

**ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
September 14, 2006  
8:30 AM**

The Allen County Council met on Thursday, September 14, 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; Cal S. Miller, 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 and Commissioner Linda Bloom.

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 August 16 and 17, 2006. Roy Buskirk seconded it. Motion passed 7-0.**

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

**Lisa Blosser, Auditor:** The amount you have left for appropriation in the County General fund is \$547,381. For your consideration today there are additional appropriations in the amount of \$1,420,773; County Council has set aside \$1,991,329 and that is still left in the budget for one-time expenses.

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

**Darren Vogt:** I was looking through the revenues on the General Fund Incentives \$120,000. It hasn't collected any money. I wasn't sure what that is about.

**Tera Klutz:** We collected the amount for this year in December of last year.

**Darren Vogt:** Oh, okay.

**Paula Hughes:** Any other questions?

**Darren Vogt:** Move for approval of the financial report.

**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. First, we have a request for appropriation in the General Fund from the Clerk of Courts.

**Therese Brown:** Good morning County Council. I am Therese Brown Clerk of the Allen Superior and Circuit Courts. I have before you a request for an appropriation partially out of the General Fund in the amount of \$75,473 for Contractual. Also, I am requesting \$50,000 in the Contractual line from the Clerk's Record Perpetuation Fund. The request is to cover the expenses of a portion of a plan that I had given to Council in June. In that plan, there were two areas that I was hoping to have funding in 2007. One is this request. This request covers 2,000 docket books ranging from 1821 to 1961. These books are in Room One in the Courthouse basement. They are of a historical nature and record a variety of probate, inheritance and judgment issues that are considered permanent records of the court. Because of an agreement that I was able to enter into with the Allen County Public Library, with the assistance of the State of Indiana, they have approved the transfer of these records once they are filmed. They would then go into a proper storage area with the library. This request is meant to help facilitate the scanning of those documents and gives us the ability to peruse them from the film.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Miller?

**Cal Miller:** As the liaison for the Clerk, this is the third presentation on this issue and that is why I told her she didn't have to complete the forms. I toured the documents that she is speaking of in the basement. There certainly are some space issues in maintaining these documents. Could you provide us your assessment of the Clerk's Perpetuation Fund and why you are able to make the contribution from there to assist with this program? Also, why can't the contribution be any greater than it is?

**Therese Brown:** When you asked in June if I would be willing to compensate a share of the Records Perpetuation Fund dollars. I agreed that this falls into the category. We potentially looked at a 50-50 split. In review of the revenues, there is about \$90,000 on an annual basis that comes into that fund. I have a salary that is paid out of that fund. We then pay for cds and other supplies for that environment. With that, \$50,000 seemed to be the best amount that I could support and still maintain the salary without moving

that individual back into the General Fund. These monies would not be expended in their entirety immediately anyway. The \$7,200 coming in on a monthly basis would offset the expense. Ultimately, the fund cannot support an amount greater than that at this time. As part of the legislative committee, we are asking for an increase in the fee for next year. The Records Perpetuation Fund gets \$2.00 per filing and we are asking for it to go to \$10.00. We probably won't get that much but even if we go to \$5.00, it would help the health of the fund.

**Cal Miller:** Could you share what the current basement storage issue is?

**Therese Brown:** I would like to share with you that the rain we had yesterday caused some problems in the Courthouse Annex. We had 600 gallons pumped out of the basement. If I was able to get the appropriation for this item, which is for items in the Courthouse, I would be able to obtain significant amount of shelf space to be able to move the files that need to be maintained until they can be destroyed. We can remove mold and other issues and we have an appointment set up with the Commissioners to discuss other options. This is the fourth time in three and a half years that we have had water damage in that facility. These records need to be maintained for a lifetime.

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

**Darren Vogt:** Are these going to be done off-site? I assume that they take the books and scan them? This is an on-going issue. Is there a way we can do that within your department so that we don't have to contractually do this? Is there a way to buy the equipment, keep up with it or is this to catch up with the backlog?

**Therese Brown:** To answer your question, we have three scanners and are scanning documents every day. This is to not only deal with the backlog but to also get us ready for when JTAC comes along. To receive documents electronically and be able to store them that way would be relieving us of paperwork. It is definitely a backlog issue.

**Cal Miller:** Aren't the current records contemplated under this proposal the ones in the large books?

**Therese Brown:** Yes.

**Cal Miller:** I don't know if we would want to buy a scanner for that limited purposes because we don't have too many books in the County that would require that kind of scanner.

**Roy Buskirk:** I make a motion to approve items one and two.

**Cal Miller:** I 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 7-0. Now we will move on to Economic Development. Mr. Harrold.

**Scott Harrold:** I am Scott Harrold from the Department of Planning Services. With me is Phil Genetos from Ice Miller. Community Housing Concepts is looking to purchase a couple properties in Fort Wayne. They are Centennial Townhomes and East Central Towers. They want to issue a bond which would not exceed \$5,000,000. Most of that would be for the purchase. \$900,000 would be used for improvements. I will let them give more details. This is the same as what was done for the YMCA or IIT where you are loaning your tax exempt status to the applicants. That way, they can get a better financing rate. There is no risk to the County because they have no financial obligation. The inducements were approved by the Economic Development Commission yesterday, September 13, 2006. With that, it goes for your initial approval and then we will schedule a public hearing with the Economic Development Commission. It will then come back to you for final approval by the end of the year.

**Phil Genetos:** Good morning, I am Phil Genetos of Ice Miller. I appreciate your time. Both of these will be owned by a 501c3 entity which is a federal tax exempt entity. Because the benefit of financing, there are certain tax benefits in connection with the bond project that can accrue. One of the most important is the issuer can designate that these bonds have a favorable tax status. That is called bank qualification status. That is if the issuer can certify that they will not be issuing more than \$10,000,000 in governmental 501c3 bonds in the calendar year that these bonds were issued. If that is true, a bank would be interested in buying the bonds. The interest rate would be lower because of the bank qualification. These two projects are in the city of Fort Wayne and under the law, the City could have issued these bonds but they have already issued more than \$10,000,000. This deal is intended to be placed with the bank and it is important for the bank to have that qualification status. The County is in the position, if you agree to do this, to designate having that kind of status. The principal reason for having you finance this facility that is within the City is to confer upon the project that special status. As the County Council has jurisdiction throughout the county to issue bonds for these kinds of projects, the City could have jurisdiction out in the County. In each case, the most jurisdiction has to consent. We will have to get the consent from the City. This is just a statutory process to go

through. We will be going through that in the next twenty or thirty days or so. That is why we are asking for the County's assistance. I will turn this over to Liz Smith to describe the company a little bit.

**Liz Smith:** Good morning, my name is Liz Smith and I represent Community Housing Concepts, a Denver based non-profit. I thank you for the opportunity to present here today. Community Housing Concepts was formed about a year ago in order to preserve affordable housing across the country. I don't know if you have heard some of the media but there are some proposals to cut affordable housing. Our mission is to preserve what is already there and to have the tenants that live in the housing, have that affordable housing. One of these properties is an elderly property and one is a family property. These properties are currently owned by Aamco which is a for-profit entity. I don't want to go into too much detail but I want you to understand why we are where we are today. Both of these projects have contracts where rental subsidy comes in from the federal government and the tenants pay 30% of their income. It is a very stable business. Rent increases over the years had artificially inflated rents at these properties. HUD came back and created Mark-to-Market which restructures existing debt on the property and lowers the rent. What HUD did is has the first mortgage that the owner takes out conventionally. Then there is a second and third mortgage that is held by HUD which severely restricts the cash flow at these properties. If a for-profit entity owns these properties, they have to make payments on the first, second and third mortgages. If a non-profit comes in and purchases the properties the second and third mortgages are assigned to the non-profit. That means that they don't have to make the payments on the second and third which helps with the cash flow. Along with this, it will allow them to increase security and to hire community service managers. We came out a month ago and the major concern was a security guard at the elderly property. The elderly residents didn't feel safe. It is our intention to bring on a company that is well versed in managing Section 8 properties and we feel that the partnership will be of benefit to the properties and the neighborhood. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Miller?

**Cal Miller:** Since the bonding is typically issued by the Commissioners, are they on board with this?

**Phil Genetos:** We have not met with them but we will be.

**Cal Miller:** Okay. I would have thought that we had reversed the order because they are the ones who initiate bonding. Also, is there any impact on 2007?

**Phil Genetos:** No. What our plan is to issue these in 2006. We have to wait for HUD to clear these projects before we can do them. They have cleared one but we are waiting on the other one. We are pressing to do this all in 2006.

**Cal Miller:** If you don't meet your timeline, will the issuance of your bond be a detriment to the County as to what the County can do with the \$10,000,000 cap?

**Phil Genetos:** Yes. We have spoken with Bill Fishering on this and he anticipates that we would issue some debt in 2007. They have encouraged us to meet our deadline.

