

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

The Allen County Council met on Thursday, July 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; James M. Ball, Darren E. Vogt, Roy Buskirk, and Paulette L. Kite.

Also Attending: Lisa Blosser, Auditor; Tera Klutz, Chief Deputy Auditor; Jackie Scheuman, Finance Manager; Becky Butler, Administrative Assistant, Commissioner Nelson Peters, Commissioner Linda Bloom and Commissioner Marla Irving.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Roy Buskirk made a motion to approve the minutes of June 15, 2006. Cal Miller seconded it. Motion passed 7-0.**

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

**Lisa Blosser, Auditor:** The amount you have left for appropriation in the County General fund is \$559,360. For your consideration today there are additional appropriations in the amount of \$11,979; this will leave you with a balance of \$547,381 for the remainder of the year.

**Paula Hughes:** Look for approval of the financial report.

**Cal Miller:** Move for approval of the financial report.

**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 6-0-1 (Darren absent). I am remiss in not introducing our new council person. Could you introduce yourself please?

**James Ball:** Certainly. I am James Ball.

**Paula Hughes:** James is the new First District Councilman. Welcome. We have nothing in Economic Development so first on the agenda is an appropriation request from the Allen County Treasurer.

**Bob Lee:** I am Bob Lee, Allen County Treasurer. Welcome James to the Council. Thank you for allowing me to come before you this morning. I regret that it has to be in the form of a request but as we completed the first half of the year our postage line item came in considerably higher than the previous year. That is mainly due to a postal increase earlier in the year. As you can see in the request, if you take what we have spent in the first half of the year and project it out using the year before, we will come up this much short by the end of the year. Printing is mainly envelopes for sending tax bills. Forms are for the Demand Notice that we send for personal property. Postage explains itself. Subscriptions are mainly for the working on the bankruptcy cases and have brought in a lot of money. We need to log on and review the bankruptcy cases and it is ten cents every time you log on. That is out Pacer bill. Contractual is about the volunteer base has fallen off and we have had to have the tax bills mechanically stuffed into the envelopes. I had mentioned this earlier and said that it would be about \$1,000 and it is \$1,141. My request to you today is for \$11,979 and that will hopefully get me through the end of the year.

**Paula Hughes:** Council members any questions? Councilman Vogt?

**Darren Vogt:** I have one quick question on the Pacer. They charge you every time you click on the webpage?

**Bob Lee:** It is called per page. So if you go to the main page and then you go to another page, it would be twenty cents.

**Darren Vogt:** So it adds up and would be kind of hard to determine how much you will spend on an annual basis based on how far you go. The internet access fee, is for new employees?

**Bob Lee:** No, that is over the internet. I meant internet access to the Pacer system.

**Paula Hughes:** So how has that grown? Your request for the Pacer is for three future internet access bills. Why is that different from last year and how could you have not anticipated that?

**Bob Lee:** I think I probably did. My budget allocation was considerably less than what I asked for.

**Roy Buskirk:** I think what he mentioned there is that there are a lot more bankruptcies activity and that is the reason it is higher than last year.

**Bob Lee:** Yes, this is an increasing activity over last year. Are you asking why I didn't budget for that?

**Paula Hughes:** What I am asking is why you didn't budget for that appropriately in the allocation you were given.

**Bob Lee:** What I am saying is that the budget award was considerably less than what I asked for. I guess I am defending myself in that I did ask for an overall increase that I didn't get.

**Paula Hughes:** Any further questions Council? Councilman Buskirk.

**Roy Buskirk:** With the change in legislation and sending out the additional notices, which I think is the Assessor's, have you had any additional mailings?

**Bob Lee:** Not this year but in 2008 when we go to the unified tax bill we will have to send a tax bill to all 200,000 tax payers. Right now, if you have an escrow account and I am working with the mortgage company, I don't send you a tax bill. But in 2008, I will have to. In the future we will have a big increase in postage. Other than we have new subdivisions and the dynamics of who receives tax bills and who doesn't changes.

**Roy Buskirk:** Don't we also have to send out a notice of what the budget is going to be?

**Bob Lee:** The Auditor does that. That may get changed in the next session. The lobby effort is working to get that changed. President Hughes, did I answer your question? I apologize if I didn't.

**Paula Hughes:** I am concerned about a \$12,000 budget increase. I think the Council has to keep in mind of the policies and procedures that it set forth in the budgeting process. We have always required that we would only consider requests during the year that could not have possibly been anticipated during the prior budget year.

**Cal Miller:** On the converse, I hear Mr. Lee saying that he anticipated it and asked for it and is telling us he is running as long as he can and wouldn't be

able to operate without these funds. It puts our procedure in the cross hairs, so to speak. We didn't give it to him and he thought he was going to need it. I don't know his budget as well as he does but I don't think anything else could have been shifted around to avoid this.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Buskirk?

**Roy Buskirk:** I guess that would bring up the question of do you foresee any carry over in any other.....

**Bob Lee:** No, I am short. If I don't get this \$11,979, I will be short.

**Roy Buskirk:** I realize in these accounts but in other accounts.

**Bob Lee:** I have no other accounts.

**Roy Buskirk:** In the 100 series you have no other accounts you could take from?

**Bob Lee:** I have none.

**Cal Miller:** I make a motion to approve the request from our treasurer for items one through five in the amount of \$11,979.

**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. We have a request in the CEDIT fund. Councilman Buskirk, will you tell us about that?

**Roy Buskirk:** Bill Hartman is here from the Highway department to explain it. It is improving Amber Road which has been on the drawing board for several years and they are ready to proceed with it now.

**Bill Hartman:** This project was started in 2001. It is lane improvements and widening and shoulders with multi-use path from Liberty Mills to U.S. 24. We have all of the right-of-way acquired and the plans are complete.

**Roy Buskirk:** I want to bring out the fact and he mentioned that there is a recreation trail that is incorporated with this road project. The county is doing this in certain areas on their quality of life improvements with the recreation trails. I asked Mr. Hartman as far as the additional costs to the

road improvements and it is approximately \$150,000 for the recreational trail.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Vogt?

