

**TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 11, 2005**

The Tippecanoe County Council Meeting began at 1:00 P.M. Tuesday, October 11, 2005 in the Tippecanoe Room in the County Office Building. Council members present were: Vice President Ronald L. Fruitt, David S. Byers, Jeffrey A. Kemper, Betty J. Michael, and Thomas P. Murtaugh. Others present were: Auditor Robert A. Plantenga, Attorney David W. Luhman, and Secretary Pauline E. Rohr.

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

AUDITOR'S FINANCIAL REPORT: Robert Plantenga

Auditor Plantenga reported the 2005 uncommitted County General Funds through September 30, 2005 are \$22,959.20. Today's budget reduction request totaling \$76,581, if approved, will increase the uncommitted amount allowable for appropriations to \$99,540.20. On the Revenue Report, Auditor Plantenga pointed out any percentage of revenue over 100 means we received more revenue than estimated. Auditor Plantenga also included a letter stating the State Budget Agency approved Tippecanoe County's proposed juvenile debt agreement.

➤ Councilmember Kevin L. Underwood entered the meeting.

TREASURER'S INTEREST REPORT: Oneta Tolle

Mrs. Tolle distributed the Interest Report showing the average interest rate for August 2005 was 3.41%. Councilmember Byers asked if she investigated the amount of interest the County could earn if several funds were invested together. She responded she was advised it would not be wise to invest for long periods of time right now because interest rates are rising. Councilmember Kemper asked her to try and determine how much can be earned if \$10 million is invested.

➤ Councilmember and President Kathy Vernon entered the meeting and assumed the chair.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Councilmember Kemper moved to approve the minutes of the September 7, 2005 Special Public Hearing as distributed, seconded by Councilmember Fruitt; motion carried.
- Councilmember Michael moved to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2005 Regular Meeting as distributed, seconded by Councilmember Kemper; motion carried.

DECLARATORY RESOLUTION 2005-34-CL: ERA Designation for Roadworks Manufacturing, Lafayette-West Lafayette Economic Development Corp. Director of Business Development Cinda Kelly, Roadworks Manufacturing President Susan Linson

Resolution 2005-34-CL will appear in its entirety in the Ordinance and Resolution Book in the County Auditor's Office.

Ms Kelly announced Mrs. Linson plans to move her business from its current location on Klondike Road and build a \$2.5 million facility at 4035 E 300 N, east of Lafayette near SR 25. She plans a December 1, 2005 start date if all permits are acquired.

Mrs. Linson explained that Roadworks manufactures accessories from stainless steel for semi-trucks. They manufacture approximately 16,000 parts that are sold across the United States, in Mexico, Canada, and Australia. They buy stainless steel in sheets from Chicago, lighting, wiring harnesses, hardware, and other parts but do all the design and fabricating of the stainless steel. They also do all their design and prototype work, photography, catalog layout, and website. The current facility, comprised of multiple buildings, has no room for expansion and no sprinkling system. The proposed 30,000 square foot facility will be sprinkled and up-to-date. She said the new location will be closer for her 25 current employees, 22 of whom reside in Tippecanoe County. Although she has no plans to hire more employees, she said that could change by this time next year when there is room for expansion. She said she usually invests in technology one year and hires employees the next year, but she has expensive technical machinery that allows her to manufacture at the price she would have to pay for labor. Employee benefits include paid holidays, personal days, vacation days, and health benefits of which the employee pays \$5 weekly for individual coverage.

Councilmember Kemper said he visited the proposed site as well as the current facility which he described as overcrowded. In his opinion, Mrs. Linson has a well thought-out plan for the new facility and he thinks this is positive economic development.

Councilmember Byers asked if the Council is locked into a 10 year abatement or if it can approve an abatement for a period of 1 to 10 years. Attorney Luhman said they can and advised the Council that Mrs. Linson is requesting a ten (10) year tax abatement on real estate and the designation of approximately 20 acres as an Economic Revitalization Area. If the SB-1 (Statement of Benefits) and Declaratory Resolution are approved today, a public hearing will be held at the next County Council Meeting and a Confirmatory Resolution will be presented for approval.

