

**ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
DECEMBER 13, 2007  
8:30 AM**

The Allen County Council met on Thursday, December 13, 2007 at 8:30 am in the County Council/Commissioners Courtroom. The purpose of the meeting was for additional appropriations, transfer of funds in excess of the current budget, grants and any other business to come before Council.

Attending: Paul G. Moss, President; Roy A. Buskirk, Vice President; Paula S. Hughes, Maye L. Johnson, Darren E. Vogt, Calvert S. Miller and Paulette Kite.

Also Attending: Lisa Blosser, Auditor; Tera Klutz, Chief Deputy; Bill Brown, Commissioner, 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.

**Paul Moss:** We are going to start right off with Economic Development. Ashley, are you doing both of these?

**Ashley Steenman:** Yes. Good morning, Ashley Steenman from the Department of Planning Services. This is Judy Roy from Indiana Tech. Also with me today is Rod Wilson from City Securities. Indiana Institute of Technology, also known as Indiana Tech is located at 1600 East Washington Boulevard. They have decided that because of the growth and the number of students that they have, they need to build a new dorm. The residence hall will house about sixty students and will also have an alumni suite. They have submitted an application to the County Economic Development Commission to issue tax exempt bonds for financing their project. I will let Judy Roy explain some of the specifics of the project in just a minute but I wanted to highlight some key points. The application is requesting the issuance of a bond in the amount of \$3.6 million. That is just to cover the expenses of the building project. They currently have 144 full-time employees and 205 part-time employees. This project will create one new full-time position and three new part-time positions. This is an institution that has been in our community for approximately seventy-seven years. They provide numerous benefits to our citizens and make our workforce more valuable. It is in an area, just east of downtown, that doesn't see economic growth very often. This is a great opportunity for them. Unless you have any questions for me, I will let Judy give her presentation.

**Judy Roy:** Good morning. This is a rendering of the dormitory that we are looking to construct. It sits on the corner of Washington and Anthony. It will have about sixty-four beds and we will have room to build a future residence hall on that same site. This dorm will be four stories tall and will have four suites on each floor. There will

be a large community room on the first floor. We are also including an alumni suite on the first floor so that we can bring our alums back and allow them to stay on campus. It is needed due to the growth of the traditional day program and we are confident that we can fill this dorm next fall. We are looking for your consideration for this project. Do you have any questions that I can answer?

**Paul Moss:** Are there any questions from Council?

**Paula Hughes:** I have a question for Ashley. Could you remind us of the technicalities of the responsibilities of Allen County in terms of an inducement bond?

**Ashley Steenman:** They send an application to the Economic Redevelopment Commission. Last Friday, the Economic Commission approved their inducement resolution. It then comes to County Council for your approval and then we have to go to City Council to get their approval because we are working within their jurisdiction. It then comes back to the Economic Development Commission for a public hearing and then to County Council for a public hearing and the reading of the ordinance. The County is basically just lending our tax exempt status to Indiana Tech to receive better ratings on bonds.

**Paula Hughes:** If it is within Fort Wayne's jurisdiction, why is the County the sponsoring agent?

**Ashley Steenman:** We have done work with Indiana Tech before and it basically has to do with there being a long-standing relationship with them. Also, there are some outstanding bonds with them and Rod could probably explain this better.

**Rod Wilson:** I am Rod Wilson with City Securities and we are working with Indiana Tech to raise funds. This is the fourth issuance under this bond documents. On the initial issuance, it was possible for Allen County to not only lend its name but also to provide bank qualification for the tax exempt bonds which reduced the rate to Indiana Tech even more. At this point, it is much easier for the institution to stay with the County then to go back and write a new set of documents with the City. The County taxpayers are not on the line and it says very specifically in the document that Indiana Tech is responsible for all of the terms.

**Paula Hughes:** Thank you.

**Cal Miller:** Is it Ms. Roy?

**Judy Roy:** Yes.

**Cal Miller:** How many dorm rooms do you have on campus now?

**Judy Roy:** We have 314.

**Cal Miller:** Will the building of this represent the surge of enrollment or just some of the existing students coming to live on campus?

**Judy Roy:** There will actually be a surge in enrollment. We have grown by approximately 60 to 80 students each year, over the last three years. We are bringing more students to campus and more want to stay on campus, as well.

**Cal Miller:** Will the students that fill up this dorm, that are perhaps new students, be the mechanism for retiring the debt?

**Judy Roy:** Yes. The charges that we charge the students will cover the bond payment. This dorm is really geared more toward the sophomore and junior population. We will be able to keep more students on campus.

**Cal Miller:** Okay, great. Thank you.

**Paul Moss:** Councilwoman Johnson?

**Maye Johnson:** Judy, I am well aware of the wonderful improvements that you have made to East Central. You are my neighbor. That is my neighborhood. My question is, is the neighborhood association aware of your plans with the dorm?

**Judy Roy:** Actually, they are not right now. We need to get to a meeting this month and make them aware of it. This has just come up in the last six weeks.

**Maye Johnson:** Okay.

**Paul Moss:** Councilman Vogt?

**Darren Vogt:** Ashley, this is a question for you. With this kind of bond, there is a lot of legislation talk about capping the amount of bonds that counties can do. Is this the kind of bond that would play a role in that?

**Ashley Steenman:** Right now, there is a \$10 million cap per project. I am not sure if it would have an effect on this type of bond or not.

**Rod Wilson:** Under House Bill 1001, it was introduced that these bonds are not part of the cap. The legislation considers bonds that are backed by property taxes.

**Darren Vogt:** Okay, thank you.

**Paul Moss:** Councilman Buskirk?

**Roy Buskirk:** You say it is \$10 million a year?

**Ashley Steenman:** Yes.

**Roy Buskirk:** How many have we done this calendar year?

**Ashley Steenman:** This is the only one.

**Roy Buskirk:** I do have a little concern on the cash flow that you proposed here. It is pretty tight, correct?

**Judy Roy:** What you are seeing is just a one-year snapshot and it is based on next year's tuition fees. I looked at the average cash flow over the life of the bond. Each year, we increase the board fee and so each year, that number will go up. My calculation is that we could be as low as fifty students and still be able to cover the bond payment.

**Roy Buskirk:** When I first received this information, I was really concerned but I see that there are some other things that have been added to the dorm for the alumni. With sixty students and \$3.6 million, that is \$60,000 per unit per student. Apartment complexes in Fort Wayne are considerably less than that. I guess that my question is, why is the cost per student so high?

**Judy Roy:** I can't compare this to an apartment building. It is very comparable to Rogers Hall which is built right across Washington from the university. We are working with the same construction firm. We are working with Design Collaborative, the architects and have worked very hard to get to the right pricing on this. It includes a community room which is driving the price up a little bit.

**Rod Wilson:** There are two other things. In terms of security for the bond issue, the bonds are secure to the extent that these revenues will be insufficient in one or another year. The bond is secured by all of the revenues and assets of Indiana Tech. They go beyond this dorm simply being able to pay for itself. The second item would be that there is hope, that as costs are finalized, that the price comes down by five or eight percent. It is certainly the institutions hope that we don't have to issue the entire \$3.6 million. In Indiana, you can't ask for less and add to it. You have to ask for a little more and then reduce it back to what you actually need. And finally, apartments wouldn't probably include all of the furnishings and fixtures that are included in the dorm. These have to be ready for students who arrive at campus with a suitcase and move in to live for a year.

**Roy Buskirk:** I am sure that each unit does not include a kitchen.

**Judy Roy:** These units include a kitchenette.

**Roy Buskirk:** Okay, thank you.

**Paul Moss:** Are there any other questions from Council?

**Cal Miller:** Move for approval of an inducement resolution for an economic development revenue bond for Indiana Tech located in Section 1 of Wayne Township.

**Darren Vogt:** 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 7-0.

**Ashley Steenman:** Ashley Steenman from the Department of Planning Services.

**Art Mandelbaum:** I am Art Mandelbaum, President of Baekgaard Limited.

**Ashley Steenman:** Baekgaard Limited is expanding and relocating its corporate headquarters. It is across from General Motors and next to Vera Bradley. The company specializes in design, sale and distribution of men and women's leather accessories and other high-end gifts that you see at stores such as Pottery Barn and Vera Bradley. They have been extremely successful in the past few years. Their growth in sales necessitated the need for a larger facility and more employees. As you saw in the application, they are investing \$2.3 million in a beautiful 30,000 square foot warehouse and an 8,000 square foot office and \$1.38 million in new equipment. They currently employ sixteen people but intend to hire fifty-five in the next few years. As an employer, Baekgaard offers comprehensive benefits to its employees and will be including a 401K option at the beginning of 2008. In working with this project, our staff is certain that this is going to be a great development all around. They are eligible for a seven-year abatement for both real and personal property taxes. That would result in a savings of \$233,000 over the time of the abatement. It should also be noted that they have opted to contribute a portion of their savings to economic development. I will let Art make his presentation.

**Art Mandelbaum:** In late 2003 when we acquired Baekgaard Limited, we moved from Northbrook, Illinois and we started with three employees. Barbara Baekgaard is one of the founders of Vera Bradley and is co-owner of this company, with me. Since then, we have gone from three employees to sixteen employees. Our sales are up over ten times what they were when we acquired the company. We grew 300% just in 2007. If we would have the sufficient space right now, we would be adding eleven people. It will not be a problem meeting the goals and projections for employment and revenue that we will generate over the next several years. I want to thank the Department of Planning Services and in particular, Ashley has been so helpful along with Mark Royse and Michelle Wood. Also the County because despite the fact that we are associated with Vera Bradley because of the common ownership with Barbara Baekgaard, the Shovel Ready site was a very important reason that it made sense for us to be next door to the Vera Bradley site. It is well appreciated what that has done. I hope that the project and the neighborhood that we are creating will draw other nice developments in that area.

**Paul Moss:** Councilman Vogt?

**Darren Vogt:** That was my question of how important was the Shovel Ready site and you answered that.

**Art Mandelbaum:** If you don't mind, I would like to go a step further and say that having practiced law for fifteen years before I became involved in this endeavor and doing real estate law, I know exactly what the timing is to be able to acquire a piece of property and get it to a point where you can break ground. I think we have done this ninety days sooner than we would have otherwise had. We began negotiating buying this property and all the title work, all of the surveys, environmental tests and soil boring tests were handed to us and that is the things that you can wait months for. It has been incredibly helpful. If we hadn't had the opportunity because of the timing, it would have probably taken us into February before we could break ground and you can't break ground on a building like this in February. We are going to be in this facility sometime in mid-summer instead of towards the end of the year. That is really critical for our business because the last third of the year, a significant amount of our business is done then because of the holidays. It was incredibly helpful for us. It will allow us to have fifteen more employees at least six months sooner.

**Darren Vogt:** Great, thank you.

**Paul Moss:** How much property did you acquire?

**Ashley Steenman:** About 16.4 acres.

**Paul Moss:** And how big is the complex?

**Ashley Steenman:** This is just the office, I believe.

**Art Mandelbaum:** You can see in the background where the warehouse will be. The front part is going to be close to 10,000 square feet. I didn't have a lot to say in this. My partner, who is very heavily involved in design, is primarily responsible for the design. The warehouse space will be approximately 30,000 square feet. I don't know if any of you have had the opportunity to visit the Vera Bradley Center but we will have similar capabilities. There is no distribution done in this state that rivals the technological level that we have. That will help us be more efficient.

**Paul Moss:** Other than the Shovel Ready site, is there anything else that occurred in regards to the County contributing to this project?

**Ashley Steenman:** I should mention that the State has made a commitment to...

**Art Mandelbaum:** ...tax abatements and training credits.

**Ashley Steenman:** And the County is also in the process of working a deal to help with the purchase of buying down the cost of the land.

**Paul Moss:** Can you explain? I am not familiar with that.

**Ashley Steenman:** It is roughly \$123,000 that the County is offering to Baekgaard to help purchase the land from the property owners.

**Paul Moss:** Is that CEDIT dollars or what?

**Ashley Steenman:** It is coming from the redevelopment commission. It is a TIF area. It will be paid back through tax increment debt.

**Mark Royse:** If I could jump in. Mark Royse, Deputy Director of Planning. One of the reasons that the County was willing to do this is because there is a 2.5 acre parcel that is included in the 16.4 that the broker had always marketed as commercial. This was to be used for a convenience store or restaurant. That is a use that General Motors and Vera Bradley didn't want there. If you look at the commercial price of the 2.5 acres, spread it over the 16.4 acres and take the difference that is where we came up with the \$123,000. There are provisions in the agreement, if any of that property was sold, it would be at a price higher per acre than what they paid. Then there would be a 50/50 split back to the County.