**Darren Vogt:** Just so I am clear, were these funds set aside in CEDIT for this year's budget or not?

**Bill Hartman:** I believe these are unappropriated funds.

**Linda Bloom:** Yes, that is the unappropriated balance and we knew that was needed for Amber Road.

**Darren Vogt:** Council, my concern is that, from the Sheriff's Building standpoint, I have yet to see the budget for 2005 but we had one point eight million set aside in CEDIT. Based on some preliminary conversations with the commissioners, that amount has dropped considerably to approximately \$500,000 for 2007. I am concerned about the issue of priority. I know this road project has been on the burner for some time now and it is not my intent to hold up a good road project but I have concerns that we cannot fund a building project because of something like this. There may be other funding that we have not figured out for the Sheriff's building yet but this is one of the funds that we were looking at and now that money is not going to be available.

**Cal Miller:** So this request for appropriation essentially empties the CEDIT fund.

**Paula Hughes:** It leaves about \$51,000. So almost empties it. That is a strong concern of mine as well. If this road project has been on the books for years, than maybe the commissioners had ideas for funding for it before the middle of the year when the project is about to commence. I don't think emptying the CEDIT fund is an appropriate prioritization. I think a one point five million dollar request with no documentation other than the balance of the fund is a huge consideration. We need to see the details of how that money will be spent. That is what we require of every other department making this kind of request. Also how the funding has changed to not allow the fulfillment of this project because clearly it has been on the books for years. Commissioner Bloom?

**Linda Bloom:** We had three projects this year that we wanted to do. We originally started with five and this money was dedicated to this. We knew this money would go back into unappropriated monies. This is to continue the City's trail on Amber Road from 24 to Liberty Mills Road. Then the City is

doing Liberty Mills to Homestead and the school is doing Homestead to Aboite. Then our Aboite Road project is doing that down to the hospital. This is a road that we have to do now to combine with the toepath project. The three projects for this year were Carroll Road, Coldwater Road north and Amber Road.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Miller?

**Cal Miller:** My concern, Commissioner Bloom, if we are potentially emptying out the CEDIT fund for this project is to know if there has been some discussion amongst the commissioners for prioritization of the dollars in the CEDIT fund. I know we have certain ones allocated but where are we going to come up with the funds for the Sheriff's building?

**Linda Bloom:** We have monies for this.

**Cal Miller:** For the Sheriff's building?

**Linda Bloom:** Yes.

**Cal Miller:** Where would those come from?

**Linda Bloom:** I wasn't prepared to do this. I have the budget but am not prepared because I didn't know that was going to be a question.

**Cal Miller:** Sure. We can't consider Amber Road in a vacuum. I would like to come up to speed as to how we are going to sort these other projects out including the Sheriff's building. A consideration together so we can make a decision about whether to go forward on Amber Road. Can we postpone this until next month? We are going to be getting some information on the Sheriff's building.

**Linda Bloom:** The thing you need to remember is that we did have five road projects to do this year and we prioritized the three. And the reason we did this one is because it was to complete the other end of the trail situation.

**Cal Miller:** I am not taking issue with the prioritization of the roads. It is the prioritization of the CEDIT dollars.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Vogt?

**Darren Vogt:** I am somewhat confused, you had five projects and you were doing three, when you did the CEDIT funds for 2006, were all five budgeted in?

**Linda Bloom:** No, there is money...Judy (Heck) could you come and address this?

**Judy Heck:** The reason that Amber Road was not budgeted last year is because we had to hold a million and a half aside in cash for the GM and Nestle Bonds. When those were satisfied by the end of May, we could come back and appropriate that million and a half for this third project.

**Linda Bloom:** We have to dedicate that money in the budget but at the end of May it becomes available when we know the payments can be made.

**Darren Vogt:** And Council, we are aware of that. There have been some discussions of other funding mechanisms for the Sheriff's building and we can discuss that when Commissioner Peters comes up later.

**Paula Hughes:** So is it the commissioners' position that prioritization of CEDIT funds at this time is that the Amber Road project is more important than funding for the Sheriff's building?

**Linda Bloom:** That isn't a fair question because we have other monies.

**Cal Miller:** May I suggest that we table this and maybe pass this within this meeting but I would like to hear about the Sheriff's building.

**Darren Vogt:** Let's talk about this when we have our Sheriff's building and see it all together.

**Linda Bloom:** Okay.

**Lisa Blosser:** Did you appropriate the money for the GM Bond?

**Judy Heck:** No, not for 2006.

**Tera Klutz:** Don't you have to?

**Judy Heck:** I don't think so. I think we just have to make sure the cash is there.

**Lisa Blosser:** We thought that if you had appropriated it you would just have to transfer it.

**Linda Bloom:** But as long as the money is there and we knew it was in the unappropriated amount. Carroll and Coldwater Roads were taken care of and this was to be the money for this project.

**Cal Miller:** So let's just hear it in connection with the Sheriff's building then we will have a better understanding.

**Linda Bloom:** Absolutely.

**Paula Hughes:** Next on the agenda is a request from the Youth Services Center from the 737 Placement Fund. Good morning Mr. Dunn.

**Chris Dunn:** Good morning. I am Chris Dunn with Youth Services Center. This is an updated quote. I am requesting permission to use funds out of the 737 Fund to add an office to the Kryder House. The current director shares an office with her staff and it makes it difficult for her to do her job privately. We originally approached the Building Department and they felt that it couldn't be done for under \$20,000. This year, we got quotes and they came in under that figure. This is the lowest one and is actually the builder who built the home.

**Roy Buskirk:** I discussed this with Mr. Dunn and he pointed out some interesting fact that they have the same number of kids in each home and the boys' home is 5,900 square feet and the girls' home is 4,400 square feet. The boys' home does have a separate office for the director. He has gotten the approval from the commissioners. I think Mr. Dunn had done due diligence with the 737 Fund which has adequate funds to cover this. This money comes from what the clients are charged for housing. They pay \$25 a day with fifty percent going into the 737 Fund.

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

**Darren Vogt:** Mr. Dunn, what typical expenses do you take out of the placement fund?

**Chris Dunn:** I have been to you three times now to purchase vehicles. We have also used about \$40,000 to offset budget cuts.

**Cal Miller:** How long has the director been operating in shared office space?

**Chris Dunn:** Since it opened well over five years ago. It has been a struggle. She comes over to our office when she does performance evaluations and work on the computer so that she can be away from the staff.

**Cal Miller:** Are there any interactions with the residents that can't be undertaken privately?

**Chris Dunn:** That is one of the struggles. Someone will be sitting in there with one of the residents and you can't get into the office without walking through. Medications are stored in there. This room will be added right on by removing a window and making it a doorway. It will give them more space which will be used by everybody.

**Roy Buskirk:** And also, you mentioned that the office furniture. Why don't you inform them on what you are going to do about that?

