

**ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 17, 2008  
8:30 AM**

The Allen County Council met on Thursday, April 17, 2008 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; Jackie Scheuman, Finance Director; Bill Brown, Commissioner; Nelson Peters, Commissioner; Linda Bloom, Commissioner and Becky Butler, Administrative Assistant.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Darren Vogt:** Move approval of the minutes of March 26, 2008.

**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.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

**Lisa Blosser:** Our Miscellaneous Revenue collections are at 26.8% of projections, at the end of February. The Rainy Day Fund balance is \$14.6 million. Because of the delay in the assessment process, we will not have a 2008 certified budget until sometime this summer. Until that point, the DLGF will not approve additional appropriations.

**Roy Buskirk:** I have a question on the sheet that shows appropriation for \$4,750. That is on the equipment for the County Extension Office.

**Lisa Blosser:** We are transferring out of your capital line budget and, if you approve it, into the County Extension budget. It is not from the balance that hasn't been appropriated. This money has already been appropriated within your budget. So, if you approve it, we can transfer it out of your budget and into their budget.

**Roy Buskirk:** On the agenda, it says that the transfer is from General Fund.

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**Tera Klutz:** The first item is an appropriation reduction. The DLGF says we can't actually transfer from department to department but we can do an appropriation reduction from your department and then an additional appropriation to County Extension.

**Darren Vogt:** It is just more of a procedural thing in how we were doing it before.

**Lisa Blosser:** Right.

**Tera Klutz:** The law doesn't say that you can transfer outside of your department. We are just making sure to dot the I's and cross the T's.

**Roy Buskirk:** Okay.

**Paula Hughes:** I have a question, Auditor Blosser. Do we have any concerns about cash flow? Looking at the cash balances, just over \$5.5 million in the General Fund and another \$9.7 million in the Miscellaneous Revenues are we bringing in enough each month through Miscellaneous Revenues to cover any cash flow?

**Lisa Blosser:** Because of the delay in property taxes, that we have this year, we will have to borrow again. That will probably be in May or June from the Rainy Day Fund.

**Paula Hughes:** Okay.

**Paul Moss:** Speaking of that, I have two questions. One is in regards to the Rainy Day Fund and you said that was \$14.6 million. I don't want to get into a lengthy, philosophical discussion about the Rainy Day Fund but does Council believe it would be appropriate for us to have a separate discussion, at some point, about that Rainy Day Fund? It is a question that has been raised, and I think somewhat appropriately, in regards to some of the things that we have been talking about such as Maplecrest Road and bridges and things of that nature. It might be helpful to have a formal discussion, amongst Council, specific to that topic and with the Auditor's help, giving us a clear idea of some things that are looming on the horizon.

**Paula Hughes:** So your suggestion is that we have a discussion with the outcome being a more formal outline of what we intend to use the Rainy Day Fund for? What this Council thinks are appropriate expenditures and what aren't?

**Paul Moss:** Yes, essentially but the only correction would be that I am not sure I want to identify what it would be used for but maybe identify the circumstances for which it would be used.

**Paula Hughes:** I don't think it would hurt to clarify.

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**Darren Vogt:** I think we should decide on a dollar amount that we feel needs to be appropriate without it growing too far out of control. At some point, you have to see that you have enough in there. We need to see what cap to put on it.

**Cal Miller:** I think it is a worthwhile discussion and I agree that not only in the terms of the types of usages that this Council would think is appropriate, the maximum cap that would be appropriate and also the minimum that the Council will let it get down to. I believe that while we are looking for other uses to tap into it that we shouldn't lose sight of the fact that four or five years ago, we were in pretty desperate financial condition. I would be of the mind that we always are keeping some amount of money in there and not permitting it to go below a certain number. That is unless we get into another tier of problems that require its utilization. I think it would be a very worthwhile discussion to have. It is a lot of money and we should let the taxpayers know why we are holding onto what we are holding onto and how we intend to use it. Then, other people that are looking at the budget and looking at the numbers are not scratching their heads wondering what it is there for.

**Paul Moss:** That is the point. Let the taxpayers know why we have that fund and we are going to be rolling into the budget cycle pretty quick. Depending on what sort of impact 1001 has, we may be looking at departments and having to make some downward adjustments. It is tough to do that without a pretty clear idea of why we have that additional money. Councilman Buskirk?

**Roy Buskirk:** I think part of this is what Councilman Miller said. We can't let it slip our minds that back in 2003 and 2004, COIT went down considerably because of economics. The other thing I wanted to ask is that the reason it has grown is because of interest, correct?

**Lisa Blosser:** And we had an excess distribution of COIT and CEDIT monies this year. When you have these excess distributions, by law, we have to put it into the Rainy Day Fund. That is how the Rainy Day Fund was initially established.

**Patt Kite:** Is that something that would be appropriately discussed when we go in for out budget?

**Paula Hughes:** I think we may want to do it separately.

**Paul Moss:** I would like to have the discussion before budget.

**Roy Buskirk:** Why don't we put it on next month's agenda?

**Darren Vogt:** I think the other part that we need to start having the discussion now is the impacts of 1001. If we do have a \$4 million decrease next year, that conversation goes well with the Rainy Day Fund. I think we should start having that prioritization set early on so that we are not waiting until the last minute.

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**Paul Moss:** I agree and that is my next question. When do you believe, Auditor Blosser, when we will have a pretty clear idea of what the impact is for all of the entities in Allen County? There have been numbers tossed around, \$4 million for us but it doesn't seem like it has been formalized.

**Paula Hughes:** And that is 2010 impact and not 2009.

**Lisa Blosser:** Correct.

**Paul Moss:** Let me rephrase that. Is it possible to give us a clearer idea?

**Lisa Blosser:** Yes it is. Tera is doing a lot of the analysis of those numbers. What do you think, Tera?

**Tera Klutz:** Right now, that is the best estimate for Allen County because we don't have the new tax bills for 2008 calculated. Once we get 2008 calculated, we will have a clearer picture of how the Circuit Breaker will affect us in 2009 and 2010.

**Paul Moss:** Will you be able to provide that for all taxing entities and give us an idea of how to understand the impact of the County's budget and the other budgets as well?

**Tera Klutz:** I hope so. At the same time, I would say that there is a lot of credibility in the LSA studies that are out there now, based on the 2006 pay 2007 data. On the pay 2008 data, there are going to be a lot of legislative changes with the new homestead credit. With the gross values, those are easy but all of a sudden, we are taking off the standard deduction for homeowners of \$45,000 and an additional 35% up to \$600,000, and an additional 25% off the value after \$600,000. It is going to be very complicated to figure out what the Circuit Breaker is going to be for 2009 and 2010. You have to do it parcel by parcel. There is no way to do it together for this type of analysis. Each parcel has a separate Circuit Breaker, depending on what the value of their home is. It is a very complicated study and I would not wait for a study from us. I would look at the LSA numbers and think that that's the scenario because those are probably pretty conservative.

**Paul Moss:** Are those available in a fairly summarized manner, by unit.

**Tera Klutz:** Yes, absolutely.

**Paul Moss:** Does everybody have that?

**Lisa Blosser:** We can reissue it.

**Tera Klutz:** But we will also be doing the studies for Allen County as soon as we can. I just know that it is going to take a long time.

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**Darren Vogt:** From a planning perspective, I think we need to plan for the worst-case scenario. It is phased in over two years and we need to plan that now.

**Paul Moss:** Just trying to think a little ahead. I apologize for digressing a little on that subject. Are there any other questions for Auditor Blosser?

**Darren Vogt:** Make a motion to approve the financial report.

**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.** Moving right along, into the appropriations, from the General Fund, Councilwoman Kite, I believe you are aware of this. I believe that Mr. Talbott had contacted folks and as you know, I personally greatly appreciate the chance to talk about copiers.

**Darren Vogt:** It is a duplicator, Councilman Moss.

**Mike Talbott:** This is a little bit more information than what I provided to you. Good morning, my name is Mike Talbott and I am the County Extension Director for the Purdue Extension Service here in Allen County. What I am coming to you today for is approval for purchasing a new duplicator. For those not real well-versed on what a duplicator does versus a photocopier or computer printer, it is a machine that uses liquid ink instead of toner. Most schools and large churches have duplicators because they are used for high volume printing. If you talk to anyone in the office business equipment, they say that anything over fifty copies, it is more cost effective to use a duplicator. We currently have a duplicator that was purchased in 1999. As of the last month, it had 4,406,340 copies on it. That averages out to almost 490,000 copies a year. It is used for our newsletter, various programs, workshop handouts, fliers, event schedules and you have a sample of something that would be typically used in that duplicator. The duplicator, in house, allows us to be able to use the secretarial staff and administrative assistant staff to use it on their schedule as they can fit it in. A lot of times, we tend to run a tight schedule and trying to job this out to the Print Shop or other places is a bit of a time element. There are, on occasion, times where we need to duplicate on a weekend. Using County Print Services is not real viable. I have also costed out what a 4-H newsletter or one of our other pieces that we typically do in the terms of pages, the amount of ink, the service cost per image but not including staff time. When I costed it out to County Services, IPFW and to other entities, we were able to do it for at least half if not more. In terms of the existing machine and why we need to replace it, it is nine years old and technology has changed. The service record on it is that the service company has said that they can no longer get parts for it. We currently have a button on it that is not working. The next time that something major breaks on it, it is a boat anchor. Then we are left scrambling for when, where and how we would still be able to keep functioning. It was on the 2008 budget request, in the 400 series, and resources were not available so we did not include it in the final budget. The current machine runs a

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300 X 300 dots per inch and if you are printing of pictures and those kinds of things, you know that the lower the number, the lesser the quality and the higher the number, the better. With the machines that I am looking at, I want to be able to improve the quality of product that we are putting out. The machines that I am looking at are 600 X 600. The other advantage of the newer machine is that it would be able to print 11 X 17 size paper. Anything with three or four pages can be printed on one sheet, back to back, and then you are using one sheet as opposed to two. We would be able to reduce our paper costs by using the 11 X 17.

**Paul Moss:** I am going to interrupt because this is probably about as thorough an examination of one machine as I have ever had. Well done. Are there any questions?

**Darren Vogt:** Let me ask a question. There are two different machines here. There is one within the \$11,000. Council, to refresh your memory of where the \$11,000 that we are saving came from, we were able to renegotiate the contract for the building maintenance for the Extension. One machine is two-color and the other is one-color. Do we need two-color versus one-color for what you do? Does the lesser of the two do the larger sheets?

**Mike Talbott:** Yes, it does. Both machines are 11X17 and both are 600 X 600. The only real difference is that the higher priced machine would require the additional \$4,750 because it has a second drum that would allow us to run two colors in one pass. If we wanted two colors on a publication, we would use it to highlight important information. I haven't had a black and white TV in my house for I don't know how long. Adding color is just a natural progression to being able to provide a higher quality service. Having the two-color drum versus the single-color drum means that we are able to run it in one pass versus two passes. Every time that we make an additional pass, there is an additional cost on the maintenance fee. By having one pass for the two colors, we cut the maintenance fee costs in half. There is also a labor savings because we are running it once on the machine instead of twice. We are not going to run everything with color because the cost of color ink is a little higher. The advantage of going to color ink is that in the past, we used to emphasize something by using color paper. Color paper is more expensive than white paper. I see us going more with the white paper and using color ink to get the emphasis on some things so that we get better responses.

**Cal Miller:** Can I interject? Again, I appreciate the information but Mr. Talbott touched on it and I don't think the Council is going to be glossing over it, this was an item on his 2008 budget request. I think Council should be discussing the appropriateness of coming back to Council when Council gave 2008 fundage to be used in the manner that the Cooperative Extension deemed appropriate and this wasn't one of the things that was purchased.

**Lisa Blosser:** Council pulled out all of the capital expenses and told the departments to come back.

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**Cal Miller:** Okay, I apologize then.

**Mike Talbott:** We knew the machine was limping along. I would actually have liked to have done this last fall. On the advice of Councilman Vogt, he encouraged me to wait until after the first of the year.

**Cal Miller:** I don't remember the savings. I remember the discussion that Councilman Vogt had about approaching something on the lease. Could you describe what you were able to do and did that become part of the funding mechanism for this?

**Mike Talbott:** Yes. I have \$11,000 in the line item for building maintenance that was initially appropriated last summer for 2008. Those were the dollars needed to pay IPFW for the use of our facility. It was for them to come in and do the maintenance and cleaning. All of you had a legitimate concern about what we were paying in cost-per-foot for that. We went, with Councilman Vogt and Commissioner Peters, to IPFW to renegotiate that agreement and they cut us a deal whereas instead of basing it on square foot of usage, they used gross square footage. That includes hallways and other areas. They were initially basing it on usable space. They are now giving us the rate of total square footage on campus. They reduced it starting January 1<sup>st</sup> and so that has given me an extra \$11,000. Does that answer your question?

**Cal Miller:** Yes, thank you.

**Darren Vogt:** One of you asked me if that was campus security and we capped the security dollar amount. As they continue to grow and expand their needs, we didn't want to see the security dollars rise and so we capped that. The building maintenance number could go down with how they expand in the future.

**Paul Moss:** This is something that you don't think about very much but the effort is appreciated. The only issue that I have is, and you have done a great job of explaining all of this and making us aware of this during the budget time, that if you think about the IKON copiers study that occurred a while back, there is significant excess capacity in the County Print Shop. I think it is a little unfortunate that we can't try and fill some of that capacity with you.

**Mike Talbott:** When I costed this newsletter out, my department could produce 900 copies of the newsletter for \$88.50. The price that I was quoted from the Print Shop was \$397.

**Paul Moss:** Well, this discussion has gone on long enough. That opens up a whole other issue in my opinion because when we talked about the issues with the copy center, there was discussion about the competitive price.

**Mike Talbott:** I don't want to get involved in that.

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**Cal Miller:** But while we are talking about it, your cost analysis, Mr. Talbott, doesn't include the cost of the machine or the cost of employees running it?

**Mike Talbott:** No it doesn't. We are not comparing apples to apples.

**Cal Miller:** No, we are not. At the same time, there are the intangibles of being able to do this on the weekends and you are across town. It makes it a little bit harder to use the services of the Print Shop in the same way that the folks in the building can use it.

**Mike Talbott:** I am also looking at the dollars that I have available to me. I hopefully will have the dollars for the machine and I already have the dollars for the staff.

**Cal Miller:** Part of the cost analysis would be if your staff wasn't sitting over the duplicator doing this, could they be doing other things to advance the interests of the County Extension? I assume that they could be.

**Mike Talbott:** They are. The machine is right next to them and oftentimes, when they are running it, they can answer phones and do other things.

**Cal Miller:** I agree that we need to continue, as we said we would, to evaluate the wisdom of the County Print Shop. We told Mr. Little that we would give him some time while he courted the City and to make it a more profitable endeavor. The comparison wasn't fair.

**Paul Moss:** And I made some assumptions that it wasn't apples to apples.

**Darren Vogt:** The question for me is if we need two-color or not.

**Patt Kite:** He can do two-color with the other machine. I asked him to come in with his request and have Plan B, which he has done. He has really done his homework and I asked him to see how many times this current machine had maintenance done to it. It was twelve times last year. There is no question that they need a new piece of equipment.

**Mike Talbott:** By approving the transfer from Building Maintenance to the 400 series, it allows me to get a machine. The additional appropriation of \$4,750 gets me the machine that we really like.

**Patt Kite:** We are seeing a cost savings in the maintenance, if we have the one that does two colors.

**Cal Miller:** On top of that, we will have fewer people standing over the duplicator. The \$4,750 pays for itself over time.

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**Mike Talbott:** We have had this machine for nine years.

**Cal Miller:** With that, move for approval of items one through four.

**Patt Kite:** I will second that motion.

**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. We are onto the Building Maintenance and their salary ordinance. This is due to the reorganization that we talked about at the Personnel Committee meeting. Roy, did you want to start off with the discussion at Personnel Committee or do you prefer they go through their presentation?

**Roy Buskirk:** Let them go ahead and I will add to it if I think it is necessary.

**Sidonie Inman:** Sidonie Inman, Allen County Maintenance.

**Dan Freck:** Dan Freck, Director of Buildings and Grounds. We have completed our reorganization and today we are here requesting the salary ordinance due to the reorganization.

