

**ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
April 20, 2006  
8:30 AM**

The Allen County Council met on Thursday, April 20, 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; Jackie Scheuman, Finance Manager; and Becky Butler, Administrative Assistant and Commissioner Nelson Peters.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Cal Miller made a motion to approve the minutes of March 16, 2006. Mike Cunegin seconded it. Motion passed 7-0.**

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

**Lisa Blosser, Auditor:** The amount you have left for appropriation in the County General fund is \$603,394. For your consideration today there are additional appropriations in the amount of \$122,245; this will leave you with a balance of \$481,149 for the remainder of the year.

**Paula Hughes:** Are there any questions about the financial report?

**Darren Vogt:** Auditor Blosser, do you see any of our miscellaneous revenues or our projections coming below or ahead of pace?

**Lisa Blosser:** We are about right on schedule. At this point of the year we should be at 25% and we are at 24.55%. We are close just a little below.

**Cal Miller made a motion to accept the financial report as presented. Darren Vogt seconded it.**

**Paula Hughes:** We have a motion and a second, are there any questions? All in favor signify by saying aye. All opposed same sign. The motion has passed 7-0. Moving on to Economic Development. We have a consideration of approving a Statement of Benefits for Primco at 7107 Smith Road. Please state your name for the record.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:**

**Ashley Steenman:** This morning I am here about Primco Inc. at 7107 Smith Road. They are requesting an abatement of real property taxes. They are eligible for a five-year abatement. This project is about an investment of \$600,000 in constructing a 15,000 square foot building that will be used to perform machinery maintenance. Previously, they were outsourcing the maintenance to Indianapolis. This will result in the creation of 25 new jobs. The jobs will be about \$30,000 salary and will save \$33,000 over the five year abatement. The resolution has wording for a waiver of non-compliance. Linda Hirely from Baden is here to explain more about whether they are in the city limits or not. If you have any questions for me, I will be happy to answer them. Otherwise, Scott Frederick from Primco is here to answer questions.

**Paula Hughes:** If we could ask them to join us. Please introduce yourselves for the record.

**Linda Hirely:** I am Linda Hirely with Baden, Price Management.

**Scott Frederick:** Scott Frederick with Primco.

**Paula Hughes:** Good Morning. Welcome. Tell us a little bit more about your project.

**Scott Frederick:** Over the years, we have maintained all of our construction equipment with facilities at the Smith Road. We have outsourced a great deal of the equipment to the main factory and dealers. We have come to the conclusion to be better off to do the maintenance ourselves and this is why we would need the building.

**Paula Hughes:** So this would be a new business division for you.

**Scott Frederick:** That is correct. That is what our long-range plan is.

**Paula Hughes:** How many total employees do you have now?

**Scott Frederick:** I think I signed about 95 paychecks companywide yesterday.

**Roy Buskirk:** You need a stamp.

**Scott Frederick:** No sir.

**Paula Hughes:** Smart man to have the personal touch.

**Roy Buskirk:** That is located on the east side, then?

**Scott Frederick:** Yes, we are located on the east side of Smith Road.

**Roy Buskirk:** Where is the city limits right there?

**Ashley Steenman:** It is right on the line.

**Roy Buskirk:** The city limits is right along your east property line?

**Ashley Steenman:** It is along Lower Huntington Road and the stone quarry.

**Scott Frederick:** There was a time about four years ago where I was given wrong information and thought I was in the city limits but we are not.

**Paula Hughes:** Council members, any further questions? The floor is open to a motion.

**Roy Buskirk:** I make a motion.

**Mike Cunegin:** Second.

**Paula Hughes:** We have a motion and a second, are there any questions? All in favor signify by saying aye. All opposed same sign. The motion has passed 7-0. Thank you for investing in Allen County. Next, we have consideration for approval of a Statement of Benefits for Speedway Sand & Gravel. Do we need to do a separate one for Speedway?

**Darren Vogt:** Yes

**Roy Buskirk:** Separate entity.

**Paula Hughes:** Same project?

**Scott Frederick:** No.

**Ashley Steenman:** They are across Smith Road. They are requesting personal property abatement for five years. Speedway began in 2005 manufacturing

and selling sand gravel products to facilities and customers near Silver Lake and Columbia City. The plant located on Smith Road is not yet complete. The products are usually used by construction companies, home builders, concrete and asphalt companies. The project is an investment of about \$600,000 in new equipment. The power screen gravel plant will be installed to take raw materials out of the earth to make sand and gravel products. This will create 6 new jobs. There are currently no employees at this location. The salaries would be around \$41,000 a year. They will save \$16,000 over the five years. Clint Gradeless and Scott Frederick are here to answer any questions.

**Paula Hughes:** Morning. Please introduce yourselves for the record.

**Clint Gradeless:** I am Clint Gradeless with Speedway Sand & Gravel.

**Paula Hughes:** If you could elaborate a little on the project and how it is going.

**Clint Gradeless:** What we have done is to purchase a portable aggregate processing plant to be used in Allen County.

**Scott Frederick:** There is natural sand and gravel on the west side of the road which we have 99 years right to use.

**Paula Hughes:** Council members, any questions? Roy.

**Roy Buskirk:** How large is the site?

**Clint Gradeless:** The west side of Smith Road that is usable is (inaudible).

**Roy Buskirk:** So does that go to Lower Huntington?

**Clint Gradeless:** No. If you know where the main driveway is to Primco, it is across the street there will go a little to the south. There is a concrete median.

**Paula Hughes:** Are there any other questions? Councilman Vogt.

**Darren Vogt:** More of a comment than a question. I was looking over your benefits package and I am encouraged by the fact that you offer incentive compensation on both this one and the prior abatement. It is great to have employees who are encouraged to do well on the job and when they do that, it creates better business for you. I want to applaud you on that.

**Cal Miller:** Move for the approval of the Statement of Benefits for Speedway Sand and Gravel.

**Roy Buskirk:** Second.

**Paula Hughes:** We have a motion and a second, are there any questions? All in favor signify by saying aye. All opposed same sign. The motion has passed 7-0. Thank you, gentleman. The third item of business under Economic Development is something I will let Mr. Royce explain.

**Mark Royse:** Mark Royse, Deputy Director, Economic Development. The state has initiated a Shovel Ready program. This is a pilot project where places will be selected based on the outcome of an application. The site that Allen County has selected and is working on is in the Meadowbrook Park area which is directly south of General Motors. As Council is aware, we spent the better part of last year working on that area to infuse a large third party logistics provider and subsequently, Vera Bradley announced their location at the intersection of Lafayette Center Road and I69. Since Pat Miller was Secretary of Commerce at the time, there was no way to leverage any state funds for the road improvements and the water and sewer that are currently taking place. We would like to submit this site and there is an airport site that is being proposed as well. Because of the timing, the application is due May 15, we would like your approval contingent upon which ever site is selected as the Fort Wayne/Allen County site. I would be happy to answer any questions about the application or the sites?

**Paula Hughes:** And maybe a little bit about the elaboration of the Shovel Ready program. It is really to make sure that the state has sites that are ready in a quick fashion for companies that are ready to locate here. I commend Mr. Royse on the work that he has done on this application. It started that the county had preferred this Meadowbrook location because we had an investment in the infrastructure there. The city has an interest in the site at the airport. The Alliance will evaluate both of those sites and put their seal of approval as an official submission. We would like all of Allen County and their municipalities to agree on this site that is sent to the state for consideration. They will make their decision after all of the recommendations are made to the Alliance Executive Committee which will then forward the site. I have a question I should have asked you before. Both sites are technically in the unincorporated parts of Allen County, right?

**Mark Royse:** As of yesterday. We met with the Airport Authority yesterday morning and originally the Air Trade Center, which is in the unincorporated area and was the site that the city was going to pursue. They proposed another site which is known as the northwest quadrant. It is at the

intersection of Ferguson Road and Indianapolis Road. They have not done any work on either site as far as the application goes.

**Paula Hughes:** So the second site that they are proposing is in the incorporated city limits.

**Mark Royse:** Yes, in the city limits.

**Paula Hughes:** So there is really three sites that are being considered?

**Mark Royse:** In my mind, there is only one.

**Paula Hughes:** What I am seeking is permission from the Council to sign a letter supporting whatever site is chosen for Allen County. The site that we choose, I would like Council to send a letter to support that. We are seeking a motion to that effect that you are supporting the President of this Council signing a letter for whatever site is chosen to go forward. That would show local entities supporting the site.

**Cal Miller:** We are not being asked to be involved in any way to determine the site?

**Paula Hughes:** No.

**Cal Miller:** As long as there is a consensus, we would support that consensus.

**Paula Hughes:** Yes.

**Cal Miller:** I make a motion that we permit our President to sign a letter supporting the unanimous selection of the site for the Shovel Ready program.

**Mike Cunegin:** I'll second that. But I have a question. I have no problem, but the deadline is May 15 and we have three sites, maybe four and before the day is over maybe...

**Mark Royse:** I think what happened is that the Air Trade Center site was mostly done for the Kitty Hawk project. The northwest water site was recently approved. They feel that from an information standpoint, the northwest quadrant site is an easier grasp as far as what is needed for the application.

**Mike Cunegin:** I appreciate that and just want to make sure that we are all ready. I fully support the letter.

**Paula Hughes:** So we have a motion and a second and were in the discussion phase.

**Darren Vogt:** I am not as familiar with the program as I should be. We only want to submit one or is that the ruling from the state?

**Paula Hughes:** We wanted to have a unified presence at the state level.

**Mark Royse:** The application is scored on a 200 point system. If you are the only site in your region, you have 15 points. If you are the only one in the county, you get five points.

**Darren Vogt:** It enhances our possibility to get more.

**Roy Buskirk:** There is a limited number of ten, right?

**Paula Hughes:** They are doing ten statewide. And I will comment that at the Alliance Board level is that this template that was developed at the state level is pretty complex. The application is 30 pages and a lot of work behind those pages and we are going to use that template to develop more sites within the county. This is just the first round. When a company comes to Indiana, they are going to go where they go. But if the site that we initially submit is part of the ten and is purchased and used for a project then we want to have several sites lined up to go into that spot as well. It will only be good for us to have sites that are in that state of readiness. Yes, Councilman Buskirk.

**Roy Buskirk:** I do have a couple questions. Mark, is part of Zubrick Road going to be vacated then from the new road going across, north?

**Mark Royse:** Yes. Basically, the s-curve of Zubrick Road is classified as a state highway. There were federal funds used to buy the right of way and construct that road. That was done to make sure that it was not in interference with the on-ramp to I69. We are working with the state now to get that vacated to go back to the Meadowbrook Farms property.

**Roy Buskirk:** And the other question, as far as a ready site, in this county, this is the only shovel ready site at this time of that large acreage. We have other shovel ready sites that are smaller that developers have made ready and are available. Correct?

**Mark Royse:** Yes, and that will be the next item on the agenda. There are some large sites east of New Haven but are nowhere near to this readiness.

**Roy Buskirk:** While we are discussing this, Tuesday evening, there was a clean air public hearing. We are fortunate that Sandra Flum is on the state staff and she was here for the hearing. There were some positive comments and she assured me that it would be moving along. There are four counties in the state that they are moving through and hopefully by late summer or early fall, we will be on the maintain list.

**Paula Hughes:** This is excellent because we lost a project last year because we were on attainment.

**Roy Buskirk:** I don't think a lot of people understand that. Any kind of economic development in this county that attempts to obtain an air permit runs into a problem. There is some that don't have to get an air permit and we can work with them. But any kind of facility that has to obtain an air permit, we are in trouble until we get on this maintain list.

**Paula Hughes:** So it is good news for Allen County. **We have a motion and a second, are there any questions? All in favor signify by saying aye. All opposed same sign. The motion has passed 7-0.** Mr. Royse and I will be in contact. Are you going to talk to us about the Huguenard Road project too?

**Mark Royse:** Yes. Both items, 1 and 2, are both appropriations which are in the Cook Road and Huguenard Road area. That area will be annexed June 30 of this year. We have money in those accounts in the amount of \$534,000 plus or minus. One recommendation from Mike Fitch, former Highway Director, we need to look at improving and adding traffic lights to the intersection of Cook and Huguenard. Dan Avery's transportation staff has done a traffic counts and intersection analysis and based on the counts warrants signalization. One important point to note is that as the state undertakes the reconstruction of Lima Road, Huguenard Road will become more of a south artery. This is planning ahead for that. The Ardmore Road goes all the way to the airport, we will have access from Cook Road all the way. These two appropriations are to fund the reconstruction and signalization of the Cook Road and Huguenard Road intersection.