**Chris Dunn:** Our initial plan is to go to the Voter Registration building where they store the furniture for auction. We go over there and pick out some things that are in good shape and use that until we can come back maybe next spring and I would like to have building maintenance come in and build some storage space.

**Paula Hughes:** I have one question. On the foundation that is being poured for this, would it allow expansion to the second level?

**Chris Dunn:** I appreciate your question but no. The home is licensed for ten residents and we can't go outside of that ten. I wish we could build under it. The boys' home has a basement and we use it to store paper products and other things that we buy in bulk. The girls' home doesn't have that and so they store some of their things there also.

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

**Darren Vogt:** I make a motion for item number seven for the building addition for \$14,800 at Youth Services Center.

**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.** Thank you, Mr. Dunn. Next we have a transfer request from the Memorial Coliseum.

**Randy Brown:** Good morning. I am Randy Brown, General Manager of the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum. We have a request to transfer from the part-time police line to the contract security line. The amount is for \$112,626.

**Paula Hughes:** Council any questions?

**Cal Miller:** Do you want to describe what you are doing in terms of the security?

**Randy Brown:** This has to do with our police officers that are now a contract service. They have gone from being employees to being contract security.

**Patt Kite:** Will this take you to the end of the year?

**Randy Brown:** Yes it will.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Buskirk?

**Roy Buskirk:** How is that (contract officers) working out?

**Randy Brown:** Very well. ESG Security has a great deal of experience operating facilities of our type. They have Conseco Fieldhouse as a good example. It has been a very positive situation. The Midway, which a year ago helped start this transition, went very well.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Miller?

**Cal Miller:** I make a motion to approve the transfer of \$112,626 in the Memorial Coliseum.

**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. Next on the agenda, we have a grant request from Sheriff Herman and Ms. Wilson.

**Darren Vogt:** While they are coming up, let me state that I did have a conversation with the Sheriff and their grant administrator, Kelly, and this is one of those grants that causes a ripple effect for the Prosecutor as well as the Clerk of Courts. Kelly said she had a conversation with Therese Brown to see if there was anything they could do to try to get a grant for her work load. But she said that this really didn't affect her workload that much.

**Sheriff Herman:** This grant is an extension for the seatbelt grant. Basically, we broke down some of the cost for you. This is a very liberal interpretation of what it might cost. The overtime is paid for by the grant. So far this year, or from October to June, we have written enough tickets to generate about

\$30,000 of revenue. It has cost us approximately \$10,705. We think it has generated somewhere in the neighborhood of \$20,000.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Buskirk?

**Roy Buskirk:** I think it was last year when you came before us there was some discussion about the cost throughout the court system. And I thought the Prosecuting Attorney came up with some way to offset some of that cost.

**Sheriff Herman:** Eighty to eighty-five percent of these take the infraction deferral.

**Roy Buskirk:** Oh, right. That's what it was.

**Karen Richards:** If you want additional information on that real quickly, I will try to explain it.

**Paula Hughes:** Yes, if you could join us, Prosecutor Richards.

**Karen Richards:** What we decided to do, and I did this in partnership with Judge Gull, we added the seatbelt infractions to our infraction deferral program. What we agreed to is that we split it. The ticket is \$25 and all of that money goes to the state. We realized we weren't sharing in the money so Judge Gull and I got together and determined that the infraction deferred program would be appropriate for these tickets. So what happens is that if you get on our program you pay \$15. Ten of that goes to our office and five goes back to the court system. Most of the people go into our program because it is ten dollars cheaper on our program. That goes into the Superior Court budget because I think it is actually the Superior Court Clerk's office that does the money. I believe that is the way it goes.

**Paula Hughes:** Thank you very much. Councilman Moss?

**Paul Moss:** So having said all that, do we have a general idea of how much revenue this actually produces?

**Sheriff Herman:** From the figures I have, we are getting two dollars back for every one that we spent.

**Cal Miller:** And that would be even greater if we factored in that eighty-five percent of the people are taking the infraction deferred program.

**Sheriff Herman:** I think that is included.

**Paul Moss:** The reason I ask that questions is that Councilman Buskirk and I have blazed a trail in terms of seatbelt violations. There is a school of thought out there as to whether this is used to generate revenue. I am of the opinion that the focus shouldn't be on generating revenue but should be enhancing public safety.

**Cal Miller:** But from the Sheriff's standpoint, he was justifying to us that it wouldn't be a loss. It would at least be a break even or bring in a dollar for every infraction.

**Lin Wilson:** I wanted to say something. I am Lin Wilson, Grant Administrator. This grant includes OWI's as well. In the past we had separate money but they have combined all of that into the same fund so they can use this for pulling people over for operating under the influence or for seatbelt.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Kite?

**Patt Kite:** Additionally, if you look at the chart, that snowballs from this. You pick up people with suspended licenses or active warrants. So it is a win-win.

**Roy Buskirk:** That is a question I was going to ask. This is shown with additional patrols and picking up additional violations.

**Sheriff Herman:** You have more vehicles out there and you have more officers on the street. It helps and we have better back up because we have more people in more places. We certainly don't look at it as a revenue gathering device because it is not going into our budget. In fact, some of the money is coming out of our budget. We look at it from the standpoint that it is a safety issue. Our mission is to make the roads safer and we think it is a win-win. We get money from other funds to help us accomplish that mission.

**Roy Buskirk:** So what you are saying is that if we didn't have the grant, you would recommend putting on more patrols.

**Sheriff Herman:** Well, certainly, it is always better to have more cars out there. It has to be balanced with what the budget can stand. One of the nice things about these grants is that we can have more officers out there without having to hire more personnel.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Moss? Oh, I am sorry, Moss then Ball.

**Paul Moss:** Are there ever grants for increasing warrants officers time to go out and work active warrants? That seems that it would be something that would be worthwhile as well. It isn't as visible I guess.

**Sheriff Herman:** We have taken advantage of some grants to hire additional personnel but the biggest problem is that when you hire those people, it will take a certain percentage of their salaries over a three-year period and the fourth year, you have to make sure they are in the budget and you keep them on for another year past when the grant funds them.

**Paul Moss:** So you actually have to hire new employees for that but for this you can just do the overtime.

**Sheriff Herman:** I see what you are saying. You are talking about overtime.

**Paul Moss:** Yes, a big push. I think that would be another public safety issue by working active warrants. There are a lot of active warrants out there.

