

**TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 10, 2002**

The Tippecanoe County Council held its regular meeting on Tuesday, December 10, 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. He then called upon Joey David Bell, Youth Pastor at Calvary Chapel and Councilmember Bell's grandson, to offer a prayer.

President Byers and Councilmembers presented red roses to Councilmember Margaret Bell who is retiring from the County Council after eight (8) years of service. President Byers thanked her for her loyalty to the Council and wished her continued happiness.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Councilmember Fruitt moved to approve the minutes of the November 7, 2002 Special Joint Meeting with the Commissioners and local Legislators, seconded by Councilmember Kessler; motion carried.
- Councilmember Kessler moved to approve the minutes of the November 7, 2002 Working Session, seconded by Councilmember Vernon; motion carried.
- Councilmember Vernon moved to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2002 Special Joint Meeting with the Commissioners and the Financial Consultant, seconded by Councilmember Bell; motion carried.
- Councilmember Kemper moved to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2002 Regular Meeting, seconded by Councilmember Basham; motion carried.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT: Auditor Robert Plantenga

Auditor Plantenga reported the 2002 uncommitted County General Funds through November 30, 2002 are \$23,746.41.

Auditor Plantenga reported he received correspondence dated December 2, 2002 from Marilyn Schultz, State Budget Agency Director, regarding the withholding of our December COIT distribution to pay toward our past-due debt for juvenile correctional placements in State facilities. Auditor Plantenga said he discussed this issue with Marion County Auditor Marty Womacks and AIC Director Matt Brooks and learned that State Senator Borst will be asking the State Attorney General's opinion on the legality of withholding this payment from counties. Auditor Plantenga said a claim in the amount of \$100,000 for Secure Detention has been submitted for approval by the Commissioners at their next meeting on December 16th. Although the Council appropriated a sufficient amount to Superior Court III to pay \$150,000 toward the secure detention debt as set out in the County Operating Plan, that amount has been spent on current bills due to increased rates at various facilities.

INTEREST STATEMENT: Treasurer Oneta Tolle

The Interest Report shows the average interest rate decreased from 1.79% in September to 1.76% for October 2002.

Mrs. Tolle reported that Atlas Collections, Inc., a company contracted to collect Personal Property Tax Judgments, has sent approximately 2000 letters to delinquent taxpayers.

Councilmember Kessler asked Mrs. Tolle if department heads with large funds to invest have contacted her concerning the RFP for investing as a group. She responded that no one has.

Councilmember Kemper asked Mrs. Tolle if technology problems prior to the November tax collection have been solved. He said he understands the County is losing a substantial amount of interest income because of the Treasurer's inability to get payments processed properly. Mrs. Tolle said they lost money on two different occasions and there are still some concerns. She said

this problem relates to work orders to the MITS Department to proof tapes from large mortgage companies. There were also problems with getting the terminals up and running through the tax season this past fall.

***SUPERIOR COURT III: JAMS Program Grant Fund 123: Fiscal Officer/Quest Coordinator
Kathy Timberlake***

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION: \$2,772.00

1,554.00	Juvenile Enhancement Coordinator
764.35	Juvenile Enhancement Treatment Specialist
118.88	Social Security
73.82	Retirement
54.39	Work Comp
206.56	Health

Ms Timberlake explained the Federal funds for this appropriation to JAMS are left over from another program and have to be spent or returned. She noted that, because there were insufficient funds to pay benefits for both JAMS positions, they will have to come from another source.

- Councilmember Kemper moved to approve the appropriations, seconded by Councilmember Basham; motion carried.

SHERIFF: 2003 Commissary Fund Expenditures: Sheriff William "Smokey" Anderson

Sheriff Anderson requested approval of 2003 expenditures from the Commissary Fund according to IC 36-8-10-21(8). He said these funds are used more for the Trustees as rewards for their help in running the Jail rather than for the inmates.

- Councilmember Kemper moved to approve the 2003 Commissary Fund expenditures, seconded by Councilmember Bell; motion carried.

DISCUSSION

2003 COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

ABC

Councilmember Basham said she talked to Vicki Pearl about switching from the Alcoholic Beverage Commission (ABC) to the Council on Aging and she seemed to be agreeable. Councilmember Kemper advocated the reappointment of Don Smith to ABC. He said Mr. Smith previously served on that board.

Convention & Visitors Bureau

Councilmember Kemper recommended retaining Bob Mindrum as the Hotel Representative and said he will speak with current Travel Representative Jane Turner to determine if she wishes to continue.