**Cal Miller:** What assurances do we have that the deadline will be met? Can we fashion the approval that we do this in 2006 or you don't get the approval?

**Phil Genetos:** Yes but even better is that we have to come back with the definitive documents to authorize the ordinance to issue the debt. You have another opportunity to approve it at that time. At that time you can specify that you can issue it in 2006 or 2007.

**Cal Miller:** To the Auditor's office are there any potential downsides to this?

**Phil Genetos:** Usually this is not even on the balance sheet.

**Cal Miller:** All right, thank you.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Buskirk?

**Roy Buskirk:** Is this the first project you have done outside of Colorado?

**Liz Smith:** Yes it is. These will close first. We are under contract for six properties in Texas and it is going to be a race to close a lot of these in 2006.

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

**Cal Miller:** Does anyone have any concerns that we have not heard from the Commissioners on this issue despite the fact that I think we know what the answer is?

**Paula Hughes:** I really don't. I would hope that we would know if the Commissioners were planning on issuing \$10,000,000 in bonds in the next three months.

**Scott Harrold:** As you know, Bill Fishering is the EDC attorney as well as the Commissioners' attorney and he is encouraging them to get this done in 2006. He would know if there was any additional intent by the Commissioners to issue bonds. I am confident for this year.

**Paula Hughes:** They must also get the approval from the Commissioners.

**Darren Vogt:** I will make a motion to approve resolution for Community Housing Concepts to issue 501c3 tax exempt bonds.

**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. Next we have an appropriation in the Uniroyal Goodrich TIF Fund.

**Scott Harrold:** As you may recall, back when Uniroyal was expanding, one of the incentives was to assist them with the financing of a substation. Uniroyal paid for the construction but we agreed to pay them back with a sublease agreement. Basically we just give them back the excess property taxes. The \$18,000 would allow us to make the spring and fall payments for this year. For 2007, we included that estimate in the budget so that we would not have to come before you next year. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Moss?

**Paul Moss:** How many additional payments will there be?

**Scott Harrold:** The lease agreement is a ten-year agreement. I think we have eight more years.

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

**Cal Miller:** Move for approval of the lease payment for the substation for \$18,000.

**Darren Vogt:** 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.** Next we have the Sheriff.

**Jim Herman:** Sheriff Jim Herman of Allen County and my Chief Deputy Ken Fries. We are here today due to the fact that the medical expenses have gone over the budgeted amount. This takes some explanation as to how this works. We budgeted \$600,000 for the year and we knew that it wouldn't be enough but we also put in the money from the Misdemeanant Fund which is \$224,742. We charge the prisoners what we can for anything that the nurses do for them in the jail and when they go to the doctor. That netted us \$19,227. That totaled up to \$844,000 for medical expenses. We have spent \$733,193 as of August 24<sup>th</sup>. If you average that over the months, it will come up about \$248,000 short by the end of the year. We have looked at different ways of doing business such as out-sourcing the nursing operation and having a full-time doctor on board. We have not come up with anything that would be cheaper. There are advantages to some of those things. They do indemnify you to a dollar amount if you out-source. A few years ago there was a group selling insurance on the inmates but the premiums were higher than what we were spending for medical expenses. We don't know if we will use all of the \$248,000 but it can only be used for this purpose but we need to offset the expenses we will be seeing. I would be happy to answer any questions if there are any.

**Darren Vogt:** You are still trying to figure out a better way, right?

**Jim Herman:** Yes we are. I know that you know we have lost the head nurse and we are still looking at the out-sourcing and what it would take to have a full-time doctor on staff. I don't have a lot of hope that those would be cheaper options.

**Darren Vogt:** Is the approximate million dollars, an increase over the last few years?

**Jim Herman:** Yes, it doesn't ever go down. The psychotropic drugs are one thing that's a problem. There some questions as to whether all of the psychotropic drugs at the jail are needed. That would be one of the advantages of having a doctor on staff. We have a tendency to send people out to hospitals for different problems and when they come back, one of the things they complain about is not being able to sleep. That is something that we do not feel is necessary to give high dollar medication for. When you outsource, they use generic drugs and have their own protocol on how to handle these situations.

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

**Cal Miller:** You were talking about what you did for your 2006 budget, what was the 2005 expenditure for this line item?

**Jim Herman:** I don't have those numbers with me but as I remember, we came in here last year and asked for more. The problem with this is that it winds up being whatever it is and we can't seem to know what that is going to be. In the 2007 budget, we have kept it at \$600,000.

**Cal Miller:** Why?

**Jim Herman:** Well, if you put it at a million dollars that is a \$400,000 increase in the budget. That is four fifths of the increase that we got.

**Cal Miller:** The problem we have is the same issue as you but on a larger scale. One of the messages that Council has made clear is that we can't knowingly under-fund something that historically suggests a higher appropriation. Someone with a \$22,000,000 budget has to make the prioritization decisions so that things are not under-funded.

**Tera Klutz:** They didn't have a full year in 2005 to make the projections on the Misdemeanant Fund.

**Cal Miller:** Okay. So looking at the historical data, we are not too far off but that begs to question why in 2007 you continue to budget the same as 2006.

**Jim Herman:** We have talked about this at budget time. The medical thing is a roll of the dice because you don't know what it is going to be. We have a pretty good idea that it is going to be more expensive next year but we have been doing things that we thought would save money. One of the things is how we bought the medicine. But the increases in psychotropic drugs and the new drugs that have come along have eaten all of that money up and then some. It is difficult to get your finger on it.

**Cal Miller:** Granted, it must be difficult. But we are showing an upward trend in medical expenses that needs to be addressed in the prioritization of the money given. I would agree that if there is a scenario where we could look at retaining a physician who can make those decisions. I think there would be more scrutiny if the person was in house and responsible for those issues.

**Paula Hughes:** You would also save transportation costs.

**Jim Herman:** To some extent, yes. That is another one of the problems is that when you send them to a doctor who has nothing in it but to see a patient, often they ask what medication has been taken and that is what they prescribe. They make no effort to change anything.

**Cal Miller:** It doesn't sound like a novel theory when you think about some of the HMO's that are out there.

**Jim Herman:** The bad thing is that we had an inmate that needed a liver transplant. The hospital suggested that we air-lift him to Indianapolis and that would have cost between \$150,000 and \$300,000.

**Cal Miller:** Let me ask you this, there was another county where the patient was released on his own recognizant when they became critically ill. That then severed the liability of the county to pay for medical services. Is that something that is undertaken by the Sheriff's Department?

**Jim Herman:** Yes, that is what happened in this case. There is a lot of conjecture as to what we are responsible for. Are we only responsible for something that happens while in our custody or for pre-existing conditions? There are lawyers that will argue that both ways. If a person comes in needing a heart transplant, is it our responsibility for a pre-existing condition? When someone makes an arrest, whether it is city, county, state or federal, it is on the County's nickel from the time they hit the jail until they are released.

**Paul Moss:** Your point is well taken on the pre-existing conditions. They are the higher claims than the bumps and bruises that occur in the jail. The question that I had is that the dollars that you are talking about are just pure claims and does not include the nurses etc. Is that an accurate statement?

**Jim Herman:** Yes.

**Paul Moss:** So to really get a feel as to how much this is costing, you have to understand the personnel that are involved. It is a substantial amount of money beyond this that is expended as well.

**Cal Miller:** Maybe that should be a part of the analysis.

**Jim Herman:** That is absolutely right when you look at the overall cost for out-sourcing it. When you have someone who looks at coming in and taking this on, they are not just looking at 760 some inmates on a regular basis. In a year's time, you are looking at 18,000 people and for the most part, these people are high risk.

**Paul Moss:** Even with the things you have done in the last couple of years it has trended up. And it is safe to assume that no matter what they do with it the numbers will continue to go up.

**Darren Vogt:** One of the things to keep in mind is that the Sheriff is trying to do things that are cost effective and putting out an RFP to see what we can do. I agree that he is on the right track in trying to do things that we would do if we were in that situation.

**Cal Miller:** Along those lines, Johnson County does employ an out-sourced physician who rotates three or four nurses through a schedule. I am not sure what the cost is but maybe you could contact them and find out.

**Jim Herman:** Most of the Sheriff's that I have talked to like the idea of out-sourcing because it is a bit of a buffer for them. Some of the liability is taken on by them and they don't have to worry about hiring nurses and the personnel issues that go along with that. When this thing first started, they came in and gave a low-ball price and then would raise it over time. Once you go into that and the price has gone up to where you can't afford it, it is hard to get back into the business.

**Cal Miller:** You raised an interesting point when you talked about costs associated with out-sourcing. The physician retains nurses and they are making the decisions in the jail that would provide a buffer for potential liability. I think we need to see if this would be a good solution for Allen County.

**Jim Herman:** We have been in the middle of it. We were dealing with this when we had our other head nurse. She was in favor of it because generally they take the personnel that are there and they give them a certain amount of time to prove that they should be retained.

