compensation

Ms. Mennen spoke regarding the two options put before the council regarding compensation benefits for 2009. The options were a 2% across-the-board increase or a percentage of the recommendations made by Waggoner, Irwin, & Scheele (WIS) to bring county employees to market level. The new pay grids will change longevity levels and decrease the amount of time it takes to reach market pay. She explained in the current grids employees are not reaching market pay until 7 years of employment. The committee recommended the following raises for 2009:

Pay Grid	Recommendation
Elected Officials/Chief Deputies	0%
EXEC/SO	1.5%
POLE (merit)	1.78% (+ specialty pay)
COMOT	88% of the recommended new grid
PAT	92% of the recommended new grid
LTC	92% of the recommended new grid
POLE (non-merit)	88% of the recommended new grid
Probation	3% (state mandated minimum schedule)
Prosecuting Attorney	1.5%

In order to say within budget, only a percentage of the recommended pay grids could be implemented and this will cause some wages to be frozen. Ms. Mennen reported the Personnel Committee has seen a large number of job reclassifications in the past year and by moving the market rate to 5 years, we should be able to maintain the classification system and attract qualified applicants.

Youth Center Operating Cost/Revenue

Youth Services Director Rebecca Humphrey gave details regarding the construction and operations for the Juvenile Center. She reported the 38-bed facility probable construction cost is estimated at $17.3 million and the property cost is $1.3 million. The total annual operating budget is estimated to cost $2.5 million with an annual recoverable at $1.8 million (not including the DOC funding), which leaves a deficit of $667,089.

Auditor Weston and Councilmember Kemper reported the review committee met to discuss how the county can recover the prior funding of DOC/Institutional Care in an effort to offset costs at the Juvenile Center. The committee recommended the following additional cuts from various line items:

- Use 17%, instead of 20%, increase for health insurance in 2009 ($208,667)
- Sheriff Liability decreased ($30,000)
- Inmate Liability decreased ($10,000)
- Election Part Time and social security ($13,500 + $1,033)
- Cary Home Part-Time and social security ($20,000 + $1,530)
- Superior Court 3 Institutional Care ($40,000)
- Community Corrections Match ($50,000)

After evaluating additional funding for the center, the committee anticipates a $42,000 shortfall. Auditor Weston explained COIT numbers are not yet available, but could likely make up this difference. Other future possibilities include maintenance costs transferred from the Villa, Parks Department, and Cary Home to the Cumulative Capital fund; Cumulative Bridge fund interest beginning in 2010; marketable and cost recovering per diem rates.

2nd READING - ORDINANCE 2008-20-CL; AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF REAL ESTATE 2600 DUNCAN ROAD

Attorney Luhman stated Ordinance 2008-20-CL authorizes the commissioners to purchase the real estate at 2600 Duncan Road at $53,000 per acre, not to exceed $1,356,055. With approval the commissioners will proceed to closing for final purchase. EDIT funds are earmarked for the purchase after the council approves the authorization to purchase.

- Councilmember Kemper moved to approve Ordinance 2008-20-CL on second reading, second by Councilmember Michael; motion carried.

Auditor Weston recorded the vote:

Kemper	Yes
Vernon	Yes
Gutwein	Yes
Byers	Yes
Michael	Yes
Underwood	Yes
Murtaugh	Yes

Ordinance 2008-20-CL passes 7-0 on second and final reading.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Patsy Hoyer representing the League of Women Voters stated the group has been discussing the issue of a youth center in Tippecanoe County for many years. The group has supported this projected and is delighted the council has considered their recommendations to provide community safety, rehabilitation, reduce recidivism, strengthen families and help children develop safe and nurturing environments. The League of Women Voters of Greater Lafayette supports a model for treatment and rehabilitation and not just punishment.

Andrew Dysdale suggested the youth rehabilitated at the Juvenile Center could re-pay the community by performing duties within the center and in the community as well. He added the deficit may be reduced by employing the youth in the community.