**Paula Hughes:** I will add that this department was a hang over from the internal equity study. When we got into this department, we realized that there needed to be a total refresh on the job descriptions. There were a lot of things that people were doing or were not doing and a lot of realignment to be done. We held off and they just now completed that process.

**Darren Vogt:** You are saying that when the job evaluations were all done, this was not because they needed to reclassify.

**Paula Hughes:** Correct. These changes are bringing the Building Maintenance Department in line with the rest of the County.

**Paul Moss:** They are not getting any special consideration. This was carved out, early on, and now we are addressing it because of the desire to reorganize.

**Roy Buskirk:** I think that all of you have received the minutes of the Personnel Committee and it is there that we approved this.

**Cal Miller:** As the liaison to the Building Maintenance, I met with them and does the overall reorganization have a net affect of spending less of the monies that you were spending on the salaries before the reorganization?

**Paula Hughes:** No.

**Roy Buskirk:** It is about \$20,000 more.

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**Cal Miller:** \$20,000 more?

**Paula Hughes:** That amount is reflected on item five, which was struck from the agenda.

**Darren Vogt:** Are we being consistent on the salaries that are being decreased? As a County, I think we held those through 2008 and in 2009, it will go to the actual. Is that correct?

**Cal Miller:** Yes, there were some redline salaries in your budget, weren't there?

**Paul Moss:** Any other questions on this issue?

**Cal Miller:** Let me say that Mr. Freck pointed out that there was a letter to Allen County Council by an employee of the Maintenance Department.

**Patt Kite:** We just got it this morning.

**Cal Miller:** Dan faxed it to me yesterday. If you haven't had a chance to read it, we don't need to discuss it. My overall view though is that Julie Morris is making some complaints about the hierarchy and the manner of the way things are done in the Building Maintenance. I believe this is totally something that needs to be addressed internally. Mr. Freck agrees with that and I assume that Sidonie does as well. This is not an issue for County Council and the proper chain of command should be gone through to the supervisors of the Building Maintenance Department. If County Council was to take up each of the issues of the employees of the County, I think that is all we would be doing. While I appreciate receiving the letter, I believe it is an internal issue and hasn't quite filtered its way through and been processed by the heads of that particular department. That is my two cents.

**Darren Vogt:** I read it and I agree with you.

**Maye Johnson:** I read it and I agree.

**Darren Vogt:** Move for approval of consideration of a salary ordinance amending the salaries within the budget of the Building Maintenance Department. See the attached spreadsheet detailing the Building Maintenance reorganization and reclassifications. This is to be effective December 8, 2007.

**Paula Hughes:** Retroactive?

**Lisa Blosser:** That is what they requested but it wasn't discussed at Personnel Committee. They want it to be from the first of the year when the rest of the reclassifications went into affect.

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**Darren Vogt:** We need to be consistent with that as we have been on others before.

**Cal Miller:** Do we have a history of retroactive?

**Paula Hughes:** No. We have a history of not doing retroactive.

**Tera Klutz:** You have some that were retro but today, you need to decide and then we will remind you of it.

**Cal Miller:** I would like to hear from Sidonie or Dan about what their thought process as to why it should be retroactive as opposed as to just starting today.

**Darren Vogt:** Withdraw the motion.

**Sidonie Inman:** The situation is that we have worked on this for over a year now. With our understanding that people were going to be getting their salary increases at the first of the year and since we were late in getting our request in and getting the steps done, we thought it would be retroactive.

**Cal Miller:** Why was it late? What caused a delay in the process?

**Sidonie Inman:** Essentially, what caused the delay was when we started this with Ray Temple. We were in total disagreement in what he had recommended. There was such a huge range in some of the positions that were more technical than others. It was to the point where it dropped a number of our employees even lower. By that, I mean LTS2. We felt that we needed to talk at length with Mr. Dumford. We worked on the JAQ's and met with him a number of times about those. We finally determined, after looking at all of the positions, that we needed to be reorganized. We had three or four employees that were listed as 999's and they would not get any money as part of the longevity. We felt that all of our employees needed to be placed on the LTC if that was where they belonged. That would make it fair, across the board, for our employees.

**Paula Hughes:** 999 is a Special Occupation.

**Sidonie Inman:** Yes.

**Dan Freck:** All of the Special Occ's and supervisors and all of the descriptions were put into a reorganization packet. We started with the LTC7's and all the way down. We looked at each job description and found where it had changed over the years. We basically started from scratch, wrote it up and took it to Personnel before the holiday rush. We waited a bit on that and then started on it again.

**Cal Miller:** Have these individuals been working in the classification for the entire year?

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**Dan Freck:** There will be two positions. One will be a bid position internally. Some employees will bid on that. The other one is an open position and will be posted. This reflects everyone. In the past, some workers whose job description and job title didn't go together, we cleaned those up at the same time. All of the jobs are lined up according to their licensing, skills and expertise.

**Cal Miller:** But have they been in those classifications that reflect the reorganization, since December?

**Dan Freck:** A good majority of them have been in these classifications and will stay where they are at. Some of them have had their title change a little bit.

**Darren Vogt:** I understand the reorganizing but why weren't the job descriptions fleshed out the first time, with Temple? When you did the JAQ's and the questionnaires and all of that stuff why didn't that flush out the technical differences? That may not be a question for you but for Brian.

**Dan Freck:** At the time, that is what started it. We had individuals, I can give one example, whose classification was Senior Carpenter. We had an individual who was a Junior Carpenter. Mr. Temple asked what the difference between the two positions was. According to the job description, the Senior Carpenter tells the Junior Carpenter what to do. He said they should all be classified as Carpenters. That is what we did when we cleaned that section up. We had a job description that called for a heavy equipment operator. He voiced an opinion as to the weight issue of what is an equipment operator and what is heavy. Mr. Temple helped us with a lot of that.

**Darren Vogt:** So it was more of an evolution.

**Dan Freck:** A lot of things were changed because of the duties of the individuals.

**Paul Moss:** Mr. Dumford, would you like to jump in on this?

**Brian Dumford:** Brian Dumford, HR Director. Evolution is a good term for it. As we went through the examination and reexamination, it got to where it was going to be much better to start with a clean slate and build it than to band-aid it and fix thirty years worth of messing around with it. We started with a fresh white board and asked him what he wanted the organization to look like? Instead of trying to piecemeal and rearrange things that have already been messed up, we started fresh and that is how we got here. Evolution, I think, is a good word.

**Patt Kite:** Does anyone remember who we granted retroactive pay to and what the reasoning was?

**Cal Miller:** I think it was in the Wood Youth CFO position. That was similar to the one as Sheriff Fries' position which we didn't grant retroactive pay.

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**Paul Moss:** The most frustrating part is that I don't recall this coming up in Personnel Committee and it should have.

**Paula Hughes:** I would say that I am supportive of the change in the department but I am not supportive of making it retroactive. My understanding was the clean slate where you shuffled it up and are starting forward, you would be organized a new way. I wouldn't support being retroactive at this point. But from this point forward, I absolutely am.

**Paul Moss:** What is the dollar impact, roughly?

**Tera Klutz:** 25% so about \$7,000.

**Paula Hughes:** I can't believe I am saying this but it is not about the finances but more about the principle of it.

**Darren Vogt:** My concern is just about being consistent in how we do it.

**Paula Hughes:** We haven't been and so it is impossible.

**Cal Miller:** Who else is coming before Council that will be seeking reorganization and retroactive pay?

**Paula Hughes:** Mr. Dumford, are there any other departments that have were not a part of the internal equity process?

**Brian Dumford:** I don't believe we have anything else outstanding at this point, other than the execs.

**Paula Hughes:** Exec's, elected officials and Chief Deputies.

**Roy Buskirk:** Can we do it for the current pay period?

**Tera Klutz:** We can make it for whatever day you want.

**Jackie Scheuman:** Whatever day you make it effective.

**Paula Hughes:** How do we typically do it, make it effective on the day of the vote?

**Jackie Scheuman:** If it does not specifically say on there, it is effective today.

**Paula Hughes:** Okay.

**Paul Moss:** I think everyone has an idea of what we need to do here. Somebody just needs to offer a motion including the retroactivity or not.

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**Darren Vogt:** I will make a new motion considering the salary ordinance amending the salaries within the budget of the Building Maintenance Department. See the attached spreadsheet detailing the Building Maintenance reorganization and/or reclassifications. That is effective today.

**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.

**Roy Buskirk:** Before you leave, I know some people might not realize that I have been trying to get the cleaning contract reviewed. Dan and the Commissioners have put it out for bid and that is with the seven-days-a-week cleaning. That was approximately \$50,000 less than last year was.

**Dan Freck:** It is going to be pretty close.

**Roy Buskirk:** Since Dan and I met a week or so ago, I talked with the City and they are trying to go through the chain of command. The previous administration had agreed to reduce the number of days cleaning. We are making some progress.

**Darren Vogt:** It is good to hear.

**Sidonie Inman:** I do want to point out that at this point, I don't want to give false hope that this might change. We are right where we belong when we give those specs to other companies. That way everything is fair.

**Paul Moss:** We appreciate that and appreciate the fact that you have bird-dogged that issue.

**Roy Buskirk:** I think I killed it.

**Paul Moss:** We are at the salary ordinance for Circuit Court.

**Tim Miller:** Tim Miller, Circuit Court Administrator.

**Eric Zimmerman:** Eric Zimmerman, Chief Probation Officer.

**Tim Miller:** We came before Personnel Committee on April 8<sup>th</sup> and we discussed this position. We have the salary ordinance before you for your consideration.

**Paul Moss:** From an agenda standpoint, we should probably get in the habit of having the Personnel Committee updates before the salary ordinances. Chairman, do you have any comments on this particular item?

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**Roy Buskirk:** I really don't. The minutes pretty well cover it. They presented that they need additional Adult Probation officers and Personnel Committee approved it.

**Darren Vogt:** Let me clarify the funding for this. It is funded completely out of the user fees and not out of County General. This is paid by folks who are on probation. Move to approve a salary ordinance setting the pay for an employee within the budget of Circuit Court, 230-6102-412 Adult Probation Officer in the amount of \$32,571.

**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. Okay. The Sheriff is requesting a salary ordinance for a Training Coordinator. This was also discussed at the Personnel Committee meeting in March.

**Ken Fries:** Good morning, Council. Kenny Fries.

**Shawn Lawhorn:** Captain Shawn Lawhorn.

**Ken Fries:** We took this to the Personnel Committee on March 18<sup>th</sup>. We had approached this a year before when I reorganized the department. This is a civilian position and has had a person there since March of last year, working part-time. We have basically been taking advantage of her. She has been working full-time and the only benefit she has is insurance. She has no holiday pay or vacation pay and so we are asking that this be moved to a permanent position. Any extra increase in the salary will be in our budget.

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

**Roy Buskirk:** The Personnel Committee did approve it but I do have one question. With all of the training that the Sheriff's Department provides and the considerable amount of training that you provide to outside law enforcement, are there currently fees to the outside law enforcement?

**Ken Fries:** That is the reason I brought Captain Lawhorn.

**Shawn Lawhorn:** That is in the works. When you brought that up in the Personnel Committee meeting, we started looking at what would be appropriate. We are looking at how to charge and if it should be per person per training.

**Ken Fries:** There certainly will be a charge. We are training all kinds of outside agencies and it is not fair for the Sheriff's Department to have it come out of our budget. They are going to have to start ponying up some money for training.

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**Roy Buskirk:** The list that you provided is not only incoming, other agencies, you have State Police on here. We train State Police?

**Ken Fries:** They do pay for that.

**Roy Buskirk:** Other counties, do they pay?

**Ken Fries:** They pay.

**Shawn Lawhorn:** The only people that we don't charge are our county employees.

**Paul Moss:** Will it be as lucrative as the City's out south?

**Ken Fries:** No. We are not looking to make a profit, just cover the bills.

**Darren Vogt:** If it is County money that we are looking at, to shuffle it around doesn't make any sense.

**Patt Kite:** The person that you want to move into the full-time position, how many hours is she working a week now?

**Ken Fries:** Thirty-seven and a half to forty. They are working full-time.

**Paul Moss:** Any other questions?

**Roy Buskirk:** The funding will come out of the part-time?

**Ken Fries:** Right.

**Darren Vogt:** Move for approval of consideration of the salary ordinance to establish the pay within the budget of the Allen County Sheriff's Department, 100-0501-421 Training Coordinator, PAT 3/2 in the amount of \$34,456.

**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.** You have two grant requests as well.

**Ken Fries:** Yes, I do. The first one is the Bulletproof Vest Partnership grant and this is the third or fourth year that we have applied for it. Basically, this grant will reimburse us up to 50% of what we pay for vests. We spent over \$50,000 last year on bulletproof vests and about \$90,000 this year on bulletproof vests. They have a life of supposed to be five years. I have been wearing this one for ten. I tell my wife I will get a new one when I know this one doesn't work anymore. I have made it a priority to make sure that we have all the vests replaced and buy enough for the reserve

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organization and stab vests for the confinement officers. That will come out of the Commissary account.

**Paul Moss:** Who is the grant from?

**Lin Wilson:** The Department of Justice. Lin Wilson, Grant Administrator. This is an ongoing thing and sometimes the amount of funding depends on their priorities. They will go to the small towns one year and give them a lot more money and another year they will give them to the people that has the highest number of Part One crimes. We never know from one year to the next what their priorities are going to be. We always ask for as much as we can ask for and then we receive 50% of whatever we think we will be able to get. We have to match it with 50% Commissary funds. It is kind of like a reimbursement. The Sheriff will go ahead and get what he needs and then will be reimbursed however much the award is.

**Darren Vogt:** You said you spent \$50,000 last year and \$90,000 this year. Explain why we have the difference.

**Ken Fries:** When I started the program, we negotiated a price for the vests. It was half of what we paid for this one ten years ago. Initially we asked them how many vests can we get for \$50,000. This year, we are picking up all the people that didn't get one last year. The jail stab vests are the bulk of what we are getting because we got none of those last year. That is where the increase is. We should be good now so that every three or four years, we start the renewal program.

**Cal Miller:** Move for approval to apply for the Bulletproof Vest Partnership grant in the amount of \$60,000.

**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.** Now we have the Alien Program.

**Ken Fries:** Yes, this is the SCAAP grant that we apply for every year. The State Criminal Alien Assistance Program for which we are reimbursed a percentage for the amount of undocumented immigrants that we incarcerate for a minimum of four days and a felony arrest. The reimburse us somewhere from \$27,000 to \$29,000 a year.

**Lin Wilson:** It used to be that the money could be put anywhere that the Sheriff felt the need but last year they started designating that it had to be affiliated with the jail facility where they are being held. The money is being set aside for medical services.

**Cal Miller:** Move for approval of request to apply for the SCAAP grant.

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**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. The Commissioners are requesting to apply for the Safe Routes to School grant. This is for \$100,000. Is this a pretty big sidewalk?

**Roy Buskirk:** It is approximately 3,168 feet.

**Lin Wilson:** It is six-tenths of a mile.

**Nelson Peters:** Good morning, Nelson Peters, Allen County Commissioner.

**Lin Wilson:** This is a grant that is actually federal highway money. The project is to connect a local school to the community and encourage children to walk more. The sidewalks have to be constructed to current standards. ADA requires 60-inch wide sidewalks now and not 48 inches. We also have to have curbs accessible for anyone using a wheelchair. We will get reimbursed up to \$100,000 and if it comes in less than that, it won't be as much.

**Paul Moss:** So how does building a sidewalk encourage the kids to walk more?

**Lin Wilson:** Right now, there are sections that have no sidewalks and there are sidewalks that are 36 inches wide and broken up. There are some that have been heaved up by tree roots.

**Paul Moss:** How are they getting to school now?

**Lin Wilson:** Their parents' vehicles. Probably 70% of them live more than two miles away so they will ride the bus. This will not increase the usage at all. If you live more than two miles away, you have to ride a bus. Hoagland School has a very large service area. They go from 46816, 46806, they pick up Monroeville and can pick up kids from all over East Allen. It is mostly going to benefit the children that live within the vicinity of the school and less than two miles away.

**Paul Moss:** How many kids will that impact?

**Lin Wilson:** Right now, it is about three or four percent of the total population of the school.

**Paul Moss:** Which would be how many?

**Lin Wilson:** They have 400 plus children.

**Paul Moss:** So three to four percent of 400. Okay.

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**Patt Kite:** Didn't we apply for this one last year too?

