

**ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 19 2006  
8:30 AM**

The Allen County Council met on Thursday, January 19, 2006 at 8:30 am in the County Council/Commissioners Courtroom. The purpose of the meeting was for additional appropriations and transfer of funds in excess of the current budget. Also, grants and any other business to come before Council.

Attending: Paula S. Hughes, President; Paul G. Moss, Vice President; Michael W. Cunegin II, Darren E. Vogt, Calvert S. Miller, Roy Buskirk, and Paulette L. Kite.

Also Attending: Lisa Blosser, Auditor; Tera Klutz, Chief Deputy Auditor; and Susan Whetstone, Administrative Assistant.

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am by President, Paula Hughes with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Paula Hughes:** Due to the fact that the Coroner has to be in Indianapolis by 11:00 am today we will do his request first.

**Mike Cunegin:** As liaison to the Coroner I would like to tell you that the Autopsy fees in Allen County are the lowest as they have been working to keep expenses as low as possible.

**Dick Alfeld, Chief Investigator:** We are requesting the transfer of funds from Autopsy Fees into our Personal Services accounts to be able to raise the salary of our two part time deputy coroners and to add an additional deputy coroner. The salary we are requesting is \$12,000 a year; we are requesting to transfer \$19,226 from Autopsy Fees. This amount includes a \$2,930 each for the current deputy coroners, \$12,000 for a new deputy coroner and FICA of \$1,366.

One of our deputy coroners is Dr. Nelson who is a Forensic Dentist and he provides his services to this county for free; other counties he charges \$500 per autopsy.

**Darren Vogt:** In the future requests like this, even though they are part time employees, should come before the Personnel Committee and I will talk to Brian this afternoon.

**Mike Cunegin made a motion to approve items 9-13 for transfer of funds in the total amount of \$19,226. Paul Moss seconded it. Motion passed 6-0-1 with Patt Kite absent.**

**Cal Miller made a motion to approve the salary ordinance. Paul Moss seconded it. Motion passed 6-0-1 with Patt Kite absent.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Cal Miller made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2005 meeting. Darren Vogt seconded it. Motion passed 7-0.**

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

**Lisa Blosser, Auditor:** We are starting out 2006 with the amount left for appropriation of \$13,529,856. I will give you a recap of what revenues went into this figure. From the 2005 unappropriate general fund balance there was \$6.5 million and we had a roll over of \$1.5 million. We had a huge increase last year from our interest on investments of \$2.5 million over estimates. We had a certified 2006 COIT amount which exceeded our original estimates by \$3,000,000; we did not get these amounts until after the budget process was over. Before you today there are appropriations in the amount of \$2,087,103 if you approve this amount it will leave you with \$11,442,753. Our total outstanding debt for the Boys and Girls School stands at \$5,883,893.

**Paula Hughes:** Thank you Auditor Blosser. We don't say this often enough; we need to thank you for your outstanding service in oversight of the general fund and all of the funds of the County. It makes our job so much easier for the good job you, your deputy and your entire staff do.

**Roy Buskirk:** It is nice to see that Boys & Girls School debt number is going down.

**Mike Cunegin made a motion to approve the financial report as presented. Darren Vogt seconded it.**

**Cal Miller:** Before we vote, there is another tool that has been provided for us by the Auditor sets forth 2005 roll-overs into individual departments and encumbered dollars at the end of the year. We ought to identify 6-8 of those because it has been this Council's position the last few years that we frown on artificial encumbering and we don't know if these numbers include some artificial numbers. Perhaps these artificial dollars should have been included in the roll-over that would be available for appropriation this year.

They have also given us historical data going back to 2001 to look at each departments trending or this type of activity; we ought to pick the highest dollar encumbrances and take a look and see if these are dollars that should not have been encumbered. Our instructions to the budget makers over the last few years are going to actually carry some teeth and that was: we will consider your next year's appropriation in the artificial encumbering at the end of the year. We ought to do that as we proceed into this year in preparation of the 2007 budget.

**Darren Vogt:** I wouldn't limit it to the top 6-8 I would have conversation with every one of them.

**Lisa Blosser:** We actually sat down with President Vogt last year and went through them all. We can set up a time as we have to pull some purchase orders.

**Cal Miller:** Is that the approach that the liaisons should take when they meet with their departments?

It was the consensus of opinion that this would be the way they would approach their individual departments.

**Paula Hughes:** We have a motion and a second; those in favor signify by saying aye. Motion passed 7-0

#### **INVESTMENT REPORT:**

**Bob Lee, Treasurer:** I echo your comments; Auditor Blosser and her office do a fine job. Under Indiana Law I am required to present this report to you each year. I presented this to the Allen County Board of Finance and this was done on January 11, 2006. I must compliment my Chief Deputy, Sue Orth; she manages our portfolio on a daily basis and has done an outstanding job in keeping the money moving between various investments so we could take advantage of raising interest rates.

There are 64 funds that receive interest out of 200 plus funds that have been designated to receive their own interest. These are either by ordinance, this body, the Commissioners or Indiana Code. In 2004 we earned \$1.6 million and in 2005 \$2.1 million.

**Mike Cunegin:** I would like to thank you for all of your hard work and Sue is a real asset to the Treasurer's office.

**Paula Hughes:** I echo those sentiments.

**Cal Miller:** Thank you that is certainly is pleasant news to learn that you significantly out paced our projections.

**REPORT FROM COUNCIL APPOINTMENT:**

**Paula Hughes:** We will move on now to a report from Council's appointment to the Regional Sewer District Board, Don Niemeyer.

