

**ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
April 19, 2007
8:30 AM**

The Allen County Council met on Thursday, April 19, 2007 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: Paul G. Moss, President; Roy A. Buskirk, Vice President; Cal S. Miller, Maye L. Johnson, Darren E. Vogt, Paula S. Hughes and Paulette Kite.

Also Attending: Lisa Blosser, Auditor; Tera Klutz, Chief Deputy Auditor; Jackie Scheuman, Finance Manager and Becky Butler, Administrative Assistant..

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by President Paul Moss with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Darren Vogt made a motion to approve the minutes of March 15, 2007. Roy Buskirk seconded it. Motion passed 7-0.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Lisa Blosser, Auditor: There are no requests for additional appropriations from the County General Fund today. I would like to update you that all of the appointments have been made to the Property Tax Adjustment Board. I will let you know who they are. The Mayor has appointed Pat Roller; Fort Wayne Community Schools has appointed Steve Corona; the Commissioners have appointed John Stafford, Laura Fries, Lance Mintch and Joe Ruffolo and of course, your appointment is Darren Vogt.

Paul Moss: So when would the first meeting be? I assume they are in the process of organizing it. Has there been any discussion along the lines of a support staff?

Lisa Blosser: That would be up to you. I believe that Tera and I will probably be working with that board quite a bit.

Paul Moss: I have not had a conversation with the Commissioners about that specifically but I will do that. I don't know if anyone else has.

Darren Vogt: I have not. The names were just finalized on the 15th?

Lisa Blosser: Yes.

Darren Vogt: One of the other things we need to concern ourselves with is that there is some state legislation that may make the Tax Adjustment Board go away.

Lisa Blosser: That is at the end of 2008.

Darren Vogt: Is it in 2008?

Tera Klutz: After 2008.

Darren Vogt: Okay. We need to keep that in the back of our minds as to how to that would roll the Tax Adjustment Board versus the newly created Tax Capital Improvement or whatever it is called.

Paul Moss: Are there any other questions in regard to Auditor Blosser's financial report?

Paula Hughes: Move for approval.

Roy Buskirk: Second.

Paul Moss: **Is there any further discussion? All in favor signify by saying aye. All opposed same sign. The motion carries 7-0.** Thank you. The first appropriation, item number one, is in the Technology Fund software for the Highway Department. If you all recall, we did have a discussion at the last meeting in regards to this. There were some questions at that time and if I recall correctly, Mr. Hartman wanted to defer to someone else in the Highway Department. Mr. Sorg, if you would introduce yourself for the record. If there are additional questions we will entertain those at this time.

Jeff Sorg: Good morning, I am Jeff Sorg, Allen County Highway Department Operations Manager. It is my understanding that we had some questions above and beyond what Bill had for last month. I would like to give you the proposal that we received from the FASTER Company and that we are proposing to purchase this from.

Roy Buskirk: Is this the same information that we were provided with last month?

Jeff Sorg: Yes. I guess you are somewhat familiar with it then.

Paul Moss: If I recall correctly, some of the primary questions were in terms of the return on investment.

Cal Miller: At the time, Mr. Hartman was presenting the proposal I believe that they were asking for appropriations of about \$100,000. The primary question that was proposed to Mr. Hartman, the Council wanted some more information as to why

this program justified spending \$100,000? Now the question would be refined as to why would this program would justify spending \$36,000?

Roy Buskirk: But I would like to add to that this is a little misleading that this is showing \$36,000 is from the Highway Department?

Jeff Sorg: \$36,000 is from the Technology Fund. I believe the Commissioners, out of...

Tera Klutz: Cum Cap.

Roy Buskirk: Cum Cap.

Jeff Sorg: ...are giving \$20,000 and the Highway Department will pick up the remainder. The Highway Department and the Sheriff's Department will have the lion's share of the vehicles. Bill went to Linda Bloom and talked to her about some cost sharing amongst the departments that will be implementing this software. That is how we justified the additional monies.

Roy Buskirk: So as far as the County's expense, we are still looking at a total of \$100,000.

Jeff Sorg: If you look at the page that has the summary of costs, page 18, it talks about the first year expenditure of \$65,250. They have itemized that out as to how it is to be expended.

Paul Moss: Page 18?

Jeff Sorg: Yes, page 18 of 35. And then we have the annual support services of \$8,400 a year. I believe the Highway Department will handle the annual support due to the fact that we will be the major beneficiary.

Paul Moss: Is that just a licensing or is there some sort of support?

Jeff Sorg: Yes. If you go to the next page, they get more specific on the annual support services. There is some training involved.

Roy Buskirk: I think the one thing I was looking at in this information is on page 22. It is showing the annual support and the increase of it where it goes up to a 3% increase over the base of \$9,600.

Jeff Sorg: Is that page 21 of 35?

Roy Buskirk: I am on 22.

Darren Vogt: It starts on 21.

Roy Buskirk: I guess it does.

Cal Miller: Actually, yours looks a little different than ours.

Roy Buskirk: It does? I'm sorry.

Paul Moss: That is not terribly unusual. This is obviously in the form of a contract. This is more informational here. I assume there is a software agreement out there that has been reviewed.

Jeff Sorg: Mr. Fishing has reviewed it. Obviously we are not going to move forward until we have legal staff blessing.

Paul Moss: Has this been discussed in some detail with your liaison, Roy Buskirk?

Roy Buskirk: I have not had any discussion on this. That is why I am concerned is because we are actually spending \$100,000 for this program.

Jeff Sorg: Probably a little less than that.

Roy Buskirk: And then the on-going additional costs than what we currently have. I would like to know what actual savings we are going to have. Correct me if I am wrong but one of the big things is that it will enable to keep track of when the oil needs to be changed in these vehicles. Is that because it is on a computer program? I think most of us look on the dashboard at the sticker that says when we need the oil changed.

Paul Moss: We all don't have 300 vehicles.

Roy Buskirk: I know that but the driver of that vehicle is the one that is going to know when the oil needs to be changed.

Jeff Sorg: We have different drivers. It is really not that simple. We have just shy of ten million dollars worth of equipment that just the Highway Department maintains. The dump trucks are not driven by the same guys everyday and they are pretty simple but they only account for a small portion of the equipment that we maintain. For example, right now we are rebuilding a couple of road graders. We are looking at \$25,000 to \$30,000 just to do maintenance. It goes way beyond just changing oil. We don't do just periodic maintenance. We try to perform preventative maintenance and try to fix a problem before it happens. Wear on items can't be scheduled like an oil change. You can't put a sticker on a road grader that says to change the paint guns every six months or every two years.

Roy Buskirk: Well, it is based on the hours that it is used.

Jeff Sorg: Not necessarily. It depends on the use that we are using it for. There are some jobs that are pretty easy. Some jobs are extremely harsh for the equipment. It is not as simple as saying that you are going to do this or that on a piece of equipment. Some of it is. But some of it goes way beyond that. We have some highly specialized stuff. To get back to your original question on how we are going to save money, if you look on page 1 of 35, let me start by saying that we have already cut our mechanical staff by probably 15% in the last two years. We are quite aware that with the Aboite annexation and other things that have happened that our funding is decreasing. We are trying to be proactive. As far as staff reductions, yes, I see the possibility of a further staff reduction. However, there are a lot of other things that I can't put numbers on. It allows you to track every employee that we have working on this stuff. I can run a report whenever I want, at my fingertips, and see how much time he billed to a vehicle. Are we putting too much time into the graders and instead we need new graders? I can glean reports that I think will be quite helpful in a lot of ways. This has what they call life cycle costs. In summary, what that means is the cost of a certain piece of equipment is X-amount over its life. Sometimes those have to be accelerated and sometimes they can be extended. With this tool, I can look at this whenever I want without a lot of effort on the part of our accounting staff and determine that it is time to get rid of a piece of equipment. If you look at return on investment, that may answer a few of your questions. I have spoken with the City of Fort Wayne and they have been using this system for a number of years and have had great success with it. They think it has been a real good purchase for them.

