

# Tipton County Council Meeting

2-23-2021

(Re-scheduled from 2-16-2021 due to snow emergency)

Present: Jim Ashley, Jim Purvis, Mike Terry, Kirk Retherford, Jan Smith, Brad Nichols

Absent: Butch Harpel

Other Present: Rick Rippy, Dick Klein, Tyler Juranovich, Amanda Kinney, Matthew D. Tebbe, Chris Tragesser, Thomas Dolezal

Jim Ashley opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance.

## Fund Balance Review 2016-Present

Jim Ashley reviewed the historic balances from 2016 to present for the General(1000), EDIT(1112), CCD(1138), and Special Legislation Justice Center(9200).

## Resolution CC2021-09 Additional Appropriation – EDIT For Community Crossings Grant Match

### ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION RESOLUTION CC2021-09

Whereas, It has been determined that it is now necessary to appropriate more money than was appropriated in the annual budget; now, therefore:

Sec. 1. Be it resolved by the County Council of Tipton County, Tipton, Indiana; that for the expenses of the taxing units listed below; the following additional sums of money are hereby appropriated out of the funds named and for the purposes specified, subject to laws governing the same:

Fund Name:	Requested Amount	Approved Amount
<b>1112 Economic Development Income Tax</b>		
41079 Community Crossings Matching Grant	<u>\$333,287.00</u>	
40000 Capital Outlays	\$333,287.00	

Adopted and dated this 23rd day of February, 2021

### TIPTON COUNTY COUNCIL

\_\_\_\_\_  
James D. Ashley

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Purvis

\_\_\_\_\_  
Janice L. Smith

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Terry

\_\_\_\_\_  
Butch Harpel

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kirk Retherford

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brad Nichols

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gregg A. Townsend, Secretary and County Auditor

Prepared by: Mark R. Regnier

Tipton County Attorney;

MARK R. REGNIER, ATTORNEY AT LAW.

120 S. West Street

Tipton, Indiana 46072

Jim Ashley opened the public hearing for Resolution 2021-09.

Commissioner Henderson stated that the amount had not been determined.

Motion by Mike Terry to close the public hearing. Second by Brad Nichols. Motion carries.  
Mike Terry stated that it could be tabled as we will not hear from INDOT until April.  
Motion by Jim Purvis to table Resolution CC2021-09. Second by Jan Smith. Motion carries.

#### **Resolution CC2021-08 Additional Appropriation – Community Corrections**

##### **ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION RESOLUTION CC2021-08**

Whereas, It has been determined that it is now necessary to appropriate more money than was appropriated in the annual budget; now, therefore:

Sec. 1. Be it resolved by the County Council of Tipton County, Tipton, Indiana; that for the expenses of the taxing units listed below; the following additional sums of money are hereby appropriated out of the funds named and for the purposes specified, subject to laws governing the same:

<b>Fund Name:</b>	<b>Requested Amount</b>	<b>Approved Amount</b>
<b>1000 General 387 Community Corrections</b>		
11015 Director	\$1,650.00	
11026 Assistant Director	\$1,258.00	
11029 Administrative Assistant	\$951.00	
17100 FICA	\$300.00	
17300 Health Insurance	\$65,000.00	
17700 Deferred Compensation	<u>\$4,000.00</u>	
10000 Personal Services	\$73,159.00	

Adopted and dated this 23rd day of February, 2021

#### **TIPTON COUNTY COUNCIL**

\_\_\_\_\_  
James D. Ashley

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Purvis

\_\_\_\_\_  
Janice L. Smith

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Terry

\_\_\_\_\_  
Butch Harpel

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kirk Retherford  
Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brad Nichols

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gregg A. Townsend, Secretary and County Auditor

Prepared by: Mark R. Regnier  
Tipton County Attorney;  
MARK R. REGNIER, ATTORNEY AT LAW.  
120 S. West Street  
Tipton, Indiana 46072

Amanda Kinney stated that this is normally funded by a grant and this would be a one time event.  
Jim Ashley opened the Public Hearing for Resolution CC2021-08. There were no comments.  
Motion by Jim Purvis to close the public hearing. Second by Kirk Retherford. Motion carries.  
Motion by Mike Terry to approve Resolution CC2021-08. Second by Brad Nichols. Motion carries.

