

**TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 17, 2002**

The Tippecanoe County Council held a special meeting on Tuesday, September 17, 2002 at 2:00 P.M. in the Tippecanoe Room in the County Office Building. Council members present were: President David S. Byers, Vice President Connie Basham, Jeffrey Kessler, Margaret K. Bell, Jeffrey A. Kemper, Kathy Vernon, and Ronald L. Fruitt; Auditor Robert A. Plantenga, Attorney David W. Luhman, and Secretary Pauline E. Rohr.

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

***FINAL APPROVAL 2003 BUDGET***

- Councilmember Basham moved to approve the Ordinance for Appropriations and Tax Rates on second reading, seconded by Councilmember Kessler.

Attorney Luhman read the Ordinance:

(quote)

Budget Form 4 (Rev. 1985)

**ORDINANCE FOR APPROPRIATIONS AND TAX RATES**

Be it ordained by the County Council of Tippecanoe, Indiana: that for the expenses of the County government and its institutions for the year ending December 31, 2003, the sums of money shown on Budget form 4-A are hereby appropriated and ordered set apart out of the several funds herein named and for the purposes herein specified, subject to the laws governing the same. Such sums herein appropriated shall be held to include all expenditures authorized to be made during the year, unless otherwise expressly stipulated and provided for by law. In addition, for the purposes of raising revenues to meet the necessary expense of County government, tax rates are shown on Budget Form 4-B and included herein. Two (2) copies of Budget Forms 4-A and 4-B for all funds and departments are made a part of the budget report submitted herewith.

Presented to the County Council of Tippecanoe County, Indiana, and read in full for the first time this 26th day of August 2002.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Robert A. Plantenga, Auditor

\_\_\_\_\_  
David S. Byers, President

Presented to the County Council of Tippecanoe County, Indiana, and read in full for the second time, and adopted, this 17th day of September, 2002, by the following vote:

	Aye	Nay
Connie Basham	_____	_____
Margaret K. Bell	_____	_____
David S. Byers	_____	_____
Ronald L. Fruitt	_____	_____
Jeffrey A. Kemper	_____	_____
Jeffrey Kessler	_____	_____
Kathy Vernon	_____	_____

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Robert A. Plantenga, Auditor

APPROVED BY: TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2002.

\_\_\_\_\_  
David S. Byers, President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ronald L. Fruitt

\_\_\_\_\_  
Connie Basham

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeffrey A. Kemper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Margaret K. Bell

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeffrey Kessler

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Robert A. Plantenga, Auditor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kathy Vernon

## PUBLISHED BUDGET FIGURES FOR 2003 ARE:

2002 Net Assessed Valuation

\$4,580,901,120

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Fund Name</u>	<u>Budget Estimate</u>	<u>Maximum Estimated Funds to be Raised</u>	<u>Excessive Levy Appeals</u>	<u>Current Tax Levies</u>
01	County General	\$31,419,616	\$19,257,475	\$0	\$12,766,362
02	County Highway	\$4,062,237	\$0	\$0	\$0
26	Local Road & Street	\$1,274,100	\$0	\$0	\$0
25	Cumulative Bridge	\$3,691,132	\$3,207,384	\$0	\$2,915,804
77	Jail Lease/Rental	\$550,000	\$750,000	\$0	\$345,037
16	Cumulative Capital Dev	\$1,971,284	\$1,507,471	\$0	\$1,370,428
15	EDIT	\$7,823,027	\$0	\$0	\$0
58	E-911	\$1,559,179	\$0	\$0	\$0
04	Reassessment	\$906,608	\$0	\$0	\$0
05	Reassessment 2006	\$0	\$308,849	\$0	\$296,440
06	Welfare/DFC	\$5,992,000	\$3,958,284	\$0	\$1,137,164
	Welfare/HCI	\$0	\$310,047	\$0	\$281,861
	Welfare/MAW	\$0	\$384,887	\$0	\$349,897
	Welfare/CSHCN	\$0	\$101,567	\$0	\$92,334
	TOTAL	\$59,249,183	\$29,785,964	\$0	\$19,555,327

