

**TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL  
TIPPECANOE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
JOINT MEETING  
JANUARY 10, 2006**

The Tippecanoe County Council and Tippecanoe County Commissioners held a joint meeting on Tuesday, January 10, 2006 at Noon in the Tippecanoe Room in the County Office Building. Council members present were: President Kathy Vernon, Vice President Ronald L. Fruitt, David S. Byers, Jeffrey A. Kemper, Betty J. Michael, Thomas P. Murtaugh, and Kevin L. Underwood. Commissioners present were: President KD Benson, Vice President John L. Knochel, and Member Ruth E. Shedd. Others present were: Auditor Robert A. Plantenga, Commissioners' Assistant Jennifer Weston, Attorney David W. Luhman, and Secretary Pauline E. Rohr.

Greg Guerrettaz, President of Financial Solutions and Tippecanoe County's Financial Consultant, was present. Also present were members of the Juvenile Committee.

President Vernon called the County Council Meeting to order.

President Knochel called the County Commissioner Meeting to order.

**JUVENILE CENTER DISCUSSION**

- ♦ Mr. Guerrettaz: Estimated cost for 2006 is \$15 million but, even if construction were started today, there is no way it can be completed before 2007. The Doc may have new programs for funding help and Tippecanoe County should open the door and see if there are strings attached before rejecting as a source.
- ♦ Commissioner Knochel: We don't want DOC funding if they are going to tell how the Juvenile Center has to be run as they have our Community Corrections.
- ♦ Cary Home Director Rebecca Humphrey: This should be a lean facility.
- ♦ Commissioner Knochel: We need to decide which option we want to build so we can determine if we can afford to operate it.
- ♦ Commissioner Benson: We need to expand Cary Home to house girls to keep the number of beds down in a detention facility. Currently our only option is to send the girls out of town.
- ♦ The cost to include the juvenile courtrooms, associated support, and related functions will be approximately \$4 million.
- ♦ Commissioner Knochel: He would prefer to include the juvenile courtrooms in the juvenile facility to free up space in the Courthouse. It was noted that some associated support staff (i.e. Probation) is shared.
- ♦ Mr. Guerrettaz: Economically, it would be cheaper to include courtrooms in the facility when it is built.
- ♦ Councilmember Byers: Has a location been determined? Commissioner Knochel said various locations have been scouted and rated for desirability. Commissioner Benson said the current hospitals could be a location if the hospitals' plan to vacate and build a new facility proceeds.
- ♦ Councilmember Kemper: The Council and Commissioners need a one page chart showing each option with the pros and cons of each.

**Bonding**

Mr. Guerrettaz: 2002 Business Plan should be updated.

- ♦ Tippecanoe County's Assessed Value is approximately \$7 billion.
- ♦ A juvenile facility will cost approximately \$20 million.
- ♦ 1995 EDIT Bonds (Courthouse) will be paid off 2010: \$1.3 million is budgeted annually.
- ♦ 2000 EDIT Bonds (Parking Garage) will be paid off 2020. Could be a refunding opportunity to free up money.
- ♦ EDIT Bonds (Jail): \$14 million over approximately 20 years (2023)

Councilmember Vernon wondered if the planned Cary Home expansion to accommodate girls could be started now since it is a separate component.

Mr. Guerrettaz said he needs a list of the County's unencumbered and encumbered assets. If the County leases or rents the juvenile facility, then capitalized interest can be eliminated to help the total overall budget.

\*Members of the Juvenile Committee gathered to make a chart of the three options with pros and cons of each to report to the Council later in the meeting.

**STORM WATER PHASE II**

Mr. Guerrettaz: Storm Water Phase II currently has a \$1 million annual appropriation from the EDIT Fund. Another funding source needs to be found for residential, non-residential, and impervious areas. To determine cost-based and fair fees, use a co-efficient developed specifically for Tippecanoe County.

**JUVENILE CENTER resumed: Juvenile Committee Report**

**Option A:**

- ♦ Full facility: all courts, all alternative programs, and Cary Home expansion
- ♦ \$20 million with 10% increase for each year we wait to build.
- ♦ \$3 million operating costs per year (no fluff). Some programs could be paid from grants. Some of \$3 million could come from money now being spent to send juveniles out-of-county.

**Pros:**

- ♦ Better continuum of care.
- ♦ Consolidate all costs of alternative services
- ♦ Efficiency of time, staffing, and services to be co-located.
- ♦ Create needed space in Courthouse
- ♦ Most cost effective
- ♦ Most community support
- ♦ Cary Home can be softer and gentler for children who are abused and neglected and need a place to stay short-term.