#### **Resolution CC2021-05 – Additional Appropriation – General - Sheriff**

##### **ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION RESOLUTION CC2021-05**

Whereas, It has been determined that it is now necessary to appropriate more money than was appropriated in the annual budget; now, therefore:

Sec. 1. Be it resolved by the County Council of Tipton County, Tipton, Indiana; that for the expenses of the taxing units listed below; the following additional sums of money are hereby appropriated out of the funds named and for the purposes specified, subject to laws governing the same:

<b>Fund Name:</b>	<b>Requested Amount</b>	<b>Approved Amount</b>
<b>1000 General 005 Sheriff</b>		
11100 Deputies	<u>\$100,000.00</u>	
10000 Personal Services	\$100,000.00	

Adopted and dated this 23rd day of February, 2021

TIPTON COUNTY COUNCIL

\_\_\_\_\_  
James D. Ashley

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Purvis

\_\_\_\_\_  
Janice L. Smith

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Terry

\_\_\_\_\_  
Butch Harpel

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kirk Retherford

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brad Nichols

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gregg A. Townsend, Secretary and County Auditor

Prepared by: Mark R. Regnier

Tipton County Attorney;

MARK R. REGNIER, ATTORNEY AT LAW.

120 S. West Street

Tipton, Indiana 46072

Jim Ashley opened the public hearing for Resolution CC2021-05.

Dick Klein, former sheriff Craig Henderson, Chris Tragesser, and Chuck Harlow spoke in favor of granting an additional raise in salary for 2021 in order to attempt to retain officers, in the face of higher wages being offered in adjacent Howard and Hamilton Counties.

Commissioner Henderson stated that he had a concern regarding disrespect for public access. He stated that, at the last County Council meeting, a member of the Council and a member of the public were texting back and forth. He stated that the cell phones texting could be part of the public record. He stated that if the motion for this additional appropriation was made based on the texting, there might be a problem with the additional appropriation.

Motion by Jim Purvis to close the public hearing. Second by Jan Smith. Motion carries.

**Resolution CC2021-06 – Additional Appropriation - General - Jail**

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION RESOLUTION CC2021-06**

Whereas, It has been determined that it is now necessary to appropriate more money than was appropriated in the annual budget; now, therefore:

Sec. 1. Be it resolved by the County Council of Tipton County, Tipton, Indiana; that for the expenses of the taxing units listed below; the following additional sums of money are hereby appropriated out of the funds named and for the purposes specified, subject to laws governing the same:

<b>Fund Name:</b>	<b>Requested Amount</b>	<b>Approved Amount</b>
<b>1000 General 380 Jail</b>		
11034 Rank Pay	\$500.00	

11208 Jailer/Turnkey	\$100,000.00
12500 Overtime	<u>\$10,000.00</u>
10000 Personal Services	\$110,500.00

Adopted and dated this 23rd day of February, 2021

TIPTON COUNTY COUNCIL

\_\_\_\_\_  
James D. Ashley

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Purvis

\_\_\_\_\_  
Janice L. Smith

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Terry

\_\_\_\_\_  
Butch Harpel

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kirk Retherford

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brad Nichols

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gregg A. Townsend, Secretary and County Auditor

Prepared by: Mark R. Regnier

Tipton County Attorney;

MARK R. REGNIER, ATTORNEY AT LAW.

120 S. West Street

Tipton, Indiana 46072

Jim Ashley opened the public hearing for Resolution CC2021-06.

Jail Commander Ray Sheppard stated that his salary has increased from \$25,500 in 2013, when he was 19, to \$32,700 in 2021. He stated that there have been 2,600 bookings since 2017 and that the Jail has hired 78 jailers since 2017. He stated that surrounding counties are attracting jailers.