**Lin Wilson:** Yes and last year they had 53 applications and they only funded fifteen of them. You never know because they might find this to be a worthy project. A lot of schools are not neighborhood schools. The concept of living in the neighborhood and going to school in the neighborhood anymore is very rare. We are going to give it a shot. If we don't get it the first time, I will go the second time and give it a shot. If we don't get it this time, it's done.

**Paul Moss:** I understand that it feels like free money but it is a little frustrating when you look at this and drill down in the details and given the critical needs that we have, it is a lot of money with questionable benefits.

**Cal Miller:** While you are drilling down, let's do the math. We are talking about a benefit for twelve to sixteen people or children, for a \$100,000 sidewalk.

**Lin Wilson:** That is the school portion of it. There is also the fact that the people that live along the route will benefit. Everybody along the route will benefit but it is a Safe Routes to School program. You apply for it based on the school. I am not saying that we are going to get it.

**Paul Moss:** We are not criticizing you, believe me.

**Lin Wilson:** I understand but when there is money out there, if you have to frame it in the context of what the money is awarded for, and then other people can get the benefit of it...

**Cal Miller:** Hopefully we are in some competition with some other folks that have a greater percentage of people that could benefit from the tax dollars. The people that can demonstrate the greater need would likely be in a better position to receive the grant.

**Lin Wilson:** Yes, it is competitive statewide. Nobody in northeast Indiana got any money last year.

**Darren Vogt:** So the question is, should we even be applying for this? There are other people with greater needs than us.

**Cal Miller:** What are your thoughts about that, Lin and Commissioner Peters? What if, by some stretch, we were awarded this grant? Do you think there is sufficient justification to laying this sidewalk down?

**Nelson Peters:** I don't have a problem accepting money on behalf of the people that I represent as opposed to sending it to Indianapolis or somewhere else. My duties and responsibilities are to the citizens of Allen County. I think that whatever it takes to get those dollars back into Allen County is what we have to do. Although it may

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only affect twelve to fifteen students, it is part of the quality of life in the community. It won't be utilized just by those individuals. It is the impetus for the dollars that we could get back here. If someone determines that these dollars would be better used somewhere else, then so be it. We have tried and we have done what we can in the representation of the people of Allen County.

**Lin Wilson:** The other thing is that Hoagland is not incorporated. They do not have any tax revenue on their own. Part of my responsibility, as a Grant Administrator, is to try to seek funding for unincorporated areas of Allen County. The Commissioners have to do that on behalf of the unincorporated areas of the County. It is like the grant that was submitted for Riverhaven. That is an unincorporated area. It is something that I feel is my obligation to everyone who lives in unincorporated areas. It will benefit the entire Hoagland community and not just the students. That is just the funding mechanism is through that.

**Maye Johnson:** I would agree that it is a quality of life issue. It is needed and even if it does just impact sixteen young people, it is safe routes. I am not sure it is a public safety issue but it certainly will improve on the quality of life and have a positive impact on the people of that community.

**Lin Wilson:** They did have a student who was killed on a bicycle last year.

**Patt Kite:** I was just going to say that I see it as a public safety issue.

**Lin Wilson:** Children will go into the street if there is no sidewalk for them to walk on.

**Patt Kite:** I do see it as a public safety issue and I agree with Commissioner Peters. We are concerned about our community and the people that we represent. If we can save one tragic episode, then it is money well spent.

**Cal Miller:** To argue against the one tragic episode, what can you say to that? My thought is that I hope to God that the next layer of scrutiny would say absolutely not are we going to put down this sidewalk if we are winners of this. My concern is that the federal government is creating programs that are putting down sidewalks where only twelve to sixteen people are going to benefit. You can bring up public safety in almost every single context and there is not much you can say to it. As a person that has been given the responsibility of overseeing the expenditure of tax dollars, I would hope that they wouldn't spend them in this fashion. If we are the most worthy of the people that have applied for this grant, I don't think it is justified based on what we have described so far.

**Paul Moss:** Obviously you are doing a great job and are doing exactly what you should do. Commissioner Peters is doing exactly what he should do. It is kind of a philosophical issue and I apologize for bringing it up. The public safety piece is kind of a black hole. In terms of public safety, how far do you need to go? Every citizen

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could have a 24/7 police escort or something to make sure that we are all safe. There are extremes there, obviously. I agree with Councilman Miller that it will be interesting to see what happens. I am supportive of fighting for it.

**Darren Vogt:** The question I have is has the route already been determined?

**Lin Wilson:** Yes, it is on the north side of Hoagland Road from First Street to the school. The rest of it has been paid for with bake sales and fund raisers by the Hoagland Chamber of Commerce. From the railroad tracks back to Minnich Road has been done already.

**Darren Vogt:** In the future, what might help me is to have a layout of what we are actually going to do. The \$100,000 has not been bid out yet and we don't know the cost at this point.

**Lin Wilson:** No.

**Darren Vogt:** That is the maximum that you can apply for.

**Lin Wilson:** Right. If it goes over that then INDOT takes over the project and we don't want to even go into that.

**Paula Hughes:** Move for approval of the application for the Safe Routes to School grant for \$100,000.

**Roy Buskirk:** Second.

**Paul Moss:** We have a motion and a second. All in favor please signify by saying aye. All opposed same sign.

**Cal Miller:** Aye.

**Paul Moss:** The motion carries 6-1 (Miller). Councilman Buskirk, the next agenda item is the Personnel Committee update. I am not sure how relevant that is at this point.

**Darren Vogt:** There is a grant that was applied for but didn't make the agenda. It is for ACJC and is a continuation of one of the grants that always go for and will be on the agenda for next month. Timeframewise, they had to go ahead and apply for it.

**Paul Moss:** Again, Councilman Buskirk, do you think there is anything from the Personnel Committee that needs to be brought to everybody's attention, given the fact that we have already gone through the salary ordinances?

**Roy Buskirk:** The only thing is that this coming month we are hoping to work more on the executive.

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**Paul Moss:** Thank you for that. Ms. Waldron, would you join us to talk a little about the Infectious Disease Center? I am not sure how familiar you all are with this issue. It has been discussed for quite some time. I appreciate you coming and giving us an update.

**Mindy Waldron:** I am Mindy Waldron, the Department Administrator for the Health Department. Dr. McMahan is here with me. We appreciate the opportunity to present this morning on our needs. We are here today to discuss looking for a potential new facility to house the Infectious Disease Center which was formerly known at the TB Clinic. Dr. McMahan will explain, in a moment, how significantly the responsibilities have changed since that building was built in 2002. I think we all know that resources and time and money keep going down but the unfunded mandates and responsibilities keep going up. Last year, Dr. McMahan and I started discussing the possibility of how might it work to combine all of our clinical facilities to better serve ourselves' internal efficiencies as well as our clients. Of the fourteen divisions that we have in the Health Department, three of them are stand alone functional and full service clinics. Those are the Community Health Nursing Division also known as the Immunization Clinic. They provide childhood immunizations to the tune of about 10,000 of those a year and about 4,000 to 6,000 clients each year. They are located on the fifth floor in the City-County Building. We have the Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Clinic and they work very closely with the STD/ HIV Prevention Division. One does more of the testing and treatment and the other does satellite testing and education. They area also located on the fifth floor. They see roughly 6,000 patients a year. Dr. McMahan will explain how many we turn away each day. Our Infectious Disease Center is located on Calhoun Street. They are more responsible for communicable diseases and those types of issues. Our goal for today is to bring you up to speed as to what our need is, some ideas that we have and some potential sites that we have. We would like to seek guidance from you and see if there is some support for moving forward. We would like to know what you need from us to get us to where we need to be. We are looking for next steps. With me today is Dr. McMahan, the Allen County Health Commissioner, to give a brief explanation of our needs and usage of those buildings. I have asked Kelly Lundberg to come up later and answer any questions. She is the Grant Administrator with the City of Fort Wayne. Dr. McMahan and I had approached then-Mayor Graham Richard for some financial assistance for this project. We will explain, in a bit, what we sought there. She can explain what they could provide. With that, I will turn it over to Dr. McMahan to explain our need and our usage.

**Dr. McMahan:** Good morning and thank you again for the opportunity us to share this information. I would like to discuss four factors that highlight our need for a combined Infectious Disease Center. It would house all of our clinical services. The first issue I want to talk about is safety. This clinic was built in 2002 which was before we had our surge in TB cases. It was initially built for four employees and we now house at least eleven on any given day. Downstairs, there is no second means of egress. There is another safety issue in that we had an employee who required the

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services of EMS and they couldn't get their equipment down there to take care of the patient. Fortunately, we were able to make some arrangements to get the patient upstairs but again, it highlights what a safety issue it is. We recently had some flooding down there. Parking is also an issue since we don't have any designated employee parking because of the number of patients that we see. The funeral home across the street has been very gracious about allowing the employees to park there but if they have funerals, it is difficult for the employees to find a place to park. All of that highlights some of the safety issues that are very concerning to us. The other issue that I want to discuss is the patient's access to care. By Indiana Code, we are required to provide certain critical services and investigative services for about 62 reportable diseases. Some of the clinical services that we provide are immunizations, refugee screening, diagnosis and treatment of STD's, diagnosis and treatment of active and latent TB and assessment and treatment of members of the community by physician referral. Some of the investigative services that we have to provide are the identification and treatment of all of the contacts of the reportable STD cases. This is not only what we diagnose but those that are diagnosed at outpatient settings and hospitals. We have to identify all of these people, talk to them and then provide treatment. Patients who have active TB, we need to identify those people they have had contact with, talk to those people and give them the opportunity for testing and treatment. We do investigations on all of the reportable diseases that come into our Infectious Disease Center. By law, we are to do investigation on those. We are required to assist facilities like nursing homes, day cares and those types of places who experience outbreaks. Last year, we had about ten outbreaks in various facilities and we had to send teams of people out to help diagnose, treat and then contain the disease. All of that is our responsibility for access of care to these patients. Since I have been here, there has been a marked increase in the number of services that we are required to provide. There is a 79% increase in the number of STD contact investigations. There is 5% increase in the STD clinic and it is important to remember that that is a fixed number. We can only see 22 to 26 patients a day because of the number of rooms that we have. We are turning away 30 patients a day that call in for services. Last year, it was 20 patients a day. We had a 58% increase in the number of active TB patients. Remember, for those patients, we don't just provide medical care but by Indiana Standard in Care, we have to go out and give them their medicine and watch them take it, every day. That results in about 1,200 field visits from the people that work the Infectious Disease Center. We have had a 42% increase in physician visits. We have been very blessed to have Dr. Hayhurst and Dr. Schomogyi. I have added on another full day of clinic to be able to accommodate all of the patients that we are seeing. We are blessed but it is a shortage of rooms because we don't have enough to see the patients that we need to see. We have had a 30% increase in the number of refugees that have come to our country. That is something that we have no choice in. The State Department tells us how many we will receive and we are obligated, by Indiana law, to do the screening of those patients. I don't feel that we have been able to satisfactorily accommodate this need because we don't have the space to see the patients. We have four exam rooms in the STD clinic, two exam rooms in the TB clinic. We don't just see the active and latent TB cases but also the active hepatitis cases there as well. We have to

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counsel them, identify their contacts and provide immunizations. We just don't have the space to accommodate that. What concerns me about that is that these are not chronic health issues. These are communicable diseases and all of those people that we turn away are still out in the community and interacting with people. They are still going to the grocery store and having relations and all of those kinds of things and has an impact on the community's health. That is my third point. When contagious diseases are not identified and treated, you have ongoing transmission. For example, a woman has a 50% chance of acquiring gonorrhea or 40% chance of acquiring Chlamydia if she has one active, unprotected sex with an infected person. All of those people that we are turning away, I would like to think they are being celibate but I can't count on that. This risk is even greater for young girls because their immune system isn't fully developed. I think that is why we are seeing higher numbers in the 15 to 24 age group. The other thing to remember is that someone with active TB affects, on average, twelve to fifteen people until they are identified and treated. It is incumbent upon us to, as quickly as possible, work with our health care community to get these people identified and treated. I want to highlight another thing in that I think a lot of people, when we talk about these diseases, think we are serving a very select subpopulation of ne'er-do-wells. I want to reassure you that our exam rooms and waiting rooms reflect the diversity of Allen County. A lot of physicians refer their patients to us because of our special knowledge of STD's and TB. We have young people and old people. I have had an occasion to see a 70-year-old in the STD clinic this week. Life happens. The better we are able to control these diseases in a shorter time period, the more benefit we actually provide to all of Allen County. My fourth point is effective utilization of resources. Last year, we realized that we are very understaffed. The staff that works in these clinics have very specialized training. It is not easy to do cross training and have them work in other clinics when they are separated geographically. They need to do the cross training and then use those skill sets on a regular basis and that would be facilitated by being housed in the same clinic. For example, we are down two clinical nurse case managers at a time when we are seeing an increase in TB cases. We are having refugee issues and that hurts us because we are not located in the same space. We think it would be helpful to have all of our clinical staff cross trained, housed in the same setting and there would be more efficient use of them. Another thing is equipment. In the Infectious Disease Center, we should have a refrigerator. Because we get our vaccines from the State, they have certain requirements. They have to be alarmed and have special codes. That is an expensive output for something that if we were in the same building, we could use one refrigerator to house all of the things that we use in all three clinics. It would be an economy of resources to house all of these in the same setting. I want to end on a positive note. A lot of times when we talk about health care, clinics and patients, people think of chronic healthcare. I have worked in academic medicine, private practice and public health medicine. The one thing I will say about public health medicine is that it is very cost effective. In the chronic health model, what you are dealing with are issues that mostly can't be cured. There are things that require an ongoing relationship with the patient and ongoing compliance with lifestyle behaviors and that is really which results in poor outcomes and costs the healthcare system \$100 billion to \$300 billion a year. In

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public health medicine, we have the luxury of dealing primarily with diseases that can be cured. Except for a few viral illnesses, we are able to treat and cure most of the diseases that are presented to our clinic. For a physician, that is pretty rewarding because usually you don't get to see that in private practice. If someone has Chlamydia or gonorrhea, it is a one-time dosage and that issue is resolved and done. Immunizations, the kids don't have to do anything like exercise or eat better to make those immunizations more effective. That investment of money has accomplished its goal with minimal compliance on the patient's part. It is a lot of money that we need to provide these clinical services. A lot of our budget goes to provide these healthcare services. I want to reassure you that in the public health domain, they are actually very cost effective.

**Mindy Waldron:** We hired an architectural firm to look at several options. What we wanted to ensure was that what we needed, could it fit in various locations. We decided to study the viability of expanding on our current location at 2040 S. Calhoun Street. We explained our needs and met with them over the course of several months. We had them rough out what could be done on that site, thinking that this might be the best option. It has three severe limitations. It would require purchasing several adjacent properties to account for the parking issues. We need nearly 70 parking spots to not only meet the regulations for providing healthcare but also for the staff parking. This would also provide only about a 4,500 square foot building and is roughly 1,300 square feet now. It would not allow us to combine all four clinical divisions together. That particular space would only allow three clinics. So again, we would still have the separation. Lastly, when we had the building sketched, it would not allow any room for growth. We thought that maybe we should explore other options and look for other buildings that might accommodate our needs. There are four sites that we either visited or discussed and a couple of them are viable. We tried to figure out how we could fit in what we needed and what was our exact need for square footage. I would like to briefly detail that. To combine our four divisions together, we would need roughly 12,000 square foot of office and clinical space. Our hope is to combine all of our storage resources into one facility as well. We are currently storing at multiple sites throughout the County, because there is not one viable site for all of the things that we need. A lot of it is preparedness supplies, excess equipment and normal sorts of files. If we were able to combine everything into one building, it would be roughly 18,000 square feet. 6,000 would not have to be finished. That came up because one of the buildings had that kind of warehouse space available.

**Paul Moss:** How many square feet would you be vacating in this building?

**Mindy Waldron:** I don't know since the inclusion of the County clinic.

**Linda Bloom:** A whole floor is 15,000.

**Mindy Waldron:** I would say about 5,000 because you would be splitting a part of our lab.

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**Paul Moss:** Okay.

