

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

The Allen County Council met on Thursday, July 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: Tera Klutz, Chief Deputy; Bill Brown, 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 June 19, 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:** The amount left for appropriation in the County General Fund is \$4,158,570. For your consideration today there are additional appropriation requests in the amount of \$1,579,336. At the end of June, Miscellaneous Revenue Collections are at 52.92% of projections.

**Paul Moss:** Council, are there any questions on the financial report?

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

**Roy Buskirk:** Second.

**Paul Moss:** We have a motion and a second. All in favor please signify by saying aye. All opposed same sign. The motion carries 7-0. Okay, we are going to move right into Economic Development. There are a couple of changes to the agenda. There are some folks in the audience and we need to be cognizant of their time and I

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believe that we are going to move Goodrich to the front. That is probably going to be a fairly short discussion.

**Ashley Steenman:** Good morning, Ashley Steenman, Department of Planning Services. B F Goodrich has been in our community since 1961. They provide quality employment and benefits to the citizens of Allen County as well as those of neighboring communities. We are very fortunate, despite all of the ups and downs of the automotive industry, they continue to remain here and have chosen to invest in this facility. In an effort to develop and keep ahead of their competitors, they are looking to invest \$44 to 52.9 million in new equipment to improve efficiency and quality. In addition to the 1,300 employees that they have now, they plan to hire an additional sixty with an average salary of about \$54,000. They are eligible for a ten-year abatement of personal property taxes. They have been working with Work Force Development and the Indiana Economic Development Corporation, through the Fort Wayne/Allen County Economic Development Alliance, to secure other incentives. The tax abatement was one of the key factors that played into their decision to reinvest here. John Peters is here, from B F Goodrich, representing them and can tell you a little more and can answer any questions.

**Paul Moss:** Welcome.

**John Peters:** Let me tell you a little bit about the project. We have several investments going on in the facility. We are introducing seventeen inch truck tires this fall and it is a new product line for us. You are aware that we had the Hummer tires last year which we had huge, huge success with. We are also changing the ways that we make beads which will help us save material and the performance of the tires will be better. That is a \$9 million investment in just that one project. We are looking at modernization of our curing room which uses robotics. We will automatically transfer tires from the painting area to the curing press through robotics rather than manpower. It will help us improve our efficiencies and costs. We are investing \$1 million in the final finish area to automate and deal with ergonomics. I forgot to mention that the robotics project is going to be close to \$20 million. Those are the things that we are doing and additionally we have asked for funds to increase production by the end of the year, by one thousand units a day. We have other things in the fire to get more money so that we can increase capacity. We don't know where that stands at this point but we are in the approval phase of a lot of these projects right now and your consideration would help us to push that forward.

**Paul Moss:** That is surprisingly good news given today's economy. Are there any comments or questions from Council?

**Paula Hughes:** I just want to say that I am delighted that you are in Allen County.

**John Peters:** We are happy to be here too.

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**Darren Vogt:** Move for approval of the Statement of Benefits for B F Goodrich Tire Manufacturing located at 18906 East Highway 24.

**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. Now we will have consideration of a resolution approving a Statement of Benefits for Feenix, LLC/Fort Wayne Medical Oncology and Hematology. As all of you recall, we had a discussion about this at the last meeting and Mr. Konow is back with us, I believe.

**Ashley Steenman:** Dan Konow is here again representing Fort Wayne Medical Oncology and Hematology. I will touch on a few things and then he can go ahead and tell you about the information that he prepared. They are eligible for a ten-year abatement of real property taxes, amounting to about \$648,000 in savings over the life of the abatement. They have opted to contribute 10% of their annual property tax savings to the County. You are aware of the waiver of non-compliance because they did start building out at Parkview North. This is about a \$7 million office building project.