**Roy Buskirk:** In the information that you gave to us, the road is between...

**Art Mandelbaum:** The road is between the Zubrick Road and...

**Roy Buskirk:** The Lafayette Center Road.

**Art Mandelbaum:** And then everything is north and east of the old Zubrick Road was the 2.75 acres.

**Roy Buskirk:** Right. The area between the Lafayette Center Road and the new Zubrick Road.

**Art Mandelbaum:** When we began pursuing the property, we were only looking for the southern eight acres and that would have included any part of the north half and the frontage along Lafayette Center Road. In discussing the matter with officials from the County, it was clear that getting the property out of the hands of the seller was very important. We ended up buying twice the property that we wanted to at approximately \$6,000 an acre simply because the 2.5 acres that was abutting Lafayette Center Road was being asked for at such a great premium.

**Paula Hughes:** Council, I would add that this is a perfect example of what happens when the County invests in improvements to an area. The County has, I know, better than a million dollars in this Shovel Ready site. That includes roads, sewers

and that kind of thing. Because we did not acquire the property prior to making those improvements, the property owner is increasing the price of the land and making it less competitive for economic development projects. That is why I am thrilled that the Commissioners have started a land banking line item. I think it is important, as we move forward and become more aggressive and progressive, in the way that we approach economic development, we think about that far-reaching impact. We have been boxed into a corner on this one, unfortunately, and there have been many times that a site that we have put money into, believing that it was ideal for industrial development, the private sector was trying to sell it for a less intensive and beneficial use. We appreciate your willingness to partner with us on that.

**Paul Moss:** Any additional questions? Councilman Buskirk?

**Roy Buskirk:** I have a question for Ashley and I am sure she did the math. You mentioned the fact that they are participating on giving back part of the tax abatement, which is only on the personal property and not on the real estate. Is that correct?

**Ashley Steenman:** Correct.

**Roy Buskirk:** I notice that they did participate at the 20% rate on the real estate and they would enhance the program from a seven year to a ten year abatement.

**Ashley Steenman:** Art and I discussed that and I think part of it is that they wanted to give back to this because they are grateful but at the same time, they didn't want to get themselves boxed in and not be able to contribute down the road. It also worked out better, savings wise, for them to do 10% on personal property as opposed to doing 20% on everything.

**Roy Buskirk:** The money that we receive back is how we are able to do Shovel Ready sites, road improvements and sewers to these areas.

**Cal Miller:** With that said, thanks for the contribution coming back in the form that it is.

**Roy Buskirk:** We have had property owners come in here who didn't understand the advantage between the seven and the ten.

**Darren Vogt:** Move for approval of resolution approving the Statement of Benefits for Great Dane Realty/Baekgaard Limited located at 12420 Silverado Drive.

**Paula Hughes:** 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 abstained).

**Cal Miller:** My partner's wife works for Vera Bradley and so there is some connection there and I wanted to abstain. And I used to be a partner with Art Mandelbaum.

**Paul Moss:** Thank you very much. Council, it appears in my excitement over these two economic development issues that I neglected to have us approve the minutes or go through the financial report. We are going to back up a little bit before we get into the General Fund issues.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Darren Vogt made a motion to approve the minutes of November 13, 2007. Maye Johnson seconded. Motion carried 6-0-1 (Miller abstained).**

**Paul Moss:** The financial report from Auditor Blosser but first of all, congratulations. That is a tremendous honor for you and well deserved.

**Paula Hughes:** You should mention what you are referring to.

**Paul Moss:** Roy has gone out and gotten you an award?

**Roy Buskirk:** I snuck it out of her office this morning. I feel that we are really privileged to have Lisa as our Auditor and the Auditor's staff act as Council's administrative staff and works for us. This is the first time in the history of Allen County to have our Auditor be selected as the best Auditor in the State of Indiana. I wanted to let everybody see the award that she received for this honor.

Applause.

**Lisa Blosser:** I really accepted that award on behalf of my whole staff. I have the best staff in the State. It is definitely a team effort. Thank you so much.

**Cal Miller:** Congratulations to you and your staff.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

**Lisa Blosser:** There is one request today for a transfer funds within the General Fund in the amount of \$1,194. In your County Council Capital Line Budget, you have a balance of \$265,409 that will roll over to next year. Miscellaneous revenue through November is at 110%. We have done quite well. One economy thing that you may want to take note of is that in the Department of Planning, Building Department and Surveyor, their fees are all down. That reflects what is happening in our community right now with building permits. They are the only department revenue that were down.

**Darren Vogt:** One thing that I would like to make note of is that our interest investment is up significantly. We were projected at \$3.6 and we are just over \$5 million.

**Paul Moss:** Are there any additional specific questions for the Auditor on the financial report?

**Roy Buskirk:** Again, this points out how good our Auditor and her staff is on giving us estimates a year in advance on what the revenue is going to be.

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

**Roy Buskirk:** 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 7-0.** We are going to move into the General Fund issues. Items one through four are related to the Treasurer.

**Sue Orth:** I am Sue Orth, Chief Deputy to the Treasurer. I am here today to ask for a transfer from Forms and Supplies for \$140, Computer Software of \$529 and Office/Computer Equipment for \$525. This is all to go to Postage to cover our postage for the rest of the year. The County had a lot of appeals and each of those appeals, as they were processed, generates a new tax bill and those had to be mailed.

**Cal Miller:** Move for approval of items one through four.

**Darren Vogt:** Second.

**Roy Buskirk:** Before we vote, this has nothing to do with the refund checks, correct?

**Sue Orth:** Yes.

**Paul Moss:** **We have a motion and a second.**

**Cal Miller:** I have a question after we vote about the Miscellaneous Revenue.

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

**Cal Miller:** I just have a quick question. In looking at the Treasurer's Miscellaneous Revenue, the estimate was \$5,000 and it was up over 2,431%. What is driving that?

**Lisa Blosser:** She may not know what you are looking at. It is collection fees. It is more of an in and out item but we have to report it as revenue.

**Sue Orth:** Thank you.

**Paul Moss:** Thank you. We have some addendums but we will move into the Salary Ordinances first.

**Tim Miller:** Tim Miller with the Allen Circuit Court. The salary ordinance before you is the judicial salary which is tied to the Executive Indiana State Government Salary and there has been an adjustment that was effected December 1, 2007.

**Cal Miller:** We continue to do this with the hearing officer each year, don't we?

**Tim Miller:** Yes.

**Darren Vogt:** It is a State controlled fund that we have to fund whenever they tell us to fund it.

**Roy Buskirk:** What kind of adjustment amount is this?

**Tim Miller:** It is 2%.

**Paula Hughes:** Move for approval of an amended salary ordinance setting the pay in Circuit Court of 100 series 6102-412, Magistrate/Hearing Officer appropriation 14.80 for \$101,897.

**Maye Johnson:** 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 7-0.**

**Paula Hughes:** Oh, that was for 2007. I need to make one for 2008 as well. A motion for an amended salary ordinance for 2008 amending the range in pay in Circuit Court of 100 series 6102-412, Magistrate/Hearing Officer appropriation 14.80 for \$101,897.

**Cal Miller:** 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 7-0.** Department of Planning has a whole bunch of them here and if I recall correctly, this is the primary reason that we moved our meeting. You have a lot going on a lot of good things happening.

**Kim Bowman:** Good morning, I am Kim Bowman, Executive Director of the Department of Planning Services.

**Bob Eherenman:** Bob Eherenman, Attorney for the Allen County Planning Commission.

**Kim Bowman:** We appreciate you moving your meeting around this month. We are in the process of formalizing an interlocal agreement with the City of Fort Wayne and forming a new, merged City and County Land Use staff. The first items on the agenda, the salary ordinances are kind of the rest of the story. With your permission, we would like to begin our presentation and describe a little bit about the interlocal agreement. Is that okay?

**Paul Moss:** That's fine.

**Kim Bowman:** I will start with a little introduction. In early 2007, the City and the County entered into an agreement to hire a consulting firm to look at the management practices and procedures of both the City and the County Land Use departments. I would like to note that this is only about Land Use. Both departments have several other divisions. For example, Economic Development and GIS are not impacted by this. A management consulting team from Cincinnati, Ohio was selected and began a process of reviewing the two departments. They looked at the staffing levels, our processes and procedures. In July, the report was finalized and from that report, three alternatives were proposed. One was to establish an area Plan Commission, which is a merging of our boards. The second was to merge the departments and keep the boards separate. The third was to co-locate our office staffs and have the planners separate. Through many discussions and some debates, it was decided that the merging of the two departments is the most desirable outcome. The reason for this is because of the overlap, especially in the annexation areas, plus the goal of the comprehensive plan to better align our zoning ordinances. From that point, we have gone forward with the merging of the two Land Use staffs. I have copies of the report here if you would like to peruse it. On November 1<sup>st</sup>, it was announced by Commissioner Peters and Mayor Richard that the administrations are moving forward with a merged Land Use department. From there, the work has really begun. I hope it will end by this time next year but it is really exciting. To provide better services for the citizens, you heard from Mr. Mandelbaum speak earlier about his experience in development with Allen County and we are hoping to take the best procedures from both the City's Land Use department and the County's Land Use department. The City Land Use department will be dissolving in early 2008 and the new department will be a County department. All staff will be County employees. As part of that, there are several requests as salary ordinances and then we are going to talk about the interlocal agreement. I have a copy of the proposed organizational chart to hand out to you. This is only for the Land Use division. There will be twenty staff members and there will be an overall decrease of two staff members. A lot of this will probably look the same. We have a Plan Commission, BZA, Permits and Enforcement and Projects division that will be focusing primarily on aligning the two zoning subdivisions. One of the recommendations of the study is that the County does not utilize the front office staff as best as we could. We have a lot of permits that come through the office and currently our office staff does not provide any type of review function or processing function. The report recommended that they are trained to provide the kind of triage at the beginning level of this type of review. As the job descriptions changed, the new descriptions were rated and that is

where the reclassifications for the Secretary and Bookkeeper who will be performing these intake functions. There are six proposed new positions and in addition, I have a Deputy Land Use Director position that has been open. Also, because of the economy, as Ms. Blosser mentioned, our revenues are way down. I have had a Permits staff person position that has been open since February. Because we are not getting the permits in, I thought it was better to not fill that position until it is really needed. That is another position that is part of the organization but not part of the new salary ordinance. Our lunch date, we are hoping to have everything in place on March 3, 2008. There is a lot of work to be done. At this time, I will answer any questions that you may have about the salary ordinances. Then we will discuss the interlocal agreement.

**Paul Moss:** For those that don't have the pleasure of serving on the Personnel Committee, could you talk a little bit about the total FTE's of the two departments and the total FTE's of the combined departments? I think that is an important component of this from the perspective of the taxpayers. Also, is it your belief that these positions, given that there were two somewhat different salary structures, the sense that these new positions are appropriately market-based in terms of salary structure?

**Kim Bowman:** I will start with the numbers. Currently, there are eight City Land Use staff employees. There are twelve County Land Use staff employees. One of the City staff members is retiring at the beginning of July. We are going through the process of job descriptions and working with the City staff to see if they have the qualifications to fill one of the new positions or one of the unfilled positions with Allen County. There is a small savings, as far as salary, with the elimination of those positions. I guess it is not eliminated but duplicated. Both the City and the County have an Office Manager as well as Deputy Director. With the reorganization, there will only be one of each of these two positions. As far as the salary structures, I will be back in February. I have been working with the Auditor's Office and they have been tremendously helpful with this. There will be some budget issues. At that time, and the Personnel Committee heard about this, I would like to establish a forty hour work week for the County employees. This is due in part to the philosophy of the department on customer service. Currently we are on 37.5 hour workweek and the City is on forty hour workweeks. I feel it is important to provide the same hours to the City clients. With the forty hour workweek, the 2008 pay grid, the salaries will align as to where the City staff will fit in. Currently our jobs meet in the middle. They don't exactly equal as far as responsibilities but I think, by March 3<sup>rd</sup>, everything will be aligned and in place. As far as comparing to the private sector, I can provide you with some numbers but we are getting closer.

**Paul Moss:** Councilman Buskirk?

**Roy Buskirk:** Between the City and the County, there are twenty employees and with the merger, there will be eighteen. Is that correct?

**Kim Bowman:** Yes.

**Roy Buskirk:** The other thing I wanted to bring out has to do with the salary ordinances and currently on the County side, the information for a permit is brought to your office and has to be reviewed. With the change in the pay structure and additional training, when someone comes for a permit, it will be reviewed at that time while they are standing at the counter? Also, it may be approved if it meets all of the criteria. Correct?

**Kim Bowman:** We would like to get to that point. It will have to be a lot of training. Having the technology available and at our fingertips is a big help. With the training and technology available, that is the goal, to have the front office staff approve certain types of permits such as fences, sheds and possibly room additions. When it gets into a Baekgaard office or corporate headquarters then that would require a different level. They could make sure that the applications are secure and can direct clients when they come in with a question.