**Paula Hughes:** Council, any questions?

**Roy Buskirk:** So this is one of those situations where you start out on Ardmore and go to Hillegas and then Huguenard.

**Mark Royse:** Right. Without turning.

**Paula Hughes:** A straight path. Councilman Vogt.

**Darren Vogt:** This is in my district and it is an intersection that if you travel it at any time during rush hour, it is an absolute backed up mess.

**Mark Royse:** It is almost like Washington Center and Huguenard was.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Miller.

**Cal Miller:** This may go without saying but I understand that the city is annexing this portion in June? I fully support using the TIF dollars regardless of when annexing is taking place. It will give to the people that contributed to the project.

**Darren Vogt:** I will make a motion that we approve items 1 and 2 on our agenda.

**Paula Hughes.** We have a motion is there a second?

**Paul Moss:** I will second that.

**Paula Hughes:** We have a motion and a second, are there any questions? All in favor signify by saying aye. All opposed same sign. The motion has passed 7-0. Thank you. Judy, do we have a representative from the commissioners?

**Judy Heck:** Nelson is on his way.

**Paula Hughes:** Thank you. Are the commissioners going to present with the Downtown Improvement District? Are they going to join Mr. Carmody?

**Judy Heck:** Yes, Nelson is coming. Dan could maybe get started.

**Paula Hughes:** Dan, why don't you come on up. Let's get started. Introduce yourself for the record.

**Dan Carmody:** Dan Carmody, President of the Downtown Improvement District.

**Nelson Peters:** Nelson Peters, County Commissioner.

**Paula Hughes:** Why don't we go ahead and take the Downtown Improvement District first since we have Dan at the table. The other part of the request is a little different.

**Dan Carmody:** Good morning, members of the Allen County Council. Just wanted to share with you the work plan and some of the changes at the DID.

Pursuant to several planning initiatives, a stronger and more enhanced DID has been envisioned by the community. Prior to my arrival, there has been a doubling of the size of the DID. Our efforts of the downtown renewal and the widespread support of a stronger downtown was what attracted me to Fort Wayne. This isn't just within the municipal boundaries of Fort Wayne but in the unincorporated areas as well. The planning process that has been going on is not just a city centered effort. The strong good can play a role in that with public and private partners. We took our private sector funding to the city and secured a three year commitment of \$150,000 noting that there has not been a successful downtown revitalization but was a true private partnership. Before you today, we are seeking \$75,000 in funding for three years noting that the city is not just the center of the region but that the county is a major property owner as well. What we anticipate doing over the next three years is focusing on five core functions. Managing, communicating and growing the organization. We are instituting a larger board. If you choose to make an investment in the DID that you also appoint a representative of the county. Then we wouldn't come to you a couple of times a year but go through regular communication. That is the only way can ramp up and do the things we are talking about. We have expanded the board from nine to thirteen to include representation from sectors outside of downtown and from the city and some smaller property owners. Part of the core function is marketing and event planning. The DID has had block parties. We need to grow this as well. We need to rebuild storefront activities over the next ten years. My experience in the real estate development from community based perspective and business development. If everyone that wants a stronger downtown and has talked about it maybe have actually achieved more than they thought. The downtown is clean, safe, stable and not particularly exciting. The previous stop in my career, we focused a lot on business development and trying to break the cycle. We need to fill in some of the surface parking lots and build new construction. We need to close the gap and make the private investment to flow with the public investment. Lastly, the subject that I don't like talking about at all is parking. We need to make sure that we manage our parking resources that are significant as there is a lot of parking downtown. The perception is that it is inconvenient and not user friendly. To conclude, I think the role of the DID is to wake up everybody who's job it is to focus on downtown. The reason we haven't leveraged the big public investments is that we haven't had the attention to detail that needed to be. Look forward to working with you and if you have any questions, I will try to answer them.

**Paula Hughes:** A point of clarification, I have had some conversations with Mr. Carmody. This request appears on our agenda as coming out of the 2006 General Fund but that is not what they intended. What they are asking for is a three-year commitment starting in 2007.

**Cal Miller:** Has the County through funding streams or CEDIT contributed in the past to the DID?

**Paula Hughes:** No.

**Cal Miller:** I certainly want to see a stronger Fort Wayne and Allen County and am in favor of doing what we can to be a part of that. Of the funding streams that the other cities have received, are they also getting county supplements as well?

**Dan Carmody:** Counties have increasingly come to understand that they are a major property owner and need to protect that investment. There is something like 1,500 improvement districts and it has gone from counties not being participants to and about half the counties choose to make the investment.

**Cal Miller:** In partnering with the city, DID and county involvement.

**Dan Carmody:** The cities are at 100% and the counties are about 50%.

**Cal Miller:** As far as the funding source, is this being positioned as a General Fund request?

**Nelson Peters:** Right now, yes. We looked at CEDIT for this year and we understand that this is a request for 2007 but we had already allocated all of the CEDIT funds for this year. It is already done for 2007.

**Cal Miller:** Breaking down the request, it appears that it is an obvious CEDIT request for economic development. Would there be any room out of the CEDIT Highway that wouldn't be spent in 2007 that we could use to fund the DID? I would much rather fund and support it out of CEDIT. Those dollars match the intent of how to be spent. Is the 2007 CEDIT budget so ingrained that it couldn't accommodate this request?

**Nelson Peters:** With the present projects on the books, it could not accommodate that request. One of the problems is that we had made a commitment to the Grand Wayne Center and that will not be over until the end of 2007.

**Cal Miller:** Well, what about the idea of the Highway Department. Will it need the same amount of CEDIT funds that it has historically been given?

**Nelson Peters:** As I said, the projects that are scheduled for 2007 will consume the CEDIT funds.

**Cal Miller:** You have said that now three times. I apologize for not hearing it before.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Vogt?

**Darren Vogt:** We need to take this up at the 2007 budget hearings. These are 2007 dollars and I don't think the General Fund should be discussed. This is an on-going request and should be at the budget time where we can find funds for a three year process and not just look at the short-term, one time appropriation. I make a motion that we table this until our budget hearings in June.

**Cal Miller:** If we do that, I would like to add that we leave Mr. Carmody, the DID and the commissioners with the idea that we will find the funding.

**Darren Vogt:** I would agree.

**Paula Hughes:** Maybe a motion that supports Council allocating the \$75,000 through the CEDIT budget for 07, 08 and 09. We can't make that motion now, can we?

**Roy Buskirk:** We have a motion on the floor which I will second so that we can go to discussion.

**Darren Vogt:** The intent of the motion was that we will find the funding mechanism for a three year period there.

**Cal Miller:** I would be in favor of the motion to table with the understanding that the funding will be found.

**Paula Hughes:** We have a motion and a second, are there any further discussions? Councilman Moss?

**Paul Moss:** You indicated that the DID has been in existence for ten years and that the prior leadership, I might add, was stellar. What has the budget been over the course of those years?

**Dan Carmody:** The budget has been in the \$300,000 to \$400,000 range.

**Paul Moss:** Has it trended up throughout those years?

**Paula Hughes:** The first five years, it was restricted to probably the \$150,000 range until they got their arms around it and then in 1999 or 2000, the DID formed a 501C3 foundation that allowed them to solicit private support for projects for the events. That is when the budget blossomed.

**Paul Moss:** So over the ten years then, there has been two and a half to three million dollars spent and your budget currently is what?

**Dan Carmody:** \$600,000 for 2006.

**Paul Moss:** Given what you are trying to do, you are hoping to increase that to?

**Dan Carmody:** The \$600,000 would include \$300,000 for the expanded DID, \$150,000 is from the city and \$75,000 from the county. There are two other key sources of earned income that are appropriate for this organization. They are special events income. The previous organization that I left produced six events that had gross incomes of \$600,000 themselves. We actually paid for a couple of staff people out of that. I don't know that we need that extensive considering the things already happening downtown. The other income is from developers packaging and putting together real estate projects. We know that the competition for your dollars is very fierce. We see it as seed money that will increase investment to give you more resources to grow the tax base.

**Paul Moss:** I just want to make sure that the \$600,000 includes the money from the city and the county.

**Dan Carmody:** We will probably have to increase the private sector contributions.

**Paul Moss:** And then you are anticipating a budget for 2007 of \$600,000.

**Dan Carmody:** \$600,000 is a base.

**Paul Moss:** How much of that is used for operating expenses?

**Dan Carmody:** Staffing costs are right at \$200,000.

**Paul Moss:** So essentially the rest is used on these marketing efforts. I hate to be so results oriented but we have spent two to three million dollars. We been in this DID for ten years and still people say what has changed downtown to justify two to three million spent that could have been spent as seed money for a company or something along that line. We need to hold the

DID's feet to the fire particularly when we are talking about throwing in some additional public funds. I would be interested in hearing what your thoughts are on that.

**Dan Carmody:** There are two observations on that. One is to compare cities. We are quite a bit under what the Akrons, Grand Rapids etc would be with the \$600,000. On the result side, I think we do a much better job throughout the public sector.

**Paul Moss:** Do we base that on occupancy?

**Dan Carmody:** There are a number of measures, jobs and investment dollars. What is the change in assessed values?

**Paul Moss:** So over ten years, what has the change been in jobs and office space leased downtown. I keep hearing that it is going down.

**Dan Carmody:** Again, you are asking two different things. One is \$150,000 to \$300,000 enough to undo the market to real estate that doesn't favor downtown right now. And you can't hold DID responsible for the entire real estate industry. Secondly, what condition would downtown be if DID had not begun circling the wagons and raise the level of awareness that the downtown is important to the region. So while there are hard tests and we should measure the jobs and investment dollars, you also have to be aware of what is going on in the environment that we can and can't control. If you look at downtown, it is stable. Would it have been as stable without the work of the DID over the last five years, don't know. There is a lot of work left to do. It is a very competitive world out there. In a sense, it is not downtown but in the local neighborhoods around it that essentially economic life was sucked out. Our \$600,000 is less than a drop in the bucket. We can only succeed if we build partnerships and leverage that \$600,000 so that we are encouraging hundreds of thousands of dollars of investments. We started out as one person and budgeted \$75,000 and became 14 people and budgeted in excess of three and a half million dollars in eighteen years because we delivered ourselves and people believed that the organization was worthy of funding.

**Paul Moss:** I think we need to try and prove the effectiveness with tangible criteria as opposed to trying to prove a negative such as what would it be like if the DID was not here. I think there are a lot of people out there paying an exorbitant amount of taxes who are frustrated that there is continual focus on downtown with the neglect of areas that they might live in. It is another side of that we need to keep in mind. I am open to the statement that we will find the money during the budgeting process but we need to have some

philosophical discussions as a part of that. This is a step in a different direction.

**Paula Hughes:** We have a motion and a second, are there any questions? All in favor signify by saying aye. All opposed same sign. The motion has passed 7-0. Thank you for your time. Commissioner Peters.

**Nelson Peters:** You have on the agenda a request for \$25,000 which will help to cover the architectural costs we are endeavoring to secure through Moake Park. I have received a bill through March 31 of about \$5,300 or \$5,600 as a start to that process. I anticipate tomorrow having a more definitive idea of the floor plan based on the pictures you saw last month. I can assure you that any funding above those costs and the \$25,000 will be specifically used for that building or whatever building project will be determined.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Vogt?

**Darren Vogt:** This is based on the direction that we gave you. We need to fund this dollar amount and then we can move forward with a process that has taken us many more months that should have. But we have done our due diligence with gathering all of the information so that we can move forward.

**Cal Miller:** Those possibilities not only including the building on Lima Road but the other possibilities for co-location with the Fort Wayne PD and the Sheriff's Department.

**Darren Vogt:** Correct.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Buskirk and then Councilman Cunegin.

**Roy Buskirk:** I was going to ask if that was a motion because I was going to second it but I make a motion that we approve item number three.

**Darren Vogt:** And I will second it.

**Paula Hughes:** We have a motion and a second. Any further discussion Councilman Cunegin?

**Mike Cunegin:** My question is, and I fully appreciate this body looking at a site with the Fort Wayne PD but they are further ahead than just conversation. They have building plans and everything else. Looking at the Southtown Center site, their plans do not include the Sheriff's Department.

**Cal Miller:** Whose plans are you talking about?

**Mike Cunegin:** Fort Wayne Police's plans. I saw them yesterday. If you would like to see them, they are up on a board at the academy.

**Cal Miller:** Are you talking about what is going to happen at Southtown? Those are two separate issues.

**Mike Cunegin:** There was some discussion that this body had in regards to records and so forth and during some prior conversations there was some talk about combining with the city of Fort Wayne.