**Lin Wilson:** Sometimes the Sheriff participates with the Fort Wayne Police Department. They had a sweep which was warrants oriented. They have another program called the Fatal Alcohol Crash Team where Fort Wayne was the lead applicant but we were able to get reimbursement for overtime. Sometimes, we are not the lead applicant but we benefit as a partner.

**Sheriff Herman:** And we have also partnered with the U.S. Marshals. They provide us with some help too. But the more people we pick up on warrants, the more people we have in the jail.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Ball?

**James Ball:** I was just going to comment from my experience that these grants are fantastic and you are encouraging the officers to make contacts and as you see, you pick up a lot of things that pay off safety-wise.

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

**Darren Vogt:** I make a motion that we approve Sheriff Herman requesting to apply for the continuation of the Operation Pull-Over grant.

**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. We also have a salary ordinance request.

**Sheriff Herman:** Yes we do. As a matter of fact, Brian Dumford is here to speak to this. As I understand it, this is a salary that was approved by the Personnel Committee but the ordinance was never made by this body for the salary of the Building Manager of the jail. That is what we are trying to correct this morning. The salary has been set at \$53,911. And we would like that effective date to be June 12, 2006 which is the date that he was hired.

**Brian Dumford:** I am Brian Dumford, Director of Human Resources. Due to the unfortunate death of the previous Building Manager of the jail, we had to move on this earlier in the year during the job evaluation program. The Building Manager for the jail is comparable to the Building Manager for the Allen County Juvenile Center. We wanted to look at having comparable pay. The Sheriff came to the Personnel Committee when this position became vacant. The Personnel Committee asked me to examine both positions and I determined that they were comparable. It was decided to set the salary at the same as the ACJC position.

**Paula Hughes:** Is a member of the Personnel Committee prepared to comment on this? Council Vogt, Buskirk, Moss?

**Darren Vogt:** I do recall this conversation although it was vague. I can't recall the specifics though.

**Brian Dumford:** This occurred in February. In fact, I had to go into the file and look at my notes.

**Sheriff Herman:** And in defense of the Personnel Committee, this did take place in February and we just filled the position. When we filled the position, we thought this had been taken care of. When we gave him his first paycheck is when we found out that it had not been.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Miller?

**Cal Miller:** Does the job study, that we are undertaking, support that pay?

**Brian Dumford:** We are that close (finger and thumb measurement) to having that done.

**Cal Miller:** I will move for approval of the salary ordinance for the Building Manager with a class SAM III and an annual salary of \$53,911.

**Paul Moss:** 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. Back to a grant discussion, with Prosecutor Richards and Ms. Wilson. Karen, could you introduce yourself for the record, please.

**Karen Richards:** Good morning, I am Karen Richards and I am the Prosecuting Attorney for Allen County. We are here today for the continuation of the grant that we got last year from ICJI (Indiana Criminal Justice Institute). This is a grant that pays for the salary and benefits of the OWI Prosecutor. This year we asked for some additional funds for a laptop to be used mostly for her evidence for jury trials. There is no match on this salary and benefits but there is twenty-five percent on the laptop computer and those funds will come from the infraction deferral programs.

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

**Cal Miller:** Move for approval of the application for the grant that Prosecutor Richards outlined for the Council today.

**Paul Moss:** Second.

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

**Karen Richards:** May I ask a question? Can I assume now that Mr. Ball is my liaison and I can contact him and give him a tour of the office? I know he is pretty familiar with what we do but I would like to bring him up to speed.

**Darren Vogt:** Before you go, I want to ask one clarifying question. You said in the infraction deferral program, you don't pay the ticket?

**Karen Richards:** No. That is what the deferral program is all about.

**Paula Hughes:** Isn't there an infraction deferral program for speeding tickets?

**Patt Kite:** And then you don't get points and you insurance doesn't go up.

**Cal Miller:** With respect to the seatbelt tickets, will the state get wise to that?

**Karen Richards:** To my knowledge, I am the only Prosecutor in Indiana that has seatbelts on the infraction deferral. That will be up to them. I guess it was our feeling that we get the grant, we still incur a cost. The program was

originally started to help up with some of the cost that we cover when the tickets are written. It didn't cover anybody in our office or in the Clerk's office. This was an attempt to try to get the local costs covered and not send the money south.

**Paula Hughes:** Council we have a salary ordinance request from Circuit Court.

**Tim Miller:** Good morning, I am Tim Miller, Circuit Court Administrator. I was here last year at this time to talk about the pay raises.

**Cal Miller:** As I recall, didn't we just bump up the IV-D Magistrates' pay?

**Tim Miller:** That was a year ago.

**Cal Miller:** Really? He went up to \$86,000. Is this a ten thousand dollar jump?

**Tim Miller:** I think the current is at \$92,400 and this would be a two percent increase. Prior to that, because of the lack of increases for judges, they compensated on their paychecks for health insurance and this is the last year that this is done. This next year would be truly what the state employees would get.

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

**Cal Miller:** Move to approve the salary ordinance for the Title IV-D Hearing Officer in the amount of \$96,741.

**Paul Moss:** Second.

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

**Greg Lake:** Good morning, I am Greg Lake, Director of the Allen County Soil and Water Conservation District. I am requesting a salary ordinance for a Project Manager. This is a PAT IV with annual salary of \$35,661. This will be fully granted and funded through the Indiana State Department of Agriculture new Clean Water Act program. The focus of this position would be to go up and bring in whatever federal and state dollars in the way of programs. (Inaudible)

**Brian Dumford:** This came through the Personnel Committee. Mr. Lake uses this county as a payroll service. He needed to put this through to find a job classification so that it matches with the other counties' salaries. Mr. Temple evaluated that and it came back as a PAT IV.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Vogt?

**Darren Vogt:** What kind of programs is this person looking for?

**Greg Lake:** Most of them are through the USDA department of Ag. (Inaudible) The most important one is the Conservation Security program. These are primarily Ag oriented programs. Quality concerns and the St. Mary's is second because the St. Joe is the main source of drinking water. IDEM is encouraging us to move forward on the watershed. (Inaudible)

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Buskirk?

**Roy Buskirk:** Some of the programs help cut back on chemical runoff.

**Greg Lake:** It is a big savings too, as long as we can keep stuff out of the drains.

**Roy Buskirk:** And another one is north on the St. Joe is the septic system, \$3,500 is available if a property owner is having problems with their septic and can be used to upgrade their septic system. This is another way to get things cleaned up with federal and some state.