The 2003 estimated maximum levy limitation of the unit is:

\$29,785,964

(unquote)

Auditor Plantenga noted he distributed a copy of a memo dated August 26, 2002 from the Department of Local Government Finance informing the County of a revised 2003 County Option Income Tax distribution. This was because of a mistake in the formula used to calculate the portion of the County Option Income Tax used for Homestead Credit purposes. On a form dated August 22, 2002, the certified amount was reduced from \$4,753,248 to \$4,228,022, a difference of approximately \$500,000. He further noted that this notice was mailed on September 9, 2002 and received on September 11, 2002. (Our 2003 Budget Hearings were held on August 26-27, 2002.) The current 2003 General Fund Budget is \$27,735,736 making it necessary to cut an additional \$494,400.

To get to a budget that the State will approve, Auditor Plantenga said the Council's choices are to find more revenue, cut expenditures, or move funding. He proposed the following:

Move MITS Software & Hardware Maintenance to Cum Cap	\$166,234
Move MITS Operators to Cum Cap (2)	76,348
Move MITS Systems Administrator to Cum Cap (1)	71,456
Increase Recorder's Revenue	60,000
Increase Cum Bridge Interest Revenue	125,000
Total	\$499,038

He noted the previous revenue estimates for the Recorder and Cum Bridge were conservative. Moving MITS Software & Hardware Maintenance and the Operators and Systems Administrator to Cum Cap seems to be allowable by law.

The current Cum Cap balance is approximately \$3 million.

2000 revenue	1.6 million	828,000 expenditures
2001 revenue	1.6 million	800,000 expenditures
2003 revenue (est.)	1.650 million	

Councilmember Fruitt asked if the County has exhausted all the State's allowable opportunities to raise revenue such as funds for bridges. Auditor Plantenga said the Commissioners have the ability to implement a Major Bridge Fund outside the levy limit for maintenance and major bridge projects such as the Harrison Street Bridge and the Branigin Bridge (US 231). This could impact the General Fund because taxes could be raised, a levy created, and Cum Bridge decreased by that same amount assuming costs could be covered.

Councilmember Fruitt asked the estimated uncommitted amount in the General Fund to begin 2003. Auditor Plantenga said that is unknown because he won't know how much 2002 funds will be left until January of 2003.

President Byers asked if employees could be paid flat salaries rather than by an hourly rate to save on Overtime costs. Councilmember Fruitt said employees must be in a supervisory position to be exempt from Overtime pay. Attorney Luhman agreed.

Councilmember Kessler asked if TANS (Tax Anticipated Notes) would be an option if we have a low uncommitted amount for 2003. Attorney Luhman pointed out that when you borrow short term you will pay more that budget year or the next one because of the issuance cost and a higher interest rate. Since you would be borrowing for payroll costs, the expenses you are paying are not one time occurrences.

President Byers asked Court Services Director Cindy Houseman, who was in the audience, if she inquired about paying some costs in the Probation Department that relate to Court Services. She responded that Bill Carey at the Indiana Judicial Center said they cannot subsidize Probation Officers' salaries.

Councilmember Vernon pointed out that rejecting the reclassifications of six (6) MITS employees for 2003 would eliminate \$17,000 in salaries. She recognized that WIS recommended the reclassifications and the County Job Classification Committee concurred but without funding in place. Councilmember Basham disagreed with rejecting the reclassifications because she said the Council can't compromise the system in place and thinks the reclassifications should stand. Councilmember Vernon countered that there won't be money in the budget to approve reclassification requests in 2003.