**Don Niemeyer:** I was appointed to the Regional Sewer District Board in 2003 by the Allen County Council to fill out the unexpired term of Barb Krisher. I have been serving on this board every since.

The Sewer District services Arcola, Hoagland, Hessen Castle, Muldoon Road, Mayhew and Canyon Run service location areas.

We only operate the treatment plant in Hoagland; the effluent from all other areas is treated by City of Fort Wayne Utilities. The District maintains pipe, lift stations and grinders in these areas. The District also handles customer services and billing for these areas and has 650+ customers.

The District also has financed other projects that were accepted by the City of Fort Wayne that are maintained by the City. The City provides customer service, billing, repairs, etc. A small processing charge is paid by customers to the city and relayed to the District. Debt service payments are forwarded to the District.

There are four projects in preliminary design at this time. Once the designs are far enough along for accurate cost estimates and customer rates the Board will act on the projects.

Sewer District highlight for 2005 were many. Several construction projects have been completed including Muldoon Road, Bethel Road, Arcola repairs and Hoagland repair work. We have established several sub committees; Finance, Construction, New Services and Use Policy. There have been brochures and procedures for neighborhoods petitioning for sewer services devised. Paid off BAN and are sold a Construction Bond. We have a new accounting format and established the 2005 budget. The Board approved and funded a full time office person for the subcontracted services provider. We received a 5 year extension of Hoagland Plants operating permit from IDEM. The updated use ordinance was reviewed and expected to be passed in 2006.

Mr. Niemeyer stated that his goals for 2006 are to continue to provide a financing mechanism for neighborhoods in need of sewer improvements, to provide the customers the best possible service at the best price, to protect

the reserves of the district for repairs and improvements, to maintain fiscal responsibility on all new projects, to push for creation of area specific accounting, to explore alternative sources for capitol project beyond traditional utility revenue bonds and to explore new technology treatment systems for areas that cannot be cost effectively served by traditional means.

**Item 1: Dave Fuller, Building Commissioner** requested an appropriation in the amount of \$4,349 the remainder will be transferred within the Building Department budget. He would like to promote a Housing Inspector to a Senior Housing Inspector; this will be a PAT 4/3 at an annual salary of \$38,942.

**Cal Miller made a motion to approve the request in the amount of \$4,349. Roy Buskirk seconded it. Motion passed 7-0.**

**Cal Miller made a motion to approve the amended salary ordinance in the amount of \$38,942 at a PAT 4/3 effective 1/19/06. Darren Vogt seconded it. Motion passed 7-0.**

**Paula Hughes:** Item 2 is a request to appropriate \$1,961,298 for Institutional Expenses; it is this year's payment amount for this years Boys & Girls School debt. We have an unusually large unappropriated roll over from 2005 into 2006 in our General Fund this year. We found out too late to get this amount increased for this meeting but I want to through something out to get the conservation started this morning. I would like us to consider, not only appropriating the amount of this year's payment but also the amount for the next two years payments into this line item therefore earmarking it and we can encumber it each year and roll it forward. The Auditor understands these payments won't be made until the end of the year so we can maximize our interest payments. If we do this then we can put on for next months agenda we would put on the February agenda an item for \$3,992,596. Those two amounts are about \$6,000,000 so that is \$6,000,000 out of the \$13 ½ million that we would available to appropriate. We have discussed in the past the concept of funding a Rainy Day Fund for Allen County. I have been an advocate of that for a couple of reasons; one; we know we have a potential revenue decrease and a large expense on the horizon. We know as we are going through our job evaluation process we probably will have some additional expense tied to that as we have talked about that in last years budget process. We also know that in 2007 we will see the full impact of the annexations the City of Fort Wayne has made on our COIT and CEDIT revenues. I think we need to earmark some money just to keep it off the table off the table and the Rainy Day Fund is a perfect place for that.

Then there is the purpose of a Rainy Day Fund; there are going to be unforeseen expenses and we have not settled the Stormwater issue and what those expenses are going to be. I would be an advocate and supportive of a discussion that lead to reduce the amount of money left for appropriation to maybe even \$500,000 or \$1,000,000 and the remainder of that going into funds for the future for Institutional Expenses and the Rainy Day Fund.

**Darren Vogt:** I see those as two distinct and separate issues; I would not like to see funds for institutional expenses going into the Rainy Day Fund.

**Paula Hughes:** No those funds would not be going into the Rainy Day Fund.

**Darren Vogt:** I am not sure that I wouldn't be in favor of putting it all in there to get it off the table. I agree that a Rainy Day Fund is needed and putting some money aside in that fund. We also know that we are facing an expense of the Sheriff's building etc. Also we need to watch any pending legislation that might affect us and cost us money.

**Paul Moss:** I am supportive of your suggestion of establishing a Rainy Day Fund.

**Mike Cunegin:** I agree with the rest of my Council members and think that this is a fine time to put money into the Rainy Day Fund possibly even the money for Institutional Expenses.

**Paula Hughes:** Just to clarify again; we can only put \$7,000,000 in the Rainy Day Fund. That was the reason I thought we should put the other in the Institutional Expenses line; not only is it cleaner about what it is designated for but it does not limit the amount we can put into the Rainy Day Fund.

**Roy Buskirk:** Something we ought to look at is repayment on some of the bond issues that we currently have and then this would reduce property taxes.

**Cal Miller:** We have to get an idea of what those bonds are. This is a very exciting situation we are in as we have never had a Rainy Day Fund or a Council that has had \$13,000,000 in the general fund after all of 2006 has been budgeted for.