**Paula Hughes:** Are there any other questions? Do you want to discuss item 5 now too?

**Jim Herman:** The utilities for the Justice building that houses both the jail and the courts, comes into our side of the fence. So far this year, for the court side of the building, is \$61,000. What we are coming up short for the year is \$41,000. This is based on the averages that we have seen for this year. We took a stab at what utilities would cost. We are keeping track on what utilities are being spent for each side of the building.

**Darren Vogt:** One of the things I think we need to do on this is to have a standardized person...

**Paula Hughes:** To group the uncontrollable costs. We have talked about that but we didn't talk about that during the budget hearings.

**Darren Vogt:** Or at least when they come they are all projecting the same thing. If there is a spike that was not predicted, then they would all be coming with the same information. That is something we need to talk about.

**Paula Hughes:** The budget discussion today would be the time to talk about that.

**Cal Miller:** Would that be someone like Bruce Little who could anticipate the consumption and what the potential increase could be?

**Darren Vogt:** Yes.

**Cal Miller:** I would say that the argument is part of the court's expenditure because the Sheriff's Department knows this is in their budget and should be something that should be budgeted appropriately going forward.

**Jim Herman:** There had been some question about whether it was going to be under budget or split or how it was going to be handled.

**Cal Miller:** Maybe the starting point would be to have someone as the projector of these costs and make sure they are fully funded. Are there any other funds available that could be used to offset this request?

**Jim Herman:** Good question and frankly, as we go through the year, some of that money gets moved around. I talked to Councilman Vogt about the Commissary Fund and I want to be above board with the amount of money that is in there. We have plans for some of that for the building and some for cars because the Commissioners said there was no money for cars. Above that, there is a little money there. If I paid the \$41,000 shortfall for the utilities, the fund would have everything spoken for.

**Cal Miller:** What is the current balance of the Commissary Fund?

**Jim Herman:** Approximately \$641,000. And we try to use that for capital expenses and not operational ones. I don't want it to sound like there isn't any money there.

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

**Darren Vogt:** Make a motion to approve items 4 and 5 in medical and dental for \$248,000 and utilities for \$41,000.

**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. Next we have a request from the Election Board for voting equipment. Councilman Miller?

**Cal Miller:** I will defer to Pam Finlayson.

**Pam Finlayson:** I am Pam Finlayson, Director of Elections for Allen County. I am here as a follow-up to the previous meeting where I made a request to supplement to the Affinity machines. We currently need to replace the Micro Vote 464. At that time, I made a proposal to purchase through three phases. I had projected the machine needs through the 2008 elections. Since that time, Micro Vote came through with a formal offer. They could get machines to us for this election and then work out a payment agreement for three payments with no interest. Since that proposal, the Indiana Election Commission has filed a lawsuit against Micro Vote. In August, Micro Vote submitted a change to the system and is federally certified. The IEC refused to meet for the first meeting but then they had another meeting on the certification of those changes. They had some more questions and will meet again after the questions have been answered. Those questions have been answered in a formal memo from the independent testing authorities. As of today, I have not heard when they will meet to certify the changes. It has already affected the absentees and we will be using our old MIMS system for them. I assume they will meet in time to certify for the general election. Because of the pending litigation, I propose that we still look at allocating the money. We still have issues with the 464's. It is a DOS based system and is being left behind. As time passes, the 464's are almost being legislated out of existence.

**Cal Miller:** So that we don't backtrack too much, we were given a pretty compelling argument to upgrade these machines. She laid out a plan to do that, and there was an acknowledgement of the need to do so. We are at a point right now to talk about the funding sources and the amount of commitment to make to get the machines. I am concerned that Micro Vote has a very suitable machine for Allen County but hasn't gotten the needed certification. To purchase the machines would be premature at this point but the Election Board would like to have the funds available so that they can move swiftly when the certification is achieved and/or the lawsuit is settled. If the Council agrees that the need exists, then we need to talk about the funding. If we consider this request, would it be an earmark to put in Council's budget? Or do we release the funds to Pam Finlayson to work out the contractual arrangements that would include provisions in the contract that there would be no payment unless the certification and lawsuit are

resolved? That is where we are unless someone feels the need to backtrack and talk about the need for the expenditure.

**Darren Vogt:** I think we would just need to talk about the financing side of it. I like what she said about using their money for a three year period if that is still an offer that stays out there. What is in our capital expenditures?

**Lisa Blosser:** One point nine million (\$1,900,000).

**Darren Vogt:** I think this would be a tier approach that every year we put money aside and make that commitment. That is provided that the offer from Micro Vote is still good.

**Pam Finlayson:** As of today, that offer still stands.

**Darren Vogt:** I would suggest that we hold on to our million dollars and pay in thirds if we can.

**Paula Hughes:** I agree that we should earmark it out of Council's capital expenditures rather than the Rainy Day Fund.

**Cal Miller:** To give you some assurances, the Council is very good about making distinct earmarks that will be available for those. My questions to the Auditor's office are there any obstacles to this approach? Or do you know Pam?

**Pam Finlayson:** The only thing I know of concerns the HAVA Funds and that the Commissioners had to allocate some funds under their discretion. HAVA requirements are that we commit to a contract to expend these funds.

**Cal Miller:** Was that driven by the federal legislation requirements? I would like Auditor Blosser to find out if we can earmark and pay it over three years and get all of the machines before the three years are up.

**Pam Finlayson:** They are prepared to deliver the machines up front.

**Cal Miller:** Lisa, can you find that out?

**Lisa Blosser:** That won't be a problem.

**Paula Hughes:** I think we should earmark it specifically out of one fund. This would cut in half our available resources for capital expenditures.

**Cal Miller:** For purposes of this discussion, I make a motion that the Council agrees to earmark over the next three years, sufficient funds to purchase the voting machines and pay for them over the next three years for \$1,053,100. We would not release the funds unless certified.

**James Ball:** Second.

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

**Roy Buskirk:** Is there a possibility...

**Pam Finlayson:** There are forty-five counties that have Micro Vote systems. Most of them were prior Micro Vote counties. The smaller counties have already added county money to the HAVA funds and have done the full conversion. There are many counties that are still using 464's and Infinities.

**Roy Buskirk:** What I was getting at, do you see any possibility of legislation that there would be assistance in funding of acquisition of these machines?

**Pam Finlayson:** When they passed HAVA, they stated in that bill that this was going to be a one-time investment of the changes that they were mandating. The state doesn't have extra funds left. There was a mass mailing that took the bulk of what was left in that money.

**Roy Buskirk:** The bulk mailing you are talking about is the purging.

**Pam Finlayson:** Right.

**Roy Buskirk:** Is this something we should address with our legislators this year?

**Pam Finlayson:** That would be wonderful.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Moss?

**Paul Moss:** Would you care to make a guess of the useful life of these machines considering that we are going to be stretching the payments out over three years?

**Pam Finlayson:** You have to remember that we bought the 464's in 1990 and Windows did not exist. The County bought the cutting edge, newest technology that they could get their hands on. I think that system has served us well. It is a long life span for electronics. The newer system is more

versatile. Going from DOS to Windows was a quantum leap. All of the changes that have come about make them more flexible.

**Paul Moss:** But you still didn't answer my question.

**Pam Finlayson:** You want a guess?

**Paul Moss:** Just a wild guess.

**Pam Finlayson:** At this point, because of the new guidelines coming out, and federal and state involvement, there will be changes coming and we won't be dormant like we were with the 464's. I don't see us needing to completely replace a system like you do every four years on a pc. A lot of it is driven by software. What you have to remember is that we are all in the same boat. It won't be only Allen County that has to replace a system it would be the whole state. I don't think they are going to bring the entire election process to a screeching halt for the entire state.

**Paul Moss:** I understand that and am not trying to put you on the spot. It is frustrating when things are passed down from above and we have to deal with it.

**Cal Miller:** The up-side of the change is that it does provide greater accessibility to all types of voters.

**Paula Hughes:** Will the integration of these machines, all at once, allow the regional voting that you have been talking about?

**Pam Finlayson:** Yes. If regional voting became enacted into law, the 464's would be done. This has been my main concern, that we plan and position ourselves in such a way that we can.

**Roy Buskirk:** You see a lot more flexibility with the Micro Votes.

**Pam Finlayson:** There is a lot more flexibility with the technology.

**Darren Vogt:** So can we clarify what the motion is?

**Cal Miller:** Okay. Restating the motion is that the Council agrees to fund this request over three years subject to certification by the state and resolution of the lawsuit.

**Paula Hughes:** Any further discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, signify by saying aye. All opposed same sign. The motion has passed 7-0.

**Pam Finlayson:** I will be contacting one of the county attorneys to draft the contract. If I could get, in writing, what the proposal was today, then we can incorporate it in the contract.

**Cal Miller:** You can have the county attorney contact our President and it can be worked out.

**Paula Hughes:** This is similar to the way we funded the debt with the Girls and Boys School. That is a commitment that we are paying out, over time, without interest.

