

TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
July 15, 2008

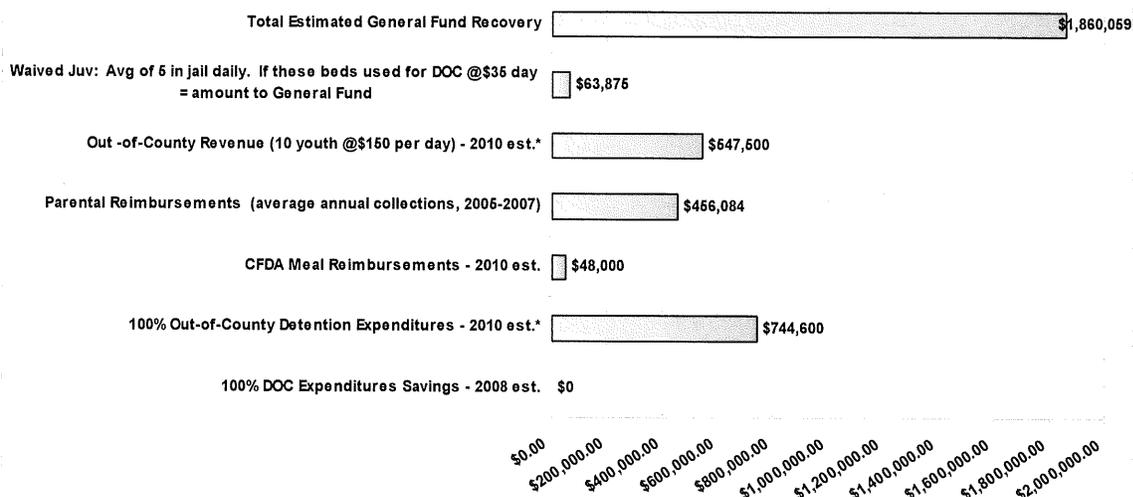
The Tippecanoe County Council met at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 15, 2008 in the Tippecanoe Room in the County Office Building. Council members present were: President Thomas P. Murtaugh, Vice President Kevin Underwood, Betty J. Michael, David S. Byers, Jeffrey A. Kemper, Kathy Vernon and Andrew S. Gutwein. Others present were: Auditor Jennifer Weston, and Attorney David W. Luhman.

Council President Tom Murtaugh reconvened the council from the July 2, 2008 meeting.

Rebecca Humphrey, Youth Services Director provided statistics, operating and recoverable costs, and the cost to the community for sending youth out-of-county:

- The Juvenile Court receives an average of 1,519 referrals annually
- There were 448 admissions to Secure Detention in 2007
 - With a 10% escalation for 2008 and 2009 – anticipated to be 542 admissions in 2010
- The average age of youth in Tippecanoe County's Juvenile Justice System is 14 years old
- The per diem for out of county placements is anticipated to increase between \$20 to \$30 in 2008 alone
 - Projected to be between \$170 and \$180 per day in 2010
- 1.8 of every 100 11-18 year olds in Tippecanoe County were detained in short-term detention facilities in 2007
- Arrest rates, waivers, placements in IDOC, and detention rates continue to increase
- 303 youth are awaiting intake or currently in the intake process for the Juvenile Justice System
- 44% of the 8,348 bookings in the adult jail in 2007 were younger than 25 years old

ESTIMATED ANNUAL RECOVERABLE EXPENSES - 2010



Note: DOC expenditures were reduced to \$0 because it had been a questionable item.

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Societal Costs

- On average, there are 3.82 juvenile arrests EVERY day – An average of 4 victims of every crime results in **5,577 victims** from juvenile crime annually
- Between 1.7 and 2.3 million dollars (1998 dollars) in incarceration costs is spent on EVERY youthful offender across their lifetime if a front end investment in interventions proven to help young people is not provided (The Journal of Qualitative Criminology, 1998)
- Lost wages of 20 youth per year who do not become productive members of society is \$551,360
- Average salary in Tippecanoe County is \$27,568 (2006, Lafayette-West Lafayette Chamber of Commerce)
- Youth who continue delinquency without rehabilitation or treatment are more likely to grow into adults who abuse and neglect their children
- 2008 Tippecanoe County DCS Budget - \$13.9 million
- Abused and neglected children are 59% more likely to engage in delinquent acts
- 80% of adults in prison were abused and neglected as youth
- Arrest rate will increase because of anticipated quicker turn around at DOC which will impact short-term detention costs
- Lost economic impact of salaries staying local

Summary

If we build it - \$667,090 – in additional expense

If we don't - \$2.47 million – in additional expense*

*Does not include societal costs

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tammy Patrick, Clinical Services Director stated Juvenile Alternatives is growing beyond their means. She stressed the importance of co-location with the detention facility for continuity of treatment. She encouraged the council to vote in favor of the center to include the Juvenile Alternative portion of the facility. She believes a valuable communication is lost between treatment providers when services are not co-located.

