

**TIPPECANOE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING
FEBRUARY 10, 2004**

The Tippecanoe County Commissioners and Tippecanoe County Council met in a special joint meeting on Tuesday, February 10, 2004 at 12:10 P.M. in the Tippecanoe Room in the County Office Building. Commissioners present were: President Ruth Shedd and Member KD Benson. Council members present were: President Kathy Vernon, Vice President Ronald L. Fruitt, Connie Basham, David S. Byers, Jeffrey Kessler, Jeffrey A. Kemper, and Betty J. Michael; Auditor Robert A. Plantenga, County Attorney David W. Luhman, Commissioners' Assistant Jennifer Weston, and Secretary Pauline E. Rohr. (Commissioner John L. Knochel was absent.)

Greg Guerrettaz, President of Financial Solutions and Tippecanoe County's Financial Consultant, was also present.

President Shedd called the County Commissioners' meeting to order.

President Vernon called the County Council's meeting to order.

OPERATING PLAN DISCUSSION

Councilmember Kessler expressed his appreciation of the Operating Plan. Issues of concern to him are the Superior Court III debt (paying off vs not paying off) and sufficient planning to avoid borrowing from the Cum Bridge Fund.

Auditor Plantenga said the Operating Plan shows 8 years remaining on the plan to pay \$150,000 per year toward the Superior Court III debt. If we pay current charges, he thinks it wouldn't be smart to pay the debt off early since the State has never charged us interest.

Mr. Guerrettaz assured the Council that the debt has no impact on the County's bond rating. He thinks it is better to stick with the pay-off schedule of the debt in the Plan and continue with other priorities. When asked to speculate about interest rates, he responded that, historically, interest rates increase after a Presidential election.

Auditor Plantenga emphasized the State won't withhold our COIT Funds again if the County has a plan in place to pay-off the debt. The amount owned is under \$1 million.

Councilmember Kessler asked about new hires. President Shedd thinks new hires should be looked at on an individual basis. She said the new Regular Part-time positions added for the Public Defender were a special case and necessary to qualify for reimbursement. Commissioner Benson agreed. Councilmember Michael commented she thinks it is too early in the year to add new employees.

→ Councilmember Connie Basham entered the meeting.

Councilmember Kessler noted that 76.2% of General Fund costs are personnel. Mr. Guerrettaz said the County may need a study to determine the correct number of employees for each department. When President Shedd asked if the Commissioners should budget for an independent study, President Vernon said she thought they should so that results are available for the 2005 Budget Hearings in August.

CAPITAL NEEDS

A rough draft of departmental capital needs was discussed. A more defined list will be available for the next meeting with Mr. Guerrettaz. He noted a large number of items are maintenance issues.

President Shedd said there will be a Juvenile Detention Center but they are unsure of the size, the cost, and when it will be built. Councilmembers Byers wondered if approximately \$500,000 of uncommitted funds should be set aside for this purpose. Mr. Guerrettaz advised setting up a cum fund for this purpose to avoid paying interest on interest of the bond.

PHASE II STORMWATER: Surveyor Steve Murray

The designated entities involved in Phase II Stormwater are Purdue, Ivy Tech, West Lafayette, Lafayette, Battle Ground, Dayton, and the County.

Mr. Murray listed the six minimum control measures:

- Public Education
- Outreach re: stormwater impacts (K-12)
- Public involvement – hearings
- Mapping public storm water conveyances
- Erosion control (1 acre site & larger)
- Pollution prevention

A financial study conducted by IUPUI determined the cost will be \$12 to \$15 million over the five (5) year permit cycle that runs from 2003-2008. He expects the County will pick up approximately 30% to 35% (\$4 to \$5 million) of that cost. He said counties can now form Stormwater Utility Districts which are generally considered the best method to fund Phase II. A rate of \$2 to \$4 per household per month has been generally acceptable to the public. Mr. Murray questioned if the Council and Commissioners want to fund by this method rather than continuing to use EDIT Funds.

Part C, Stormwater Quality Management Plan, and permit are due by November 2004. A Stormwater Ordinance also has to be in place by November.

NEW YORK TRIP

Mr. Guerrettaz announced the New York trip to visit the bond agencies will be April 28-30, 2004.

Ratings presentation:

- Updated Operating Plan
- Sec. 1: Welcome to Tippecanoe County – ask Convention & Visitors Bureau to provide.

Attendees: Kathy Vernon, Ron Fruitt, Jeff Kemper, KD Benson, Bob Plantenga, Dave Luhman, and Greg Guerrettaz.

NEXT MEETING

The next joint meeting of the County Council and Commissioners with Mr. Guerrettaz will be held at Noon, March 9, 2004 in the Tippecanoe Room.

NOTE: No lunch plans were mentioned.

OPERATING PLAN REVIEW: Auditor Bob Plantenga

Additions to Operating Plan:

94-10 Employees Health Insurance

- Payoff of Earned Time: has never been budgeted
- Early Retirees Health Insurance: recently approved by Commissioners

10-10 County Council

- Add one new position annually

63-10 Public Defender

- Add 5 Reg. Part-time Public Defenders 1st year and 3 each year thereafter. Reimbursement from Public Defender Commission should more than cover the cost.

Rainy Day Fund

Because the State can no longer hold EDIT and COIT reserves, the Legislature mandated the County to deposit those reserves into a Rainy Day Fund. Auditor Plantenga noted we received \$1 million of EDIT Funds. The Council will be asked to establish a Rainy Day Fund later today.


ADJOURNMENT

- Commissioner Benson moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Shedd; motion carried.


RECESSED

- The Council recessed at 1:54 P.M.


TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL




 Kathy Vernon, President




 David S. Byers



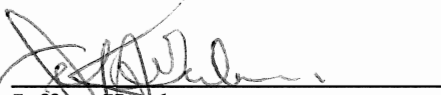
 Ronald L. Fruitt, Vice President




 Jeffrey A. Kemper



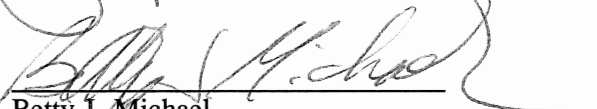
 Connie Basham



 Jeffrey Kessler

Attest: 

 Robert A. Plantenga, Auditor



 Betty J. Michael