Paul Moss: Councilman Vogt?

Darren Vogt: You hit on one of my questions and that is about the ability to track the hours. So what this will do is, if the repair is supposed to take eight hours and the guy is taking twelve hours, is to help you realize that something is not working and you can track the hours that are worked on a regular basis as well.

Jeff Sorg: Right. I think what a lot of people use this software for is to see how much time is billed to miscellaneous. If a mechanic is told to service a piece of equipment, he punches that into the computer for a work order. When he is done with it, he punches out on the work order. The nature of the beast is that some days, you are swamped. We are not worried about those days. But if you see that the code is being used frequently and isn't anything specific, then it is time to look and see what they are doing. And you can look and see if you have too many people. Or it can work the other way and show that you don't have enough people. If the time is constantly billed to equipment and I know we have got three or four pieces waiting to be fixed, you can have a problem the other way too. It gives you a better picture of what is happening.

Darren Vogt: Can you expound on how you are doing it now?

Jeff Sorg: Right now we have put together, in house, a program that I believe we use Access for. However, it doesn't do reports. If a unit comes in to be repaired, the chief

mechanic can pull that up and see what has been done in the last year. You can't get a big picture such as going back seven years. If we are having problems, he can't compare if the brakes were worked on more than a year ago. He can bring up every International Truck or Volvo truck or Sterling truck and see if we are having a problem with a certain brand of truck. Then he could get with that manufacturer and see what can be done about the problem. Another place that I envision a real big savings is that whenever you buy a part for a vehicle, you enter the warranty information on that part. Right now, if you are replacing brakes or an electrical part, we can see that we replaced that a year ago, but we don't know what the warranty is. This will track that and pop up that this is a warranty item. I know we are missing a lot of that now. As hard as we try, every part manufacturer has different warranties. I think that alone will pay for itself in a couple of years.

Darren Vogt: Right now, you are not tracking the hours as detailed as this system will be able to do as far as labor.

Jeff Sorg: Yes and no. Every mechanic has a time sheet that they fill out. It is extremely time consuming for me to try to get a report. If I want a report from our accountant, I have to ask them for eight or nine mechanics and then look for the information.

Darren Vogt: One more question and that is about the annual support. It is talking about a server. Every year we will need a server? I am a little confused on that. And every year we are buying client software? I am assuming that is the licensing every year. Is that what that is?

Jeff Sorg: Are you looking at the annual support?

Darren Vogt: Yes, I am looking at the \$8,400 for the first year.

Paul Moss: You wouldn't be replacing the server every year.

Darren Vogt: But if you look at it, it carries straight through on the cost going forward.

Paul Moss: That is probably licensing costs.

Darren Vogt: It breaks it down to Server MS SQL for \$4,000 and it says that support services are calculated at 20% of the total cost of the software products, interface and customization. They are capping it at 20% and that is what you pay and then it says you are getting a new server every year. I am not understanding this.

Jeff Sorg: I will have to check into that. That would be unacceptable unless it is updates or something.

Darren Vogt: It would lower the cost in the long run if you don't have to pay for a server every year.

Jeff Sorg: It seems kind of bizarre.

Paul Moss: Councilman Miller, I think you had a question?

Cal Miller: What funds is Highway contributing to this?

Jeff Sorg: We are asking for \$36,000 from the Technology Fund. The Commissioners committed \$20,000 and everything above that will come from Highway. You can customize these things once we get this on line. There are some features in this hand out that you can get. They have allowed a little bit for customization. We know we are going to order bar coding which will help control our inventory. There are some other modules that are available on this and we would pick up any of that.

Cal Miller: What funding source out of Highway would you use for those that are not being covered by the request for \$36,000 or the Commissioners' pledge of \$20,000? Where does the money come from in Highway to pick up the extras?

Jeff Sorg: I anticipate using out of the equipment line item. I think it fits well if you look at our line items. It will mean that there is something that we can't buy, as far as equipment. Right now our equipment is in pretty decent shape. Ten or twelve years ago, the Highway Department had a bunch of junk. They had trucks with no heaters or defrosters and they were hazards on the road. We have since really improved that situation.

Cal Miller: Can the current budget of the Highway Department absorb this cost without having to tap the Technology Fund?

Jeff Sorg: I wouldn't say we are in that good of shape. We are looking at some serious budget cuts in the 2008 year. We don't really have our software fund because it is shot for the year. Bill, do you know? I think we are pretty well committed on that for this year, aren't we?

Bill Hartman: Yes.

Paul Moss: Philosophically, I think this is something that is a good idea to be able to create the reports and hopefully create some efficiencies within the department. But it has been my experience that in the grand scheme of things and in software costs, this is probably pretty low. It is always pretty difficult to try and understand why one software package is really expensive and one is less expensive. It is very hard to get your arms around why a piece of software costs as much as it does. What I would suggest, if it is not going to put too much of a wrench into your needs, is for you to have a more thorough discussion outside of this arena and with your liaison so that

some of these questions can be hashed out. Also, make sure that Mr. Fishing has had an opportunity and is comfortable with the contract and then come back here again. Or if you prefer to take the risk of having to vote now, that is fine as well. I am open for suggestion.

Jeff Sorg: I would really like to get this on line as quickly as we can. We have had very thorough discussions in house and with Commissioner Bloom and it has been two years that we have been looking at different software. We can come back.

Paul Moss: It is fairly new to us.

Patt Kite: I think Councilman Vogt hit on a couple of my questions about the current record keeping. Do you have a fleet manager? Is there one person who oversees?

Jeff Sorg: We have two chief mechanics, one at each facility. They act as fleet managers.

Patt Kite: Also, with the savings that we could reasonably have, could that offset the annual support services?

Jeff Sorg: I would say without a doubt. When you look at page one, it is hard to put a number on. But as I said, we have already cut about 15% of the mechanics.

Paul Moss: Councilman Buskirk and then Miller?

Roy Buskirk: You are saying that the Highway Department is one of the users and that also the County Garage on all of the other vehicles and the Sheriff's Department would be using this. I would like to see their participation in this and how they are planning on using it.

Jeff Sorg: I think Bruce Little is here and could answer specific questions about that.

Bruce Little: Bruce Little, Allen County Purchasing Director. And like he said, we also run a garage application and the advantages of having this application are going to be mirroring the same thing.

Cal Miller: The comment that I have and the stumbling block I have with this request is based on a comment that you made Mr. Sorg. You said that internally you have been considering this for a couple of years. What County Council does each year is to allocate funds to each of the department heads or elected officials. They then prioritize their needs and make decisions and make priorities of their operations and then fund those priorities based on the allocation. If this has been on-going for a couple of years and you have had internal discussions and yet it wasn't funded with the allocation that was given to you. I see the utility in what you are presenting but what I don't see is why this wasn't made within the Highway Department's existing funds to make this a priority if it is so important to the Highway Department.