President Byers asked the Council if they wanted to revisit the budget and make additional cuts totaling \$500,000 or take the Auditor's proposal. Councilmember Kemper thought the Auditor's proposal was the best approach with the Council's limited options. Councilmember Kessler agreed. Councilmember Fruitt also agreed but thought a resolution stating the Council's displeasure with the lateness of the COIT notice should be sent to the State.

Commissioner Knochel vented his anger and called it ridiculous on the State's part to notify us of the reduction of our COIT distribution after our Budget Hearings were completed. He asked when the 2003 Budget had to be submitted to the State and was told by Friday, August 20. With few options available, he said he had no objection to funding the MITS positions and Hardware and Software Maintenance proposed by the Auditor from Cum Cap Funds. Attorney Luhman said the Commissioners could amend the Cum Cap Plan to include those line items before the end of the year.

Councilmember Kessler asked Commissioner Knochel if they would also draft a letter to State. Attorney Luhman suggested sending a joint letter signed by the President of the Council, President of the Commissioners, and the Auditor.

Commissioner Benson strongly objected to moving salaries to Cum Cap because she fears we'll lose this Fund if we pay recurring costs such as salaries. In her opinion, this Fund should be held in reserve to pay for purchases such as property. Before the Budget is approved, she suggesting discussing other options such as moving Park Repair & Maintenance expenses to EDIT, cutting all funding to Agencies, and canceling our contract with the Humane Society for Animal Control.

Commissioner Shedd said she doesn't object to using Cum Cap Funds one (1) year to get where we need to be but doesn't want this to become a habit. She see no other way to do this without revisiting the entire budget.

Councilmember Kessler stated the Council needs to move forward and the Auditor's proposal is the best they have at this time although no one likes using Cum Cap Funds for personnel expenses. Councilmember Vernon agreed this a good workable solution and commented that the Council needs to know what services government has to provide. Saying the Council is being forced to do things they don't want to do, Councilmember Kemper endorsed the Auditor's proposal as the best solution.

- Councilmember Kessler moved to approve the 2003 Budget with the two additional revenues, the position cuts from the General Fund and the addition of those positions to the Cum Cap Fund, seconded by Councilmember Basham.

Before taking a vote, Auditor Plantenga interjected that the Commissioners have eliminated the new Parking Garage Attendant position funded by Fund 180. Attorney Luhman explained that the Commissioners requested this new position for 2003 in anticipation of a change in management of the Parking Garage. Since the DBC will continue the management, there is no

reason for this position. Since this position was eliminated, funding was added to Contractual for a change in funding of minus \$17.00.

Auditor Plantenga also reported an inquiry by County Assessor Bob McKee regarding the requested 10% increase in the Trustees' salaries. Auditor Plantenga said he took those raises out of the Budget when raises for all others, elected officials and employees, were cut. As one of the Council Representatives for the Assessors, Councilmember Fruitt instructed the Auditor to leave it that way.

Councilmembers Kessler and Basham agreed to amend their motion to the following:

- Councilmember Kessler moved to approve the 2003 Budget with the two additional revenues, the MITS position cuts from the General Fund, the addition of those positions to the Cum Cap Fund, and elimination of the Parking Garage Attendant in Fund 180, seconded by Councilmember Basham.

Auditor Plantenga recorded the vote:

Connie Basham	Yes
Margaret Bell	Yes
David Byers	Yes
Ronald Fruitt	Yes
Jeffrey Kemper	Yes
Jeffrey Kessler	Yes
Kathy Vernon	Yes

The motion to approve the 2003 Budget passed 7 – 0.

- Councilmember Fruitt moved to approve the corresponding Salary Ordinances for 2003 with the approved amounts, seconded by Councilmember Bell; motion carried.