- Councilmember Michael moved to approve the SB-1, seconded by Councilmember Kemper.

Councilmember Byers asked if, by approving the SB-1, the Council is approving a 10 year abatement. Attorney Luhman explained that the number of years is approved in the resolution, not the SB-1.

The motion carried.

Attorney Luhman summarized Resolution 2005-34-CL is a declaratory resolution for the designation of an economic revitalization area application of Roadworks Manufacturing. It references the fact that they have an interest in 20 acres of land located at 4035 E 300 N, Lafayette, proposed real property improvements to that location, and requested it be designated as an economic revitalization area. The Council, in adopting this resolution, would make certain findings:

- (1) The estimate of the value of the redevelopment or rehabilitation is reasonable for projects of that nature.
- (2) The estimate of the number of individuals who will be employed or whose employment will be retained can be reasonably expected to result from the proposed described redevelopment and rehabilitation.
- (3) The estimate of the annual salaries of those individuals who will be employed or whose employment will be retained can be reasonably expected to result from the proposed described redevelopment or rehabilitation.

- (4) The number of individual opportunities for employment, both temporary and permanent, and the compensation to be paid to employees, along with the value of the acquisition and construction of improvements, create benefits of the type and quality anticipated by the County Council within the economic revitalization area and can reasonably be expected to result from the proposed described redevelopment or rehabilitation.
- (5) The totality of benefits is sufficient to justify the deductions.

The resolution, as presented, would declare this an economic revitalization area for a period of ten (10) years through and including December 31, 2014 and would entitle Roadworks to the deductions for improvements to real property for a period of ten (10) years as long as they do the improvements reflected in their SB-1.

- Councilmember Byers moved to approve Resolution 2005-34-CL to entitle Roadworks to a tax abatement for a period of five (5) years, seconded by Councilmember Underwood.

Councilmember Fruitt asked Councilmember Byers his reason for lowering the number to five (5) years. Councilmember Byers responded he thinks there should be additional employees in a larger facility and, although the salaries are fair, he thinks they could be better. In his opinion, Roadworks will remain in the County with or without an abatement. He said he is more comfortable with five (5) years.

Councilmember Fruitt suggested semi-annual reports from Roadworks to make Councilmember Byers more comfortable, but Attorney Luhman said the abatement will be in effect for a full year even if they come in semi-annually.

Councilmember Murtaugh asked if Roadworks can apply for another five (5) abatement if only a five (5) year is approved today. Attorney Luhman responded they can apply for only one (1) abatement on this improvement.

Councilmember Byers explained he thinks tax abatements should be used as incentives to attract new business to the community and objects to a ten (10) year abatement for an existing business. Councilmember Kemper responded that Mrs. Linson is trying to build a better facility to improve the business. In his opinion, the County will benefit from the improvements this company is making.

In response to Councilmember Byers' comments, Ms Kelly said when the compliance (CF-1) form is completed annually, the Council has the ability to discontinue the abatement if they find the company is not in compliance. She said today is about technology and keeping employees. In economic development, the #1 priority is keeping the employers who are here and she noted that 7 out of 10 new job created in the community are in existing industries, not new industries.

Councilmember Kemper inquired about the amount of property tax that will be generated from the new facility. Ms Kelly noted that taxes will not be lost on the existing facility because it will remain on the tax roles while the new facility will be bringing in new tax dollars. She estimated gross taxes of \$110,000 on the new facility with a 10 year abatement

Auditor Plantenga recorded the vote on Resolution 2005-34-CL with a 5 year abatement:

Kathy Vernon	No
Ronald Fruitt	No
Betty Michael	Yes
Jeffrey Kemper	No
Thomas Murtaugh	No
David Byers	Yes
Kevin Underwood	Yes

- The motion failed 4 – 3.
- Councilmember Kemper moved to approve Resolution 2005-34-CL with a 10 year abatement, seconded by Councilmember Murtaugh.