**Darren Vogt:** Do we want to earmark any of our funds because I am assuming that the payments will not start until the following year. Am I right?

**Pam Finlayson:** They are not going to bring in the machines until the fall.

**Darren Vogt:** So we will not have to put out any money until 2007? Do we want to consider earmarking a rollover amount for 2006 budget for pay in 2007?

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Buskirk?

**Roy Buskirk:** I am still confused for the fund that had been set up for buying voting machines.

**Lisa Blosser:** Cum Cap.

**Roy Buskirk:** The funds were set aside in that account and the Commissioners were going to use it for something else.

**Tera Klutz:** That was a purchase order that was set up to get the grant. The money is still available in that fund but it would need the Commissioners' agreement.

**Pam Finlayson:** The HAVA money is still in the HAVA Fund. There are a couple of conditions on our current contract, on the Infinities that we have now, that have not been met.

**Cal Miller:** That is a good point that you bring up. Since we are still on our budget session, aren't we?

**Paula Hughes:** No, the budget session will be coming up.

**Cal Miller:** Can we appropriate directly out of COIT Flood?

**Paula Hughes:** Only if it has been advertised.

**Cal Miller:** What were the different sources that advertised?

**Pam Finlayson:** I don't think you can mix county funds with the federal funds.

**Cal Miller:** Those aren't federal funds in the COIT. Those are county funds that were pledged for obtaining the HAVA Fund. The money was tied to the obtaining of the fund.

**Darren Vogt:** One of the issues with the COIT Flood Control money was the Sheriff's building. I want you to keep in mind that it was one of the initial conversations that we had about the purchasing and renovations we had in mind.

**Cal Miller:** I remember there was some concern that the money would be transferred out of there without even coming before Council.

**Paula Hughes:** This could be Council's opportunity to secure those funds without needing the Commissioners' placement of that on our agenda.

**Lisa Blosser:** You would have had to do that during budget hearings and the second reading would have been today.

**Cal Miller:** So we are not in a position to do that.

**Lisa Blosser:** We could ask the Commissioners.

**Cal Miller:** They could come before us and ask for that appropriation?

**Lisa Blosser:** Yes they could.

**Paula Hughes:** Or since this is a three year, we could do that for the second and third year.

**Cal Miller:** Sure.

**Darren Vogt:** That begs for an answer to my question as to whether we want to earmark some money out of our \$1,900,000 that we have set for this year. We have October and November left for appropriations and I think it would

be appropriate for us to earmark some to rollover for these for our first installment.

**Patt Kite:** I agree.

**Cal Miller:** Have the first \$300,000 out of the \$1,900,000. Do we need a motion for that?

**Paula Hughes:** No, having an earmark is fine.

**Tera Klutz:** Are you asking us to create a purchase order for the \$300,000?

**Darren Vogt:** Just the \$300,000.

**Tera Klutz:** To go without an actual invoice but encumber that money so it is there?

**Paula Hughes:** I don't think so. I think the earmark is strong enough as it stands.

**Darren Vogt:** If we see other capital expenses coming through, we would know that we had earmarked the \$300,000.

**Paula Hughes:** Are you suggesting we designate a line item in the 400 Series for the 2007 budget?

**Darren Vogt:** We could but I don't think we need to do that. All I am making sure of is that as we are appropriating funds, we realize that we are \$300,000 less than we have and let it roll over.

**Cal Miller:** I have a feeling that the Auditor's office will make sure that we are aware of that.

**Roy Buskirk:** That is one thing that I am always concerned about is when we pass a set amount and there are still negotiations going on.

**Pam Finlayson:** They have given us a firm price. All that will be negotiated is the payment. They want to come to agreement as to how often the payments will be made.

**Cal Miller:** And the other contingencies as to certification and settlement of the lawsuit.

**Pam Finlayson:** This is the price that was negotiated across the state.

**Roy Buskirk:** But the price could change depending on the outcome of the lawsuit.

**Pam Finlayson:** This agreement has a firm price on it.

**Cal Miller:** I don't know that the lawsuit has an issue over the price.

**Paula Hughes:** We will cross that bridge when we come to it.

**Pam Finlayson:** If they change the price on this agreement, then the offer is void.

**Paula Hughes:** Right. All right thank you. Item eight, Mr. Brita?

**Joe Brita:** Good morning, Council. I am Joe Brita with the Allen County Juvenile Center and with me is Chandra Reichert who is our Finance Administrator. I am going to let her explain why we are here this morning.

**Chandra Reichert:** We are here today to request an appropriation, within our budget, to purchase an Alcomonitor machine. We came before you in April for your approval to apply for the Drug and Alcohol Consortium grant. We have been awarded the funds in July and this is the first opportunity we have had to come before you.

**Cal Miller:** Move for the approval of the appropriation in the Juvenile Center, item 8.

**James Ball:** 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.

**Roy Buskirk:** Is there a simpler way that we can do this without wasting their time? We have approved the grant.

**Tera Klutz:** In State Board of Accounts' opinion, it still needs to be appropriated. Some grants don't have to be but this was in the General Fund and was a one-time thing.

**Darren Vogt:** The issue would be that we advise them that they wouldn't need to come before us but the liaison could handle the situation.

**Paula Hughes:** Next, we have the Department of Health.

**Mindy Waldron:** Good morning, I am Mindy Waldron, the Administrator for the Department of Health. I have several items before you today. The first one is a reimbursement from the Indiana Department of Health. What they did was take some of the money from the CDC and allotted for training at \$2.00 per person that we train. We didn't get notice of this until after the fact. We have sign-in sheets for our proof. There was a short time frame for this and we would like to have this put into our supply line item for pandemic flu educational brochures. We would like to take those to all of our public forums in the next months.

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

**Darren Vogt:** Motion to approve the Health Fund 285 for supplies in the amount of \$1,094.

**Patt Kite:** 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.

**Mindy Waldron:** The next item is appropriation of the Tobacco Master Plan Fund. It has never been appropriated before and is one of those things that was an oversight in the fact that the grant had to be appropriated. We established a fund for that so it is appropriated so this is somewhat retroactive. We have included this in our 2007 budget. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

**Cal Miller:** Move for approval of items 10 through 23.

**Darren Vogt:** 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. Councilman Moss, we have an appropriation request in CEDIT.

**Paul Moss:** Well, I don't know if someone from the Commissioners' office wants to discuss this or not.

**Judy Heck:** They are on their way.

**Paula Hughes:** Okay. Why don't we move ahead to the Youth Services Per Diem Fund? Oops, all right, Commissioner Bloom.

**Linda Bloom:** Good morning. I am Linda Bloom, County Commissioner.

**Lynn Reecor:** I am Lynn Reecor, President of Aboite New Trails.

**Linda Bloom:** Before you today we would like an appropriation in CEDIT for Amber Road. The amount is \$1,500,000. This is for the road construction and trails between 24 and Liberty Mills.

**Paula Hughes:** Council any questions?

**Darren Vogt:** Could you tell us a little bit about the trails project?

**Lynn Reecor:** This is really exciting for us because it is the first project out in Aboite Township along with a road widening. The Highway Department is including a ten foot wide trail which will incorporate with our whole system of trails. We are working very hard to link up with the entire city right now. This will service so many people that will be along Amber Road and be able to get on that trail. We have the funding to do the next connection from Amber Road to Homestead Road. That would be along Liberty Mills. We have many people contributing including the veterinarian on the corner. We have another grant that we feel confident that we will get that will take that section down to the schools and will link up with the trail that was put in last year.

**Linda Bloom:** Then Aboite Center down to Lutheran Hospital.

**Lynn Reecor:** The only thing we had for 30,000 people prior to a year ago was the sidewalk from Homestead to Aboite Center that went down from the schools to Coventry Lane. That will be widened someday but is not a priority right now. This will feed into Lutheran Hospital who is a huge partner of ours. They have committed to put a trail around their entire campus that they are donating to the whole community. Tom Miller has initiated a feasibility study to build a pedestrian bridge over 24 which will feed people from the Wabash-Erie Canal towpath trail that we are working on.

**Linda Bloom:** This could never have happened and this group has found the right sources and resources to make it happen so that we will connect with the towpath, the City, the River Greenway and New Haven.

**Lynn Reecor:** We are really close. With the new trail that is out in New Haven, you have all the miles of trails that come to Rockhill Park. They are

getting ready for phase three of the four phases of the towpath trail. I bet we finish it in two years.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Moss?

**Paul Moss:** Of the \$150,000 that will be applied to the trail portion, is that the correct amount?

**Linda Bloom:** Oh no, it is more than that. It is more like \$350,000. Between engineering and right-of-way and the construction, it is more like \$350,000.

**Paul Moss:** Is it safe to assume that if we did this after the fact, it would be more expensive?

**Linda Bloom:** Absolutely. What we have done is to have the Highway Department work very closely with Dan Avery and the UTAB Board. They looked at the 2030 plan with the new infrastructure that is coming along. A meeting that Roy and I attended once said that all of our roads should have trails and I said this would cut down on a lot of construction and projects that we are doing because of the cost. We want to do things the right way and with what our community wants but the cost is why we were only able to do three main projects this year.

