

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

The Allen County Council met on Thursday, July 20, 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; Maye L. Johnson, Darren E. Vogt, Paula S. Hughes and Paulette Kite.

Also Attending: Lisa Blosser, Auditor; Tera Klutz, Chief Deputy; Jackie Scheuman, Finance Manager; Nelson Peters, Commissioner 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 June 21, 2007. Paula Hughes seconded it. Motion passed 6-0-1 (Miller absent).

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Lisa Blosser, Auditor: For your consideration today, there are requests for additional appropriations in the amount of \$77,870. The Superior Court request for \$65,501 could be approved from your capital line budget which has already been appropriated. It would leave you, in that line item, with \$521,249. You will notice, on your financial report, we are showing a negative cash balance. That is due to the delay in the assessment process which caused a delay in the property tax billing and distribution. Even though we are showing a negative balance, our actual bank balance will always be in the positive. All of our funds are in one account.

Paul Moss: Are there any questions for Auditor Blosser?

Darren Vogt: I make a motion to accept Auditor Blosser's financial report.

Maye Johnson: Second.

Paul Moss: We have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All in favor please signify by saying aye. All opposed same sign. The motion carries 6-0-1 (Miller absent). Moving right into the appropriations from the General Fund is the Youth Services Center. Councilman Vogt?

Darren Vogt: As Mr. Dunn comes up, I will tell you that we had an opportunity to meet yesterday with both the Judge and Joe Brita who runs ACJC. As you recall, we asked that they get together to find out if there was a way for them to help support Chris and his efforts with the transportation officer. In reality, ACJC is almost in the same predicament that Chris is in when they have four courtrooms going at the same time. They do what they can when they can but to be consistent in helping him, there isn't much of an opportunity for them to do that. I will let Chris talk a little bit more about that.

Chris Dunn: Chris Dunn, Youth Services Center. As he stated, I am back to ask for the Transportation Officer. Fifty percent of the time this person is working with kids going to court. The other fifty percent of the time they are transporting kids to other appointments. A lot of them are medical runs. It was not just a matter of the kids being watched at ACJC. We also have kids who have to be watched at the Courthouse. There are just a lot of issues with a person driving all over the County and sometimes out of the County. That is why I am back asking for the Transportation Officer. We first approached Personnel three or four years ago to request the position. It was tabled until we looked at all of our options. We tried to use part-time help but it is real hard to find consistent part-time help. We have been doing it for four years now with three or four different people. Everybody wants full-time benefits and it has been tough. So I am coming back this year to ask for the full-time position.

Roy Buskirk: Any questions? Do I hear a motion?

Patt Kite: I move to approve items one through three in the amount of \$12,369.

Darren Vogt: Second.

Paula Hughes: I have a comment. I have a philosophical objection to increasing staff. I understand that you said you need this person but I don't understand how moving buildings has caused this need and I am just hesitant to approve anything that continues to increase the budgets to our confinement centers. I feel that they have grown in past years just uncontrollably.

Chris Dunn: Can I explain?

Paula Hughes: I have heard and we have talked about this at least four times. I am just stating my objection. I don't feel supportive of this.

Patt Kite: In moving the buildings, we have different locations that we are transporting from and their population has grown, which is something that they can't control.

Chris Dunn: When both courts, the juvenile court and CHINS court with Judge Pratt, were located in one location, the Courthouse, we brought our kids down there

and so did ACJC. Because they had to be there with their kids and watch them, they would watch ours. Now that the courtrooms are separated and in different locations and they laid-off those two staff members, their kids are no longer waiting outside of the courtroom. They are waiting on their units. They get called down when they need to be in court. Since we have two different locations, we have to watch them here and down at the Courthouse.

Paul Moss: Any further discussion? Councilman Buskirk?

Roy Buskirk: I agree with Councilman Hughes but as Chris just explained, it is a different development now. I will call for the question.

Paul Moss: We have a motion and a second, all in favor please signify by saying aye. All opposed same sign. The motion carries 5-1 (Hughes)-1 (Miller absent).

Chris Dunn: I have another item to bring up.

Darren Vogt: Let's do the salary ordinance first. I make a motion to approve the salary ordinance for the Transportation Officer in the amount of \$28,854.

Patt Kite: Second.

Paul Moss: We have a motion and a second, all in favor please signify by saying aye. All opposed same sign. The motion carries 6-0-1 (Miller).

Paula Hughes: I just voted for the salary ordinance.

Roy Buskirk: Yes you did.

Paula Hughes: I need to withdraw that vote.

Paul Moss: The motion still carries 5-1 (Hughes) – 1 (Miller absent).

Chris Dunn: We had an employee involved in a car accident. They are fine but the maintenance truck was totaled. It was over ten years old and had over a hundred thousand miles on it. Someone pulled out in front of them on Highway 3 while they were coming back from the center. The truck was totaled and had \$4,000 worth of damage. The truck wasn't even in the blue book because it was so old. I haven't seen the final papers yet but I think they were talking \$2,000. I will be back in front of Council next month and trying to replace that vehicle. We did get a loaner from the Service Center. He had no trucks available but he went to the auction and brought a truck back that he was trying to get rid of. That one has over 150,000 miles on it. The needs repair light is always on but he brought it back so that we had something for a short time.

Roy Buskirk: It is a pickup, right? There might be some pickups available from the Highway Department.

Chris Dunn: They are separate and don't come into the Service Center in the same way that the rest of the vehicles do. So they are not available to us.

Roy Buskirk: What I meant is because of the layoff in the Highway Department.

Chris Dunn: Will those go back into County General?

Darren Vogt: Commissioner Peters is right behind you. When he comes up, we will ask that question for you and see if we can't work something out without having to buy a new one.

Chris Dunn: I told Larry that I would take whatever he has.

Roy Buskirk: I just mentioned it as something that we need to be aware of.

Chris Dunn: Okay, thank you.

Paul Moss: Thank you. We have a request here for items four and five from Superior Court.

Darren Vogt: Council, if you recall, they have been trying to digitize their court reporting. I don't claim to be an expert but I have heard it several times and this is a phase that could come out of our capital expenditures. I think this started in 2006 and I will let you go from there.

Jerry Noble: Good morning, I am Jerry Noble, Court Executive in the Allen Superior Court. With me this morning is Judge Stanley A. Levine. We appreciate this opportunity to bring a 400 series request for the court before you at this time. As Councilman Vogt indicated, the bulk of what we are asking for today has to do with digital recording equipment. You probably recall that as a part of the renovation of the third floor courtrooms, there was a technology initiative that we undertook in cooperation with other users, if you will, and helped us to address the acoustic issues in the large courtrooms on the third floor. With certain technology, including a zone amplification system that has been very beneficial, the digital recording system installation has been in those courtrooms. When we put the new facility out at the Juvenile Center, we have digital recording out there as well. It is just simply the current technology. We can recall back to when we had the actual records that were made and over time we went to analog tape. The technology is much more efficient for archiving, retrieval and it has many more capabilities in terms of isolating channels and going back to playback and so on. We have undertaken that on the third floor and the next phase of this technology initiative is to do the rest of the Courthouse. There will be another phase that will catch up the remainder which is the Courthouse Annex and the Bud Meeks Justice Center. When we moved in there

several years ago, we took with us the analog tape system. This will help us in a number of ways besides the technological advantages. It will help us in staff usage and staff training. It will enable us to be more flexible in the number of staff that uses the different areas. Right now, there is a limited number that use the third floor rooms. They are up to speed with the digital. The other floors that don't use that have a reluctance to plug them in because of a lack of familiarity. We will have everyone up to speed and using the same technology when we are able to do this. This is the bulk of our request but would you like me to speak to the rest of our request as well?

Darren Vogt: You might as well go ahead.

Jerry Noble: On page five of the documentation, there is a breakdown of the equipment cost. Of the \$65,501, \$60,200 is for the digital recording equipment. The remainder is for two other pieces of equipment. One is to replace an aging copier over in Misdemeanor Traffic. It is a smaller copier, not one of the heavy duty ones. It is one used at the window that is primarily for attorneys. We use this machine to make copies of records for discovery purposes. It is also used by the Prosecutor's Office for their infraction deferral or pre-trial diversion program. It was purchased in 1999 and it has had about 1.3 million copies on it. For a smaller machine, it is a pretty good life. It has served us well. We now have jamming issues and we are simply asking to replace that. It is consistent with our CIP report. The remainder is for another aging piece of equipment. There is a fax machine up in the felony scheduling area. There are numerous communications that come into that office and it is an aging machine with service issues and jamming other problems as well. This is also consistent with our CIP. I would be happy to answer any questions.