Furthermore, what I am not satisfied with is that the funds don't exist within the Highway Department's budget to absorb all of what is being asked of the Technology Fund. Until I hear why those funds don't exist and why it wasn't made a priority, I am not going to support the expenditure out of the Technology Fund. I would certainly support the Highway Department coming up with the money.

Jeff Sorg: Let me say this. Originally it was just going to be a Highway Department purchase. At one of the Commissioners urging, they felt it was kind of ridiculous that we don't have one software program that accounts for everything that we own. That was in the last couple of months. Between the Sheriff's Department and the Board of Health, we have a lot of vehicles. Our funds, as you well know, are generated through gasoline taxes and local road and street taxes and they are to be specifically spent for the Highway Department. The Sheriff's Department has their own fund. Our funds are being cut and we would like to buy as much stone and asphalt as we can because that is where the public truly benefits. We would much prefer putting every dime we had into road improvements. Some of these things are necessary and we act upon that. But to take care of the rest of the County out of motor vehicle or local road and street funds, we have always been told that we can't do that.

Cal Miller: My point is that the Council gives the Highway Department the allocation of funds on an annual basis to make decisions on the services it provides. It is to prioritize those in a way that is most efficiently can provide those services. That is my point. That underscores every decision I make on Council and it is something that permeates every decision of everyone else on Council when someone is coming forward and asking to spend money outside of their budget.

Jeff Sorg: This started out as just a Highway Department purchase. It was decided by other or suggested by others that we bring on the rest of the County.

Paula Hughes: So every County vehicle will be tracked on this software system?

Bruce Little: That is correct.

Jeff Sorg: The Service Station services all of the vehicles outside of the Highway Department and the do some of the Highway vehicles.

Paul Moss: Councilman Vogt had another question.

Darren Vogt: A quick and easy question but you may not know the answer. The Commissioners have committed \$20,000. Where is that money coming from?

Jeff Sorg: I believe it is out of CEDIT. Judy?

Judy Heck: Cum Cap.

Jeff Sorg: Cum Cap.

Paul Moss: Councilman Buskirk?

Roy Buskirk: I just noticed that the information that was passed out last month has a date of January 19th with a revision date of February 19th. The information that you passed out here this morning has a January 19th date with no date of being revised. I will give you one figure. The annual support cost for the second year on what you passed out this morning is \$8,400. What was passed out a month ago says \$9,600. All of the numbers are higher on the revised than what you passed out this morning.

Paul Moss: This goes back to you would be wise to take the opportunity to sit down with your liaison and make sure that he is comfortable with it and then he can kind of advocate on your behalf.

Jeff Sorg: Yes, especially after hearing that. This is the only proposal that I had.

Paul Moss: There are still enough questions out there.

Darren Vogt: I make a motion to table this discussion until our next monthly meeting.

Paula Hughes: Second.

Paul Moss: All in favor signify by saying aye. All opposed same sign. The motion carries 7-0.

Jeff Sorg: Well, at least you didn't say no.

Paul Moss: Next on the agenda is the Youth Services Placement Fund, items two through six.

Chris Dunn: Good morning, Chris Dunn, Youth Services Center. I am coming here requesting permission to use some of the placement funds out of the 737 account. The first item up is to install humidifiers on our heating units in the shelter care program. They have forced air and it is very dry in there. We have been dealing with this for many years. That quote is from Dan Freck to have his personnel install these units to just improve the air quality. The \$1,900 for furniture and fixtures for Dan Freck's staff to build desks and shelves in the new office. We had talked about this a while back when I got permission to build on to the Kryder House. We borrowed furniture from the Building Department that was going to auction and she has been using it for many months now. The next item is our clothing account. There was \$2,000 in there for the year and we have spent that already. We don't buy all of the clothing for the kids but we do maintain a certain supply of used and some new clothing for the kids. Mainly what we buy out of this account are some pajamas, robes, underwear, sweats and socks. We require the kids to wear pajamas and robes. A lot of the kids don't wear those at home. They wear shorts or go in their underwear. But in our building, because we have male and female staff moving

around, we require them to wear them. We supply them and wash them. They are allowed to bring their own in but a lot of the kids don't have visitors so they don't get clothes dropped off. We don't buy coats out of there, we raise funds for that. Item 5, furniture and fixtures, is to buy office chairs. We had a few that were worn out or broken and we want to replace them. Two are for Yoder House, one for the office of the director and one for the staff's office. One chair is for the Youth Services Center. The last item on there is for replacement batteries for the Motorola radios that we have had in service since 2004. Some of the batteries have a memory on them after you recharge them and they are not making it through an 8-hour shift.

Paul Moss: Councilman Vogt?

Darren Vogt: Can you just explain briefly where the placement fund money comes from?

Chris Dunn: That is collected two ways. One is from kids that are placed from out-of-county locations. The other counties are charged \$103 a day. The other way is from this county's courthouse judges assessing a fee which is \$25 a day. Those fees come in and they are split in the middle so that half goes to Youth Services Center 737 Fund and the other half goes to the general fund. We have been using that fund to offset increases. The last couple of years we used it to offset increases in the food account and a couple of other accounts so that we don't have to ask Council for new money in our budget. I plan on continuing to do that.

Paul Moss: Are there any other questions?

Cal Miller: Move for approval of items two through six in the amount of \$8,182.

Maye Johnson: Second.

Paul Moss: We have a motion and a second. All in favor signify by saying aye. All opposed same sign. The motion carries 7-0. Thank you. Item number seven is the Identification Security Fund #243. Our Allen County Recorder joins us.

John McGauley: Good morning. I am John McGauley, your Allen County Recorder. With me is Greg Bachman of Fidlar Software. He is here to answer any questions or fill in any blanks you may have on the next item. Our discussion is going to be on the update of the land records system. Specifically the appropriation that we are asking for is \$107,000 out of the Identification Security Fund that was established in January 2006 by the General Assembly specifically to set aside funds to allow county recorders to meet a mandate that will exist at the end of this year. This is to begin electronically redacting social security numbers from electronic documents that they may have. Currently, our document collection is a little over 1.6 million documents and soon to grow over two million. This is something that we need to give our attention to right away. This is something that we have been working on since the beginning of the year. We think we have a very good solution

for that. The ID Security Fund requires appropriation and that is what we are here to request. If you would like me to, I can continue on into the discussion item and that will give you a more in depth briefing on the project itself.

Cal Miller: I think that would be helpful.

