TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 13, 2007

The Tippecanoe County Council met at 2:00 p. m. Tuesday March 13, 2007 in the Tippecanoe Room in the County Office Building. Council members present were: President Jeffrey A. Kemper, 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.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Councilmember Murtaugh moved to approve minutes from the February 27, 2007 regular meeting, second by Councilmember Michael; motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Bob Plantenga

Treasurer Bob Plantenga noted that the average interest rate on accounts is 5.13%. He added that a year ago the interest rate were 4.21%. Treasurer Plantenga mentioned that the total interest earned for the general fund is $219,306.02. He stated that a portion of the interest funds are from the Cumulative Bridge account in the amount of $127,220.03 and the remainder is from the General Fund. Currently, the treasurer is working with Greg Guerrettaz on a Request for Proposal for cash management services.

AUDITOR'S REPORT – Jennifer Weston

Auditor Weston presented a General Fund Financial Statement for March 2007.

Financial Report

Uncommitted Funds as of January 2007	$1,981,908.39
YTD Council Approved Appropriations for February	$ 145,532.00
YTD Council Approved Reductions	+$ 13,148.00
YTD Miscellaneous Expenditures	$ 2,924.48
Uncommitted Funds available:	$1,846,599.91

Auditor Weston presented a fund balance report through February. She added that some funds with negative balances are reimbursement grants and they will be monitored to ensure grant money is received and balances return to zero.

CATERPILLAR LOGISTICS – CF-1

Doug Garwood account manager spoke on behalf of CAT Logistics. He noted that CAT Logistics continues to grow with the Caterpillar plant being their main source of revenue. Mr. Garwood added that the numbers are conservative as to how the business is operating.

Employees and Salaries	Estimated on SB-1	Actual
Number of additional employees	75	124
Salaries	2,041,880	5,199,580

- Councilmember Byers moved to find that CAT Logistics is in substantial compliance, second by Councilmember Underwood; motion carried.

FEDERATED PUBLICATIONS dba JOURNAL AND COURIER – CF-1

No representatives were present.

Employees and Salaries	Estimated on SB-1	Actual
Current number of employees	15	15
Salaries	651,872	671,500
Number of employees retained	15	15
Salaries	651,872	671,500
Number of additional employees	7	8
Salaries	388,104	314,760

- Councilmember Byers moved to find that Federated Publication is in substantial compliance, second by Councilmember Michael; motion carried.

CARY HOME – Jason Kniola

Director Jason Kniola requested withdraw of his request for additional appropriations. Director Kniola noted that recently there have been changes in the staff and he will take this opportunity to review utilization of services and the needs of the community. He added that changes may occur in 2008 with female detention at Cary Home and stated that this appropriation may be requested at that time.

COMMISSIONERS – Frank Cederquist

Commissioners' Assistant Frank Cederquist requested additional appropriations for office furniture in the Human Resource office. Human Resource Director Shirley Mennen stated that in an effort to make the flow and workspace in the office more productive she would like to purchase new office furniture. She added that the furniture will create an appealing organized office more suitable for the public and staff. Director Mennen also noted that the new configuration will allow employee's confidential records to be stored in an area un-accessible to the public.

Additional Appropriations: $15,100

$15,100	Office Furniture

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

TIPPECANOE VILLA – DeAnna Sieber

Director DeAnna Sieber requested a change in the Activity Director position. Director Sieber noted that this position was reduced to part time in an effort to help reduce the county budget.

She added that currently she has $13,000 in her budget for the Part-Time Activity Director and if approved she would transfer that amount to the full-time position. She noted that a full-time position is warranted for additional activities and added that full-time hours will benefit both the Villa and residents.

Additional Appropriations: $9,232

$7,437	Full Time
$1,226	Retirement
$569	Social Security

- Councilmember Michael moved to approve the additional appropriations as stated, second by Councilmember Murtaugh; motion carried.

Director Sieber also requested additional appropriations for medication co-pay for residents of the Villa. She added that last year, residents participating in Medicare Part D were not expected to provide a co-pay for medications. This year some residents are experiencing large co-pays that are beyond their means. Director Sieber noted that currently, the residents personal allowance accounts are being depleted in an effort to cover the costs. She added that depleting these accounts leaves residents without funds to buy necessary toiletries that are not provided by the Villa.

