

## **TIPTON COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING - JULY 18, 2023**

### **REGULAR SESSION**

The Tipton County Council Board met in Regular Session on Tuesday, July 18, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. in the 1st Floor Meeting Room, 101 E. Jefferson Street, Tipton, IN.

Present: Those in attendance were Jim Purvis, Joe Vanbibber, Janice Smith, Michael Terry, and Brad Nichols.

Not Present: Attorney, Mark Regnier, Jim Ashley and Kirk Retherford

The Council meeting was opened by Michael Terry with Pledge of Allegiance.

### **AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA:**

Councilman Jim Purvis made a motion to amend the agenda to add Bret Morris under Bill Gossard under III. C, between Bill Gossard and Phil Beer. The motion carried, by a unanimous vote.

### **APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES:**

June 20, 2023

The Meeting Minutes of June 20, 2023, were tabled on a motion made by Councilman Nichols and seconded by Councilwoman Smith. The motion carried.

### **DEPARTMENT BUSINESS & REPORTS/OTHER:**

Lisa Willis-Gidley addressed the Council providing an update as promised regarding Fund 1148, Drug Free Funding Update. This is a drug free community plan which focuses on substance use for adults and adolescents. There are four focuses within their budget which is approved by the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute. They will be working with adolescents grades 6 through 12 and provide education. She will revisit the Council at a later date to discuss her budget, which the Auditor will assist her to facilitate. This budget is reviewed by the Council although mandated and approved by the Indiana Criminal Justice Center.

Bill Gossard, a Tipton resident addressed the Council regarding appreciation of Lisa Willis-Gidley who has contributed many hours of study and work to accomplish these goals for Tipton County Residents and work diligently with the Indiana Criminal Justice Center. He stated that the format of this plan may change in regard to a Tipton County Cares Plan. They will present 211, 988 and 911, at the foundation on a learning session. They will be working with firefighters, and other service personnel in the county on education regarding the safety phone numbers and their purpose for the residents of Tipton County.

**COUNTY HIGHWAY:**

County Highway Superintendent, Bret Morris addressed the council with the arrival of two new county trucks. He has another 550 coming; however, is on back order. He is asking for permission to finance the new 550 that is on backorder. Bret has paid in cash out of his budget to pay for the two new trucks he has already received. The two trucks are identical outside of a \$600 light package. The first truck was ordered in September of 2022. The increase in cost of vehicles in such a short period is the reason he is asking for permission to finance a new truck now so as to freeze the cost at current rate. If the truck comes in during 2023, he will finance the truck. If the truck comes in sometime in 2024, he will pay for the truck out of his 2024 budget. He would like to finance the new highway department truck in the sum of \$210,755.

There was discussion amongst the Council regarding an additional appropriation from county general or allow Bret to finance the vehicle.

\*Councilman Purvis made a motion to approve Bret Morris to finance the new truck for the highway in the sum of \$91,966.96. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Smith, and the motion carried. The vote was 5-0 in favor and was unanimous.

The Council asked if the request had been before the Commissioner's. Bret confirmed that the Commissioners were aware.

**COUNTY ENGINEER:**

County Engineer, Phil Beer addressed the council regarding the CCMG 2023-2, stating that the bids came in lower than expected. Awarded \$1 million and will only use \$675,000 of that for Old SR 28 and CR 300 W. They will have approximately \$325,000. He will be going back to INDOT to request that they be allowed to keep the \$325,000 to utilize for the 2023-2 CCMG. He is asking for the Council to pay their matching portion in the sum of \$81,420.25 to be paid from Cum Bridge for Bridge #29. Phil is asking for a financial commitment letter from the Council.

Councilman Nichols made a motion to commit to the \$81,420.25 for the 2023-2 CCMG. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Smith. The motion to allow VP of the Council to sign on behalf of the council was made by Councilman Vanbibber and seconded by Councilman Nichols. The motion carried unanimously by a 5-0 vote.

**BONDRY:**

Phil Beer addressed Bondry Consultant, Oscar and Mariella who addressed the Council. Oscar Guterrez presented funding solutions to the Council. The Summary of Funding Options are as follows:

1. Property Tax Levy – No Tax Increase
  - a. Financing Strategy: Add debt service levy to bring overall County tax rate back to 2022 rate of \$0.4809.
  - b. Project Fund: \$4,000,000. - \$8,000,000 (Depending on AV growth)
  - c. Term: 20 years
  
2. Local Income Tax – EDIT
  - a. Financing Strategy: Utilize the existing payment of 2008 EDIT Bonds and recent growth in EDIT Revenues to afford a \$200,000 annual payment
  - b. Project Fund: \$2,000,000
  - c. Term: 20 years

3. Tax Increment Financing – Getrag Allocation Area
  - a. Financing Strategy: Utilize excess future TIF revenues to finance legally allowable projects
  - b. Project Fund: \$8,300,000
  - c. Term: 16 years

Oscar clarified that there would be no tax increase from 2022.

There was discussion regarding options for bonding for the BOT Project. The expected bond is between \$4 to \$8 million.

Councilman Nichols asked what the timeline was to make a decision on financing the bond for the B.O.T. Project. Phil Beer commented that it would be a few months before the Council would need to make a decision regarding bond funding.

Oscar Guterrez stated that the DLGF set a cap for the allowable increase of the maximum tax levy to 5%. He further discussed the tax levy and the process of budgeting in consideration of the upcoming budget process. He addressed the potential for the use also of the ARP Funds.