**Paula Hughes:** This Council deserves a pat on the back we have worked very hard to where we can have this kind of discussion and it has taken several years to get there. Council sets the tone but certainly all of the County departments and County elected officials have joined with this and that is why we can have this conservation.

**Cal Miller:** Councilman Buskirk brings up a good point about paying some bonds off earlier than scheduled which would in turn reduce the tax burdens of the County. If this continues and we are able to exercise this kind of fiscal management and at the same time provide the services that all of the elected officials and budget makers are required to do; having the funds that we have will put us in a position to collect less in our entire levy for the first time in eons because we have been maxed out. Wouldn't that be a goal worth pursuing as well? You have a maxed out Rainy Day Fund, the State debt earmarked ready to be paid and you have met all of the obligations to provide services for the County; we will be in a position to pass a budget in 2007 or 2008, depending on what the needs are, that doesn't max out the levy.

**Roy Buskirk:** We have to wait until 2007 and see where we are with the decrease in revenue due to annexation.

**Cal Miller:** That is a goal we are pursuing and we are in a position to strive to do. It is not a pipe dream it is a reality that is within our grasp depending on how the figures play out with the decrease in revenue as a result of the Aboite annexation. We ought to keep our focus on seeing if we can make it a reality because it is very close to being a reality.

**Paul Moss:** It is amazing that has occurred without a wholesale consolidation of City and County Government!

**Paula Hughes:** By consensus we could direct the Auditor to put on next months agenda the full amount of the remaining State debt to be appropriated into the Institutional Expense line. If we then want to fully fund or put as much as we can in the Rainy Day fund we could right now transfer \$7,000,000 into the Rainy Day Fund. That would leave a balance of a little over \$500,000 in the general fund.

**Darren Vogt:** Keeping in mind that we have \$1.9 million set aside in our budget for capital expenditures.

**Roy Buskirk:** I would suggest that you put it on the agenda for next month for discussion.

**Roy Buskirk made a motion to approve item 2 in the amount of \$1,961,298 into Institutional Expenses and appropriate the balance next month. Darren Vogt seconded it. Motion passed 7-0.**

**Cal Miller made a motion to move \$7,000,000 into the Rainy Day Fund. Patt Kite seconded it.**

**Paul Moss:** I want to echo Councilman Vogt's comments that 2006 and 2007 will be difficult and lean years. We continue to talk about the revenue side but we also need to talk about the expense side. A key component of that is a Capital Improvement Plan, we have had some discussion but I think that the sense of urgency as the months seem to go by quickly.

**Cal Miller:** Before the motion is voted on; is there any concern that the dollars that are put into the Rainy Day fund are relinquished by Council by putting it in there?

**Tera Klutz:** Everything will have to come before you and be appropriated.

**Darren Vogt:** So I understand, will this be a separate fund?

**Tera Klutz:** It is technically administered by the Commissioners but they cannot spend one penny unless it comes before you for appropriation and budget.

**Paula Hughes:** We have a motion and a second to move \$7,000,000 into the Rainy Day Fund; motion passed 7-0.

**Item 3:** Lori Mayers, Assistant Emergency Management Director and Bernie Beier, Director were present requesting an additional appropriation in the amount of \$953 which was already received in December from the insurance company to finish paying for a siren that was damaged.

**Mike Cunegin made a motion to approve item 3 for \$953. Roy Buskirk seconded it. Motion passed 6-0-1 with Paul Moss absent.**

**Items 4 & 5:** Dan Avery, Executive Director of NIRCC was present requesting an additional appropriation in the total amount of \$43,500. Item 4 in the amount of \$30,000 for Contractual Services is to cover the cost of the local agency hosting the annual conference this year. This will be used to cover conference expenses and will be reimbursed from registration fees. There are expected to be approximately 150-200 participants throughout the State including officials from the several other agencies as well as some from Chicago and Washington DC. Item 5 in the amount of \$13,500 for Miscellaneous Equipment to be used to purchase such as traffic counters, computers, transportation related software and to continue to upgrade and replace equipment. As with most of NIRCC's budget; 100 % of these costs will be reimbursed by the Federal Government. Item 4 is an 80/20 split.

**Roy Buskirk** complemented Mr. Avery on bringing the conference to our community and for the fine job is doing.

**Roy Buskirk:** Why didn't you include this in your 2006 budget submission, you have explained it to me but will you please explain it to the full Council?

**Dan Avery:** On my initial request in the 400 series I requested \$10-12,000 but it wasn't approved and was told that I could come back.

**Paula Hughes:** That was a part of the conversation we had that we weren't going to put a lot of capital expenditures in the 2006 budget but we were going to deal with it in the 2005 budget or at the beginning of the 2006 year.

**Darren Vogt:** As I understand it the traffic counters are an on going expense that need to be replaced periodically and we need to take that into consideration when doing the 2007 budget.

**Roy Buskirk made a motion to approve items 4 & 5 in the total amount of \$43,500. Mike Cunegin seconded it. Motion passed 7-0.**

**Roy Buskirk:** Dan, in reading the Pot Hole Gazette one of the articles brings out the problem of high risk rural roads funding. Do you think there is a possibility that the County will be able to obtain some funds?

**Dan Avery:** I think it is a good possibility and we will continue to monitor those areas and the ones we feel justify application for that funding.

**Item 6: Sheriff Herman** requested \$5,290 in Office/Computer Equipment to purchase a copy machine for the nursing staff at the Jail. However, this is an item that they decided to put off until there is a decision made regarding purchasing or leasing copy machines.

