TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
August 12, 2008

The Tippecanoe County Council met at 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, August 12, 2008 in the Tippecanoe Room in the County Office Building. Council members present were: Vice President Kevin Underwood, Jeffrey A. Kemper, Betty J. Michael, David S. Byers, and Andrew S. Gutwein. Others present were: Auditor Jennifer Weston, Attorney David W. Luhman, and Secretary Jennifer Prange.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Councilmember Kemper moved to approve minutes from the June 4, July 2, July 8, July 15, 2008, second by Councilmember Michael; motion carried.

AUDITOR – Jennifer Weston

Beginning Net Balance	$1,659,421.22
Total Additional Appropriations	$1,050,354.00
Total Budget Reductions	$ 137,250.00
Miscellaneous Expenditures to date	$- 8,740.30
Uncommitted Funds	**$ 737,576.92**

TREASURER'S INTEREST REPORT – Bob Plantenga

Treasurer Plantenga reported $500,000 has been received to date in general fund interest for the first half of the year and the second half should exceed $500,000 if interest rates remain stable. An estimate of projected cost for sending out tax bills was distributed. He explained all taxpayers will receive a statement this year regardless of the payee; a comparison statement with details regarding distribution of tax monies from 2007 to 2008. The cost for printing tax bills was approximately $20,000 in 2007 and is expected to be $45,000 in 2008, not including postage.

RESOLUTION 2008-33-CL; Authorizing Petition to DLGF to Approve Installment Tax

Treasurer Plantenga spoke regarding the 2008 due date for taxes. He explained after requesting a due date of November 10, 2008, the Department of Local Government Finance approved with the offer of an installment plan for homeowners with a homestead. Taxpayers with a homestead have the option of paying in six installments starting in November and ending in April 2009. With the installment plan, the taxing entities will receive most of their funds in one settlement and receive the remainder in 2009. If the county chose two tax installments, entities will most likely need to extend loans. He recommends one due date with the installment plan.

Councilmember Kemper is opposed to the installment plan set forth by the DLGF.

Attorney Luhman confirmed either option will have to be approved by the DLGF. The council must decide which option best suits the taxpayers of Tippecanoe County.

Treasurer Plantenga reported there are 20,000 properties that receive the Homestead Deduction in Tippecanoe County all of which are eligible for the installment payments.

- Councilmember Byers moved to approve Resolution 2008-33-CL; Authorizing Petition to DLGF to Approve Installment Tax, second by Councilmember Gutwein; motion carried. *Councilmember Kemper opposed.*

Declaratory Resolution for Designation of ERA for Superior Structures

Jody Hamilton from the Lafayette/West Lafayette Development Corporation requested on behalf of the petitioner approval of the Declaratory Resolution for Superior Structures. The request is for 192.75 acres from Park 52 to attract future business for Tippecanoe County. The petitioners are requesting the ERA designation to expedite the process for future business. Ms. Hamilton reported this is an incentive for potential businesses and will allow Tippecanoe County to be competitive with surrounding counties and it cuts 30 days off of processing time for any company and gets ground "shovel-ready" that much sooner.

Attorney Luhman confirmed the SB-1 application for Superior Structures has been withdrawn. Any approval granted today would be for the ERA designation only.

Councilmember Gutwein shared his concern for designating a site an ERA without potential planned development.

- Councilmember Kemper moved to approve Resolution 2008-33-CL as amended, second by Councilmember Byers; motion carried. *Councilmember Gutwein opposed*

SUPERIOR COURT 3 – Faith Graham

General Fund 001

Juvenile Magistrate Faith Graham requested an additional appropriation in part-time. When Judge Rush appointed the Juvenile Magistrate in 2006 there was not an increase in full-time staff so the department depended upon part-time to pick-up the workload. Additional funds were requested to cover Judge Pro Tem to cover Judge Rush as she attends meetings regarding HB 1001.

Additional Appropriation: $2,992

$2,500	Part-Time/Other
$192	Social Security
$300	Judge Pro Tem

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

IV-D Court – Juvenile Magistrate Faith Graham/IV-D Commissioner

Judge Graham is requesting an increase in part-time to attract experienced personnel for the court reporter position.

Salary Statement: up to $14.00 per/hr

Part-Time

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

PROSECUTOR

Project Safe Neighborhood Fund 188

Commissioner's Assistant Frank Cederquist requested approval of a grant extension for Project Safe Neighborhood. He explained the request will fund administrative fees and other professional services.

Grant Appropriation: $10,000
$10,000 Administrative/Other Professional Services

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

PUBLIC DEFENDER – Amy Hutchison

General Fund 001

Transfer: $1,148
$1,148 Salaries/Wages Part-Time Regular to Admin/Other Professional Services

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

Public Defender User Fee Fund 555

Public Defender Amy Hutchison requested an additional appropriation for law books and professional services.

Additional Appropriation: $36,000
$30,000 Professional Services
$6,000 Law Books

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

TEMA – Mark Kirby

General Fund 001

Director Kirby requested a transfer for additional fuel expenses and maintenance on TEMA equipment. He mentioned an additional appropriation may be needed next month for the garage/maintenance fund.

Transfer: $1,500

$750 Physical Examinations to Garage/Maintenance
$750 Travel & Training to Garage/Maintenance

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

CARY HOME – Rebecca Humphrey

General Fund 001

Director Humphrey requested a transfer for removal of trees and limbs at Cary Home to prevent damage to the building.

