TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
July 10, 2007

The Tippecanoe County Council met at 2:00 p. m. Tuesday, June 10, 2007 in the Tippecanoe Room in the County Office Building. Council members present were: Vice President Thomas P. Murtaugh, David S. Byers, Andrew S. Gutwein, Betty J. Michael, Kevin Underwood, and Kathy Vernon. Others present were: Auditor Jennifer Weston, Attorney David W. Luhman, and Secretary Jennifer Prange.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Councilmember Byers moved to approve minutes from the June 12, 2007 regular meeting, second by Councilmember Vernon; motion carried.

AUDITOR'S REPORT – Jennifer Weston

The county's Self Insurance Fund 310 first half year's health claims and payments increased 20% over last half of 2006 and only 10% was budgeted. She mentioned the loan made to the Department of Child Services has been paid off. She stated Court Services Fund 575 shows a negative balance, but will be credited with funds from 577. Two corrections need to be made on the report: Surtax Fund 840 ending balance is $211,801.23 and Wheel Tax Fund 721 ending balance is $8,396.20.

Financial Report

Uncommitted Funds as of January 2007	$ 1,981,908.39
YTD Council Approved Appropriations as of June	$ 454,871.00
YTD Council Approved Reductions	+$ 13,148.00
YTD Miscellaneous Expenditures	$ 6,677.29
Uncommitted Funds available:	$ 1,533,508.10

TREASURER'S REPORT – Bob Plantenga

Treasurer Plantenga noted interest rates are holding steady around 5.1%. Postings for taxing districts are current with collected revenue. Treasurer Plantenga noted collections to date are $76.7 million, with $17 million collected in state funds. COIT collections are $1,130,226.76 and CEDIT collections are $1,293,835.58. The total collected for excise is $8 million, which is 11% higher than the first half of last year. Treasurer Plantenga anticipates with the large advance draw, approximately $14 million will be distributed with the final settlement. In closing, he noted 51% of total taxes billed have been collected.

COMPLIANCE WITH STATEMENT OF BENEFITS - Atlas Excavating

Tina Dillon spoke on behalf of Atlas Excavating. Ms. Dillon explained her employee figure on the CF-1 reflects the number of employees in the first quarter. The average number of employees in 2006 was 233, with the payroll increasing $20,000. She noted the business has had a steady increase from 2003 with an average salary of $28.16 an hour.

- Councilmember Byers moved to approve the CF-1 for Atlas Excavating, second by Councilmember Underwood; motion carried.

SUPERIOR COURT 4

Transfer: $325
$300 Pauper Attorney to Part Time
$25 Pauper Attorney to Social Security

- Councilmember Byers moved to approve the transfer for Superior Court 4 as stated, second by Councilmember Underwood; motion carried.

CIRCUIT COURT

Councilmember Murtaugh noted the judge is short a public defender and he anticipates the shortfall for the rest of the year to be approximately $7,000 - $8,000.

Additional Appropriation: $10,000
$10,000 Pauper Attorney

- Councilmember Michael moved to approve $7,000 for Circuit Court, second by Councilmember Byers; motion carried.

SUPERIOR COURT 2 – Brenda Rody

Bailiff Brenda Rody requested an additional appropriation for overtime. One full-time representative is needed in the court and currently the bailiff is performing other duties. She believes her request will cover overtime until the end of the year.

Additional Appropriations: $5,228
$4,600 Overtime
$352 Social Security
$276 Retirement

- Councilmember Michael moved to approve the additional appropriation as requested for Superior Court 2, second by Councilmember Gutwein; motion carried.

ANCILLARY

Additional Appropriation: $6,273
$2,000 Overtime
$4,000 Pauper Transcripts
$153 Social Security
$120 Retirement

Councilmember Byers noted the Ancillary court has a fair amount of budget in other accounts and suggested they come back in October if an additional appropriation is needed.

PUBLIC DEFENDER – Amy Hutchison

Public Defender Amy Hutchison requested a transfer for additional office supplies.

Transfer: $3,500
$2,000 Part Time Deputies to Law Books

$1,500 Part Time Deputies to Office Supplies

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

PROSECUTOR – Pat Harrington

Prosecutor Harrington requested a transfer from Travel/Training to Office Expenses.

Transfer: $1,643
$1,643 Travel/Training to Office Expenses

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

Pre-Trial Diversion Fund

Transfer: $10,100
$10,100 Travel/Training to Office Expenses

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

Old Hoosier Act Fund 250

Prosecutor Harrington requested an additional appropriation for funds to purchase laptop computers.

Additional Appropriation: $3,000
$3,000 General Operating

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

CASA – Coleen Hamrick

Director Coleen Hamrick requested an appropriation of funds received from the State earmarked for the CHINS program. She also requested an appropriation for part time funds for the remainder of 2007. Director Hamrick noted that State funds were deposited into CASA Fund 501. Auditor Weston noted that the appropriation request should come from the same fund to which the deposit was made, Fund 501. She suggested if the council approved the appropriation from the General Fund, a correction should be made on the receipt.

Additional Appropriation: $5,383
$3,000 Pauper Attorney
$2,000 Part Time Other
$383 Social Security

- Councilmember Byers moved to approve the request as stated with the stipulation that funds are transferred into the General Fund from Fund 501, second by Councilmember Gutwein; motion carried. Councilmember Michael voted against the request.