**Paul Moss:** Mr. Little has done a study regarding purchasing versus leasing

**Darren Vogt made a motion to table this item and know that it will have to come back at a future meeting. Mike Cunegin seconded it. Motion passed 6-0-1 with Patt Kite abstaining.**

**Paula Hughes:** My one hesitation in this is that we increased your 2006 budget by \$500,000. Do you think you could find these funds in the \$500,000?

**Sheriff Herman:** I don't believe we put anything in the 2006 for 400 items. It was apparently a misunderstanding on our part. At the time of the budget this machine was not a problem but that was 6 months ago and we have replaced drums etc.

**Paula Hughes:** Sheriff you also have two grant requests, we will address those at this time.

**Lin Wilson, Grant Administrator:** The first grant today is a for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Program Grant Program. It is a joint application with the Fort Wayne Police Department; they are the lead applicant. The expected amount will be 40% of \$170,000 the actual amount will be \$35,834.80.

**Darren Vogt made a motion to approve this application. Mike Cunegin seconded it. Motion passed 6-0-1 with Patt Kite abstaining.**

Next is to accept a grant in the amount of \$2,000 that was awarded the Allen County Sheriff's Department for being the best large Sheriff's Department in the state for Big City/Big County Enforcement.

**Darren Vogt made the motion to accept this award. Mike Cunegin seconded it. Motion passed 6-0-1 with Patt Kite abstaining.**

**RATIFICATION OF THE SALARY CONTRACT FOR THE SHERIFF OF ALLEN COUNTY:**

**Darren Vogt made a motion to ratify the contract between the Sheriff, County Council and Board of Commissioners; relating to the Sheriff's pay. Cal Miller seconded it.**

**Paul Moss:** What is the termination date of that contract?

**Cal Miller:** From the first of the year through the last day of the year.

**Sheriff Herman:** The last corrections I made were to make sure it was understood that I would not be receiving any clothing allowance or longevity and that the default the cancellation of the Sheriff's tax collection fees occurred by the state; the annual salary would be reduced to \$110,500.

**Paul Moss:** This contract ceases to be in affect when the new Sheriff takes over.

**Paula Hughes:** All of those supportive of ratifying the contract for the Sheriff of Allen County please signify by say aye. Motion passed 6-0-1 with Patt Kite abstaining.

**Item 7: Joe Brita, Superintendent of ACJC and Michael Hollingsworth, Probation Officer** were present to request additional funds to purchase a 2006

Chevy Trailblazer. A four wheel drive vehicle is necessary due to varying weather conditions and juveniles under strict house arrest supervision with locations throughout the county. This vehicle would be a replacement vehicle for the Electronic Monitoring division. The current vehicle, a Jeep Cherokee, has over 222,000 miles on it and is in constant need of repair.

**Roy Buskirk:** What type of equipment does this vehicle carry?

**Michael Hollingsworth:** It is vary basic other than 4-wheel drive. We really need that because there are some rural dirt roads in Allen County that we have to travel and we go to all corners of the County.

**Cal Miller:** I had an opportunity to talk to Mr. Brita and Mr. Hollingsworth and want to applaud them for getting over 222,000 miles out of this vehicle. There was no request made in 2005 because it was limping along and further more it was their understanding they were to come before Council as needed as opposed as to building them into the year.

**Paul Moss:** Is this a pool vehicle or a take home vehicle?

**Joe Brita:** This is a vehicle that stays with that team; it has specific equipment in there that no one else uses. We don't have any take home vehicles.

**Darren Vogt:** I would like to clarify some statements about these capital items. In our 2005 budget questionnaire we did not talk about not allowing capital expenses. After the budget process we did say that if you had one time expenses we were anticipating some cash in the bank so we said to bring those to us.

**Paula Hughes:** We did not say that at the pre-allocation meetings. When we gave the pre-allocations amounts departments could have put it in their 400 series. Chief Deputy Klutz called every department that had capital expenditure requests on their original budget submission and told them that if they felt it was important to come back in 2005 or early in 2006 for a capital expenditure request. I think that is where the misunderstanding occurred because that is the baggage of the past; for many years Council said there would be no capital expenditures and that is what the departments heard and we are feeling that backlash.

**Cal Miller:** I said come to council when there is a need. We will get this crystal clear for our 2007 budget sessions.

**Darren Vogt:** While I struggle to feel the need for a 4-wheel drive vehicle; I understand your need for a new vehicle.

**Mike Cunegin:** I understand the need for a 4-wheel drive vehicle due to the fact that it is easy to get stuck in the County as well as the City and when you are dealing with young people you need the proper equipment.

**Roy Buskirk:** I agree with Councilman Vogt because I too question the need for a 4-wheel drive vehicle.

**Joe Brita:** Our concern is that we have some very serious offenders and if we get a call on a sex offender we have to move at once and can't wait until the roads are plowed.

**Roy Buskirk:** I hope you can appreciate our concern; I serve on the Vehicle committee along with Darren Vogt and Paul Moss. We are not looking at eliminating vehicles but reducing the cost from the fleet of vehicles that the County has now.

**Darren Vogt:** Under the scenario that you just gave us I can understand that and respect it because I wouldn't want a sex offender in my neighborhood. How many people do you send on that particular run? Does only one person go?