**Paul Moss:** Is it safe to assume that everyone is familiar with what effect this will have on the respective Plan Commissions and what happens there?

**Kim Bowman:** The Plan Commissions and BZA's will remain as is. Our boards will not change. The board structures will not change. The changes will be progressive over the year with new faces and different ways of providing materials. The County has a lot more technology available as far as GIS. Councilperson Hughes has really helped us with that. On the City side, they will be discovering some of the technology. There will be some procedural differences. That is where the feedback from the boards is going to be really critical.

**Paul Moss:** Are there any other questions from the Council? What are the other approvals that you have to get after this?

**Bob Eherenman:** City Council has approved on December 4<sup>th</sup>. The Allen County Board of Zoning Appeals approved the agreement yesterday. Planning Commission will hear it a week from today and is scheduled to go to the Commissioners on the 21<sup>st</sup>. The City approvals are early next week. Our approvals will hopefully be done by a week from Friday.

**Paul Moss:** It is my opinion that this is exactly the sort of thing that we should be looking at. It certainly appears that this makes sense. There may be areas that don't make sense when you make that kind of review. If I recall correctly, it was the Foellinger Foundation that funded that study and having someone objectively coming in and taking a look is the type of process that should be used.

**Darren Vogt:** Can you talk a little about the financial split and how that is working with the interlocal agreement?

**Bob Eherenman:** I can tell you that in the agreement, it is a 60/40 split. Kim can give a better analysis of where the 60/40 came from. What the agreement does is set up a governing board and the primary function is to hire an Executive Director who will handle the day-to-day affairs. You will notice that the agreement can be amended unless it is a change that has been approved by all of the six parties. Those are the executives of the Zoning Boards. One thing that can be changed by the governing board is the allocation. As we explained to City Council, that allocation to be changed on a yearly basis is going to have to come before this board and City Council. I will let Kim talk about how that percentage was established.

**Kim Bowman:** Since this came after the 2008 budgets were submitted, the process that John Urbahns and I went through was to carve out the Land Use functions from DPS budget. That included the personnel, supplies and services. With that, we came up with a total and it came out with 60% County share and 40% City share. The City share will be approximately \$552,000 and they will contribute that to the merged department and its operating cost. This does not include startup costs which could include technology issues. We are on two different GIS platforms, zoning maps and our archiving is on two very different levels.

**Darren Vogt:** And how will those be split, same percentages?

**Kim Bowman:** No, let's start talking about the agreement.

**Bob Eherenman:** No each party will pay their own. The County will pay whatever the startup costs they have and the City will pay theirs. The agreement that was sent earlier has had some changes and we want to highlight those. Number one was a change suggested by Mr. Buskirk. The board is going to be comprised of eight people. One member from this board and that will be the person that is appointed to the Plan Commission. There will also be the Commissioners' appointment to the Plan Commission, the Chairman of the Planning Commission and the Chairman of the BZA. Because there was the possibility that the Chairman of the Planning Commission could also be an appointment from this board, we needed to build in a procedure so that if the Chairman of the Planning Commission was a member from this board that we didn't lose a member. So then it was the Vice President and then if the Vice President was a duplicate, we would nominate someone from the board. That was one of the changes, if you look at the appointments we built in a default procedure so that we could make sure that we always had eight members. The other main change came after our City Council meeting and that dealt with the termination and continuation of the agreement. There was a concern because all six bodies are independent bodies that can make their own decisions and maybe one body would want to terminate the agreement but the other five would want to continue. We wanted to build in a procedure for that. City Council's concern was that there might be a termination that they maybe didn't get to review or make a decision on continuing the agreement. What we did was that if one party terminates the agreement, all of the remaining parties would have to vote to continue the

agreement. If one party says no, then it is probably a failed endeavor and things can go back to the way they were.

**Cal Miller:** I would like to go back to the question about the startup costs. How are we distinguishing between whose is what?

**Bob Eherenman:** For example, let's say that the sixth floor would have to be expanded to accommodate the City staff. That would be at the City's cost. The City's records are not as computerized as the County's. There is going to be a substantial cost to getting those records scanned or digitized or something. That necessitates the cost of buying a scanner. That would be the City's cost. Obviously if there would be a dispute, that is why you have the governing board. The other main function of the governing board is to mediate disputes that may occur.

**Cal Miller:** In the 60/40 split, if I understand Ms. Bowman's explanation, this was essentially arrived at initially by looking at the amount of money the County was spending and the amount of money the City was spending on this particular Land Use function and then developing a ration. When you look at the whole sum of those, 60% is what the County would have been investing in that service. Is that right?

**Kim Bowman:** Right. As we get into the merged department more, we will understand our receipts from permits and applications. One of the things we will have to look at is the fees schedules. We are on two different fee schedules. That provides tremendous confusion to not only our staff but to the clients that come into our office. As we get in and better understand our operating costs and receipts, the governing board can work on the split. For 2008, that was our best guess.

**Cal Miller:** That sounds like a reasonable start. What is the mechanism for making the adjustment on an annual basis?

**Bob Eherenman:** The way the agreement was drafted is that it is a three-year agreement with an (inaudible) provision. What that means is that if nobody does anything, it continues. The governing board is going to meet quarterly but initially what we thought is that because of the three-year cycle, it would be reviewed every three years.

**Cal Miller:** In the meantime, everyone will be tracking whatever data needs to be tracked to see if that continues to be a fair ration?

**Bob Eherenman:** In particular there will be one person, who will be the Executive Director, doing that. Right now, we have two people doing that.

**Kim Bowman:** The procedure to secure funds from the City will be through the Auditor's Office. There will be a quarterly billing cycle.

**Cal Miller:** I saw that.

**Kim Bowman:** I am sure that assistance from the Auditor's Office will be there for tracking costs.

**Paul Moss:** Councilwoman Hughes?

**Paula Hughes:** I just wanted to make a point that I was reminded of by Mr. Eherenman's response to Councilman Miller's question. For example, the uploading of the City's data to iMAP that will be necessitated by this combination I believe that a big chunk of one of the hurdles to combining the GIS and iMAP departments is the cost of data conversion. So by doing this and forcing it through, that starts to remove obstacles towards other departments evaluating a combination. That is another good reason that this is a great project.

**Kim Bowman:** I am handing out a proposed resolution.

**Roy Buskirk:** Before you move on, I have a couple of questions. Again, I don't quite understand the termination method. If one of the bodies decides that they don't want to continue but the other five decide that they want to continue, it seems to me that there would be a vote and it would be 5-1. Then they would all continue.

**Bob Eherenman:** Well, that is where the difficulty lies because each board is independent. Let's use the County BZA as an example. They use the Department of Planning Services. They don't vote to do that every year and under the statute, the BZA has a right to hire its own staff. As of right now, could the Board of Zoning Appeals vote and say that they don't want to use the Department of Planning Services? They could but then who are they going to use and who is going to fund it? They are going to be the kind of practical questions that are going to come into play. I didn't feel that we could take away the ability of an independent board to say that they don't want to do this. But that didn't mean that the Plan Commission or any of the other bodies would have to not agree to do this. It is the same way with legal representation. I represent the Allen County Plan Commission and also the Board of Zoning Appeals. There is nothing to prevent the Board of Zoning Appeals to say that they don't want to use me. That is certainly their prerogative. Then they would have to find funding for a lawyer. There is a practical funding question but I didn't feel that we could say that we are going to tell a board that we are going to take away their right to opt out of the agreement. If we get to the point that someone is going to want to terminate this agreement, it is probably not going to continue anyway. We at least had to build in the provision so that we didn't have one party taking down an entire process.

**Roy Buskirk:** So, the governing board would be the one who is actually the one for terminating the whole process?

**Bob Eherenman:** No, actually it would be going through the same process that we are going through right now. If someone were to issue a notice of termination and if it was done before March 1, they have to terminate 90 days before March 1. The reason that March 1 is the magical date is because that is when we start the new budgets. If the termination is after March 1, what the agreement provides is that the termination doesn't take affect until the next March 1. Therefore, you are operating under your current budget and it would allow us to go through the process and one either reach an agreement with that board or for the other parties to go forward in this process and say that they want to keep going. We had to build in a mechanism as opposed to giving each one of those bodies a veto.

**Roy Buskirk:** My other question is the income, as far as the split, I don't think has been addressed. The expenses have but not the permit fees.

**Kim Bowman:** Based on the 2008 budgets, approximately \$552,000 in operating expenses will be received from the City. That will either be through revenues from permits and the application process or if it falls short, it would be a cash settlement with the County. Knowing the revenues that the County generates and the projects, the County has far more permits issued and I don't believe the City's revenues will exceed the \$552,000.

**Roy Buskirk:** So, depending on where the property is located, if the permit is in the incorporated area, it would be credited to the City and if it was outside of the incorporated area, it would be credited to the County.

**Kim Bowman:** Yes.

**Paul Moss:** Councilwoman Johnson?

**Maye Johnson:** Who determines who serves on the governing board?

**Bob Eherenman:** The agreement does. From the County side, the four members will be a County Commissioner and that is the same County Commissioner who serves on the Plan Commission. There would be a member from County Council, the President of the Plan Commission and the Chairman of the BZA. Those same four positions are mirrored on the City side with the exception that for the Mayor, it can be one of his appointments to the Plan Commission or the Director of Community Development. There is a little leeway there but other than that, they mirror each other.

**Paul Moss:** Councilman Vogt?

**Darren Vogt:** Can you address, in Section C, the legal counsel? Basically they can all have their own attorney or they can have one. Talk to me about that and then I will have some questions about cost savings to you by encouraging those folks to have one attorney. This is on page 8.

**Bob Eherenman:** Because you are going to have a merged Land Use department, which serves as the staff for the Zoning Boards. The Zoning Boards, under statute, retain their own legal counsel. We get into a situation, and I will talk about myself on this, in representing the Plan Commission and the Board of Zoning Appeals, I am also a private practicing attorney. I do zoning work inside the City of Fort Wayne. If we have a merged Land Use Department, I have to be careful that I am not named the attorney for the City. What we wanted to make sure of is that the Board certainly retains their right to hire their own lawyer. The City staff does it differently. They use the Mayor's legal staff. We had to leave the availability for them to keep their own attorneys. We also built in the mechanism that they could elect to hire one lawyer. If they hired one lawyer, then that lawyer could also serve the governing board. I don't think there is anything we could do in the agreement unless those bodies agree that they will use one lawyer. You also get into a situation where a zoning administrator has asked to make a zoning determination. Typically, she will look at it and give me a call and we will talk about it. If I am not representing the City, she is going to need to use the City attorney. I think that because we don't know what the Planning Commissions are going to do, we had to build in the mechanism of what we would do if they chose to retain their own lawyer. I think the long-term intent of the agreement is to unify that position. Because it is going to take those boards to make those decisions, we have to figure out the status and the legal counsel. That is kind of the summary of that paragraph to say that they can retain their own lawyer or hire one lawyer. Then if Kim has a City question, the City attorney is contacted and if it is a County question, she would come to me, if I am still the County attorney. It is one of the drafting parts of the agreement, to unify the position. The City doesn't have a budget for legal counsel, right now. That is part of the Mayor's budget. Kim has a separate legal budget and in going forward, if there is one lawyer, there will be budget issues. I hope that answers your question.

**Darren Vogt:** It does and it brings up what I was really trying to get at. When we look at the 60/40 split, some of the expenses from the City side were not caught up in that because they use the City attorney.

**Kim Bowman:** You are right. They do not provide for counsel in their budget but they do provide \$72,000 for health insurance which is not part of the DPS budget. Part of the discovery next year is keeping a good track of the costs. Not knowing what the Mayor-elect has plans for, his legal staff could be different. If we would choose to secure one counsel, then that cost would definitely have to be shared between both.

**Darren Vogt:** That part, I get. I want to make sure I understand your response to my question. When we did the 60/40 computation of the expenses, the attorney fees that the City uses was probably not in there because they don't have a budget line.

**Kim Bowman:** Correct. We just took our literal budgets...

**Roy Buskirk:** However, the \$72,000 for health insurance was included.

**Kim Bowman:** Yes.

**Roy Buskirk:** On the County side, there wasn't anything for health insurance.

**Kim Bowman:** We are comparing apples and oranges but it's all fruit. When we start looking at our budget for 2009, we will have a better idea.

**Darren Vogt:** I think my point is to encourage the unified legal front. If we are trying to hone in on one unified department, no offense to you as an attorney, it would make sense to have one unified lawyer.

**Kim Bowman:** There are definitely advantages.

**Roy Buskirk:** Digging a little farther, approximately how many hours do you spend on County zoning work?

**Bob Eherenman:** I could actually give you that. I bill and keep track internally of my time under my general salary which is about \$19,000. Any special projects or litigations are billed at the County rate of \$150. This year, probably a third of my time is spent doing the County Plan Commission. A third to a less. I can tell you that in keeping track of that, if I used the County rate, the time I spend is usually exceeding the \$19,000.