John McGauley: About ten years ago, the Allen County Recorder was one of the first in Indiana to adopt a land record system. This allows customers to come in and view information or digitized documents in the office. That system cost about \$460,000 in 1995. Unfortunately, in a year or two, it was abandoned by the vendor. The vendor was sold and promptly disbanded. We are finding ourselves the developer of the software. We are paying ACS, in the coming year, a total of \$68,000 for a dedicated resource to help us keep our existing land record system alive, repaired and updated as we need it. With this year-end mandate in mind to digitally redact documents will make ID theft a more difficult proposition. We went to find out what it would cost to integrate a redaction capability into our existing system. Essentially we found out that we couldn't do it or the cost was so prohibitive that it just wasn't worth the investment to repair a ten year old system. We went out to the market to find out what was there in terms of the land records systems that were proven to do redaction, systems that had a great deal of experience in the State of Indiana and we interviewed three perspective vendors. One looked fairly good but had no experience in Indiana. We interviewed the second one who referred us to Fidlar Software. We contacted Fidlar and have been talking to them for the last several months. We have a lot of confidence in the system that we have come up with. We also are going to be able to add a lot of capabilities by doing this. Our chief concern here is to provide a more reliable and dependable land record system in the office that doesn't cost so much money to keep alive. This will implement the tools that will allow us to meet this year end deadline to begin redacting social security numbers and also give us the capability to do further redaction down the line. There is some belief that the General Assembly will come back to us in years to come and say we think you should begin redacting home addresses or maiden names or other things that identity thieves can use. This will also allow us to combine two land record systems that we currently own and operate and provide measurable productivity gains. We are committed to going down one head in our office because of the productivity gains that we know we will have. Fidlar is coming back in the first or second week of June to any more in depth process analysis of how we do our work in the Recorder's Office. There is the possibility that we could do more. The Fidlar System will allow us to also expand our ability to provide service out to the web. Once this system is in place, our users will be able to search our 1.6 million documents just as if they were in our office. Twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, wherever they are sitting. This will also provide capability for users to record on line. E-recording is a capability that nobody in the State of Indiana is currently taking advantage of. It is a concept that is very popular among our users. We will be the first in the State of Indiana to adopt e-recording as a tool for making our office work better. We already have perspective users knocking on our door that would like to do that. One of the things that on-line access provides us the capability to do is to

provide some important community information. I think it is important that we start making, for example, neighborhood covenants and restrictions more readily available. Those will be a part of the collection that we place on-line. This is going to help us recover some costs, make ourselves more reliable, eliminating our reliance on a ten year old land records system, and getting us compliant with the redaction law. These are really the number one things in my mind but also providing some dramatic new services. How are we going to pay for this? The ID Protection Fund since the primary goal here is to comply with the redaction law. We believe that is an appropriate use for that money. We are asking today for the equivalent of the first year of service for this. We will come back in later years to take care of the rest. There is a one-time charge for approximately \$77,000 to convert our almost two million documents to a format that is compatible with the new system. Unfortunately it is expensive to bridge the gap between ten years ago and today. We are confident that between the ID Protection Fund and a little bit out of the Recorder's Perpetuation Fund that we won't have to ask you for any additional funding.

Paul Moss: Would you define the term redaction for those that may not know what that means?

John McGauley: I think it would be surprising to you to come over and look through our documents and at that the kind of very sensitive information that you run through your shredder that is present in many of the documents that we have in our office. Redaction simply means removing that or placing a layer over that so that it obscures that from the general public. We will not be altering our permanent collection but the user who accesses this on-line or in our office will see a big black block over the social security number. We will be able automatically to do this. For hand-written numbers, we will be manually able to do that for the ones brought into our office. This is a fairly aggressive tool for simply removing. If we have a few documents, we could simply use a Sharpie but with two million documents, this is giving us an automated capability to obscure sensitive information.

Paul Moss: That is a term that has been used a lot here today but it has really been used with more frequency lately because there are laws out there that are forcing you and other entities to protect private information.

John McGauley: I was going to ask Greg, just so you know who we are dealing with here, to give a little history on the company. They are either number one in the State of Indiana or soon to become the dealer for fourteen counties. If you want to, give a little history on the company, Greg.

Greg Bachman: Sure, I will give you the two minute Fidler spiel. Fidler has been around for 153 years now. We started out as an election company and we still do a little of that. Back in the day, we sold paper products to county officials. About twenty years ago, we decided that this computer thing was going to be around for a while and so we created an election product. That product allowed us to expand into

land records and when I started with the company twelve years ago, I think we had twenty-seven customers in Illinois and now we have grown to 125 or 126 county recorder offices in over thirteen states.

Paul Moss: Councilman Buskirk?

Roy Buskirk: On the redact, a year ago, the State passed legislation that since June 1, 2006, on any recorded document, you have to put a statement at the bottom of it that the social security number is not on the document. When you started talking about emailing recorded documents, that sounds tremendous. Does something have to be done through state legislation to make that legal? You have to have original documents to be recorded and if you start scanning them in and emailing them, is there something that state legislation has to do?

Greg Bachman: No.

John McGauley: For the most part, that is the way our process works now. They are not emailing them to us. We are scanning them in the office and returning the original documents. So we have, for the most part, gone to an all-digital environment and there is nothing that needs to be done. The State finds this an acceptable process and all we are doing is skipping a step.

Roy Buskirk: So from off-site, they would be able to email.

John McGauley: As long as they are able to meet the recording requirements and include the affirmation statement that the social security number is not in the document. As long as they meet the recording requirements, their digital version is as good as ours.

Greg Bachman: The federal legislation was passed in 2000 to give the states the right to electronically record documents.

Roy Buskirk: One other comment on that. It is difficult when you are working with out-of-state ownerships and they prepare the deed or whatever to get them to put that clause on the document.

John McGauley: We actually have a nice little stamp now that if you bring in a document, we can use that. Since that law went into effect, the infraction for accepting a document without the affirmation statement can be some pretty stiff penalties. Counties that are our size that are using the remote access product are able to generate revenues between \$70,000 and \$90,000 a year. In addition to eliminating the \$68,000 resource and one employee, we are also talking about revenue. We could be talking conservatively of about \$175,000 on a \$107,000 contract. We are confident in those numbers and hopeful that there is more to be had.

Paul Moss: Any other questions on item 7?

Paula Hughes: Move for approval.

Cal Miller: Second.

Paul Moss: 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 carries 7-0. Thank you. And you are going to talk about the land records system replacement?

John McGauley: That was it.

Paul Moss: Okay, so there is nothing in addition then.

Paula Hughes: Recorder McGauley, I don't know if it came out but you and I had a conversation about the improvements you have been able to make in the recording time. Also, the progress you have been able to make year-to-date.

John McGauley: When we bring documents in the door, they are recorded within 24 hours. But there is a follow-up process where we index all of the appropriate information and cross reference it to previously filed documents that may apply. At the beginning of January, that was a 71-day turn around. Through some efficiencies that we had already been able to achieve and through brute force and the power of will of the employees, today we have that at 38. At the rate that we are going, we will be under 30 in the next couple of weeks. We are hoping that we can even make more progress on that by the time we switch to the Fidlar system. So what was at eleven or twelve weeks will be a few weeks at most.

Paul Moss: I don't think anybody is too surprised about the job you are doing.

John McGauley: Thank you. We will come back along the way and give you an update. We have a small wager with Fidlar that they will have us on line by the end of July and I think their intent is to beat that quite a bit. We are looking forward to losing that wager and will give updates along the way.

Paul Moss: Great. The next item, number eight, is the Board of Health STD Donation Fund #284.

Mindy Waldron: Good morning, Mindy Waldron, Administrator with the Department of Health. This request is to appropriate into our telephone line item for a bit more sophisticated voicemail system in our STD clinic. Currently there is not one. Because we receive donations, we usually utilize those funds to better that department. We want to make it more efficient for the customer.

Paula Hughes: Move for approval.

Cal Miller: Second.

Paul Moss: 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 carries 7-0.

Mindy Waldron: Do you want me to stay for the next two?

Paul Moss: Yes. You have a couple of grants.

Lin Wilson: Lin Wilson, Grant Administrator. The first grant is going to be for the Medical Reserve Corps Coordinator position. I wrote a grant several years ago to establish the Medical Reserve Corps and the purpose of it is to function in times of man-made or natural disasters and gather medical resources in the community. I will let her tell you what this grant is going to do.