Phil Beer further discussed the BOT Project and his continued efforts in reporting to the Council going forward.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS:**

Dispatch/911, Adam Dewitt addressed the council with the request for additional appropriation in the total sum of \$38,802.00. The additional appropriations are as follows:

FUND	ACCOUNT	ACCT. DESCR.	AMOUNT REQUESTED
1222	1222-35104-000-000	Service Supplier	\$30,000.
1222	1222-12500-000-000	Overtime	\$5,000.
1222	1222-44301-000-000	Radio	\$802.
1222	1222-11900-000-000	Part Time	\$3,000.
			<b>\$38,802.00 Total</b>

Adam Dewitt gave the reason for his additional appropriation request. He stated that the \$30,000 request is for a shared software utilized by both the city and county and that he was requesting funds to pay this bill. This was suggested by the EMA Director, Chuck Bell. Adam will then bill the city for their portion. As well, there was a 10% increase in the software. Once Adam bills the city, the funds will be submitted to the Auditor to receipt into Fund 1222.

Councilman Nichols made a motion to advertise for an additional appropriation in the sum of \$38,802. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vanbibber, and the motion carried by a unanimous vote. Councilman Vanbibber asked for a written explanation from Adam before the next council meeting.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS:**

Auditor, Pickering addressed the council with the request for additional appropriation in the total sum of \$2,000. The additional appropriations are as follows:

FUND	ACCOUNT	ACCT. DESCR.	AMOUNT REQUESTED
1000	1000-32200-000-002	Postage	\$1,000
1000	1000-21100-000-002	Office Supplies	\$1,000

Auditor Pickering requested an additional appropriation for postage in the sum of \$1,000 and office supplies in the sum of \$1,000. Due to the supply cost of binders and other supplies to prepare for budgets for the council and other items, the Auditor is asking for an additional appropriation in the total sum of \$2,000. Councilman Nichols made a motion to approve advertising for an additional appropriation which was seconded by Councilwoman Smith. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

**REQUEST FOR TRANSFER OF FUNDS:**

Prosecutor’s Office requests a transfer of funds to supplement part-time payroll expense from FICA account line. Councilman Vanbibber made a motion to authorize the request for transfer as stated above. The motion was seconded by Councilman Nichols, and the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Auditor Pickering addressed the late filing of the abatement for Indiana Ethanol with the Council. The abatement was filed on July 26, 2023. The Council has 45 days according to statute to approve or deny the abatement or the abatement is approved by default. There was further discussion by the Council. The abatement was sent to the Council and Economic Development Coordinator, Abbie Smith prior to the meeting. Abbie was not present to present the abatement. This abatement is an ongoing abatement and not a new abatement. A motion to approve the abatement for Indiana Ethanol was made by Councilman Nichols and seconded by Councilman Vanbibber. The motion carried by a unanimous vote. Councilman Purvis commented that if Abbie was going to keep working on abatements for the Council, then the Council needs data and a process by which the process looks like.

Signatures on abatements that were approved at last meeting require signature by the Council. Auditor Pickering is asking the Council to sign the abatements to make the approvals official.

An engagement letter for Bakertilly for financial reporting to the Council for budgets was presented to the Council. Bakertilly has provided this service over the last five years to the Council prior to budget hearings to facilitate in making budgetary decisions. Auditor Pickering stated that last years’ billing was paid from 1000-90909 in the sum of \$6500. Councilman Vanbibber made a motion to approve the engagement letter which was seconded by Councilwoman Smith. The motion carried unanimously.

The Council discussed the date for the budget hearings with Bakertilly. The date has been set for August 2, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. The Council is at the discretion of Bakertilly’s availability and has decided on 6:00 p.m. on August 2, 2023.

The Auditor asked the council for input on their council budget, as the Auditor is preparing their budget currently. The council will make a decision at budget hearings in regard to 10% increase.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Councilman Terry addressed the notice of Tipton County Overlapping Taxing Units to the council.

**OTHER COUNCIL BUSINESS:**

The Auditor and Council discussed the budget hearing dates and the Auditor will address this at the councils recommendation with President of the Council, Jim Ashley.


**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Auditor Pickering stated that she attended the Council Meeting with the AIC, which Senator Buck gave a great speech. She asked if the Council would like to include funds in their budget for next years Council session. Auditor Pickering asked if any of the Council desired to attend the fall conference. She asked that any interested Councilmember inform her of their intention to attend the fall Council Conference if they are interested so that it can be paid.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion made by Councilman Vanbibber and second by Councilwoman Smith. The motion carried.

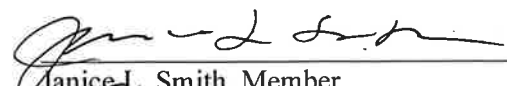
Tipton County Council

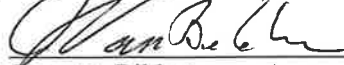
  
James D. Ashley, President

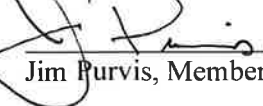
  
Michael Terry, Vice President

  
Kirk Retherford, Member

  
Brad Nichols, Member

  
Janice L. Smith, Member

  
Joe Van Bibber, Member

  
Jim Purvis, Member

Attest:

  
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Melissa Pickering, Auditor  
Tipton County Council Meeting: July 18, 2023.