**Roy Buskirk:** I could see the possibility of having someone on staff.

**Bob Eherenman:** In looking at that, it certainly could be a possibility.

**Roy Buskirk:** If you had all four boards agree to use the staff attorney.

**Bob Eherenman:** Sure.

**Paula Hughes:** Move for approval of the Interlocal Agreement for the Operation of a Joint Land Use Department for the County of Allen and the City of Fort Wayne. Whereas Indiana Code 36-1-7 authorizes political subdivisions within the State of Indiana to enter in to an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement, whereby a power that is exercised by an Indiana political subdivision and by one or more other governmental entities may be exercised jointly by the entities; Whereas the Count of Allen and the City of Fort Wayne have proposed a draft of an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement fort he operation of a Joing Land Use Department for the County of Allen and the City of Fort Wayne; and Whereas the Allen County Council has reviewed the proposed Interlocal Cooperation Agreement for the operation of a Joint Land Use Department for the County of Allen and the City of Fort Wayne. Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Allen County Council we hereby approve the interlocal cooperation agreement for the operation of a Joint Land Use Department for the County of Allen and the City of Fort Wayne.

**Darren Vogt:** 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 7-0. Now we have a bunch of salary ordinances.

**Paula Hughes:** Did we mention that these have come before Personnel Committee?

**Paul Moss:** No we didn't but you are correct.

**Paula Hughes:** Move for approval of an amended salary ordinance for 2008 reclassifying the following positions within the budget of the Department of Planning: Secretary II with an annual salary of \$37,615, Secretary II with an annual salary of \$39,119 and a Bookkeeper with an annual salary of \$34,446. These are effective March 3, 2008.

**Cal Miller:** 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 7-0.

**Paula Hughes:** Move for approval of salary ordinances for 2008 setting the pay for employees within the budget of the Department of Planning Services: Associate Land Use Planner in the Projects Division with a new appropriation in the amount of \$41,360, Associate Land Use Planner in the BZA Division with a new appropriation in the amount of \$41,360, a new appropriation for a Principal Land Use Planner in Permits and Enforcement at \$45,458, a new appropriation for a Senior Land Use Planner in the Projects Division with an annual salary of \$51,590, a new appropriation of a Senior Land Use Planner in Permits and Enforcement with an annual salary of \$51,590 and a new appropriation for an Assistant Office Manager in the amount of \$36,117. These are effective March 3, 2008.

**Cal Miller:** 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 7-0.

**Kim Bowman:** Thank you very much.

**Paul Moss:** Let's go with the grants. Is Lin here?

**Lin Wilson:** Good morning, Lin Wilson, Grant Administrator.

**Karen Richards:** Karen Richards, Allen County Prosecuting Attorney.

**Lin Wilson:** This is a continuation grant from ICJI. It is a federal pass-through grant and I will let Karen talk about it.

**Karen Richards:** Good morning. This is a grant that we have received for four years and is for a Domestic Violence Coordinator within our office. It is the same position that has been funded all along. The funding period begins July 1, 2008 and ends June 30<sup>th</sup> the following year. What we have done in the past is ask for the salary and then we match the benefit amount.

**Cal Miller:** Move for approval of the application for renewal of the continuation grant.

**Paula Hughes:** Second.

**Paul Moss: We have a motion and a second.** The only thing I would say is that it is unfortunate to have the Prosecutor or any department head sitting here for this length of time for a grant application. It has always been a frustration for me to have these go through these but I wish there was some other way to do this because it is unfortunate that you had to sit here. **All in favor please signify by saying aye. All opposed same sign. The motion carries 7-0.** We are going to go into Other Business here and we do have some addendums to the agenda but we are going to say that if you are an addendum, you have to wait. We are going to go ahead with the presentation of the Grand Wayne Center and their 2008 budget.

**Marvin Krell:** Good morning and greetings from the people at the Grand Wayne Center. For the departing people, many thanks for their past assistance and carrying out our objectives. I am Marvin Krell and this is Bob Lister. We are here to present the budget for 2008. I believe we distributed to each of you a copy of the proposed budget that we are asking you to approve. Mr. O'Connell from the Convention and Visitors Bureau will be following us and he will be asking for the approval of their budget.

**Paul Moss:** In order to get things going, would you care to give us an overview of the budget in terms of any significant changes?

**Bob Lister:** Absolutely. The first thing is, as far as the 2007 budget, it was really a banner year for us. A couple of things that we should note is that the room tax has gone up considerably and we want to thank your Auditor because they worked so hard in going over the room tax collection and helping us with the State. It made a huge difference. Last year, the Grand Wayne Center's share was \$2.6 and right now we are at \$2.9. Our building revenues and food and beverage are 15% over what was happening last year. The bottom line, which we always like to look at, we were looking at receipts in excess of disbursements of \$56,000 and we will end up over \$500,000.

**Paul Moss:** I see you have the one-page budget here for 2008 but for me it is always helpful to go back and look at variances from year to year. We don't have that right now and that is okay. For 2008, tell me which one of these is the barometer that we should use to look at revenue. Not tax revenue or anything along that line but revenue driven by use of the Grand Wayne Center.

**Bob Lister:** Actually, why don't I just give you this? This is what our Board sees when we are doing our budgets and it gives you more detail.

**Paul Moss:** Is the building revenue on here? That is receipts for rental and...

**Bob Lister:** Rental, audio visuals and that sort of thing. That is probably the smallest of things. Big things are when you get into food and beverage. When we were doing this budget, it was October and we were trying to be conservative with our revenues. With French Lick opening, we knew that some of our things were going down there. We went from \$880 to \$850 in our revenues and food and beverage from \$889 to \$575.

**Paul Moss:** When did you open again after the expansion?

**Bob Lister:** It was May, 2005. We had half a year in 2005, full year in 2006 and full year in 2007.

**Paul Moss:** Do you recall what the building revenue was in 2004?

**Bob Lister:** Zero, we were closed.

**Paul Moss:** How about 2003?

**Bob Lister:** We had about a half a year and I don't recall. Building revenue was in the \$400,000 to \$500,000 range. F and B were in the \$300,000 range. Somewhere in that area. Any note for next year is that our lease payments go up \$100,000. Debt Service will go up another \$100,000 in 2009 to about \$825 and then level off. Capital is going up next year because we are replacing boilers which are going to be about \$250,000. Those are probably the main things.

**Paul Moss:** You do understand what I am getting at, in terms of the expansion, and trying to quantify, as best as we can, whether there has been much of a return.

**Bob Lister:** Absolutely. We don't look at it as necessarily this revenue but what we generate with people coming into town. It has never been the object of the board to make a lot of money but if we can keep our rent and rates at a low end, we can bring the business in. We are seeing a lot of business right now. We thought we would have a little downturn next year with French Lick opening but in the last five weeks, another six groups have booked in.

**Darren Vogt:** How many of those are outside of Allen County?

**Bob Lister:** Real roughly, fifty percent. We have looked at it over the years and sometimes it will run 40/60 but at the end of the year, it is usually about 50/50. We may run a lot of local events that are 100 people or 200 people or we may then have something like the Genealogists Convention that are 1,400 people for five days. But overall, 50/50 is as good a number as we can get.

**Darren Vogt:** Let me ask that question a little bit differently. Is that just by the event or by people?

**Bob Lister:** That is by people.

**Roy Buskirk:** I have a question on PSCDA. What is that?

**Bob Lister:** Professional Sports and Development tax and what it does to our budget is absolutely nothing. It comes in and goes out to pay part of the debt service. Six or seven years ago, Indianapolis passed a law in order to get Market Square Arena up. The Coliseum used it for part of their expansion. The State Legislators got that for the Coliseum and bless their hearts, they wrote "and convention center" on the end of it. We were able to use that too. Any sales tax in our building or anything like that, gets captured and comes back in.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Buskirk that is the same tax that the Coliseum used to revamp the new intersection.

**Bob Lister:** It took us seven years to put together the financing on this building and when that came up, it gave us an opportunity to bond for maybe a million dollars.

**Roy Buskirk:** When I see the word "tax", I get nervous.

**Paul Moss:** I am not sure that I am reading this correctly but in terms of salaries and wages for the 2008 budget, on the booklet...

**Paula Hughes:** That is for the Convention and Visitors Bureau.

**Bob Lister:** We went 3% across the board on salaries and wages.

**Paul Moss:** Your's is the \$1.8

**Bob Lister:** \$1.3 or \$1.445. Are there any other questions I can answer for you? I know Dan has a presentation to make to you.

**Paul Moss:** Are there any other questions? I guess the only question that I would have is for 2008, the contribution to the hotel or Harrison Square. That doesn't show up until when?

**Bob Lister:** It doesn't show up until 2010. When the Redevelopment Commission asked us for the money, we did financial projections and the only way you can do financial projections is to look at what revenue would be generated from a new hotel being there. Since the hotel would not even go up until then, there would be no hotel tax coming in, my Board of Directors agreed that we would contribute the \$2.5 million to the project but it would not start until after the hotel started generating room tax.

**Roy Buskirk:** You are anticipating that the room tax on the hotel will generate enough revenue to pay back...

**Bob Lister:** When we looked at this, we tried to anticipate as much as we could. We figured out what the hotel was going to bring in, what additional revenue it would bring to the building as far as conventions and such and yes, it would cover it. When the Redevelopment Commission asked us for the money, it was very similar to what happened with you guys about six or seven years ago. I came and asked for \$2 million and the County didn't have any money. Yet everybody stepped up to the plate to help us. That is kind of what happened with the Redevelopment Commission. They came to us and said "look, you have been talking about getting a hotel for a long time. Step up to the plate and do it." My Board of Directors felt that they could financially do it. We talked about it and we have some money in the bank, about \$5 million. In 2010, 2011 and 2012 comes along and I may be coming to the County and the City for some money if we have a deficit for a certain year.

**Roy Buskirk:** A lot of times, you hear comments that the Grand Wayne Center is not self-supporting because you are dependent upon hotel tax. I appreciate a comment that you made earlier to the fact that the Convention Center is used a lot as a lost leader as far as room rates for the conventions coming in because of the revenue generated by hotels and restaurants and shopping and other economic impact that the convention people have on the community.

**Bob Lister:** When they first set up the financing of our building, it was 1972. It was set up so the room tax would support the operation of the building and everything else. It was probably as good a finance building as there was in the country at that time. A lot of convention centers are on tax rolls and property taxes but we have been able to be successful and use the motel/hotel tax. The more people we get in, the more people Dan gets in for other events, the more room tax we generate.

**Paul Moss:** Do you believe, since Roy opened that can, do you believe philosophically that the room tax, which was meant to support the Grand Wayne Center which is intended to bring business in to fill hotels, should then be used to subsidize a competing hotel? You don't have to answer that because it puts you in a very bad position. I put that out there because there is some legitimacy to that argument. I have heard it from a lot of hotel owners in this town.

**Bob Lister:** It is and we get that too. It happened with the first hotel that was down there. When the Hilton was going up, everyone put money into it including ourselves. It is not an unusual process.

**Paul Moss:** And as we should note, that hotel had to get bailed out.

**Bob Lister:** That is correct.

**Paul Moss:** I think we all hope that there will be high occupancy rates and a catalyst for downtown.

**Bob Lister:** We just booked one for 2010 because of having the hotel down there but it is going to spread into five hotels.

**Roy Buskirk:** With competition of other hotels, the new hotel is also going to have meeting rooms that could be in competition with your facility too.

**Bob Lister:** With the size of meeting rooms, our facility has to be built for the big rooms and events. There are so many smaller banquet halls around now that serves 300 people. Another one across the street doesn't make a whole lot of difference. It doesn't mean that much to the building but adding that room inventory means a lot. What we have now is a Hilton with 260 rooms, which will commit about 200 for a convention, and the Holiday Inn that wasn't in very good shape at all. That is what we had to offer. But now we are going to have 260 in the Hilton and 265 rooms across the street and we are hoping that the new Clarion will be upgrading that hotel. So all of a sudden from being down to 200 rooms and some bad rooms, we will be at 700 of which we will be able to get 600.

**Roy Buskirk:** So that is the number of rooms for the new hotel, 265?

**Bob Lister:** Yes.

**Paul Moss:** Are there any other questions or comments?

**Roy Buskirk:** Do you want a motion?

**Paul Moss:** I think we probably need one.

**Roy Buskirk:** I make a motion to approve the budget that was presented by the Grand Wayne Center.

**Paula Hughes:** 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 7-0. Thank you. Welcome gentlemen. Please introduce yourselves for the record.