CASA Donations Fund 151

Additional Appropriation: $322
$322 Donations

- Councilmember Underwood moved to approve the appropriation as requested from Fund 151, second by Councilmember Michael; motion carried.

COUNTY ASSESSOR – Samantha Steele

Reassessment Fund 281

County Assessor Samantha Steele requested an additional appropriation for part time. She noted the part time budget for 2006 was $62,000 yet $97,000 was spent by the former county assessor. She added $59,000 has been spent to date for part time.

Councilmember Murtaugh suggested transferring unused funds from full time to part time. Councilmember Byers noted filling the full time vacancy will reduce the part time disbursements going out.

Additional Appropriation: $36,678
$35,000 Part Time
$2,678 Social Security

- Councilmember Byers moved to approve $15,000 for Part Time and $1,148 for Social Security and re-evaluate in a couple of months, second by Councilmember Underwood; motion carried.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Transfer: $11,500
$5,000 Full Time to Travel/Training
$1,500 Full Time to Maintenance/Transportation
$4,000 Full Time to Medical Supplies
$1,000 Full Time to Environmental Supplies

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

MITS

Transfer: $500
$500 Contract /Services to Overtime

- Councilmember Byers moved to transfer $500 from Contract/Services to Overtime, second by Councilmember Gutwein; motion carried.

HIGHWAY – Opal Kuhl

Highway Excise Surtax Fund 105

Director Kuhl requested a transfer of funds for paving in the county. She added paving done by the Highway Department instead of a contractor will save the county money and allow the department to use the paver purchased last year.

Transfer: $399,820
$399,820 Infrastructure to Highway Materials

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

AREA PLAN COMMISSION – Sallie Dell Fahey

Director Fahey requested salary approval for a new GIS Technician/Addressing position and also a reclassification of a GIS Technician/General. Director Fahey noted the county will receive a partial reimbursement from the state for the GIS Technician/Addressing position.

Salary Statement: $68,094
$34,047 GIS Technician/Addressing
$34,047 GIS Technician/General

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

COALITION FOR A SAFE & DRUG FREE TIPPECANOE COUNTY – Rebecca Humphrey

Youth Services Director Rebecca Humphrey presented a salary statement for part time positions funded by a state incentive grant. This 3-year grant for planning and programming will help combat underage drinking in Tippecanoe County.

Salary Statement
$23.07hr. Program Director
$14.42 hr. Administrative Assistant
$18.75 hr. Program Assistant

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

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilmember Murtaugh noted that West Lafayette passed two ordinances for consideration by the Tippecanoe County Income Tax Council. A public hearing will be set for July 24, 2007 at 5:30 p.m. in the Tippecanoe Room for consideration by the Tippecanoe County Council.

Public Comment

Terry Schmidt – Deputy Controller, City of Lafayette spoke regarding the CEDIT and COIT tax proposals. He noted the calculations by West Lafayette are new and need additional tracking over time to produce solid figures. He added the rate proposal and distribution of excess revenue were based on

inventory from property tax returns estimated at $483 million. With the current proposal for 2006 inventory estimated at $332 million, Mr. Schmidt suggests evaluating this large decrease in an effort to be more precise.

Mike Jones – Controller, City of Lafayette noted there is a downfall without a reliable inventory evaluation number. He does not agree that $150 million has been lost in inventory in a short amount of time. He suggested there is no surplus based on this information and urged the council to proceed with caution.

Revenue Committee

Councilmember Murtaugh stated Coroner fees have been recently updated. The Clerk's Office is investigating collections of past traffic tickets and has considered outsourcing the project. Probation is also researching the possibility of collecting past due fees. At the last meeting, the committee reviewed revenue estimates from the 2008 budget, considered legislative efforts for funding 911, discussed a baseline for COIT and considered legislative action for the juvenile facility.

YOUTH SERVICES UPDATE – Rebecca Humphrey

Director Humphrey noted the Girl's facility is moving along well. Plans to move the modular home located at the fairgrounds are underway. She added site planning and moving details will available in the next 10 days.

Director Humphrey is currently working on programming for youth services to include reviewing best practices and furtherer implementing evidence based programs. She noted the JAMS program has been restructured from Cary Home to Juvenile Alternatives. This change will save the county $21,000 in 2008 if approved and will eliminate one full time employee.

DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES – Angela Smith Grossman

Director Grossman noted the $1,000,000 temporary loan from the spring has been paid. She currently is working on the budget changes in an effort to meet annual goals. She added the first six months of the year DCS was within budget, and slight increases will be made to the 2008 budget in an effort to adjust the cash flow. The DCS budget for next year will be approximately $13.9 million and an additional request for $1.5 million will be made to bring the department current.

COMMISSIONER'S FYI

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

Georgia Jones spoke regarding the cost table purchase for the county assessor. She noted the assessor would like to purchase complete cost tables in the interest of time for use in trending for 2007. These cost tables are not formatted for Tippecanoe County but are adaptable and are acceptable to the Department of Local Government and Finance. Ms. Jones added in the future cost tables can be created for our county to better assess the commercial and industrial property.

- Councilmember Gutwein moved to adjourn.

TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL

Jeffrey A. Kemper, President

Betty J. Michael

Thomas P. Murtaugh, Vice President

absent when approved
David S. Byers

Andrew S. Gutwein

Kevin L. Underwood

Attest:
Jennifer Weston, Auditor

Kathy Vernon