Paul Moss: Councilman Buskirk?

Roy Buskirk: Do you know what kind of volume the copy machine uses?

Jerry Noble: I can't tell you the monthly volume but I do know that since 1999, we have about 1.3 million.

Darren Vogt: Doing the math, that is about 18,000 a month.

Roy Buskirk: When we had the recent study done throughout the County, there was quite a discrepancy as far as the maintenance contracts and the volume used. Has there been anything installed in your department to make sure that doesn't occur again?

Jerry Noble: I know our request for the 2008 budget was reduced for that very reason. The maintenance agreement line item was to reflect the analysis that Bruce Little's department did. I don't think, for this particular machine...

Roy Buskirk: I mean it wouldn't be...

Leslie Ruby: It has been changed, through Purchasing, with Adams Remco, on a usage base quarterly; per click.

Roy Buskirk: I noticed in the material that you provided, M1 has 3,000 copies per month and the per-click charge is .008. There is not a consistency because when you go down to MS 1, it shows an increase for the annual fee and MS 2 is less. Because of the per-click amount increases there is not a consistency there. That is something you need to look at before you sign the contract.

Jerry Noble: We can follow that up with Bruce Little. We are following Bruce's procedure and I will be glad to discuss that with him.

Roy Buskirk: Also, a further comment is that I do think that the capital expenditures should be taken out of our capital line.

Darren Vogt: One of the confusing things on this, I believe, is the copy specifications. It looks like there are some differences between the Imagistics M3511 and the 4511 and there was some handwriting on these things. Instead of redoing the whole form, there were some things that were crossed off and included. That may be the difference.

Roy Buskirk: There was another thing too. Is this a new machine or a factory fresh?

Jerry Noble: I am sure it is a new machine.

Roy Buskirk: It also mentions the price bid. The machine will be new and then it says factory fresh after it.

Jerry Noble: Again, I will consult with Bruce Little.

Darren Vogt: Council, I will make a motion to approve items four and five in the amount of \$65,501.

Lisa Blosser: You just want to make a transfer.

Darren Vogt: Oh, that's right. Motion to transfer \$65,501 from our capital expense line to their capital expense line.

Roy Buskirk: I will second.

Paul Moss: We have a motion and a second, any further discussion on this exciting topic? All in favor please signify by saying aye. All opposed same sign. The motion carries 6-0-1 (Miller absent).

Jerry Noble: Thank you very much. Should we speak to the grant matter now?

Kate Rusher: Good morning, I am Kate Rusher, Allen Superior Court Administrator for the CHINS Division.

Lin Wilson: Lin Wilson, Grant Administrator.

Kate Rusher: We routinely have had the opportunity to apply for court improvement funds and have been funded for all of the things we do in the court. Part of what those funds support is our facilitation prior to our court hearings, our family group decision making that we do with families six months into the case, any training that is related to our court improvement project and any equipment that we have to have. While this opportunity presented itself in about a five day period, it was money that wasn't allocated during the grant cycle. We had an opportunity to apply for funds that had not been distributed during the normal cycle. If they were not distributed, then they would go back to the federal government. For a little bit of background, court improvement funds are filtered through the Court Administrator's Office from the Supreme Court and are federal monies that come to Indiana. We were invited to apply for those additional funds but we only had about five days to do it. We were awarded \$50,000. You will see in your packet that most of that money is contractual services to go ahead and further our mental health board. We are providing some specialized services and training in mental health needs for the CHINS families that are coming in. That is the purpose for the \$50,000. If there are any questions, I will be happy to answer them.

Paul Moss: Are there any questions from Council? I have one question. How do you identify what you are going to put those dollars to?

Kate Rusher: We have different phases of our court improvement plan. The Juvenile Court authorizes, on a period basis, the things that need to be done in Juvenile Court and CHINS Court to improve that process. Incorporation of family is major and the ability to support families through their natural supports. We look at what is being recommended as ways to better improve the safety and security for children. We focus our efforts on movement in that direction. That is how we identify what we are going to use our money on. This is a great partnership. I will share with you that right now we have a mental health person from Park Center that will be at the Courthouse four days a week. That person takes those families right out of hearings that are referred for testing, to do their first initial interview and write the scripts. The division of Child Services currently has a contract with Park Center to do that. That enables us to better serve those families but as a result of having that individual there, we need equipment and things of that nature that we don't have in our County budget. That money will go toward supplying that. The division of Child Services is supporting our mental health specialist but she is housed in our division. We use those funds to get what we can't get otherwise.

Lin Wilson: I just wanted to add that they are eligible for the \$50,000 is because their program has become a model on the national level. When you are that good

and set up as a role model and there is extra money, they tend to go to those people and tell them that they have this extra money and would like you to be able to use it.

Paul Moss: Congratulations on that. Councilwoman Hughes?

Paula Hughes: Over what time period will that \$50,000 be used?

Kate Rusher: We actually have until the end of September which is a very ambitious timeline. That means that we have to have everything in place and we do because this is something that we have been doing. The cooperation is just an expansion of what we have been doing. For instance, the data. We have had no one to enter the data on our mental health court because we have four employees over there. We didn't have support staff that we could use. This allows us to contract with someone to put the back data in and all of the new data in during a three-month period. We could do that if we had someone to dedicate their sole work hours to that entry. That will allow us to do things that we have not been able to do before. It is a short period of time but there are things that we can get done in a short period of time. They will not be staff that will be in place after that time. Our data system will be up to date and every time that we get a new referral, that will just be a part of the process. It is the catch-up that kills us.

Paula Hughes: So the \$9,600 for contractual services for the person conducting the facilitation meetings is the only part that remains. The rest of this is a one-time shot. How do you continue to program at the level that you are establishing, in a two month period, to be on-going?

Kate Rusher: That is easy. We have done it with nothing for years. Once we train people with expertise in those areas, we have had wonderful luck with our community partners, people that are contractual in other areas, partner with us to get this stuff done. Right now, how we are doing our facilitation on our family groups is through SOCAP. They get Title V monies, which we were in partnership when we were in receipt of the Title V monies. We have partnered back and forth on different grants besides just support and improvement, to continue these efforts and to get them done. We have done this for almost eight years now. We have been very fortunate in continuing to support through community partnerships and their funds and budgets and other grants. I am not fearful because, as Lin said, we do have a good relationship in the community and are viewed positively around the state and the nation. It is one of those situations where we have to stay diligent and work hard but it is doable without coming to the County and asking for any money.

Paul Moss: Councilman Buskirk?

Roy Buskirk: Are there some matching funds on this grant?

Kate Rusher: Yes.

Roy Buskirk: Will you be able to use that for wages for the staff?

Kate Rusher: Actually the mental health specialist is paid for totally through the General Fund which is reimbursed through the Division of Child Services. Her salary alone more than reimburses or it doesn't match for this grant. It more than covers that.

Roy Buskirk: The General Fund is reimbursed through...

Lin Wilson: FFSA.

Roy Buskirk: Right. Which the bottom line is, the citizens of Allen County are still paying for that though.

Kate Rusher: I guess they are. But it is a very good service because we have people with some serious mental illnesses. And they have children that they can't care for and have abused or neglected. Some specialty in that area, I think, is really important because we have seen such a large increase in those types of cases coming through the court. The reality is that you can't deal with those families on the same level that you would any other family because they don't have the capacity to go to the same programs and to receive the same services as someone who is not dealing with mental health issues. We think it is important and have seen the value in it. We would invite all of you to come over during a court day. I think you would appreciate what is going on in the court.

Roy Buskirk: You have listed here, \$2,700 for call units.

Kate Rusher: What happens is that when we facilitate cases, we use the phone that is in the courtroom or the facilitation room because one of the parents is in jail or hospitalized. Rather than delay the case, because we have sixty days to finish a case, we have to do the adjudication of the CHINS within a thirty day period. If they are incarcerated, we have to be able to talk with them and get their admissions or denials on the allegations. Frequently we have to call back or break the call or they can't hear us. We want a more adaptable phone that is made for that purpose. Then we feel our communication would be better and we would not repeat and go as long.

Roy Buskirk: I do notice that you have a couple of other capital items with computers.

Kate Rusher: Right. Those are for...

Roy Buskirk: Another question I have is on the \$8,000 for printing costs. Will that be through the County Print Shop?

Kate Rusher: We do everything through there that we can. Things that we can't do there, we go to whoever is the cheapest. If we print it in house, we have to buy any

materials that go with that. There is a multitude of different ways that we get things printed based on what it is.