**Paula Hughes:** Could I have a little more clarification of why Amber Road, beside the trail part, couldn't that be constructed independently without widening the road?

**Linda Bloom:** No. The road condition, with all of the new subdivisions and traffic in that area, was definitely an issue. We even went south across 24 but not to this extent. We are making improvements on the south side of 24 but that won't have any trails. We are getting all of the traffic coming in this way across 24. That is also where the City was going with their improvements.

**Paula Hughes:** How close is this to the boundary of annexation?

**Linda Bloom:** It is the boundary. The west side is the County and the east side is the City.

**Paula Hughes:** So is it reasonable to expect that this property will be annexed?

**Linda Bloom:** It already is.

**Roy Buskirk:** We are doing a road project that is partially in the City of Fort Wayne.

**Paula Hughes:** Is this a partner project with the City?

**Linda Bloom:** No.

**Paula Hughes:** You know I have a continuing question about the prioritization of highway funds and widening and addition of infrastructure in areas of the county that are either to be annexed or are already annexed. I don't understand why that makes it a priority project for the County when we have so many other projects we need to consider.

**Linda Bloom:** We were discussing that recently with the City and some of the projects that the City has taken on from us.

**Paula Hughes:** Such as? Could you give me some examples?

**Linda Bloom:** Ardmore from Jefferson south has two bridges. Even though the bridges are our responsibility, they are assuming the responsibility for them.

**Paula Hughes:** That is an ongoing question too as to whether the bridges are our responsibility.

**Roy Buskirk:** And they are getting 80% federal funding on that project.

**Linda Bloom:** I can't get 80% federal funding on county roads.

**Roy Buskirk:** I know but I am talking about the bridge on Lower Huntington Road. The City is not paying for the bridge.

**Cal Miller:** I think we can attempt to distinguish the Amber Road project from some of the others that are in the heart of the city. This is a very active road and I think it is unfortunate that we don't have City participation in this project. There are a lot of people that are eagerly awaiting this project. This is a project that has been looked at and talked about for a number of years.

**Paula Hughes:** But I have some concern that the City does not place a priority on this project when half of it is in their jurisdiction. We saw this with the Maysville Road. We saw it up in the Pine Valley area. Repeatedly the County is investing in infrastructure that is not in its jurisdiction. I think that we can't afford to continue that trend. If the City is receiving all of the

street and road dollars and does not consider the area a priority, why does the County?

**Cal Miller:** They don't receive all of the dollars. We know this road will be utilized by people that don't live in the city limits as a boundary road.

**Roy Buskirk:** That is true but what she is trying to express is that the road tax, CEDIT, COIT and all of that is broken down by the population. The population is moving into the city so the funding is moving into the city. This is one thing that we need to have a little bit more foresight when we look at these road projects. We need an agreement with the City that they will share in the cost of these projects.

**Linda Bloom:** We have those; the Interlocals. We are working on some right now on bigger projects. There are several bridges that they want to add trails to and so we are working on Interlocal. We tell them what our portion is and what theirs is. The big one is Bass Road. We have done nothing because that is on the City's radar. We have been told that it could possibly be ten to fifteen million.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Miller?

**Cal Miller:** Your comments haven't escaped me. I think we can distinguish the situation but however, Mrs. Reecor has pointed out that this is an important component of the Aboite Trails project that will benefit us all. That would be another reason to be in favor of it despite all of the reservations that I share with you with respect to the fact that half of this road is in the City.

**Linda Bloom:** Part of this too has been the delay of projects for example one is Dupont and the other is Aboite Center. These were to be done long before now and because of various reasons and federal dollars were involved in them they were delayed.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Ball?

**James Ball:** I wasn't very clear as to why the trail couldn't be independent of the road project.

**Linda Bloom:** It is a dangerous road with all of the new traffic. The condition of the road is not good. It was one of the three projects for this year. It wasn't just the trails that brought us to this conclusion.

**James Ball:** The biggest benefit I am hearing is the trails system but I agree with President Hughes that if half of the road is in the City and the other

half is in the County, why are we paying for all of it? I am interested to hear how the trails could be affected by this.

**Lynn Reecor:** A couple of things. The road came first and we would like government to always look at this. If you have the opportunity for a road widening project, it is easier to do a trail at the same time. One problem for us is we were told that the Aboite Center Road project was going to be done quite a while ago. The widening at Dicke Road and realigning Dicke with Lutheran Hospital was to be done quite a while ago and there have been delays after delays because of annexation. With the Aboite Center Road project, Lutheran Hospital is kicking in \$100,000 towards the trail along Dicke Road. We went to the City, when we heard about the \$100,000, and asked them if they would match it and they agreed to. We got a \$1,000,000 grant to do Covington Road. Some of that is going to be in the County but the City is kicking in \$150,000. I just wanted you to know that they are participating.

**Bill Hartman:** I am Bill Hartman with the Allen County Highway Department. The trails are part of our transportation plan these days. Our participation is going to be expected. The volunteer organizations, such as Ms. Reecor's, enhance what we do. Everything they are accomplishing is something we won't have to accomplish. The trails will be incorporated in our transportation programs from here on out. We have taken responsibility on Amber Road but they have taken a lot of responsibility on the development that they are doing. Adding trails will be something that is expected in the future.

**James Ball:** I am a big proponent of the trails and that is where I was going with my question. I think the trails are money well spent.

**Bill Hartman:** As Commissioner Bloom explained, development in the area and sight distance in the road is a problem. The road improvement is needed. The trail plan has just come into place in the last couple of years. As you know, many of these projects take three and four years from inception to design and we are just trying to respond to that. Just as with bridges, we have had many of those designed previously and now we have to anticipate the trails with them.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Moss?

**Paul Moss:** You made the point I was going to make. The road project is necessary with or without the trails. I tend to agree with your argument as well but I think this is just an unfortunate juncture. I hope we will plan for those types of things.

**James Ball:** From what I am hearing though that better planning has not transpired.

**Linda Bloom:** On what?

**Paula Hughes:** On planning between Allen County and Fort Wayne for transition of responsibility for road infrastructure.

**Linda Bloom:** Absolutely it is.

**Cal Miller:** Or sharing of cost.

**Linda Bloom:** Absolutely it is. That is what we are going to come forward with on projects with Interlocal agreements. That is what we have had in the past. Another one is going to be the bridge over on State Street where all of the flooding happens. Those are all Interlocals. We don't always know them ahead of time. They have priorities and so do we and I think some of the projects are going to suffer because of it. The County will not assume all of the responsibility if they don't see it as a priority to assist us with the cost.

**James Ball:** Has there been any discussion specifically on this project?

**Linda Bloom:** On this one, yes. This was ours before.

**James Ball:** So you discussed this with the City?

**Linda Bloom:** Oh, absolutely.

**James Ball:** And they aren't willing...

**Linda Bloom:** No they don't see this as a priority. There have been a lot of times that we have had Interlocals. Coldwater Road was an Interlocal along with Hillegas/Ardmore.

**Roy Buskirk:** I think what the Council is saying is that there has been some where we have slipped and we went ahead and did it. The Amber Road is one that we have known of the annexation for ten plus years. You can't say that we weren't aware that this was going to take place. I will support this project but it is frustrating that the County has let this happen to us again.

**Linda Bloom:** Look at Bass Road. It is developing at such a fast pace and where do we say okay, the City isn't interested in an Interlocal and what do

we do as a safety issue right now? How do we do this project if the City doesn't want to be included?

**Paula Hughes:** The City is annexing as quickly as it is being developed. So now if it is in the City's jurisdiction, it is their responsibility and not the County's to take care of roads in the City limits.

**Roy Buskirk:** The agreement should be that when the funding shifts from the County to the City, the responsibility shifts.

**Linda Bloom:** That is what an Interlocal is.

**Roy Buskirk:** So if they don't annex it until after the project is done, they don't pay for it.

**Linda Bloom:** I know that but our projects have been so delayed.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Vogt?

**Darren Vogt:** I would like to make a motion on item 24 for Amber Road in the amount of \$1,500,000.

**Roy Buskirk:** Second.

**Paula Hughes:** We have a motion and a second, is there any further discussion? I will state that I am not going to vote in support of this because I am not satisfied with what the Highway Department is carrying out. I am very supportive of the trails project and would vote for that alone if I could. I have to express my frustration. Any further discussion?

**Cal Miller:** I am going to support the motion fully recognizing the validity of President Hughes' comments. I am satisfied that we have been able to distinguish this request because of the shared boundaries.

**Paula Hughes:** Any further discussion?

**James Ball:** I will support that on the same basis because I do see the huge advantage of the trails but I do concur with President Hughes. Delays happen and I understand that but I think that is a consequence of it. Regardless of delays or not, if the project is not done and it is not paid for, if the funding is switched, then it becomes their responsibility.