Auditor Plantenga recorded the vote:

Kevin Underwood	Yes
David Byers	No
Thomas Murtaugh	Yes
Jeffrey Kemper	Yes
Betty Michael	Yes
Ronald Fruitt	Yes
Kathy Vernon	Yes

- The motion passed 6 – 1.

COURT SERVICES: 2006 Proposed Budget: Director Cindy Houseman (Refer to 9/13/2005 Minutes.)

Revisions to Court Services' 2006 proposed budget made after the 2006 Budget Hearings were discussed at the Council's September 13, 2005 meeting. The amount of increase for the Full Time Employee line was questioned and Mrs. Houseman submitted a revised 2006 Budget today that she said is lower than the 2005 Budget. However, Auditor Plantenga noted the amounts submitted in this revised budget for Health, Long Term Disability, and Life Insurance are 2005 amounts that increased for 2006. A revised 2006 Budget will be presented at the November meeting.

Mrs. Houseman said, beginning January 1, 2006, they are raising fees from \$300 to \$400 for people with multiple charges in Superior Court IV and Superior Court VI which should bring in an additional revenue of \$150,000 to \$200,000 for 2006. Due to the newly implemented Rolling Orientation Process, Mrs. Houseman estimated 2006 Revenue could increase to \$850,000 for Fund 575 and \$200,000 for Fund 576. Councilmember Kemper commented the Council wants to be sure the revenue is sufficient to pay expenses. Mrs. Houseman said she will present an expense and revenue report for August, September, and October at the November meeting.

*EMPLOYEE BENEFITS: Commissioners' Assistant Jennifer Weston***Reduction of Appropriation: \$76,580**

67,860 Merit Pay
 5,191 Social Security
 3,529 Retirement

Mrs. Weston explained that the \$150,000 appropriation for Merit Pay approved in the 2005 Budget has been the topic of much discussion and one result is the implementation of a new Performance Based Evaluation tool. During the Merit Pay discussions, the decision was made to eliminate elected officials, part-time, and Sheriff Merit Deputies from consideration which will reduce the necessary appropriation by half. This reduction request of \$76,580, is considered excess and can be returned to the General Fund to increase the uncommitted amount.

Councilmember Fruitt commented that Merit Pay is not budgeted for 2006.

- Councilmember Byers moved to approve the reduction of \$76,580, seconded by Councilmember Michael. President Vernon commended the Committee for this tireless work on implementing Performance Based Evaluations.

- The motion carried.

SUPERIOR COURT II: Bailiff Brenda Rody**Additional Appropriation: \$15,000**

15,000 Pauper Attorney

Mrs. Rody reported a balance of \$1,244 in their Pauper Attorney line item. She said they have a murder trial starting November 7th that will require the use of a Pauper Attorney.

- Councilmember Byers moved to approve \$10,000, seconded by Councilmember Underwood; motion carried.

SUPERIOR COURT**Additional Appropriation: \$30,000**

30,000 Pauper Attorney

Auditor Plantenga reported that Bailiff Angie Thompson called the Auditor's Office to say she is ill. She reported Pauper Attorney bills of \$23,000 but a balance of only \$3.

- Councilmember Kemper moved to approve \$30,000 for Pauper Attorney, seconded by Councilmember Michael; motion carried.

VETERANS SERVICES: Veterans Service Officer Randy Fairchild**Additional Appropriation: \$2,500**

2,500 Burial of Servicemen

Mr. Fairchild reported he has 15 claims totaling \$1,500 and a zero balance in the account.

- Councilmember Underwood moved to approve the appropriation of \$2,500, seconded by Councilmember Michael; motion carried.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: Director Mark Kirby**Additional Appropriation: \$5,000**

5,000 Garage Supplies

Mr. Kirby said he has not paid October fuel bills that are averaging \$1,500 per month. They have more vehicles in inventory, and he noted they are used to assist other County emergency agencies.