Roy Buskirk: I also noticed one other thing. There is \$3,000 not limited to computer software and hardware, office incidentals, food and drink.

Kate Rusher: Yes. What happens is that we have water and coffee for the families that come in to facilitation. We provide that on a daily basis. They are usually there a couple of hours so we have the little bottles of water and coffee for the families while they go through the facilitation. That is the national model. If you do family group decision making, that can take three to five hours. It often runs through a lunch or dinner and the model is that the family is allowed to share food because food is the comfort thing. On occasion, we will provide food for a meeting.

Lin Wilson: This is one of the federal grants that allow this. Usually food and drink is not permitted but this particular grant does permit it.

Roy Buskirk: My last comment is to avoid duplication of services. I noticed that you had cooperation of services to avoid duplication of services. We appreciate that.

Kate Rusher: We do have wonderful partnerships. They don't need to have two mental health providers and we work those things out.

Darren Vogt: I have one quick question. The \$10,000 for training purposes, who does your training?

Kate Rusher: We have different people that do training on different subjects. Some are local and some are national. We have a board and we have attorneys that indicate an interest in being involved with the mental health cases. In order for us to all be on the same page, we need to have some of the same understanding of what mental illness is.

Darren Vogt: So you are training on mental illness?

Kate Rusher: Yes.

Paula Hughes: Move for approval of the acceptance for the \$50,000 grant for the court improvement project.

Maye Johnson: Second.

Paul Moss: We have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All in favor please signify by saying aye. All opposed same sign. The motion carries 6-0-1 (Miller absent). Thank you for that. Okay, we are looking at a salary ordinance for the Election Board.

Jeanne Nicolet: I am Jeanne Nicolet, the Assistant Director of the Election Board. The Election Board is requesting a salary ordinance increasing the technical support hourly wage from \$10 to \$18. What the Election Board has done is taken away the Extra Deputy Hire line item and we are putting all of our election personnel out of two line items. We are using Technical Support and Contractual. We get most of our help now through an agency and it is working out very well. We have been able to decrease the number of hours because we are bringing in people who are very qualified in what they do and so they are more efficient. They also require less supervision from our staff. We have two positions that we have not turned over to contractual and these people are being paid \$10 an hour. We would like to be able to retain them because of their special skill levels. One of these people has done this for many years and is very good at working on our confined voting program where they go to nursing homes and so forth. In order to keep this skill level, we would like to increase those salaries to \$11. The only reason for the \$18 is because we are seeing that there may be a possibility to bring someone in to help with the programming (build the ballot at election time). This would be short-term maybe a week. I think \$18 is going to be what it takes to bring someone in. It is just a possibility and not a sure thing at this point.

Roy Buskirk: That would be more on a contractual type of arrangement, wouldn't it?

Jeanne Nicolet: Yes. But because these people go through Payroll, the salary ordinance has to be able to support that. If it goes through the contractual company, they will take whatever we pay them but if we have to hire someone outside of the contractual company, we will need the higher rate.

Paul Moss: I want to make sure I understand this. You are using an agency to fill how many FTE's in general are you utilizing?

Jeanne Nicolet: It varies from a primary election to a general election. We are using it for approximately eight to twelve people.

Paul Moss: And the primary reason for that is simply because these are like seasonal employees.

Jeanne Nicolet: They are seasonal positions. Prior to this, we have tried to hire them in by ourselves but we are no longer getting the skill level and dedication that we need. By going to the contractual company, we were getting the skill level that we need when we need them and on very short notice. What we have with the absentee ballot is that we do not know the volume. Indiana states that we have twenty-four hours from the time we receive an application to get a ballot out the door. The mail comes at 1:00. We may get fifty one day and five hundred the next. With a contractual company, we are able to call them and tell them we need four people at 8:00 the next morning and we get them. If we were searching through Human Resources, it is impossible.

Paula Hughes: Move for approval amending the ordinance for a range of pay for part-time hire in the Election Board. The range of pay on the salary ordinance is \$9 to \$18.

Darren Vogt: Second.

Paul Moss: We have a motion and a second, any further discussion?

Jeanne Nicolet: I have one other issue. I would like to make it retroactive to January 1, 2007 to take care of the two persons who have been working.

Paul Moss: Well, now you have put a big wrench into the whole thing.

Paula Hughes: We had a fairly lengthy discussion about retroactive pay at the last Council meeting and this Council does not look favorably on retroactive pay.

Jeanne Nicolet: Okay.

Darren Vogt: We didn't vote yet.

Roy Buskirk: Call for the question.

Paul Moss: All in favor please signify by saying aye. All opposed same sign. The motion carries 6-0-1 (Miller absent). Parks and Recreation and Mr. Moll, will you come up? This was an issue that was discussed at length at the Personnel Committee meeting.

Roger Moll: Good morning, I am Roger Moll, the Interim Superintendent of the Allen County Parks. I am filling a vacancy on a temporary basis that was created as part of the organization plan to broaden and expand the utilization of the parks. Metea Park opened with a new nature center and they have a full-time staff there. As a result of that vacancy, we have been in the process of re-describing the job and seeking candidates. We would like to find leadership and skills that we feel this community deserves. We have found some good candidates but we find that the salary is falling below the market. In the discussion with the Personnel Committee, they discovered that their own studies of executive salaries demonstrated that same principle. This \$60,000 salary ordinance request will meet the needs of the park board in order to find a candidate.

Paula Hughes: To follow up from the Personnel Committee's perspective, we did talk about this and as I understand it, this request is a max amount. You feel that you may be able to hire a candidate for less than this amount but you want permission to go up to the \$60,000.

Roger Moll: Yes.

Paul Moss: Councilman Vogt?

Darren Vogt: Have you had current applicants for the position?

Roger Moll: Yes.

Darren Vogt: And they have not taken it because of their...

Roger Moll: Communications have broken down because of the limited amount that we could offer them.

Darren Vogt: When you post the position, do you post the salary?

Roger Moll: Yes.

Darren Vogt: So they apply going in thinking there is some leeway. I know that someone applying for a job sees that it is \$53,000 and some change and they want more than that but they are applying anyway. How many applicants have you interviewed?

Roger Moll: We have interviewed four. A number of the applicants submitted on their applications that their wage was different than the application wage and this is what I expect to make.

Darren Vogt: Is this the Superintendent of all of the parks?

Roger Moll: This is over all of the County parks. We have four park facilities. Metea Park is 250 acres with a full operation nature center, a swimming facility and hiking trails. Fox Island Park is 605 acres with a full-time nature center and staff. Peyton Park is a 40 acre parcel that the Park and Rec holds as a gift from the Peyton family. That is an undeveloped park and remains with some program activities there generally under the direction of Metea Park. Cook's Landing is a five acre parcel on Cedar Creek which is an access point to Cedar Creek off of Coldwater Road. The Superintendent would oversee all of those facilities and personnel as well as funding and grants. It is a pretty fair package to keep track of.

Paul Moss: Councilwoman Johnson?

Maye Johnson: What is your timeline for having a new Superintendent in place if they accept this offer?

Roger Moll: I handed out cards earlier this year and I suggest that July 1, they would create hot spots in your pocket because they were going to disintegrate. It is the 19th of July and I am still present. So, soon. I have tried to work myself out of a job and have been failing miserably. This is just one more of those stones in the creek that we need to put into place for us to get to the other side.

Maye Johnson: I understand.

Paula Hughes: Council members, I would suggest that we approve a salary range of \$53,000 to \$60,000. That way if something happened and you wanted to put them in at the current salary level, you could. There is a little more flexibility.

Roy Buskirk: I'll second that.

Paula Hughes: Actually, let me make a formal motion.

Roy Buskirk: Go ahead.

Paula Hughes: Move for approval of the salary ordinance amending the pay for Superintendent of Parks and Recreation with a range of pay of \$53,000 to \$60,000.

Roy Buskirk: Second.

Paul Moss: We have a motion and a second. One thing before we vote on this. This is a highly unique situation. We have other areas that fall into that classification that are in need of being addressed and I think this falls out of this to a certain extent in terms of the critical need to get this position filled. **All in favor please signify by saying aye. All opposed same sign. The motion carries 6-0-1 (Miller absent).**

Roger Moll: Thank you very much.

Paul Moss: That does it with the salary ordinances. We are now back to grants and the Sheriff has a couple of them.

Ken Fries: Good morning, Council. Kenny Fries, Sheriff of Allen County.

Lin Wilson: Lin Wilson, Grant Administrator.