**Mindy Waldron:** It is estimated based on the sites that we explored and we do have several specific needs that would be different than most clinics. We have to have a negative airflow area in that clinic. It is most likely in the waiting room and the TB room for active TB patients. That is fairly expensive, somewhere between \$50,000 and \$75,000 for that unit. We are hopeful that wherever we might move that we can take portions of our existing system. That is undetermined but we are told that might be an option. We also need to be on a bus route and as close to Matthew 25 and St. Joe Hospital because we transport and share patients quite a bit. Last year, Dr. McMahan and I approached then-Mayor Graham Richard with the idea of financial support for this project. He and his staff were very willing to consider that and had put up approximately \$400,000 from CDGB grant money, for the project. Kelly is here if you have questions about what that money is, how it can be spent and how they are planning to allot that should this project move forward. It was provided in the way of a committal letter so it carries with us now. I think they have plans of dispensing that over a series of years. To be quite frank though, the remaining amount for the clinic, we would be asking from County Council. A very ballpark estimate is somewhere around \$2 million.

**Paul Moss:** Given the fact that this is the Fort Wayne – Allen County Board of Health, how much has the City contributed to the expenses of the Board of Health over the years?

**Paula Hughes:** From their General Fund budgets.

**Mindy Waldron:** The City and County Health Departments merged in the early 1970's and the agreement was that the City would continue to fund the pension programs. Over the years, that has dwindled and we have one remaining employee who would get that pension when he leaves.

**Paul Moss:** So it is fairly safe to say that they are funding one employee.

**Mindy Waldron:** One employee's pension.

**Paul Moss:** Everything else is on the County.

**Mindy Waldron:** Correct.

**Kelly Lundberg:** I think it is fair to say that when Commissioner Peters and Mayor Richard talked about this a couple of years ago, they were looking to see if there was some way to add additional funding.

**Paul Moss:** It just needs to be out there, publicly.

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**Mindy Waldron:** To summarize, we basically wanted to explain our needs to you, explain where we are at in terms of research that we had done and seek some guidance from you. Dr. McMahan and I will be glad to answer any questions that you have.

**Paul Moss:** When I talked to you about this, and it has been quite some time, I don't remember that number being \$2 million. Was it?

**Mindy Waldron:** No, it was around \$1 million to \$1.2 million and that was combining three divisions on existing property and no room for growth. It changed significantly when it seemed that it would be real good ten year plan. This would be a renovation or a brand-new building.

**Paul Moss:** The other question I have is on the immunizations. Did I understand you correctly that the State mandates that you provide immunizations and is it for anyone who walks in?

**Mindy Waldron:** They provide the immunizations.

**Paul Moss:** There is still cost associated with that and the State does mandate that.

**Mindy Waldron:** It is a requirement to provide the vaccinations.

**Paul Moss:** That might be something that we should look at with our area delegation. As you know, we have Super Shots program here and it is pretty comprehensive. There are people who can afford to go to their primary care physician and actually access the Super Shots because it is free. I don't know what your volume is on how many you are providing.

**Mindy Waldron:** Roughly 10,000 immunizations a year.

**Paul Moss:** That is a big number.

**Mindy Waldron:** That doesn't include the adult vaccinations or immunizations that we do throughout the year for hepatitis-B for the County employees or INDOT employees that require it. We do a significant amount of adult immunizations, as well.

**Paul Moss:** That is a significant number and it gets back to we have had a lot of philosophical discussions here today but should it be our charge to provide immunizations? I am not disputing the needs for the immunizations but there are other options available.

**Dr. McMahan:** We have worked with Super Shots and they work under the same umbrella that we do. They receive their vaccines from the State Department of Health as well. We are very blessed to have them. When I first started here, we did

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immunizations five days a week. We are now down to two or three days a week because of them. The thing that I always have to remember is that they are a volunteer based organization. Their money is donated. It is grant funded and they don't charge anything. If they go away, that State Department of Health looks at that as our responsibility. Immunizations are a fundamental public health issue. They look at it as the greatest thing that ever happened. But they look at it as our responsibility. If Super Shot suddenly folded, all of those people would come to us. We have created an expectation and it isn't just the free part but it is so convenient. Super Shot had different hours and locations. We have created an expectation in this community that, at least for the short run, it would fall back on us.

**Paul Moss:** But they are a pretty viable entity aren't they? That is the type of scenario that can always happen. You can acknowledge that your volume has dropped a little bit as a result of it. All I am suggesting is that it might be something to consider with transitioning more of that over to them.

**Dr. McMahan:** We are actually going to start billing Medicaid for those immunizations. We will be reimbursed for the administration of those shots. We are trying to bring the funds in to support those services.

**Paul Moss:** Councilman Vogt?

**Darren Vogt:** Has any thought been given to fracturing your organization a little more by having the administration apart? Why not put the Department of Health at one facility or one location? Has that conversation happened?

**Mindy Waldron:** We have discussed that. There were plans, a year or so ago, to move the fifth floor to another building. It still wouldn't have gotten the Department of Health together. We would still have three facilities. We have Vector Control, the Infectious Disease Center and the plan was to move the fifth floor. That still wouldn't have gotten us there. We have discussed, for a number of years, how effective that would be to have all of us in one building. As far as exploring a site or there being support for that, I don't know that that is there yet. Currently, Dr. McMahan is the physician at two of our clinics. I am located mainly on the fifth floor. The thought if we were to combine all of the divisions into one building, we are still going to have three campuses, for lack of a better word. I would have portions of my time at that facility as well, to dedicate the same services that the fifth floor folks have. It would ultimately be beneficial to have us together.

**Darren Vogt:** You don't need three campuses because one would be much more efficient and effective way to deliver the services that you do.

**Mindy Waldron:** Other than Vector and Rodent Control, because the number of trucks and chemicals stored and all of that to be done on one site. Where it is now is a great location and works well. I don't know that that would need to be with the rest of the department.

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**Darren Vogt:** From a dollars and cents standpoint, we have not done anything with the Sheriff's Department and I am going to tell you right now that I am not going to support anything with the Board of Health until we have a final decision on what is going to happen with the Sheriff and his employees that are out in the Kidder Building.

**Paula Hughes:** I can update you a bit on that. The Sheriff has moved forward with plans for New Haven Avenue and as they move forward, it was found that the initial architectural studies were not up to the standards they needed to be. Therefore, the budget was not accurate and it has now grown to where it is at least a \$2.5 million project to renovate New Haven Avenue. The Sheriff issued a letter two weeks ago requesting that the City meet in earnest with him and determine by September 30<sup>th</sup> whether the Sheriff's Department and the City Police Department are going to relocate. This has been dragging on and on and on and we need to come to some sort of conclusion on what we are going to do with the Sheriff's Department and the Kidder Building. In the meantime, they are putting together estimates, with the September 30<sup>th</sup> deadline in mind. They can't possibly get the New Haven building ready in time and so they will have to put money in the Kidder Building. I was thinking the same thing. If we relocated the Health Department, could we move them there? There are just a lot of things in flux.

**Darren Vogt:** The problem is that we are not getting a lot of information and it is not following a logical process. The Sheriff and the Chief needs to sit down and see what that possibility is and then make a decision.

**Paula Hughes:** That is why the Sheriff's Department put a deadline on it because it has been going on for too long.

**Paul Moss:** I understand your concerns but I do think it is possible to have these discussions on a farewell path as opposed to putting this behind that and with a contingent on resolution to that.

**Darren Vogt:** They can still move along their path but there needs to be some resolution to the Sheriff's Building. That is the point and I don't see it anytime in the near future.

**Roy Buskirk:** It seems that every spring, these numbers grow. The one question that I was going to ask you is that currently you have three or four sites...

**Mindy Waldron:** We have three sites. About 70% of the staff is here on the fifth floor. We have Vector and Rodent Control on Carroll Road. Our third is what was known as the TB Clinic, and is now the Infectious Disease Center, and it is located on South Calhoun.

**Roy Buskirk:** Is that the only site that you do examinations and give them shots?

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**Mindy Waldron:** No, we have two clinics in this building. We have the STD and the Immunization Clinic here.

**Darren Vogt:** I think that is where some of the confusion comes in. Some of them are located here. So location, you have the fifth floor, Calhoun and Carroll Road.

**Mindy Waldron:** Correct.

**Roy Buskirk:** I was thinking that you had different sites in the City.

**Darren Vogt:** What is the cost of all of the locations and what kind of an impact does it have on your budget?

**Mindy Waldron:** Between \$7,000 and \$8,000 a year. As we do get into grant funding and other mechanisms and more preparedness supplies, that would increase our space needed. As more things came, we had to find more space. We have not been able to find something, without a cost associated with it, to get everything together.

**Darren Vogt:** Just for the record, I hope your organization doesn't grow.

**Mindy Waldron:** Me too.

**Paul Moss:** I think it is appropriate that you are taking a comprehensive approach to it and that is the appropriate thing to do. It is a fairly complex issue and there are some details that we could spend the rest of the day talking through. At this point, I would suggest that you meet with Council members either individually or in a group setting to go through the plans. It would be helpful just so we are not getting too far behind the eight ball here. Maybe you can set up some sort of meeting where we can go through the details a little more. There is a lot that has not been talked about here.

**Darren Vogt:** I would agree and taking the next step of combining the entire organization into one place.

**Paul Moss:** Would Council members attempt to attend this meeting?

**Mindy Waldron:** So that I can understand what you are asking, you want me to convene a meeting where you are invited to discuss multiple options.

**Cal Miller:** Yes, and it would have to be a public meeting. I think it is a good idea and if you are going to be looking at these scenarios, let's look at the master plan so that if you wanted to combine them under one place, you can see the costs.

**Dr. McMahan:** Do you want us to have a physical building in mind and an estimate of the cost to do that? Is that the level of detail?

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**Darren Vogt:** Maybe not for the initial discussion.

**Paul Moss:** You have some things in mind, I believe.

**Mindy Waldron:** For the clinical only. Are you asking for the other?

**Darren Vogt:** If possible but at this point, we can still flush that out. We can look at Plan A and Plan B and see what makes the most sense.

**Cal Miller:** If you are going to do the clinical and the funds are there to do that, then why not also look at the other options as well. I can't imagine that it gets any less expensive as the time goes forward.

**Paul Moss:** You provided a very good summary and this meeting would be a good opportunity to provide some additional detail. What I am saying is that I would prefer not to get into that in this particular forum, right now.

**Roy Buskirk:** I don't need drawings of the different buildings but the square footage needs and the possibilities are what I would like. I can see that Vector Control is good where it is and is probably in a good economical area.

**Darren Vogt:** Keep in mind that we have the New Haven Avenue building.

**Paula Hughes:** Not on the bus route.

**Mindy Waldron:** I am not sure of which building you are talking about.

**Bill Brown:** Are you talking about the old credit union?

**Darren Vogt:** Yes.

**Mindy Waldron:** We did visit that. It would not be large enough for our whole combination.

**Cal Miller:** For the clinical services or the whole organization?

**Mindy Waldron:** For clinical services, it would have been viable or at least an option to pursue but it would negate the use of the CDBG monies because it is in New Haven. It is on the bus route but it is significantly far away from the other clinics that we do business with.

**Darren Vogt:** We need to look at it from a cost standpoint. If the building is viable and is going to cost us a lot less money, then the \$400,000 from the City good be used for something else.

**Cal Miller:** CDGB stands for what?

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**Paula Hughes:** Community Development Block Grant.

**Cal Miller:** And that is \$400,000?

**Mindy Waldron:** Correct.

**Cal Miller:** And if it is not utilized, those dollars wouldn't be lost, would they?

**Mindy Waldron:** They would probably be used for other purposes in the City and not for this project.

**Paul Moss:** They are pretty tightly restricted.

**Mindy Waldron:** Right. It is not for things outside of the City of Fort Wayne.

**Paula Hughes:** Are you certain that it is not in the City limits of Fort Wayne?

**Mindy Waldron:** Yes, Dan Freck and I went to that facility and he indicated that it was a New Haven address. As we saw the city limit sign, it was on the other side.

**Patt Kite:** I don't think it is. I think it is in Fort Wayne.

**Darren Vogt:** It is very close.

**Paul Moss:** We should know the building that we purchased and where it is.

**Darren Vogt:** The question is, could that building be modified to make it large enough for the entire Board of Health. We just have to flush the whole thing out.

**Maye Johnson:** Can we also explore the options of how the CDGB funds can be used in other ways if not for the facility?

**Paul Moss:** Okay, we are going to follow up on this issue again and if you would, please send out an email with some dates and times.

**Mindy Waldron:** Are you wanting a meeting during the day or is an evening better?

**Paul Moss:** Days are probably better.

**Paula Hughes:** Maybe send out a couple of options and see what the majority says.

**Mindy Waldron:** Thank you for listening.

**Paul Moss:** The County Tax Adjustment Board...

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**Darren Vogt:** Before we do that, we have a salary ordinance that has been waiting.

**Paul Moss:** Bill, have a seat but wait one second. We have the salary ordinance that was skipped over.

**Kate Rusher:** I am Kate Rusher and I am the Assistant Chief for Allen Superior Court, CHINS Division. I am here today to request to reduce a salary ordinance. This would be from PAT 5 to PAT 4 for a Mental Health Specialist. The reason for that request is that we have been able to support that service through Park Center staff being in the court four days a week. We think we can have some money savings with regard to this particular position.

**Roy Buskirk:** Isn't it also that you are reducing the requirements of the job from a Masters degree to a Bachelors?

**Kate Rusher:** Yes.

**Darren Vogt:** Move for approval of the salary ordinance amending the pay for the employee within the budget of Superior Court, 100-6229-412, Mental Health Specialist, PAT 5 to PAT 4, in the amount of \$38,775.

**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.** Commissioner Brown, you had a comment that you wanted to make?

**Bill Brown:** Good morning, Bill Brown, County Commissioner. The reason I came up was specific to the different building scenarios that we have. I wanted to review, briefly, the process that we are going through. The Sheriff's building, last year, was a land acquisition issue that became a problem of building the building that the Sheriff felt he needed to have. That took that project and made it so it was impossible to do. It was also under-budgeted because of the original design. From there, we went to Community Corrections. The Sheriff was interested in using that building. During that period, we have set up weekly meetings to work through this process. Then with the new Mayor, the Chief of Police sent out a letter to have conversations regarding co-location. Ken Fries verbally agreed to that and then firmed it up with a letter a couple of weeks ago. That puts a little context as to why the Sheriff's building is rather drawn out. The Local Government Efficiency Committee met last week with the Sheriff and the Chief Deputy to discuss a future home. As they look, potentially, into a new building, they talk about converting this building back into a public safety building. They talk about using a couple of buildings downtown for administrative and other offices or potentially building something new. While I know that everyone wants to get to closure on this, I think you can see, as things come on board, it tends to drag things out. September 30<sup>th</sup> is a date that was originally staked out at December 31<sup>st</sup>. I thought it was too long of a timeframe and so did others so that is

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when we went to September 30<sup>th</sup>. We are moving along with the acquisition of the corner of New Haven Avenue and Meyer Road. In order to shorten the timeline, there is some preliminary work that we can do. We are doing everything that we can to move forward with this. The Kidder Building is run down. That building is going to need X amount of repairs done to it to get it to a condition to where it is really usable and represents something that should be housing the Sheriff. From there, that is going to take some money. The Commissioners need to figure out the future of the Irene Byron site. We need to figure out the future of the Kidder Building. It has an ADA issue and what will be the future of that building? There is some thought of tearing it down but we know we are going to have to get it fixed up, to a certain level, to go through next winter. We need to figure out what the future of that building is then we can determine how much renovation is done to that property. Then you factor in the Board of Health and their needs and you start looking at locations. When you are looking at existing buildings, an option has to be secured by whoever is going to buy the building. When a private sector secures an option, generally that costs money. When you are looking at three or four options and start doing the work to build it out, all of that is part of what needs to take place. My key question is, at some point, if there is a new building and the City and County come together, how would the Council fund that?

**Paul Moss:** That is essentially an impossible question to answer because at this point, there are so many variables and pieces of the puzzle that are not known at this point.

**Bill Brown:** Let me rephrase it. What if the Board of Health had to have a building and it was \$2 million. How would the Council fund that?

**Roy Buskirk:** Probably through CUM CAP.

**Paul Moss:** I think he was being a little facetious with that answer.

**Bill Brown:** Okay.

**Paul Moss:** Honestly, Commissioner, I think it is an incredibly difficult question to answer at this moment in time. There are so many variables. I think the Board of Health has done a good job at looking comprehensively at their needs. That needs to connect into a comprehensive look at all of the building needs that we have out there. I can't answer that until I look into what we are going to try to do with the Sheriff and plugging in the Board of Health. You have to prioritize and then you look at how you are going to fund them. For us to sit here and say that we will come up with \$4 million...