**Joe Brita:** Generally.

**Darren Vogt:** If you had at least one 4-wheel drive vehicle that would suffice in your fleet.

**Michael Hollingsworth:** I guess the second shift when we carry the most staff and we are very busy during the hours between 11 & 3. That is when most of our vehicles are in use and that is when we transport kids' home and hook them up on the program. Another thing to keep in mind is that if we are transporting one of these young people home and we get stuck you can't leave that young person in the vehicle and get unstuck. We have a lot of kids are violent offenders that could be a risk to our officer or anyone else for that matter who would be coming to help us get unstuck. It is a small window when we actually need 4-wheel drive but there are times when definitely we need it and it could be a danger to our officers and the juvenile that we are transporting from point A to Point B.

**Paul Moss:** What is the make of the vehicle you are interested in?

**Joe Brita:** Just the least expensive 4-wheel drive and that is the Blazer.

**Roy Buskirk:** In compromise spirit this morning so we can get you a vehicle I would suggest that we approve this 4-wheel drive for you. When the next one comes you should bring a list of comparisons between a 2 and 4-wheel drive, the initial investment and the costs associated with them.

**Roy Buskirk made a motion to approve item 7 in the amount of \$23,098 for a 4-wheel drive vehicle for the Allen County Juvenile Center. Mike Cunegin seconded it. Motion passed 6-1-0 with Darren Vogt voting nay.**

**Cal Miller:** You have made the case in my mind for the need of a 4-wheel drive vehicle. When you come back for the next one just have the comparison that Roy asked for.

**Item 8 Gayle Ort, Public Defender's office:** We are here this morning requesting an appropriation of \$24,308 and a salary ordinance for \$79,643. This will bring us in compliance with the requirements that have been set by the State Public Defender Commission regarding the salary of the Chief Public Defender. In the past they have said the salary should be substantially comparable to the Prosecutor. To them substantially comparable means 90%, however they have given us 2-years to comply.

**Paula Hughes:** If I could remind you that in 2003 Judge Felts approached us about improving the salary lines for the Public Defender's Office because it would make Allen County eligible for a reimbursement program. Because in 2004 we increased salaries we have gradually added positions in 2003 we received over \$700,000 in reimbursement because of that move. In 2005 we received \$904,569 which is 50% of the \$1.8 million budget for that department. If we had not made these moves toward increasing the salaries and positions to get into compliance with what the state wants; this is just one more of the increases we are asked to do and as part of that plan and we have certainly reaped the benefits.

**Gayle Ort:** At this point we have \$278,000 which will be the third quarter of 2005 and next week I am submitting another request for \$240,000.

**Paula Hughes:** This has far exceeded what we originally estimated.

**Cal Miller:** What are the net figures to us?

**Paula Hughes:** We increased that budget by \$200-250,000 that we increased their budget by to come into compliance.

**Gayle Ort:** If we don't do this the State will refuse all of our requests.

**Cal Miller:** Will Mr. Leonard's duties increase with the raise in pay?  
I don't understand the State's rationale in this situation.

**Paul Moss:** Is there some mechanism in place regarding the number of hours that are to be spent for this amount of money?

**Gayle Ort:** The Public Defenders are all answerable to the Public Defender Board. For a number of years the only benefit we had to offer the public defender was insurance and it was hard to get an attorney to work for the County.

**Paula Hughes:** This would be a good topic for our State Legislation because it's all beyond the scope of what we could impact. When we initially made these changes Judge Felts gave up total control of the Public Defenders by making the move and advocating for this.

**Gayle Ort:** The board is made up of Neal Hayes, Sarah Benson and Wilford Allen.

**Cal Miller:** Maybe the board should consider that they need 100% of Public Defenders time. Giving him such a large increase should warrant the county expecting more from him.

**Paul Moss:** We are all concerned; if we are paying someone \$100,000 and it's pretty open ended as far as the deliverables are.

**Patt Kite:** Are there year end statistics that are compiled by the Public Defenders office regarding the number of cases they handle? If so I think we should look at that.

**Gayle Ort:** Yes that is part of what we are doing for the state to get our reimbursement.

**Cal Miller:** But that doesn't answer the investment in time of the Chief Public Defender. What is his role and what hours is he spending in that position? We have two years to phase it in; does it have to be phased in partially this year?

**Lisa Blosser:** Yes we have to phase it in partially this year.

**Paul Moss:** If we don't do this today are we in some kind of non compliance with the State?

**Roy Buskirk:** Yes and if we don't approve it we won't get reimbursed hundreds of thousands of dollars. It is another thing of the state telling us what we can and can't do.

**Paula Hughes:** A member or two of this Council could approach the Public Defender Board and initiate that conversation; I think that is the appropriate way to handle it. I am going to vote for this because the reimbursement issue qualifies the vote.

**Mike Cunegin:** I am in support of it and the need to ensure the county keeps getting reimbursement overwhelms any other concerns and I will meet with Mr. Leonard to discuss the issue.

**Roy Buskirk made a motion to approve item 8 in the amount of \$24,308. Mike Cunegin seconded it. Motion passed 7-0.**

**Roy Buskirk made a motion to approve the amended salary ordinance in the amount of \$79,743. Mike Cunegin seconded it. Motion passed 7-0,**

**Paul Moss:** Can you provide a time frame when we can expect a response in terms of what the action might be, if any, within your office and with the Chief Public Defender in terms of some criteria that might be set.

**Gayle Ort:** I will be happy to take your comments to the board.

**Item 14: Kim Bowman, Executive Director of DPS:** I have two requests today and the first one is to transfer funds from several lines in my budget into the Extra Deputy line item in the total amount of \$7,400. The other one is a salary ordinance for a new position which is titled Scanning Technician. It was approved by the consultant and the personnel committee. The \$7,400 will be added to the \$15,000 that is currently budgeted by a transfer into the Scanning Technician line.