Ken Fries: I promise brevity. The two grants we are going for this morning are the Operation Pull Over grant and the SCAAP grant which is from the federal government and is for undocumented criminal aliens. This is for the ones that we incarcerate for two misdemeanor charges or more or a felony charge of four days or longer. In 2005, it brought in \$4,700 and in 2006 \$27,000. It will probably increase again this year.

Paul Moss: Councilman Buskirk?

Roy Buskirk: I think we should probably take these one at a time. On the Pull Over grant, are there any quotas that have to be reached as far as the number of pull overs?

Ken Fries: It is the number of contacts and not the number of citations issued. Lieutenant Knuth is here to explain it. I think it is two an hour.

Brian Knuth: I have three contacts per hour. The reason that came about is that years ago, is that there were agencies getting these grants and the guy would go out and write one ticket and go home and get ten hours pay. The federal government decided they needed to institute some kind of system.

Roy Buskirk: So it is three contacts per hour.

Brian Knuth: Three contacts per hour. That is not a seatbelt citation per hour. They can give a warning for a red light or for speeding. That counts as a contact. It doesn't necessarily have to be a citation. You are required to have 1.5 seatbelts an hour. The last month that I worked, due to the truck law, you couldn't write seatbelts fast enough.

Roy Buskirk: That is every twenty minutes. So why aren't they making that many contacts normally?

Ken Fries: You have to realize that our patrol officers are not only enforcing laws for traffic. They are also taking vandalism reports, serving warrants and a myriad of activity. They can't just sit out...

Roy Buskirk: I can believe that. They can't do it every twenty minutes.

Maye Johnson: Sheriff Fries, is this grant specific to any targeted geographical area?

Ken Fries: Allen County.

Paul Moss: Councilman Vogt?

Darren Vogt: In the request it says that these patrols are designed to decrease the number of crashes and fatalities and increase the number of impaired driving arrests. My question is, are we seeing those decreases? As a federal taxpayer, if we are not getting results, what is the point?

Ken Fries: Lieutenant, do you have those figures?

Brian Knuth: Yes. Last year, we saw a 7% decrease in total crashes but better yet, the personal injury crashes decreased 16.6%.

Darren Vogt: Great. Thank you.

Paul Moss: Just to play devil's advocate, you can't state unequivocally that there is a direct connection between that statistic and this type of activity.

Ken Fries: I believe there are a myriad of factors.

Paul Moss: There are a myriad of factors.

Paula Hughes: I would say though, I am serving on the Drug and Alcohol Consortium Board and there has been discussion at that level that there is less DUI activity. There are less actual arrests because there are not as many offenders. There is still the activity in contacts but not necessarily in arrests. It does seem to be working which is a good thing for the community but it decreases the Drug and Alcohol Consortium budget because that is how they got their money.

Ken Fries: People are starting to get the message.

Darren Vogt: Does the federal government, as those arrests occur, they are increasing expenses on the Prosecutor's Office, the courts and all of the paperwork to go along with it, have they come up with any grant money with following that all of the way through?

Lin Wilson: The Sheriff knows how much money they have generated and a certain percentage of fines comes back to us now.

Ken Fries: It was over \$12,000 last year from the fines and fees associated with that. It doesn't take out expenses such as fuel for the cars and such.

Darren Vogt: On your side but then it goes to the court side.

Brian Knuth: What happens is the pre-trial diversion program has estimated that 75% to 80 % of the people will take pre-trial diversion. If I calculate just 50% of the seatbelt violations, after all of our expenses, the County netted over \$13,000.

Darren Vogt: We pre-trial a seatbelt violation?

Paul Moss: I can attest to that. I am off of that now. I will say that as we talk about those dollars, philosophically, I do have an issue with the seatbelt piece and looking at it as a revenue generator. Public safety is one thing but looking at that in terms of going out and giving tickets in order to generate revenue, which I am sure you are not looking at it that way, that is unfortunate. I have no interest in living in a nanny state and should take the seatbelt on down and motorcycle helmets and things of that nature.

Ken Fries: Voluntary compliance is what we seek.

Paul Moss: Are there any other questions about either one of these grants? I do have one question about the criminal alien assistance program. You indicate that the amount will be determined once all of the data from the applicants is reviewed. For that particular grant, how do they calculate the cost associated with illegal immigrants?

Ken Fries: Lin is going to take this one.

Lin Wilson: In the past, we relied on the jail commander to provide a lot of that information. Kelly Sickafoos and I work on the payroll records and you have to document every employee who had any contact with that alien. We have to account for every confinement officer. If they get promoted, we have to document that. If they get terminated, if they get a raise, we have to document that. We submitted about that much paperwork (indicated inches of paperwork).

Paul Moss: Is it a percentage of their salaries and everything?

Lin Wilson: They have a formula that is based on a number of employees, the number of time, how much they were paid, how many illegal aliens were housed and for how long. They have some kind of formula. The agency called Justice Benefits does that second step for us. We get the raw data to them, they do the computation and submit it. I think the reason we were funded six times as much last year is because we got better data. The payroll people in the Auditor's Office were extremely helpful and precise.

Paul Moss: The numbers that you have here, \$27,000, is specific to that program.

Lin Wilson: Right. That is the 2006 funding that we got from all of that work. That took us about three months to get all of their questions answered the way they wanted them. We submitted it and then got an email back asking about this person that had gotten married and so her name changed. Little ticky things like that have to be resolved.

Paul Moss: When you look at those numbers, it doesn't even scratch the surface in terms of the true cost.

Lin Wilson: It is a token reimbursement but it is something. But on the other hand, there are no strings attached to it and the Sheriff can buy equipment with it. It doesn't have to go to a specific use. So he will probably buy in-car video cameras or something useful that the entire department will benefit from. At least there is something there but it is not proportionate to the amount of expense for housing the aliens.

Ken Fries: We will probably use it for equipment there at the correctional facility such as assault vests or tasers or whatever equipment we will need. We hope to have better numbers on the undocumented criminal aliens this year because it is part of the booking process now. They are going to start determining, at the beginning, if they are undocumented. We should have closer numbers. I am meeting with the Indiana Sheriff's this month and I am going to ask Sheriff's statewide start doing that so that we can get a number on what it costs the taxpayers. If we start getting that information as a state, Washington may start taking more action.

Paul Moss: Councilman Buskirk?

Roy Buskirk: The one thing that threw me, I know that Sheriff Herman had talked about the fact that there are supposed to be federal funds available in reimbursement for housing illegal immigrants. But that is different from what this is?

Ken Fries: I don't know of any other federal money that is available to us.

Lin Wilson: We get money for keeping inmates from out of county or from out of state but they don't have to be illegal aliens for that reimbursement. That is a contract with the Federal Bureau of Prisons. That is different from this. Those are just people that are housed here from other states.

Roy Buskirk: But it was my understanding that there were federal funds available if you were housing illegal immigrants from the time they were picked up or deported or whatever. You may want to check with Sheriff Herman on that. This is only if they have had one felony or two misdemeanors.

Ken Fries: Charges and not convictions.

Roy Buskirk: Oh, charges.

Ken Fries: Or if they are housed for four days in a row.

Roy Buskirk: What if they are housed for less than four days? It seems that there is a lot of cost incurred.

Ken Fries: There is. There are incarcerated and not incarcerated but go through the criminal justice system.

Paul Moss: I think we have had more discussion on grants than in a while. Are there any other questions about these grants for the Sheriff's Department?

Darren Vogt: Make a motion to approve Operation Pull Over grant and the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program grant.

Patt Kite: Second.

Paul Moss: **We have a motion and a second, all in favor please signify by saying aye. All opposed same sign. The motion carries 6-0-1 (Miller absent).**

Ken Fries: I have a grant that needs to be signed. Thank you.

Paul Moss: Lin, I think you were going to discuss the Regional Water & Sewer District.

Lin Wilson: Actually, the Commissioners are the ones applying for that grant. It is not an application. The application is not due until September. The proposal that we

are submitting is for \$500,000 to the Office of Community and Rural Affairs to review it and see if it is worthy of a full application. I know August is a very busy month and so I am coming now instead of waiting until next month in the event that we get approved for a full application. This would be for construction of sewers in Riverhaven. The facility would be owned by the Allen County Regional Water and Sewer District. They would provide the match because they would go for a state revolving loan. That is the proposed financing of the project right now.

Paul Moss: What is the total cost of that project estimated to be?

