TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
December 9, 2008

The Tippecanoe County Council met at 2:00 p.m. on December 9, 2008 in the Tippecanoe Room in the County Office Building. Council members present were: President Thomas P. Murtaugh, Vice President Kevin Underwood, Betty J. Michael, Andrew S. Gutwein, Jeffrey R. Kemper, David S. Byers, and Kathy Vernon. Others present were: Auditor Jennifer Weston, Attorney David W. Luhman, and Secretary Jennifer Prange.

President Murtaugh called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Councilmember Byers moved to approve the minutes from the November 12 , 2008 meeting, second by Councilmember Vernon; motion carried.

AUDITOR'S FINANCIAL REPORT – Jennifer Weston

Beginning Net Balance	$1,659,421.22
Total Additional Appropriations	$1,552,985.00
Total Budget Reductions	$ 317,636.00
Miscellaneous Expenditures to date	$- 11,791.35
Uncommitted Funds	**$ 412,280.87**

TREASURER'S FINANCIAL REPORT – Bob Plantenga

Treasurer Bob Plantenga reported interest in October was $82,000 for the General Fund and $11,700 in CD. Total budgeted interest for 2008 was $1.3 million; to date a total of $1.2 million has been deposited and he expects to surpass the budgeted amount in December. A total of $130 million in tax payments were posted with a $145 million in net taxes billed in 2008.

RESOLUTION 2008-48-CL; Amendment to Tippecanoe County Police Retirement Plan

Sheriff Tracy Brown requested approval of the proposed resolution for an amendment to the Tippecanoe County Police Retirement Plan. Elaine Beatty from McCready & Keene spoke regarding benefits for Merit Officers of the Sheriff's Department Retirement Plan. As a provider of retirement plan benefits for the Sheriff's Department, McCready & Keene provides recommendations to the plan as necessary as required by state law. The amendment provides a modification as warranted by the government for the plan benefits regarding plan maximums. The proposed amendment that is required to be adopted by December 31, 2008 has no fiscal impact on the Sheriff's Department Police Retirement Plan.

Attorney Luhman confirmed the proposed changes have been approved by the Sheriff's Department Merit Board.

McCready & Keene is also working with the Sheriff's Department to provide a Personal Savings Account for Deferred Retirement Plans. Elaine Beatty confirmed her firm is in the process of making presentations to the employees of the department to offer the new benefit.

- Councilmember Byers moved to approve Resolution 2008-48-CL, second by Councilmember Underwood; motion carried.

LOCAL UNITS – BUDGET/LEVIES REVIEW

Attorney Luhman explained HB 1001 is requiring county council to review budgets from governmental units. Units which impose taxes and have elected fiscal bodies should be reviewed and recommend approval or provide recommendations as to how the budgets should be amended. Units with non-elected boards the council should review and adopt the budgets.

Auditor Weston provided a spreadsheet of the governmental entities for review. She reported the 2009 certified values are not available, which would provide a more accurate picture of levies and rates. The estimates provided, for advertising purposes.

Miranda Bucy from the Department of Local Government Finance stated the spreadsheet does not provide information regarding general fund and township assistance levies. She explained several entities show a substantial increase in budgets due to various reasons. She added with the basic budget information provided, it will be difficult for the council to accurately compare budget information.

Judy Rhodes, Clerk/Treasurer for the City of West Lafayette, stated she looks forward to the collaborative process among the finance bodies and officials of the county. She added the entities are hindered by the timeline set by the state for the review by county council. With the information provided, Ms. Rhodes believes the review process will be difficult due to the projected budgets provided to the Auditor. The budget cycles may vary for different entities which do not coincide with the new guidelines. Ms. Rhodes suggested this is a prime opportunity for local government to devise its own process that is more meaningful.

Councilmember Vernon suggested the council consider forming a committee to review this process and create a foundation for review in 2009.

- Councilmember Vernon moved to accept the summary for Tippecanoe County Units Budgets, Levies, and Rates estimated for 2009 including adoption of Non-Elected Board budgets, second by Councilmember Michael; motion carried.

SUPERIOR COURT 3 – Kathy Timberlake

Court Improvement Project 638

Kathy Timberlake requested approval of a grant appropriation from the Supreme Court for the CHINS mediation with an in-kind match of $10,000.

Grant Appropriation: $30,000
$30,000 Contracts/Consultants

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

CLERK

Clerk CS Incentive Fund 162

Clerk Linda Phillips requested a transfer for part-time.

Transfer: $4,999

$4,644	Travel & Training to Part-Time
$355	Travel & Training to Social Security

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

PUBLIC DEFENDER – Amy Hutchison

General Fund 001

Public Defender Amy Hutchison requested a transfer for professional services and office expenses. She stated additional funds were remaining from part-time due to a consolidation of two part-time into one full-time position earlier in the year.

Transfer: $35,500

$30,000	Part-Time Regular to Professional Services
$2,500	Part-Time Regular to Office Expense
$3,000	Full-Time to Office Expense

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

BOARD OF ELECTION & REGISTRATION – Heather Maddox & Debbie Ingersol

Voting Equipment Reimb Fund 329

Co-Directors Heather Maddox and Debbie Ingersol requested a grant appropriation for election expenses.