**Bill Brown:** I am just curious as to what the method would be. You only have so many options. You could bond...

**Roy Buskirk:** I don't think you can bond anymore.

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**Paul Moss:** It goes a little bit full circle. We are going to have to conclude this discussion because it is a broad, philosophical discussion. It goes to the comment that I brought up early on, about the discussion concerning the Rainy Day Fund. Do we have significant needs out there now and we need to tap into that? There are a whole lot of questions that need to be answered. We need to sit down with the Board of Health folks and better understand what their needs are and how critical they are. That is the best answer that I have. I am more than willing to be corrected by any of the wise folks on this Council.

**Darren Vogt:** The other thing we need to do is look at the inventory of property that we have and what is the value of that asset.

**Bill Brown:** There is the Byron Hospital and what is the future of that? These are Commissioner decisions that we need to get our arms around too. It is going to cost another \$750,000 to get the Sheriff over to New Haven Avenue, if that is where we go. We have been working with an architect on that and trying to make the design as efficient as possible. That is the building that was purchased and we are trying to make it work. As we go forward, at some point, we have to figure out if it would be appropriate for us to come to you for the \$750,000 as we are making the preparation to do what we need to do and something doesn't come together with the City? We are trying to get this figured out by the end of September so if, in fact, we come to an agreement with the City, then we need to understand where the money will come from.

**Paul Moss:** You promised that you would be brief.

**Bill Brown:** Should we get on the next agenda?

**Paul Moss:** This is something that needs considerable discussion and my thought is to have a specifically defined meeting for that type of discussion. We are in the Strategic Planning effort and it is going well. Maybe that needs to be expanded a little to talk about these types of issues.

**Bill Brown:** The reason I even came up here is that I thought you would say that we would bond or go to the Rainy Day Fund.

**Paul Moss:** I think that is an unreasonable expectation.

**Cal Miller:** We will look at what funding streams are available or combination thereof, if it is determined that those are priorities that need to be addressed. We have to look at the whole picture and make a decision. We can't tell you today where those dollars would come from. We have to understand what the needs are, what the costs are going to be, what the payment schedule is going to be and then make an appropriate decision.

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**Bill Brown:** I am ready to wrap up.

**Roy Buskirk:** Before you wrap up, I want to say one thing, Bill.

**Bill Brown:** These things will be funded though, if there are needs.

**Paula Hughes:** If Council agrees with the need and if Council is included in the conversation determining the need. That has been some of the shortfall in communication, of which you are aware.

**Cal Miller:** We can't make a commitment like that. We can commit to continue to look at whatever proposals are brought forward and with the scrutiny that we look at things. You are coming up and asking for a commitment now...

**Bill Brown:** No, I am just asking if there is a need...

**Paul Moss:** We understand that. It will get appropriate consideration. We have a more specific discussion on the agenda here, the County Bridge Funding. That is an important discussion...

**Bill Brown:** I thought it was germane to the whole...

**Paul Moss:** It is...

**Roy Buskirk:** I have a short comment. I know people look at the Rainy Day fund and see \$13 or \$14 million and say that they need that money today. Bill, the Rainy Day fund, which I have explained to you, is for emergency purposes and I go back to 2003 and 2004. The COIT money decreased by 29% and we had to lay off County employees. That is what the Rainy Day Fund is for as far as I am concerned.

**Cal Miller:** That is what we are going to do is determine the appropriate levels that should be in there and what surplus would be available. Once we have that discussion and Council is comfortable with what we need in there to ward off some of the pitfalls that are lurking around the corner, we will have a better idea of what money is coming from where.

**Paul Moss:** Thank you and I agree. That historical perspective is a piece of the puzzle. It is germane but we need to move on to a more specific issue right now and that is the County Bridge Funding. Councilwoman Hughes, would you mind starting this discussion off? I know Councilman Buskirk worked on this as well but I know you wanted this on the agenda as a discussion item, based on the recent meetings with the affected municipalities, in regards to bridges and the options that are out there.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Johnson you may be the only one who hasn't been present for my diatribes as to the way that the bridge funding is set up. Most Council

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members should recall, we eliminated the CUM Bridge fund as a funded part of the property tax levy when we had to increase the size of the jail and build the new Juvenile Justice Center. That was done by the Council in 2001 which is before anyone at this table was in Council. Whether or not that was shortsighted is a question to be considered. For six years, the County has been funding the repair of bridges, countywide, from the Miscellaneous Revenues. The Miscellaneous Revenues that come in, and particularly those dedicated to road, bridge and street projects are generated by a combination of Motor Vehicle Highway, Wheel Tax/Surtax, CEDIT and CUM. Those are funds that the County gets in, that should be dedicated to the unincorporated County projects but they have been spent countywide. Councilman Buskirk can probably recall the numbers better than I can but we have had ongoing conversations with the municipalities about taking back the responsibilities for the bridges within their jurisdiction. That would be appropriate by the elimination of the CUM Bridge Fund. We no longer have the funding stream to fund those repairs but we have been doing so for six years. This last meeting and particularly since the legislation of 1001, everyone is uptight about funding streams going into the future. The municipalities, in this meeting, made very clear that they would be unhappy to take over the responsibility of the bridges without an additional funding mechanism. They viewed that as an unfunded mandate. That is not an unfair perception however, the County has been bearing the burden in an unfunded manner for several years. That is what brings us to the table today. The municipalities, to a person at the table, said they would consider petitioning the County Council to increase the Wheel Tax/Surtax. I said, for myself, I am not comfortable with increasing the Wheel Tax/Surtax when there is still so much uncertainty. County Council has become more adept at budget decreases than other entities have been because we have been required to do so. I am not sure that it is a bad learning curve for the municipalities to go through. I am very hesitant to increase a tax at this time. I did say that I would not consider it. I was speaking for myself because I do not have the ability to speak for this body. I would not consider an increase unless we were petitioned by all of those entities. That is where it is. I told them that even if we did have the petition, I wasn't sure that we would increase the Wheel Tax/Surtax. I don't think it is a good time to raise taxes until we see the impact of 1001. We need to see how it impacts our budget, all of our budgets and everybody who is property tax funded. Each of you should have a pretty thick book or two that lists all of the bridges, a ten year schedule of repairs and the budget for those repairs. The impact over ten years and including this year is about \$31 million. If there was an increase in Wheel Tax/Surtax, it actually about covers that. I do not think that is justification for increasing that tax. You have a lot of information and I am sure that you haven't had the time to review the information that was prepared by the Highway Department. Believe me, it is comprehensive.

**Cal Miller:** So where do we go from here? What decision making process or decision makers, decide that the County is going to be relinquishing its role with respect to the work, maintenance, etc. for the bridges that are identified in each municipality?

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**Paula Hughes:** The Commissioners make the decision. If the responsibility or upkeep and maintenance of the bridges were to be turned over to the municipalities, it would be at the decision of the Commissioners.

**Cal Miller:** If that decision was made by the Commissioners, what actually has to happen, officially, to turn that over?

**Paula Hughes:** They would pass a resolution.

**Paul Moss:** And that, of course, would be significantly influenced by what we decide to do with regards to the Wheel Tax or any other discussions on potential funding. One of the questions that I have is on this chart for the recommended improvement costs by year for municipalities, which is very useful, but I wonder if there is any information that shows the revenue that has gone to the various entities...

**Paula Hughes:** Yes.

**Paul Moss:** via the Wheel Tax. Is that part of this?

**Roy Buskirk:** Yes it is.

**Paula Hughes:** Is it the long page?

**Paul Moss:** And how does that match up with the total numbers, or even looking at it on an annual basis?

**Roy Buskirk:** On page 14...

**Paul Moss:** Has there been enough money, let me rephrase that. Has that money gone to these municipalities?

**Paula Hughes:** Yes.

**Paul Moss:** And they have been utilizing it...

**Tera Klutz:** To maintain their current infrastructure

**Paula Hughes:** For roads and streets.

**Tera Klutz:** but not just for...

**Darren Vogt:** We have used that money to maintain bridges.

**Paula Hughes:** No.

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

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**Paul Moss:** It has been used for both.

**Darren Vogt:** I guess I will defer to the Commissioners to discuss how they previously funded but some of this money has been used for bridge repairs.

**Paul Moss:** This is similar to what the State has done with 1001, in a microcosm, or what we could do in terms of forcing these entities to take a harder look at their budgets. I can't sit here and say that they have enough money to maintain their bridges. Having said that, I believe it is a bit of a knee-jerk reaction to just say we are going to increase the Wheel Tax. I am not, initially, supportive of that. The other question that I have and would like to understand is on the recommended improvement cost by year. This, intuitively, seems very odd to me that the first year is \$6.2 million and then it just decreases year to year. I find that hard to believe. I would like some explanation of that. The other piece of this is, how are these numbers affected by the Maplecrest Road issue and are they incorporated in here? If so, would these numbers change downward and if not, how much would they change upward?

**Bill Hartman:** I have to ask you which report you have.

**Roy Buskirk:** What he is referring to Bill is the one I put together last night.

**Paula Hughes:** The short answer is that this does not include Maplecrest Road bridges. That would be a major bridge. This is only bridges that are a span under X number of feet.

**Darren Vogt:** But it does include the Bostick Road bridge, doesn't it?

**Bill Hartman:** The match for Bostick is coming out of Major Bridge. Every little detail isn't perfect in this report.

**Roy Buskirk:** But it is not listed in the money amount, is it?

**Darren Vogt:** I am assuming that it is.

**Roy Buskirk:** No, no, that has all of the County bridges...

**Paul Moss:** How much money has the County committed to Maplecrest?

**Bill Hartman:** We are in the process of design and right-of-way and working with \$4 million...

**Paul Moss:** Of the overall cost that the County has committed...

**Bill Hartman:** Twenty percent of that.

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**Paul Moss:** Twenty percent of the \$55 million? We are committed to that.

**Bill Hartman:** Yes.

**Paul Moss:** Through either bonding or...

**Bill Hartman:** All of that is money in hand and right out of Major Bridge. There should be, by the end of the year, \$9 million available...

**Paul Moss:** So there is roughly \$9 million to apply to Maplecrest. This is just a thought but we have roughly \$11 million committed by the federal government. Let's just say that the Maplecrest issue doesn't move forward is that money then available for bridge funding?

**Bill Hartman:** Of course, for the thirty major bridges of spans of 200 feet and over.

**Paul Moss:** That answer makes me think even less of increasing again.

**Bill Hartman:** There are only thirty bridges though in the Major Bridge Fund. Most of the bridges in this report are not...

**Paula Hughes:** This says that they are not included at all. The paperwork that we are looking at, you are getting cross referenced here. Major Bridge is bigger than 200 feet long. Are you certain that the federal highway dollars, that have been appropriated or earmarked for Maplecrest Road, can just be transferred to the Major Bridge Fund?

**Bill Hartman:** I can't tell you. I would have to call Dan Avery for an interpretation of that.

**Paula Hughes:** I would say, with 95% certainty that they can't be.

**Paul Moss:** So the Maplecrest Bridges, how many are there?

**Bill Hartman:** There are four.

**Paul Moss:** Four bridges and they are all over 200 feet?

**Paula Hughes:** Three of the four.

**Bill Hartman:** Yes, three of the four.

**Paul Moss:** So we can use the Major Bridge Fund for three of them. Is that how that works?

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**Bill Hartman:** With an overall project, you are allowed to use bridge money for approaches. We are using Major Bridge for match money or money for the overall project.

**Paul Moss:** Just to clarify, the \$9 million could not be utilized for this. Is that correct?

**Bill Hartman:** It is not available for bridges under 200 foot spans.

**Paul Moss:** Okay.

**Bill Hartman:** To answer your question about the \$6 million up front, this is based on inventory that was done in 2006. There were bridges that were called to be reconstructed in 2007 and we are already into 2008. That large number, up front, is for the backlog. The second page of this analysis is being preformed here in the next couple of months and by the fall of the year, we will have another report. Again, we will analyze what the priorities are. These priorities are based on the 2006 report.

**Roy Buskirk:** It is State statute, isn't it, that the County has to have all bridges inspected every two years.

**Bill Hartman:** To the best of my knowledge, yes. This inventory is a \$288,000 inventory over a four year period. About \$58,000 is local money and the rest is federal money. To the best of my knowledge, all of the counties in the state participate in that, in fact, in the nation.

**Roy Buskirk:** In the past, on replacement, we bonded for doing that, since we did away with CUM CAP, I mean CUM Bridge. When we still had Cum Bridge in place, we were still doing some bonding.

**Bill Hartman:** CUM Bridge diminished over the years to the point that we were just using that for maintenance. We were bonding the reconstruction and new construction.

**Roy Buskirk:** The current Wheel Tax/Surtax is used for other phases of the Highway Department, correct?

**Bill Hartman:** Yes. When I look at the line items, it is concrete pavement, striping contracts, rental equipment and things like that. Right now we \$576,000 that goes into the Highway Department on Wheel Tax.

**Roy Buskirk:** In discussing this with other towns and communities, that is what they are using their share of the Wheel Tax/Surtax for.

**Bill Hartman:** Some road related work that they are doing.

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**Roy Buskirk:** I personally don't look at this as being a tax increase in the fact that we are shifting from the property taxes because of paying for a bond. We are eliminating the necessity of borrowing money because it would be cash as you go basis. It will not generate enough money to pay for all of the expenses you have listed there for 2007 and would now be 2008 and in reality 2009 because you are not going to be able to get these bridges started until we have the funding. The whole year date is going to be pushed back. This would be a savings, in the long run, for the property tax payers by putting this on Wheel Tax/Surtax because it would be a user tax. Senior citizens, that don't even have a car, that are paying property taxes would not be paying anything. It would just be those that have vehicles. People that have vehicles and not any property would also be paying part of the bridge cost because of this. Because of House Bill 1001, from my perspective on that, I don't see how we are going to be able to put any bond issues out there except if it is approved by the vote of the constituents of this County. They probably would because of it being a safety issue. Then it can be added on outside of the levy. But we run into problems with that because if you are over the 1%, every levy is reduced in that tax district. You would have some paying the full impact and people in a higher tax rate district would not be paying the same share as someone in a lower rate. Another thing on that is the fact that it would be poor judgment on our part to ask some of the communities, in this county, to do their own bridge work while we have the expertise within our County Highway Department. One of the things in the paper is the fact that the increase in the Surtax is increasing from 5% to 10%. The maximum amount that the Surtax can go up to is \$25 per vehicle. The impact, per vehicle, is not as great as what has been talked about previously. The Wheel Tax and the projections that I gave you, on the legal size sheet, shows 100% increase which is not to the maximum \$40 allowed. It is very difficult to get a control as far as what the revenue generated because of cars being traded in the middle of the year. There is credit given for what was paid previously. It is estimated, that with a 100% increase on the surtax, that it would generate \$3.375 million. Also, the increase in the Wheel Tax, 100%, I'm sorry, that is combined number. The Wheel Tax would be \$370,000 and the Surtax would be \$3 million. I think that we need the towns and communities give us an ordinance asking for the increase and agreeing to the fact that any increase in the revenue would be given back to the County. Indiana Code requires these percentages to be given to the incorporated cities and towns and that is based on population and road miles. Over the years, we have been hit because of losing population to the various cities and towns. In the information that I passed out, it has that as for the various years, 1964-1967 and shows how the percentage of population has changed and how the mileage has changed. If you go beyond the legal size, I put in information concerning what the other counties in the State are charging and what some of their rates are. The most money that would be generated would be a flat fee of \$25 for everybody. On the next to the last page is the CUM Bridge Fund summary and how that decreased over the last several years. The very last sheet is the Highway Tax Revenue analysis. The Motor Vehicle Highway tax, which is the gas tax, has a certain amount that goes to each county and there is a separate amount that goes to each city.

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**Paula Hughes:** So this last page is a summary of Allen County only revenue that is used for the Highway Department. I forgot Local Roads and Streets, when I was listing them earlier.

**Roy Buskirk:** That does not include what the City receives. It is just what the County receives.

**Paula Hughes:** But all of those entities do receive theirs?

**Roy Buskirk:** Correct.

**Paul Moss:** That just automatically passes through to them?

**Tera Klutz:** We get a total amount and then we calculate it, based upon road mileage and population, and distribute it on to the cities and towns.