Lin Wilson: It is going to be almost \$1.2 million. That would involve grinder pumps in the homes and low pressure sewer lines. Gravity flow would not be appropriate due to the lay of the land and it being in a flood plain area.

Roy Buskirk: That cost is reimbursed, at least part of it, to the County, correct?

Lin Wilson: Not to the County, to the District. They will own the facility and they will do the billing. The state revolving fund loan would be paid off over twenty years and that is included in the rate that we got from the rate study.

Darren Vogt: So, it gets passed through the taxpayer.

Lin Wilson: The property owner. Whoever is living in that house.

Darren Vogt: The property owner that uses the service.

Roy Buskirk: They pay a monthly sewer bill, right?

Lin Wilson: Yes.

Roy Buskirk: Isn't there something else that we need to vote on?

Lin Wilson: Yes, I put it on here because I thought it was necessary but IDEM said the Commissioners' letter would be sufficient so if you don't want to do it, you don't need to. It turned out that in the course of getting all of the paperwork together, Riverhaven had a sewer district formed on their behalf by the Adams Township Trustee in 1973 and at that point in time, they still had outhouses and very primitive, if any, septic systems. The plan back then was to apply for EPA funding at 90% reimbursement and it never happened. So the district existed on paper only. The Commissioners and Adams Township Trustee have already submitted letters of dissolution to get that dissolved so that the Allen County Sewer District can include them in their territory. So you don't have to do that. I just wanted to have it on there in case you did.

Roy Buskirk: So you need approval for the grant?

Lin Wilson: Right.

Darren Vogt: Make a motion to approve the Commissioners request for the Allen County Regional Water and Sewer District CDBG grant for \$500,000.

Roy Buskirk: Second.

Paul Moss: We have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All in favor please signify by saying aye. All opposed same sign. The motion carries 6-0-1 (Miller absent). We have gotten through all of the grant requests and are now at the point of discussing with Commissioner Peters...

Paula Hughes: We may want to delay that discussion. Is Mr. Clarke, from the City, going to join us? What would you like to do?

Nelson Peters: It doesn't matter to us.

Paula Hughes: We have one more thing to discuss if you don't mind waiting.

Paul Moss: All right, we can talk about the car policy. Councilman Vogt was going to lead this discussion.

Darren Vogt: Commissioner Peters, would you like to come up and join in this discussion? I met with Mr. Pray and we talked about cars and policies and when we get rid of them and when we make decisions to replace them or not. The issue comes down to basically to Larry making a decision on whether or not to keep a car. If the car is good enough to move down the fleet, he will keep it and pass it to someone else. The conversation that I thought we needed to have is about if this is the right way to do it. They are going to develop, now, some sort of template to follow when it comes to disposing of cars. My personal philosophy is that we keep a car in a department or specific position until it uses its useful life instead of rotating it to another department and changing driving habits and all that. As you know, if you have ever bought a used car and don't drive it the same way the other person drove it, it can tend to give you fits. That was really the discussion that we had. Larry, if I misspoke, tell me and your thoughts.

Larry Pray: My only opinion about that is when a car reaches its full potential in a department, it could be moved to another department that is going to put it out of risk. If you have a squad car or a car that transports children, there comes a time when you need to get it away from that department. It could break down or fatigue and could leave somebody stranded at the worst time. We can move that car to another department so that if it breaks down alongside the road, I simply take another vehicle out to them and they can continue on with business. It would not be putting anybody in harms way. That is why I think that at some point in time, you need to move some of the cars around to get them out of a certain application.

Darren Vogt: That is the exception to the rule, I guess.

Larry Pray: It has also been a benefit to have a few cars as a cushion so if something breaks down and it is not worth repairing, we can get it off the street and sell it at auction and give them something else. If we slow down or stop the hand-me-down process, I am not going to have that cushion of vehicles. Sometimes along the way, folks need to use a car. We have that going on with the Assessor's Office right now. They are going out and needed a vehicle for their work and I was able to give them a car because I had something sitting there. There have been a few departments along the way that have popped up in mid-stream and have needed a car. That relieves that pressure. It also relieves if someone's car breaks down, they are not sitting there with nothing to do. If I have something else to put them in, I can keep working.

Roy Buskirk: I think the County needs to keep a car pool. It is your expertise as to how many cars need to be in that pool. Some of them need to be fairly good cars because of the policy that is being changed in which they are using their own vehicle unless they are going out of town.

Darren Vogt: There is a difference between the pool cars and the cars you have, right?

Larry Pray: The pool cars that you are talking about are the cars that are housed in a specific department. My pool cars are County fleet wide. Anybody can use them for when their cars break down.

Paul Moss: How many pool cars do you have?

Larry Pray: I have seven.

Paul Moss: How many other pool cars are out there with the County, do you think?

Larry Pray: That, I couldn't answer because I am not involved with direct departments. If I were to guess, the Board of Health probably has six or seven. You would have to direct to department heads for that.

Paul Moss: Bruce, do you know how many pool cars there are?

Bruce Little: I can certainly tell you. All of the cars that are assigned to the Board of Health are, by definition, pool cars. None of them are take-home. They are shared throughout the department. The Building Department has mostly take-home cars but they have two extra cars so that they are available for their inspectors when they have to bring the cars in for maintenance.

Larry Pray: Those cars are housed at our facility. Nobody else uses those except the Building Department. They have computer terminals and so forth.

Bruce Little: We are just about to begin the new car survey that is going to last through the months of August, September and October. One of the results of that survey is a complete report showing not only the use of the take-home cars but also how many miles are being put on these pool cars. When that study is over, you will have complete information on not only how many but where they are and how many miles are being put on them.

Paul Moss: I anxiously await that.

Bruce Little: We should have it by the end of November.

Darren Vogt: You are also planning on developing some sort of framework for replacing cars.

Bruce Little: Absolutely. Larry is going to be putting something together. He will be talking to the Sheriff's Department and the big fleet users to get some input from them. He wants to come up with a guideline knowing that it can't be rigidly adhered to because there are always be factors to an individual case. We are lucky to have a man here with nearly thirty years of experience with the County's fleet. We need to be able to draw upon that background and that knowledge for him to make judgment calls. That certainly cannot be forgotten when we put this framework together. There will be individual circumstances that will color what to do with a vehicle.

Paul Moss: You provide the maintenance on the entire fleet. Is that correct?

Larry Pray: Yes.

Paul Moss: Does much work get contracted out to other services?

Larry Pray: It is really quite minimal. Automotive collision work is almost all farmed out. We don't have the capability for it and we are not zoned for it. Transmission overhauls gets farmed out. Other than that, it is pretty much done in house.

Paul Moss: So, how many mechanics do you have?

Larry Pray: There are four of us.

Darren Vogt: Do you do Highway maintenance as well?

Larry Pray: No. The executive vehicles, that are housed over here on Superior Street and there are about thirty vehicles, we maintain them. Light trucks and cars.

Darren Vogt: Even north and south barns as well?

Larry Pray: It is not convenient for those guys to come all the way into town for that.

Darren Vogt: And they have their own mechanics. Commissioner Peters, I have a question for you. I think you were in the room when Mr. Dunn came in with his truck was totaled. If you could see if, with the situations that have changed in the Highway Department, there is a vehicle available for him.

Nelson Peters: There could be. There are going to be about four vehicles that are going to be downsized based on what has happened. Certainly there is no reason one of those couldn't be put over there.

Darren Vogt: That would be great. Thank you.

Larry Pray: That is an issue there, that when it was totaled in an accident, because we have a small pool of vehicles, I was able to get him a truck back out on the road. It was a truck that I already had in place at the auction but brought back and put on the street. Within a few hours, I was able to get them back up and working.

Paul Moss: As I recall, the primary reason for this conversation was related to the budget and some of the questions that had come up in regards to requests for extra vehicles.

Paula Hughes: We were hopeful that with each request for a new vehicle, there would be appropriate documentation of the need for that vehicle. That was the piece that was missing. Maybe it was verbalized between you and the department head but that was then not communicated to Council.

Larry Pray: That is something that has been going on for decades and just has never been in black and white. Since we are small in numbers, in our personnel, we have this going on in our heads all of the time. We know what is coming in the door all of the time. We know what is a thorn is our side. To be able to put that into writing so that someone else can understand it is kind of difficult. There are a lot of variables that come along the way. There are driver habits, care and what to do with it.

Nelson Peters: If you can give us the next month to try to put together a generalized policy so that Mr. Pray can retain the right of last refusal and provide a better sense from a budgetary perspective as to when cars should be moved in and moved out.