**Vince Robinson:** My name is Vince Robinson and I am the current Vice Chair and incoming Chair of the Board of Directors for the Convention and Visitors Bureau. This is an all volunteer Board and on behalf of the Board, I would like to thank you for your support of the CVB and tourism in general. Dan O'Connell is the President and CEO of the Convention and Visitors Bureau and he is going to give you a very brief presentation. He will talk about the landscape and how that landscape has changed. It is a very exciting time. Dan will also answer your questions about budget as well. I just want to make one quick statement on behalf of the Board and explain my passion about the CVB. Many of you know me as a small business owner. I am very concerned about economic development and the creation of wealth in this community. That is one of the reasons that I am so proud to be involved with the CVB. We are talking about real economic development and real dollars that come into this community. About five million people visit our community and leave dollars to the tune of about \$415 million each year. In addition, we are talking about 6,600 jobs here, in Allen County, which is supported by the tourism industry. This is a real benefit to economic development. Again, thank you for your support.

**Dan O'Connell:** I am Dan O'Connell, President of the Convention and Visitors Bureau. I appreciate the opportunity to present our budget but also to share a little more about the changing landscape. It will take me about three minutes to show you some very exciting news. One of the things that you have to do as a community who hosts people, you have to step back and so I am going to take you up about 1,000 feet and look back down at our community. You will see how things have changed in the last two years. We expanded the Grand Wayne Center and doubled its capacity. When you are building a building to last another thirty years, there are questions of more than what is going on this year and next year. You have to look at the future. It puts us at the second largest meeting state in the State. We also recently expanded the Library. This County's facility has about an \$80 million investment in our library branch system and \$40 million downtown. About \$10 million is related to the Genealogical Library. That is a very proud aspect of our community. The Allen County War Memorial Coliseum expanded which allows it to host up to 13,000 people. It is one of the premier facilities and annually wins the Pinnacle Award. This public investment adds up to about \$75 million. We have invested in visitor venues and places to hold people from out of town. Conventioneers and meetings that we like to enjoy, visitors to our library and doing family research, tournaments, concerts, conventions and sporting events. They are not just doing it alone.

**Paul Moss:** Can you give us, just very roughly, what the annual numbers of visits to each of those entities.

**Dan O'Connell:** There are over a million people that visit and that is a combination of visitors and residents. There are over 600,000 people that visit this facility. The Library is about 85,000 people.

**Roy Buskirk:** The Library and 85,000 is...

**Dan O'Connell:** The 85,000 is to the Genealogical Library.

**Paula Hughes:** Is that down?

**Roy Buskirk:** It used to be 100,000.

**Dan O'Connell:** It is down because they closed for a while. A lot of people waited until the new facility opened up.

**Paul Moss:** Councilman Vogt?

**Darren Vogt:** One question. The sale of the genealogical information, I don't know how that is going and what is going to happen to that, but do you see that number dropping even more if Microsoft information becomes available?

**Dan O'Connell:** No. If you talk to Jeff Krull, the more people get involved in the family research, they can only do so much on line. You have to physically get involved after that. The records get so broad. When you start going into different generations, different ethnicities, military records or work environment, those records aren't available on line. What the computer and software does is to organize that for the individuals. We get a lot of people who are getting so deep into the records.

**Roy Buskirk:** Part of the problem is that it was not on the internet and what Microsoft is doing is to put additional records on the internet.

**Dan O'Connell:** But it is really expanding the number of people who get involved in the process. More people are getting interested in it and more people are exposed to it and once they get into it, they want to come and physically do it. What makes the Library one of the unique ones in the nation is that if you complete your family history, the Library will give you a bound copy of that research. They will make a second one and put it on file here. It is not uncommon for someone to come in that is doing family research and see your family already in one of the books. That is one of the reasons that they are the second largest collection in the United States. They are the largest collection in the United States that is in a public space. To continue this, there is also the private sector stepping up to the plate to help invest in this hospitality industry. We are building, right now, two full service hotels. One is across from the Coliseum which is an excellent opportunity for student education because the students in the hospitality and tourism program at IPFW will be some of the employees in this building. The culinary students are coming from Ivy Tech to service this building as well. That is the first full service hotel that has been built in Fort Wayne in twenty years. We just talked about the Courtyard by Marriot, which will have 250 to 265 rooms, being built downtown. There are six other hotels that are either renovated or being built in Fort Wayne right now. Marriot put \$1.5 million in renovating their facility. Candlewood opened in 2006. Hyatt Place, which used to be AmeriSuites, put \$4.5 million and changed the entire nature of that hotel.

**Paul Moss:** I hate to keep interrupting you but what do you believe is the venue that keeps filling the Hyatt Place?

**Dan O'Connell:** North side business, near the industrial park, Spiece Fieldhouse business that comes in for tournaments and a lot of activities at IPFW.

**Paul Moss:** Do you think Pierre's also fills that up?

**Dan O'Connell:** Yes, some concerts but I haven't heard that as much. There are six hotels and the Holiday Inn was just bought out after these boards were made. They are putting \$1.2 million into renovating that facility. If you add up what is being built new and in new facilities,

**Roy Buskirk:** Dan, Dan, another interruption here. The Staybridge Hotel, is that the one that is under construction? And it is the place for a week at a time, out by Lutheran Hospital?

**Dan O'Connell:** Yes.

**Roy Buskirk:** That is primarily because of Lutheran Hospital.

**Dan O'Connell:** Primarily, that is the target audience but they also service overnights. When you build an extended stay hotel, you are servicing both marketplaces.

**Roy Buskirk:** Right but as far as the extended, it is primarily because of family members being in Lutheran Hospital.

**Dan O'Connell:** Yes but you also have construction crews all the way up and down I69 who stay there. Some of the golf tournaments that are at Sycamore Hills often stay in that pocket. The public investment is about \$78 million but the private investment is about \$78 million in new facilities. There is a public and private partnership going on. The private sector is also doing some things in terms of entertainment venues. We know about the Mad Ants and the Memorial Coliseum. This makes the fourth professional team in our area. Adding to that ranking, we just found out that we were the number one minor league sports city in the United States. The business of sports produces a lot of revenue for our community. Spiece Fieldhouse is a major generator and has a national reputation. It holds two national basketball tournaments for recreational basketball and thirty other competitions throughout the year. Their attendance number is over 200,000 people. They are coming into our community and staying in our hotels so that children can play basketball. The tournament that they held last July had about 400 teams. There were thirty Division One coaches looking at and supervising local talent. The Dome and The Plex are also changing their format. It used to be an indoor golf dome. It isn't that anymore. It has now been converted into an indoor softball complex where women play softball all winter long. There are two diamonds in there and there are

four tournaments scheduled in January and February. People are coming from out of state to play softball. The Plex is looking at a lacrosse team. The Plex is already doing flag football. The 12 to 14 age group for flag football won a national championship last week because they have facilities like this. So what I am saying is that we are building the buildings and you are getting a return on investment. People are coming to our community but it is being matched in both the private sector and public sector both in buildings and new entertainment venues. Of course, we are not done. The new project for downtown, Harrison Square, is \$130 million public and private partnership that will invigorate downtown and create a new sports venue. It really complements the Convention Center and the hotels that are down there. We are being known as a very good destination. As we look at the packages that we are building here, we are really not competing with the north side hotels. They are supportive of the hotel tax and the Convention Center. They want us, as the Bureau, to fill the north side stuff like Spiece Fieldhouse, the Coliseum and the tourist venues. The Grand Wayne takes care of their business. That is why you have two organizations coming to you. Our offering to visitors is so much more diverse than just a Convention Center. About five million people visit Fort Wayne each year. Our industry is really healthy right now. We should see some really good things over the next ten to fifteen years. Thanks for your time this morning.

**Paul Moss:** Thank you. I have a couple of questions. You mentioned the five million visitors and we talked a little about the Coliseum, the Library and the Convention Center. That is roughly 2.4 million. Where do you think the other half are going?

**Dan O'Connell:** Business travelers that come into our community on a regular basis make up about fifty percent of all of our visitors. Business travelers are the major traffic generator into our community.

**Paul Moss:** I mean, from a tourism standpoint, what sites are they visiting?

**Dan O'Connell:** The Children's Zoo is the number one attraction...

**Paul Moss:** See, that is where I am going. I have been setting you up on this one all along. What do you believe that the Convention and Tourism's authority and primary responsibility is? Is it to market the community and those attractions?

**Dan O'Connell:** The division of responsibilities is that the Convention and Tourism Authority receives the room tax and operates the Grand Wayne Center. They get 5% of the levied tax. Our assignment is to fill everything else other than the Convention Center. We are one of the major sponsors of the tournaments at Spiece Fieldhouse. We help to bring Gold Wing to town and are bidding on them for 2010. We promote the Children's Zoo and the Festival. We do a lot more tourism promotions. There is a Convention and Tourism Authority which is DBA Grand Wayne Center. That is the division of responsibilities. We only overlap when we go out to national conventions and national shows. We then pool our numbers and go together. We share the booth expense and the trade expense and some of the other expenses.

**Paul Moss:** In terms of actual marketing, is it more brochures, booths and things of that nature? I don't know how many staff you have.

**Dan O'Connell:** We have nine now and are going to ten in 2008. We have four people in sales. Sixty percent of our budget is in advertising websites, printed materials and promotions. Thirty percent is in actual sales expenses for people to go to shows and bid on pieces of business and conventions.

**Paul Moss:** As I look at your budget, when you look at the line item of advertising and promotions, \$290,000, and you add in the salaries, wages and benefits. Of the total \$3.5, it is over half of the total expense.

**Darren Vogt:** Dan, wasn't the additional one percent designed to do more marketing and spread the word to create more of the impact that you do?

**Dan O'Connell:** Exactly.

**Paul Moss:** Does anybody have any additional questions?

**Darren Vogt:** Move for approval of the Fort Wayne Allen County Convention and Visitor Bureau budget.

**Paula Hughes:** 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 7-0. Thank you for your time.

**Dan O'Connell:** We would also like to thank the Auditor. The State was not doing their job but the Auditor's office stepped up and approached them delicately and we have improvement on the room tax.

**Roy Buskirk:** I do have one more question. In the paper, a few months ago, an article about some of the hotels not paying their appropriate share of the room taxes. I assume that is probably what you were talking about.

**Dan O'Connell:** It is exactly related to that.

**Roy Buskirk:** There have been some changes in how that is being followed through on. Could you give us a little report?

**Dan O'Connell:** Sure. When we saw our industry growing and expanding, we knew that the industry was getting pretty strong. We hadn't seen the same return in room tax and were curious as to why. When we asked several of the hotel members and the general managers, they felt they were paying the room tax but they also alerted us that there may be some who were not. We asked how we could correct this situation and were advised to work with the Auditor's Office. Through their

assistance, they contacted the Department of Revenue which is the entity that receives the tax proceeds on a monthly basis. In working through the correction of records, hotel names have changed, there were new ownerships and we have over 55 hotels in the Allen County area. In getting things aligned, they realized that they may have not been processing all of the room tax back to Allen County that they should have. We don't believe that it was that the people were not paying the taxes. The procedures for returning the money may have been misaligned. They were very helpful. We asked them to go back two years and they found information and the next month, the check was three times higher than it had been. I was storming in there and not getting anything done and through the delicate skills of the Auditor's office, they got some things accomplished.

**Paula Hughes:** We very much appreciate the talents of our Auditor and her Chief Deputy, Tera Klutz.

**Dan O'Connell:** We think we have everything rectified and a commitment from the Auditor's Office that they will take a look at those numbers.

**Roy Buskirk:** Thank you.

**Paul Moss:** Thanks for your time. We really appreciate it. The Sheriff is next.

**Darren Vogt:** Council, as you are aware, I said I would talk to the Sheriff about his salary but I will let him talk about the tax collections and where those have been. I haven't looked at it recently. Tera or Lisa, do you have any idea where we are on the tax collections?

**Tera Klutz:** Not off the top of my head but he might.

**Ken Fries:** Kenny Fries, Sheriff of Allen County. As of December 12, 2007, the amount that was put into the General Fund was \$162,011.03. They think there is another \$7,000 in receipts to go in. We are probably looking at over \$170,000 for this year.

**Darren Vogt:** Council, what I would propose is that the salary for last year, \$130,000 and with the 2.5% increase that we gave all employees, we should do the same with the Sheriff's salary contract.

**Cal Miller:** Sheriff, is that acceptable to you?

**Ken Fries:** It is. Darren and I have spoken and I had one of my officers tell me that I was going to be the poorest paid Sheriff that we have ever had. It is really hard for me to think of \$130,000 as poor. I think it is fair and equitable.

**Paula Hughes:** We appreciate your attitude and hopefully you have seen a reflection of that attitude come back to you in Council's willingness to work with you.

**Ken Fries:** I have been thrilled. I had been warned that Council would be one of the worst things to deal with. I have been pleasantly surprised because you have done a great job.

**Paul Moss:** It is appreciated that there have been conversations between you and your Council liaison to come to some agreement on this.