Mindy Waldron: The federal funding that we did receive ended after a three-year period. There is no more federal funding for this type of project. So for portion of 2005 and through 2006, we received grants from some of the private foundations to continue funding that. This coordinator position has kind of hopped around between agencies from IPFW, which the funding went through them the first few years. Then it was part of RSVP, the volunteer program. Now we think it is such a good fit to be housed through the Health Department. We have spoken with MMRS (Metropolitan Medical Response Systems) and one of their goals is to support local MRC's. We have a commitment from them to do that specifically for this one year and then on-going is somewhat unconfirmed but yet verbally committed. So we just need some approval from you to receive that grant from them. They will fully fund the position, which the \$25,000 funds a temporary coordinator position. This position is about fifteen hours a week and with the incidentals that go with it.

Paul Moss: So this would be an annual renewal process if this is to continue on?

Mindy Waldron: If the funding comes from these third party sources, yes. If the funding is still there, it would be an annual process. The cap to receive is \$25,000.

Paul Moss: If the funding goes away, you don't anticipate trying to pay for it?

Mindy Waldron: No. We will always seek third party funding for this type of operation.

Paul Moss: Are there any other questions on this?

Cal Miller: Move for approval to apply for the Metropolitan Medical Response Systems grant.

Maye Johnson: Second.

Paul Moss: 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 carries 7-0. The next request is for the Tobacco Free Allen County grant.

Mindy Waldron: As you know, the Allen County Commissioners passed the Allen County smoking ordinance which takes effect June 1. We were charged with primary enforcement of that ordinance. To do so, we have spoken with Tobacco Free Allen County to fund that coordinator position for one year. We cannot absorb that as a start-up program with no funding. They were gracious enough to commit that money. This has all been done verbally and thought it would have a formal process but it didn't and they said here is the funding. We have not yet taken that. We are coming before you to make sure that is okay. They have committed the one-year funding and with the intent that this position would be just for the one year. We have done a lot of the notification and mailing in-house to let the businesses that will be affected know and we have established a hotline. Enforcement begins June 1. We will continue that after the funding goes away and will absorb that somehow into one of our other enforcements. It will be completely complaint based, as you know. In the beginning will be where you have a lot of those complaints and need the education to kind of help those people come into compliance. After that, we feel that we can and have in the past for similar types of ordinances absorbed them into the current enforcement division that we have. This is to fund the first year and their intent is to fund it for only one year. That position will go away as of June 30, 2008.

Paul Moss: I have a quick question. When the City first had their original smoking ban, how many enforcement issues were there?

Mindy Waldron: The Fort Wayne Fire Department has always been the primary enforcer of the City's ban. They did a lot of proactive education from the beginning. They let them know what the ordinance would entail and they did an inspection with each facility. They answered their questions and worked towards compliance with them. The way I understand it, initially they did receive some complaints and they had to, in the normal course of what they do, go out for the follow-up. They inspected those facilities for fire code enforcement anyway, so they absorbed that. They have told us that after a number of months, they didn't even use the hotline any longer. When it is complaint based, they are initial. After that are some periodic complaints. I don't have any numbers to answer that for you.

Paul Moss: My recollection is that it was between zero and a handful. I don't smoke but I am very much interested in property rights. We won't go into a discussion about whether the smoking ban is appropriate or not. It is what it is but I would say that if this money was being requested from the County General Fund, I would be strongly opposed to it. If Tobacco Free Allen County has enough dollars out there and they want to spend it on something like this, have at it. Those are my only comments and I don't want to go too far into it. Councilman Vogt?

Darren Vogt: I was just going to say pretty much the same thing. Is Tobacco Free Allen County funded primarily by donations?

Mindy Waldron: They are funded through the states through Indiana Tobacco Cessation or something like that.

Darren Vogt: Is it tax-based funding?

Lin Wilson: I think it is from tobacco settlements.

Darren Vogt: Let me ask another question. You said you are going to absorb this into your existing budget, so you don't see this costing you and additional dollars?

Mindy Waldron: After June 2008, is that what your question is?

Darren Vogt: Yes.

Mindy Waldron: One thing, if I can clarify, might help with this. A big portion of what this position will do is also education. That is one of the reasons that they have committed the funding. We have to do the enforcement that we were charged with. That will be part of what they do. We believe that will be more of a minimal part of what they do. We have heard that from the beginning on this type of ordinance. The enforcement will be at the initial onset of this will be complaint-based and it will be minimal. As we all know, this is a very good issue to educate on. We will be working with all of those other community agencies for creation of smoking cessation programs and the education on the health benefits of those things. A big portion of this job will be doing smoking education. We feel it is always a good opportunity to do that while we are doing enforcement. To have a person that is skilled at that, and we have received a lot of requests for education on this topic. It seemed a perfect fit to tie it in. When I said that we would absorb, I meant that we will absorb the enforcement part of what we were charged to do after the funding goes away. We will follow up on complaints when we can. I can't account for, without going through this type of position and new ordinance in the unincorporated part of the County and affects about 1,300 businesses, how much we will have in terms of enforcement. Our goal is to absorb that part of it.

Darren Vogt: Do you think that if you have enforcement issues, are other services that you do going to be put aside or delayed? If you are not going to hire any additional staff, some of the duties of the staff are going to have to be shifted to this.

Mindy Waldron: Yes and no. One of the reasons that we wanted someone to initially coordinate this program when the complaints are made, we need to do them right away. We didn't feel that we should take people away from existing services that are funded for that to do this. It did not come with funding, as you know. We thought if we can work together meet the education needs and the enforcement needs, this would be a way of doing it for a short period of time. Then when we can, we will investigate those complaints using our existing enforcement staff. Our idea is, if this all works out, to have this be one of the duties of the food inspectors. They would be out in the field anyway and it seems the best fit. If I received a complaint

and the inspector is doing an inspection, they are not going to leave to see if someone is smoking. That is never the intent. Because we are charged with the enforcement and it is written the way it is, we will do them as we can when we have to absorb that part of the program. I can't give you specifics because I just don't know what it is going to entail. I have spoken with probably fifteen other health departments that have either written their own ordinances or had been charged with that enforcement piece. These are all complaint-based. Again, they receive them initially and there is a lot of education needed. After that, most people are already into compliance so it is just a bit of complaints here and there. There aren't many after the initial year. So after having spoken with all of those, what I am hearing is that the first year is your barrier. So let's get over that and do the education because it is important. After that, we will absorb it and we don't see that as taking away from another priority. It will be done as we can unless other funding is given to us.

Darren Vogt: The reason I ask these questions is from an unfunded mandate from the State, and we complain about those, I wanted to make sure that the decision the Commissioners made, without any input from this fiscal body, that we are not going to spend taxpayers' dollars. I would appreciate it if you could keep us updated as to how those costs and complaints come in.

Mindy Waldron: I will say one other thing. Having worked with the Commissioners over the last few months on this, we did strike some sort of agreement for sharing the funding of the initial cost. They paid a fortune and we paid a fortune out of our current printing budget and hopefully there won't be too many ongoing incidental costs like that. We will just have to play those things by ear. We are hoping that we can get over the hump of the first year and do some good with the education part while we are getting the funding for it. We will probably have to reassess in June but I am very hopeful that we will be able to absorb that without any additional requests.

Paul Moss: Councilman Buskirk?

Roy Buskirk: My question is, this will only be in the unincorporated area and you will be involved with any type of enforcement?