**Paul Moss:** Is it totally restricted to roads? They can't get that money and just do anything else with it and you believe they have just not been applying it to bridges.

**Tera Klutz:** Because they haven't had to. Statutorily, we are required to take care of the bridges. We had a CUM Bridge Fund and the Commissioners haven't turned it over so they would not even think about applying it to bridges. In fact, one of the questions that came up with all of the Mayors was, are there any other things that you could just turn over to us that we may need to know about in the future? They were not thinking that they would, all of a sudden, have to start taking care of their bridges. Another thing that they brought up, that I want to point out, is that a lot of them said that with so much talk of consolidation, will each of them now have to have their own bridge specialist? Departments would probably just turn around and contract with the County to take care of their bridges.

**Cal Miller:** Councilman Buskirk, I thought that was part of what you were saying that given the expertise that the Allen County Highway Department has, it makes sense to funnel those dollars back to the County. Since you are up here, Commissioner Brown, you gave us some very pointed questions and please feel free to be as evasive as we were, are the Commissioners going to pass a petition or an ordinance, relinquishing control of these bridges back to the cities and towns?

**Bill Brown:** Thanks for asking. That is why I came up. I think infrastructure is critical to the community. When new people come to a community, they look at that and we are what we appear to be. I am concerned that with the shrinking funds. Just as a side note, Fort Wayne made a decision a couple of weeks ago to not do a temporary bridge over Clinton. Now I know that it is an INDOT bridge and not one of our bridges. To disconnect Fort Wayne for a year with 27,000 cars coming into Fort Wayne and make that fiscal restraint decision, I think it is critical that we get this Surtax passed. Nelson Peters put this bridge meeting together and Paula Hughes has been very involved in it and Roy, fantastic job on the report. I think the tax needs

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to be put back in place and raised up. I think the funds need to be collected and agreements need to be put out to resolutions so that those dollars can be used first to fund bridges and any other money can be used for roads. One of the things that I made a point of is that in the summertime, you drive around and you can see high weeds in some areas. That kind of representation, to me, is part of infrastructure. Maplecrest Road bridges are running away from us and those shirrtails are about out of here because that has been deferred and deferred and deferred. I know that when I came into office, I was very interested in this and trying to figure out whether we can do it or not. Once again, costs go up and I would highly recommend, as one Commissioner, to encourage the other two Commissioners to get with these other localities and get them to send a letter to the County Council to get the Wheel Tax/Surtax raised. Cost of operating a vehicle has gone way up and this is one more chunk of money to run a vehicle. When gas has gone from a buck to \$3.50 but people still keep driving. It is a tax and I am not a real proponent of raising taxes but I am really concerned that if we don't make some infrastructure decisions here, it will not be in the best interest of the future of Allen County.

**Cal Miller:** You, as one Commissioner, had said that you are not speaking for the others but that is what you would like to see happen. If the Wheel Tax/Surtax was increased, could you flesh that out a little more? You would like to see the Allen County Highway Department continue to oversee the maintenance and repair of the bridges but the money that would be representative of the increase of the Wheel Tax/Surtax that would otherwise flow to those communities would come into Allen County for use by the Highway Department to do just that.

**Bill Brown:** Correct.

**Cal Miller:** So how does that work?

**Bill Brown:** I would see the increase that would pass to these municipalities, they are going to have to pledge those dollars to the Allen County Highway Department to do the work in the future. Keep things the way they have been going and is the way it has been going in every other county in the state, I believe. We are in that business and have all of the people in place and I would think that to even get the municipalities any more involved with bridges right now, would be a mistake. Why create that diversion when we are supposed to be focusing on our strengths. To sum it up, the responsibility of the bridges would be turned over to the municipalities...

**Cal Miller:** The financial responsibilities.

**Bill Brown:** Correct. It would be funded through this increase. The appropriate documentation would have to be created to get that done.

**Paul Moss:** How many people, in the Highway Department, are dedicated to bridges?

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**Bill Brown:** When I say dedicated, I mean the Highway Department is the dedicated agency...

**Paul Moss:** Okay, but how much bridge maintenance and/or engineering services, don't you contract out for the engineering services?

**Bill Hartman:** All the time. For all of the construction and day-to-day inspection, we do that internally.

**Paul Moss:** How many employees are we talking about?

**Bill Hartman:** We have a staff of eight field engineers and they are trained for both road and bridge construction.

**Paul Moss:** Okay, so just rough, rough, rough guesstimate, how many FTE's are dedicated to...

**Bill Hartman:** I would say four.

**Paul Moss:** Okay, so if a municipality needed to contract with the County, we are not talking huge dollars. The rest of that is contracting with engineering entities to do the other work. Those municipalities wouldn't have to do it internally. It is just a matter of moving responsibility from the Commissioners to contract with those engineering entities.

**Bill Hartman:** We do still contract with the engineering firms.

**Paul Moss:** But I am saying if we were to give them the responsibility for them.

**Bill Hartman:** Throughout my career, I have maintained contact with all of the municipalities on the maintenance of the bridges. They know who I am and what we do...

**Paul Moss:** And I understand that but what I am trying to get at is that I don't agree with the assertion that had been made by quite a few people, that we would be creating a situation where there would be duplicative service. I don't buy that. I think you just clarified that.

**Darren Vogt:** I have a little different question. What is the difference between rehab and repair?

**Bill Hartman:** Rehabilitation includes major reconstruction to the superstructure of the deck. The substructure, the pilings and the piers...

**Darren Vogt:** This is rehab.

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**Bill Hartman:** Rehab is to the top of the structure and repair is to the structure.

**Darren Vogt:** And then, as I am looking at the funds that is projected for 2007, \$14 million, what would you say has been your priority and where that \$14 million was spent? Breaking it down by road conversions, snow plowing and all of those kinds of things, where would you say how those are broken down?

**Bill Hartman:** I can report back to you but I don't know that now.

**Darren Vogt:** The reason I am asking is that as we ask folks to prioritize, I want to know is there a way, without raising the tax, to get a handle on the bridges? If you look, once we get a handle on the bridges, it's pretty inexpensive once you get past the first three years. I want to know what the Commissioners have said, to you, as a priority for bridges. As I see it, they haven't made it a priority or at least they haven't asked you to make it a priority. I am trying to put some of the onus to say where are we putting our money in the Highway Department? That is what I would like to see.

**Bill Hartman:** Okay. I will put together a report for you.

**Darren Vogt:** Okay, that would be great.

**Paul Moss:** Councilman Buskirk?

**Roy Buskirk:** The priority, number one, this is not a tax increase. It is moving the tax revenue stream from property taxes with a bond, paying interest, paying attorney fees and paying a bond fee, over to Wheel Tax/Surtax.

**Paula Hughes:** That is a tax increase. Shifting is increasing. Because right now, it is more than people are paying right now.

**Roy Buskirk:** Okay. I looked at it as strictly taking it off property tax and moving it to Wheel Tax/Surtax. It will generate more revenue than what we have had in recent years. You can see that this is the reason that 2007 is such a large amount. We are behind on maintenance and rehab of our county bridges. That is the reason that these numbers would constantly get pushed forward if we don't have the revenue, and we haven't had the revenue in the past few years.

**Darren Vogt:** But we haven't prioritized the revenues that we had.

**Paula Hughes:** That's right.

**Darren Vogt:** That is the point I was trying to make. The Commissioners haven't made it a priority. They made a priority of doing other projects versus the bridges, in their day-to-day operation. What priorities have they spent the \$14 million that was allocated to the Highway Department? Some of that is hard for us to look at because

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we see it in general categories. I want to see how much we spent on roads and conversions.

**Bill Hartman:** Another aspect of this, is that the Wheel Tax/Surtax, as it stands, is generated in unincorporated Allen County and we feel those funds should be spent and applied there.

**Paula Hughes:** Absolutely.

**Bill Hartman:** Not in every case, but for the most part, we have tried to do it that way. A large portion of these bridges are within the City of Fort Wayne and if we take out the Wheel Tax, as it stands and apply it to bridges everywhere, that puts an unfair burden on the people in unincorporated Allen County.

**Darren Vogt:** You were making the assumption that I was assuming all of the bridges.

**Bill Hartman:** That is what I understood.

**Darren Vogt:** No, that was not the assumption. The assumption was where are the priorities and where do we shift the \$3 million that we have to our funding stream without raising the taxes. If we can do it, then I would look to the other municipalities to find a way to do it without increasing any tax.

**Bill Hartman:** Okay, I understand.

**Roy Buskirk:** Again, you are not increasing the tax. Where the money has to be spent is like when you have a bridge bond, it has to be spent on bridges. You eliminate the additional cost of borrowing money. I thought that most of the Council members were against borrowing money because of the additional expenses. In Councilman Miller's question, it would be just like an interlocal agreement between the different towns. Several road projects have been done that way.

**Cal Miller:** So you could use the interlocal agreement.

**Roy Buskirk:** Right and then what I envisioned was that the interlocal agreement would be that the increased revenue would be turned back to the County. Then it would be the County's responsibility to maintain all of the bridges as we currently have. The one reason for doing that would be the fact that the County is the one who has to do the inspections. There would be no turf wars over which bridge is done first. It would be done according to what the inspections required. The other thing was, in talking with the cities and towns, the fact that if they agree to do this, the revenue that is turned back to the County is strictly used on bridges.

**Cal Miller:** I am going to start with a question that I already asked. Where do we go from here? Has there been a determination made that the existing funds are

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insufficient to maintain and repair the current inventory of bridges? And if so, have they made the determination that the existing funds are insufficient...

**Paula Hughes:** That determination was made when we bonded \$8 million for bridges three years ago.

**Darren Vogt:** What hasn't been determined is what I just suggested...

**Paula Hughes:** Correct.

**Darren Vogt:** what if we only had our bridges and what is the priority? To your point about the bonding, I agree with you. I would rather raise an ongoing revenue that to bond.

**Cal Miller:** Well, let me get through the framework. So we have concluded that without the bonding mechanism and bonding, the funds are insufficient to maintain and repair the current inventory of bridges that are in Allen County that fall below 200 feet.

**Tera Klutz:** It has always been that way.

**Cal Miller:** Because we have continued to bond, historically. If the Commissioners decide to pass a resolution to relinquish the responsibilities of the bridges that are in the various entities that we described, would the revenue stream that comes into Allen County, would be separate from that that goes to Leo-Cedarville etc. Would that be sufficient, without raising the Wheel Tax/Surtax, to maintain the bridges that would be the responsibility of Allen County minus the bridges that have been relinquished by the Commissioners?

**Bill Brown:** Just as a point of clarity, I am not advocating relinquishing the responsibility...

**Cal Miller:** I know you are not.

**Bill Brown:** I see you are talking hypothetically.

**Cal Miller:** I am working through a decision making matrix...

**Paul Moss:** Is it possible to answer his question though?

**Tera Klutz:** It is and I don't think so because of the way the population...

**Paula Hughes:** has shifted.

**Tera Klutz:** has shifted. It is very beneficial for us because out of the 321 bridges, only 67 are Fort Wayne's. That is only 20%. But they would get about 75% of this

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revenue to fix their bridges unless we got it all and used an economy of scale and fixed all of the bridges.

**Cal Miller:** So we doubt that even if the responsibility of the bridges, and I know you are not advocating it, was relinquished to the separate municipalities, without continuing to bond or without raising the Wheel Tax/Surtax, we are not comfortable at all thinking that we have the funds sufficient to continue to maintain or repair the bridges that would be left under the responsibility of Allen County.

**Tera Klutz:** So I answer this question with Darren's comments in mind. If you thought it was necessary to bond, going back as far as we can remember, then we didn't have enough funds then. The answer would be yes, we didn't have enough money. But that is IF you thought it was necessary to bond.

**Cal Miller:** Okay, so let me finish out my thought. We don't have to look at that particular issue to see whether we do believe we would be under-funded if the bridges were relinquished to the municipalities. So, if dollars were needed, going to Councilman Buskirk's point, would it be better to bond for the taxpayers or would it be better to raise the Wheel Tax/Surtax. Then we have to talk about what the impact is. If we bond, that is going to be a property tax based bond, right? And if you raised the Wheel Tax/Surtax, it is more of a use fee. Of the two evils, which would be the better mechanism?

**Paula Hughes:** There is an inherent flaw in your logic. I am sorry, Deputy Auditor, you are saying that we decided to bond because we were carrying the burden for every bridge in the County, when we made that decision.

**Tera Klutz:** Right.

**Paula Hughes:** If we only had the bridges that are in unincorporated Allen County, I don't believe that we would need to bond. I don't believe there would be insufficient funds.

**Tera Klutz:** Did you see the numbers? Are you looking at the bridges that we would still have to take care of to the proportion of revenue that we get?

**Paula Hughes:** We are talking about new bonds, for bridges.

**Tera Klutz:** We are talking about the money you need to take care of all of the bridges.

**Paul Moss:** You should be able to quantify...

**Paula Hughes:** No, no, we are talking about the bridges that are left if we...

**Cal Miller:** Relinquish them.

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**Tera Klutz:** That is what I meant, in unincorporated.

**Cal Miller:** Before we go further with your comment, when you identify an inherent flaw in my logic, let me say that at no time did I concede, I said we need to look at the second part of the framework and would there be sufficient funds to maintain the bridges...

**Paula Hughes:** An inherent flaw in the information that you were given.

**Cal Miller:** It was an assumption. We are just getting past that because we don't know the answer to that. I just wanted to point out that I think my logic, so far, was more sound than I have been given credit for.

**Roy Buskirk:** The one thing that the Auditor's office was trying to point out, if you look at page ten and page twelve of my little handout, you will see how the population of Allen County in 2006 was a little over 25%. In 2007, it was a little over 18%. That is used in the formula for the Wheel Tax/Surtax. Also, you look at the mileage. The mileage is basically the same. It is where the population is shifting from Allen County to mainly Fort Wayne but even to some of the smaller towns. That is where a lot of our revenue streams are being reduced because of the population shift. I feel that by doing this, and having the agreement, it won't make any difference as to what happens to the population in the future, we would have this interlocal agreement stating that they would give us the additional funds. The timeframe on this is that this has to be approved before July 1<sup>st</sup> to have it go on the license plates for 2009.

**Cal Miller:** July 1<sup>st</sup> of this year?

**Roy Buskirk:** July 1<sup>st</sup> of this year. The towns and cities would have to approve it basically in May, for us to get it on the June agenda for us to approve it or deny it. And if we don't do it, the only thing that is going to happen is the fact that these costs would move out another year.

**Bill Brown:** What I was hoping would happen, the Task Force was put together, and Councilwoman Hughes floated a proposal, no...

**Paula Hughes:** No, I did not float a proposal. I, at no point in time, have been supportive of raising the Wheel Tax.

**Bill Brown:** Okay, having said that, didn't you say you wouldn't raise it unless they all sent you a letter?

**Paula Hughes:** I said that I personally wouldn't even consider it.

**Bill Brown:** I am talking at the Bridge Task Force meeting.

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**Paula Hughes:** Yes, at the Bridge Task Force meeting.

**Bill Brown:** You said you would not consider it unless a letter was sent.

**Paula Hughes:** Correct because what would be the point because it is completely contradictory to the process. If all of the municipalities didn't agree to channel those funds to a dedicated bridge fund...

**Bill Brown:** Okay, I am trying to get some clarity here so we can help move this forward. So having said that, Councilman Buskirk, you would like to see the Commissioners send a letter to the municipalities, based on the concept that has been discussed. So my question is that hopefully today we could get a straw poll to find out if that did happen, would this body vote to increase the Surtax? If they are not going to, there is no need to go any farther.

**Cal Miller:** Does each municipality have, can they approach County Council separately?

**Paula Hughes:** No.

**Cal Miller:** So it has to be countywide.

**Paula Hughes:** Yes.

**Cal Miller:** Okay.

**Roy Buskirk:** I guess it wouldn't have to be countywide because the ones that don't agree would just have to take care of their own bridges.

**Paula Hughes:** That's true. We can not raise the Wheel Tax/Surtax independently in each entity. We can give back the responsibility of the bridges independently. Or the Commissioners can. They don't have to do every entity in the County just certain ones.

**Paul Moss:** That brings up an issue that I wanted to talk about anyway. As I mentioned early on, it is hard to understand, of all of these municipalities, which ones could absorb this type of a hit. Intuitively, it sure feels like the City of Fort Wayne has the best opportunity, in terms of cash, to do that. Has there been any consideration by you of carving them out or is it all for one and one for all?