Additional Appropriations: $17,000

$17,000	Medication Co-Pays

- Councilmember Byers moved to approve $10,000 for medication co-pays, second by Councilmember Underwood; motion carried.

CIRCUIT COURT

Additional Appropriations: $ 2,153

$2,153	Part-Time
$153	Social Security

- Councilmember Byers moved to approve the additional appropriation for Circuit Court as stated, second by Councilmember Gutwein; motion carried.

CASA

Donation Fund 151

Additional Appropriations: $5,000

$5,000	General Operating/Miscellaneous

Additional Appropriations: $969

$969	General Operating/Miscellaneous

- Councilmember Murtaugh moved to approve additional appropriations in the amount of $5,969, second by Councilmember Michael; motion carried.

SURVEYOR – Steve Murray

Phase II Stormwater Fund 247

Surveyor Steve Murray requested additional appropriations to fund a new Stormwater Technician position. He added that this fund was started in late 2005 with EDIT funds and currently generates funds from stormwater fees charged for newly developed areas. Surveyor Murray noted at the end of 2006, $65,000 has been collected for the Phase II Stormwater Fund 247.

Additional Appropriations: $51,469

$38,054	Full Time Employee
$2,912	Social Security
$2,284	Retirement
$6,600	Health
$110	LTD
$76	Life
$1,333	Workman's Compensation
$100	FLEX

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

PROSECUTOR – Pat Harrington

Prosecutor Drug Enforce Fund 257

Prosecutor Pat Harrington requested that additional appropriations be approved for new computer systems.

Additional Appropriations: $12,601

$12,601	General Operating/Miscellaneous

- Councilmember Murtaugh moved to approve the Prosecutor Drug Enforce Fund 257 in the amount of $12,601, second by Councilmember Underwood; motion carried.

BOARD OF ELECTION – Linda Phillips

Voting Equipment Reimbursement Fund 329

Clerk Linda Phillips requested additional appropriations for start-up equipment and expenses for vote centers. She noted that these funds may be used on voter outreach efforts. She added that the funds will be used to purchase laptops, signage, equipment and advertising.

Additional Appropriations: $100,000

$25,000	Travel & Training
$10,000	Office Equipment
$55,000	Data Processing Hardware
$10,000	Signage

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

COUNTY ASSESSOR – Samantha Steele

County Assessor Samantha Steele requested additional appropriations to award a contract for Annual Trending Services. Assessor Steele presented information to the county council concerning last year's trending process and the amount it cost the county. She noted that last year neighborhood delineation and stratification were unsuccessful. Assessor Steele does not believe that GnA included enough parcel visits in their quote for 2007 Trending. She added that Nexus Group has included visiting one-third of the parcels in Tippecanoe County. She briefly explained the trending process versus a general reassessment and how the county would be affected. She noted that professionals are needed to re-delineate and stratify neighborhoods for the next two years, but perhaps in the future township assessors could perform the work in an effort to save the county money.

Township Assessors Linda Mussche, Jan Payne and Janet Freels spoke regarding the bids for Annual Trending Services. The township assessors' noted that funds are limited and the council should consider that when appropriating funds for Annual Trending Services. Wabash Township Assessor Janet Freels noted that General Reassessment money will be needed for a new computer system that could cost the county over a million dollars. She added that Reassessment for 2008 through 2010 will cost the county approximately $300,000 to $400,000. Assessor Freels added that reassessment generates $270,000 a year and currently, more is being spent than generated. She informed the council that the budget for 2007 was $373,200 which did not including trending. Wea Township Assessor Linda Mussche stated that the confusion in added cost for GnA is the statement in the bid specification that states "At the assessors' request, visit each or all parcels requested". She added that GnA put the per diem rate in their bid to cover the cost associated with visiting all the parcels in Tippecanoe County should they be asked to do so.

Public Comment

Thomas Kessler noted that he supports trending and the changes to market value. He noted that he is trying to understand the process and would like an unambiguous path providing concrete information on the value of his property.