**Dan Konow:** Good morning. If you don't remember, I am Dan Konow, COO of Fort Wayne Medical Oncology and Hematology. I did some additional work and sent it out to you. I will touch on some of the highlights of the information that I sent to you. The incidents of cancer are expected to grow 23% between 2000 and 2010, nationwide. That is from the National Cancer Institute. The Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results program of the NCI states that cancer incidents was, from 2001 to 2005, 467.4 per one hundred thousand people. Based on information in 2004, incidents and population rates, we should have seen 1,355 new patients. In fact, we saw 3,376. Half of our patients come from surrounding counties. We have clinics in Allen, Adams, Dekalb, Huntington, Steuben, Wells, Kosciusko and Noble counties. Our physicians go out there and we bring nurses out there. That helps bring patients to our community. We have averaged a growth rate of 4% new patients each year since 2005. I provided a graph that projects that out over the next ten years. For the past eight years, we have averaged over 337 new patients per physician. We had gotten up to 355 per year per physician and that makes it really tough to see those physicians and work them in. I brought two of our physicians along and they can attest to that. In 2006, we added two physicians and that dropped down to 307. Within two years, we are back up to 355. That is why we are bringing Dr. Babu on in August. Using that on a go forward basis, we are expected to add and these are conservative numbers, we look at adding another physician in 2011, 2013, 2014, 2017 and 2018. This will allow us to keep the new patient per physician to an average of about 338. On the graph that I sent to you, in 2009, it shows five new supportive staff for the new physician. I don't have the new physician shown in that number. That is one phone medical assistant, two nurses, one scheduler and one medical records clerk. I am currently advertising for three of those five positions. What I didn't include last time was my position, which is really a new position. We

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just hired a pharmacy tech, an HR person and Dr. Babu. Those positions weren't directly related to this location. I mentioned it the last time but I didn't include it in the five because we need staff for Dr. Babu, when he starts. Historically, we average about ten to eleven full-time staff per physician. To me, I think it would be very unrealistic to expect that every time we add a new doctor, we would add ten or eleven new staff. That is not true because there are some backup, support folks. Conservatively, there are about four FTE's per physician that we end up adding. The graph that I sent you, I made an error on it. It is actually twenty-five full-time equivalents to the five physicians. That is based upon the current salaries and wages of about \$2.8 million, over the life of those ten years. Some of the other things that we looked at a couple of nights ago at our department meeting, we looked at adding two more full-time equivalent Physician Assistants. The follow-up visits are just inundating our doctors. We have the need and we are growing. As far as the tardiness of our application, there were several things that were out of our control. Working with Parkview has been a little more arduous than when we worked with Lutheran. We based all of our timelines on the historical experience at the Lutheran facility. That pushed our timeline out such that it put our financing in jeopardy. That was primarily due to the fluctuations in the financial market. On May 6<sup>th</sup>, we were notified that our interest rate would be moved up. I put pressure on Weigand to get the job started so it was completed by March 1<sup>st</sup> and we could lock in our financing. That compressed our timeline by three months. It was contingent that we started our project on June 9<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately that was ahead of the meeting where we asked for the abatement. Applying for the abatement was not at the top of my priority list simply because the past precedent that the Council would grant those retroactively. Had I known that the policy had changed, I definitely would have moved it up on my priority list and made sure we would have gotten it in a lot sooner. Now, Mr. Miller asked me, last time, if the abatement was the reason for doing this project.

**Cal Miller:** I don't think that was my question. What question are you attributing to me?

**Dan Konow:** I think the question you said to me was, would we have done this project without the abatement?

**Cal Miller:** Yes, that is the question. I just didn't understand your first statement.

**Dan Konow:** Okay. In all honesty, if any person here, asking for an abatement were honest, I don't believe that it is ever the sole reason. It is a major consideration for us but not the sole reason. Our building, where we are located isn't on Parkview's campus now. Just going on Parkview's campus doesn't benefit us at all. It is a more expensive building and so there is really no incentive for us to move to that location. Because more and more patients are seeing combined therapies, between surgery and radiation and oncology, it is actually better for us to be on that campus for the patient's sake so that they can just walk across the hall and get the radiation treatment. From the financial perspective, we don't have the incentive because it is such an expensive building. Citilink brings patients to our building currently but they

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won't out at that location. It's important for us to be close to 69 because we draw about half of our patients from outside of Allen County. Usually, when a patient comes in for oncology, they are here for most of the day. They usually bring a family member. One could assume there is some economic benefit on other reasons for the benefit. People do other shopping and so forth. I can demonstrate that we can retain jobs. We are growing with, conservatively, thirty more positions. I think we also realize, in our community, that healthcare is probably one of the most stable service lines in our community. Lately, you have heard a lot of issues about GM and plants closing. How sure are we that the plant out there is going to stay open? We need to be here. We are a regional hub of healthcare in northeast Indiana. So, any questions, please.

**Paul Moss:** I think you summarized it very well. I share your hope that healthcare remains viable and vital in this community.