Robert Strong stated the youth offenders should be in an environment in which they weren't raised and their parents should be involved in their rehabilitation. He said the children should not be in a facility where law enforcement is present and disciplining the children.

James Werner said the county may be offering redundant services. He said our school system has all the components the new Juvenile Center will have and if our schools can not rehabilitate our children how will the Juvenile Center.

Pearl Speakman said discipline is needed to rehabilitate our children to bring out their best qualities. He commended the council for assuring they can operate the facility before building and not raising taxes.

Michelle Blaas questioned whether or not the county has a contract with other counties to house their youth before we build the center. She believes the county is pursuing the center with estimates of recoverable expenses they may not be able to obtain in the future.

Terry Masterson suggested the county will not have the money they had planned on. He stated the trolley tax will increase; the $360,000 cap has been removed and it will grow on the community and get worse. He implied the county should slow down and consider the bond market and the current economic status before building.

Sadie Harper Scott thanked the council for pursuing the Juvenile Center and looks forward to a successful center for our children.

Judge Loretta Rush stated contracts cannot be obtained for a center that is not yet built. She has talked to surrounding counties and judges which are interested in our facility. She explained our Juvenile Center will address life skills, education, rehabilitation and aftercare with an intake center to help identify if children need detention or other services. She thanked the council for pursuing the center and ensuring the county can afford the establishment before they build.

Taylor Pennycuff said some children have made bad choices and she doesn't believe they should be locked up. She is a resident of Cary Home for Girls and explained how they have assisted her in obtaining a job and having a better relationship with her mother. Cary Home has made her realize she needs to be accountable for herself and her community.

Dan Hollingsworth explained his children have been in the system and he envisions the county being proactive and providing better programs for our youth. He utilizes services from Juvenile Alternatives and believes the entire community can benefit from these services.

Sue Dykstal stated she believes our children can be successfully rehabilitated through the Juvenile Center and returned to their parents. She explained parents will have the opportunity to be a part of treatment and may be more able to pay per diem rather than gas and travel expenses to visit their children out of county at other facilities.

Councilmember Murtaugh reported the Bond Ordinance will be heard on 2nd reading at the November 12, 2008 regular meeting at 10:00 a.m. in the Tippecanoe Room.

Additional dates of note are:
December 11, 2008 - Bids received, bond ratings received
Mid to Late January - Bond Sale

RESOLUTION 2008-38-CL; AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCOME TAX CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

- Councilmember Byers moved to remove Resolution 2008-38-CL from the table, second by Councilmember Michael; motion carried.

Attorney Luhman stated this resolution endorses the Economic Development Capital Improvement Plan passed by the Commissioners to add additional funding for two projects: $100,000 for an emergency generator for the Community Corrections building and $610,000 for new ambulances for the Tippecanoe Emergency Ambulance Service.

Councilmember Gutwein stated he voted against this resolution in the past due to the previous operations structure regarding funding. He is encouraged by the discussions between both hospitals and the non-profit entity to oversee the ambulance operations for Tippecanoe County.

- Councilmember Byers moved to approve Resolution 2008-38-CL – Authorizing an amendment to the EDIT Capital Improvement Plan, second by Councilmember Michael; motion carried. *Councilmember Gutwein and Councilmember Kemper voted in opposition.*

EDIT Fund 301

Additional Appropriation: $710,000
$100,000 Building/Office
$610,000 Vehicles/Ambulances

- Councilmember Vernon moved to remove EDIT Fund 301 Additional Appropriation from the table, second by Councilmember Byers; motion carried.

- Councilmember Vernon moved to approve the additional appropriation for EDIT Fund 301 as presented, second by Councilmember Underwood; motion carried. *Councilmember Gutwein and Councilmember Kemper voted in opposition.*

- Councilmember Byers moved to adjourn.

TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL

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absent
Kevin L. Underwood, President

absent
Betty J. Michael

Andrew S. Gutwein, Vice President

John R. Basham II

absent
Roland K. Winger

Jeffrey A. Kemper

Attest:
Jennifer Weston, Auditor

Kathy Vernon