**Bill Brown:** Basically, I was following the lead of the consensus of the Bridge Task Force. So as far as carving the City out, I have not...

**Paul Moss:** I assume the City, of course, wants us to continue to maintain responsibility and increase the Wheel Tax.

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**Bill Brown:** Yes. I just think that infrastructure is so critical. I see the shortfalls in 1001 and the City is going to go somewhere to get more revenue. At some point, it will be income tax or Wheel Tax/Surtax. It seems as though, the prudent thing to do is to look at it now and get it in this year. I can't answer your questions specifically.

**Cal Miller:** We can talk about flaws now, in the appropriate context. Taking off where Councilman Moss was concerned, what happens if the Commissioners relinquish responsibility for the bridges in the municipalities and only do so with an interlocal agreement, that has tagged to it the willingness of the Council to raise the Wheel Tax/Surtax to fund the shortage for the bridge repair, what we are missing or what doesn't happen in this process is that we never get to Councilman Moss' inquiry. I want to know whether these municipalities can absorb these costs without raising taxes. We essentially skip right over that opportunity for inward looking analysis of each municipality if they can, in their duty as the fiscal stewards of the dollars that they are spending, make it work without raising a tax. What we have essentially done is skipped right over putting them in the position to look inward to see if we can do this without creating a greater tax burden. I am concerned that by just going to the municipalities and saying "Hey, let's do an interlocal agreement. We will maintain the bridges, County Council will raise the Wheel Tax/Surtax and there won't be any adverse affect to your budget." We will be raising money and it will be like nothing ever happened with respect to you and you don't have to take a peek inward and see if your budget could absorb this and all is well and good. I think that is a failing in what we are assigned to do as the fiscal body and explore the step that we are contemplating skipping right over. And that is even if the answer is that we have a hunch that they can't do it.

**Bill Brown:** The reason I have that hunch is because of 1001. Intuitively, they are going to have a budget crunch and won't it trickle around to all of them?

**Cal Miller:** Of course but do we just take that assumption and use that to forego the analysis of whether they can or not? I don't know if I feel comfortable with that.

**Paul Moss:** The sky is falling mentality on that \$10 million. I don't buy it.

**Darren Vogt:** To further illustrate that point, do all of the municipalities have these books?

**Paula Hughes:** Yes.

**Darren Vogt:** When you look at the long-term and you look at some of these numbers, I am looking at a municipality and in 2010 it says that their recommended expenditure is \$26,000. My point is, and agreeing with everyone else who has made it, have they looked internally and have we looked internally? What priorities have we set? If bridges are a priority, and I agree with the Commissioner that they are,

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how do they compare to things like chip and seal, dust control and things like that? Those don't have any dire need to be done but these bridges appear to have a little bit more of a dire need. Until we flush that out, I am not going to support some tax even with a support from them because I am not sure they have done the analysis.

**Cal Miller:** So now that we have talked about this and I have seen some nodding of heads about a desire to look at the step that we are overlooking, where does that leave us? Where do we go from here? I know it is not the most popular thing to do but I think that what I would consider is relinquishing the responsibility, have them look inward, have them make their case and after that case has been made, consider raising the Wheel Tax/Surtax. That way, we will have done our jobs as members of the fiscal body to ensuring that we don't skip over the self-analysis that is required to feel comfortable about considering a raise or shift in taxes.

**Darren Vogt:** This would be one of the roles that we have, if we abolish, one of our next agenda items...

**Paula Hughes:** The County Tax Adjustment Board.

**Darren Vogt:** the County Tax Adjustment Board. That is one of our roles to now look and...

**Paula Hughes:** Isn't there a deadline of April 15<sup>th</sup> to do that?

**Darren Vogt:** that is what is going to happen today.

**Paul Moss:** From a timing perspective, it is doable.

**Paula Hughes:** Do we meet the deadline?

**Lisa Blosser:** No, actually the deadline is July 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Paul Moss:** There is no urgency.

**Cal Miller:** I thought Councilman Buskirk said that there was a July deadline...

**Paula Hughes:** For 2009.

**Cal Miller:** So, if for some reason, that work couldn't get all done before 2009, if it becomes dire, we are left with bonding, right?

**Roy Buskirk:** I don't think with House Bill 1001 that you can bond, period. I don't think we can do any bonding because all of our tax rates are going to be cut. Our revenue stream is being cut by approximately \$4 million and every one of these towns and cities' revenue streams is being cut. The other thing is, you can look at some of these and Darren you picked New Haven for the 2010, that is a high

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percentage of their overall budget. The number might not be very high but like Zanesville, theirs is \$13,000 but that is probably about 50% of their budget.

**Paul Moss:** Councilwoman Hughes?

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Buskirk, you are drilling down to a point that I have been thinking about. If that is what happens, if the will of the people is not to bond for bridges, then we will have to shut down bridges. We are living in a time where there is a human cry against the amount of property taxes and taxes period, that we are paying and services cost money. It is a very simple equation. Yes, we can be more efficient. I believe that going through and forcing these entities to determine how to be more efficient and what their priorities are is the right course of action. I don't believe that we should run from the idea that the taxpayers do not want bonding. If they don't want it then they will suffer the lack of services for that desire.

**Roy Buskirk:** This is another revenue stream without doing the bonding. It is going to be more economical for the people.

**Cal Miller:** Where are you coming from, Councilman Buskirk? Are you of the mind, you have a firm grasp on the numbers and history as I know Councilman Hughes does too, but are you of the mind that we have enough information to make the assumption that these municipalities, when they look inward, are not going to have the money to absorb the transfer the cost and maintenance on the repairs of the bridges? Therefore, we should just move to the reality that there are insufficient dollars and we need to either bond or raise the Wheel Tax/Surtax. You are in favor of the Wheel Tax/Surtax because it doesn't have an interest rate component, it doesn't tie to property taxes and it does require attorney fees to issue a bond.

**Roy Buskirk:** And it is to the users of the bridges.

**Cal Miller:** Is that where you are on this?

**Roy Buskirk:** I am because all of them have to address the reduced funds available through property taxes and then here are more expenses. The revenue streams are reduced and here are more expenses. This is a way in which we can cover the revenue. And I don't think we should turn the responsibilities of the bridges over to the individual towns and cities. I think the County should still maintain the responsibility of the bridges. Because of Indiana Code requiring the distribution of this funding stream would come back to us.

**Cal Miller:** You have a much firmer grasp on the numbers and how the impact is on the municipalities, I will grant you that. I don't want to enter into an exercise that has no meaning. I think it is a valid analysis unless the information that we have is already sufficient to support the conclusion that they are not going to have the money either. I would like to hear from the other Council members to the extent as to if you have your thoughts on whether you want to go on the assumption that there

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isn't enough revenue or if we should partake in that particular scrutiny if the Commissioners relinquished the responsibility and if they would be able to come up with the funds to repair and maintain.

**Darren Vogt:** Let me clarify my position on that. Let me give a better example and I apologize for picking on New Haven. Take the number countywide and you look at 2010. It is \$382,000 countywide. That is less than 5% of the overall cost. I am looking at saying that if it is \$382,000, and I know that is estimated, maybe there is room for those folks to look internally at it. Mine still isn't there yet. I would rather see those folks turn to themselves and see if there is a way to get past the hump. There is going to be a bump. There is going to be one on our end too. We are going to have to give up some things, as we all have to do sometimes when money shortens up. But then, after that, we probably go right back to where we were and have an ongoing maintenance of it.

**Roy Buskirk:** The problem with that is that is that the 2007 and 2008 figures are all going to be pushed ahead. When Dan did this analysis, it was in 2006. He went through and increased the first couple of years and then maintained the same increase for the next eight years. I thought it should have gone up a little bit continuously all the way through.

**Paul Moss:** The numbers aren't perfect.

**Bill Hartman:** That is a \$27 million hump that we have to get over to get to that point in the first three years.

**Roy Buskirk:** At \$3 million a year, that \$27 million is going to take us nine years.

**Bill Brown:** The concept of asking these other communities if they would search in their budgets to see if they have money, that is kind of what you are talking about.

**Cal Miller:** A little more direct. Relinquish the responsibility of the bridges and let them do what they need to do for the people that they represent. They can look inward to see if there is a way to fund those things and let the chips fall where they may. Let it be a real relinquishment and not just an exercise in whether you think you can do it or not. Relinquish the bridges and if, at that point they can't do it, then they can approach the Council, as representatives of those taxpayers, and be heard. They can then be a part of the process of raising taxes in Allen County. That is the check and balance that I know elected officials are particularly reluctant to ask for raises in taxes. If they want to be a part of that, then let them come forward and be a part of it after they have looked inward to see whether they can do it.

**Darren Vogt:** Keep in mind that we may be one of those same people advocating for the same thing once we have taken on that analysis.

**Cal Miller:** We may.

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**Darren Vogt:** We haven't even taken on the analysis ourselves. I might be right there with you once we look at it and say that it doesn't make any sense. If we can't do it and maybe someone else can't then we can get together and figure it out.

**Bill Brown:** In working with the \$4 million shortfall, here is the part that I talk to folks about. Folks say we are still collecting the three cents and it's not going into a CUM fund. The money that is being collected is being disbursed and the only reason we are getting the bridges back is because the CUM fund was taken apart in 2002.

**Paula Hughes:** The problem with that is that those funds were diverted to pay for the justice system. The budget for the justice system of the County exceeds what we collect in property taxes.

**Bill Brown:** That is a good point and I appreciate you bringing it up. But then folks will say that at the same time, the County is accruing a Rainy Day Fund. One might argue that those three cents, while not in the CUM fund anymore, are in the Rainy Day Fund. That is feedback that I have gotten.

**Darren Vogt:** Let's realize where that Rainy Day came from. The most of that came from, the jail and juvenile justice center were not funded originally, from the beginning of when they were constructed, when we had the levy increase. That is where the majority of that money came from, in interest going forward. You need to be an advocate saying that this is where that money came from.

**Bill Brown:** Isn't three cents roughly \$3 or \$4 million?

**Roy Buskirk:** I have no idea but what makes the difference?

**Bill Brown:** Maybe it isn't a valid point, if you have money going into a CUM fund, I think a Rainy Day Fund is a great idea, if three cents equals that amount of money that has been put away, aren't they synonymous?

**Cal Miller:** So what are you advocating for...

**Bill Brown:** I am not really advocating...

**Cal Miller:** Can you let me finish my thought? Are you advocating \$3 or \$4 million out of the Rainy Day Fund to allow...

**Bill Brown:** I am not advocating for that. I am making a point that I have been heard.

**Cal Miller:** I would appreciate it, Commissioner, that the exchange should be one where we don't interrupt each other.

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**Bill Brown:** But I am not advocating.

**Cal Miller:** You can tell me that when I am finished with my thought. I am not interrupting you, Commissioner. I take offense to that. I want to finish the thought and then you can tell me you aren't advocating for that.

**Bill Brown:** So we can't have a conversation that is like you then me? Okay.

**Cal Miller:** Let's have a conversation where you let me finish a thought...

**Darren Vogt:** Council, Council, let everyone finish their thoughts...

**Paul Moss:** Let's not have an inherently flawed conversation here.

**Cal Miller:** Okay, are you advocating, when you talk about the three cents and equating it to about \$3 million, that the Rainy Day Fund ought to be used as a part of Allen County's funds to get over the hump over the next three years when we get down to a level where it becomes a less onerous expense to maintain and repair the bridges?

**Bill Brown:** No.

**Cal Miller:** So what are you suggesting then, the interrelationship between the three cents and the Rainy Day Fund is?

**Bill Brown:** First of all, I am not advocating. I want to make that clear. Two, I am not suggesting to do anything with the money. What I am doing is relaying a message from our constituents to this group that many think, right or wrong, that if three cents are collected and is going into a CUM fund, it can only be used for bridges. If it is not, it can reside in the Rainy Day Fund. That's all.

**Cal Miller:** What three cents are you referring to that have made their way already into the Rainy Day Fund? Are they already in there? Is that what you are saying?

**Bill Brown:** Three cents would typically, in the budget, if it was a CUM fund.

**Darren Vogt:** This lowers our General Fund revenues by the same dollar amount and is a controlled levy fund.

**Bill Brown:** The reason I am not advocating is that I am basically parroting what the constituents have said. It is not one in the same, is that what you are telling me?

**Paula Hughes:** Yes.

**Cal Miller:** I was just trying to understand what you thought the interrelationship was between the three cents and the Rainy Day Fund.

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**Bill Brown:** I thought three cents represented about \$3 million.

**Paul Moss:** Okay, to try to move this forward, if we could spend a few minutes trying to figure out a process for making a decision. We have a decision that we will have to make and I think there is a broad variety of opinions right now amongst the Council about what that decision should be. From a timeline standpoint, what is the Commissioners' position on moving forward? Do we need to give you a strong opinion, straw poll or resolution with regard to the Wheel Tax or bonding, prior to you making a decision to transfer control of those bridges?

**Bill Brown:** What I said earlier about some input that I had received, regarding the Bridge Task Force, about the concept of these other entities coming to you folks for your consideration, if they all came together, then it would be considered. I thought that that was the concept if they all came and asked for it, it would be considered. Councilman Buskirk has been quoted as saying that the Commissioners should send out a letter to the municipalities in that regard. I believe both of you were at the Task Force meeting, I think, so I thought there was a common thought there.

**Paul Moss:** So that letter did go out?

**Roy Buskirk:** No. I never said that.

**Bill Brown:** So here I am today to try to get a straw poll or whatever if we should go ahead and send out the letter to see if we can get the folks to agree with what was presented. My question is to see if it is worthwhile to send out this letter. Then I will advocate, tomorrow, with the other two Commissioners, to see if we can send the letter out to accomplish what two members of the Council were talking about.

**Paul Moss:** That letter would simply indicate that we are willing to increase the Wheel Tax in exchange for them transferring that money back to us to use exclusively on the maintenance of the bridges. Is that correct?

**Bill Brown:** I think that you are willing to consider it.

**Cal Miller:** Would it be more appropriately put if the Council were willing to raise the Wheel Tax/Surtax, would the municipalities be willing to divert those funds to Allen County so the Allen County Highway Department would continue to maintain and repair the bridges rather than have them relinquished to the individual municipalities? I think that is probably a better statement of the question.

**Bill Brown:** Is that on the money of where you guys are at? The two that are on the Bridge Task Force?

**Roy Buskirk:** Personally, I would want there to be some binding to that.

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**Darren Vogt:** So add the interlocal agreement in there.

**Roy Buskirk:** Right.

**Cal Miller:** That is what I mean when I said to divert the money. It would have to be in the mechanism of an interlocal agreement. In an ideal world, Commissioner, what I would like to see unfold is to hear the Commissioners, as a group, stake out a position. We are going to relinquish the bridges or we are not going to relinquish the bridges. We are willing to approach the municipalities and see if they are interested in entering into an interlocal agreement if County Council will raise the Wheel Tax/Surtax. Or the Commissioners just say that they are not going to relinquish the bridges. I want to know what your position is. Since you are the entity that ultimately decides to relinquish the bridges, I...

**Paul Moss:** It is a philosophical question and would be nice to know what the collective thinking is.

**Bill Brown:** One of the things that I have heard a lot since I came into office is let's get some things done and don't let things linger. Things take a long time. I was hoping, in coming to this body, that we could do a straw poll on what has been talked about. We have two representatives from Council that have participated in the Bridge Task Force and it just seems to me like we are having this conversation now and it seems like the thing to do. We can start to do this other stuff and take more time and draw it out but...

**Cal Miller:** You are presenting yourself as one Commissioner. You made it clear that you are a single Commissioner, without the authority. The body here, that is also going to make a decision about raising a tax, wants to know what the Commissioners' position is. I don't think that is unreasonable. I can tell you, if you want to do a straw poll, I think it is a delicate question. I am not in favor of skipping over the layer of analysis that would require some inward peeking of the municipalities to see if they could fund the responsibilities of repair and maintenance of these bridges. I am not in favor of raising the tax without those people coming forward publicly, if they can't support the repair and maintenance and saying that they want that tax raised. That is the process of gut-check for everybody that tells us that they are actually sincere about it, they have looked inwardly and it just isn't there. But if we skip over the process, we have not done our job to represent the taxpayers.