**Paula Hughes:** Any further discussion? All in favor signify by saying aye. All opposed same sign. The motion has passed 6-1 (Paula).

**Lynn Reecor:** I would like to say thank you for working with us and we have been working on Eggeman Road and they are starting construction on Monday. There will be a ten foot trail all along there.

**Darren Vogt:** I would like to see you take that passion throughout the County.

**Lynn Reecor:** Dawn Ritchie is the Greenways coordinator and she is working with everyone all over the City.

**Paula Hughes:** We have an appropriation request for Youth Services Per Diem Fund.

**Millie McDonald:** I am Millie McDonald, Associate Director of Youth Services. I am here to request \$10,000 from the 737 Fund for Extra Deputy Hire. We are liable for direct supervision of our wards anytime they are in our care and we daily have court hearings etc and sometimes have to bring in extra hires.

**Cal Miller:** I would move for approval of item 25.

**James Ball:** 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 6-0-1 (Paul absent).

**Cal Miller:** Move for the approval of the amended salary ordinance for part time hire for pay range from \$6 to \$20 per hour.

**James Ball:** 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 6-0-1 (Paul absent). We have, before us, a request for transfer in iMAP.

**Alex Wernher:** I am Alex Wernher, iMAP Director. I am looking to transfer some funds from our consulting line item to the Extra Deputy Hire. What we would like to do is to pay part time for one of our volunteers who has been collecting address points for the last four years. This would be the cheapest avenue than hiring a consulting firm. He has been trained and is very experienced in doing this job.

**Paula Hughes:** Council any questions?

**Roy Buskirk:** He is on the Sheriff's Department now?

**Alex Wernher:** Yes, but as I understand it, he is not a paid officer.

**Patt Kite:** He is a reserve officer.

**Alex Wernher:** And with this, I was instructed by the Auditor's office, an increase in the pay rate to \$15 per hour. The iMAP Board approved the \$15 per hour back in April. He will not be working more than fifteen hours per week.

**Paula Hughes:** So, do we need a salary ordinance as well?

**Tera Klutz:** It doesn't hurt to pass the salary ordinance.

**Cal Miller:** Move for approval of the transfer of item 26 to 27.

**Darren Vogt:** Second.

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

**Patt Kite:** I have a question. He uses a vehicle for that, right? Whose vehicle is that?

**Alex Wernher:** The Sheriff's Department.

**Patt Kite:** So they are funding all of the gas?

**Alex Wernher:** Yes.

**Paula Hughes:** Any further discussion? All in favor signify by saying aye. All opposed same sign. The motion has passed 7-0.

**Cal Miller:** Move for approval of amended salary ordinance of a range up to \$15 per hour.

**Darren Vogt:** 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. We now have a transfer request in Adult Probation.

**Cal Miller:** Is there something we should be bringing up concerning the use of the vehicle that Councilman Kite brought up? What would be the best way to approach that?

**Darren Vogt:** That is a vehicle usage policy issue.

**Paula Hughes:** It might be something that is knowingly accommodated by the Sheriff's Department because the Sheriff's Department benefits from the information that is gathered.

**James Ball:** To be used during working hours?

**Patt Kite:** I think it is a take-home vehicle.

**Paula Hughes:** Reserve officers have take-home vehicles?

**Patt Kite:** A number of reserve officers have take-home vehicles.

**Paula Hughes:** Well, there is something. Let's get to the transfer request for Adult Probation.

**Eric Zimmerman:** Good morning. I am Eric Zimmerman, Chief Probation Officer. Before you this morning is a portion of the Weed and Seed grant money that is to be used for the development of the website for Victims' Services. This is in the amount of \$1,438.

**Paula Hughes:** Council any questions?

**Cal Miller:** Move for approval of the transfer from Weed and Seed to Contractual in the amount of \$1,438.

**James Ball:** 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.

**Eric Zimmerman:** Councilman Miller, you had asked the Sheriff about health issues and I had received a call Friday night concerning an inmate. He was released on his own recognizance because of his illness. He had his own medical insurance and resources but was under the Sheriff's care.

**Cal Miller:** It makes sense that if the person isn't a real threat to the community, to not have to pay that. Glad to hear that we are doing the same thing as some of the other counties.

**Paula Hughes:** It never ceases to amaze me that we generate hundreds of thousands of dollars a year in the commissary fund with prisoners being able to spend money to buy candy bars and cigarettes but they can't pay their medical bills.

**Patt Kite:** They don't buy cigarettes anymore because it is a non-smoking facility. That was a huge revenue stream that we lost.

**Paula Hughes:** Okay. Is Tim Miller here?

**Jerry Noble:** Tim couldn't be here today so he asked me to sit in for him. My name is Jerry Noble, Court Executive of Allen County Superior Court.

**Lin Wilson:** I am Lin Wilson, Grant Administrator.

**Jerry Noble:** Since we are working together, we have an opportunity to apply for a grant. There are Homeland Security funds that have become available. We have some very specific needs. We have some equipment that is part of the security infrastructure and is aging and need of repair or replacement. There is a good opportunity to receive funding for that.

**Paula Hughes:** Council any questions?

**Darren Vogt:** So moved for Circuit Court to apply for the Security Enhancement grant.

**Patt Kite:** 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. Noble, you are also speaking on behalf of Judge Pratt**

**Jerry Noble:** Yes. I will defer to Lin Wilson on this one.

**Lin Wilson:** This information just became available to us yesterday. This is a renewal grant for passing through to the YMCA youth service bureau located on South Clinton. The grant is \$80,017 and would be matched with \$35,000 in cash from Foellinger grants and in-kind match of \$6,696 from Superior

Court. Funding would provide for personnel, contractual services, travel, equipment and general operation. This will also work in conjunction with providing services the youth and families that Judge Pratt deals with. It is federal money that is being made available.

**Paula Hughes:** Council any questions?

**Cal Miller:** Move to approve the grant application.

**Darren Vogt:** 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. The discussion item has been withdrawn from the agenda. Is there any other business to come before the Council?

**Cal Miller:** I do have an item I would like to address with the Council. I am the liaison to the ACJC and I had a meeting with one of the Chiefs, Mike Collingsworth. It is in reference to the UPROB pay grid. As you may recall, the minimum salary schedule for probation officers was set by a state mandate and that required Allen County to come up with some money for some of the officers. There is some down-side in that we had said we would not apply raises to the UPROB if other county employees got raises. We were in a different financial position than we are now. What has occurred is that the freeze on the raises for anyone on UPROB has created a scenario where some of the superiors are now making less than their direct reports. There are some that have worked for the County and won't see a raise for anywhere from four to seven years. We thought that the UPROB grid folks would not get the inflationary raises and that may have been flawed. These salaries set by the state are minimums. The premise for our decision was that the state set the pay and if we gave them raises, they would be getting overpaid. I think that premise is just wrong. I would like to have that issue discussed when we talk about the pay raises.

**Paula Hughes:** This sounds like an issue that should be considered by the Personnel Committee. There was a Personnel Committee meeting this morning before this meeting and I don't feel that we solved much. There will continue to be these meetings and I think it is appropriate for this to be brought up there. I would need more information before taking any action on that.

**Cal Miller:** And I threw it out as something for consideration. They have been putting together data that would highlight the issues that I have discussed.

**Paula Hughes:** I need clarification because I know there have been a couple of times that we have been asked to consider the difference between state wages and what the County has been paying employees. There was one department where there were state mandated increases that was in one lump sum. I thought those were the wages that were then frozen.

**Cal Miller:** That was the UPROB grid and you are correct that it increased some of the people significantly but it was not across the board. There were some with significant years of service that were bumped up but there were others were above the minimum grid and have been frozen for a number of years. That is my point, what are the minimum standards? Is that supposed to dictate what a person in Allen County is supposed to get and then they wait four, five, six or seven years for the grid to catch up with them?

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Miller, I would welcome your passion on the Personnel Committee. The conversation you are having has been had in the Personnel Committee numerous times.

**Cal Miller:** Before I get attacked for not attending the Personnel Committee, I am not on the Personnel Committee. Right?

**Paula Hughes:** Right.

**Cal Miller:** This is an appropriate forum to raise the issue for consideration and the Personnel Committee would ultimately bring it out to the Council. Am I correct in that?

**Paula Hughes:** Yes.

**Cal Miller:** I thank everyone who is on the Personnel Committee because it is something that I cannot fit into my schedule at the moment.

**Paula Hughes:** Actually, I think the appropriate venue would be for the department and its liaison to submit it to the Personnel Committee.

**Darren Vogt:** I think if you can help us with the information, so that we can understand the scenario.

**Cal Miller:** I will ask them to present that to you. That way they can outline their concerns.

**Paula Hughes:** Is there any other business to come before the Council?

**Darren Vogt:** Approve to waive the second reading of any matter approved today for which it may be deemed necessary for the County Council meeting of September 14, 2006.