Mindy Waldron: That is a very good question and we have worked with the City of Fort Wayne's Code Enforcement Division so that we are consistently doing things. They will still remain as the primary enforcer of the City. It is very confusing when you have two separate ordinances. It has caused a lot of confusion in the media and with the callers. It is not always clear to them as to who is doing what. To answer your question, we will only enforce the County's unincorporated areas that fit into the County's smoking ordinance and have not opted out.

Roy Buskirk: So that is what gets really confusing is the educational printing because that handout isn't any good inside the city limits.

Mindy Waldron: Right. We worked with them and they look very similar. They are similar colors and their provisions are in one and ours is in the other. We each have each others and we know who the hotline is for which department. At the initial outset, we will have weekly meetings and then it will go to monthly meetings with them. This coordinator position will work with their primary code enforcer in the City. We will have to work through those things and I think we have been doing okay with that.

Roy Buskirk: Thank you.

Paul Moss: Well, you could argue as to whether the government should be involved in that type of education. It is what it is and has been mandated to do that. I think that due to the fact that it is going to be complaint driven, I do take some comfort in that. Frankly, the folks that have pushed this smoking ban have a tendency to be a little overzealous in this regard and I think it opens a black hole in terms of the enforcement. Since it is not coming out of our pockets, I think we need to move forward with it.

Cal Miller: Move for approval of permission to apply for the Tobacco Free Allen County grant.

Paula Hughes: Second.

Paul Moss: **We have a motion and a second. All in favor signify by saying aye. All opposed same sign. The motion carries 7-0.** Thank you very much. Two grants for the Sheriff.

Ken Fries: Kenny Fries, Sheriff of Allen County. The first grant we are going for is the Bulletproof Vest grant from the Department of Justice. This is a 50% grant. We have received between \$900 and \$4,000 a year on it and I am happy to say that this year, the amount we are paying for the vests is cheaper than we have ever paid before. We are going on the state bid and so we are getting the best rate. We are looking at replacing 60 vests for the officers and another 40 or so stab vests for the jail.

Darren Vogt: Move for approval of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership grant.

Roy Buskirk: Second.

Paul Moss: **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 carries 7-0.**

Ken Fries: The second grant is for \$2,750 for K-9 equipment for the school resource officer for Northwest Allen County School. It will go for equipment, leashes and retro-fitting his car. There are no matching funds required.

Darren Vogt: How is that program going?

Ken Fries: I think very well. Once we get a dog. Northwest Allen County Schools are thrilled with how it is going for Southwest Allen County Schools is doing with theirs. It is a very proactive way to address the problems of drugs in schools.

Paul Moss: Didn't they raise something like \$3,000 towards the dog?

Lin Wilson: They are hoping to have a dog that will be donated but they are not sure that the dog that is available will meet their needs. So then they will have to purchase a dog.

Paul Moss: So this money is to purchase the dog?

Lin Wilson: No this is to purchase the equipment for the dog.

Paul Moss: So the money they raise will be used to purchase the dog.

Cal Miller: Sheriff, how do they use the dog in the schools?

Ken Fries: This dog is very approachable and is non-aggressive. The only thing he is trained for is nitrates and drugs. Primarily they will just walk the halls and if the dog hits on a locker, they will open the locker. Nitrates are gun powder and explosives. Tobacco is also possible. It has been very successful at Southwest. There are other districts in the State that are looking at doing the same thing.

Paula Hughes: Move for approval for permission to apply for the DAC grant for K-9 equipment.

Cal Miller: Second.

Paul Moss: 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 carries 7-0.

Maye Johnson: Sheriff Fries, before you leave, I have a question. My understanding is that you are not applying for the Project Safe Neighborhood grant.

Ken Fries: That is correct. It has been withdrawn.

Maye Johnson: Okay. Could I ask why you decided to withdraw?

Ken Fries: Lack of cooperation from the other agency. It takes two agencies to do this grant and the City didn't want to sign on the MOU (memorandum of understanding). Without their signature, we had to withdraw the grant request.

Maye Johnson: I want to make a statement here. I received a number of calls and I am sure that you did too. I missed the meeting that was held with the NAACP but my phone has still been ringing off the hook with concerns of citizens on the southeast side of the city. Their concerns around the original Metro Squad, I refer to it as that, I wasn't here. The concerns and regards to the proliferation of stops made and bordered on harassment. This resulted, in my understanding, in the Justice Department being called in. I guess my question is do you plan to apply for this grant again? Were there any plans to pursue this?

Ken Fries: Yes. We will work with the City and meet with them again. It takes two agencies at least to be involved in it. We will see what problems they have with the MOU's and go forward. The one we were going for was a 2006 grant which was just remainder money that we had two years to spend. We are looking at doing a 2007 grant.

Maye Johnson: Some of the concerns that I also heard expressed had to do with the lack of diversity, on the part of the Sheriff's Department, of those people who would actually be on the street and conducting these stops.

Ken Fries: It is open up to seniority according to the grant and the way it is written. Safe Neighborhoods Project is all seniority.

Maye Johnson: I am sure you are aware that there has been some success in reducing crime as it relates to the southeast quadrant. They attribute this to the community policing process that the Fort Wayne Police Department is currently dealing with. It is building relationships with the residents and working with neighborhood association groups, etc. Would you be open to that?

Ken Fries: We have been part of the COPS program since 2001 or 2002. We have been part of that program for years.

Maye Johnson: I would recommend, strongly recommend, that you also work with some of the existing groups that do have concerns in addition to the NAACP. If you are going to pursue this grant and hopefully it won't cause the kind of concerns to be expressed again because there are grave concerns in regards to this work.

Ken Fries: There is a lot of misinformation put out there and hopefully has been corrected. If people have concerns, I need to hear about them.

Maye Johnson: I would like to meet with you and some other people in regards to your pursuance of this grant.

Ken Fries: Very good.

Paul Moss: Discussion and other business to come before Council. I do not have anything in mind. Is there anything?

Lisa Blosser: We are passing around a tentative 2008 budget timeline. If you could, review that please. We have April 30th as the distribution of Council's pre-allocation letter to the departments. That is coming up pretty quick. I can get out to everyone, the letter you sent out last year and if you would like to make revisions, we can get those out to the departments.

Paul Moss: Great.

Darren Vogt: Council, I have a selfish request. The June budget hearings, if at all possible, my son has a field trip on the sixth.

Paula Hughes: These are different days.

Darren Vogt: But the sixth is still one of the days. I noticed we are meeting the fourth through the sixth. That does change things because I had it going the sixth through the eighth.

Lisa Blosser: We are usually finished in two days.

Darren Vogt: That is what I thought.

Lisa Blosser: It shouldn't be a problem.

Paula Hughes: Initially we were going to meet in Room 126 downstairs but the room is going to be under construction and not available for our use. The only room that had a table for us to meet at was the Commissioners' conference room and that was not available June 6-8. The Auditor moved it to June 4-6.

Cal Miller: We can't use our plush, new digs that we have to walk through Tera's office to access? Then we could have all of the elected officials and department heads come through her office. Then we could send a message to Commissioner Bloom that the design of the whole thing is ridiculous.

Paula Hughes: The design is absurd and completely a waste of money.

Paul Moss: I prefer to send that message in a different manner.

Paula Hughes: Since Commissioner Bloom doesn't deign to join us at any meeting we hold in that room because she finds it uncomfortable.

Paul Moss: So we are okay with June 4-6?

Darren Vogt: I've got no problem with that.

Paul Moss: Is everybody okay with this schedule, at least tentatively? If you have issues or concerns, we should try to get those addressed over the course of the next week or so.