**Roy Buskirk:** I make a motion that the Sheriff's salary be increased by 2.5%.

**Paula Hughes:** Second.

**Paul Moss:** Any further discussion?

**Roy Buskirk:** I think maybe that should be that the Sheriff's contract be increased.

**Paula Hughes:** Amended 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 7-0.**

**Ken Fries:** Do you guys need a new contract to sign?

**Darren Vogt:** Yes.

**Cal Miller:** I would just like to say \$130,000 plus 2.5% is a lot of money. That puts you and some other people, like magistrates, in the top percentage of earners in the United States. It is an exceedingly important job and I would say at the same time that I really appreciate your recognition that you could earn \$170,000 more and your willingness to take the \$130,000. You have a huge budget to oversee and I look forward to seeing you earn it in 2008.

**Ken Fries:** Thank you.

**Paul Moss:** Is Mr. Freck out there?

**Paula Hughes:** No, that has been withdrawn.

**Paul Moss:** Okay. We have some addendum items here. The first one is the Coroner who has been waiting patiently out there. This is what happens when you do last minute addendums.

**Dick Alfeld:** Dick Alfeld, Chief Investigator, Allen County Coroner's Office. I am requesting a transfer of \$8,472 from the Autopsy line to the Capital line.

**Paul Moss:** Could you let us know the reasoning behind that?

**Dick Alfeld:** I put a pretty good explanation in my request. If you would like me to verbalize it, I would be happy to.

**Paul Moss:** Have at it. I didn't get an opportunity to read it.

**Dick Alfeld:** We have seen an extreme increase in the number of cases that are being sent to the Forensic Center. We don't have the tables to keep them off the ground.

**Paul Moss:** Is this at St. Joe?

**Dick Alfeld:** Yes. We have two tables that have plastic tops that are unsanitary and nasty and we can't keep them clean. We purchased them with the understanding that they would work as X-ray tables but they don't work for that. They are cracked. I won't go into why they are nasty and unsanitary.

**Cal Miller:** Let's not. We get the picture. These are peoples' loved ones.

**Dick Alfeld:** Yes, we need to treat them with respect and dignity. We don't have the space to keep them. This last weekend we had nine and we only have space for six.

**Cal Miller:** Move for approval of the transfer of Autopsy Fees to the Capital – Morgue.

**Paula Hughes:** Second.

**Cal Miller:** I'm sorry, I appreciate that you were asked to give the explanation but we get the picture and these are peoples' loved ones. Let's just move on because there is definitely a need there.

**Paul Moss:** We have a motion and a second. I do have one more question, if it is okay. These will be the property of the County and not the property of St. Joe Hospital. Correct?

**Dick Alfeld:** That is correct.

**Paul Moss:** Okay, because if they were, I would recuse myself from the vote. **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 (Kite abstained).** The Board of Health.

**Mindy Waldron:** Mindy Waldron, Department of Health Administrator. What we have on the agenda today is a request to transfer within our existing budget a remaining amount from the Group Health Insurance to augment the Hospital and Medical Services line and our Contractual line item. This will cover some of the last quarter's bills. This is particularly for refugee care and also because we have seen an increase in the TB in the non-refugee patients.

**Cal Miller:** Move for approval of the transfer of \$37,000.

**Paula Hughes:** Second.

**Darren Vogt:** One question. The Group Health Insurance, \$37,000 seems like a big balance in there. Can you help me understand that?

**Mindy Waldron:** We usually have around \$300,000 in there for our annual amount. As you know, we had a large amount of change in our staff.

**Paula Hughes:** Decrease in employees.

**Mindy Waldron:** Right. The change from January to June, the number of staff and their chosen health insurance plan significantly declined. They picked lesser plans. For this year's amount, that we had budgeted, it was based on last year's staff. That is why we had a remaining amount.

**Darren Vogt:** So this would have rolled over into 2008.

**Mindy Waldron:** Right. This is existing funding and we are not asking for any more.

**Paul Moss:** I have a question as well. You have, on the itemized list, St. Joe Hospital. Is that where all of this is going? I am a little conflicted on whether I should abstain or not. If it is simply all providers and no specific contract going to one hospital or another, I am comfortable with it.

**Mindy Waldron:** No. We have no contract but we do have an agreement. We have negotiated rates with two services, St. Joe for X-rays and Summit Radiology for reading those. Those are the two main vendors but there are others, depending on the case.

**Paul Moss:** I will abstain from this vote. **We have a motion and a second.**

**Roy Buskirk:** I have a comment. This is another one of those things that is a refugee situation.

**Mindy Waldron:** Yes. As I said also, an increase in TB cases which are non-refugee.

**Paul Moss:** **All in favor please signify by saying aye. All opposed same sign. The motion carries 6-0-1 (Moss abstained).**

**Mindy Waldron:** Thank you.

**Paul Moss:** I don't believe there are any other additions to the agenda. I'm sorry we have the Bostic Road Bridge. Mr. Hartman, would you care to join us and talk about that?

**Cal Miller:** Before we start, what is the objective? We are not going to be voting on anything since it wasn't on the agenda, right?

**Roy Buskirk:** Right.

**Paul Moss:** It is just for some clarification.

**Roy Buskirk:** We have some people who want to comment on this.

**Bill Hartman:** Bill Hartman, Allen County Highway Department. I have a couple of gentlemen with me this morning.

**Paul Moss:** I don't know if Council needs a refresher on this issue or not but if you recall, we did discuss this Bostic Road Bridge project at the last meeting. It was declined at that time for a variety of reasons. There was some additional clarification needed on the cost. There were some philosophical concerns with regard to the rehab of the old bridge, for lack of a better term. I had a conversation with Mr. Hartman a couple of weeks ago and I believe some of you had side conversations with him as well. The intent today is to talk a little bit about this and try to clarify some of those concerns and understand them a little better.

**Bill Hartman:** When I came before you before, the figures that I had for the rehabilitation were not what I have for you today. The rehabilitation of the existing bridge is \$490,000 and I reported before that it was nearly \$1 million. The construction of the new bridge is approximately \$650,000. The realignment of the road is about \$300,000. That is in order to build the new bridge beside the existing bridge.

**Paula Hughes:** So the project total is how much?

**Bill Hartman:** Right at \$2.1 million when you figure strictly construction costs. Those don't include right-of-way engineering or acquisition and construction engineering.

**Paula Hughes:** Previously, the total was approximately \$2 million so it has increased by about \$100,000.

**Bill Hartman:** Right.

**Darren Vogt:** But we don't know how much the right-of-way acquisition is or the engineering, you said?

**Bill Hartman:** Right-of-way engineering is \$25,000 and the right-of-way acquisition is \$36,000. Construction management is about \$150,000.

**Darren Vogt:** So that is on top of the \$2.1 million?

**Bill Hartman:** No.

**Paula Hughes:** That is included.

**Darren Vogt:** Okay, that is what I was trying to clarify.

**Bill Hartman:** With the reimbursement that I can get from the State, the money that Allen County would have to spend on this would be approximately \$300,000. Right now, I have \$100,000 in a line item.

**Paul Moss:** You might want to talk a little about the federal funding of that and the issue related to us not doing the work on the old bridge and what impact that would have on the federal funds.

**Bill Hartman:** I will let Josh handle that.

**Roy Buskirk:** Before you get into that, I have a question on your math and the totals here. You had, to rehab the existing bridge, \$490,000. The new bridge construction would be \$650,000 and the change in the road \$300,000. That is \$1,140,000 and you said the engineering was \$25,000 or something?

**Bill Hartman:** I have 2007 costs and should have done it out to 2010. It is \$30,000 for right-of-way engineering, \$43,000 for right-of-way acquisition and \$174,000 for construction management.

**Roy Buskirk:** Those come up to \$247,000 and not the \$2.1 million.

**John Seifert:** We are showing a 20% increase in these costs to get to 2010. That is probably what you are not reading. We use 20% for the inflation.

**Roy Buskirk:** Okay, a 20% increase because it will be done in 2010.

**Darren Vogt:** So you take those numbers, plus 20%, gets me to \$2.1 million.

**John Speidel:** I think, if you get Bill's sheet, you will see that. The federal piece is 80% funded for the construction and the construction management. The engineering costs and the right-of-way costs and any other costs that are hired out by the County could be credited against the construction costs.

**Paul Moss:** To put this into laymen's terms, what I was getting at is, the federal funding is or is not dependent on rehabbing the older bridge? Is that a correct assumption or not?

**John Speidel:** Josh is an architectural historian and he probably knows best on how to state why the existing bridge has to be maintained or kept in some fashion at some location.

**Cal Miller:** As it relates to funding?

**John Speidel:** Yes.

**Cal Miller:** You are deferring to him with respect to the funding question?

**John Speidel:** Yes. He knows very well how this works.

**Josh Smith:** Once you apply federal funds to any project, you have to comply with all of the federal regulations. One of those, at the State level, is the State Historical Preservation Office. This is one of the last, of its type of bridge, in the state. It has hit the radar screen with a lot of the historical preservation organizations. It is considered an important structure to save. You could go about it strictly using local funds and would not have to go through the State agency to replace the bridge. A lot of communities like to do that because then they don't have to deal with the State. The problem is that once you pull the bridge out and you go to below the ordinary high water mark, you get into the Army Corp of Engineers permitting. This is not just federal money. You have to go through the State. There is federal licensing and permits. I guess what I am saying is that there is no efficient reason to use local money. You then get caught by the Army Corp of Engineers and you can't get a permit to build a new bridge.

**Paul Moss:** This doesn't qualify as my request "for in laymen's terms".

**John Speidel:** I could be better at that. We could take the bridge out if you will commit to putting it up someplace else.

**Darren Vogt:** Let me ask a question. We could use state funds and not use any local funds. Is that a statement that you said?

**Josh Smith:** What I am saying is that, a lot of times, counties will elect to go to local funds so that they don't have to go through the State process.

**Paul Moss:** That would be our funds.

**Josh Smith:** Right. So then you would have to put up the entire amount instead of only 20% of the amount.

**Paul Moss:** The entire amount, excluding the \$460,000.

**Josh Smith:** Right. Once you commit to that, then you run the risk of running into problems with other federal agencies when you go to apply for a permit. They won't let you do that unless you go through the State Historic Preservation Office. So they catch you either way. In our early coordination, most of the preservation organizations would like to see the bridge remain in place and rehabbed, at the very least, to a pedestrian use. That is why the cost from the \$890,000 went down to

\$490,000. That is because we are not going to rehab it to carry traffic. We are only taking it to carry pedestrians.

**Paul Moss:** I think you just hit on the philosophical discussion. You refer to the preservation folks but one of the frustrations of taxpayers is that there is a tendency for preservation folks to say that something should be saved, such as saying the City County Building has historical value. My personal frustration is that I am not so sure that the bridge is going to be utilized a whole lot and we are going to be spending a significant amount of money. Whether it is local, state or federal dollars, it is still coming out of the same pocket. At some point, we are going to come to a realization that we can't be doing that sort of thing. When I talked with Mr. Hartman about this, it also made sense to not lose that federal funding. I realize we are backed into a corner and in an effort to try to preserve local tax dollars, move forward with the rehab of that bridge. I know, Councilman Miller, that you weren't here last month to hear some of this discussion but hopefully that helps clarify a little bit of it.

**Roy Buskirk:** It is not only the cost of the construction of the new bridge it is also the realignment to the new bridge. If you remove the old bridge, there wouldn't have to be any road alignment, just elevation change.

**Cal Miller:** If I may, let me see if I can distill this for my own sake. There are three options. One is you don't build a bridge on Bostick Road. If you build a new bridge and tear down the existing bridge, the funds from the new bridge are going to be coming from the County. Is that right?

**John Speidel:** You could commit to moving that structure and rehabbing it to some extent. There were some ideas on that and I think Bill looked pretty hard to find someone to take it and no one was willing to take it.

**Cal Miller:** Okay, you could not do a bridge. You could do a bridge without federal funds and the County would end up paying for it. Can we take this bridge down and put a new bridge over it and the only obstacle would be to funding? Are we prohibited from destroying the bridge if we don't want federal funding?

**Josh Smith:** As I explained before, we see counties who choose to go with local money because they think it will be easier to just replace the bridge than go through the process. Once they choose to do that, it is not just the federal funding but also federal licensing and permitting. Any one of those triggers the Section 106.

**Cal Miller:** Okay. If the County decides they want to tear down the bridge, they don't want federal funding and they want to put a new bridge up, you are saying that we would still be filtered through the red tape of dealing with the historic bridge.

**Josh Smith:** Absolutely.

**Cal Miller:** And that could thwart the effort to have a new bridge.

**Joshua Smith:** Right.

**Cal Miller:** The County was footing the bill completely? The cost of footing the bill completely would be what? If we were just tearing it down. You wouldn't be doing the realignment or the rehab. You would just have the \$650,000 plus what?