Paula Hughes: I almost wonder if something similar to the way that we have the grant application form that you check off the reasons it needs to be replaced. I certainly understand that your department has been stretched thin. I have been out there and seen you working and it would be nice to minimize your burden.

Larry Pray: Thank you.

Darren Vogt: The other thing that brought this up too is that we were replacing cars with under 100,000 miles on them and cars are now built better than they were twenty years ago and we should be able to get a better life cycle out of them.

Paula Hughes: We do not want to remove the ability to make a judgment call.

Paul Moss: Also, it is important to note that this is a totally separate issue from the car policy.

Nelson Peters: Just so you know, part of what Mr. Little is doing right now with the survey is to give us a better sense of how much that fleet should be reduced.

Paul Moss: Does anybody else have any other questions or comments?

Patt Kite: I would just acknowledge that Larry and his staff do a phenomenal job of keeping people on the street. I have personal experience there and they do the most with the least.

Paul Moss: Thank you for your time. We appreciate the information. Do we want to talk about the ACS agreement or about one of the things that is not on the agenda? That is a discussion about the email I had sent out a while back and gotten some responses in regards to trying to formulate an opinion. There is a request from the City Council for us to weigh in on the property tax replacement options that are out there right now. It appears that the State is going to be providing a bit of additional time for that decision to be made given the current uproar over property taxes. What has been asked of us is to have a position on this and then provide it to City Council. I can certainly do that either in person or in the form of a letter. As all of you are aware, the Commissioners made a presentation to City Council a few weeks ago and the Deputy Auditor was there with Commissioner Peters to make that presentation. My personal opinion does not deviate a whole lot from what Commissioner Peters stated at that time. I believe this issue is too complex and that there is a need for a substantial analysis, and I know the Auditor's Office has done substantial analysis of various scenarios out there. My fear is that I don't have a whole lot of faith in collectively government entities' ability to provide real property tax relief by increasing the income tax. One of the things pointed out by Commissioner Peters that I absolutely agree with, is that there should be more options particularly with sales tax. There are two issues. One is currently on the table and the other is a philosophical issue. I don't want to get into a lot of detail about everybody's philosophy on taxes but personally I would like to see sales tax as an option. That is one of those things that is going to require additional analysis and discussion. In a very long-winded fashion, which I apologize for, I would like to go around the room here and get a feel for what your position is so we can respond to them as requested.

Paula Hughes: I can start. My position continues to be my concern with shifting the burden of funding for local government from property tax to income tax or sales tax because it is a less stable income stream. If you look particularly for county government and the percentage of our budget that funds services such as the justice system, comprehensive justice system, jail, courts, prosecution and defense. Those are fixed expenses and are fixed expenses that actually might increase during times of duress in the economy when the funds would be decreasing if it were income or

sales. If our economy decreases in activity, less people are working, making less money and spending less money, there would be less tax funds available to fund the operations of local government. And this could be a time where there could be increases in criminal activity because of the strain on the population. I understand the reaction at the state level to decrease the burden on property owners who may be on fixed incomes but I have not seen any effort being made at addressing that in a targeted way. I think it is short sighted to look at simply a shift. Other states have gotten into trouble with that type of activity. I think that keeping our local government tied to property tax funds is the smart way to go for the long haul. Property taxes are the most stable tax stream.

Paul Moss: Councilman Vogt?

Darren Vogt: I hear the term from the State, fixed income. I have to chuckle because anyone who has an income is on a fixed income. Everyone, unless you are in a commission sales type position, has a fixed income. That term is totally inappropriate. If you don't have the ability to go out and change jobs and get more money, it doesn't matter. I would agree to Councilman Moss' point that sales tax may be a better way to go. The system that is proposed right now is a disincentive to earn more money. The more money you make, the higher tax rate you pay. From a housing standpoint, you can control the house you live in. If you choose to move to a lower assessed value home, you have the ability to do that. I don't like to see us not reward people for wanting to create an economic incentive for themselves by earning more money. Looking at the people who want to attract jobs here, looking at an income tax, we all look at our bottom line and what is our take-home pay. When you start tacking that to income tax, it will lower the bottom line that people see in their paychecks. What does that do to the businesses who want to attract people to come here with higher paying jobs? The more money you make and the more you pay in taxes and you aren't getting any more for the services. You look at the folks who live in apartment complexes. Are they going to see their rent decrease because there was a shift in the property taxes? To the Commissioners point of making sure that all of the options have been explored and that we have all of the options on the table, the sales tax is a good idea but if we increase our sales tax in Allen County and the counties around us don't increase the sales tax, that is not a good thing. It needs to be a broader based approach in how we handle the problem if we do use sales tax. For right now, there are too many unknowns. I have seen some of the data that the Auditor's office and Tera has put together and I appreciate that information but we need to drill that down and look at other communities outside of us and see how we compare. To the Governor's credit, he now has a consolidation consortium that is going to tackle the school systems. Let's face it, when you look at our property tax system, the school system is almost half of our property tax bill. That is a problem. We have to look at all of those things put together. I can't support anything and move forward to take on the income tax.

Maye Johnson: I would agree with much of what I have heard. I agree that we need a broad based approach. I don't have enough information. I think a lot more analysis

is required to look at this whole issue. The sales tax, perhaps. I agree with you, Councilwoman Hughes, in regards to having a stable source of income. Right now, that is property taxes.

Patt Kite: I see arguments that I concur with, with the people who have spoken so far. I agree with Councilman Vogt that it is kind of premature but we need to get all of the options out. Sales tax could be an option. I am just mimicking or repeating things that have already been said. It is not necessarily the most stable option.

Paul Moss: So generally, and I am just trying to keep a tally, it sounds like everyone is supporting the position that has already been stated by the Commissioners.

Paula Hughes: I would say that there is something that we haven't discussed. The County Council is excluded from this conversation with the Tax Board or what is the title?

Lisa Blosser: Allen County Income Tax Council.

Paula Hughes: I understand that the City of Fort Wayne, with their nine members, that they comprise the majority of that board but if there were a split among the City Council members, then the voices of other Council members could make a difference. I think that we should more thoroughly investigate why County Council...are other city councils also excluded? It should meet as an entire body. I am very concerned for the lack of representation of the unincorporated areas.

Paul Moss: That is a whole separate issue and I share that frustration. In defense of City Council, President Schmidt has been reaching out to various entities to try to get their input. He did that with the Commissioners and I have had conversations where he has asked for that input as well. In terms of the makeup of that tax board, maybe the two of you could respond to how that is structured legally.

Tera Klutz: I do know that if Fort Wayne would be split like 5-4, it still counts as one yes vote.

Roy Buskirk: But as far as who actually makes up the final vote, the City Council is a huge majority of that board. Basically they control it. Who else is on that?

Tera Klutz: Cities and towns councils.

Paul Moss: It is a little convoluted. This board, which we haven't really figured out how many seats there are and who is on it, has not met. It is basically the majority of that board is generously requesting input.

Tera Klutz: Yes. They sent out a letter to all of the members of Allen County Income Tax Council. Paula, I hope you received one requesting input on how you

would view these different options. They have an ordinance out there that they have asked all of the members to comment on.

Paula Hughes: But there is a difference in asking for comments and having full membership at the table.

Lisa Blosser: In most counties in the state, the County Council acts as the Tax Council. Because of the population makeup of our county, City Council has the majority vote.

Darren Vogt: It is population based. It excludes us from representing the people that we do represent.

Paul Moss: There are legitimate frustrations with how it is occurring. This was just to get a feel on everybody's position is and Roy, we have not heard from you.

Roy Buskirk: I want to thank Tera for a lot of work that she has done on this and I know that I have been one who asked her to run different numbers and in different ways. My one great concern is that under the current legislation proposal, if no matter what amount would be approved, the distribution of that fund is not fair. Everybody in the county would be paying an equal amount of their income taxes. The distribution to each government agency, it is a percentage of their tax rate. The higher the tax rate, the more benefit to the citizens living in that tax unit. There are 46 taxing districts in the county. There would be 46 different layers of benefits that each property tax owner would receive. What I asked Tera to do yesterday was to run six different examples. If it was a one percent property tax income relief, you would have in the City of Fort Wayne, \$662. In New Haven it would be \$668. In Huntertown, it would be \$579. In Woodburn, it would be \$583. In Wayne unincorporated, it would be \$490. In Adams unincorporated, it would be \$535. And the list goes on. My question is, why should the benefit be different? The one way to eliminate that is to have it applied to a tax levy that is the same countywide. If they are going to go on the income tax approach, it needs to be changed with state legislation. I think legislation needs to address it so that it is equal to all citizens. There is discussion on if it should be on homestead credit property zoning, on residential property zoning or businesses. There are a lot of different theories on that. I agree with what other Council members have said up here. The bill has to be paid so you are just shifting it from one tax revenue to another tax revenue and I think the forefathers of this country were very wise when they put it on property taxes. Any other type is revenue on the economy which will fluctuate up and down. Sales tax is harder on the lower income people because a higher amount of the wage earners funds are paid on taxable items. If they want to put some relief on the property tax, my recommendation is that you have a sprinkle effect and that it should be a state-side sales tax and there should also be an increase in the income tax. That would benefit some relief as far as property taxes. My main thing is that it needs to be addressed state wide and be equal distribution of the funds to all property owners.