***RESOLUTION 2002-31-CL: Confirming Funding of Community Mental Health Centers***

This Resolution establishes a tax rate outside the levy limit and requires annual approval by the Council. Attorney Luhman read the Resolution:

(quote)

**RESOLUTION 2002-31-CL  
RESOLUTION CONFIRMING FUNDING  
OF COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTERS**

**WHEREAS**, Indiana Code 12-29-2-2 requires counties to fund the operation of community mental health centers in an amount not less than the amount that would be raised by an annual tax rate of 1.33 cents (\$0.0133) on each one hundred dollars (\$100.00) of taxable property within the county; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tippecanoe County Council did on September 17, 2002 duly adopt the 2003 budget for Tippecanoe County, which budget provided for funding for community mental health centers in an amount equivalent to an annual tax rate of 2 cents (\$0.02) on each one hundred dollars (\$100.00) of taxable property within the county; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tippecanoe County Council desires to confirm the amount of such funding and such tax rate.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the funding for the operation of community mental health centers in the County of Tippecanoe, State of Indiana for the year 2003 shall be and the same is hereby confirmed in an amount equivalent to the amount that would be raised by an annual tax rate of two cents (\$.02) on each one hundred dollars (\$100.00) of taxable property within Tippecanoe County.

**ADOPTED** by the Tippecanoe County Council, this 17th day of September, 2002.

**TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL**

\_\_\_\_\_  
David S. Byers, President

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Connie Basham, Vice President

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Jeffrey Kessler

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Margaret K. Bell

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Jeffrey A. Kemper

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Kathy Vernon

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Ronald L. Fruitt

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Robert Plantenga, Auditor

(unquote)

- Councilmember Kemper moved to approve Resolution 2002-31-CL, seconded by Councilmember Vernon; motion carried.

***RESOLUTION 2002-32-CL: Confirms and Ratifies the 2003 County Surveyor' Salary***

Attorney Luhman read the Resolution:

(quote)

**RESOLUTION 2002-32-CL**

**CONFIRMING AND RATIFYING 2003 SALARY  
OF COUNTY SURVEYOR**

**WHEREAS**, the Tippecanoe County Council, on September 17,2002 adopted an Ordinance setting forth the appropriations and tax rates for 2003; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to said Ordinance the Tippecanoe County Council established the salary of the Tippecanoe County Surveyor for 2003 in the amount of \$70,000.00; and

**WHEREAS**, Indiana Code 36-2-12-15 requires the Tippecanoe County Council to fix the compensation for a County Surveyor who is registered under IC 25-21.5 or IC 25-31 at one and one-half (1 1/2) times that fixed for a surveyor who is not registered under IC 25-21.5 or IC 25-31; and

**WHEREAS**, the person currently elected to and serving as Tippecanoe County Surveyor is licensed under IC 25-21.5 or IC 25-31 and the salary established for the office of Tippecanoe County Surveyor by the Tippecanoe County Council has been established in consideration of the fact that the person serving as County Surveyor has been so licensed under IC 25-21.5 or IC 25-31; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tippecanoe County Council desires to ratify and confirm that the 2003 salary for the Tippecanoe County Surveyor as set forth in the 2003 budget adopted September 17, 2002 is that for a surveyor who is registered under IC 25-21.5 or IC 25-31; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the 2003 salary for the Tippecanoe County Surveyor, as enacted by the Tippecanoe County Council on September 17, 2002 in the amount of \$70,000.00 be and the same is hereby ratified and confirmed;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the 2003 salary for the Tippecanoe County Surveyor in the amount of \$70,000.00, shall be the compensation for a surveyor who is registered under IC 25-21.5 or IC 25-31 and the 2003 salary for the county surveyor, if not registered under IC 25-21.5 or IC 25-31, be and the same is hereby fixed at \$46,667.00.

Adopted this 17<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2002.