**Roy Buskirk:** You would have the cost of moving the bridge.

**Cal Miller:** Demolition.

**Roy Buskirk:** No, no, no.

**John Speidel:** You can't just destroy that bridge. Can you leave it closed and do nothing? Yes.

**Cal Miller:** So, that was my question. Is this bridge protected?

**Josh Smith:** It is protected once you use federal money.

**Cal Miller:** That is what I am saying. If the County is not using federal money to explore the options, can it be destroyed?

**Josh Smith:** As long as you don't have federal license, federal permit or federal funding, then the County can do whatever they want.

**Cal Miller:** Okay. Would the County need a federal license to build a bridge?

**Josh Smith:** Yes. You wouldn't need it to remove a bridge but once you go into building a new bridge and you get into the river and get below the ordinary high water mark, then you get triggered into the Army Corp of Engineers' permitting process.

**Cal Miller:** Then you are saying, by virtue of getting into that permitting process...

**Josh Smith:** Then it gets shifted back to the State.

**Cal Miller:** And the State would be looking at the bridge from a historic perspective. If we just leave it alone, we don't spend any money. If we try to do it without federal funding, then we are going to have to do something with the bridge anyway.

**Josh Smith:** Correct. It would make more sense to use the federal money.

**Cal Miller:** Right, I understand. So the options really are, do nothing or do it with the federal dollars because if we do it with the County dollars, we will be run through the historic preservation issue.

**Josh Smith:** If you take that bridge out and go strictly local money, once you get back to the State, they are going to really look upon that very negatively. It looks like you tried to cut them out of the process.

**Cal Miller:** Since it has been closed for five years, four years, what was the County's thought process behind building a bridge there? What need is it going to be servicing? Did you discuss that the last meeting?

**Roy Buskirk:** No. That is what we wanted brought forward this month.

**Cal Miller:** Isn't that where we really are? Either the bridge doesn't get built or it gets built with the federal supplement. It is not going to put the County in any better stead if they try to do it with their own money.

**John Speidel:** You have another option and that is to rehab the existing bridge in place. That would be for about a million dollars.

**Cal Miller:** Would it carry traffic?

**John Speidel:** It would carry traffic. It would be fifteen foot six inches wide.

**Roy Buskirk:** One lane.

**Cal Miller:** So, can you do that with federal money?

**John Speidel:** Correct. That would be the number one choice for preservation. But the problem is, when you spend that sort of money to rehab it, you still have a one-lane structure.

**Cal Miller:** So the price is double. If we wanted to use the existing bridge, it would be about a million dollars for traffic but there would be limitations. The price doubles to do the preservation and a new bridge. It goes up to \$2.1 million.

**John Speidel:** That includes the rehabilitation of the old structure.

**Cal Miller:** I think what we need to hear the presentation of what the pros and cons are about the different structures. I don't want it to be some anecdotal thing. What is the thought process behind doing nothing, restoring it for traffic or going ahead and spending \$2 million to have a bridge built along side? Then this body can make a decision about the fiscal side.

**John Speidel:** I would like to ask Josh something. We have talked about this but you might want to hear this answer. I think you can make a future commitment to this structure. You can take it down and in five years, say that you are going to re-erect it someplace else. I think you can do that and build your new structure on existing alignment. Is that true?

**Josh Smith:** I would never speak for the State. In the end, you are going to have an adverse affect at what is considered in this structure if you do anything other than rehab it. Even if you go around it, you are going to have an adverse affect as far as the letter of the law is concerned. Once you get into that, you have to come up with a Memorandum of Agreement with the State. You could commit to taking the bridge down, storing it and hopefully having it be reused again in the future. However, that is not set in stone. They don't always go for that.

**Cal Miller:** What I would like to hear is what does the Highway Department want? Are you looking to restore the footbridge for the million dollar price tag? Do you want the bridge for traffic or do you want to do another bridge? I want to understand why and how that reflects the desires of the people that live in that area.

**Darren Vogt:** While he is coming up, I think that is the key thing that we brought up last time. What is the priority?

**Paula Hughes:** Absolutely. How does this fit into the prioritization of projects from the County Highway Department?

**Darren Vogt:** As I look at that, I took notes asking what is the traffic flow, are there alternate routes of transportation, are there economic development impacts and what are the safety issues? Those are the core things that I have not yet heard addressed.

**Cal Miller:** I agree and here is the problem. The folks that are here and interested in this have been sitting through the whole meeting. This is not an item that needs to be thrown on the agenda but needs to be able to have some questions put in writing to the Highway Department to see what they have thought of. Then we can have an understanding of what the prioritizations are and what the sentiments of the people in the area are. We can't just slap it on the end of a meeting and do it justice.

**Paul Moss:** I think the first step is to allow the Highway Department to respond and answer some of the questions that have been raised here. I think we then have the opportunity to listen to some of the folks that are affected by it. We have a little more than a month to put this on the agenda again and have some additional discussion if we need it. In the interim, folks can speak with Bill and whoever else they want. Does that seem like a reasonable approach?

**Cal Miller:** It does. My only problem with the approach is that I have to be in Muncie at 1:00 p.m. today. That causes me some concern because I want to be part of the process.

**Paul Moss:** Let's try to get through as much as we can.

**Bill Hartman:** Initially, we had a study done on the bridge to see what it would take to rehab it. You would have to take the bridge completely off its foundation, disassemble it, rehabilitate it and then reassemble it and reset it. This came to be

about a million dollars. We have had three flood events over the last eight years and a couple of those actually went over the top of the bridge. We applied for federal aid to try to get some help with this. The last average day of traffic was 120 cars. It is an isolated location however, whenever you get a crossing over one of the major rivers, it is a very valuable thing to the folks that live adjacent to the river. When you close one of these, they have to drive any number of additional miles to get around to where they need to go. The folks in this area have been very forthcoming in sending signed petitions and having public meetings. We had nearly two hundred people sign a petition and attend the public meeting back in August, 2005. They are very interested in having the Highway Department do what they could to get this bridge reinstated. As John stated, we tried to find alternate locations for this bridge but that didn't work out. The preservation people encouraged us to keep the bridge in its original place, if at all possible. Also, that bridge would have very limited use. It is only sixteen feet wide. I am not sure we could even rehabilitate it to the point that we could get school buses across. We looked at putting in a modern bridge that would be wide enough for whatever traffic needed across the river and high enough to avoid any flooding over the top. It would be useful at all times. We could pursue federal funds to minimize the County's exposure to the funding of the bridge. In flooding events, nearly every bridge had flooding over the top at some time or another. \$55 million of diking done hopefully will prevent that in the future. If we get any flooding in Fort Wayne, aluminum barricades will be placed at each end of the bridges and they will be closed.

**Cal Miller:** Well, what do the people want? It is a beautiful bridge. I have walked across it and driven across it. It is pretty neat as it goes back into the woods. Why is the preservation of this bridge, at a million dollar price tag and serving 121 people a day, the sufficient way to go?

**Bill Hartman:** By preserving it, in place and at its present elevation, the iron truss bridge and as many logs as we have coming down the river, it is a risk to rehabilitate it and go through that process. If you get a major flooding event, that type of structure could be removed by such an event. It would absolutely solve the situation if we were to build a modern bridge.

**Darren Vogt:** But you are not because the bridge has to stay there. Even if you build another bridge, that old bridge has to stay there.

**Cal Miller:** You still have the same investment at stake. With the logs and all of that, you could still have the same devastation of the footbridge.

**Bill Hartman:** Yes, but the State is willing to fund that. I don't know how better to explain this. Once you get the federal funds, you are in their ballpark. Once you go over a navigable stream, you are in the ballpark of the Army Corp of Engineers. You play their game and we are not in charge.

**Darren Vogt:** But we don't play that game if we just rehab the bridge.

**Bill Hartman:** We are going to spend \$300,000 and get everything. If you rehab the bridge without their funding, you are going to spend \$1 million of our money.

**Darren Vogt:** No, no, no, no.

**Bill Hartman:** Wait. Let me finish.

**Darren Vogt:** Okay.

**Bill Hartman:** Or you use their money and rehab the bridge. You have a bridge that is not of much use. It is a one-lane bridge that was built in 1893.

**Darren Vogt:** And it has been serving that community for that many years. There are alternate routes of transportation in that area.

**Bill Hartman:** Oh yes. People are getting around and calling us regularly to complain about it.

**Darren Vogt:** We have got to be stewards of not only our money but also our money on the federal level.

**Cal Miller:** How many complaints were you getting, Mr. Hartman, when the bridge was open?

**Paul Moss:** You mean because of single lane?

**Cal Miller:** Yes.

**Bill Hartman:** We didn't.

**Cal Miller:** Okay. I am going to be leaving in ten minutes and I would love to hear what the people have to say. Can we do that now?

**Paul Moss:** Sure.

**Roy Buskirk:** Bill, as far as the cost involved, you are going to have roughly a million dollar cost on that bridge. If we only do that bridge or we do the new bridge. We would have to relocate for the new bridge. You might be thinking about that while we hear from these other people that came in today.

**Bill Hartman:** Okay. Thank you.

**Josh Smith:** I would say that the million dollars to rehab that bridge, you would only be paying 20%.

**Roy Buskirk:** Yes, exactly.

**Linda Bloom:** But the total \$2 million includes the new bridge and the rehab.

**Roy Buskirk:** Correct.

**Josh Smith:** Basically, it is two projects.

**Paul Moss:** I don't think anybody has a closed mind on this. We are just trying to wrap our arms around it because it is kind of complicated. Who lives in that area would like to come up and make some comments?

**Dave Lechleitner:** I am Dave Lechleitner and I live on South Anthony Extended. The bridge has been very important to us in that we are farmers, we live in a volunteer fire department area and our schools are to the east of where we live. Most of us in that community attend churches that are on the other side of the river. I think it is really important to us that we have that bridge. You talk about only 125 cars cross that. When they did that study, and studies can come out any way you want them to, we now have a lot of new businesses at the intersection by Hessen Cassel Church. The businesses are owned by local people and we want to participate in the business that is there and support them to keep the business going. Since the bridge has been out, their business has gone down. They will testify to that to you. I live just slightly to the south of where the Bostick Road is. If I want to go to the schools, it means an additional three miles to the south, to cross over the river, and then come back three miles to go down the Monroeville Road. Before, it was right over and we could get to the school to participate in things there. I belong to Hessen Cassel Church and I am driving six additional miles to cross over the river. I also worry about the volunteer fire department. People, who are volunteer fire people and respond to fires, have to go six miles to get to where they have to fight the fire. The same if there is a fire on our side. They have to go six miles to get to us to fight the fire. That goes with ambulance, fire protection and all of those things. We tried, when they put I469 in to let us have access there so that we would be served. They refused to do it because we have the Bostick Road Bridge. Now you are talking that they have other accesses and they can go other ways. We are in a catch-22 where everybody just kind of ignores this. They will find a way. I think it is disgusting that we are not being served. There are more than 125 cars that could cross that bridge. As far as a two-lane versus a four-lane bridge, I just want to get to the other side of the river. That two-lane bridge would serve me. I think you are asking for a huge liability by the fact that with a two-lane bridge, you have converging traffic coming. That traffic will only increase. There have been accidents in the middle of the bridge.

**Roy Buskirk:** I think it is a one-lane bridge.

**Dave Lechleitner:** It is a one-lane. That is what I am saying. You have people converging on one another and who has the right-of-way? Right now, it is an incline on one side and you can hardly see the person on the other side. You are asking for accidents on a single-lane bridge. I have heard the talk about a two-lane bridge and maybe federal funding requires that but we don't need sidewalks. We don't need all

of the extended width to the bridge. Two lanes will serve us especially if you have to leave the footbridge in place. People can walk across the bridge, the way it is now. People stand on it every day. There is no reason to rehab it.

**Roy Buskirk:** There is a reason. They require us to.

**Dave Lechleitner:** Okay, they require you to rehab it. I don't understand why. I know it is going to cost \$300,000, with the federal and state funding, to do both projects. I think it is important to spend the \$300,000 to have them both done. It satisfies everyone, meets our needs and also will promote growth within the area. Right now, we are an island that is shut off from everything. For farmers to be able to come and go, it would be easier.

**Paul Moss:** You make your point very well. I appreciate that. The position that we are taking is to try and understand this better. Our responsibility is to the entire taxpayer base of Allen County. Councilman Vogt, did you have something?

**Darren Vogt:** You kind of answered it and your point is that you want a bridge to get from point A to point B. Whether that is the two bridges or a one-lane bridge...

**Dave Lechleitner:** I will accept anything you give us.

**Darren Vogt:** It is important because we have to look at the big picture and the overall taxpayers and not only from the local dollars but also the federal dollars. If we are in control of that and the federal money has been put in our lap to make that decision, we have to look at the big picture. I do want to address your concerns but I have to look at all of the things that were mentioned, traffic flow, alternate routes of transportation, economic development and safety. When I make my decision, it will be based on some sort of criteria and with your thoughts in mind. We have to decide once and for all what to do with the bridge and not keep leaving it out there.