Paul Moss: You have identified an inequity that everybody has acknowledged. Your suggestion is a very good one but it is also one that cannot occur under the current legislation. To take this full circle, it sounds like you support additional evaluation and study. I will communicate that to Councilman Schmidt and City Council in one form or another. Lastly, the thing I want to say about this too is that it is very frustrating. Finger-pointing is very amusing because every level of government is responsible for mess that we are in and we are simply talking about shifting taxes around. There is no discussion of reducing taxes. That is why people are protesting in front of the Governor's mansion. I have long said that we need to have a modern day Boston Tea Party and I welcome the day that it happens. We are concerned about the revenue side and not the expense side.

Darren Vogt: I will tell you that I think the studies and commissions get thrown out and started and it is sometimes a way to bury things. I think the Governor has seen what has happened in Marion County and that is why he has created the bipartisan committee that is going to attack things like township government and schools. Unfortunately, due to lobbying abilities, been off the radar screen for people to look at consolidating and realizing that there may be a better way to do what they do. I think he has finally realized and people have realized that it is the real root of everything is looking at the whole structure.

Paul Moss: We could go on about that. I am not so sure that it is the root of all of the evil here because there are an awful lot of studies and conversations that indicate that wholesale consolidation not necessarily the panacea that some people think that it is. They may be able to create some efficiencies but we can look at example after example such as the communication center that has two different salary structures. The County is substantially lower than the City and everybody assuming that it would just fall under the City structure which increases expenses there. There are inefficient township components and efficient ones. That is a tough issue to deal with. I think it is a good initiative but I prefer to look on the expense side. I think this Council has done a good job with that. I would use the recent issue with the Print Shop as a golden opportunity. I think everyone here agrees that we can make some headway on small components. The reaction was to circle the wagons and send letters out to get letters of support to not close the Print Shop, which nobody suggested. This is just a small example. I appreciate the feedback from everybody here and will communicate that to the City Council. Mr. Clarke is here so I believe we are going to have a conversation about the ACS contract.

Nelson Peters: Nelson Peters, Allen County Commissioner. Let me get this started. I have Clifford Clarke, the City IT Director and Ed Steenman, County IT Director with me. I am going to talk a little about the status of the ACS contract. I want to provide some generalities and then let these guys answer the tough questions. First of all, I want to thank them and Councilwoman Hughes and Tim Miller for their hard work and diligence in trying to move this issue forward. On July 1st, we sent a letter to ACS telling them that we would be terminating their contract effective December 31, 2008. That was done pursuant to the agreement that we have with them that calls

for an eighteen month notification in the event that we choose to consider other alternatives or move down the same path. In doing that, we set up a timeline that will allow us to move ahead and reach some final consensus long before the December 31, 2008 date. Then we can have, whatever it may be, in place. It may be more of the same or we may choose to continue something with ACS or we may choose to internalize the operation. We may choose to bring on another vendor or it could be a hybrid of all of the above. We really don't know at this particular point and so part of the information that we wanted to impart on you, today, is the fact that we are currently shopping for a consultant to help us with a request for proposal. The good news is that the horrifying numbers that we heard of about \$500,000 plus, a couple of years back, is false. It doesn't appear that it is going to cost us that much at all. With the two consultants that responded to our initial request, it appears that the top line is about \$182,000. The other part of this equation is that we do desire to move collaboratively with City and if split with the City will only cost us, at the worst case scenario, about \$90,000. We put together the RFP which we think will help us identify a number of things including several of the options that I mentioned. People ask what happens if you internalize it. I think that going through the request for proposal process allows us to get some of the answers to how to set it up internally should we choose to go in that direction. It is really a can't lose proposition. It helps us to keep the ball in front of us, identify specifically what those needs are and provides some direction for us in moving ahead. We have looked at a couple of other cities right now. We have looked at Indianapolis and Minneapolis, who has recently been through the process. We have their RFP's and I think you would thank us for not emailing them to you as they are quite large. They do provide some of the answers that we would need for moving ahead. With that timeline set up, that I mentioned, we continue to meet almost weekly because it is going to be a daunting task to come up with all of the answers so that we can be in the position to do what is the most appropriate thing. With that, I will turn it over to these guys.

Paul Moss: I want to make sure that I understand, before you go too much farther here, you are proposing the development of an RFP to the tune of approximately \$180,000 split by the City and the County, with some consultant.

Nelson Peters: Right.

Paul Moss: The first question I have is that we have two very capable and intelligent CIO's and you don't believe you could develop that internally?

Ed Steenman: We have had that discussion and as much as we think that we could physically create the document, the timeframe that it has to be created in and the expertise that comes with that consultant who has created RFP's for other jurisdictions, they bring that expertise to the table. It would require us to do a lot of the research that they have done for other agencies. It is really a timeline issue.

Paul Moss: I understand that but I have to say it. I feel kind of strongly about this because this is the type of expense that I believe we should be able to develop internally.

Paula Hughes: If I could comment. In sitting in on all of these meetings, I felt that my part of the job on that task force was to stress very strongly the Council's desire to thoroughly investigate whether or not the County would be better served by having an internal IT department rather than a contract with ACS. I have my own list of what we want from this consultant. Drafting an RFP is one of a laundry list of things that are my expectations for this project and are met in the services agreement that we are talking about. One of the benefits of outsourcing it is that they should be able to bring back resources from nationwide contracts that the company may have. That is something that is not happening with ACS right now. We don't necessarily get a broader range of information from the corporate model that we think we should have. Compiling the list of services needed by department and countywide, we are beginning to have a silo effect in county government of departments who are figuring out a way to hire their own technical people. They do not feel well served enough by the ACS contract. There is such a short-falling between what the departments need and what is being provided. They are trying to figure out ways to fund it within themselves. I don't want to see that happen unless it is the formal model that we pursue. I have not seen evidence to say that this is the way to go by having an IT person in each department. They are going to research and benchmark our IT resources against other communities. We have done it informally with Indianapolis and Minneapolis but they will do a much more thorough job. The County has two IT people and right now they are the project staff for implementing all technology projects. ACS contract does not provide for implementation of projects. When you think of the technology projects that we are trying to push down or departments are requesting and we are funding. Things like the tax accounting software, the ACS contract does not provide for implementation of that. We have stretched the boundaries a bit and they are going to be deploying some of that. It is not without expense. I feel strongly about it because I want it to be done right. The current staff resources doesn't allow us to do that. It is too many things and the timeframe is just too tight. It is not timeframe because there will always be other projects for you to do. Your primary responsibility is the implementation of those projects. We could hire someone...

Paul Moss: You could hire someone for half of that amount and it would be pretty good.

Paula Hughes: Maybe. But then you wouldn't have the expertise that goes with it.

Ed Steenman: What we have asked the consultants to do in presenting their proposal was to have it in a phased approach. As we determine in-source versus out-source or a hybrid thereof, we don't need to make use of all of their services. We asked them to phase it so we can pick and choose what we need to do.

Roy Buskirk: I am not sure what we are going to receive for the \$182,000. My question is, I thought that we were going to hire a consultant to study the City program and the County's program and make recommendations as far as consolidation of the two programs.

Paula Hughes: It is. It includes all of that.

Roy Buskirk: It is not putting out an RFP to hire somebody to do the work.

Ed Steenman: One of the deliverables, from the consultant, is an RFP to consider replacing ACS or a new contract with ACS. That is the RFP that is coming out of it.

Clifford Clarke: There is a schedule and it does have different phases and the RFP is a particular output. There is a detailed list of the things that would be included in the phases that are listed here and they are going to be between the consultants that we are looking at. That won't change terribly much. As Ed stated, we have reserved the right to say that we could use help on this but we don't need help on something else. Depending on the output of some of the initial phases of analysis as to what is best for the organization, maybe we do need an RFP and maybe we don't. Then some of those cost fall off the bottom too.