**Bill Brown:** There are a lot of folks on this Council who have spent a lot of extra time drilling down and being connected to the process. As we try to get things accomplished, I commend those that have amongst this group. Some are very more connected to the overall good of the County than others, as far as the time that they are willing to invest as a part-time Council person. We can go back and work through this...

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**Cal Miller:** WAIT, WAIT, WAIT!! I want to respond here because that is a direct attack on my lack of involvement that I want to address with you, Commissioner.

**Bill Brown:** I was thanking this group...

**Cal Miller:** Just let me say that I have not been involved in this process. But let me say, what would my involvement in this process or what has your involvement led you to conclude that the fiscal body ought to step over a process that requires the municipalities to look inward to determine if they have the funds to pay for this? What is it about your lengthy involvement in this process that has led you to the conclusion that we ought to skip that particular aspect of analysis to determine whether taxes ought to be raised in this County?

**Bill Brown:** What I am saying is that the people that are involved in this process, I thought we were to a point that we could take an action.

**Cal Miller:** But the question is, what is it about your investment of time, and this is crucial, but what is it about your investment of time in this project that leads you to conclude that you don't want the municipalities to look inward to determine whether they can absorb the cost of repair if the Commissioners relinquish the bridges to the municipalities?

**Bill Brown:** My investment of time, what does that have to do with the question?

**Cal Miller:** In your investment of time in this project, I assume that it has been lengthy.

**Bill Brown:** I have not been the lead person on this project.

**Cal Miller:** What is it about the involvement that you have had, and this is where we have to decide if we are going to skip over the process of asking the municipalities to look inward, what is it that you have learned through your investment of time that you would want to tell this Council that I think, as a Commissioner of Allen County, that we should skip over the process of having the individuals look inward to determine whether they can fund this repair and maintenance without raising a tax. That is fundamental to what we are trying to decide here. If you could tell us what it is that you have done that led you to the conclusion that we should skip over that process that would help us in making the decision.

**Bill Brown:** The prior administration of the Mayor of Fort Wayne, said that the only way they could do it was if they had a way to fund it. That is not specifically speaking for this Mayor. There have been two parties, in Council, that have been involved with the process and I thought that they had researched the information. As I mentioned talking to other municipalities about how they feel with these monies that were not collected but disbursed into the General Fund that gives me a sense that they are probably not going to be interested.

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**Cal Miller:** Being interested and being able to do something and having gone through the analysis...

**Bill Brown:** Did you interrupt me while I was talking?

**Cal Miller:** I thought you were finished.

**Paul Moss:** Let's just hold off. People are going to start to think that we are the City Council. We have got to stop this. The issue of having specific people from Council, being involved in various committees, I will use Personnel Committee as an example. We have three people involved in that, we bring those issues forward here and oftentimes, additional questions from other Council members that come up and are legitimate. That process is appropriate and it is going to happen. This is a legitimate question. I have concerns about that and I think I understand what you are hoping for is to have some sort of a straw poll here today and I am willing to do that straw poll. How would you like to word that straw poll? If you want me to word it, I will word it and then we will have a straw poll and you will at least have a response on that. Is that what you want to do?

**Bill Brown:** What I was trying to do is put into context what Councilwoman Hughes and Councilman Buskirk were advocating.

**Paul Moss:** But they are only two people and that is a common occurrence to have two or three people involved from Council...

**Cal Miller:** But they are advocating two different things.

**Paula Hughes:** Yes. We are almost diametrically opposed in what we believe is the course of action.

**Bill Brown:** Who is?

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Buskirk and I.

**Bill Brown:** So I guess I am trying to get consensus of the two then that were at the Bridge Task Force meeting.

**Paula Hughes:** Good luck.

**Paul Moss:** This is not the forum for that, Bill. I understand where you are at from a sequence standpoint. The Commissioners are a little bit hog-tied because they need to understand our position. It would be nice, philosophically, to understand what the Commissioners' position is on abdicating responsibility for the bridges but there are things that you need to know to be able to make that decision. As far as a straw poll in concerned, given all of these qualifying factors, do you want us to say that we

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support bonding, increased Wheel Tax with all of the caveats out there? I don't view that as a wise thing to do right now. I am willing to gauge the sentiment of everybody, if you want.

**Bill Brown:** I thought Councilman Buskirk and Councilwoman Hughes were advocating something similar. One is bring on the Wheel Tax and the other would consider the Wheel Tax if the municipalities said they were for it. That is where I thought they were at. I thought today, taking their involvement and our involvement, that we would be able to, with this body, come up with some consensus about what you thought.

**Paul Moss:** Do you want to narrow the question to if the municipalities approach us saying that they would like to have the Commissioners transfer responsibility, I'm sorry, retain responsibility for the bridge maintenance etc and in exchange for that, they are supported. Frankly, I would like to see some sort of resolution from those municipal bodies...

**Paula Hughes:** There would have to be.

**Paul Moss:** ...saying we support increasing the Wheel Tax. They need to share the responsibility. If you want to narrow the question to that, I think that's fine. It crystallizes it a little bit, in my mind, in terms of I am just opposed to increasing the Wheel Tax or not.

**Bill Brown:** What may be more appropriate, because I am basically trying to paraphrase what Councilwoman Hughes stated to the group, as an unauthorized single party of County Council, it might be more appropriate for you to restate what you did to that group. That is what I was ready to help with and act on.

**Paul Moss:** I understand but I think we are going backwards. It is fun to watch Bill Hartman because he looks like he has swallowed a bitter pill here. We need to ease his pain a little bit.

**Bill Brown:** This is your body and Councilwoman Hughes was there and so was Councilman Buskirk. They had positions on this thing and wouldn't it be more appropriate for you to state what you stated to that group and see if there is consensus among your body?

**Paula Hughes:** It was a complicated statement at the time and I can understand why it would be confusing.

**Cal Miller:** Let's just hear your position when you sent the email.

**Paula Hughes:** My position and I would be supportive of relinquishing the responsibility for the bridges, to the municipalities and I have been for a long time. If the municipalities truly felt that they could not fund that additional expense and if

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their legislative bodies passed resolutions requesting that the County Council increased the Wheel Tax/Surtax to fund the bridges, then I would consider it. That is what I said.

**Bill Brown:** I would agree with that. Well said.

**Paul Moss:** So two parts to that resolution would be required by those municipalities based on what she just said. I wholeheartedly agree with that. One is the desire for us to increase the Wheel Tax and two is some sort of acknowledgement that they can not do this on their own.

**Darren Vogt:** And the point behind that is that we haven't done the analysis ourselves.

**Paul Moss:** All we need to do is invite them here and they sit there and say that there is no way we can do it. And how would we be able to truly analyze their lean or not?

**Paula Hughes:** I think the political motivation, I'm sorry, of having the legislative body decide that they are asking for a tax increase is a partial test of that.

**Paul Moss:** I agree. Councilman Buskirk?

**Roy Buskirk:** I hope Grabill and Monroeville would go along with that in the fact that they have no bridges. In talking to them, they have shown their support towards raising the Wheel Tax/Surtax and giving the increased revenue to the County. There are two municipalities that have no bridges but their cooperation would be to help the County out on the funding.

**Bill Brown:** So are you saying you want them to come before you or can they send this in the mail?

**Paul Moss:** I don't think they need to come before us.

**Bill Brown:** So we are not going to have to wait until another meeting. If they can get the resolutions together...

**Darren Vogt:** I would think that it would take them some time to figure out if they can analyze their budgets. For them to make a willy-nilly decision without looking at the numbers, it scares me to think that they could make that decision before the next Council meeting.

**Paula Hughes:** That is not our decision though.

**Darren Vogt:** As the taxing fiscal body, to further my analysis of whether I think it is a priority or not, did they give it due justice?

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**Tera Klutz:** It is not the first time they are looking at it.

**Roy Buskirk:** I would think that they would because I would hate to see our bridges with no repairs for another year.

**Cal Miller:** If you gave them two months and they gave it the same amount of time they would if you gave them a day, if you gave them two months and they are not going to undertake any analysis, we are not any better off. I do share your overall concern. We would hope that they would undertake the analysis in the spirit in which they were elected to do. If they don't, it is their shortcoming and we can only go by on the representation that they gave us that they don't have the money or that they want to raise taxes. Then we can make the appropriate decision based on what information we have about whether we think that those bridges' repair and maintenance can be funded without raising those taxes.

**Paul Moss:** Given the fact that there are still some remaining questions and some variables, is there some willingness on this body's part to have a non-binding straw poll to have the Commissioners move forward with interaction with the various municipalities to see if they have the desire to have some type of a resolution in the two items, increasing the Wheel Tax, the commitment to have that money come back to the County and actually three, to have an acknowledgement that they simply can not find the money in their budget to assume those responsibilities? Can we have a straw poll on that so that we can get off the dime here?

**Cal Miller:** That is what I would need to consider raising the Wheel Tax. I am not making a commitment to do it.

**Paul Moss:** I said non-binding. All those in favor of that, please signify by saying aye. Those opposed same sign. See, we finally get to unanimity here. Doesn't that feel good?

**Bill Brown:** That is why I came to have the discussion with the body.

**Paul Moss:** It is a tough issue, Bill, and we appreciate your involvement in this.

**Bill Brown:** You got to remember, I am the guy that showed up and said let's raise the tax.

**Paul Moss:** That is correct.

**Darren Vogt:** So that is your position. Your position is...

**Bill Brown:** My position is that we need good infrastructure in Allen County and my position is that it is penny-wise and pound-foolish to not get the money up front and get it going. You look at Noblesville and what they are doing down there. There are

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a lot of examples of communities that have invested in their infrastructure and their appearance. That is how you take the lead.

**Paul Moss:** That is correct and it is all about priorities. As far as the interaction between the Council and the Commissioners on these types of things, I appreciate you bringing this forward. You advanced this discussion and you advanced the Maplecrest Road. Historically, I think it is very unfortunate. These are issues that we should have been discussing long ago.

**Bill Brown:** Thanks for mentioning that. This has been my goal, with Maplecrest and with this issue, to not let it linger. I am trying not to do that and it is going to be my intent. There are several other things that we need to be working on. We will try to keep you in the loop as much as possible.

**Paul Moss:** I appreciate you coming before us. Frankly, if I was you, I would run quickly in case something else comes up. We are going to move along here. County Tax Adjustment Board, Councilman Vogt, do you want to take us through that?

**Darren Vogt:** Basically we need to decide which way we want to go, if we want to keep the Tax Adjustment Board in place. The Tax Adjustment Board gave us a resolution, that they passed, saying that realistically there is nothing that they can do based on timeframes of where things fall with assessments and rates and so forth. I would advocate that we take over those duties and that is what happens with the new legislation. Then we don't have another layer, of unelected officials, looking at government entities that have taxing authority. What we need to do is have a resolution to disband that. It is pretty short, so I can read it. This is an ordinance and I am making it a motion – Whereas, IC 6-1.1-29.9 authorizes a county council to adopt an ordinance to abolish the county board of tax adjustment; and whereas, the Allen County Council wishes to abolish the Allen County Board of Tax Adjustment as therein provided. Therefore, be it ordained that the Allen County Council does hereby abolish the Allen County Board of Tax Adjustment. This is dated April 17, 2008.

**Paula Hughes:** Second.

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

**Roy Buskirk:** Yes. On the information that was provided in our notebook, before the County Tax Adjustment Board was able to decrease a tax unit's operating budget, the Council does not have that authority. All the Council can do is review it and give a non-binding recommendation to the DLGF.

**Paul Moss:** That is the way that the State deemed it.

**Darren Vogt:** I would tell you that the makeup of the highly talented and intelligent people on that Tax Adjustment Board didn't feel that it was going to be possible for

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them to make a recommendation, based on the limited knowledge that they had of each one of those. I think it would be better for us to give up the ability to reduce that and be able to go with what the new legislation is.

**Paul Moss:** It does give us a pretty significant bully pulpit to start.

**Darren Vogt:** If you look at the resolution that was passed before you by the Tax Adjustment Board, their minds were individually and collectively better than mine and they all supported the abolishment of it as well.

**Paul Moss:** Councilman Miller?

**Cal Miller:** So it sounds like you are advocating for the abolishment of that board because, in theory, that board is not going to undertake the scrutiny to make recommendations for cuts in exchange for a more vocal and visible body that could put, if not direct pressure but indirect pressure that would result in more fiscally sound budgets being submitted.

**Darren Vogt:** Not only that but the timelines, within the restrictions of the Tax Adjustment Board, made it impossible for us to do anything. We, as an ongoing body, have more flexibility with the timelines.

**Cal Miller:** Maybe we could have this discussion at one of our other meetings, but are we going to become more actively involved then? Can we make more comments without making cuts?

**Paul Moss:** That is the theory.

**Paula Hughes:** That would be our responsibility.

**Cal Miller:** Okay and when does that happen during the year?

**Paul Moss:** Is that prescribed?

**Tera Klutz:** Yes, it is ten days before the units adopt their budget. That is when they are supposed to give you a copy of their budget. It doesn't say when your recommendation is due or whom it is due to.

**Paul Moss:** They will probably give us a couple of days.

**Tera Klutz:** Yes, they will probably give us a couple of days but it turns out that the same analysis that the Auditor's Office performed for the Tax Adjustment Board about looking to see if anyone went over the growth rate and what is the tax rate is the same analysis that we will perform for you. Again, just to draw attention to the overall tax burden, you will have an opportunity to at least analyze that before

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September 30<sup>th</sup>. Again, they don't have to give it to you until ten days before they adopt their budget.

**Paul Moss:** So, you see your office assisting significantly in that. One of the questions that I was going to raise is that if we are going to have this done well, I would suggest, for the Council's consideration, that if the Auditor's Office isn't able to assist us, then we may want to consider some type of assistance in that regard.

**Cal Miller:** Or, taking away some from the Auditor's Office, some part-time monies or contractual monies during a particular time of the year that they could lure someone in to assist in that. You are so far ahead that you could guide them and we wouldn't take too much of your time. We would need to be guided by what you think.

**Darren Vogt:** Realistically, she would probably have her experts work on that and hire people in the other areas to do the day-to-day operation.

**Cal Miller:** That would be great.

**Paul Moss:** **We have a motion and a second. Is there any further discussion on this?**

**Cal Miller:** Darren, we are giving up something here and it is going to be something that I am going to support because we are gaining a voice that is a little more visible. What do you think the obstacles were for them?

**Darren Vogt:** The biggest obstacle for those folks is that they were unelected officials looking at people's budget who were in the trenches and doing the work on a regular basis. There were several members that were really uncomfortable with going in and reducing the rate of any taxing unit. The other piece of the puzzle was the timeframes. We didn't have any kind of numbers or values and when they came before us, they said that they were only going to go with the growth factor. There weren't any values to put behind that so they really couldn't do anything other than say that we are going to stay within the growth factor. It was a very difficult task at hand. We have a little bit different global perspective.

**Paul Moss:** **All in favor please signify by saying aye. All opposed same sign. The motion carries 7-0.** Do we need a resolution to appoint ourselves?

**Lisa Blosser:** No, that is under the new statute.

**Paul Moss:** I am not aware of any recent or upcoming meetings. Does anyone else have anything that they want to talk about?

**Roy Buskirk:** We don't have a Commissioner in the audience anymore but there has been in the paper and a couple of other times. On Maplecrest, they made a reference

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that the Council meeting is on May 8<sup>th</sup>. Is that when the report is supposed to be back?

**Chris Cloud:** That is when we are getting the report back. We will then forward it on to you. May 8<sup>th</sup> is the deadline to have it back to us.

**Roy Buskirk:** So there are no public meetings scheduled?

**Chris Cloud:** We will be putting this on the agenda for the May Council meeting. They will come in and explain their findings.

**Roy Buskirk:** The other thing, if you could convey this on to the Commissioners, the possible shifting of the County Assessor's Office and everything, the one suggestion that I might make is that the Recorder needs more room. If they take the Assessor's Office, they can take over our closet and then we might be moved in to the empty HR Department.

**Paul Moss:** Do you have anything that is germane to recent and/or upcoming meetings?

**Roy Buskirk:** No.

**Darren Vogt:** Move to waive the second reading on any matter approved today for which it may be deemed necessary for the County Council meeting of April 17, 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.

**Cal Miller:** Move to adjourn.

**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. The next meeting will be held on May 15, 2008 at 8:30 am.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.