**Greg Lake:** And it is all voluntarily.

**Paula Hughes:** Any further questions? Look for a motion.

**Roy Buskirk:** One other comment is that this position is only during the term of the grant. I make a motion that we approve this.

**Cal Miller:** Second.

**Paula Hughes:** We have a motion and a second, is there any further discussion? All in favor signify by saying aye. All opposed same sign. The motion has passed 7-0. Oh, we need to read the salary ordinance.

**Cal Miller:** The salary ordinance in the amount of \$35, 661.

**Paula Hughes:** The discussion to come before the Council is the purchase of 4813 New Haven Ave. for the Sheriff's Building. Commissioner Peters?

**Nelson Peters:** Good morning, Nelson Peters, Allen County Commissioner. I am somewhat humbled this morning because I don't believe we are in the position to address the Council in the manner that I would like to regarding this property. This is a project that we have been looking at for the Sheriff to get him out of the Kidder Building and we are still in the process of trying to ascertain those costs. I frankly don't have those numbers to feel comfortable. I would hope that as we get closer, I can bring them back to either the meeting in August or we can convene a special meeting.

**Paul Moss:** Do you have an option on that property that has been extended?

**Nelson Peters:** Right now, the date is August 21<sup>st</sup>.

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

**Cal Miller:** Commissioner Peters, I want to set the stage for what I think will be the discussion. When the New Haven building became a possibility, I understood it could be a short-term solution to get people out of the Kidder Building but also could be a long-term solution if we are willing to build on it. If it was a short-term, the ballpark would be about \$400,000 and would give us the further potential to co-locate with the City of Fort Wayne. This would tell us whether it would be wise to make the New Haven building a short-term solution then looking at the numbers for co-locating. As you bring your number forward, I want to be fair to you, the other commissioners and the Sheriff that I am going to be continuing to ask about the co-locating. What I am hearing is that part of the numbers you would be presenting would be the numbers that would include a long-term solution. I am not personally going to be entertaining that unless there has also been some discussion about the co-location. The short-term had a price tag of \$400,000 and the long-term would have a significantly greater number and I would be doing due diligence for the taxpayers in Allen County and they would want to know what efforts have been taken to consider co-location.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Vogt?

**Darren Vogt:** The issue of funding has been a major concern, considering the CEDIT dollars or whatever dollars we have available. Council, as you recall, we tabled a discussion of the Amber Road project. Commissioner Peters, let's talk a little bit about the funding that is available. Some conversations that you and I had, the potential of Flood Control money could be available because of state legislation that has been enacted.

**Nelson Peters:** We are currently investigating the uses of the Flood Control money and if those dollars are available and what the statute allows the use of those dollars. I think we will indeed look at using them for this project.

**Cal Miller:** Commissioner Peters, you weren't here when we had our discussion with Commissioner Bloom and Bill Hartman when they came before Council and asked for \$1,500,000 from CEDIT for the Amber Road project. The Council expressed a concern that we didn't understand yet what the funding stream was going to be for the Sheriff's building and to what extent any CEDIT dollars were going to be needed. Can we go forward and approve the Amber Road project?

**Nelson Peters:** I would have to defer that to Commissioner Bloom but it would be my contention that those funds are mutually exclusive.

**Cal Miller:** Again, since we don't know the numbers, we are being asked to take a leap of faith without understanding the funding stream.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Buskirk?

**Linda Bloom:** It is an exclusive number. Not inclusive.

**Cal Miller:** Even if the Council approved the long-term solution for the New Haven building, the cost could be funded through other sources and won't need the CEDIT dollars?

**Nelson Peters:** I believe so.

**Paula Hughes:** Within the commissioners' current control there is money that could be redirected to the Sheriff's building?

**Nelson Peters:** The question is whether there are enough funds and if the use is statutorily enabling us to go forward.

**Paula Hughes:** Those are pretty big IF's though.

**Cal Miller:** What sort of problems would we get in if we were to defer for no more than a month the Amber Road/CEDIT request? Would we put you in a pickle on that?

**Linda Bloom:** I am going to have to ask Mr. Hartman on that. I know we have engineering and we are buying right-of-way. When this can be under construction, I don't know what the starting date is.

**Bill Hartman:** A month would impair our completion but I don't feel we would complete this project this year anyway. It usually takes a month to a month and a half to relocate utilities. A month would throw us off but completion will be in the spring of 2007 anyway.

**Cal Miller:** Would a partial allocation not delay the project?

**Bill Hartman:** I would have to get with Bruce Little to see if contractually we could do that.

**Roy Buskirk:** It has been my experience that you can't. And another thing I would like to point out is that on road construction you talk one and a half percent increase per month.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Ball?

**James Ball:** Commissioner Peters, do the commissioners have the funding for the \$400,000 to get into that building?

**Nelson Peters:** Yes.

**James Ball:** So we know we could at least get the Sheriff a home.

**Nelson Peters:** I think the real question is \$336,000 will buy the building. Can you move in without doing anything to the building and the answer is no. There will be moving costs, some renovation costs and some other costs and those are the things we are trying to get our hands around.

**James Ball:** I thought I had seen an estimate of around \$95,000 for those.

**Nelson Peters:** We know right out of the shoot that it will cost between \$80,000 and \$100,000 for an elevator to bring it up to ADA code.

**James Ball:** My thought was if the commissioners could fund to get the home and not anticipating adding on or whatever.

**Nelson Peters:** The funds are there to do that. The concern is on short-term basis, what are those costs? On a long-term basis, what are those costs? We think we have an idea.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Buskirk?

**Roy Buskirk:** Has that property or building been appraised?

**Nelson Peters:** Yes, the building has been appraised at \$341,000 and \$375,000.

**Roy Buskirk:** And how much is in the Flood Money account?

**Nelson Peters:** I would have to go look.

**Darren Vogt:** Approximately \$1.4 million I believe.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Vogt?

**Darren Vogt:** My suggestion is that Commissioner Peters, myself and anyone else who is willing to continue this conversation with the architect and the Sheriff to make sure the square footage needs are met for the department and see that we can get some concrete numbers for the long-term solution. I think that is a bigger issue that we don't have the numbers. The solution is that number that we can analyze over the joint meeting with the City Police Department. If that spread is significant then we will have an easier time making a decision even though the unknowns with the City are still out there. We need to have the facility designed the way we would need it for the long-term solution and if we need to have a special meeting, we will do so.