Paula Hughes: It is a four phase project. The first two phases include the evaluation of internal versus outsourcing or hybrid and addresses the development of the RFP if needed. It addresses the comparisons to other communities and what some of the standards are and what the benchmarks are. Then we understand what the best and the brightest are doing and what we can afford to do. Those two are only \$84,000 total.

Ed Steenman: What we have done is from the consultant's initial proposal, rearranged some of the tasks and deliverables so that we make more of those decisions on the model that we are going to pursue. We are trying to get more of those decisions up front.

Paula Hughes: We can cancel without pursuing and we also had a lump-sum proposal from these entities. We pursued the phase approach so that we could cut it short at any time.

Roy Buskirk: If the initial study comes up with us being better off doing it internally, there wouldn't even be a need for an RFP.

Paula Hughes: Correct.

Darren Vogt: Is it safe to say that if I am going to spend \$100,000 of the County's money and we went all the way to the RFP phase, do you believe that we could save that amount of money in the contract and the long run of using someone like that? Will they benefit us from the negotiation standpoint?

Ed Steenman: We have asked them to be involved in the negotiation and implementation if a new vendor is involved.

Clifford Clarke: I think the bulk of the vendors that we are looking at have demonstrated their ability to look at the contract issues. I stay cautious about the overall savings and am more excited about the ability to extract more efficiencies out of the process.

Paula Hughes: We are under-funding technology right now. Based on the benchmarks of other communities, Fort Wayne and Allen County are not funding technology in the way that our comparison communities are.

Clifford Clarke: I would agree with you and that is demonstrated by our backlog of projects that we have not been able to do.

Darren Vogt: My concern would be where do we find the funding? As we talk about property taxes, we have a limited amount of funds to work with, where do we draw the line? If we need to do that, we may have to cut in other places.

Nelson Peters: Part of the response to that is really in the examination of the whole IT situation. There could be efficiencies found through internalization, another vendor or further discussion with ACS.

Paul Moss: We are saying two different things. We are talking about creating efficiencies and we are talking about all of the unmet needs. Unmet needs means dollar signs. We are talking about spending more money to get projects off the back burner and to the front burner. I want to say that I work for a company that is bigger than the City and the County combined and we have an infinite list of projects that we would like to have done but there is a finite amount of money.

Clifford Clarke: I agree with you on that. It is healthy to have a backlog because that helps you to choose which projects are worth doing and which ones aren't. I would think that on the list, we would have those that would have gone on sometime but we have not been able to execute on and those would be evaluated that we may never do them. We also have compliance related ones that might come down from the State or taxing agencies and so on that there is an expectation that those projects are done in a timely fashion. I would also assume that there are projects out there that have a return on investment.

Paul Moss: That is a valid point. I have no problem being on the losing end of this discussion about the consultant. My primary point is that I believe that we rely too heavily on outside consultants. Unfortunately from the County's perspective, our experience, at least recently, with consultants hasn't been too good. I can think of two very recent issues where we spent a considerable amount of money and nothing has happened. All it has created is additional in-fighting within the County.

Paula Hughes: I am being defensive on part of this committee because I have beaten them up a little about putting this together in a way that I believe Council wanted them to. I heard from the pre-allocation hearings that Council wanted this task force to thoroughly investigate internal versus external. That is why this is structured in this way. It could be done less expensively but we would not have researched options.

Clifford Clarke: I would also suggest that you would elongating the timeline it takes to do it. I don't want to discount the personal capacity of either myself or Ed. There are a lot of things that both City Council and County Council are expecting us to do in the day-to-day running of the operation. This is just another piece that puts the end date at risk. If we can utilize wisely some of the dollars to offset some of this work to make sure that it gets done, I think it is money well spent.

Paula Hughes: This is already a part of the 2007 budget within the City.

Paul Moss: Is there any other discussion on this or anything you wanted to point out?

Clifford Clarke: I don't want belabor it if you have enough information. A couple of key points are that the City and County are continuing to work collaboratively on a variety of different things and I think it is important to make mention of. This is the appropriate time. We have had the agreement with ACS for quite sometime with nominal changes to the actual language of the agreement. We remain focused on the performance of the overall organization. On the City and County collaboration, we have a shared network. We have worked with each other on equipment buys and we have had opportunities to improve our overall network structure. We both sit on each others Data Board and work together on policies and procedures. Again, this is to demonstrate just how much collaboration is taking place. It is an appropriate time to take a look at it because the original contract did not make way for service level agreements and other performance things that we do not have. The contract, in its original form was based upon a data center type of operation and we have a more development desirous environment today. There is an opportunity to see if it is adequately meeting our needs and compared to other best practices, these were already stated earlier. We want to make sure that we are operating efficiently and be prepared for our future growth.

Paul Moss: You bring up a very good point on the positive side of the collaboration. It is clearly not as well known as it should be that the City and the County collaborate significantly on IT issues. I appreciate you bringing that up.

Ed Steenman: Even outside of IT, we are in the draft process of a memorandum of understanding to take that outside of IT and into the consolidation enforcement area. We talked about the permit platform with you and are taking that to the City as well. All of those departments who regularly need to interact with each other are moving

toward a common platform between the City and the County. There would be no line between them.

Paul Moss: You are not asking us to do anything in terms of acting on the dollars for the consultant.

Nelson Peters: No we are not.

Roy Buskirk: I have one other comment. This could be a beautiful thing in retaining graduates. I had the privilege of attending a luncheon in which Clifford was a speaker and a graduate of ITT. ITT is celebrating their fortieth year in Fort Wayne. They have a tremendous program and I understand that you obtained your training?

Clifford Clarke: That is not actually correct. I went to Indiana Institute of Technology.

Ed Steenman: I am a graduate of ITT.

Roy Buskirk: Thanks for saving my speech. Anyhow, they have a tremendous computer programming and schooling and I can see the potential of graduates coming here if we go in-house.

Clifford Clarke: We do want to leverage talent in our area and we have, through third parties, been able to get individuals from various institutions.

Ed Steenman: Just because we use an outside vendor, we want to staff with local folks.

Paula Hughes: That is something that came up and I don't think we mentioned. Our current contract with ACS does not prohibit us from hiring some of the people that are working with us currently. Even if we do not continue to contract with ACS, we would most like retain some of those individuals. We have options in that area.

Paul Moss: How do we need to deal with the budget component of this?

Lisa Blosser: You have earmarked money in this year's budget that you set aside that we haven't officially appropriated. There was \$1.2 million for technology projects.

Paul Moss: There were a lot of positions and refresh my memory, those positions were assumed to be under ACS, correct?

Ed Steenman: Are you talking about what I asked for in the pre-allocation hearings?

Paul Moss: Correct.

Paula Hughes: That is separate.

Paul Moss: Totally separate.

Ed Steenman: Those were assumed, at that point in time, additions.

Paul Moss: Any other comments?

Nelson Peters: Thank you.

Paul Moss: We have a meeting coming up with the Commissioners.

Paula Hughes: August 2 at 1:30.

Paul Moss: That is correct.

Darren Vogt: We have one on August 1st as well.

Paula Hughes: The 1st is the legislative and the 2nd is the CEDIT discussion.

Paul Moss: The CEDIT discussion on the 2nd is an opportunity for the Highway Department to go into greater detail on their expenditures.

Darren Vogt: The meeting in November, on the 15th, I have a conflict. Could we move that meeting?

Paula Hughes: How about Tuesday the 13th?

Paul Moss: Are there any other meetings that anyone wants to mention?

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 July 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 6-0-1 (Miller absent).**

Paul Moss: When will the downstairs area be done?

Paula Hughes: I thought we should talk about the next meeting in the middle of August. We have blocked out the 15th, 16th and 17th for the budget hearings. I asked the Auditor's Office how many departments were appealing and they thought less than ten but probably five or six.

Lisa Blosser: There are ten appeals but you will need to review the Highway budget. They will be presenting a budget with extensive cuts. Coliseum and Board of Health are the other two non-general funds. I think you could get it done in a day. A day and a half at the most.

Darren Vogt: If we could do the 16th and 17th that would be great. I have a mandatory meeting with my day job.

Paula Hughes: I will be out of town on the 17th. Let's shoot for the 16th and maybe we can get it done in one day.

Paul Moss: Okay. Let's try the 16th only.

Darren Vogt: Motion to adjourn.

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 6-0-1 (Miller absent).** The next meeting will be held on August 16 and 17, 2007 at 8:30 am.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 am.