Presented to the County Council of Tippecanoe County, Indiana, and adopted this 17<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2002, by the following vote:

VOTE	TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL
David S. Byers	_____ David S. Byers, President
Connie Basham	_____ Connie Basham, Vice President
Jeffrey Kessler	_____ Jeffrey Kessler
Margaret K. Bell	_____ Margaret K. Bell
Jeffrey A. Kemper	_____ Jeffrey A. Kemper
Kathy Vernon	_____ Kathy Vernon
Ronald L. Fruitt	_____ Ronald L. Fruitt

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Plantenga, Auditor

(unquote)

***RESOLUTION 2002-33-CL: Confirms and Ratifies the 2003 Coroner's Salary***

Attorney Luhman read portions of the Resolution.

(quote)

**RESOLUTION 2002-33-CL**  
**CONFIRMING AND RATIFYING 2003 SALARY**  
**OF COUNTY CORONER**

**WHEREAS**, the Tippecanoe County Council, on September 17, 2002 adopted an Ordinance setting forth the appropriations and tax rates for 2003; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to said Ordinance the Tippecanoe County Council established the salary of the Tippecanoe County Coroner for 2003 in the amount of \$35,466.00; and

**WHEREAS**, Indiana Code 36-2-14-15 requires the Tippecanoe County Council to fix the compensation for a coroner who is licensed to practice as a physician in Indiana at one and one half (1 1/2) times that of a coroner who is not licensed to practice as a physician in Indiana; and

**WHEREAS**, those persons elected to and serving as Tippecanoe County Coroner for at least the last 35 years have all been licensed to practice as physicians in Indiana and the salaries established for the office of Tippecanoe County Coroner by the Tippecanoe County Council have always, during said period of time, been established with knowledge of the professional qualifications of the person then serving as coroner; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the desire of the Tippecanoe County Council to ratify and confirm that the 2003 salary for the Tippecanoe County Coroner as incorporated in the 2003 County Budget approved September 17, 2002 is that for a coroner who is licensed to practice as a physician in Indiana; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the 2003 salary for the Tippecanoe County Coroner, as enacted by the Tippecanoe County Council on September 17, 2002 in the amount of \$35,466.00 be and the same is hereby ratified and confirmed;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the 2003 salary for the Tippecanoe County Coroner in the amount of \$35,466.00, shall be the compensation for a coroner licensed to practice as a physician in Indiana and the 2003 salary for a coroner, who is not licensed to practice as a physician in Indiana be and the same is hereby fixed at \$23,644.00.

Presented to the County Council of Tippecanoe County, Indiana, and adopted this 17<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2002, by the following vote:

VOTE

TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL

David S. Byers

David S. Byers, President

Connie Basham

Connie Basham, Vice President

Jeffrey Kessler

Jeffrey Kessler

Margaret K. Bell

Margaret K. Bell

Jeffrey A. Kemper

Jeffrey A. Kemper

Kathy Vernon

Kathy Vernon

Ronald L. Fruitt

Ronald L. Fruitt

ATTEST:

Robert Plantenga, Auditor


(unquote)


- Councilmember Kemper moved to approve Resolution 2002-33-CL, seconded by Councilmember Fruitt; motion carried.


ADJOURNMENT

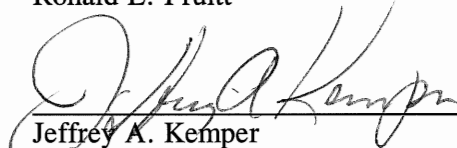
- Councilmember Kessler moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Fruitt; motion carried.

TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL

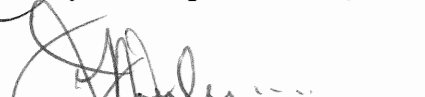
  
David S. Byers, President


  
Ronald L. Fruitt

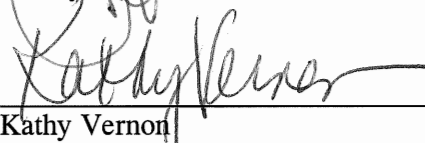
  
Connie Basham, Vice President

  
Jeffrey A. Kemper

  
Margaret K. Bell

  
Jeffrey Kessler

Attest:   
Robert A. Plantenga, Auditor

  
Kathy Vernon