Councilmember Fruitt noted there are very few opportunities for transfers in this budget.

- Councilmember Fruitt moved to approve the appropriation of \$5,000 for Garage Supplies, seconded by Councilmember Underwood; motion carried.

PROSECUTOR: Infraction Diversion Fund 261**Additional Appropriation: \$13,000**

8,000 Miscellaneous
 5,000 Supplies

- Councilmember Byers moved to approve the appropriation of \$13,000, seconded by Councilmember Underwood; motion carried.

PROSECUTOR: Federal Equitable Sharing Agreement

Attorney Luhman explained that approval of the agreement means the County will share any forfeitures with the Federal Government. The agreement is valid through September 30, 2008.

- Councilmember Fruit moved to approve the Federal Equitable Sharing Agreement, seconded by Councilmember Underwood; motion carried.

PROBATION: User Fees Fund 510**Additional Appropriation: \$7,536**

7,000 Part-time – Other
536 Social Security

Auditor Plantenga reported that Chief Probation Office Kipp Scott had to be in court this afternoon but this appropriation will pay Part-time help for the remainder of the year. Probation's Fund 510 has sufficient money to support the request.

- Councilmember Michael moved to approve the appropriation of \$7,536 in Fund 510, seconded by Councilmember Murtaugh; motion carried.

HIGHWAY: Motor Vehicle Fund 101: Executive Director Opal Kuhl**Additional Appropriation: \$80,000**

20,000 Parts-Equipment
60,000 Gasoline/Oil

Ms Kuhl reported that, as of the end of September, \$128,194 of the budgeted \$130,000 was spent for Gasoline/Oil and \$187,996 of the budgeted \$200,000 was spent for Parts-Equipment. She requested the appropriations to pay these expenses through the end of the year.

- Councilmember Kemper moved to approve the appropriation of \$20,000 for Parts-Equipment and \$60,000 for Gasoline/Oil in Fund 101, seconded by Councilmember Michael; motion carried.

SURVEYOR: Engineer Review Fee Fund 244**Additional Appropriation: \$41,870**

41,870 Engineer Review Fees

- Councilmember Kemper moved to approve the appropriation of \$41,870 in Fund 244, seconded by Councilmember Fruitt; motion carried.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT: Emergency Preparedness C Grant Fund 477: Grant Coordinator Christine Chapman**Appropriation of Budget: \$61,300**

41,319 Full Time Employee
3,162 Social Security
2,420 Retirement
6,727 Health
143 LTD
99 Life
130 Flex
1,000 Office Supplies
1,500 Phone/Utilities
800 Contracts/Misc
4,000 Travel

Mrs. Chapman explained this appropriation will pay the salary and bills for the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator from September 1, 2005 through September 30, 2006. This is the third year for this grant.

- Councilmember Byers moved to approve the appropriation of budget in the amount of \$61,300 for Fund 477, seconded by Councilmember Underwood; motion carried.

SHERIFF: Bulletproof Vests Grant Fund 181: Grant Coordinator Christine Chapman**Appropriation of Budget: \$3,026**

3,026 Equipment

Mrs. Chapman explained the Sheriff's Department received the grant in the amount of \$3,026 to purchase bulletproof vests. Sheriff Anderson, who was in the audience, said they will be able to purchase four (4) vests with this grant.

- Councilmember Fruitt moved to approve the appropriation of \$3,026 in Fund 181 for bulletproof vests, seconded by Councilmember Michael; motion carried.

SHERIFF: Sheriff William "Smokey" Anderson**Transfers: \$60,000**

From:	001-5410-421-11-10	Full Time Employees	30,000
	001-5410-421-11-15	Deputies	30,000
To:	001-5410-422-25-80	Vehicles (Garage)	60,000

Sheriff Anderson said they need to transfer funds to pay for fuel.

- Councilmember Byers moved to approve the transfers, seconded by Councilmember Kemper; motion carried.