Joe Venable, a member of National Association of Mental Illness, stated 70% of juveniles in detention are suffering from mental illness. If these youth are treated in a facility, 70% of the youth have higher recidivism rates. He views the Juvenile Justice Facility as an investment in our children; not an expense to the community.

Judge Loretta Rush spoke regarding the DOC levy information. She shared information with the council regarding HEA 1001 as interpreted by the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF). She read the following information received via email from Timothy J. Rushenberg, of the DLGF.

(quote)

This is in response to a question forwarded to the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) about HEA 1001 (P.L. 146-2008) and the transfer of the obligation to pay the costs of keeping delinquent offenders from the counties to the state. It is the interpretation of the DLGF that HEA 1001 does not

require the DLGF to adjust a county's levy to account for the state's assumption of the costs of juvenile incarceration. The DLGF will be following this up with a memorandum to all counties within the next 5-10 days.

(unquote)

She added this information should be considered as it was not represented in the presentation by Rebecca Humphrey.

Pat Scowden, Director of Community Corrections, reported his facility is supervising 833 individuals. He believes we need a facility to address evidenced programming to decrease the population at Community Corrections and in the jail. He encouraged the council to move ahead with Option B to include all Juvenile Alternative programming in one facility.

Lynn Flint feels we cannot put a price on a child or turn our backs on these children; they are our future. She said, "How we treat children today is how we will be treated tomorrow". She encouraged the council to help turn our youth around and make them productive members of society. Keep them home and safe with treatment in our community for the children and the parents.

William Glick, Executive Director of Juvenile Justice Task Force, stated our youth are not always guilty when detained or incarcerated. Mr. Glick said youth placements are made to protect children from harming themselves, threatening the community, or they are placed because they have no home. According to Mr. Glick, statistics prove 33% of detained children in the state have been victims of sexual or physical abuse. He said the Juvenile Justice Task Force took the opportunity to seek grant funding for home based and evidenced therapy for the community. He would like to see the county receive more grants for treatment of our youth.

Suzanna Antabis thanked Judge Rush and the many dedicated individuals who have worked on the center. She believes the center would be in the best interest for the community. She said from experience it is hard to get help when a child makes a bad choice and is detained hundreds of miles away. The center would give children and families the opportunity to explore their options and seek support outlets in the community. She said the center would allow cooperation, coordination, and communication that is essential in the treatment of our children.

Linda Pedigo spoke regarding treatment her daughter received in DOC. She described how her daughter's mental and health issues were not addressed by the DOC when she was incarcerated. She said it was nearly impossible to speak to anyone at the DOC with regards to the treatment of an inmate. She said the county has an asset and we need to keep our children here.

Dr. Bob Hanneman a pediatrician for Cary Home for Boys and a Child Psychology Professor at Purdue supports the idea of the Juvenile Justice Center. He has spent his career trying to treat mental illness in children. He said we have an obligation for the children being treated now and the children that will be treated in the future. He suggested the council consider the human factor involved that is priceless. He supports the council and encouraged them to pass a comprehensive project as it will pay off in the future.

Nancy Morgan spoke as a mother of a child in Cary Home. She said the involvement of parents in the rehabilitation of children is important and the detention center is important for our children. She said this county needs the center and services. She said she has the utmost confidence in Rebecca Humphrey and suggested the community should as well.

Coleen Hamrick, Director of CASA in Tippecanoe County, spoke regarding the children in detention centers. She suggested most of the children detained are not hardcore criminals; they are victims of abuse and neglect. She stressed the importance of treating our children locally, near family, to ensure their safety. She encouraged the council to vote in favor of the Juvenile Justice Center.

Andrew Kovaks stated he is not discouraging the idea of a Juvenile Justice Center, but is disappointed in the amount the center cost. He said the council owes the citizens of the county much better.

Dan Hollingsworth said as a father with a child in the juvenile system, the strain of driving out-of-town to visit his child is stressful and costly for his family. After many different placements within the system, his son finally got the proper treatment at an out-of-county facility approximately two hours away from home. After a recent overnight stay near his child, Mr. Hollingsworth quoted his child as saying "I had the best night's sleep last night since you were close". He asked the council to consider this when voting on the Juvenile Justice Center.

Sheila Klinker, State Representative, stated she serves in many capacities with children's services throughout the county and state. She stated Tippecanoe County has nationally recognized youth advocates as mentors and provide outstanding local treatment. She added the children we treat today will return to our community and it is our job to rehabilitate them appropriately and prepare them for the future. She encouraged the council to vote in favor of the center and consider the outcome of a local treatment facility and its benefits.

Sadie Harper-Scott asks the council to support the project for the children that are unable to speak. She stated we should not focus on the amount of money the center will cost but the children we will serve. She has spoke many times regarding this project and ask the council to vote "yes".

Pat Harrington, Prosecutor, stated this is a public safety issue and we have the ability to build a facility. He added we have the opportunity to turn these children around; each year we put off the project the cost increases. With a local facility, we can be fiscally responsible and manage the cost. Getting engaged as a community, we can be proactive and address the issues locally.