Paula Hughes: How many days did we meet last year in the appeal hearings?

Lisa Blosser: I think it was two.

Cal Miller: Did the Allocation Appeals hearing dates change?

Lisa Blosser: No, the August dates haven't changed.

Paul Moss: Any other comments or questions on the tentative 2008 budget timeline? I think we are done with Discussion and Other Business.

Roy Buskirk: I just want to bring to the Council members' attention that House Bill 1001, The Public Defense Funding. A couple of years ago, we raised the salaries of the public defenders so we would qualify to receive up to 40% of State reimbursement. We never really received the full 40% but now with this House Bill 1001, they are talking about reducing the proposed funding to only 25%. If you recall, the amount of reimbursement that we receive from the State depends upon how many other counties submit for this. Over the years, there have been more and more counties qualifying for that reimbursement. I think we should be talking to our State Legislators on increasing the amount that they make available to the counties that qualify. We keep getting these State mandates or try to work with the State on a program of this type and they turn around in a couple of years or so and jerk the rug out from under us. The justice system is one of the big items of our total overall county budget.

Darren Vogt: Auditor Blosser, do you know what percentage we have been receiving?

Jackie Scheuman: It is a couple hundred thousand per quarter.

Paula Hughes: It is more than we spent raising the salaries.

Darren Vogt: The reason I was asking is if it was under the 25%.

Jackie Scheuman: No.

Lisa Blosser: No. It is very close to the 40%.

Darren Vogt: So, cut our miscellaneous revenues for 2008.

Paula Hughes: I have one other item. This is under Recent and Upcoming meetings. Shovel Ready Sites has continued to meet on a monthly basis. You may have seen

the article in the paper this past weekend about it. We are making some good progress in that committee and I would ask that the Council consider allowing us to make a presentation to the Council at our May meeting. At some point, we will be ready to make formal recommendations to the Council and the Commissioners but I would like to get some feedback from Council before that time.

Cal Miller: What would the ultimate decision be asked of Council?

Paula Hughes: It would be to approve a line item in the CEDIT budget that allocates funds for Shovel Ready preparedness. There are expenses tied to making a site shovel ready. Wetlands delineation, title work, environmental inspections, survey work and a lot of times, property owners are either unable or unwilling to fund that. One of the things we are working on is developing an application where the County would develop a contract with property owners that would do some up-front funding of those items. This would make the property more saleable or make it eligible for shovel ready designation. The contract would stipulate that some or all of that money would come back to the County when the property is sold. We are still fine tuning that process. We are trying to be proactive about it. This county has been very reactive about the way that we have funded economic development projects. We have made numerous improvements through the years to private property owners. We have improved the private property owners' land for economic development projects. The project justified it but I would like us to be a little more thoughtful about the way we go through that process.

Darren Vogt: So we aren't actually taking possession of the land.

Paula Hughes: No. That is not being proposed at this time. Down the road, it may be something that we want to consider but we are too early in the process to consider that now. If we give funding to a property owner up front, they have to agree to a certain sale price of the land for a couple of years and be willing to sell it and it gets us much closer to the goal.

Paul Moss: Thank you. Under the heading of Recent and Upcoming Meetings, I want to make a couple of comments here. At the last meeting that we had, I indicated a hopeful desire to have the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo senior staff come out or try to arrange a meeting with members of the City Administration, City Council, County Council and the Commissioners. It was to have the Zoo formally present the plans for the African Journey capital campaign and the improvements that are already started out there. It was also in the hopes of re-securing the commitment to provide some CEDIT dollars to that project and trying to get the City to commit to that project as well. You probably won't be surprised to find out that the meeting will not occur. Getting City and County folks together is just too darned difficult. I would like to take a different approach and have Mr. Anderson from the Zoo, come before Council at our next meeting and go through the African Journey process. Then you will have the information that you need to support what I have recently advocated over the course of the year.

Cal Miller: Will the African Journey presentation include the benefit to the County in terms of folks coming in and spending money?

Paul Moss: That is correct. He has a lot of good data on that such as the number of people that come into the county and the economic impact and a variety of very useful information. He will also have the architectural renderings and all of that good stuff.

Darren Vogt: One other thing that I had and I am not sure all of you saw it but I attended the Northeast Allen Alliance meeting. Their committee passed a resolution to have a new form of government and it is now in the hands, under 1362, of those elected officials, groups, cities, towns and all the people who were involved in that. I encourage you to take a look at it, study it and understand it. Talk to the elected officials and make sure they understand it. It does have some extreme potential to impact us and what we do from the Highway Department and roads, to police jurisdiction and all kinds of implementations. It is pretty ambiguous at this time and that is part of it. Part of it is designed but in my opinion, part of it is flawed. I applaud those folks who worked tirelessly to try to get something together but we need to make sure that we understand it and what they are trying to do. I encourage all of us to know what is going on.

Paul Moss: I had a couple of other items and I do have a suggestion about what Councilman Vogt was just talking about. I think it would be wise of us to have our Council attorney take a look at that resolution and then go a little bit farther beyond that in terms of what the impact could be. There does seem to be some gray area out there. It is not set in my mind, if that goes forward, what the impact would be to us on the various taxes out there. I think it would be money well spent if we could have our attorney take a look at that and give us some sort of executive summary. Assuming that it goes forward in its current form, here is the impact to us and then work with the Auditor to apply dollars to that. I think that would be useful for everybody involved.

Darren Vogt: I think that is part of the problem. I don't know that we want to spend money on that. At this point, they have not even discussed what services they are going to deliver to those constituents.

Paul Moss: They have chosen the six...

Darren Vogt: No they have not. And that is why I don't support the resolution as it stands. It creates a unit of government but there are no expenses for elected officials or any of the services they are going to deliver. They don't even know what they are going to deliver. The attorney would really be looking at nothing. They are supposed to have, within the year, the financial implications of what services they want to deliver. Once those numbers come in, I would want to make sure our Auditor and

then our attorney, look at this and determine what really makes sense. I think we are ahead of the game.

Paul Moss: There could be a difference of opinion of what they come up with. They are utilizing an attorney to identify those funds that will come their way. I think there are two options here. We could wait until they decide what six services they are going to try to provide or we could have our attorney take a look at that and give us just a general idea. I could go either way.

Roy Buskirk: But there are some things there such as roads. The discussion is whether they would contract with the County to continue to maintain their roads. It is not a question of if they expect to pick up the expenses or not. They obviously will pick up the expenses. That is some of the things we would be wise to take a look at. It is not only the roads but also the CEDIT money and how much impact would be with the County. I think it is prudent to start looking at how we would be affected.

Paul Moss: The fundamental question is if that goes forward, what funds are they legally able to take? That is the question I would like to have answered.

Lisa Blosser: CEDIT, definitely.

Paula Hughes: CEDIT, COIT, Motor Vehicle Highway and Local Roads and Streets.

Darren Vogt: Would it be wise to try and schedule a sit down with those folks? Not the study committee but the elected officials who now have to make the decision to accept or reject the resolution. Then that might give us the impetus to move forward with some of our own legal opinions and our accounting opinions.

Paul Moss: I think that is a good cooperative approach.

Maye Johnson: I think that is the direction we should take.

Darren Vogt: I will attempt to get with Brian Yoh, who has been the main spearhead behind that and an elected official, and see if we can get something scheduled.

Paula Hughes: An evening meeting might be more appropriate.