**Cal Miller made a motion to approve items 14-24 for a transfer of funds in the amount of \$7,400. Paul Moss seconded it. Motion passed 6-0-1 with Mike Cunegin absent.**

**Cal Miller made a motion for a salary ordinance in the amount of \$22,386 COMOT 2/1. Patt Kite seconded it. Motion passed 6-0-1 with Mike Cunegin absent.**

**Items 25 & 26: Darren Vogt:** This is a transfer of funds from Legal Services into Printing within the Council budget in the amount of \$400 to pay for

printing of the Job Questionnaire Forms and Binders and supplies for the Consolidated Government information.

**Cal Miller made a motion to approve this transfer of funds within the Council budget to pay for these expenses. Darren Vogt seconded it. Motion passed 6-0-1 with Mike Cunegin absent.**

Items 27 & 28: Requests for transfer of funds in the Coliseum budget were withdrawn.

**Item 29: Ron Zartman, Superintendent of Allen County Park & Recreation** was present to request an appropriation in the amount of \$100,000 in the Park & Recreation Non Reverting Fund.

**Patt Kite made a motion to approve this request in the amount of \$100,000 in the Park & Recreation Non Reverting Fund. Mike Cunegin seconded it. Motion passed 7-0.**

**Items 30-32: Sheila Hudson, Executive Director of Community Corrections and Bennie Lewis, Project Manager of the Weed & Seen Initiative** were present requesting the re-appropriation of the unexpended first year Weed & Seed funds. We are in the second year of the Weed & Seed strategy which is a two year strategy and has been very successful.

**Mike Cunegin made a motion to approve items 30-32 in the total amount of \$101,265 to re-appropriate the unexpended first year Weed & Seed funds. Darren Vogt seconded it. Motion passed 7-0.**

**Item 33: Chris Dunn, Executive Director of Youth Services Center** requested an appropriation in the Youth Services Placement Fund for General Supplies in the amount of \$1,500. This money will be used for supplies for the Ceramic Room which the kids use every week. An art teacher from Northrop runs this program and he is being paid through an Arts United Grant.

**Paula Hughes:** This program started when I was with Arts United and I have seen it grow into a very good program for Youth Services Center.

**Darren Vogt made a motion to approve this request in the amount of \$1,500 in the Youth Services Center Placement Fund. Patt Kite seconded it. Motion passed 7-0.**

**Paul Moss:** Based on your previous experience when a grant runs out for whatever reason how often to we discontinue that funding and not supplement it?

**Paula Hughes:** That is part of why all of the grants come before Council; three years ago we went through the process of closely scrutinizing grant requests. We also asked if it is a new grant, what will happen when the money goes away.

**Lisa Blosser:** In 2003 we started separating them out so they are no longer part of the general fund so when the funding is up it goes away.

**Lin Wilson:** The grants that are founded by foundations expect that at some point in time the recipient will be weaned off of that grant and will choose to continue the program at their own expense or find another way to do it. We can't get rid of positions in the COPS grants once we add the grant those positions are ours. Every grant has its own expectations and the federal grants are stricter than the foundation grants. I tell people to treat each grant like an only child.

**Paul Moss:** Thank you that is exactly the information I was interested in.

**Paula Hughes:** We have a motion and a second for item 33 for Youth Services Center in the amount of \$1,500; all of those in favor signify by saying aye all those opposed the same. Motion passed 7-0.

**Lin Wilson:** Youth Services is applying for a Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Title II Grant in the amount of \$23,390. The goal of the project is to equip the young men and women at Kryder House and Yoder House for independent living in the community. The youth will acquire basic job skills and explore various career options. These include interviewing skills, job seeking, job etiquette, appearance, career exploration and job retention. They will explore options and make visits to colleges, technical and vocational schools. They will improve life skills in the areas of self-reliance, personal safety and respect for self and others.

**Cal Miller made a motion to approve the application for the Title II Grant for Youth Services Center; the amount requested is \$23,390. Mike Cunegin seconded it. Motion passed 7-0**

**Item 34:** Scott Harrold, DPS requested an appropriation in the Uniroyal Goodrich TIF Fund for a Lease Payment for the substation in the amount of \$12,266. Part of our incentive package for their expansion was to enter into a lease agreement. This amount was generated by that facility in 2005. In the future they will include this in the budget process.

**Paul Moss made a motion to approve item 34 in the amount of \$12,266 for the lease payment. Darren Vogt seconded it. Motion passed 7-0.**

**SALARY ORDINANCE:**

**Pat Crick, Allen County Recorder** requested an amended salary ordinance lowering a position her office from a COMOT 4 to a COMOT 3 with an annual salary of \$24,328.

**Darren Vogt:** The Personnel Committee met and discussed this request. There has been a position that had supervisory role that person is no longer employed and the supervisory role has been eliminated. There are two other positions that do the same duties and are classified at COMOT 3.

**Darren Vogt made a motion to approve the amended salary ordinance taking the position in the Records office from COMOT 4 to COMOT 3 with an annual salary of \$24,328. Cal Miller seconded it. Motion passed 7-0.**

**Brian Dumford, Human Resources Director:** The consultant's evaluation program is on schedule; they have received almost all of the salary surveys that were requested including the city of Fort Wayne who were gracious enough to share their data with us. We are looking to schedule another meeting with the consultant in the middle of February. I will inform the Personnel Committee and anyone else who is interested to come to the meeting to go over the second draft and salary structures. The consultant is also generating position descriptions and evaluating the positions from all of the questionnaires.