Alex Pilotte mentioned that he does not believe that the county assessor is comparing the bids fairly against one another. He stated that he believes that Nexus has included several jobs in their contract that the county assessor will not ask them to perform. He added that GnA will perform additional duties at an extra fee, but questioned whether or not the county assessor will request that the duties be performed.

Paul Post stated that the county assessor has favored Nexus in previous meetings and he believes that the county should go with the lowest bidder, GnA. He added that Nexus has not done work in Tippecanoe County and he is concerned about the performance of a company that is inexperienced in this area.

Additional Appropriations: $110,000
$110,000 Contract/Consultant

- Councilmember Byers moved to approve $50,000 from the reassessment fund, second by Councilmember Underwood; motion left open.

Council president Kemper noted that with the motion on the floor the county assessor will not have enough in the reassessment fund to pay for GnA contract.

- Councilmember Byers moved to amend his motion to $55,000, second by Councilmember Underwood; motion carried.

SHERIFF – Tracy Brown

Sheriff Tracy Brown requested budget appropriations for the Sheriff's District Conference. He noted that grant funds were received for a Gang Conference to be held in Tippecanoe County.

Appropriations of Budget: $20,500

$3,000	Operating Supplies
$12,500	Travel & Training
$5,000	Contracts

- Councilmember Murtaugh moved to approve the appropriations of budget from Fund 184 as requested, second by Councilmember Michael; motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2007-08-CM

Commissioner's Assistant Frank Cederquist presented Resolution 2007-08-CM Amending Economic Development Income Tax Plan for 2007 to the council.

- Councilmember Murtaugh moved to approve Resolution 2007-08-CM to Amend Economic Development Income Tax Plan for 2007, second by Councilmember Underwood; motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2007-09-CM

Commissioner's Assistant Frank Cederquist presented Resolution 2007-09-CM Amending Cumulative Capital Improvement Plan for 2007 to the council.

- Councilmember Gutwein moved to approve Resolution 2007-09-CM Amending Cumulative Capital Improvement Plan for 2007, second by Councilmember Vernon; motion carried.

AUDITOR – Jennifer Weston

Auditor Weston presented a salary statement for GIS Specialist. She added that there is sufficient funding within 2007 budget to cover the salary of the reclassified position.

Appropriations of Budget: $34,047

$34,047	GIS Specialist

- Councilmember Vernon moved to approve the salary statement for the GIS Specialist for $34,047, second by Councilmember Michael; motion carried.

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY & CHILDREN – Angela Smith Grossman

Director Angela Smith Grossman presented a financial update for the Department of Family and Children. She noted that DCS is approximately 6-8 weeks from an early tax draw on the spring settlement and pending reimbursement dollars at the end of March will be $213,365.27. She added that currently DCS is incurring $650,000 a month in bills.

As of 3/12/07:

DCS balance	$447,109.54
Outstanding bills for 2006	$ 75,358.00
Outstanding bills for 2007	$601,269.32
Total Cash Balance	$229,517.78

YOUTH SERVICES UPDATE – Rebecca Humphrey

Youth Services Director Rebecca Humphrey provided an overview of her duties to date. She noted that Husky and Associates recommended in 2004 that a 45 secure bed facility be built in Tippecanoe County with 24 residential beds. They also recommended that Cary Home be reused for the CHINS and Department of Child Service's programs. She added that the Mike McMillan study noted that there should be a reduction in proposed capacity of secure detention. They suggested the county work on alternatives for providing services that are less expensive than out of home placements. She added that later, Husky refined the study and recommended 28 beds instead of the original 45. Director Humphrey stated that the delay for building the center continues to be the operating costs. She noted that her goal is to redirect 80% of the youth from the Department of Corrections. She mentioned that out-of-county placements for girls needs to be reduced and the money redirected. In closing, she stated that the facility will cost the county approximately $1,700,000 for operating cost and suggested that the county could save thousands of dollars if it maximizes the benefit of alternative programs.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business.

COMMISSIONER'S FYI

No information to report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

- Councilmember Byers moved to adjourn.

TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL

Jeffrey A. Kemper, President

Betty J. Michael

Thomas P. Murtaugh, Vice President

David S. Byers

Andrew S. Gutwein

Kevin L. Underwood

Attest:

Jennifer Weston, Auditor

Kathy Vernon