Cal Miller: We were talking about being pro-active but the focus was on one side of the coin. We were talking about what revenues they would be entitled to if they did this. What we should be doing at the same time is asking what is County government going to look like? How much is the Highway Department going to be reduced because they don't have those responsibilities and all of the other things that would have been provided? We need to be in a position to withdraw quickly so that we have funding in place to provide the services that fall under the County jurisdiction. If we don't have that plan in place, it could be a very confusing time. There should be a plan in place before they even decide to do it so we are prepared to immediately

take the action that Allen County needs to take to operate on what funds will be available.

Paula Hughes: I think we would be better served to have the analysis sooner than later. I would rather have our attorney start drafting that analysis even before we have a sit down meeting with them. It would be for them to know what funds would be available and for us so we would know what budgets would be cut.

Paul Moss: We have just gone full circle to what I had suggested.

Darren Vogt: In their eyes, they have done the analysis.

Roy Buskirk: I'll tell you what. I provided the Highway numbers to them. They were not getting cooperation from the County.

Tera Klutz: They didn't ask.

Darren Vogt: We should get their numbers and then get with the Auditor and figure out what that does. I don't think the attorney can do numbers. I think that needs to come from the Auditor's office. I am not sure what Tom Hardin can know about the number side.

Paul Moss: But based on the conversations that I have had with folks, there is not certainty there. I don't want to spend useless money on an attorney but I think he could identify with some certainty what funds will move and what won't.

Paula Hughes: I make a motion that we request that our attorney work on the impact, both legal and financial, to County government if the East Allen communities' proposal moves forward. As loose as it is, we can project what the range of impact would be. I would like to have that information.

Cal Miller: When we have the range of impact, we can start formulating what the Highway Department is going to look like and how the other departments will be impacted. We will also see where the geographical boundaries are for the services that will not be provided.

Paula Hughes: Is that a second?

Patt Kite: Second.

Roy Buskirk: One thing they're looking at as a possibility is contracting those services with the county continuing to do that work.

Cal Miller: Until that discussion gets a little more serious, we could have different versions of a plan in place but we need to be able to react quickly so we are not caught in a situation where we are severely over-staffed and under-funded.

Paul Moss: I just don't want to rely on East Allen Communities for the information that is going to impact us. They are going to have their hands full just trying to figure out what the real costs of providing those services is going to be. Let them deal with that. I believe there is a motion and a second. I would like to add that I would like to have that conversation with our attorney and I will make it clear to him that this is not a black hole for him but a defined focus.

Darren Vogt: I can't support the motion because we are going to ask for him to do financial numbers. Was that in your motion or not?

Paula Hughes: I said that I wanted to authorize our attorney to investigate the legal and work with the Auditor to investigate the financial impact.

Darren Vogt: Okay. I heard the Auditor say that they can handle the numbers, finances and what funds come out.

Paul Moss: Let's just try to clarify this. I think what he will do is clarify legally what will go where. Then he will hand that to the Auditor and they will apply numbers to it. Does that make some sense?

Lisa Blosser: We have already done the CEDIT analysis.

Tera Klutz: We know the tax and the formulas and how the property works.

Paul Moss: So all we are asking the attorney to do is clarify from a legal standpoint.

Paula Hughes: What will our role and responsibility to that entity after it is formed and what will it not be? And I am going to tie this in again, the Bridge Fund. I am the only one who brings it up on a regular basis.

Paul Moss: So your motion is...

Paula Hughes: I will withdraw my motion and reformat it if you want.

Roy Buskirk: When you make that motion, as far as the Bridge Fund, you are going to want the attorney to investigate that even though the County is responsible for all of the bridges in the county; you want him to investigate turning the bridges over to the incorporated areas?

Paula Hughes: There are two issues here. I will make separate motions. I move that we request that our attorney investigate from a legal perspective, the impact to Allen County government if this separate community is formed. I would like to know the range of impacts. There are a range of things that could happen and there is an amount of undecided nature of this.

Darren Vogt: I second that.

Paul Moss: 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 carries 7-0.

Paula Hughes: I am also moving that we authorize the attorney to thoroughly investigate the responsibilities and role of County Council in regards to what is now an extinct Bridge Fund. Not extinct but how the County's responsibility has shifted when the Commissioners eliminated the Cum Bridge Fund.

Darren Vogt: So we are asking to find out what our responsibilities are to those bridges.

Paula Hughes: Yes and what we could do on a local level, either Council or Commissioners, to change that responsibility.

Darren Vogt: Second that motion as well.

Paul Moss: 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 carries 7-0. The last point that I wanted to bring up is in terms of Recent and Upcoming Meetings. I don't know if there has been meeting in regards to the vehicle policy. I seem to recall that there was one and I wasn't able to attend but I am not for sure.

Patt Kite: We had one.

Paul Moss: You had one? Is there anything to report from that?

Patt Kite: I was there and Darren was there. I don't think you were. There were just some revisions to the existing policy that were tossed around and I don't know that we have had any feedback since then. We do need to meet again.

Paul Moss: Moving at a snail's pace would be the best way to describe it. That is a good segue into another frustration here. We had a meeting which Councilman Vogt and I attended. I don't think there was anyone else there for the copier meeting. Oh yes, Roy was there. We had a follow-up meeting on the IKON study and I am incredibly frustrated and disappointed in that. There are some legitimate issues with the study and the numbers in that study. But there are also some things that I think we can find a general agreement on. I just want to indicate to all of you that my frustration level is at an all time high with that particular issue. I think it is an opportunity to make some real systemic changes in how we do things here but it takes leadership to do that and it is not there at this point in time.

Paula Hughes: From the Commissioners' Office?

Paul Moss: Correct. I was just inferring there but thank you for clarifying. I just want to let you know that come budget time, I am going to make this a priority to do a little bit of an end run around here and try to create some savings for the taxpayers.

Roy Buskirk: I think the one thing that the study clearly showed is that there is not a savings by leasing. There are some savings with the maintenance contracts and I think that is where the big savings is going to be.

Paul Moss: I think that is accurate and I don't want to debate this here but it is almost a philosophical issue in terms of how you manage and are you centralized or de-centralized. The County is currently very de-centralized and fragmented and that is clearly inefficient. I think there are some efficiencies that could be gained if people had the political will to do so. Apparently that is not there right now and we are going to have to address it come budget time.

Darren Vogt: I will say that they are doing some attempt. They have put in some safeguards and have created some refund from one of the vendors that had been overcharging. They have tried to realize through department heads that there needs to be a contract. Now they have gone to a pay per click. They have done some things to help eliminate the overages we were getting charged on some of our contracts. There is some movement but I agree it is not monumental.

Paul Moss: You are correct that there has been some nice nibbling around the edges of the status quo. I believe most people, and particularly the taxpayers, would agree that there needs to be systemic changes and that is not occurring.

Roy Buskirk: The one good news was that the \$4,000 fee that was paid for the study was reimbursed because we obtained a little over \$11,000 reimbursement for an overcharge on one of the contracts.

Paul Moss: Let's make sure the \$11,000 goes to the appropriate spot. With that, are there any other comments in regards to Recent and Upcoming Meetings? Are there any public comments?

Darren Vogt: I move to approve to waive the second reading on any matter approved today for which it may be deemed necessary for the County Council meeting of April 19, 2007.

Paula Hughes: Second.

Paul Moss: 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 carries 7-0.

Darren Vogt: Motion to adjourn.

Roy Buskirk: Second.

Paul Moss: 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 carries 7-0. The next meeting will be held on May 17, 2007 at 8:30 am.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:25 am.