**Paula Hughes:** What is the time frame when we will have the final results?

**Brian Dumford:** The final results will be reported to you at the April Council meeting.

**Paul Moss:** Is it excepted for the consultant to attach dollar figures to this or is he going to give us the new job descriptions and related material and then we will plug numbers in and those that should go down will go down and those that should go up will go up.

**Brian Dumford:** The consultant is supposed to prepare the financial impact analysis.

**Paul Moss:** Is the executive analysis that Mr. Lewis doing complete?

**Brian Dumford:** I expect his results tomorrow; however I will get in touch with him.

**Paul Moss:** I would like an objective view point as to who should be classified as executive and who shouldn't be classified as executive.

**Darren Vogt:** We have a question regarding part time salary ordinances; should these come to the Personnel Committee so the details can be ironed out, what is your opinion on that?

**Brian Dumford:** We have not established a Personnel Committee yet but I agree with you that any changes of salary should go through the Personnel Committee to iron out the details.

**Darren Vogt:** Has the Highway Director job been posted yet?

**Brian Dumford:** The Commissioners want to re-establish two positions in the Highway Department. For several years the Highway Director was also an engineer and it was one position. They want a Highway Director and a licensed professional engineer. I am preparing those job descriptions to get them to the Commissioners tomorrow.

**Cal Miller:** Will there be a net increase as a result of this situation?

**Brian Dumford:** Yes

**Roy Buskirk:** With the previous director \$20,000 of his salary was supplemented by the State because he was a professional licensed engineer, will the supplement still continue if the Highway Director isn't a professional licensed engineer?

**Brian Dumford:** The \$20,000 supplement I understand from reviewing the statute in trying to develop the County Engineer job description; that supplement goes to the County engineer position as long as they are a licensed professional engineer. It would not be going to the director anymore it will be going to the licensed professional engineer. That is why they want to break this out into two jobs; so they can still get the supplement. They will lower the salary of the director; they will include the \$20,000 with the salary of the engineer not in addition to the salary.

**Paula Hughes:** I heard that bundling those two duties together was more than one person could handle. A lot of times the director was so busy with administrative duties he didn't have time to properly evaluate and sign off on.

**Brian Dumford:** I will talk to the Commissioners and make sure they get in touch with the Personnel Committee.

**Paula Hughes:** We can make one further appointment; I talked to Stacey Lopshire and she is willing to serve on the PTABOA Board.

**Cal Miller made a motion to re-appoint Stacey Lopshire to the PTABOA Board. Paul Moss seconded it. Motion passed 6-0-1 with Mike Cunegin absent.**

**Paula Hughes:** We have one other appointment to make to the PTABOA Board; we will address that next month.

**Paula Hughes:** I also want to make this Council aware that yesterday morning I had the opportunity to testify in support of the Major Moves legislation. This legislation would impact not only Allen County but road infrastructure throughout the state. I have been involved in the Urban Transportation Advisory Board for several years and am one of the charter members of the Fort to Port steering committee. I felt very strongly that this is a good move for our state; Randy Borer is carrying that legislation and so I went down and voiced my support. I did not speak on behalf of the entire Council because I didn't have time to get in touch with each of you.

**Cal Miller:** Is there anything we can do either individually or as a Council show support; if that were the wishes of the body?

**Paula Hughes:** If this full Council is in support we could draft a letter and send it to the committee; it is going through the House Ways & Means Committee right now and I believe that Jeff Espich is the chairman. From my perspective the support is a vote of trust in the abilities of our Governor and Representative Borer; that they will do the best for the State of Indiana.

**Roy Buskirk:** In doing right of way buying for road construction; I was quite concerned and the one thing was that I did not understand why we don't do a bonding issue instead of a lease. With bonding we wouldn't give up control of the Toll Road. Several states the parties that leased the Toll Road have been very active in economic development adjacent to the Toll Road to generate more business on the Toll Road. Obviously that is the private sectors mind set to make a profit. I can see why doing a lease would have more advantages than going through a bond issue.

**Paula Hughes:** Other advantages I have heard are that along with that private sector initiative companies that operate these types of operations, as an example, the Skyway 90 in the Chicago area. Because they want more people to travel their road they have the incentive to make the amenities better. The roads are well kept the roadside stations, restaurants and

convenience areas are upgraded to attract people because they want more people traveling that road.

**Paula Hughes:** The other thing is why lease versus bond; the private sector a lot of times is naturally able to be more efficient than the government and as we know government is not known for efficiency and that wouldn't be captured if we bonded.

**Roy Buskirk:** The other thing is that they need to be very careful in the way that current state employees are handled when these operations go from public to private sector.

**Darren Vogt:** The bid for the project is opening tomorrow so that will help determine the financial feasibility of the issue. The bids will be a key element for this project.

**Roy Buskirk:** The private companies have not only been involved in stimulating economic development they have been involved in actually building adjacent roads or access points at their own expense. It has been amazing what the private sector has picked up in some of these other states.

**Paul Moss:** Would Representative Borer appreciate a letter of support from this body or not?

**Paula Hughes:** I think Representative Borer would appreciate any support he can get as this is not a foregone conclusion. There is legislation and people from other areas that do not want to see this happen because it would involve a private public partnership between the state and the entity to build that road. There are people who are putting out the idea because there are not a lot of American companies that do this kind of leasing. I don't know who the bids have come in from but in other states in this country the private sector entity that operates these toll roads are foreign held companies. There is scare mongering going around that it would be turned over to terrorists and they would blow up our toll road; there are those who are swayed by those tactics.