Transfer: $5,500

$5,000 Regular Part-Time to Building Structure/Repair
$500 Full-Time to Cleaning

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

COURT SERVICES – Cindy Houseman

Cash Flow Presentation

Director Cindy Houseman provided information regarding revenue and expenses from 2006-2008. Starting in 2006 Court Services has concentrated on decreasing expenses and increasing revenue. January through June 2008 expenses equaled revenue and Director Houseman is projecting additional funding from grant money for the second half of 2008. Court Services had several major expenses in 2006 including a mandatory remodel for the office, funding for Cary Home, and an increase in the lease amount. They were able to cover the unexpected expenses with funding from other revenue sources, marketing of the program, and additional court ordered cases received.

Substance Abuse/MH Fund 575

Director Houseman reported the Drug Court Coordinator position is now paid from Fund 577 due to the addition of duties.

Reduction of Appropriation: $24,660

$21,660 Salaries/Wages Full-Time
$1,592 Social Security
$1,408 Retirement

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

Drug Court Fund 577

Additional Appropriation: $24,660

$21,660 Salaries & Wages/Full-Time

$1,592 Social Security
$1,408 Retirement

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

RESOLUTION 2008-32-CL; Amendment to EDIT Plan

Commissioner Benson gave details regarding amendments to the EDIT Plan. A $610,000 request has been approved by the commissioners for the purchase of five additional ambulances for the Tippecanoe Emergency Ambulance Service (TEAS). She confirmed the county has in the past funded ambulances for TEAS. Allen Borck, Operations Manager for TEAS, explained the growth rate in the community and the need for additional ambulances.

Councilmember Byers questioned the participation of county government in the existing ambulance service. Attorney Luhman stated the service was a private ambulance service in the early 1970's and when the service went out of business the two hospitals and the county came together to provide the services. The hospitals provide administration and personnel to staff the ambulances and the county provides funding for the vehicles. Members shared their concern for the role of the county government in the ambulance service. Mr. Borck reported other counties in the state, larger than Tippecanoe County, are providing funding for ambulance services.

TEMA Director Mark Kirby shared his opinion as a former member of the Sheriff's Department and Chairman of the Emergency Medical Services Committee. He stated the purchase of additional ambulances by the commissioners is an investment in the community and adds a sense of security for citizens. Director Kirby confirmed Tippecanoe County is a service provider for this region of the state. With counties cutting emergency services, mutual aid calls are frequent to adjoining counties. He believes county involvement in the service is best for the community; although the hospitals have a commitment to the service, they also have a competing interest. If the county does not purchase new ambulances the hospitals will be liable; if the hospitals are unable to fund additional trucks the community will suffer the consequence.

Council members are interested in options of sharing the cost of the ambulances. They discussed the City of Lafayette and West Lafayette along with Purdue University contributing to the cost of service. Members suggested obtaining funding through user fees, both hospitals and both cities.

Commissioner Benson acknowledged county government has provided services in the past in which all taxpayers aren't able to take advantage of. She believes an unbiased party is essential between the two competing hospitals that have had a history of being competitive.

Councilmember Byers shared his concern regarding the price of the generator for Community Corrections. Commissioner Benson reported with the size of the building and the number of inmates, a large generator is needed in the event of a power outage.

Attorney Luhman summarized changes referenced in Resolution 2008-32-CL. The commissioners approved Resolution 2008-31-CM with the following projects:

Project # 4 Ambulances $650,000
Project #10 Tax/Assess Hardware/Software $650,000
Project #56 HVAC/Maintenance $220,000
New Project #60 Exterior Veneer Project for Community Corrections $300,000

New Project #61 Emergency Generator for Community Corrections $100,000

- Councilmember Byers moved to endorse Resolution 2008-32-CL except Project #4 and Project #61, second by Councilmember Gutwein; motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS – Frank Cederquist

EDIT Fund 301

Additional Appropriation: $1,210,000
$610,000 Equipment/Ambulances
$650,000 Equipment/Data Processing /Software

- Councilmember Byers moved to approve the additional appropriation for $650,000 for Equipment/Data Processing/Software, second by Councilmember Michael; motion carried.

YOUTH SERVICES UPDATE – Rebecca Humphrey

Director Humphrey reported work continues on the Juvenile Justice Project with the Design Development. The Design Development will be presented to the commissioners on September 2, 2008 at their regular meeting. She reported Cary Home for Girls is ready to open; she has approval from the state with licensure to operate through 2011. She is waiting on the official paper license to open the facility.

OTHER BUSINESS

Director Kirby requested permission to attend a future council meeting to provide additional information regarding the purchase of ambulances and the Emergency Services Committee in an effort to help council understand the service.

COMMISSIONER'S FYI

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike Simpson, (quote) a local businessman and former Director of Marketing for three hospitals in Milwaukee and Racine, Wisconsin. I would like to commend KD for her work on this and beyond anything else we need to get these hospitals working together instead of in competitive mode. It's going to be in the patients' best interest, but I think it wouldn't hurt from a citizen, to see them step up and ask that these hospitals pay for their ambulances. If you want to help them that is fine, but in terms of the capital expenses of $600,000, we have every right as a citizen to ask these hospitals, especially a for-profit hospital that's going up, to at least pitch in the capital for the expenses of these ambulances. Thank you. (unquote)

President Pro-Tem Underwood reminded council members that budget hearings start on August 25, 2008 at 8:00 a.m. He encouraged members to meet with their respective Department Heads to review budgets in an effort to expedite the process.

- Councilmember Byers moved to adjourn.

TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL

Thomas P. Murtaugh, President

Betty J. Michael

Kevin L. Underwood, Vice President

David S. Byers

Andrew S. Gutwein

absent

Jeffrey A. Kemper

Attest:

Jennifer Weston, Auditor

Kathy Vernon