**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. I would like a formal motion to adjourn so that we can reconvene in our budget session.

**Cal Miller:** Move to adjourn.

**Darren Vogt:** Second.

**Paula Hughes:** We have a motion and a second. All in favor signify by saying aye. All opposed same sign. The motion has passed 7-0. I will call to order the Allen County Council Annual Budget hearing continuation. We have several items to vote on this morning to approve the 2007 Allen County Budget. The first is the 2007 Ordinance for Appropriation for the expenses of Allen County Government. Auditor, I ask for a point of clarification. I presume we need to take each one of these individually.

**Lisa Blosser:** I think before you move ahead, you did balance the revenue with the budget projection. We were budgeted at \$82,079,652. That is the total 2007 General Fund Budget. You have earmarked within your own budget for stormwater maintenance, \$563,000; other capital expenditures, \$1,000,000. The one issue yet to be decided was the employee raises and reclassification project. That should probably be discussed before you move ahead with anything else.

**Paula Hughes:** I will briefly recap the meeting this morning. We talked about and have been involved in this project for quite a while. We had three goals in mind when we set out on this; the first being, to compare the Allen County grid to the external market; the second being to rectify internal inequities; and the third was to evaluate and develop a grid for the Executive staff. We have made progress on all three fronts but we are not where we wanted to be. We do have data collected towards goal one but we still need to consider benefit analysis and retention improvement issues. The internal inequities have been apparently bogged down by the job description process that is not completed yet. On the Executive grid, it has been established and classification of positions has been started but is not complete. We do not have good enough information on any of these three to move forward. Would

anyone else on Council like to comment on any of this? Councilman Buskirk had a suggestion this morning that he may want to bring forward.

**Roy Buskirk:** My suggestion was that we give an across-the-board raise to all County employees, except those that have been redlined, two and a half percent (2.5%) plus the step increases. And that the step increases be changed from annually to being on the anniversary date. In essence the step increases would be \$242,000 and then by changing the step increases on the anniversary basis, the maximum cost for that would be \$242,000.

**Darren Vogt:** Was that in the form of a motion?

**Roy Buskirk:** Yes.

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

**Paula Hughes:** We have a motion and a second, is there any further discussion? Councilman Miller and then Councilman Moss.

**Cal Miller:** Go ahead Councilman Moss.

**Paul Moss:** I will support that but in the past I have been hesitant about across-the-board raises. I remain hesitant because I think we are better serving the employees if we can do this in a more structured fashion. It is disappointing to not be able to accomplish that for this budget session. We need to recognize the hard work that people are doing. The one question is that the CPI Index at 3.8% seems high.

**Lisa Blosser:** It was actually higher for the past year at 4.1%.

**Roy Buskirk:** But for the past six months, it has been 3.8%.

**Paula Hughes:** I thought it sounded high too. I thought CPI was averaging about 2% a year. To hear it jumped to 4% is unnerving.

**Cal Miller:** Anyone have any idea what the significant components are that drives that increase?

**Darren Vogt:** Gas, utilities in general.

**Cal Miller:** Since I wasn't at the Personnel Committee this morning, I was wondering what the thought process was for the 2.5%.

**Paula Hughes:** We have \$1,849,000 in the current budget and the 2.5% was backed into because we wanted to have enough step increases in the current grid system and we wanted to have the ability to change the one-time hit for the step increases being moved to the anniversary date.

**Cal Miller:** What are the virtues of establishing the anniversary date for the step?

**Paula Hughes:** The belief is that it would improve morale. Currently, there are people who are eligible for their step increase in January or February and don't receive it until the following January. The mission of the Personnel Committee is to take care of the employees. We thought that this was one way that we could express the sentiment of that caretaking. Councilwoman Kite?

**Patt Kite:** A comment, and we might need to address it separately, but the officers in the Sheriff's Department are not on the step system. They have a longevity system. Are they going to be on the anniversary date as well?

**Paula Hughes:** How is that done currently?

**Jackie Scheuman:** Currently, the longevity is based on previous year's salary. So 2007 longevity is based on 2006 salary. And it changes every January for the people on the three year plan.

**Roy Buskirk:** So it is on the calendar and not the anniversary.

**Jackie Scheuman:** I believe that is set up by the Merit Board.

**Patt Kite:** It is just an issue that I know someone will bring up.

**James Ball:** Councilman Miller, for your information, I like Councilman Buskirk's idea but I would like to take it a step further and have it be 2% or 2.5% across the board but then let's put another 1% or a gross dollar amount that we distribute back to each department. We can let them distribute that amongst their staff, giving them tools to distribute these monies to the more prolific performers.

**Cal Miller:** More of a merit based system.

**James Ball:** Yes.

**Paula Hughes:** We can't do that as well as fund the step increases to the anniversary date.

**James Ball:** Is there some extra monies that we could tap into?

**Cal Miller:** Is this an on-going discussion that the Personnel Committee is having?

**James Ball:** I think that when we discussed it this morning there was a fair amount of agreement in that.

**Darren Vogt:** I think they were supporting it but just not the timing of it from this budget cycle. It is an idea worth merit.

**James Ball:** It is not a large amount but it steps it into the direction we should be heading.

**Cal Miller:** What type of discretion or rules would accompany those dollars? Would it go to the department head or the elected official?

**James Ball:** What I would ask them to look at are a couple of things. If I was a department head, I would look at the inequities compared to the external, which is what we are trying to do. But it allows them to reward those who achieve outstanding performance.

**Darren Vogt:** Would we need a formal process for them to follow and to keep it consistent?

**Paula Hughes:** I think if it were done as a bonus instead of an increase in pay, it would take care of that issue. That way, it would keep people from moving off the grid by increasing the base pay. A bonus program can be done at any point throughout the year. Councilman Moss?

**Paul Moss:** The first question is there a motion on the table?

**Paula Hughes:** Yes.

**Paul Moss:** So we are talking about adjusting that motion in midstream, I guess. There are a couple of things I want to clarify. My personal preference would be to know what the dollar figure is for the 2.5%. I thought we were going to look at 2% so that we could look at some other things down the road. The other thing in terms of Councilman Ball's suggestion is I have some concerns operationally. The original intent, way back when, in terms of the salary survey and reclassification was to look at internal inequities. My fear is that by doing what you are suggesting, we would simply increase the internal inequities. I think there is some value in having a more centralized

approach. I am in favor of a merit-based system but I don't know if we can get to that at this point. This takes you in that direction. I would be interested to hear what the Human Resources Director has to say about that.

**James Ball:** If I could reply to that real quickly. I guess a bonus structure is truly discretionary and not something that we have to do moving forward. I strongly encourage that but in talking about inequities, they could easily be substantiated by the department head by saying, "Look, this person, in my department, is doing an extremely good job." It aligns more with the person than the position. Homogenizing the positions is not optimum. You will get those differences depending on how the department head sees their employee performing that function.

**Cal Miller:** A couple of questions that would lead to the point that we need to explore a guideline or policy before agreeing to fund it is the prolific performer. Who is going to evaluate her performance? We would need to work that out. I would be in favor of exploring this fully and Councilman Moss has talked about this since he has been sitting up here as well. The Prosecutor has indicated that she would like to reward her staff for the things that the salary range doesn't support. She would like to incentivize them to be more productive employees but I am fearful until the Personnel Committee has wrestled with some of the issues that pop up. There needs to be some guidelines to follow.

**Brian Dumford:** I am Brian Dumford, Director of Human Resources. Councilman Ball and I had a very nice discussion last week to go over some of the personnel policies and issues that we are dealing with. While I would share your sentiments about giving more discretion to the department heads, I also echo Councilman Moss and Miller that we need to be more comfortable if we had some discussions and framework to provide some direction to the department heads.

**James Ball:** I would suggest that we fund it and give you a reason to have that discussion.

**Cal Miller:** Another earmark, maybe.

**Darren Vogt:** The number, I don't believe the Auditor's office has done it, but I think the number is \$1,109,672 which would be the 2.5%. That does not include the steps.

**Jackie Scheuman:** Some of the people in the \$242,000 will not be higher.

**Roy Buskirk:** The maximum amount with the 2.5% and the steps going to anniversary dates would be \$1,954,084. And then if you just considered the anniversary dates, you would take half of that for the first six months and half for the other six months, it would be \$1,472,981.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Miller?

**Cal Miller:** The other nuance we would have to tackle is how do we allocate the money that we set aside? Is it by population of employees in each department? Is it by the service provided? We will have to work through some of those.

**James Ball:** I think, as it stands right now, if we do 1%, we could figure out what that department would have gotten at one percent of the payroll.

**Cal Miller:** That seems like a rational way to go but is there a reason to consider another way that would provide more dollars for some departments and less for other?

**James Ball:** In my opinion, it is a slight shift in the direction that I would advocate from a blanket across-the-board to a little more discretion to the department heads. Let's give them the opportunity to decide it.