**Cal Miller:** It is my understanding that the Fort Wayne PD on DeWald will be needing a building or a place to go in the next three or four years. Should those tax dollars be married together and save the taxpayers dollars and have a more central location for the taxpayers to go? Or should we proceed independently of each other? The council wanted to go forward and make sure that we fund the plans so that the building on Lima Road could go out for a competitive bid. Then we could look at the funds and see which way was more fiscally responsible, building or co-locating.

**Mike Cunegin:** Fully understand and fully supportive, Councilman Miller. Just bringing to the table the initial plans.

**Cal Miller:** I didn't think the Southtown plan was for the DeWald people to move there.

**Mike Cunegin:** You mean Creighton Street?

**Cal Miller:** Creighton, I am sorry. Yes.

**Mike Cunegin:** There were some plans in that initially too.

**Cal Miller:** Those aren't in there now though.

**Mike Cunegin:** Not as of yet. There are some plans in the making though.

**Nelson Peters:** We are continuing to pursue a parallel path in terms of the desires that you had and will continue along with the space study also.

**Paul Moss:** At last month's meeting, didn't we agree to spend \$25,000 so we are just formalizing that?

**Roy Buskirk:** Yes.

**Paul Moss:** When do you think we will have a true architectural drawing?

**Nelson Peters:** I think it will be tomorrow. I was told they thought they could have it yesterday afternoon but then we received a call Tuesday afternoon saying that they didn't think it would be before Friday.

**Paul Moss:** You will actually have what you believe are solid numbers for building.

**Paula Hughes:** No.

**Nelson Peters:** We will have a floor plan that will tie into the shell that you saw last month. The next step would be to pursue a design build concept. The architects and contractors bid on the project. That is when we will have a price.

**Paul Moss:** And what do you think the timeline would be for that? We have already had some conservative estimates. When do you think you will have a clear idea of a good solid figure? In my mind, that affects all of these other considerations. We are pretty much beyond the construction point for now.

**Nelson Peters:** I think with what you find that Mr. Moake presents us tomorrow that we will have that number. The question is can that number be made better? Can the plans be made better? That is what the design build is all about. If we pursue that, the numbers will depreciate. Tomorrow, you will have the number to pursue further discussions regarding what you do on a more localized basis.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Miller?

**Cal Miller:** Tomorrow's number will be the worst case scenario, won't it?

**Nelson Peters:** I believe so.

**Cal Miller:** If you embrace the competitive bidding process through the design build, then we will not accept anything higher than what is delivered tomorrow. Commissioner Peters, why wouldn't we embrace the design build bidding process?

**Nelson Peters:** There is some thought that this is new enough that should we jump into it without learning a bit more about design build. This is the county's first design build project. And there have not been a lot in Indiana.

**Cal Miller:** But design build is not a new process. Is there a reason to not go through it? If you decide to go through the process and at the end of the day, the commissioners did not have a comfort level for design build, could they go back and take the higher number being presented by Moake Park. Are we committing ourselves at that point?

**Nelson Peters:** In reading the statutes, we can go back to the original number.

**Cal Miller:** Then I don't see why we shouldn't test the waters and try to get more competitive numbers.

**Nelson Peters:** And for those reasons, that is why we are proceeding in the manner that we are.

**Paul Moss:** After you get these numbers, what is the next step? Putting bids out?

**Nelson Peters:** Traditionally, the architect would handle it and we would move on down the road. In design build, we put together a committee to look at the scope of the project, which are the plans that we hope to get tomorrow and then we would submit that scope to anyone who is interested in bidding. We then request the bids within a 30-60 day period and then we move forward more along the lines of the traditional basis.

**Paul Moss:** So the traditional method and the design build method, in terms of a window of time, from tomorrow to moving dirt, is there a time difference?

**Nelson Peters:** I think there is a 60-75 day difference.

**Paul Moss:** I assume design build takes longer.

**Nelson Peters:** Right.

**Paul Moss:** So are we talking for the design build six months before we move dirt?

**Nelson Peters:** I don't think so.

**Paul Moss:** Three months?

**Nelson Peters:** Yes, three months.

**Paul Moss:** So let's use that as our gauge so we are looking for a maximum of three months before you can move dirt. Now we are talking on a parallel course, continuing to co-locate downtown and I will admit that historically, this conversation continues to bog down everything. If we are looking at a 90-day window here, I find it difficult to understand how we are going to accomplish that and address the myriad of dynamics out there and co-locating the Sheriff and the Police Department, which I am not opposed to. I think the more important thing is to deal with the issue of the building out on Lima Road and the fact that we need to do something there.

**Cal Miller:** With that being said, Councilman Moss, are you saying you would rather forego the bidding process?

**Paul Moss:** Absolutely not. We need to move that forward.

**Cal Miller:** We have those ninety days anyway.

**Paul Moss:** I don't want to get sixty days down this road and then nothing has happened. All of the different dynamics keep changing.

**Cal Miller:** I understand you and agree with you. In your analysis, we still have the ninety days.

**Paul Moss:** Absolutely. I just want everyone to remember that we have that time frame and not get down the road and go full circle and say that we have to now consider this.

**Cal Miller:** Just another finishing comment thing. At the end of the ninety days, we will have a lot more information than now with respect to the Sheriff's building. Furthermore, we will have enough information to say that we agree that the people shouldn't be in that building anymore. If co-location is taking form that the alternate discussion about the temporary locating of those folks. I am concerned about the timeline as well but I think we continue to evaluate what is the bottom line and in the best interest of the taxpayers.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Vogt.

**Darren Vogt:** We are missing the key component that we keeping asking ourselves and Commissioner Peters, I will ask you, who is having the conversation with the City on co-locating a new facility replacing the Creighton Street location and our 4D. Who is having that conversation and when is that conversation taking place? If we are not having that conversation, then we are missing what council wants to have.

**Nelson Peters:** That conversation is being had within the discussions of the current space studies.

**Paula Hughes:** So Commissioner Bloom is the only one from the county who is participating in that conversation.

**Nelson Peters:** Right.

**Darren Vogt:** I think that needs to be a distinctly separate conversation than the overall Space Study. This is an issue that is boiling point for council from a timing issue. It is not a situation that can be drawn out for another year or two and that's where I see the Space Study going. To that end Judy, if you could get Commissioner Bloom, if she is here...

**Judy Heck:** I am sorry she is not here right now.

**Paula Hughes:** I will state that after last month's council session I called Commissioner Bloom and requested that the council be included in the Space Study discussions for this reason and she was not interested in more people participating in that. So I think it probably should be a separate matter.

**Paul Moss:** Well, my point was, in a long-winded way, was to clearly identify that we have a timeline here and try to force the issue of these parallel discussions having a timeline also. I don't think we should have these parallel discussions that have gone on ad nauseam, to continue to diminish the work and cost taxpayers money.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Cunegin and then Miller.

**Darren Vogt:** I wasn't finished yet. My point to Commissioner Peters then is are you willing to have that conversation outside of the fact that Commissioner Bloom is unwilling to allow a council member in to have that discussion and the fact that this discussion needs to be had. Are you willing to take that discussion to the mayor's office or is that something that the council needs to do?

**Nelson Peters:** I think that conversation has been taken to the mayor's office. I have sat in on some of those meetings although I am not as up to speed on the Space Study as Commissioner Bloom is. I do know that those conversations are occurring right now. I assure you and I will go back to Commissioner Bloom that you are requesting that this be moved up on the priority scale and we will try to bring something back to you again next month.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Cunegin?

**Mike Cunegin:** I agree with Councilman Moss. Those are my sentiments and you beat me to my question about the study. I don't want to see it get bogged down and I feel that this body has been doing the circle approach. We move forward and we step back we do a downtown study and see what Fort Wayne is doing. My main concern is to get the county sheriff's deputies a facility that they have needed and I understand that we are fiscally responsible but we are on a timeline that makes that building and timeline pretty short.

**Nelson Peters:** But keep in mind that we are indeed moving ahead with the building process right now. There is nothing impeding that. I understand the desire to get additional numbers and we will work toward that as far as any co-location opportunities that may exist.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Miller?

**Cal Miller:** I share the concern that the needs of the Sheriff's Department and the future Fort Wayne Police Department should be considered outside of the Space Study. It is potentially going to be a waste of the taxpayers' dollars if those two buildings are built two or three years apart and cost 30-50% more than having put them in one location. I find it completely unacceptable that hasn't been considered and Commissioner Bloom is not moving that along or allowing others to participate in that. What is happening is forcing the end result that is desired anyway of putting the building out on Lima Road without analyzing the numbers that will serve the taxpayers best. I think it is irresponsible as a fiscal body to do this.

**Nelson Peters:** I understand. In defense of Commissioner Bloom, those conversations are being had. Whether or not there has been a desire to include County Council, I can't speak to that. But I do know the discussions are being had and should shortly be able to come back to you and tell you what it would look like.

**Cal Miller:** I don't need a County Council member to be at the table. I just need to know that it is being objectively explored on the merits.

**Nelson Peters:** And I believe it is.

**Paula Hughes:** And we need to be updated on the conversations which we have not been.

**Nelson Peters:** We will bring that back to you.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Buskirk and then Moss.

**Roy Buskirk:** On the drawings that are taking place on this building, will we have an opportunity in the estimate number, does this include options such as a basement, second floor. Are some of those options going to be included in this because I that council should have an opportunity on the varying costs of the options available?

**Nelson Peters:** I believe so but then again, I have not seen the plans, I cannot commit that unequivocally. I believe there are some options being drafted.

**Roy Buskirk:** That is one I would appreciate.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Moss?

**Paul Moss:** I agree with your comments that it is somewhat irresponsible to force the issue but I will give the benefit of the doubt that there have been some discussions at this point. But I don't agree with the assumption that you have been making that co-locating downtown, when you factor in all of the other issues that would have to happen, I don't think it is fair to make any judgments that one path or the other is going to be more expensive. I have not made that judgment but I have some personal feelings on it but I am trying to hold off until we get some real numbers.

**Cal Miller:** I agree, Councilman. I don't think it would be. I said if it is, it would be irresponsible. We just need to have all the facts in order to make an informed decision. I have no preconceived notion about what would be the best route to go.

**Darren Vogt:** Call for the question we have on the motion we have before us for the \$25,000.

**Paula Hughes:** We have a motion and a second, are there any questions? All in favor signify by saying aye. All opposed same sign. The motion has passed 7-0. Oh, I am sorry it is 6-0-1 (Mike absent). Mr. Zartman?

**Ron Zartman:** Good morning.

**Paula Hughes:** Good morning. If you could, introduce yourself for the record, please.

**Ron Zartman:** I am Ron Zartman, Superintendent of the Allen County Parks and Recreation.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Kite?

**Patt Kite:** I have talked with Mr. Zartman about his request for today. The first being for a mower that is really old and needing replaced. The other if for a pickup truck that is ten years old and a utility trailer to facilitate moving equipment from one site to another.

**Paula Hughes:** Council, any questions?

**Roy Buskirk:** I do have a question as far as the van, is that gasoline engine?

**Ron Zartman:** Yes, a six cylinder.

**Roy Buskirk:** Is that approved for E85 gas?

**Ron Zartman:** I called a local dealer and he indicated that it was not.

**Roy Buskirk:** Is such a vehicle available to do the job you are looking for?

**Ron Zartman:** I couldn't speak to that. I don't know. We looked at four vehicles. The Caravan was the least expensive and the best vehicle for us. We looked at a Dodge Magnum, a Ford van and a SUV. All were in the \$20,000 range. But I did not look at the fuel use on any of the other vehicles.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Vogt?

**Darren Vogt:** Explain to me the need for the replacement of the S-10. I don't have any supporting documentation showing it is breaking down or anything along those lines.

**Ron Zartman:** It has been recommended by Larry Pray. It meets a lot of his criteria such as being eleven-years-old, it has 127,000 miles on it. We put about 15,000 miles on it in a year. In 05, we put \$762 in repairs on it. So far this year, we have put \$213.

**Darren Vogt:** And what specifically were those repairs?

**Ron Zartman:** We had brakes, exhaust work, lots of little parts, window cranks, side mirrors. We have a door connection that has been repaired twice, unsuccessfully. We are seeing those kinds of repairs that are parts wearing out.

**Darren Vogt:** I would make the remark that brakes are a routine normal maintenance item. Those are things you have to do on any vehicle. And

exhaust is the same thing. If you don't have a stainless steel exhaust, you will not have that on a 1995 vehicle. I am struggling with the real repair need and replacement need that is justified. I don't see a list of the repairs or a letter from Mr. Pray saying here is what was done to the vehicle and here is why I am seeing the need to have it repaired or replaced.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Moss?