Nate Kring stated that the short term solution is to go to unigov.

Amanda Kinney, Assistant Community Corrections Director, stated that the jailers are unsung heroes and that most have part-time jobs that take time away from their families.

Motion by Jim Purvis to close the public hearing. Second by Jan Smith. Motion carries.

**Resolution CC2021-07 Additional Appropriation – General – Commissioners**

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION RESOLUTION CC2021-07

Whereas, It has been determined that it is now necessary to appropriate more money than was appropriated in the annual budget; now, therefore:

Sec. 1. Be it resolved by the County Council of Tipton County, Tipton, Indiana; that for the expenses of the taxing units listed below; the following additional sums of money are hereby appropriated out of the funds named and for the purposes specified, subject to laws governing the same:

<b>Fund Name:</b>	<b>Requested Amount</b>	<b>Approved Amount</b>
<b>1000 General 068 Commissioners</b>		
17100 FICA	<u>\$12,660.00</u>	
10000 Personal Services	\$12,660.00	

Adopted and dated this 23rd day of February, 2021

TIPTON COUNTY COUNCIL

\_\_\_\_\_  
James D. Ashley

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Purvis

---

Janice L. Smith

---

Michael Terry

---

Butch Harpel

---

Kirk Retherford

Attest:

---

Brad Nichols

---

Gregg A. Townsend, Secretary and County Auditor

Prepared by: Mark R. Regnier

Tipton County Attorney;

MARK R. REGNIER, ATTORNEY AT LAW.

120 S. West Street

Tipton, Indiana 46072

Jim Ashley opened the public hearing for Resolution CC2021-07. There were no comments.

Motion by Mike Terry to close the public hearing. Second by Jan Smith. Motion carries.

### **Discussion of Resolutions CC2021-05, CC2021-06, and CC2021-07**

Jim Ashley stated that all departments serve the county well, across the board and that no one is trying to keep employees equal. He stated that at budget time the Council has discussions about where we stand in relation to wages. Originally, the new jail was thought to cost ten million dollars. The jail does not reduce staff due to efficiencies. In 2014, the cost estimate was revised to thirteen million dollars, but the council increased wages 2.5%, and, for the last two years, gave a 4% increase. We have added deputies and jailers out of operational need. At the same time, the cost of the jail has escalated to almost eighteen million dollars. We still have limited funds. We are a small county and have all of the problems of being a small county and having to compete with the large counties. We are in the ballpark with other similar sized counties, but that doesn't eliminate the problem that Kokomo is putting out bounties for sheriff's deputies. We have done what we can to bring those salaries up.

Jim Ashley opened the floor for council comments.

Jim Purvis stated that he appreciated the input. He stated that he wants to see increases in salaries for county employees, across the board. He stated that he realizes that all employees are not the same and we need to find a solution to get everyone equitably paid. He suggested that a personnel committee be formed. He stated that it is inappropriate to do for one department and not for all. He stated that the issue needs more study.

Jan Smith stated that she is new to the council, having come in after the last budget. She stated that the salary discussion should be at budget time. She stated that she does not have enough information. She stated that she wants to see raises, but needs time to study the issue. She stated that it is not good to come in the middle of the year.

Brad Nichols stated that the council should do the increases now for the deputies and jailers. He stated that the Council and Commissioners don't do things once a year and that they are reactive and that this is unusual and could be called a crisis. He said things have changed in public safety; the public perception, order, and authority – a huge risk. He stated that we are constantly losing people due to multiple factors, pay being only one of them. He said that pay is the one thing that the council can do. He said that the council had already advertised and that they could find a way to pay for it. He said that all county employees are a valuable asset. He said that there is a healthy cash balance in the General Fund and that the 9200 Fund (CAGIT Special Legislation Justice Center) and revenue from housing out of county inmates were streams of revenue that the council did not have before. He stated that the council should compensate the deputies and jailers in a better fashion. He urged positive action on both resolutions.