**Cal Miller:** Where does that leave us on Amber Road?

**Roy Buskirk:** I think we need to approve that?

**Paula Hughes:** I would disagree. I think we need to consider Amber Road around all of the questions that we had with the Highway during our pre-allocation meetings. There has been a lot of conversation at the Council table and with the commissioners for several years about how the county funds transportation infrastructure and this county has traditionally put a great emphasis on that. But as our budget decreases with the annexations, we have less money and we have to consider a repositioning of priorities. We do not have the luxury of spending on transportation infrastructure on the way that we have in the past.

**Linda Bloom:** First of all, I disagree with infrastructure being a luxury. And secondly, we did go five major projects to three. Amber Road is one of those projects. We left out two other major projects because we prioritized.

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

**Darren Vogt:** The issue that I heard Mr. Hartman say that this was going to be a two phase project because of the construction season anyway. The thirty

day delay more or less is not going to make a major impact on the overall construction of this. I am in favor of having all of our information and then we can make that decision. He said this is not critical and I don't want to put us in the situation of making a \$1.5 million decision when we really didn't need to.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Buskirk?

**Roy Buskirk:** On the road construction, the other two projects, where are you at on the calendar for them? Would it be better to switch funds from one of them?

**Linda Bloom:** We've thought of that and we have Coldwater underway and the Carroll relocation is underway. We can't stop either one of them.

**Cal Miller:** Councilman Vogt's comments, I think the commissioners are on board with us. I am also in favor of delaying the decision. Let's make it a short delay for the Amber Road. We need to get the funds ironed out so that we can make an informed decision.

**Paul Moss:** I have always had an issue with spending CEDIT dollars on the Sheriff's building anyway. And now we are talking about using flood dollars to build the Sheriff's building. I assume that the money has been earmarked for something.

**Lisa Blosser:** No, it has just been sitting there. It was originally General Fund money.

**Paul Moss:** So there are no flood control projects?

**Lisa Blosser:** No.

**Nelson Peters:** Up until recently, those dollars needed to be leveraged against some of the flood control efforts. The state came back a year ago and said that we had fulfilled our obligation and said those funds were free to be used for other purposes. We just need to ascertain what those purposes are.

**Paul Moss:** We have heard from the surveyor what is needed for the Stormwater Project and it seems that those would tie together. I didn't realize that money was there and we have had the conversations over the past year.

**Linda Bloom:** It is COIT money. It is the money left and is not earmarked, but it is the money left from the flooding expenses that the City and County had that we did mutually. They had some left and we had some left.

**Darren Vogt:** It was only this last year that the restrictions were lifted. That is why it hasn't been considered before.

**Paula Hughes:** So technically, it is General Fund money again.

**Linda Bloom:** It is COIT money, not County General.

**Lisa Blosser:** But it came from County General originally.

**Paul Moss:** The other question I have is that I don't want to see a possible co-location hinder this any further than it already has. There seems to be so many unknowns but can someone give me how much more detailed information you are going to need to say it's off the table or not off the table.

**Cal Miller:** From my standpoint, the original numbers on the short-term buys more time to see if that is a possibility. I told Commissioner Peters that I am all in favor of getting the people out of the environment that is crumbling around them. It is difficult for me to springboard into the long-term without seeing what efforts have been made or what discussions have been had and what numbers have been crunched to commit to a long-term solution.

**Paul Moss:** But the temporary solution has considerable disagreement as to if it is going to work or not.

**Cal Miller:** That is news to me. When the information was first rolled out I thought there was a level of excitement that it was a suitable short-term solution.

**Darren Vogt:** Let me clarify that without the Sheriff being here. As I understood it empties the Kidder Building but it doesn't help on some of the other facilities that wouldn't fit into the building. There are some other things that need to be done such as an evidence room and a garage. From a personnel standpoint alone, I think it would empty the Kidder Building but not create a long-term solution.

**Paula Hughes:** Council any further questions for Commissioner Peters? Thank you.

**Cal Miller:** I make a motion to table the request for the Amber Road project for \$1,500,000 so we can consider it with the funding for the Sheriff's building.

**Darren Vogt:** I will second that.

**Paula Hughes:** We have a motion and a second, is there any further discussion? All in favor signify by saying aye. All opposed same sign. The motion has passed 6-1 (Roy). Ms. Finlayson, discussion of purchasing additional voting equipment.

**Pam Finlayson:** I am Pam Finlayson, Director of Elections for Allen County. This discussion was prompted by looking at long-range expenditures. I submitted that information in relation to the voting machines. Councilman Miller asked me to come before Council.

**Cal Miller:** And the request seemed a little more imminent than some of the other infrastructure needs. Since it is a big ticket item, I thought we would all benefit from hearing from the Director of the Election Board.

**Pam Finlayson:** When the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) was passed and the state came together, I sat on that task force. At that time, when we were looking how to allocate money for the various counties, Allen County fell into a group that wasn't going to have to replace our system. The only part that we were not able to meet was our handicap accessibility to those who are blind. At that point, we only needed supplemental machines that would be compatible with our current Microvote system. Since that plan was brought out, a lot of things have happened. Microvote was well along the way to developing a software linkage between the Microvote 464 and the Infinity system. When new guidelines came up that indicated that if you are going to try to connect a new system with an old one, the old one had to also comply with the new guidelines they were drafting. That technology is too old to comply with the 2002 guidelines. The election commission decided that the weakest link would drag the system down.

So when the board was considering various systems for use in Indiana, we realized we were going to have two systems. We didn't confine ourselves to Microvote on how we would use our HAVA funds. We wanted to look at all of the vendors. Basically the other two vendors for Indiana are having a lot of trouble meeting their commitments and problems with their hardware. When we were looking for vendors, we were concerned about the problems that the two major vendors were having. The only other vendor in this state is a smaller vendor and brand new. They have one county and we didn't want to be the second. So we ended up back with Microvote.

Here we are with Microvote now and we have been through an election with our two systems. We pulled it off with no hitches. None of the legislatures are passing laws that are geared to the new technology. A new law that they just passed and has a big impact on the 464's is that they want all of the election results by precinct. On the 464's, we could combine multiple precincts on one machine that often had the same ballot. Or it could combine the ballots that were similar and tally the things that were different. So now, if you have two precincts with the same board, we have to send out 464's dedicated to each of those precincts. With Infinity machines, that is not a problem. We can get many precincts on there as you want. And all of the precincts can be tallied. This has created a real allocation issue.