**Paul Moss:** I agree with you. 15,000 miles a year is not a lot. My question is what is the general use of the truck?

**Ron Zartman:** This is the truck that is used by the director of environmental education to transport people and equipment back and forth between parks. One thing we are looking for is we found that if we need to carry more than two passengers then two vehicles go.

**Paul Moss:** Are these employees that you are transporting?

**Ron Zartman:** Other employees generally.

**Paul Moss:** I guess I am having trouble understanding. Are you transporting them to work or work sites?

**Ron Zartman:** Work sites. Our education staff that we move as needed from park to park for meetings and trainings.

**Paul Moss:** Is it reasonable to possibly look at people using their own cars and pay them for mileage?

**Ron Zartman:** That is often happening currently.

**Paul Moss:** So that is happening. How is that determined in terms of them driving their own vehicle or hopping in the truck?

**Ron Zartman:** Sometimes there are scheduling conflicts that causes them to take a separate vehicle. Comfort is the reason people are taking two vehicles.

**Paul Moss:** It is unfortunate that we have to spend so much time on this type of conversation. From my perspective it would seem that one of the things is to have a clear idea of what is needed based on the car policy. If it is basically just for transporting people back and forth between parks as part of the work day, it seems to me that you would want to look at people using their own vehicles and getting reimbursed for the mileage. If there is no other primary use for that vehicle then I am questioning the need for it.

**Ron Zartman:** We have two criteria on this vehicle and one is to carry people and the other is equipment.

**Paul Moss:** We had one individual who tried to justify his vehicle because he carried a laptop in it. Now if you are carrying large survey equipment, shovels or that it would be understood. I need to be more convinced of what equipment needs to be carried. As we talk, I am becoming less convinced that you need the vehicle.

**Paula Hughes:** Is this vehicle kept at one of the parks facilities or is it a take-home vehicle for somebody?

**Ron Zartman:** It is kept at Metea Park. Bob Dispenza, our director of education, is a resident and caretaker there. If it wasn't for that situation, it would be like a take-home vehicle.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Cunegin?

**Mike Cunegin:** Thank you. What type of equipment are they actually carrying?

**Ron Zartman:** Typically it is things like pond dip nets, bins. Typically something in the neighborhood of four to five feet such as display boards for educational sessions.

**Patt Kite:** Do you ever use this pickup truck to haul mowers and other equipment? The utility trailer that you are asking for, is that used with this truck?

**Ron Zartman:** It would be very rarely that we would use this one. We have four vehicles that we use for maintenance activities but this one we don't.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Moss?

**Paul Moss:** You indicated that someone suggested that this vehicle be replaced. Who was that please?

**Paula Hughes:** Larry Pray. He is our service center director.

**Paul Moss:** It is interesting. It reminds me of the IT people at the hospital. First thing they'll say when they look at a computer on the fritz is that you need a new one. It is easy for them to say to buy a new computer. They aren't paying the bill. I have little concern if our maintenance people are telling us

to get a new vehicle when we are having routine maintenance and the mileage is not that high.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Miller?

**Cal Miller:** Can the S-10 pull the trailer that you are requesting?

**Ron Zartman:** There is no hitch on that and it is a small vehicle. The engine size prohibits a heavy trailer.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Vogt?

**Darren Vogt:** I want to switch gears off the truck and onto the trailer and the Exmark. The trailer, how are you currently getting equipment to and from and then how many hours are on the Skagg? I know it is an eight year old mower but do you have a repair history? Was it purchased used and we don't really know how old it is or can you give me some more information?

**Ron Zartman:** I can't tell you how old the Skagg is. We had it for eight years and we bought it used for a reasonable price. We are finding that this has a bent axle which is a \$500 repair. To use it right now, they have to make corrections in the tracking. It has definitely lived out its usefulness. It is my highest priority of the requests today. We were looking at a Turf Tracer which is the less expensive yet judged to be the most adaptive for our use.

**Darren Vogt:** How many hours on the Skagg?

**Ron Zartman:** I couldn't tell you because it doesn't have an hours gauge on it.

**Darren Vogt:** So it has to be a relatively old machine to not have an hours indicator on it.

**Ron Zartman:** I am guessing that machine is twelve years old or better.

**Roy Buskirk:** Did you get this price from Bruce Little for the replacement mower?

**Ron Zartman:** No, we went out to local dealers and looked at different mowers. The Turf Tracer was the most desirable for what we needed and then we went and asked other dealers to give us a price. Mutton's was the lowest price.

**Roy Buskirk:** Now the Parks Department did this or the Purchasing Department?

**Ron Zartman:** The Park Department did the pricing on the mower. The vehicle was from Bruce Little's quotes. The trailer was our work also. It was hard to get three exact quotes because it was harder to get similar trailers.

**Darren Vogt:** Let me back that question up. You got to the mower on my question but not the trailer part. Do you currently have a trailer that is...

**Ron Zartman:** Currently we have a large trailer that will transport a tractor and a mower. It is a good heavy duty trailer. And then we have a small trailer to use down trails. It is narrower and smaller for smaller equipment. What we are looking for now is a medium size trailer that we can use for a mower and utility trailer on.

**Darren Vogt:** It is not an enclosed trailer, correct?

**Ron Zartman:** They are all open trailers. The largest is a flatbed trailer with no enclosure at all and the small one has some sideboards and drop gate in the back.

**Cal Miller:** If you didn't get the truck would you still need the trailer?

**Ron Zartman:** Yes. That is a separate use. The truck is used for educational and the trailer for maintenance.

**Paula Hughes:** Council, any further questions?

**Darren Vogt:** I make a motion for item number five in the amount of \$4,680.

**Mike Cunegin:** Second.

**Paula Hughes:** We have a motion and a second, are there any questions? All in favor signify by saying aye. All opposed same sign. The motion has passed 7-0.

**Cal Miller:** Is there a separate price tag on the trailer?

**Paula Hughes:** It is listed in your handout.

**Ron Zartman:** It is listed with the vehicle but the separate price on that is \$1,150.

**Cal Miller:** I will make a motion for a partial item six in the amount of \$1,150.

**Patt Kite:** I will second.

**Paula Hughes:** We have a motion and a second, are there any questions? All in favor signify by saying aye. All opposed same sign. The motion has passed 7-0.

**Cal Miller:** We need more information and the true status of the mechanical condition of the truck. I am for seeing how much the mileage payments would be and a comparison over the years that would save you the \$16,000 that you have asked for in this vehicle.

**Darren Vogt:** With the other vehicles you have, if it is to and from meetings, the scheduling side might be that they wouldn't have to use their own car but could use one of the other vehicles.

**Ron Zartman:** We can do that. We have one vehicle that can carry five people.

**Paula Hughes:** Council, we also have an invitation from Mr. Zartman for May 20<sup>th</sup>. Can you please talk about it?

**Ron Zartman:** I talked to Mr. Vogt a year ago about taking any council members who would be interested on a float down Cedar Creek through Metea. With the water levels being down last year, we were not able to do that. So we looked at calendars and think that May 20<sup>th</sup> would be good this year contingent on good water levels. It would be a great opportunity for us to show off Metea Park from the different vantage points. This would be a good two hours from 10:00 to noon and then you could have lunch. I would like to make this invitation and also bring your family or friends. We have seven canoes and I have one. There is quite a bit of capacity there. I would be pleased to have you.

**Cal Miller:** Would you be willing to email the invitation to us? They could ask how many and who is coming.

**Paula Hughes:** The further details would be who is coming and where we meet and so forth. Thank you. Councilman Miller, appropriation for Serious and Violent Offender ReEntry. Mr. Brita, good morning.

**Joe Brita:** I am Joe Brita of the Allen County Juvenile Center and this young lady is Chandra Reichert Financial person and we are here on two grant items and I am going to let her explain this.

**Chandra Reichert:** The first item is to appropriate \$25,000. It was a three year grant. We were given an additional \$45,000 in start up funds three years ago. Those funds were never appropriated.

**Paula Hughes:** Council, any questions?

**Cal Miller:** I move to approve the items seven through nineteen in the amount of \$45,000.

**Mike Cunegin:** Second.

**Paula Hughes:** We have a motion and a second, are there any questions? All in favor signify by saying aye. All opposed same sign. The motion has passed 7-0.

**Joe Brita:** We are asking for permission to apply for the Drug and Alcohol Consortium Grant in the amount of \$3,200 to purchase an Alcomonitor. We have one that is about ten years old. We have to repair it a lot. We do about five to six thousand tests through that a year. When it goes down, we have to send it back and then use the hand-held models. There are problems with that because we don't have a paper trail with them. This would have a printout which could go right into the court reports. I firmly believe that when we use this, we save lives. We didn't realize the value of this machine until a few years ago. They bring a young person in and let's say and he blows .05. That may be his bottom number. He may be on the way up. So when that happens, the intake process stops. He is made to sit down and every fifteen to twenty minutes he is brought back up to test again. If the numbers go up, everything stops and we get him to a hospital.

**Mike Cunegin:** So moved on the grant.

**Cal Miller:** Second.

**Paula Hughes:** We have a motion and a second, are there any questions? All in favor signify by saying aye. All opposed same sign. The motion has passed 7-0. I have a question before you go. I have noticed some traffic in the Letters to the Editors questioning the intake procedure. Can you clear this up for us? And what is done for metal detection. I believe there was a young female in possession of marijuana. This letter questioned that if she had marijuana how could you be sure she didn't have a gun?

**Joe Brita:** I have been questioned on this several times. In the intake procedure, there are showers to take. This young lady had a baggy in her sanitary (inaudible) and that is how it got in. Very shortly after, people

thought she was smoking it but that never happened. One of my people smelled the odor of marijuana and we confiscated the baggy and that is how it happened. Unfortunately that stuff does happen especially with females.

**Paula Hughes:** But there are procedures in place to prevent the carrying in of metal objects.

**Joe Brita:** Absolutely.

**Paula Hughes:** That is the clarification that I wanted. Thank you.  
Department of Health, Councilman Moss and Mindy.

**Paul Moss:** It has been a while since Mindy and I talked about this. It relates to GPS mapping that the Department of Health does and upgrade to that. I will let Ms. Waldron explain this better than me.

**Mindy Waldron:** Department Administrator for the Department of Health. What we are asking for today is to purchase two new units. A few years ago we purchased a couple units to begin mapping some of the older septic systems and all new installs. We currently have mapped all from 1990 to 2002. Our plan is to do all new installs and repairs as they occur. This company will give us a refund on our older unit of \$1,500 which is a significant decrease to the price. The other reason is that it used to take a return trip to map it. This will save the inspector having to make that trip. It used to be that typically the inspector would have to draw the picture out in relationship to the house and then if you came in to look at the paperwork to buy the house, this is what you would look at. Now you can see all components. You can see other properties too. We would like to be more accurate and on top of it from this point forth. I would be happy to answer any questions.

**Paul Moss:** I think it is a worthy enhancement. I would move for approval of items twenty and twenty-one.

**Darren Vogt:** Second.

**Paula Hughes:** We have a motion and a second, are there any questions? All in favor signify by saying aye. All opposed same sign. The motion has passed 7-0. I could say that we could talk about the flu but I see that some of your partners aren't here yet. All right, moving along to the Highway Department.  
Councilman Buskirk.

**Roy Buskirk:** This is a situation on which the state helped us out on this and I think Jackie can report it better than anybody.

**Paula Hughes:** Can you identify yourself for the record and pull the microphone closer to you.

**Jackie Scheuman:** The state required that we cut the Highway 2006 budget by \$41,971 due to we brought in enough revenue to cover the budget but we gave them an estimate in June. They did not want to increase that estimate to show actuals. So we had to cut it.

**Roy Buskirk:** And we may want to have introductions.

**Bill Hartman:** Good morning, I am Bill Hartman of the Highway Department.

**Martha Starnes:** I am Martha Starnes of the Highway Department.

**Roy Buskirk:** Martha is the bookkeeper or accountant for the Highway Department. But you heard the explanation that there had been a mathematical thing with the state.

**Paula Hughes:** So in a sense, this is a re-appropriation. We had appropriated this at one point.

**Roy Buskirk:** Yes. It is not new money. I make a motion that we approve item twenty-two.

**Cal Miller:** Second.

**Paula Hughes:** We have a motion and a second, are there any questions? Councilman Vogt?

**Darren Vogt:** One question. This is something that I learned from a Highway employee and thought it was interesting. Can you tell how often the road signs are replaced and how that works?

**Bill Hartman:** Right now, our stop signs are on a three year cycle. The rest of the signs are not replaced quite that often. Stop signs are the most important.