**Dan Konow:** I was surprised at how many patients come from the surrounding counties.

**Paul Moss:** It is a significant draw from the surrounding communities. There is no question about that and the economic impact is huge. For Council's information, we did have the tax abatement subcommittee, for lack of a better term, meet this week. That was lead by Councilwoman Hughes and it was a very interesting discussion, in my opinion. It was not focused on your application but was more about the broader question of, given the changing dynamics in the County and given the dynamics of what the State is doing with House Bill 1001 and a variety of factors, how do we look at our policy with regards to tax abatements? I think the discussion was very useful and there was some good information provided by Ashley and Mark and was greatly appreciated. It is a discussion that is going to have to continue. It is really complex in terms of trying to identify how we want to set policy. There are many factors to consider. I want to state that this circumstance, number one, Mr. Konow got thrown into this from a timing perspective. The timing is a little unfortunate and we appreciate the work that you have put into this. I would also say that, from a historical perspective, I am supportive of this abatement application because I think it would be penalizing this group because of timing issues. Circumstances have changed and we have not communicated those dynamics in advance of this application and it really is just unfortunate timing and circumstances at this point. The precedent was set pretty clearly when we did this out on the Lutheran campus, for the same group. I am supportive of that but having said that, I would like to open it up for any questions that Council might have. Councilman Miller?

**Cal Miller:** Mr. Konow, your second attempt articulated one of the concerns that I raised about the timing of the application. But let me say, in reflecting on the minutes which I read last night, the overarching concern that I had wasn't necessarily the timing. It was the lack of information that we had at the time. You admittedly, not through any fault of your own, were put in a position a few months ago and took a lot on your plate. Believe me, every single one of us understands that. But what was

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happening is that we were being asked to make a decision for the Allen County taxpayers that I represent and on less than your best effort. That was not acceptable to me. I am not going to make a decision on half of the information that you think you could have developed, to support the application. That was the major concern that I raised. I have read your supplemental report. I appreciate it and am thrilled that we have Fort Wayne Oncology and Hematology, in our community, to treat the people that need that. I see, in looking at the statistics, that this is an area of growth and you are bringing folks in under unfortunate circumstances. So that we understand each other, I am not going to get hung up on the technicality of the timing of it. I think it is a legitimate question to ask, would you have done it anyway? Overall, my concerns were based on your acknowledgement, a very candid acknowledgement, that it wasn't presented in the way that you had hoped was a reflection of your efforts and abilities because the circumstances were outside of your control and now we have received your supplemental submission of information, with respect to the potential job growth and I am fully supportive of the abatement.

**Dan Konow:** Thanks and if I recall, you mentioned that to me about not having the information ahead of time and I said that I agreed but had I understood the process much better, I would have delayed that meeting until today instead. I felt that I was under the gun to get this in as soon as we could. But I did enjoy it so much the last time that I wanted to come back.

**Cal Miller:** Some of the physicians that are a part of Fort Wayne Oncology and Hematology are here with you. Why don't you introduce them?

**Dan Konow:** Yes, this is Dr. Steve Rinehart and Dr. Kalapala.

**Cal Miller:** Thank you, to all of you, for coming. It is not a reflection on you and we understand the situation. We have asked for the full and complete picture that you could present and from one person's perspective, it was a persuasive presentation and information with respect to the worthiness of the economic abatement.

**Paul Moss:** Councilman Buskirk?

**Roy Buskirk:** Your projection, through 2018, is for the possibility of five additional physicians plus staff. The current building that is being constructed, will that house those people or will there have to be additions to that?

**Dan Konow:** We actually have 48,000 square feet in the new building and we are only occupying 25,000 of it. There are about 3,000 that's not fitted out yet. Parkview has said that if we need space, they would be willing to move out of the space that we are leasing to them.

**Roy Buskirk:** So, part of the current building that is being constructed, is being leased to Parkview.

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**Dan Konow:** Yes, it is.