On the chart that I gave you, I was trying to show how we would function through this fall and the Presidential election in 2008. You'll see the projected turnout, for the Presidential election, is the numbers for people actually showing up. If we still have the same number, of Infinity's, and are still using the 464's, we will need 819 machines in the field for that election. We will have to accommodate all of the precincts. We have been very aggressive at trying to make the precincts more efficient.

In the fall election, we are going to have one precinct ward in each voting location. We will make sure that they will have enough machines and personnel. The savings we will recoup on having fewer workers will be able to pay more to the workers who have the mega locations. This would be a more efficient use of personnel. The inspectors feel that this would be more efficient also.

The numbers you see here is from the most efficient use of the precincts.

**Cal Miller:** Short of regional voting? And what is regional voting?

**Pam Finlayson:** Short of regional voting. Regional voting is set up so that anyone can vote in any location that is convenient for them. We need to have a digital link to the voter registration system so you can update their record live. Otherwise, they could go to other regional sites and vote again.

**Cal Miller:** So these numbers are not geared toward regional voting yet?

**Pam Finlayson:** No.

**Cal Miller:** I am sorry I got you off track but I wanted everyone to know what regional voting is and what could be on the horizon. This is geared toward the most efficient number of precincts there is.

**Pam Finlayson:** The reason I am injecting regional voting is because that would come into consideration for the number of machines you would want to buy. I didn't want to recommend that we buy more machines if we were going to go the route of regional voting.

**Paula Hughes:** If I can ask, these Infinity machines are capable of the regional voting?

**Pam Finlayson:** At this point. I wouldn't go running out to buy and with this new technology just coming out but I want to pin Microvote down on this. There are two counties in Indiana that are going to try this. Now they would like to get an optical scan county. They are the ones that use scanning of ballots and don't use electronic equipment like we do. They fill out the ballot and take it to the scanner to read the ballot. But that means they have to have all of the ballot variations at every site. Colorado has about thirty ballot variations. We have about 178 variations in primary. Trying to stock that amount of paper in every site is not efficient or cheap.

**Cal Miller:** Could you take us back to the calculations under the most efficient number of voting locations and the number of machines you would need to fulfill that obligation.

**Pam Finlayson:** Eight hundred which is going to bring us up to what we have now. If you just do a raw calculation, forget about precincts and the inefficiencies at some of the sites, how many machines would be needed.

**Darren Vogt:** So what you are saying then is that whether you do regional or not, we are going to need them. You are going to look to see if the regional site makes sense based on next year's election. I look at it as if the regional site would get more people to vote maybe that is what we need to do.

**Pam Finlayson:** It works for everybody. We lose our numbers to be able to project where people are going. Once we have some time to build a data base, then we could project on the regional voting. You need a radio system to send people from one location that maybe has a long line and tell them to send people to the one that doesn't have a long line. It will make it easier for the people working the polls and it makes it easier for the voter because they can't go to the wrong precinct.

**Cal Miller:** The 300 machines you are referring to are at a cost of about a million. Is this is a requirement of your office to go through the state legislation?

**Pam Finlayson:** Not now.

**Cal Miller:** Are you foreseeing that to be one?

**Pam Finlayson:** Already, they have passed one law that could lead them on the road to extinction or just, across the board, decertify them. They may get so far behind technology-wise that they will decertify them.

**Cal Miller:** Okay then, what would your suggestion to Council be for justifying these 300 machines?

**Pam Finlayson:** I am just looking at the political trend. They already have turned their eyes to the new technology. I am having more difficulty operating the software. It is a DOS based system. I can't even find techs that know DOS. It is setting on one old PC and the election commission won't allow any Microvote to touch that software. If something goes wrong, we can't fix it.

**Cal Miller:** So it is a pro-active measure underscoring that we are in a precarious situation. Can there be a phase in and what would you recommend?

**Pam Finlayson:** Yes, I broke it up into three increments. I think we need to start phasing out the 464's. I would like to see how a few things shake out first.

**Cal Miller:** Would you like to see the shake out more prior to making any more investment in these or begin the phase-in while watching the shake out?

**Pam Finlayson:** I would like to begin the phase in. You are hearing all about voter verified paper trail debate and there is a group out there getting ready to sue states that don't have that. State law requires federal certification of the system before the state can certify it. Right now, there are no federal certified guidelines for voter verified paper trail printer.

**Cal Miller:** With that concern about the federal law and if the Council would like to phase in and being proactive, do we run a risk that the changing law would make the investment one we can't use?

**Pam Finlayson:** The only change that would have to be made to the 464's is that a printer would have to be designed and built.

**Cal Miller:** Can you bring before Council a formal request for the phase in process? Include the request of the next three years of purchasing.

**Paula Hughes:** Council has a capital improvement line item set aside to deal with requests just like this. This seems on par with the tax accounting system.

**Cal Miller:** The only deviation is that this is a Cum Cap definition.

**Pam Finlayson:** I have talked with the commissioners about this also. I didn't have the information at that time. We had the need to earmark the funds for this so that we are not caught off guard.

**Paula Hughes:** This is timely and we thank you for bringing it to us now before our budget process in August. We are looking at several funds to fund the projects. This information is very helpful and I had an idea that we needed voting machines but didn't know what was needed.

**Pam Finlayson:** The board can discuss this again. I will also see where we stand with the vendors and what the guidelines are.

**Cal Miller:** When you are ready, bring it forward because you have the attention of the Council.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Buskirk?

**Roy Buskirk:** Are there any grants available for new voting machines?

**Pam Finlayson:** I am not aware of any.

**Cal Miller:** Would you check with Lin Wilson so she can put that on the radar?

**Pam Finlayson:** Sure.

**Roy Buskirk:** And the other question I had was currently you have to have a precinct based on 1,000 or 1,200 voters?

**Pam Finlayson:** That determines the boundaries but now they allow to bring precincts together under one board. They have loosened up the laws so that we can function a little bit more efficiently.

**Roy Buskirk:** Because it wasn't based on how many people showed up but how many registered voters.

**Pam Finlayson:** That's right and there was nothing efficient about it. The situation became worse as our voter registration rolls grew. We are now involved in a state cleanup because we now have more registered voters than we have legal aged residents.

**Roy Buskirk:** That was my next question with this purging that is taking place would that eliminate some of the precincts? But that wouldn't eliminate it would just have the right numbers for the precincts based on the number of people voting and not the number registered.