**Paula Hughes:** Are they reused?

**Bill Hartman:** The blanks can be reused but I can't answer to that now. The plastic surface is not reusable.

**Darren Vogt:** And we replace all of our signs, what? One township is replaced every year.

**Bill Hartman:** Yes, that is right.

**Darren Vogt:** So we are looking at every twenty years.

**Bill Hartman:** Southeastern signs fade quicker but other than that it is every twenty years.

**Roy Buskirk:** So are we going on to items twenty-three and twenty-four?

**Paula Hughes:** We haven't voted yet. I had asked if there were any further discussions. **So, all those in favor, signify by saying aye. All opposed same sign. Motion passes 6-0-1 (Paul absent)** Moving onto item twenty-three, Councilman Buskirk.

**Roy Buskirk:** Because of the appropriation in item twenty-two, they now want to transfer and because of the increased cost of paint for this summer's work, they want to transfer funds from the road signs for \$40,000 and the pavement markings material for \$25,000 to road stripping contract.

**Paula Hughes:** Council, any questions?

**Mike Cunegin:** So moved items twenty-three, twenty-four and twenty-five.

**Cal Miller:** Second.

**Paula Hughes:** We have a motion and a second, are there any questions? All in favor signify by saying aye. All opposed same sign. The motion has passed 7-0. Mr. Wernher?

**Alex Wernher:** Good morning. I am Alex Wernher, Allen County GIS Director. What I would like to do is transfer, which I mentioned last month that I have some extra maintenance dollars in the maintenance line, \$4,200 of that into our 100 series.

**Cal Miller:** I move to approve items twenty-six through twenty-eight.

**Patt Kite:** Second.

**Paula Hughes:** We have a motion and a second, are there any questions? All in favor signify by saying aye. All opposed same sign. The motion has passed 7-0.

**Alex Wernher:** If I could take another second of your time, I know some of you are dealing with the elections this year and we were able to get all of the election districts out there on the website.

**Paul Moss:** How do those septic systems tie into the election?

**Roy Buskirk:** I understand that you also have a map that shows the voting locations?

**Alex Wernher:** Yes, that is out there too.

**Cal Miller:** For \$30 to the Allen County Treasurer, you can get a map of all voting locations. I have my receipt in my pocket.

**Paula Hughes:** Moving right along, we have grants. Sheriff Herman?

**Darren Vogt:** While they are coming up, I am going to say that my name is associated with this but I got this information a long time ago and so I am going to pass this off to Ms. Wilson and Sheriff Herman.

**Paula Hughes:** Can you introduce yourselves for the record?

**Sheriff Herman:** Sheriff Jim Herman and Lin Wilson. The first item is requesting permission to apply for a grant from the Drug and Alcohol Consortium to fund the DUI Safety Bug at the schools. We have done this for four years. We think it fits very well with teenage driving during prom season. The Safety Bug is a Volkswagon that is equipped so that it makes the sober person drive as if they were under the influence. It gives them the idea, while driving sober, to see how the vehicle will not respond like it should if they were not sober. We do this to decrease alcohol related accidents during prom time.

**Paula Hughes:** Is this a national...who originated the car? You would like to bring it here for one week?

**Sheriff Herman:** It comes from Pennsylvania and it goes around the country. This request is for \$10,100 to take care of the time that we need it.

**Paula Hughes:** How about request number two.

**Sheriff Herman:** Request two is a request for permission to apply for a grant from the Subaru of Indiana Automotive Foundation for \$10,000 to purchase equipment to monitor sex offenders. This would fund an area for two people

full time to go out and make visits to people that are on the list. The aggressive stance that we are taking on this will make Allen County less desirable for offenders to want to live here. We will keep track of them and it will be full time for a couple of officers. This would fund the office equipment that would be needed.

**Paula Hughes:** And number three?

**Patt Kite:** I just want to comment that there is an officer on the Sheriff's Department who has been working with the State Legislators to update and amend the laws and he is going down next week to sign that law that he has worked so hard on.

**Sheriff Herman:** Jeff Shimkus from our Warrants Division will probably be heading this up. He has become the state authority on the sex offenders' laws and how we go about keeping track of the offenders. That was number two, do you want me to go onto number three?

**Paula Hughes:** Absolutely.

**Sheriff Herman:** Number three is the SCAAP grant which is the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program. We have been doing this every year. You keep track of the undocumented aliens that you have in the jail and at the end of the year, when you turn in your statistics they have a pot of money that they divide among all of the counties. We don't know what that number is going to be but we do know that we have many more this year. We hope that it translates into more money for the staff. There is a fifty percent match on this but we use that to buy bullet-proof vests. The commissary has always made that match.

**Cal Miller:** Move for approval of DUI Safety Bug grant, the Suburu of Indiana Automotive grant and the SCAAP grant.

**Darren Vogt:** Second that motion.

**Paula Hughes:** We have a motion and a second, are there any questions? All in favor signify by saying aye. All opposed same sign. The motion has passed 7-0. Mr. Dunn.

**Mike Cunegin:** While Mr. Dunn is coming up to the table, council members, this is for a request for a DAC grant for training at the Youth Services Center. Works easier having the training staff come out to the facility because we have young people who need to be monitored while training is going on and this makes it very user friendly for the staff.

**Chris Dunn:** This grant is our third year of applying for this. We have roughly \$2,000 to apply to that program for the staff. This grant has been very beneficial to us in the past. In the last two years, we have brought out different speakers from the community to provide that training. We have asked other members of the community to help defray the cost. We have changed speakers each year. We did submit the grant with the same person from last year but I have spoken with ACJC about some of the speakers that they have had and will work to get them instead of the one listed on the grant. Any questions?

**Mike Cunegin:** So moved on the DAC grant for training for Youth Services staff for \$1,000.

**Patt Kite:** Second.

**Paula Hughes:** We have a motion and a second, are there any questions? All in favor signify by saying aye. All opposed same sign. The motion has passed 7-0. All right, moving on to discussion.

**Bob Lee:** Good morning, Bob Lee and I have the pleasure of serving as the Allen County Treasurer. I wanted to discuss the mailing of tax bills and the additional spending we would incur. Recently, state legislature passed an additional homestead credit and it was great benefit for the taxpayers. The problem that came with that is that we are starting a month and a half late. We would like to do...the RSVP volunteers are stuffing the multiple bills right now but what we would like to do is take the bills that are one bill and have those mechanically stuffed. We just got the numbers of 49,000 bills and at the two and a half cents a piece, it would be \$1,225. By spending that, we get the bills out a full week earlier. And at ten million dollars would make \$1,000 of interest a day. I would like to come back next month with a firm figure but would like to start getting those bills out.

**Paula Hughes:** So the bills are printed and waiting to be stuffed.

**Bob Lee:** We are a larger county and we have an in-house system which is good but labor intensive.

**Roy Buskirk:** I have a question, is that sent out through our presort?

**Bob Lee:** It goes out through Postmasters and Anthony Wayne Services so it is using their bulk rate, presort etc.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Miller?

**Cal Miller:** Treasurer, thanks for the idea. It sounds like a real winner that will net the county about \$8,000. From my standpoint, I think we would be in agreement of approving that.

**Paula Hughes:** We have consensus of council to support that?

**Patt Kite:** Yes. (And several nods.)

**Bob Lee:** Thank you.

**Paula Hughes:** Okay, Commissioner Peters again. I believe you are the point person on the Employees' Early Retirement Insurance Program.

**Nelson Peters:** Yes, I am. I appreciate this opportunity. What you have before you is the Allen County Employee Retirement Longevity Social Security Supplement plan. It is a plan that has been worked on for a year and a half. This is designed to reward our employees for their long service to the county. It has a few benefits in it as well. You will see that there is separate eligibility for sheriff's deputies and civilians and part of the reason is because the retirement rules that govern is a little different. Before sheriff's deputies, they become eligible at 55 and 20 years of service. Civilians become eligible at age 60 with at least 15 years of service or at 55 with their age and service equaling 85. So what we have done is followed the PERF retirement rules with respect to employees. What is the benefit? The monthly payment is 50% of eligible longevity for sheriff's deputies if they choose the health insurance benefit. It is 70% if they choose not to stay in the health insurance plan. The idea is to provide an incentive to get them off the plan. Now for civilians, the plan is pretty much the same. The monthly benefit is \$150 if the health insurance is selected or \$350 a month if the insurance option is not taken. Thanks to the Auditor's office in helping to put this plan together. We wanted to take the most conservative approach in savings for the county. In worst case scenario, there is about an \$80,000 cost to the county. That is if 80% of county employees opt to go with the health insurance. We went back and forth with a number of what the actual cost would be for those individuals. We arrived at a cost of \$11,000 per employee within the ages of 55 to 65. We have been trending downward from \$13,000. If there are more people in this plan, that number will go down even more. There are some savings. For instance, you have an employee who leaves with five weeks vacation and you bring in a new employee who after a year who receives two weeks vacation. The savings would be about \$77,000. When you add on the sheriff's side and you have someone leaving with 30 years of service, the longevity would be 30% of their pay. You bring in a new employee who after three years would receive a 3% of the longevity pay. You are saving 27% of that longevity pay.

That is about as simple as I can make it at this point. I am happy to answer any questions.

**Paula Hughes:** Council members, I know in the past we had discussions with the sheriff and Commissioner Peters about this program and have been briefed fairly regularly. There have been different versions as well. One question that just occurred to me is that we added civilians because there were many who didn't think it was fair to offer this to the sheriffs but not to the rest of the county employees. And it does cover elected officials. Is there a definition that defines retirement if it is an elected official? Do they have to retire mid-term or what are the mechanics of that?

**Nelson Peters:** Based on the civilian definition here, they would have to be at least age 55 with years of service to equal 30 or age 60 with 15 years of service.

**Cal Miller:** Let me put it a different way, if an elected official was beaten in the election or decided to retire on the last day in office, to avail themselves of the benefit of retirement. Under that scenario, would they be able to do that?

**Nelson Peters:** As long as they meet the criteria.

**Paula Hughes:** Whether or not they are re-elected?

**Cal Miller:** If they are on the last day of office and they choose to retire they can avail themselves of the policy.

**Nelson Peters:** Yes they could.

**Cal Miller:** The cost sounds like the worst-case scenario was \$80,000 based on an election percentage. Then you backed out the \$76,000 of vacation savings. So under your analysis the cost is \$3,000. I know that is not a firm number. Or is it \$4,000?

**Paula Hughes:** No, actually the swing is \$150,000 isn't it?

**Nelson Peters:** I think there are savings between the two and I think the savings between officers and civilians is around \$140,000. Of course then, you have to figure in \$80,000 cost. There are \$60,000 savings. Are these monetary savings? In some cases maybe, but not necessarily. They may be increased productivity savings or that we are not paying time and a half.

**Cal Miller:** Before we back out any of the intangibles, we think we have assessed a cost of \$80,000 annually. And we know there are some very

valuable intangibles promoting some of the people that want to retire and allowing some to fill those positions. Is that an intangible benefit?

**Nelson Peters:** Absolutely.

**Cal Miller:** They may be quicker on their feet therefore making more effective law enforcement.

**Sheriff Herman:** Making the department younger is a good thing. Being able to get more hours out of these guys. If everyone retired and we hired all new people, you would get four officers just in the time savings alone.

**Cal Miller:** If \$80,000 is the cost, we know we could back that down with some of the intangibles. That is a very palatable amount.

**Sheriff Herman:** And one of the other things that he said you are talking about worst-case scenario.

**Cal Miller:** The Auditor's office cleared this up for me but the \$11,000 that is being assigned to the average cost per employee for health insurance and includes the additional cost of getting new employees to come in and take the place of those that retire. And one more, the election, are they given a time frame to do this? Once they take the longevity, is there no going back?

**Nelson Peters:** They will have one opportunity, if they take the insurance, to take the greater amount but once they get out of the insurance benefit, they can't go back and take it. We would rather have people not on the health insurance than on it.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Vogt?

**Darren Vogt:** To that point, would we be better off to have them jump off and give them more money?

**Nelson Peters:** Are you saying exclusively?

**Darren Vogt:** Yes.

**Nelson Peters:** From a pure monetary standpoint, yes. But I don't believe that is the type of benefit we want to provide.

**Darren Vogt:** Two points. One is, the benefit will continue until social security. Since the calculation for social security age increases, was that taken into account?