Kirk Retherford stated that he is new, but that he sat through the budget meetings. He stated that he needed to get a grip on the finances. He said that the previous council had worked hard to make this work and that the council should look at this at budget time and make it good for all.

Mike Terry applauded public safety. He stated that we should have a pay raise across the board. He stated that it is a growing issue. He stated that we should see if insurance is comparable as well as pay. He stated that every year, at budget time the council balances issues. He said that we have a new jail, for less than a year. We must be fiscally responsible to the tax payers. He stated that he does not have enough information and commits to looking into wages and benefits.

Jim Ashley addressed jail revenue by stating that the council had used \$400,000 of potential revenue from housing out-of-county inmates to balance the 2021 budget. The Sheriff's Department had estimated potential revenue at \$600,000. He noted that Kokomo has a \$1 million shortfall in their jail budget. He said that we are new at the operation of the jail and that we are short in the utility expenses and that it is difficult to know the full costs. He noted that influences from surrounding counties has increased since the budget was passed.

Jim Purvis stated that we owe to all employees to resolve this. He stated that we are competing with the City of Tipton and we need to look at the City of Tipton, Kempton, Sharpsville, Windfall, and the County as a whole. He said that we need to do it quick and mentioned a personnel committee.

Brad Nichols stated that nobody had approached him stating that it is a bad idea. He stated that it is a critical situation of public safety.

Motion by Brad Nichols to take corrections officers to \$37,000 and deputies to \$50,000 plus approving the requested rank pay and overtime.

Sheriff Tony Frawley stated that he had overlooked including the jail matron, who is paid the same as a deputy, out of the jail budget.

Jim Ashley called for a second. Motion dies for lack of a second.

Motion by Jim Purvis to table Resolutions CC2021-05, CC2021-06, and CC2021-07 for the personnel committee to find a better solution for all employees. Second by Jan Smith.

Motion amended to approve the \$500 rank pay appropriation and the \$10,000 overtime appropriation and to table the rest of Resolutions CC2021-05, CC2021-06, and CC2021-07. Second by Jan Smith.

Motion carries with Brad Nichols abstaining.

Mike Terry stated that the task is to get closer to the competition.

Sheriff Frawley stated that he is extremely disappointed with the council. He told Brad Nichols that he appreciated his courage. He stated that three or four of the jailers will start looking tomorrow. He asked what more he could have done. He told the council that they had sent a clear message to his people.

### **Appointment to the Regional Planning Council – Tabled**

### **Conflict of Interest Filing – Jim Purvis, employee of Baumgartner Asphalt – filed with the Clerk**

### **Personnel Committee**

After discussion, Jim Ashley appointed Mike Terry, Jim Purvis, and Brad Nichols to the Personnel Committee. Jim Ashley will attend the March 1, 2021 Board of Commissioner meeting for the make-up of the committee.

### **Minutes for January 19, 2021**

Motion by Jim Purvis to accept the minutes for the January 19, 2021 meeting. Second by Jan Smith. Motion carries.

**Coroner Facility – Request to advertise for \$20,000 for architectural and engineering services – Brad Nichols**

Motion by Brad Nichols to advertise for an additional appropriation of \$20,000 in the Cumulative Capital Development Fund for architectural and engineering services. Second by Mike Terry. Motion carries, with Kirk Retherford voting nay.

**Council Comment**

Jim Purvis stated that the council understands the concern and will be coming with a complete solution for all employees. The council needs time to process.

**Public Comment – None**

Motion by Mike Terry to adjourn the meeting. Second by Jan Smith. Without objection, the meeting was adjourned

Approved on 20th day of April, 2021

TIPTON COUNTY COUNCIL

\_\_\_\_\_  
James D. Ashley

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Purvis

\_\_\_\_\_  
Janice L. Smith

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Terry

\_\_\_\_\_  
Butch Harpel

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kirk Retherford

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brad Nichols

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gregg A. Townsend, Secretary and County Auditor