**Paul Moss:** I am still willing, if you believe it would be helpful, to attach my name in support of this legislation; but we would not be wise to do it unless everyone is willing.

**Paula Hughes:** And since we don't have Councilman Cunegin here we can't vote as a full body.

**Darren Vogt:** It will be too late by our next meeting because it will be decided by then.

**Roy Buskirk:** Ross Perot built an interstate in Texas and developed an industrial park area and then turned around and sold the road to the state of Texas. It seems like the cost was 20-30% less than it would have cost the state of Texas. That is how the private sector can get things done sometimes.

**Cal Miller:** Will you please tell us again what our assignments are for the Consolidated Government issue?

**Paula Hughes:** The assignment was to touch base with the departments that you are liaison. Start the conversation with them about efficiency; look for areas in their departments that there is duplication in city government, if any, look for areas in their departments that could become more efficient. Sometime those efficiencies may require a capital outlay for equipment cost or something like that.

Commissioner Peters approached us about re-instigating the strategic planning process, which we will be doing. One of the conversations held was that we would do it by doing a Capital Expenditure Plan. I think we can get the jump on that by talking to our departments.

We should also investigate the encumbrances and the departments will have that information.

**Cal Miller:** Are you, as County Council President, going to be speaking with John Crawford, President of City Council about what we can all do together to get this going?

**Paula Hughes:** Yes I had a conversation with John Crawford and also with Kirk Kimmish who is the Executive Director of the Corporate Council and I also have a meeting set up with Sherry Becker who is the Director of Invent Tomorrow these two organizations have committees formed about government efficiency. We are trying to pull together a plan that allows all of the organizations in the county, who are interested in this topic, to work collaboratively. We each have strengths; city and county councils from inside government can evaluate what is possible and what is not. The private sector organizations can do what they need to do and want to do to help inform and organize the community around these ideas.

As Governor Daniels stated in his State of the State address he is going to support legislation that allows for more home rule, local government consolidation and efficiency. It is an exciting time to be working on this and

we should and could look at ways to make our end more efficient. What can we do to make County Government more efficient? Those efficiencies can be had without some changes in state legislation. We will then be ready to move Fort Wayne and Allen County into the future whatever that future may be with changes in the state legislation.

**Cal Miller:** It doesn't make a great deal of sense to be pursuing that comparison at the same time that state legislation is being pursued but, if it passes we will have already done the homework toward getting us in a position to see what makes sense and how some of the consolidation would take place.

It would be nice if we could schedule a series of meetings devoted to comparing two departments that are similar to the city and county side and explore in that session what the obstacles and overlaps are.

**Darren Vogt:** We need to look at the function and financial impact. I don't think we can do this as a part time body without some outside consultant help to at least assimilate those numbers and have them analyzed. Then have the discussion regarding the numbers.

**Cal Miller:** I like the idea of taking one department at a time; that will allow us to gain more knowledge and if we are given the opportunity to propose a new structure we will, at least, have all of the background we need to work from.

**Paula Hughes:** I think it is a good idea and getting two councils together, to essentially bless that idea, is excellent. We may not have everybody on board but we didn't have everybody on board two years ago.

**Cal Miller:** We need to address the concern of not being inclusive of everybody in the past so when the meetings are over and we have had public input then we have come a long way from how the meetings were held in the past.

**Paula Hughes:** I will talk to Councilman Crawford about getting the full bodies together at least once and let the full bodies decide how to proceed. In the meantime this Council is charged with digging up that information within county government. At February meeting we should be able to schedule a joint meeting.

**Roy Buskirk:** We should also be taking a look at funding for the individual departments because that is something we will have to sell.

**Paul Moss:** It might be useful to have both councils meet and keep it brief agree on one simple thing and that is we are going to apply whatever pressure we may have to the executive branches to hopefully then apply pressure to the departments we have identified to provide information on both sides. We have half of the equation and are confident that we can get the financial information we need from the County side but the other half is the City. I think it would be useful for everybody to have a consensus on that because this has to be data driven. It would be fairly easy after that and I would be willing to have you all look at a list of departments and pick the ones you believe are most intuitively simple in terms of potential consolidation and focus on those. At that point I hope we would all be involved because the driving force behind the failure of this initiative before was the fact that there were and continue to be little meetings here and there by people who are self appointed having discussions about this issue. It's always an easy tendency to do that but to have those types of things to move things forward you need to be inclusive. If this were to go to a referendum right now it would fail and fail miserably.

**Cal Miller:** The assignment will assist us all in identifying in what we believe to be an appropriate target for a further analysis. If the city council is willing to do this; it would set the agenda for a series of meetings to have an official comparison, not only an understanding of the over lapping duties but an understanding of what the numbers are and that they make sense.

A series of meetings despite the fact that they are time consuming keeps this issue out front and we can either prove or disprove. We can get an analysis of whether this makes a great deal of sense from financial, efficiency and responsive services standpoints to do this. It will depend on people being candid and willing to give us information so we can make an honest assessment.

**Darren Vogt made a motion to waive the second reading on any matter today for which it may be deemed necessary for the County Council meeting of January 19, 2006. Roy Buskirk seconded it. Motion passed 6-0-1 with Mike Cunegin absent.**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 16, 2006 at 8:30 am.

**There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:49 am on a motion by Roy Buskirk and seconded by Cal Miller. Motion passed 6-0-1 with Mike Cunegin absent.**