**Tera Klutz:** Not for this group. It doesn't.

**Darren Vogt:** It doesn't now but it will over time.

**Tera Klutz:** Yes.

**Darren Vogt:** There may need to be some fluctuations in here too. And I haven't read that there is a statement that we do have the right to amend this policy. Sheriff, one of the things that I hear from county employees has to do with sheriff's deputies getting insurance for \$1 a year. I would like to see that be unified across the county. I would like to see us go forward and eliminate the dollar per year and have every county employee having the same benefits.

**Cal Miller:** You mean for any new sworn officers?

**Darren Vogt:** Any new sworn officers moving forward and that they would pay the same thing as any other county employee.

**Mike Cunegin:** There would have to be some grandfathered in.

**Sheriff Herman:** I understand or let me see if I understand. You are saying from the standpoint of new hires, they would go from. I would be willing to entertain that. I think there should be some thought given to longevity is also being spread out to include civilian employees. That is how this came to the fact that civilians could be included. So there are some things being given up there. The other thing is that it was done back in lieu of a raise. There might be some thought to maybe increasing the pay for sworn officers.

**Darren Vogt:** I am not sure we are in a position financially to look at increase in pay. I am trying to create an equity across the board in the benefits.

**Sheriff Herman:** I do understand that and I know that is probably one of the things that we talked about here. The benefits situation is not the same across the board but there is hardly anything that is the same. It is not just that. The civilian employees have a grid and don't pay towards their retirement. We don't have the same pension plan. I am willing to discuss that.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Miller?

**Cal Miller:** It is a tricky question. Some people are questioning the fairness of it but these people are doing a unique job and putting their lives on the line

and there needs to be some recognition of that. Maybe not in the form of \$1 a day insurance but I would be willing to entertain the starting salary being a little higher to address that.

**Paula Hughes:** Isn't that being done with the job evaluations?

**Cal Miller:** But how can we go for it here?

**Paula Hughes:** I think what we are being asked for is support of this change. The council doesn't have a formal vote in this change. I would hinge that support on the addressing the future insurance benefits and I think it is appropriate to grandfather in those that came in on that program. I agree there are a lot of inequities between sworn officers and civilians. I think this is a step in the right direction.

**Darren Vogt:** Let me ask one question. If there is an adjustment in salary for all employees that are sworn officers, does that then negate the fact that we are equally paying them for the duties that they do and that benefit should go away?

**Cal Miller:** I understood it would be the starting officers.

**Darren Vogt:** I agree and that was the initial conversation. My point is that under the new job study, we have pay that goes across the board for sworn officers should we then evaluate the dollar a year issue? We can't answer that at this point but is something to look at.

**Roy Buskirk:** I think that as a member of the Personnel Committee that we have to wrestle with during this study that we are comparing apples to apples. The county employees do have a very good benefit package. I have a couple of other questions on eligibility. On civilians or through this package until the individual becomes eligible for social security payments. I think that is very vague. We all become eligible at 62 or is that at full attainment?

**Nelson Peters:** The idea was with this policy that age 65 would be the trigger point. Because of age discrimination we were not able to put in the age 65 requirement.

**Roy Buskirk:** I think it is called full attainment and since that is a sliding scale, maybe it could say at full attainment.

**Nelson Peters:** Our hope is to be able to provide this benefit for no greater than a ten year period. When that full attainment is we may have to come back and move the age or come back for additional consideration.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Moss?

**Roy Buskirk:** One other question and it is concerning the health insurance selection. The retiree can change that only by discontinuing county health insurance and then the benefit would change the percentage to 70%.

**Nelson Peters:** If they were an officer or from \$150 to \$350 if they were civilian. And they have one opportunity to do that during open enrollment.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Moss?

**Paul Moss:** We have talked about this a lot and there are a lot of intangibles. There is still risk associated with this. Philosophically, I am comfortable with this for the sworn officers. I am not for the civilians. I am not concerned that the benefits are different for sworn officers. I would like to see the spread increased and increasing the incentive for them to not take the insurance. And maybe there could be an incentive for the employees to move onto their spouse's plan. A lot of companies are coming up with some creative ways to get people to take someone else's insurance.

**Nelson Peters:** Let me respond a couple of ways. One, I think there is going to have to be some history once we get this program going. Then it will make sense what that percent should be. The other is, there are some safeguards in this plan but if you look at the last line in this policy that we reserve the right to amend or rescind this benefit at any time. I don't see that happening. Additionally, the cost would be shared throughout the entire group.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Miller and then Vogt?

**Cal Miller:** I don't know if this is a problem but it is more expensive to have someone take insurance from the county. And they are giving them one opportunity to decide the incentive or the insurance. Should we consider providing two years down the road someone says I no longer want the insurance.

**Paula Hughes:** That is in here.

**Cal Miller:** Oh, you addressed that?

**Nelson Peters:** Yes, they get one opportunity to go the other way. But they can't go back into the health insurance.

**Cal Miller:** Once they have gotten out. If they elected longevity, they can't go back into the insurance.

**Nelson Peters:** Right.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Vogt?

**Darren Vogt:** When it comes to attracting employees to come work for you, benefits is a very small portion of what they look at. As a young officer, they are looking at how much they get paid. The benefits come along as just that, benefits. The sworn officers are in a totally different line of fire than I am as a business person. I think they should be paid commensurate with the position on the front end.

**Nelson Peters:** Councilman, if I could say this I understand what you are saying. We need to maintain a pay that is competitive. This is not a benefit that would be looked at to bring in a new employee. This is more as a reward for continuous service. It is thanks for what they do in the trenches. And it is thanks to our employees who are paid less than out in the marketplace.

**Darren Vogt:** My comments are not directed at them. They are directed at insurance benefits and not at this plan.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Miller?

**Cal Miller:** I think we have seen a departure from the thought process of the benefits that they are becoming more expensive. Although it may not be there yet we will see the benefits as being a real part of the equation.

**Darren Vogt:** But if you ask the sheriff, what is the biggest problem he has is that he loses his people to the city of New Haven or Fort Wayne after they have been sitting in the jail. This gets the officers that can retire out so that the guys in the jail can get out on the streets. I applaud this. We just don't want to lose them to other police forces.

**Paula Hughes:** Look for a motion?

**Mike Cunegin:** So moved to move forward with this project.

**Patt Kite:** I'll second it.

**Paula Hughes:** We have a motion and a second. Could you clarify that please?

**Mike Cunegin:** To go with the Allen County Employment Longevity Pay Plan for full council support for this.

**Patt Kite:** I second that motion.

**Paul Moss:** I want to clarify. I support this for the officers but not the civilians. I will vote against it because we are not separating those two out.

**Paula Hughes:** I agree with that and also would not support the motion as is because I believe that council should hinge this on the elimination of the \$1 insurance. Any further discussion?

**Darren Vogt:** I would agree with that.

**Paula Hughes:** Do you want to rescind your second?

**Patt Kite:** Yes, I guess. For now.

**Paula Hughes:** Okay. We have a motion. Is there a second? Hearing none, motion dies for a lack of a second. Further discussion?

**Sheriff Herman:** Is that the sticking point, the dollar a year?

**Paul Moss:** Can I make a motion that might be palatable? I move that we support this for the sworn officers, not civilians, contingent on you working away from the dollar plan. I think the sheriff's commitment is a good, solid commitment for that.

**Roy Buskirk:** I will second that.

**Paula Hughes:** We have a motion and a second, is there any further discussion?

**Darren Vogt:** Let me ask a question, I am sorry, I didn't raise my hand. Commissioner Peters, do you see a problem with this plan moving forward without the support of council as it is written now or do you see this as driving a wedge if it is the council's desire to remove the civilian aspect?

**Nelson Peters:** I would personally like to see the civilians included.

**Darren Vogt:** Could you elaborate on your reason behind that.

**Nelson Peters:** You have vacation savings, more efficient way to do business with the departure of some who take advantage of this and the fairness issue with sworn officers and civilians. If the benefit were greater than it is, I think we would stand to lose something. I had a conversation with a lady this morning who asked why the benefit isn't as good for the civilians and I told her that quite frankly, she wasn't giving up as much. And she understood

that. This is not a huge benefit for civilians but it provides our thanks for those employees who so choose to take that benefit. I would like the civilian portion to stay in this.

**Darren Vogt:** And if it is not, does that hinder your ability to get what you want passed through?

**Nelson Peters:** I don't think so but I don't know for sure. We are here to provide communication in terms of what the plan is. The monies will come from the self-insurance fund. Those dollars have already been appropriated. I would be happier having your agreement.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Cunegin?

**Mike Cunegin:** I commend all who worked on this project. It is behind times that we reward all of our employees. I understand and support the deputies and take Sheriff Herman's word of working with Commissioner Peters and this body on working with the newer officers about the dollar per year. I am struggling with this and how the officers' lives and jobs are there, I am also thinking of the other employees.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Moss?

**Paul Moss:** The intent of this is to improve public safety by encouraging them to retire. I am sure you have people, working at the jail that are chomping at the bit to get out on the street and that was the original intent. And it is a good thing to do. It got expanded.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Kite?

**Patt Kite:** I think am tending to support the inclusion of the civilians because if we have people who have stuck around for twenty years or more, they should be rewarded. Councilman Vogt suggested that we address the salary for the incoming officers.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Miller?

**Cal Miller:** I fully support and I see merit with respect to the other employees. I don't think it is as compelling to extend it to other employees. I don't see the downside of not extending it. I am in favor of the whole kit and caboodle because the downside isn't great enough to overcome the remarks made by the commissioner.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Buskirk?

**Roy Buskirk:** I think this whole discussion started as far as with safety. Law enforcement is a young man's job. I think it would be wiser to take a couple of small steps. Maybe in a year it could be opened to civilians but I think to get this started we should start with the Sheriff's Department.

**Darren Vogt:** Call for a question?

**Paula Hughes:** All in favor signify by saying aye. All opposed same sign. If we could, do a hand vote. All those in favor, signify by raising your hand. Three. All those opposed, please raise your hand. Four. The motion does not pass. That is the first time we have had a motion not pass.

**Cal Miller:** I would make a motion to the council to support the Allen County Employee Retirement Longevity Plan with the understanding that Sheriff Herman will work with the commissioners to eliminate the one dollar insurance for new sworn deputies.

**Patt Kite:** I will second that motion.

**Paula Hughes:** We have a motion and a second, any further discussion?

**Roy Buskirk:** I don't understand why the Sheriff's Department is required to have twenty years of service and civilians only need fifteen.

**Tera Klutz:** I can answer that. We went on the Sheriff's pension plan is different than PERF and we took the age that you need and the years of service to get the full retirement. If you are 55 and a civilian, you need 30 years to get this plan. So it is full retirement eligibility under your retirement plan.

**Paula Hughes:** So it falls in line with the other pension plans?

**Tera Klutz:** Yes.

**Roy Buskirk:** Why do you only have to have fifteen years of service?

**Tera Klutz:** You have to have, if age 55 and a civilian, you have to have 30 years of service. If you are 55 and a sworn officer, you only have to have 20. If you are 60, you have to have fifteen years of service. We will reward you at age 60 if you have fifteen years of service.

**Roy Buskirk:** Okay.

**Paula Hughes:** We have a motion and a second, are there any questions? All in favor signify by raising your hand. Four, Kite, Cunegin, Vogt and Miller. All those opposed, please raise your hand. Three, Buskirk, Moss and Hughes. The motion has passed 4-3.

**Nelson Peters:** Councilman Hughes, I am a real glutton for punishment, would you indulge me for another thirty seconds?

**Paula Hughes:** I think you are here for longer than that because you have to talk about pandemic flu preparedness.

**Nelson Peters:** Okay. What I want to pass out is a meeting pager procedure. This is simply something that can eliminate people sitting here for three or four hours at a crack. What this will do is allow us to call individuals into the council meeting as is necessary. It will give them the opportunity to work in their offices until they are needed. There were thirty pagers left over from a Homeland Security grant and we would like to utilize them for this purpose. When someone submits requests for the agenda, they pick up a pager from the Auditor's Office and keep it with them until they are called into the meeting. The idea is they would be called about ten minutes ahead of time. I know we can't always predict ten minutes but I think we can make better use of peoples' time than sitting here waiting for their turn. I don't know that it needs a vote or motion or anything else but if you are in agreement with this, we will try to get this going for the May meeting.

**Paula Hughes:** I would comment Commissioner Peters that I have taken no small amount of grief over the length of the meetings. I would like to attribute that to the amount of discussion by this council. We do only meet once a month but we will talk about that later. I have added something to the agenda. I think there have been some big topics that have come in front of this council and I think we have dealt with them in a fair and equitable manner. It is good to have a policy in place and am supportive of this pager idea. There is some concern about pagers setting around from a grant but it is better to use them.