Pam Biggs-Reed stated this is the right time for the project to progress. As the chairman of the Our Kids/Our Community board she has witnessed citizens in the community coming together to plan services, embrace children, and care for kids in our community. With county government being the sole decision maker on the facility, she urged them to move forward.

Jason Dombkowski, West Lafayette Police, feels strongly that the county is at a critical point to build the Juvenile Justice Center. He said our children should be treated locally, and asked the council to vote yes for the center.

Susan Smith, as former Family Services Director, has worked many years with families and children in various capacities for support services. She stated families need to stay connected throughout treatment and better care is normally received in institutions where families visit frequently. She confirmed as supportive as our community is, we don't offer that opportunity. She said we owe it to our children and families and asked the council to support Option B for the Juvenile Justice Center.

David Payne, Deputy Chief of Police for the City of Lafayette, stated he has worked with juveniles in the system for many years. As an administrator he asked the council to vote in favor of the center to provide stronger youth services and as a citizen he asks because he feels it is right for our community. On behalf of himself and Mayor Roswarski he asks the council to vote in favor of the center with Option B.

Bob Thayer stated he is torn and he understands the need of the facility. He is in opposition of use of tax dollars to this magnitude and believes the decision should be left to taxpayers to vote through a referendum. He doesn't believe the commissioners should use EDIT funds for this project. He believes we are entering a troubled economic times and we should take this into consideration.

Joe Krauss stated he does not agree with taxpayers having the option to decide through a referendum on whether or not Tippecanoe County builds a Juvenile Justice Center. Mr. Krauss said we have elected members into office to make decisions such as these on our behalf. He trusts the judgment of the Elected Officials involved in the center and said members of the community should as well.

Kurt Fiesch stated he is in disagreement with county officials having the authority to decide on the construction of the Juvenile Justice Center. He added several children in the community need "rehabilitation" but government funding isn't always necessary for treatment. He questioned whether or not it was ethical to force all county residents to pay for such activities that many believe are wrong or ineffective.

Terry Masterson suggested the project be delayed until more information is received in regards to the records requests, DOC reimbursements, trolley taxes, and excess levy revenue. He encouraged the council to wait 30 days for more information before making a decision.

Dan Church stated the council should await information from the Taxpayer's Advocacy Group records request. He added the taxpayers should be able to vote on the center through a referendum.

Councilmember Kemper thanked the public for their comments and briefly discussed how the council and the commissioners have discussed this project for years. He stated council members are trying to do what is best for the community and protect taxpayers. He understands the need for the facility, but said it needs to be affordable for the county. He is adamant about the size and cost being reduced before the facility is built.

Councilmember Byers agrees the Juvenile Justice Center is needed desperately in the community. We need think about the benefits to the community. He has been reassured by the facts received from the DOC reimbursements; he is comfortable with the numbers and is in favor of the facility.

Councilmember Vernon stated taxpayers in Tippecanoe County don't want to see an increase in taxes. She believes the county is at a critical point where we need to take action. She is confident in her fellow council members, after review of the project they will make a decision for the community as a whole.

Councilmember Michael agreed the facility needs to be built at a reasonable price. She stated the county needs a safe place for youth; they need protected and rehabilitated.

Councilmember Murtaugh stated the current process is not working, he feels we can build the facility and operate it without raising taxes. He said we can't afford to not build the center.

Councilmember Gutwein stated the cost for the Juvenile Justice Center needs to be held at a minimum. The county is already spending money on our youth for treatment, but not receiving acceptable results. He supports spending a little more money to invest in our children to produce results that will benefit the community.

Councilmember Underwood agrees the ballooning costs are an issue. He added, with the expense of sending our children out-of-town, we are not experiencing results that are benefiting the community.

Attorney Luhman explained the next step in the process lies in the hands of the commissioners. After the commissioners have approved design development with DLZ and cost estimates with financing packages, the commissioners would then have the opportunity to request a bond issue or appropriation ordinance. The council will have the opportunity to approve the financing of this project.

Councilmember Kemper reported there has been a lot of discussion regarding a pre-existing facility. He was a believer that a pre-existing facility may work best for the community until detailed information was provided about security and cost efficiencies. He supports members of the team that worked hard to determine if a pre-existing building would work for our community. He also thanked them for researching information from facilities across the country to best determine how our facility should be constructed.

- Councilmember Byers made a motion to support the commissioners to pursue Option B for the Juvenile Justice Center, second by Councilmember Michael; motion carried.
- Councilmember Byers moved to adjourn.

TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL

absent
Thomas P. Murtaugh, President

Kevin L. Underwood
Kevin L. Underwood, Vice President

Andrew S. Gutwein
Andrew S. Gutwein

Betty J. Michael
Betty J. Michael

David S. Byers
David S. Byers

Jeffrey A. Kemper
Jeffrey A. Kemper

Attest: _____
Jennifer Weston, Auditor

absent
Kathy Vernon

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
THE COUNTY OF TIPPECANOE**

Ruth E. Shedd, President

John L. Knochel, Vice President



KD Benson, Member

ATTEST:



Jennifer Weston, Auditor