**Paul Moss:** If it is that strong of an argument, then why not make the whole thing the 2.5%?

**James Ball:** I think it is a step in the right direction. I guess allocating 1% as opposed to 2.5% is a tougher task.

**Paul Moss:** My fear is that after dealing with this all of the reclassification issues, if we throw one more thing into it we are going to complicate it even more. I am a little gun shy in that regard to add another component at this point. I would rather get through that and then talk about it. If we have to earmark the funds...

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

**Darren Vogt:** The thing we also have to keep in mind is the grid system. We don't want to jeopardize that system. When we talk about putting the full dollar in a salary line that could disrupt how our grid system is set up. I would see this concept as a bonus, one-time reward for being a top performer in the County. I see it as an amount for the cost of living and an amount for a bonus for doing a good job. I wouldn't be in favor of putting it all into that.

**Cal Miller:** So many layers of complexity. Let me throw another one out there that concerns me. We know in the private sector bonuses for merit and prolific performers are something that happens frequently. Businesses use that type of compensation. I wonder in the environment of county government where we have political considerations that come in to play and there is not a profit line, there is a realm of considerations about how one measures the prolific performers. The other consideration is whether the stowers of the bonuses are equitable in the way that they do that. We don't have a tangible way of evaluating a performance. I throw that into the mix as well. I would like to see the pitfalls as well as the virtues.

**Brian Dumford:** As Councilman Ball and I discussed, this is something that we need to move towards in county government. While I agree, I feel that it is something that we need to look forward to with evaluation and planning. I think we can get there. The layers of complexity with the organization and the environment that we have, I am not trying to slow down the working of county government but we need to make measured steps.

**Cal Miller:** Measured steps that ultimately benefit the taxpayers in terms of the enhanced performance. The last point I would like to make is that we have a lot on our plate right now. The same time that we are trying to go through the whole analysis, we might be setting forth how you measure a performance in each department.

**Brian Dumford:** There is a lot going on right now.

**Cal Miller:** I am not sure where that leaves us.

**Darren Vogt:** I call for the question for the motion that is on the floor.

**Paula Hughes:** Can we have a restatement of the motion, please?

**Roy Buskirk:** The motion is that there would be a straight, across-the-board pay raise of 2.5% plus the steps being changed from the current annual to an anniversary date of employment. The current redlined employees would remain redlined.

**Cal Miller:** I don't know how we can make this decision in a vacuum if we are seriously considering Councilman Ball's proposal. Some of the 2.5% may be used to fund the discretionary bonuses. Secondly, I would not support this motion until the Personnel Committee has heard what the final tag would be.

**Roy Buskirk:** We discussed this in the morning meeting.

**Cal Miller:** You specifically discussed UPROB.

**Darren Vogt:** Yes.

**Paula Hughes:** Yes.

**Darren Vogt:** Keep in mind that we can adjust those later if evidence warrants it later in the year. I think for us to move forward for the 2007 budget, we bring those issues and if we need to make an adjustment, we make an adjustment.

**Cal Miller:** Is anyone concerned that the 2.5% doesn't leave any room for the proposal made by Councilman Ball?

**Paul Moss:** I have already expressed that which is why I am not going to support the motion as is.

**Darren Vogt:** Actually it does. It leaves approximately three hundred and some thousand dollars which would be close to the 1% depending on when the steps come in and the anniversary date. Contrary to what you are saying is about \$400,000 roughly. There is some money set aside.

**Cal Miller:** But that is assuming that you are willing to give a 3.5% raise. The decision on what the compensation is going to be needs to be made.

**Roy Buskirk:** The information that has been presented through this study is the fact that we need to make some adjustments in the wages. Actually, the 3.5% is not as much as what is being recommended. This is why I feel that we need to make the 2.5% and step changes and have funds that we could make some other moves.

**Paula Hughes:** We are violating parliamentary procedure. We had a motion and a second. The question was called and we had a restatement of the motion. We need to vote on the motion that is on the table and you can vote up or down. I have an interest in keeping this moving forward and would like to deal with this motion. **All those in favor, please signify by saying aye. Let's do this by hand count. All those in favor, please signify by raising your hand. Four. All those opposed same sign. Three (Miller, Moss and Ball). The motion fails 4-3.(At least five votes are needed to set salary.)** Are there other options?

**Paul Moss:** In order to keep this moving, I would put forth a motion that essentially mirrors Councilman Buskirk's but is with a 2% raise. The primary reason for that is that we are dealing with a finite budget here and some of the discussions that we have had about the job reclassification, there are

some numbers attached to that which keep going up. We need to be very cautious and deliberative in this issue and try and keep as much room as possible in this. We also need to acknowledge the work that people do and give them a raise. So that is my motion.

**Cal Miller:** I will support your motion but for different reasons. I think the conversation about merit money has merit and that the 2% will allow us to pool some dollars for 2007 that may be in place to be awarded at the end of 2007. And the consideration of the restructuring.

**Paula Hughes:** Is that a second?

**Cal Miller:** Yes.

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

**James Ball:** Just real quick. My concern is that we still have very little action. I don't think we have gone far enough. I would still firmly support that we do a 2% with a 1% added on for discretionary, as a bonus.

**Paula Hughes:** **Any further discussion? All in favor of the motion of giving the 2% with funding of the step increases and anniversary dates for when the step is earned, signify by raising your hand. All opposed same sign. The motion has passed 6-1 (Ball).**

**Cal Miller:** Councilman Ball, I don't think your proposal is dead. We can add to that as we go through next year.

**Paula Hughes:** Okay. I would echo Councilman Miller's comments that it is not dead. County government sometimes just moves at a snail's pace. Sometimes that is good because it keeps us from making mistakes. Council members we need to vote on the Ordinance of Appropriations for the expenses for Allen County Government. Is there a formal resolution for that?

**Lisa Blosser:** Yes, it is one of the forms in front of you and why don't we do them in order.

**Cal Miller:** Move for approval of the Ordinance of Appropriation for the expenses of Allen County Government and its institutions for the year ending December 31, 2007 for the herein described funds and for the purposes herein specified, has been read and considered by the members of the Allen County Council.

**Darren Vogt:** 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.

**Cal Miller:** Move for the approval of the 2007 Salary Ordinance with the changes with the last two paragraphs being; Classified employees shall have their step increase effective on the first day of the pay period beginning after their anniversary date.

**Darren Vogt:** 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.

**Roy Buskirk:** I abstain.

**Paula Hughes:** The motion has passed 6-0-1(Buskirk abstained).

**Cal Miller:** Move for the Salary Ordinance for 2007 for the Elected Officials.

**Darren Vogt:** 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 6-0-1 (Buskirk abstained).

**Cal Miller:** Move for the approval for the Salary Ordinance for Chief Deputies and Department Heads.

**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 6-0-1 (Buskirk abstained).

**Cal Miller:** Move for the approval for the Salary Ordinance for Executive and Special Occupations for 2007.

**Patt Kite:** 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 6-0-1(Buskirk abstained).

**Cal Miller:** Move for the approval of the Salary Ordinance for Attorneys and Doctors for 2007.

**Darren Vogt:** 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.

**Roy Buskirk:** I abstain.

**Paula Hughes:** The motion has passed 6-0-1 (Buskirk abstained).

**Cal Miller:** Move for approval of the 2007 Part Time Hire Salary Ordinance.

**Darren Vogt:** 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 6-0-1(Buskirk abstained).

**Cal Miller:** Move for the Ordinance for the Appropriation and Tax Rates. Be it ordained by the County Council of Allen County, Indiana: That for the expenses of the County government and its institutions for the year ending December 31, 2007, the sums of money shown on Budget Form 4-A are hereby appropriated and ordered set apart out of the several funds herein named and for the purposes herein specified, subject to the laws governing the same. Such sums herein appropriated shall be held to include all expenditures authorized to be made during the year, unless otherwise expressly stipulated and provided for by law. In addition for the purpose of raising revenue to meet the necessary expenses of County government, tax rates are shown on Budget Form 4-B and included herein Budget Forms 4-A and 4-B for all funds and departments are made a part of the budget report and submitted here within.

**Darren Vogt:** 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 6-0-1 (Buskirk abstained). Do we want to have an appointment of a person to look at the uncontrollable expenses? I think it

should be discussed as part of the budget process. Are there any suggestions on how to move forward with that, so we don't lose track of it?

**Cal Miller:** I think Bruce Little would be a fantastic to head that up.

**Darren Vogt:** Sidonie Inman since she does utilities for all of the buildings or maybe both of them together.

**Cal Miller:** I believe I am the liaison to the Purchasing Department so I will talk to Bruce about this. James, are you the liaison for the Building Maintenance?

**James Ball:** Yes.

**Paula Hughes:** Any other business to come before the Council before we close the budget hearings?

**Darren Vogt:** Motion to close the budget hearings.

**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 for joining us.

**The next meeting will be held on October 26, 2006 at 8:30 am.**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:43 am.