**Nelson Peters:** We actually tried to get them to take them back but they wouldn't.

**Cal Miller:** Well, I agree. If we can't return them, it is a fine use for the pager until we need something more aligned with Homeland Security. I agree with getting the people here and not having them spinning their wheels waiting.

**Darren Vogt:** Who is going to make the calls to get the people here?

**Nelson Peters:** I am hoping that Mary (Hitchens) can help out from our office. We do have some details to work out but hoping for Mary to help out.

**Paula Hughes:** Thank you commissioner. Pandemic flu? Good morning and if you could re-introduce yourself?

**Mindy Waldron:** I am Mindy Waldron, Department of Health Administrator and this is Dr. Deborah McMahan, Health Commissioner for Allen County. To my right is Randy Brown of the Coliseum and Commissioner Peters. Thanks for the opportunity to share some of the thoughts, ideas and preparation ideas. With increasing urgency over the past few months, world health leaders and homeland security experts have highlighted the potential dangers of avian influenza (commonly called "the bird flu"). Currently the virus is only known to be transmitted to humans from infected birds and poultry. We are told, however, that it is only a matter of time before the virus acquires the ability to be transmitted human-to-human. This could trigger a worldwide human pandemic.

We want to share some information with you this morning and answer any questions you may have.

Dr. McMahan, the Allen County Health Commissioner will take about 10 minutes to share some details with you, I will take about 5 minutes to share what we have been doing so far to prepared locally, and Randy Brown and Commissioner Peters may want to make some brief comments about their participation to this point – which has been instrumental – as has Councilman Moss’.

**Dr. McMahan:** First, it is important to highlight that bird flu and pandemic flu are not one and the same.

Bird flu refers to a type of influenza virus that infects birds and some mammals. The current circulating strain of avian influenza virus, H5N1 was initially identified in 1997, but has demonstrated sustained ability to infect humans since 2004. Thus far, the virus has infected 196 humans in nine countries and caused 110 deaths, over half of those infected. To date, H5N1 has infected birds and other mammals in 49 countries and it could be in birds in America as soon as fall of 2006. Currently, transmission occurs from wild bird to domestic bird to human and it does not have the ability to be spread from person to person.

An influenza pandemic is a large scale outbreak that occurs over a large geographic region. In the past 300 years, we have averaged 3 flu pandemics per century. So while we cannot say exactly when a pandemic may happen,

as Health and Human Services Secretary Leavitt reported at the Indiana Pandemic Summit “pandemics are a biologic fact of life”.

A pandemic flu virus is an influenza virus that is the result of a major mutation involving both an animal and human flu virus but has also developed the genetic ability to be spread person to person. This novel virus would spread throughout a community (and the world) easily because no one would have any prior immunity against this virus, and prior immunity is what stops widespread transmission in a normal flu season. Experts from the WHO and CDC are concerned that the circulating H5N1 virus, again a new virus, will develop this ability to spread person to person and thus has the potential to become a pandemic virus. There are a number of important issues that make a pandemic a unique type of disaster.

#### **Key differences between a pandemic and other disasters**

- Transmission is ongoing vs. a one time event such as an explosion
- Duration of the event is measured in weeks to months
- Risk is in the entire community versus a localized scene
- Everyone is in the same boat As the Director of Homeland Security for Indiana, Eric Dietz said at the pandemic summit “By definition, pandemic means you are on your own”
- Potential magnitude: Pandemics can range from mild (1968) to severe (1918). 675,000 Americans died in the 1918 pandemic; to put that in perspective, normally we have 36,000 influenza deaths each year.

If the current H5N1 would be a pandemic virus we have been told to expect numbers such as:

- One third of our population (110,000) potentially infected
- Fifty percent would seek medical treatment (55,000)

#### **Important Planning Issues**

***Prevention*** would be very important with an agent with such a high mortality rate

Vaccine

- Need the final mutated form to be able to make a vaccine
- Production takes about 6 months to manufacture
- Unlikely have enough vaccine for all those at risk, including healthcare workers, first responders and law enforcement

***Treatment is another important issue, but we have limited options***

Requires antivirals, of which there are only two effective drugs: Tami flu and Relenza

- Currently we have 2.5 million courses in the US, goal is 20 million courses by the end of 2006; but we would only have enough for 6% of all Hoosiers
- Need to consider that the virus can develop immunity to antivirals
- Hospital Surge Capacity is also an issue as we have limited ability to absorb patients and provide necessary treatments – we may need to make some difficult decisions

Allocation of limited resources, such as vaccines, antivirals, and ventilators will be a critical issue facing all communities. We have been working on this issue, with our partners at IPFW and St Francis, for several months.

We have been working with local healthcare providers and facilities to develop plans to accommodate the large number of patients we have been told to expect.

If the numbers become so large as to overwhelm the healthcare system, we need to be able to absorb some of the burden for our providers during this type of event. We need to remember that they will likely face the staffing shortages.

We anticipate two mechanisms;

- Providing information for residents to take care of themselves and their family members and knowing when to seek professional medical care. We have developed a brochure that provides pandemic specific information for our residents. We anticipate providing this brochure to community members late summer or early fall in the context of an Allen County Prepares Campaign.
- The other mechanism is to provide supportive medical care in a nontraditional acute care setting, what we are calling a mass treatment center. To set up this type of facility will entail collaboration between a number of agencies and providers and will require a large facility that can also accommodate our technological and other needs. We have been in discussions with Randy Brown and Commissioner Peters to use the Coliseum as a potential site. Randy has an outstanding facility and has been very willing to partner with us to provide this tremendous service, should the need arise. Again a mass treatment center would open only if traditional healthcare facilities are overwhelmed, which would in turn would be indicative of a situation in which gatherings for entertainment, concerts, etc would surely not be taking place.

Other important issues include helping businesses and vital governmental agencies begin to develop their own pandemic plans so as to minimize the social and economic disruption that could occur with a severe pandemic. We

have started working with our local Chamber of Commerce to provide information to area businesses and Mindy has started working with county department heads to address some of the critical administrative issues that we could be faced with.

I would like to close by saying we are very blessed in this community to have such wonderful partners to help plan for this type of event including: Randy, IPFW, St Francis, Parkview and Lutheran, AMR and TRAA, RSVP, Citizen Corp and MRC, Chief Kelley, National Serv-All, FWCS, local pharmacists, and others.

Working Groups:

- Departmental Group
- Mass Treatment
- Pharmacy Needs
- Hospital Surge Capacity
- Medical and Nursing Directors
- Mental Health
- Resource Allocation
- Medical Reserve Corps
- County Policy and Procedure
- Animal Control and Purdue Extension
- Business leaders
- Medical Reserve Corps

To be convened

- Funeral directors
- Nursing home directors
- Allen County School Safety Committee

**Mindy Waldron:** About a year ago, we began convening groups to do some targeted planning. Currently, the following groups are working on these issues (and this is only naming some of them):

- ❑ MASS TREATMENT GROUP – Comprised of members from City & County law enforcement, homeland security, hospitals and other local clinics, public health, fire department, EMS, pharmacies, Medical Reserve Corps, RSVP, National Serv-All, FWCS, Coliseum staff such as Randy Brown. This group is putting together the plan for how to supply, set-up, and staff a mass treatment center such as the Coliseum.
- ❑ MENTAL HEALTH GROUP – Comprised of members from IPFW, Parkview Behavioral Health, and Park Center to name a few. This

group has developed a mental health protocol to enact during a disaster.

- ❑ INFECTION CONTROL – Comprised of the infection control directors from all of the area hospitals. This group has researched and put together the infection control measures to use in healthcare during a pandemic.
- ❑ ETHICS GROUP – This group is researching various issues surrounding making good sound decisions during a disaster both with respect to public health and the medical community.
- ❑ INTERNAL DOH GROUP – This group is made up of many DOH staff who are working to develop the pandemic plan for public health here locally including how to issue mass numbers of death certificates, have computer functionality at a mass treatment center using wireless technology, designing the set-up and functions of the mass treatment center and community care centers, facilitating all meetings of all of these groups, and supply purchases to name a few duties.
- ❑ PHARMACY GROUP – This group is comprised of the pharmacists from the entire northeast district of IN who have put together the plan for off-site pharmacies, operations of pharmacies during disasters, and pharmacy go-kits.
- ❑ HOSPITAL SURGE CAPACITY GROUP – This group is comprised of local hospital personnel and public health working on how patients will be accepted and absorbed if there are large numbers.
- ❑ AVIAN INFLUENZA WORKGROUP – Comprised of the Purdue Coop. Ext. Svc., City & County Animal Control agencies, public health, and DNR. This group is putting together the plan for handling bird flu in the animal population – which may make its way to the US this fall by way of Alaska.
- ❑ COUNTY GOVT. HUMAN RESOURCE, IT, and PURCHASING WORKGROUP – Comprised of Brian Dumford, Janette Jacquay, me, Bruce Little, Commissioner Peters, several IT folks from the county and our department, & (Councilman Moss attended the first meeting as well). This group is tackling issues such as large employee absenteeism and the need to have more lenient leave policies for the staff, workman's compensation issues related to work-acquired illness, emergency purchases, the availability for offices to allow staff to work from home, etc.

Dr. McMahan and I have made presentations to nearly 40 groups over the past year and have many, many more scheduled over the next few months. Groups such as funeral directors, medical and nursing directors, elected officials, county department heads, the Allen Co. Public Library, Chamber of Commerce, to name ONLY a few!

I may be coming before you over the next few months with requests for purchases for:

- Infection Control measures such as masks, gloves, hygiene items, etc.
- Other supplies for the mass treatment center and community care centers
- And just to share updates on these working groups and how they may impact county government operations and funding.

We are scheduled to take part in an upcoming drill of these plans in June using the Coliseum as a mass treatment center. With that, I'd like to ask Randy Brown and Commissioner Peters if they'd like to share anything with you about their participation this far.

Please let us know if you would like us to e-mail any information to you on this subject. Thank you for the opportunity to present this information to you this morning. With that, if you have any questions for us?

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Moss?

**Paul Moss:** The only comment is that you are not making this to Pollyannaish. I think you have done a great job and this is a real threat. It will be interesting to see how you move forward with this. The structure of the committees is very good and I applaud your efforts.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Cunegin?

**Mike Cunegin:** I have two questions, in all the groups, have you included the clergy?

**Mindy Waldron:** Yes, we have a faith-based group that includes 15 participants and some of them are included in the other groups as well.

**Mike Cunegin:** One last question. You mentioned 300 ventilators. Affiliate hospitals, like Parkview in Huntington, is that part of the 300?

**Dr. McMahan:** No. Those are separate. There will be some sharing of resources but I think if we are talking about a pandemic, they will be in the same situation as we are. In fact, some of them may plan to send them to Allen County.

**Paul Moss:** It is important to keep in mind too that the hospitals are at capacity. There is a physician shortage. The primary care physicians will be in the front lines.

**Randy Brown:** I would like to say that we have been blessed in that we have had the opportunity to be the mass treatment site twice. One back during the tire fire and we hosted nearly two thousand citizens. The other was when a tornado came through and had an impact on a senior facility. We have experience with that. We set up phone centers right away. We have food service. It is quite a different thing when you are talking thirty to sixty days. It will be a partnership within the community. My compliments to the two ladies here and the leadership they have shown.

**Paula Hughes:** Commissioner Peters?

**Nelson Peters:** Let me just echo in part some of Randy's comments. My hats off to Ms. Waldron and Dr. McMahan and their leadership in this and that they have been able to do it without pushing the panic button. It is a serious situation and that we have our plans in place. They have been working like crazy. I hope we never have to use these plans but it is better to have the plans and not need them than to not have a plan.

**Mindy Waldron:** One last thing that I will say is the new booklet is very well done and we plan to mail that out to every subscriber to the newspapers and will be in every pharmacy. We have many to send out to the non-subscribers also. They will be in all of the departments and employees. We are here as a resource for you and if you want any other information, let us know.

**Paula Hughes:** Thank you ladies. Councilman Cunegin and the NACO membership.

**Mike Cunegin:** I am going to try to keep this as brief as possible. About five or six years ago, Allen County was a member of the NACO conference. This was created in 1935 when the counties needed a strong voice in the nation's capital. NACO ensures that all counties are heard. The membership is more than 2,000 counties. This is a way for Allen County to think smarter. Some of the issues are agriculture and rural affairs, community and economic development, energy and land use, governmental affairs, health and many more. Something that we can do for our citizens in Allen County is the prescription drug opportunity for all citizens. You first have to be a member of NACO. It costs \$6,450. We would have access to all of the other things that I listed. What I would like to see us do is to look at becoming a member of NACO. We could save money for our people because of free prescription health care. We have over 308,000 people in Allen County. The average

savings on prescription care is 11 to 19%. Mail order is a savings of 45-50%. We are talking about a real need for our community. I would like to see us move towards that before I take it to the commissioners next week. There are a lot of people that don't have prescription drugs. This works also for pets. This is good for college students, also. This is something that we can give back to the community as a whole. There are a lot of seniors and people who don't have any coverage at all. I will entertain any questions.