**Paul Moss:** Councilwoman Hughes?

**Paula Hughes:** I also wanted to go on the record and clarify my position because I have had time to think about it a little more over the past month and particularly in the tax abatement meeting this week. It boils down to a couple of things, for me. Again, this is not directly your fault but I am bothered by your advisors, the CPA firm that was advising you in this process. There was, to me, it seems to me a flagrant disregard for Council's policies. We have invited that disregard by our lax attitude towards the policy. This is the project that is grinding that to the halt. We are saying no more of this. I want to send a very clear message to the CPA firms that this is not acceptable anymore. That doesn't mean that you should be penalized because we have invited that attitude. I have a concern with relocation from one part of the community to another particularly from an area, and you are one application of two, that could be considered a weaker part of the community to one of the new and improved parts of the community. I am not sure that I want to be a part of encouraging that. Again, that is just one of those details but again, I will not feel comfortable penalizing your application for that because we have not set a policy on it. As we are ongoing in our discussions and until we come to consensus as a Council, I don't think it is fair to do that. Those are the hesitations that I have in this. But generally, I think it is an advantage, to our community, to have you here. The work that your company does is invaluable. I just needed to express that because I am very bothered by those two things.

**Dan Konow:** If it is any consolation, I don't really think that the area that we are leaving is undesirable. It is a great building and the Health Department is looking at it as potentially occupying it. There is an overall negative perception in the community that everything is going to vacate and there will be a big vacuum sound. There may be some initially but I think it will build back up.

**Paula Hughes:** I hope you are correct. As a resident of that area and the Councilperson representing it, I hope you're correct.

**Paul Moss:** One of the things that the tax abatement committee discussed is the issue of relocation within Allen County and that is going to be the most difficult thing for us to look at in terms of do we provide abatements for an entity that is simply moving from one location to another. I think the focus is going to have to be is there growth and what are the mitigating circumstances associated with that? That is going to be a work in progress but quite frankly, I think we need to put folks on notice particularly in the area of East State that we are referring to now. The rules may change a little bit because there is going to be substantial movement out there as a result of the new facilities being built. We need to be aware of that. The folks that are out there, with potential and pending abatement requests, need to be aware of that. Those that are serving those entities, that are planning to make those requests need to

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be aware that the rules are going to be changing. Having said that, are there any other questions? Councilwoman Johnson?

**Maye Johnson:** I want to add my comments. I expressed my concerns about the lack of jobs and the relocation issue, also. But as a resident of a neighborhood very close to that area, I am concerned and eager to welcome the relocation of medical services that will really serve the core of the city. My objectives came from my concern for lack of a consistent policy. The subcommittee meeting that we had last week, I feel it was very productive. I think it will better serve everyone in the community when we nail down some basic formulas. I am thinking more favorably of the project, at this point.

**Paul Moss:** Thank you for those comments. Seeing no other comments, would someone like to put forth a motion?

**Paula Hughes:** Move for approval of a statement of benefits for Feenix LLC/Fort Wayne Medical Oncology and Hematology located at 11143 Parkview Plaza Drive.

**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 6-0-1 (Vogt abstained).** We appreciate you enduring this enjoyable process.

**Cal Miller:** Thank you, Mr. Konow. Thank you very much.

**Paul Moss:** Okay, Ashley, do you want to just stay here for today?

**Ashley Steenman:** Not really. One Resource Group, which provides insurance brokerage services, has outgrown their current facility and anticipates building their new corporate headquarters in Silverado Industrial Park. They will be the second resident of our Shovel Ready Site. They will be investing \$3.5 million in their new building and about \$300,000 in new information technology equipment. They currently employ 46 individuals and will increase their workforce by about 65% by adding an additional 30. They are eligible for a ten-year abatement of real property taxes and five-year abatement for personal property. I will turn it over to Andrea Baumer to tell you a little more about the project.

**Andrea Baumer:** Good morning everyone. I will explain what we do. We are an insurance brokerage firm and we service agents nationwide. We are mobile and currently lease our space. The incentive really will keep us here. That is the biggest incentive for us. We could go anywhere but we want to keep us here. We service over 10,000 agents nationwide. We do all of our service via internet and telephone. Like I said, we could be mobile. We really need to go to a bigger building because we are pretty much on top of each other now. We currently have about 11,000 square feet. The 28,000 would definitely give us room to grow. We currently are getting a

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lot of our employees from Waterfield. They are the employees that lost their jobs. Do you have any additional questions?

**Paul Moss:** I suspect that we probably will. Are there any questions? Councilman Vogt?

**Darren Vogt:** I just have one. In your submission, you have two management, 25 supervision and three clerical. Help me understand what your definition of supervision is.

**Andrea Baumer:** There was no job description for case management. Those are probably 30 to 40% of our jobs. They really aren't management positions but those positions actually handle our cases and deal with our agents. They aren't technically management but there was no classification for those positions.