CARY HOME**Transfers: \$900**

From:	001-3610-413-30-05	Dues & Subscriptions	900
To:	001-3610-412-22-10	Garage & Automotive	700
	001-3610-412-20-10	Office Supplies	200

- Councilmember Murtaugh moved to approve the transfers, seconded by Councilmember Michael; motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

President Vernon recognized Stevie Chaddock, a Purdue Political Science student, who was in the audience. Ms Chaddock said she is attending government meetings to gather information for a class paper.

FYI: Commissioner Benson

- New Directions Open House was attended by the Commissioners as well as Councilmembers Vernon and Murtaugh.
- Councilmembers Michael and Murtaugh joined the Commissioners at a luncheon held at Westminster for Russian judges who were especially interested in budgeting for the courts.
- Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Angie Honeywell volunteered to assist at Camp Indiana in Louisiana.
- Approximately \$700 was raised for the United Way at the County employees' hamburger and hot dog cook-out held on the roof of the County Parking Garage. Food and drinks were donated. Employees paid \$5 for lunch cooked by our own Auditor Bob Plantenga and Human Resources Director Frank Cederquist. An Ice Cream Social to benefit the United Way is planned for later in the month.
- Juveniles involved in the burning of the County's barn are now in the court system.
- Tippecanoe County Phase II Stormwater Team received the Outstanding Stormwater Project Award from the Indiana Association for Flood Plain and Stormwater Management.

DECEMBER COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING RESCHEDULED

At the request of President Vernon who has an out-of-town commitment on December 13th, the County Council Meeting was rescheduled for **Thursday, December 8, 2005 at 2:00 P.M.** in the Tippecanoe Room in the County Office Building.

OTHER BUSINESS

Auditor Plantenga explained the memo he distributed showing counties where they stand on assessing and tax information requested by the State. Due to a change in the Statute, the State is authorized to withhold the PTRC (Property Tax Replacement Credit) from counties that fail to comply. He thinks Tippecanoe County is ahead of some other counties but not all our information is in. If our PTRC is withheld, he said we will not be able to make our bond payments which are paid from Property Taxes.


Councilmember Fruitt asked if Tippecanoe County should formulate a position with our legislators regarding the Governor's advocacy to make it easier for local government to raise taxes. Auditor Plantenga commented that the Income Tax Council, of which the County Council is a member, will need to consider an increase in Income Tax for an additional Homestead Credit to help taxes when the Inventory Tax is eliminated. An additional Homestead Credit to neutralize the impact has to be considered in early 2006.

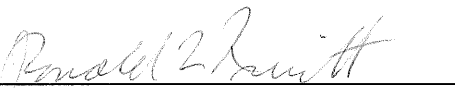
ADJOURNMENT


- Councilmember Fruitt moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Kemper; motion carried.

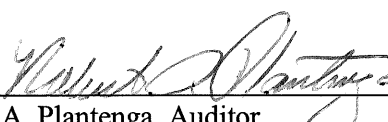
The next regularly scheduled County Council Meeting will be held at 1:00 P.M., Tuesday, November 8, 2005 in the Tippecanoe Room in the County Office Building.

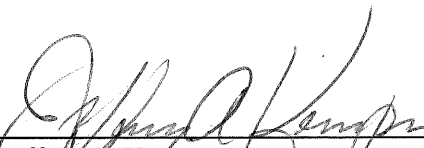
TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL

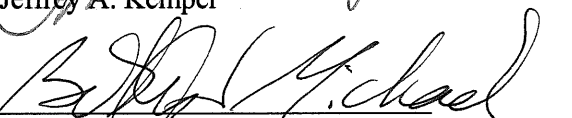

Kathy Vernon, President



Ronald L. Fruitt, Vice President



David S. Byers

Attest: 
Robert A. Plantenga, Auditor


Jeffrey A. Kemper


Betty J. Michael


Thomas P. Murtaugh


Kevin L. Underwood