**Cal Miller:** You offer a lot of information. I guess is this a benefit program that the county can provide...

**Mike Cunegin:** Free membership cards to every county resident.

**Cal Miller:** That enables what, specifically?

**Mike Cunegin:** It enables a cost savings for someone who has to use this card especially if their current coverage doesn't allow prescriptions.

**Cal Miller:** No one is getting free prescriptions.

**Mike Cunegin:** No sir.

**Cal Miller:** They are getting a discount based on a negotiated price that NACO negotiates with CareMark.

**Mike Cunegin:** Correct.

**Paula Hughes:** Really what the \$6,000 is an annual membership and this is one of the benefits along with their lobbying powers.

**Mike Cunegin:** They also have a huge contract for purchasing power. Like for copiers etc.

**Cal Miller:** So if someone didn't have health insurance they could take this card and use it.

**Mike Cunegin:** It is for any type of drug that the pharmacy carries. Generic or real is covered.

**Cal Miller:** Covered is with a reduced price.

**Mike Cunegin:** Yes.

**Paul Moss:** We currently use Medco for the county. I am not sure how that would work.

**Mike Cunegin:** I am not talking county employees. I am talking county residents.

**Paula Hughes:** How are the cards and the program distributed to citizens?

**Mike Cunegin:** The commissioners' office would, but there is a whole complete package of public service announcements that would be coming. They could have the cards at the pharmacies or the people could come here but there are several ways that they could get them.

**Roy Buskirk:** Are county employees using this as a discount card?

**Paula Hughes:** The county employees have a discount card through Medco which is different from the program that Councilman Cunegin is talking about.

**Mike Cunegin:** And if Medco would not cover the prescription, NACO would. You can't use both cards together.

**Cal Miller:** Part of my concern is if this is a real value for those that don't have coverage, there would be some expense.

**Mike Cunegin:** There is no expense involved at all. This is an on-going program. There is no cost except the membership cost to the county.

**Cal Miller:** Who is going to pay for the distribution or the development of the cards?

**Mike Cunegin:** CareMark already does that.

**Cal Miller:** They must be benefiting in some way then.

**Mike Cunegin:** Yes and CareMark would use any pharmacy that is on the program.

**Darren Vogt:** One of the things we need to look at is this is one element and I need more digestion of this information.

**Cal Miller:** And how they intend to disseminate the information.

**Mike Cunegin:** They will only tell you bits and pieces before membership. This is for information only and is a positive thing to think about.

**Paula Hughes:** Moving on, a follow-up on the government reorganization. As you recall, I distributed a spreadsheet at the common council meeting. I have begun a series of meetings with municipalities and unincorporated areas of the county. Commissioner Peters and I are going out to these locations and would welcome any of the council members to join me. We are going to Hoagland this evening. I am talking to town councils, chambers of commerce, business associations and what I have done is recreated the presentation and simplified it so that people understand the process.

**Paul Moss:** Can you email us a list of the dates?

**Paula Hughes:** Yes.

**Darren Vogt:** When I attended the Harlan meeting, it is very clear that there is a lot of confusion as to what 1362 really is.

**Paula Hughes:** Moving on. Sheriff, you wanted to discuss the Director of Work Release position?

**Sheriff Herman:** Hello again. This is a position that I wanted to get into the minutes so that you are aware of what we are doing to civilianize this position. We have a problem because of the COPS grants and one of the provisions is that we do not drop our numbers. We have to make sure that we are not dropping officers from the street. The position has to be vacant and then posted and then go through this body and the commissioners telling them that this is what we want to do. If we can get that agreement, then we can go through with lobbying for them to allow this position to be civilianized. So that is what I am asking you to do is to go along with me on this.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Miller?

**Cal Miller:** Why do you want to civilianize it and what are the benefits?

**Sheriff Herman:** There is nothing in the job description that makes it necessary to be an officer. Secondly, it is a captain's position and the job description has been done and the wage is way under the captain's pay.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Buskirk?

**Roy Buskirk:** The one thing I am concerned about is the retirement thing. When you have a sworn officer and they come out of the jail then I thought there was some talk of replacing them with civilians.

**Sheriff Herman:** There has been some talk about that. There are a certain number of positions in the jail that needs to be an officer. When we do transporting and there are some things that just need to be done by an officer. We have deputized some of the civilians in certain ways so that they can read warrants and things like that. There is a need for officers in the jail. We aren't going to be under these restrictions forever. I think we have two years on the COPS grant.

**Roy Buskirk:** Will we have to go through this for the next two years and explain that?

**Sheriff Herman:** I don't think that will be the case. We are having trouble filling positions at the jail. We usually have seven to ten openings that we have trouble filling. I don't see this as a big problem. This is probably one of the last positions we will be talking about under the COPS program. As there are annexations and such, there will have to be redistribution of our people.

**Roy Buskirk:** But with annexation, it doesn't reduce the jail.

**Sheriff Herman:** It won't reduce the department either.

**Paul Moss:** Councilman Vogt has a question.

**Darren Vogt:** So you need a motion from us?

**Sheriff Herman:** I need a motion that you would support this civilianization of this position.

**Darren Vogt:** I make a motion that we support the change of the Director of Work Release from sworn officer to civilian.

**Mike Cunegin:** Second

**Paul Moss:** We have a motion and a second, are there any questions? All in favor signify by saying aye. All opposed same sign. The motion has passed 6-0-1 (Paula absent). We now have the job evaluation, Brian.

**Brian Dumford:** We will make it quick. I am Brian Dumford, Director of Human Resources and to my left is Ray Temple, Principle of the Temple

Group. They are the organization that has been doing the job evaluation study. We wanted to bring you up to where we are. I will turn it over to Ray.

**Ray Temple:** Thank you, Brian. In terms of the project we are talking about base salary. That is what the value of the job is in the organization. We need input and support from the employees and supervisors. One is to collect salary survey information which we did initially. We surveyed counties within Indiana and Michigan. We also checked our databases for similar jobs in the private sector. That information is used to get pay structures. We review the pay structures continually. We anticipate to have numbers in the next week or so in order to help with the budget process. There has been some concern about using our website for some of the job analysis surveys. That then feeds directly into our job description. We were not able to do that. We had to use paper instead. The Health Department was able to utilize the system and work with us. This then required us to enter the information into our database and revert to the job description. We are in the final process and are making sure the system is working properly. Everything we do from this point on will be electronic. We were making this available on our website for one year at no cost to the county but I just told Brian that we will add another year. The questionnaires were filled out way above average by the employees. More information is better than less. We will be using some of the same job categories but some of them will be expanded. Supervisors will be changing.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Moss?

**Paul Moss:** What do you anticipate as the end date for the report to us?

**Ray Temple:** Numbers for budget purposes will be by the end of April.

**Brian Dumford:** There are different numbers that we look at. Ray and I are going over the pay grids. Then we need to get the job descriptions back and the review back in and then they will assign the job classifications to the jobs.

**Paul Moss:** Are you starting to get a feel that we are looking at a substantial amount of dollars here?

**Ray Temple:** To answer the question, no.

**Paul Moss:** Are you seeing positions that are underpaid and some overpaid or is it across the board that everyone is underpaid.

**Ray Temple:** It is hard to say at this point. Without seeing the final evaluations I would not be able to give a clear answer. We want to make sure that we have supervisor input into some of these descriptions.

**Roy Buskirk:** The job descriptions and being able to plug them in, do you see that as being at the next council meeting or at the pre-allocation meetings?

**Cal Miller:** So we will have the complete analysis when we do the pre-allocation meetings.

**Ray Temple:** We will have the questionnaires entered within the first couple days of May.

**Brian Dumford:** We are finalizing the website so that we can get supervisors who are completed logged in within the next several days.

**Paul Moss:** That is a pretty short timeline. I am sure we will not just accept it. When was this supposed to be done?

**Brian Dumford:** It was supposed to be done at the end of April.

**Darren Vogt:** The computer snafu was the biggest problem.

**Brian Dumford:** It was firewall issues with internet access problems.

**Roy Buskirk:** Is there any particular reason why the Board of Health was able to do it?

**Ray Temple:** They have the IT capabilities.

**Brian Dumford:** The Board of Health has some unique IT setups of their own. Any other questions?

**Paula Hughes:** Thanks for the update. A couple other issues tying in to the budget time, The Strategic Improvement Plan questionnaires went out to the departments at the end of last month. As a reminder, you are to meet with your liaison departments and help them to understand the questionnaire. They are due with the pre-allocation forms.

**Paul Moss:** The Strategic Improvement Plan is already out to the department heads? And they are supposed to contact us?

**Paula Hughes:** No, you should contact them. There has been some breakdown with the commissioners because Commissioner Irving hasn't had as much

time as she would like to assist in this and it is falling on the council to get this taken care of. It is important information to get before budget time. It used to be capital improvement plan.

**Roy Buskirk:** So it is each department's capital improvement. Did we receive a copy of the form that they are to be filling out?

**Paula Hughes:** You know, it was the commissioners' office that sent it out so it is possible that you didn't. We received it at a council meeting two or three months ago.

**Judy Heck:** I have a copy.

**Cal Miller:** Judy, would you email us a copy?

**Paula Hughes:** Other housekeeping, Becky Butler has made changes to the council request forms. They are straight forward changes. We developed these forms but we can always tweak them to make them better. Also, I have spoken to several of you about going to two meetings a month because we are running about four hours a meeting. I am actually neutral about that. I think that meeting once a month and after four hours I am not sure the quality of discussions is as stellar as if the meeting was shorter.

**Cal Miller:** My first reaction to that is that it is difficult to pin down one date and if I have to do a second week of being in the office, I would miss out on trials and possibly council meetings. I would rather slug through one meeting a month.

**Patt Kite:** Perhaps an evening meeting. Would that work?

**Paula Hughes:** We did that at one time where we alternated between day and evening meetings. We thought by having evening meetings we would have more participation from the constituency but that didn't happen so we went back to daytime.

**Roy Buskirk:** We were paying overtime for staff too.

**Darren Vogt:** I was thinking if we take a five minute break at maybe 10:00. From my schedule, I would rather sit and get it all done.

**Paula Hughes:** All right. We'll let it go for now.

**Roy Buskirk:** I would like to make one quick comment here that yesterday, the tax rates were in and will reappear on the 26<sup>th</sup> and May 3<sup>rd</sup>. This is very easy to see the different percentages and where the money goes.

**Paula Hughes:** Does that not appear on our tax bill?

**Lisa Blosser:** Not everyone gets a tax bill.

**Paula Hughes:** Well, right if you have your taxed escrowed.

**Roy Buskirk:** Correct. And the other thing is that I think Becky did a very fine job on the 55 pages of minutes from the last meeting. And I wondered if Dr. McMahan was going to give you a copy of the notes she was reading from.

**Lisa Blosser:** We are on that already.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Vogt wanted to talk about the assessor's office.

**Darren Vogt:** Yes, we gave the assessor's office an assignment about reassessment and I am not going into detail about it but they want to get on the agenda. If I see it being a lengthy conversation then I will set up a meeting date and those that can make it will make it.

**Paula Hughes:** You mean a public meeting?

**Darren Vogt:** Yes, a public meeting time. There are so many people involved in that. Does anyone have a problem with that? I will get some dates and get it set up.

**Paul Moss:** Can I have 30 seconds to give an update on the copier issue?

**Paula Hughes:** Absolutely.

**Paul Moss:** I talked with Commissioner Peters and he is going to talk to the other commissioners and our goal is to have on the next council agenda a study of the copier printer in order to quantify better to skin this cat a little better.

**Paula Hughes:** Council, I would ask for a motion to waive the second reading on any matter today for which it may be deemed necessary for the County Council meeting of April 20, 2006.

**Cal Miller:** So moved.

**Roy Buskirk:** Second.

**Paula Hughes:** All in favor signify by saying aye. All opposed same sign. The motion has passed 6-0-1 (Mike absent)

**Cal Miller:** Move to adjourn.

**Darren Vogt:** Second.

**Paula Hughes:** All those in favor. Alright have a good afternoon.

**The next meeting will be held on May 18, 2006 at 8:30 am.**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:37 pm.