**Dave Lechleitner:** They rehabbed the bridge once before. I can't tell you how many years ago but it was never finished. They never put the coat of paint on it. If we had known that this was going to be a big issue, the talk in our community is that the bridge would have fallen down long before now. We are really disgusted with the Historical Society issue with this bridge and the inconvenience that it has caused. That is who we blame, it is not you. We know you were ready to put a bridge up there until this whole issue came up.

**Roy Buskirk:** Your fire protection and volunteers, are you serviced from the Poe Volunteer Fire Department?

**Dave Lechleitner:** The Poe Volunteer Fire Department but the volunteers live in the area and have to respond.

**Roy Buskirk:** They have to go to Poe.

**Dave Lechleitner:** No, the people come in their own vehicles to respond to the fire.

**Darren Vogt:** It depends where they are at the time of the fire.

**Dave Lechleitner:** If you are driving the truck, you have to go there to get it but if you are a responder, you come in your own vehicle.

**Paul Moss:** I want to try to make sure that we move through and hear from everybody.

**Paula Hughes:** I apologize, I have another appointment.

**Paul Moss:** I should have realized that because it has been talked about quite a bit.

**Dave Lechleitner:** We would love you to have a public hearing in our area.

**Paula Hughes:** I will say that last month, I made a motion to go forward with the project. I still believe that it is the most responsible thing for us to do. There are Council members that may feel burdened by the historic preservation regulations but those regulations are in place by people that have been in leadership in that area. We cannot undo the leadership of the past. I think it is short-sighted of us to try to buck against the federal system through the refusal to accept funds for a project that is needed. I don't think it accomplishes the goal in the most effective manner. I am just going to go on record saying that I am still supportive of the project and that we should rehab the old bridge and do the new bridge. If I were in charge of the federal regulations, I would not write them that way and I don't believe that not doing this project will change those regulations.

**Cal Miller:** Mr. Lechleitner, you presented yourself very well and I hope that if there is anybody who is not in favor of the restoration of the bridge, they will have a chance to talk too. You brought up a point about the one-lane bridge. I think what we need to do is ask the Highway Department if they have any statistics about the liability associated with the one-lane bridge. All we need is about three accidents with a cap of \$300,000 against a governmental entity to spend that million dollars in accidents and then it doesn't even account for the loss of life or other injuries. If that is a concern, Mr. Hartman, the accidents that you have in that area, then that is creating greater liability in respect to that. We ought to consider that when we are looking whether to spend one million or two million on the bridges.

**Paul Moss:** As I mentioned, this is a significant philosophical debate. Is there anyone else who would like to come up and talk about this?

**Lady in the Audience:** I think Mr. Lechleitner represented us very well.

**Paul Moss:** If that summarizes everybody's feeling that's fine.

**Henry Burton:** My name is Henry Burton. We felt that if the County could support the bridge in 1893 or whenever, then they surely could support it now. We just want to get across the river. We don't want to see tax dollars wasted either.

**Darren Vogt:** Let me ask you that same question. The bridge that is there, in your mind, is it sufficient from a crossing standpoint?

**Henry Burton:** No, from a crossing standpoint, it is not sufficient. What I am saying is that the community supported it when it was built and there wasn't anywhere near the populace that there is now. What we are saying is that we need a bridge structure. How you devise that and get us across the river would be great. I don't think the main emphasis, in the community, is on the old bridge. There are some people that would like to see the historical aspect but they are in the minority. We had a public meeting and we knew that people wanted a modern two-lane bridge. Hessen Cassel Church and Heritage High School are part of the community and everybody has to cross the river to get to those places.

**Darren Vogt:** One of your points was that you didn't want to waste taxpayer money. Correct?

**Henry Burton:** Nobody does.

**Darren Vogt:** So I will go back to my question. Is the existing bridge, the one-lane structure, does that hinder the community in any way? It hasn't since 1893 or whatever, so if we put it back and spend the least amount of taxpayer dollars...

**Henry Burton:** I think you would be wasting taxpayer dollars to put a million dollars in a bridge of that age.

**Darren Vogt:** We have to do that either way. If we have to put a new bridge up, the federal dollars have to be spent on that old bridge.

**Henry Burton:** Or at least half of that for a walk bridge.

**Roy Buskirk:** No, we have to relocate the new bridge.

**Henry Burton:** Most of the community is in agreement that they would like a two-lane bridge built across the river. I am talking the majority of the people. They want a functional bridge. I understand the historical aspect. I am not in total agreement with it because the structure is in quite a bit of disrepair. What happens if you do nothing?

**Darren Vogt:** Nothing.

**Henry Burton:** Nothing, right. So the State and Federal agencies are not concerned about that bridge if nobody does anything.

**Paul Moss:** Traffic remains diverted, essentially.

**Henry Burton:** If you do nothing, the bridge collapses into the river.

**Roy Buskirk:** And after it does that, we will build a new one.

**Henry Burton:** A good ice storm could take it out. But you see my point. If it is important for State and Federal and this County to preserve the history, we would still like a new two-lane structure. I don't want to waste tax dollars but I wouldn't care if the bridge disappeared.

**Darren Vogt:** That is our dilemma. We don't have a way around it. I have been out there but I came from the end that you don't notice the difference in elevation. Is it your opinion that there is an elevation issue going from one end to the other?

**Henry Burton:** Oh, yes. You run up on someone and they have to back up.

**Darren Vogt:** So that is definitely something that needs to be addressed. Is that in the rehab plan?

**Josh Smith:** No, this is not the only one-lane bridge. There are ways to address that. There are mechanisms that have been adopted by INDOT such as signals on both sides and there are other ways to make sure that it is safe.

**Henry Burton:** You are still going to be restricted to traffic flow and bus traffic. You are ending up with a bridge that is deficient to what is needed.

**Darren Vogt:** But it has been deficient for how long now?

**Henry Burton:** We have been on this for over twenty years.

**Darren Vogt:** I guess we are getting deep.

**Paul Moss:** Yes, let's try to move this along. Do you have any additional comments?

**Henry Burton:** Yes, they had a public meeting a few years ago and about 90% wanted a new structure. While that is closed, there is a user cost that is involved for these people. If it was five miles per trip, two hundred cars and at fifty cents a mile that is about \$500 a day. For one year, it is \$182,000. Twenty years would be \$3.6 million dollars and that is at today's prices.

**Darren Vogt:** We are way deep into this.

**Henry Burton:** The last thing would be is that nobody wants to spend tax dollars of any kind. It is your job to be frugal. The federal dollars that you are going to use, if

not used here would go to some other county. Use it in Allen County if you can get it.

**Darren Vogt:** I am not sure that it is a short-sighted approach to government. Someone needs to step up and say when a project needs to be analyzed, but I have to look at the overall impact. To say that it is federal money and we should just grab it and use it is not a good principle.

**Henry Burton:** But it will go somewhere.

**Paul Moss:** You are correct. That is a valid statement but it gets back to Councilwoman Hughes' argument. Just because the federal government chooses to be wasteful, and I believe firmly that they are wasteful, doesn't mean that we have to go along with that. That is what this conversation is all about. Very good information from everybody and I feel that I have a better understanding of what the folks affected by this want. I understand that Mr. Hartman made his point very clearly. My assumption is that we will have this on next month's agenda, is that correct? If anybody here has a desire to get additional details, I would suggest that you do that before next month's meeting.

**Darren Vogt:** I have a question for Mr. Hartman.

**Dave Lechleitner:** May I make a suggestion? If this is on the agenda for next month, you may want to move to another location because you will have hundreds of people here.

**Paul Moss:** Okay. Do you have a question?

**Darren Vogt:** Yes, this information that you prepared for us on the bridges, there are priority numbers and I wanted to figure out what criteria did we use? I am assuming that there are some written criteria to figure out what bridges we repair. What makes up that priority list?

**Bill Hartman:** There is a bridge report that we have done semi-annually. There is a sufficiency rating and it is based on that.

**Darren Vogt:** So your priority...

**Bill Hartman:** That sufficiency rating is based on location, traffic count, alignment and many factors.

**Darren Vogt:** Okay, so in the interest of time, I want to sit down with you and look over that to see what that is and have a better understanding.

**Paul Moss:** We have one more gentleman that wanted to make a comment. Then I believe we are going to move off this subject.

**Ray Minnich:** Ray Minnich and I live just off Bostick Road. Two things that I wanted to point out. We do have land being sold on 27 and 469. This is going to be business oriented at that location. You can see the signs of the times that they are starting to move south. It provides us to better access to the businesses at that location. The other thing is that I am also in tune with the historical thing. You have the trails that are going all around the city. I foresee that, in some years down the road, that coming our direction. We want a bridge and I can see this coming down the road and I think it is needed. It has been three years and we don't know what has been going on. The communication of this bridge has been nil. Any information that we get is from calling and has not been provided to us from the Commissioners, the Council or whatever. It has not been done. I would like to have a public hearing on the bridge and have people from the area show up.

**Paul Moss:** It sounds as though the vast majority of people want a bridge. And they prefer a two-lane bridge. I am not so sure that a public hearing is going to do anything other than reiterate that they want a two-lane bridge. I hear that message but I can't account for the communication or lack thereof. This issue came before us for the first time, last month. I can assure you that in terms of us paying attention to it and talking about it, we have never talked about any bridge more than we have this one. You are getting the attention that you deserve. At the end of the day, I suspect that you will get your bridge. This is an important discussion for us to have. You are welcome to join us again next month.

**Ray Minnich:** And as we sit here, the dollars are going up. It has been three years and you are projecting three more years.

**Paul Moss:** That is a legitimate...

**Ray Minnich:** Any activity that we have had for three years...

**Roy Buskirk:** Sir, your property taxes went up too, didn't it? And that is what we are trying to watch. I understand your frustration but we never had this until last month. As far as the public hearing, it probably already met the requirements.

**John Speidel:** What we had was public information. That is not an official public hearing.

**Paul Moss:** If there is a desire for a public hearing, the Commissioners are the ones that need to convene that. We will let them know that there is the desire for that. I suspect that they probably know that right now. Again, I think it would just be a reiteration of what you have talked about today. It is really just what direction do we go and how is it funded. I appreciate you coming and sitting through this meeting. I want to go through the recent meetings. I want to make sure that everyone is aware the local government efficiency study committee, for lack of a better name, we have had two meetings and we are meeting regularly. The fifteenth member should be appointed here shortly. There is an individual who has expressed willingness to

serve. There was one appointment by the Mayor that had to be replaced. The Blue Ribbon Commission report that came out recently from the State is going to be scrutinized by the local committee and may or may not be used as a guiding template. It may make the work we do somewhat irrelevant. We are going to continue to forge ahead. Also want to mention that the Personnel Committee is meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup>. We are going to talk about some of the final classifications and have that off the books for good. Are there any recent or upcoming meetings that anyone wants to talk about?

**Darren Vogt:** When are the local efficiency meetings? Are those on a regular schedule?

**Paul Moss:** They are and they are on a Wednesday. The dates may end up changing. The next one is December 19<sup>th</sup> in the Omni Room at 4:30. I believe we are meeting bi-weekly at this point. The next one, after that, would be January 2<sup>nd</sup>. If you would like a schedule, Chris Cloud is maintaining that schedule.

**Roy Buskirk:** I have two quick comments. At 1:00, we are having a meeting concerning the bridges in the County and funding of those bridges. The other thing is on the Blue Ribbon Commission report. I would like to ask that the Council members stay very much abreast of what is going on in Indianapolis. We need to be very careful as far as the potential of losing funding because of changing the funding for instance of Local Option Income Tax which is based on part of the formula of disbursement based on the tax levy. If the Children's Services is taken off our tax levy, that would reduce our tax levy and therefore reduce our percentage of the Local Option Income Tax. I talked with Randy Borrer about it and our Auditor checked on it. The bill that has been introduced is taking that into consideration and would change the formula on how it would be disbursed. As all of you are aware, a lot of these bills, when they go through committee, they get changed. That is something that we need to be aware of. Another item that is in the Blue Ribbon Commission is the fact that the Library Board, on doing any bonding issues, would have to get approval from the Council. The way that the bill is written, the Council that has the largest percentage of assessed valuation in that area and that would be the City. It is another one of those situations that it would be the City Council instead of the County Council making a decision for all of the residents in the County.

**Paul Moss:** Thank you for that. Any other 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 November 13, 2007.

**Patt Kite:** 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 5-0-2 (Miller & Hughes, absent).**

**Paul Moss: Meeting is adjourned.** The next meeting will be held on January 17, 2008 at 8:30 am.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:53 am.