**Cons:**

- ♦ Duplicate court staff. Court now share staff with other departments in Courthouse (i.e. Prosecutor, Probation)

**Option B:**

- ♦ Upgrade Cary Home to house 8 girls plus needed repairs (fire escapes, tuck point building)
- ♦ \$2.2 million to renovate the building to add 8 girls. 10% increase in cost for each year we wait.
- ♦ \$138,000 operating costs per year in addition to current Cary Home Budget.
- ♦ Capacity will remain at 24. Currently average 16-18 boys per day so they think they can add 8 girls.

Pros:

- ♦ Will meet immediate needs of girls in the community.

Cons:

- ♦ Will not enhance community buy-in.
- ♦ Doesn't meet detention needs.
- ♦ Won't meet DOC problems with sending girls out of the community.
- ♦ Less bang for our buck. \$2.8 million for only 8 girls.

**Option C:**

- ♦ Everything in Option A except the courts.
- ♦ \$15.9 million with 10% increase for each year we wait to build.
- ♦ \$2.5 million operating costs per year.

Pros:

- ♦ Consolidate all alternative services except the courts.
- ♦ Community support.
- ♦ Meet immediate and identified needs.

Cons:

- ♦ Less efficient because juveniles will be transported to various facilities.
- ♦ Lack of immediate response.

Councilmember Fruitt said it is obvious that Option A is the most desired choice.

Councilmember Byers pointed out that some juveniles will still be sent to the DOC so that cost has to be added to the \$3 million estimated operating cost for Option A. Mrs. Humphrey conceded that truth but said Judge Rush estimates that 60% of the juveniles could come back here. This should save money because Mrs. Humphrey believes the stay will be much shorter than at the DOC.

Commissioner Shedd suggested building Option A but phasing in the courts and support staff over time. Mr. Guerrettaz agreed the courts should be built even if they are phased in. He asked why Cary Home has to be retained. Mrs. Humphrey said it doesn't if a larger juvenile facility is built. However, we will lose an estimated \$50,000 4-E reimbursement annually if it is all one facility.

Councilmember Kemper suggested looking at building a larger facility that can meet future needs if the numbers grow or possibly pulling in from surrounding counties. Members of the Juvenile Committee thought a smaller facility should be built and more funding put into prevention programs. One member said studies show that \$1 spent in prevention programming saves \$10 in treatment costs.

President Vernon asked for a consensus of the Council on Options A, B, or C

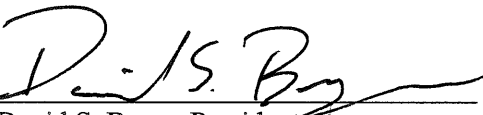
Option C	None
Option B	Kemper, Underwood
Option A	Byers, Murtaugh, Michael, Fruitt

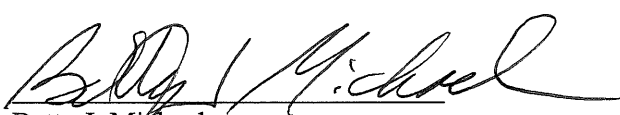
President Vernon expressed the opinion that Option B might be doable this year and thought the Council and Commissioners should look at both Options A and B.


Mr. Guerrettaz said he will prepare for Options A and B for the next meeting on March 14, 2006 at Noon.

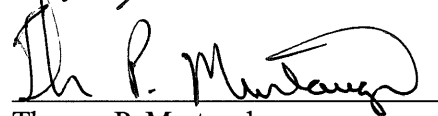
- President Vernon recessed the Council until 2:00 P.M.
- Commissioner Shedd moved to adjourn the Commissioners' Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Knochel; motion carried.

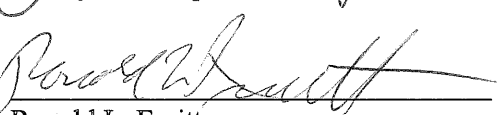
**TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL**

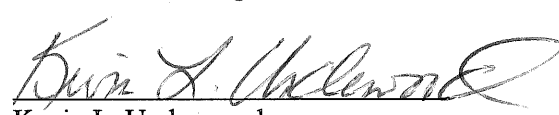
  
 David S. Byers, President


  
 Betty J. Michael

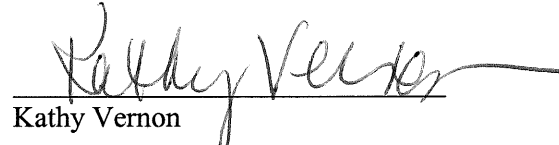
  
 Jeffrey A. Kemper, Vice President

  
 Thomas P. Murtaugh

  
 Ronald L. Fruitt

  
 Kevin L. Underwood

Attest:   
 Robert A. Plantenga, Auditor

  
 Kathy Vernon