Grant Appropriation: $31,430

$4,410	Travel/Training
$9,100	Departmental/Election
$17,920	General Operating/Misc

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

General Fund 001

Ms. Maddox requested approval of a transfer for election workers. She added the special account was created for workers that earned more than $600, as the transactions needed to be run through payroll.

Transfer: $26,368

$20,275	Election/Contracts to Election Workers
$1,180	Postage to Overtime
$1,295	Contracts/Hardware Maint to Overtime
$1,000	Contracts/Hardware Maint to Election Workers
$1,349	Rentals to Election Workers
$1,269	Meals to Election Workers

- Councilmember Byers moved to approve the transfers as requested, second by Councilmember Michael; motion carried.

COURT SERVICES – Michael Prickett

Court Services Donation Fund 113

Michael Prickett requested an additional appropriation for a mural project for students in the Community Connections & Intense Substance Abuse Probation programs.

Additional Appropriation: $100
$100 Departmental/Recreation & Crafts

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

CORONER

General Fund 001

Transfer: $1,000
$1,000 Autopsies to Part-Time

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

TIPPECANOE VILLA

General Fund 001

Transfer: $1,500
$1,500 Full-Time to Farm

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

SURVEYOR

Engineer Review Fund 244

Additional Appropriation: $29, 853
$29,853 Maintenance/Engineer Svs

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

PROSECUTOR

Project Safe Neighborhood "C" Fund 190

Grant Facilitator Laurie Wilson requested approval for grant funds received from the Department of Justice.

Additional Appropriation: $25,000
$20,000 Administrative/Other Professional Services
$5,000 Office/Office Supplies

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

Drug Task Force Fund 257

Chief Deputy Prosecutor Kristin McVey requested an additional appropriation for maintenance, repair and equipment updates.

Additional Appropriation: $20,882
$20,882 Buildings/Maint & Repair

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

TEMA – Mark Kirby

General Fund 001

TEMA Director Mark Kirby requested a transfer for garage and maintenance expenses.

Transfer: $1,400
$1,400 Dues & Subscriptions to Garage/Maintenance

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

Emergency Equipment Fund 183

Grant Facilitator Laurie Wilson explained the grant appropriation request is for water rescue equipment to be used by the Sheriff's Department.

Grant Appropriation: $5,039
$5,039 Equipment/Emergency Equipment

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

Dist 4 Training & EX FY 05 Fund 419

Ms. Wilson requested approval of a grant appropriation for a district-wide exercise to be facilitated by a consultant.

Grant Appropriation: $53,875
$46,200 Contracts/Consultants
$7,675 Training Costs/Meals

- Councilmember Michael moved to approve the grant appropriation requested, second by Councilmember Vernon; motion carried.

Dist 4 Training & EX FY 07 Fund 421

Grant Appropriation: $2,000
$2,000 Training Costs/Miscellaneous

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

TEMA SHSP "B" Fund 417

Director Kirby requested a grant appropriation for a contracted consultant, a tractor, and a trailer.

Councilmember Vernon discussed exploring opportunities in 2009 for storage of TEMA equipment. Councilmember Gutwein concurred and suggested pursuing funding options for maintenance of equipment owned by TEMA.

Grant Appropriation: $149,420
$36,220 Contracts/Consultant
$113,200 Equipment/Emergency Equipment

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

LEPC Fund 420

Grant Appropriation: $3,486
$3,486 General Operating/Misc

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

RESOLUTION 2008-49-CL; COMMISSARY FUND EXPENDITURES

Sheriff Tracy Brown requested approval of Resolution 2008-49-CL for Commissary Fund expenditures. He added there are no changes from the 2008 request.

- Councilmember Byers moved to approve Resolution 2008-49-CL – Approving Sheriff Commissary Fund Expenditures, second by Councilmember Gutwein; motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioners

Commissioner's Assistant Frank Cederquist requested approval of a salary statement for part-time maintenance.

Salary Statement: up to $10.00 per/hr.
$10.00 per/hr Part-Time Maintenance Technician

- Councilmember Kemper moved to approve the salary statement as requested, second by Councilmember Gutwein; motion carried

Council Meeting Dates

- Councilmember Kemper moved to adopt the 2009 Council Meeting Dates, second by Councilmember Gutwein; motion carried.

Bond Ratings for Juvenile Center

Auditor Weston reported the bond rating agencies should have ratings available by December 11, 2008. She added that Moody's agents were complimentary on the amount of planning the County Council has completed.

Appointments

Councilmember Murtaugh provided a list and encouraged council members to review appointments for 2009.

YOUTH SERVICES – Rebecca Humphrey

Youth Services Director Rebecca Humphrey reported bids will be received on December 11, 2008. Kettlehut reported over 160 packets were distributed for the project. She confirmed the commissioners have closed on the land located on Duncan Road.

COMMISSIONER'S FYI

The Department Head Lunch will be held on December 10, 2008 at noon in the Tippecanoe Room.

LOCAL OPTION INCOME TAX (LOIT)

Attorney Luhman stated the County Option Income Tax Council has the option each of adopting a Local Option Income Tax for Levy Growth (up to 1%), Direct Property Tax Relief (up to 1% per year), and Public Safety Expenditures (up to .25%). Beginning in 2009, the Income Tax Council will be required to have a public hearing to consider adopting LOIT.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Council members presented outgoing members David Byers and Tom Murtaugh each a plague for their commitment to the Council over the years.

- Councilmember Byers moved to adjourn.

TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL

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