Who Appoints?

Attorney Luhman was asked if the Council President or the County Council makes the appointments. He responded that the statutes of most boards specify the appointment is by the County Council. He said the President only presents a slate of appointees.

Park Board

Attorney Luhman noted that Bob Probasco, the Democrat appointee, is already in place for a four year term from 2001-2004. Councilmember Basham favored reappointing Paul Finkenbinder as the Republican appointee since he is still actively involved and was highly recommended to continue by Park Superintendent Ron Dye.

PTABOA (Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals)

Attorney Luhman explained that, by statute, at least one of the Council's two appointments must be a Level 2 Appraiser. Councilmember Basham proposed appointing Lewis Beeler who meets this qualification as one of their two appointments.

Term Limits

Some thought there should be term limits for Councilmembers serving on boards. Attorney Luhman suggested setting internal term limits (i.e. 2 consecutive terms).

2003 COUNCIL ASSIGNMENTS

Courts

Councilmember Basham thought the courts should be treated as individual entities to equalize assignments.

Councilmember Kessler thought the same representatives serving all courts makes for a better flow.

Councilmember Byers thought equalization of assignments was alright but he pointed out that serving on a board such as Area Plan is time consuming.

Councilmember Fruitt thought it better to keep continuity in the courts.

Councilmember Kemper said he doesn't object to splitting court representation but he is willing to continue representing all courts. Councilmember Byers agreed.

WORKING SESSIONS

Councilmember Basham suggested holding the Working Sessions in various other County-owned facilities such as the Villa, Extension Office, and Cary Home to familiarize the Council with the workings of those departments.

Councilmember Kemper agreed with meeting in other locations but would prefer meeting at 8:00 or 9:00 A.M. rather than 2:00 P.M.

President Byers said he is ok with meeting at 8:00 A.M. but questioned if a Working Session is necessary.

Councilmember Bell asserted that the Council used to hold a Working Session one hour prior to the meeting. She said the Council had the materials prior to the meeting and made contact with departments by phone. Councilmember Kemper agreed and said he would prefer to return to that format.

If the Council meets with departments in various other locations, Councilmember Vernon thinks department heads not in that group should be given time during the Regular Meeting to talk about their offices.

Commissioner Benson asked if all the suggested locations would be suitable for holding a public meeting. Attorney Luhman responded that all County-owned buildings meet ADA requirements, but the meeting area would have to be large enough to hold an audience.

No decision was made.

ANNOUNCEMENT

A County Government Financing Seminar will be held at the Extension Office from 8:45 A.M. to 3:00 P.M., Tuesday, December 17, 2002.

PUBLIC COMMENT

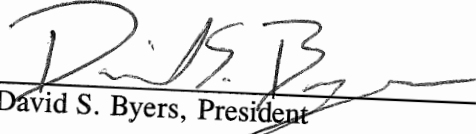
None.

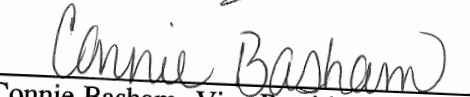
ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Bell moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Vernon; motion carried.

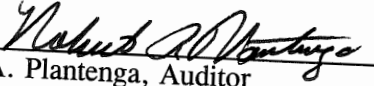
The next Council Working Session will be held at 2:00 P.M., Thursday, January 9, 2003 and the Regular Meeting will be held at 2:00 P.M., Tuesday, January 14, 2003. Both meetings will be held in the Tippecanoe Room in the County Office Building.

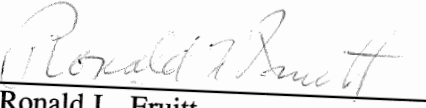
TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL

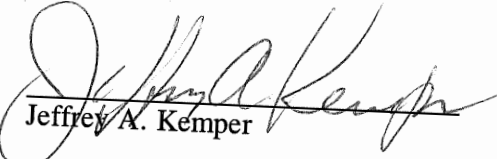

David S. Byers, President

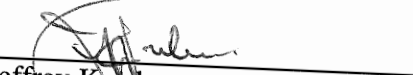

Connie Basham, Vice President

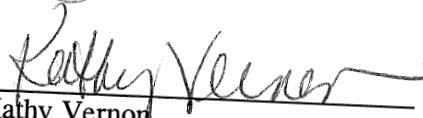
Margaret K. Bell

Attest: 
Robert A. Plantenga, Auditor


Ronald L. Fruitt


Jeffrey A. Kemper


Jeffrey Kessler


Kathy Vernon