**Pam Finlayson:** Our number of polling places shrunk and that was driven totally on handicap accessibility. But it made for more efficiency also.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Vogt?

**Pam Finlayson:** I do have one other issue here. I want to know about getting the roof fixed on the voting machine building.

**Cal Miller:** Can you bring that before Council at the August meeting?

**Roy Buskirk:** Why should she wait a month to get the roof fixed?

**Paula Hughes:** We can't allocate the funds without a formal request.

**Cal Miller:** But we can give her the go ahead to get it fixed but have you talked to the commissioners about this?

**Roy Buskirk:** That should fall under building maintenance.

**Pam Finlayson:** I talked to Dan Freck about this and he said he couldn't get the appropriation for it. There are puddles all over the floor.

**Darren Vogt:** Who is the commissioners' liaison? Paul, can you have that conversation with them?

**Cal Miller:** Why don't we do this...can we just tell her to go forward and get it done and we will do the appropriation at the next meeting?

**James Ball:** Would it behoove me to talk to Mr. Freck? I can follow up.

**Judy Heck:** I would like to address this. I didn't know how much this roof cost and I thought maintenance was going to do this.

**Pam Finlayson:** They want to seal the whole roof. They have been patching.

**Judy Heck:** I don't see why we can't do it.

**Paula Hughes:** Okay. Thank you. Councilman Vogt?

**Darren Vogt:** One question, are all the other states having the same issues with machines and has there ever been a discussion of sharing machines?

**Pam Finlayson:** The reason it isn't possible is that all of the state laws are different. Our machines come with certain features on them but aren't activated.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Buskirk?

**Roy Buskirk:** Timing of primaries is different but the Presidential election would be the same and there wouldn't be enough machines then.

**Paula Hughes:** Thank you for your time and please, there seems to be a general consensus that we should be moving forward on this. In the on-going attempt to delay the timing of these Council meetings, Councilman Vogt has a few other issues he wants to bring forth.

**Darren Vogt:** Real quickly, I want to make sure that the second letter to the state was sent for the juvenile bill. The other issue is the Sheriff's salary and Marion County being made the example. There is a state legislator who is going to present a bill to allow the sheriff's salary to mirror that of the Prosecutor's plus, if the county decides, the \$5,000 benefit on top of that. I think it would behoove us to write our state legislator and support that legislation if it is good.

**Paula Hughes:** I know the commissioners are working on filling the legislative liaison position. I think that is a good agenda item for our platform for next year.

**Darren Vogt:** The other two issues that have fallen off the radar. One is the attorney fees.

**Paula Hughes:** I would debate that. I had a conversation with Commissioner Peters on Tuesday and they are working on some preliminary recommendations.

**Darren Vogt:** The urgency, from a budget standpoint...

**Paul Moss:** We can discuss that during the budget process.

**Darren Vogt:** The other thing is the car policy.

**Paula Hughes:** That is true it has fallen off the radar. I would request that the group of individuals revisit that.

**Darren Vogt:** I will do that with Councilman Moss and Auditor Blosser.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Miller?

**Patt Kite:** Councilman Vogt, I would be happy to be on that one too.

**Cal Miller:** I have three additional items. Could the Auditor's office distribute a list of the current information to the Council members including Mr. Ball's information?

**Lisa Blosser:** Becky has already done that.

**Cal Miller:** Okay, thank you Becky. The other two things that I see as concerns is that at the allocation hearings, we asked the commissioners to give us a Highway budget and has anyone followed up on that?

**Paula Hughes:** I followed up on the request but we have not seen anything from them.

**Darren Vogt:** Is that what I had a preview of yesterday, Judy?

**Judy Heck:** What you saw yesterday was Cum Cap?

**Cal Miller:** Are both of those being worked on?

**Lisa Blosser:** We have them scheduled during your budget hearings. We have allowed time for that to be discussed.

**Tera Klutz:** They submitted budgets and they are in the budget books that we are going to distribute at the end of the meeting.

**Cal Miller:** The last item involves the township assessors. I had a chance to talk to Angie Sorg and her deputy and talked to Councilman Vogt as well. The question posed to me was "What are we supposed to do?" I suggested that she work with the County Assessor's office to submit a budget to allow the assessing to be done with the same quality that we had in the past. Alternately, I suggested she come before Council with the rest of the

assessors and appeal the process and/or provide a firm commitment that in 2007 they will take on the additional tasks. I asked them to come as if they were starting from scratch without the structure that has been in place. They can develop a new assessing function. If they were willing to do that then I would support the reinstatement of their budget. Don't they have an obligation to try to do better? That is the question I left with her to pass on to the other assessors.

I don't want what we have done to be an impediment to the effective assessing. We have maintained that they do a fine job in their townships but I am concerned that there may be some confusion that could trickle down to the ones that are being assessed. The County Assessor has turned in a budget that met the request that we made. I think that has happened.

**Tera Klutz:** They have turned in a budget but not with the minus ten percent.

**Cal Miller:** So they didn't accomplish what we had asked in that regard. But as seven people that don't know as much about assessing as what they do, we need to be careful about where we go from here.

**Paula Hughes:** I would agree with you, Councilman Miller, that Council wished to make a point with the allocations and if that point has been made, I would support giving them time to figure out how to do that. They did not understand our expectation from the meeting a couple of months ago. Councilman Vogt?

**Darren Vogt:** I had the same conversation that Councilman Miller had and I have yet to have the commitment from them that they are willing to do this.

**Cal Miller:** Where does that leave us and what do we do? I am fearful and don't see them coming forward to say they will take the challenge. If they don't come up and do that, this Council has a decision to make.

**Paula Hughes:** I think we need a more in-depth conversation during the budget hearing week in August. We need to have a round-table discussion with them and us not be up on the dais. Council members anything else?

**Darren Vogt:** I make a motion to waive the second reading on any matter approved today for which is may be deemed necessary for the County Council meeting of July 20, 2006.

**Cal Miller:** Second.

**Paula Hughes:** We have a motion and a second, is there any further discussion? All in favor signify by saying aye. All opposed same sign. The motion has passed 7-0. I look for a motion of adjournment.

**Roy Buskirk:** So moved.

**Cal Miller:** Second.

**Paula Hughes:** We have a motion and a second, is there any further discussion? All in favor signify by saying aye. All opposed same sign. The motion has passed 7-0. Thank you Council members and thank you audience.

**The next meeting will be held on September 14, 2006 at 8:30 am.**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:44 am.