

**TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL  
WORKING SESSION  
NOVEMBER 9, 2004**

The Tippecanoe County Council held a Working Session at 11:30 A.M., Tuesday, November 9, 2004 in the Tippecanoe Room in the County Office Building. Council members present were: President Kathy Vernon, Vice President Ronald L. Fruitt, Connie Basham, Jeffrey Kessler, and Betty J. Michael. Others present were: Auditor Robert A. Plantenga, Attorney David W. Luhman, and Secretary Pauline E. Rohr. (Councilmembers David S. Byers and Jeffrey A. Kemper were absent.)

President Vernon called the Working Session to order.

**AGENDA REVIEW**

The current unappropriated General Fund balance is \$43,861.58. It was noted the Council may approve a reduction of appropriation in the amount of \$60,000 from Employee Benefits' Health Insurance line that will increase the unappropriated amount to \$103,861.58. Due to the number of requests in the General Fund, Auditor Plantenga recommended paying Jury Expense requests from Jury Pay Fund 550.

Attorney Luhman recommended prioritizing requests:

- Pay Utilities to avoid a late fee.
- Pay wages incurred.

Attorney Luhman was asked what can happen if the County has insufficient unappropriated funds to pay all the requests from the courts. He said the courts can order payments from the General Fund cash balance if there are no remaining unappropriated funds. Auditor Plantenga said we won't know the cash balance until Settlement is complete at the end of December.

Agenda items and funding amounts were discussed:

Public Defender: President Vernon reported Councilmember Kemper recommends approving \$20,000 of \$40,000 request for Professional Services. Auditor Plantenga noted the Public Defender is requesting a transfer of \$452 from Cell Phone but only \$410.05 is available in that line item.

Veterans: Councilmember Kessler recommended approving \$1,000 of \$2,000 request for Burial.

Board of Election & Registration: Payment of \$10,478 request is allowable from Voting Equipment Reimbursement Fund 329. The request was advertised in both the General Fund and Fund 329.

Clerk: Her request of \$2,857 for Part-time - Other may be reduced.

Drainage Board: The Surveyor requested \$1,500 for Attorney Fees. Auditor Plantenga noted a \$2,123 balance in Engineering Services that may be eligible for transfer.

Commissioners: The Commissioners' budget reduction totaling \$21,900 is \$7,600 short of funding the Maintenance request of \$29,500 for Utilities. Both requests are in the General Fund.

Circuit Court: The request of \$1,114 for Law Books was tabled at the October meeting. Attorney Luhman explained that not all the law books are on line. He also noted that some books are paperback editions and can be purchased cheaper than the on-line subscription. He suggested asking if this request is for annual subscriptions or for updates.

Superior Court II: Councilmember Michael reported the Bailiff indicated the \$5,979 request for Jury Expense can be cut to \$4,000. This was also advertised in Jury Pay Fund 550.

**2005 APPOINTMENTS & ASSIGNMENTS**

President Vernon asked Councilmembers to examine the lists of assignments and appointments and indicate their preferences for 2005 at the December 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Other Committees with Council membership:

- Job Classification
- Revenue
- Efficiency

Working Session

Discuss in December if Councilmembers want to hold a working session an hour prior to the meeting or another time.

**THANK YOU RECEPTIONS**

Councilmembers Kessler and Basham will host a "thank you" reception at 12:30 P.M., Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> in the Wabash Room in the County Office Building.

President Vernon invited Councilmembers to her home at 6:30 P.M., Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> for dessert to honor Councilmembers Kessler and Basham.

**RECESSED**

The meeting recessed at 1:45 P.M. until the Regular Meeting at 2:00 P.M.