**Darren Vogt:** I know what they are but I wanted you to explain it.

**Paul Moss:** That is substantial growth. What do you attribute the need for that growth to?

**Andrea Baumer:** I think a lot of it comes from being ahead of the game on technology. We have put a lot of money in technology which puts us ahead on service. We don't do any advertising so our business comes from referrals. Our biggest challenge has been from managing our growth. There have been times that we have had to tell groups that we will bring them on three months from now just because we don't have the employees in place. It is kind of a good problem to have.

**Paul Moss:** As a part of the process and this is a general question, I assume that you explain to folks, as they are going through the application, the process that we have of verifying the growth and employment and things of that nature. Do you feel that you fully understand that and how that process works?

**Andrea Baumer:** Yes.

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

**Patt Kite:** I move for approval of a resolution approving a Statement of Benefits for One Resource Group located in the 13000 block of Zubrick Road.

**Darren Vogt:** Second.

**Paul Moss:** **We have a motion and a second. All in favor please signify by saying aye. All opposed same sign. The motion carries 7-0.** Thank for your time.

**Cal Miller:** Thank you for your investment in the community. Good luck.

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**Cheryl Hitzeman:** Just a quick question. When is the public hearing on the tax abatements?

**Paula Hughes:** There are not public hearings on tax abatements.

**Ashley Steenman:** The public is not allowed to speak. It is up to your discretion.

**Paul Moss:** Which abatement are you interested in?

**Cheryl Hitzeman:** I want to comment on the one that you just approved.

**Paul Moss:** Okay. I am sorry. It would have been nice to know that, I guess but that is not your fault.

**Cheryl Hitzeman:** I am Cheryl Hitzeman. Some of you have seen me before. I was glad to hear that you have a subcommittee that is working on tax abatements. The concerns that you were talking about were the exact concerns that I had when I saw this tax abatement in the paper. With millions of dollars going into the downtown right now, because it is a poor area and needs revitalized, to reward a company for moving out of the downtown, just did not make sense to me. I think it is a good company and we should encourage them. There should maybe be some other incentives to be given to them and help them find a place downtown. But to pay them to go to a place, that actually a factory would probably be better out there, because you couldn't put a factory downtown but you could put an office downtown. There is certainly a lot of office space that is empty downtown. That was my concern. It was somewhat a similar concern with the medical group because of the exodus from the city to the suburbs. I saw Dr. Rinehart here and he is a wonderful physician. He has been treating my mother for over a year and a half now. I understand the importance and value of what they do but I also understand that their customer base is here. They are not going to leave the area. It is just the merry-go-round of tax abatements and robbing Peter to pay Paul. That is my concern and I am happy to hear that you are talking about it. Is there a schedule of these committee meetings?

**Paula Hughes:** These meetings are public meetings but they are not necessarily scheduled for public input but that is not a bad idea to make one a public hearing. I think you heard that I share those concerns very strongly. In the tax abatement subcommittee meeting we talked about and probably should have brought some of that conversation forward, particularly the One Resource application. That is a company that could truly be anywhere in the country.

**Cheryl Hitzeman:** Except for their pool of employees. They do seem to value drawing from here.

**Paula Hughes:** True. There is a real balance to be had in encouraging that type of company. I will say that I disagree with a more strict manufacturing description for

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an industrial park because the per-employee wage for a company, like One Resource, far exceeds a per-person wage for a manufacturing company.

**Cheryl Hitzeman:** It just seems a waste of available space for a factory and put an office in there.

**Paula Hughes:** It does but our economy is changing and we have a lot of farmland available. I am not as concerned about available land for manufacturing sites. I think that when we have interested parties coming for manufacturing, we will find room for them. We are not running out of that space. I do appreciate your comments.

**Cheryl Hitzeman:** Just for the future, for tax abatements, there are never any public hearings?

**Ashley Steenman:** You are not required to have a public hearing and I don't know that we have to give public notice of it.

**Paul Moss:** I have no problem just getting in the habit of whenever there is an abatement asking the general question if there is anyone from the public to comment.

**Cheryl Hitzeman:** It is difficult at 8:30 in the morning because most people aren't available.

**Paul Moss:** I do have one question. Do you live in the downtown area?

**Cheryl Hitzeman:** No, I actually live in northeast Fort Wayne. I live where the medical offices are leaving and I have had that discussion with Dr. Rinehart.

**Paul Moss:** Do you believe that people should have the right to choose where they live?

**Roy Buskirk:** Where they work.

**Paul Moss:** And where they work? This is kind of a rhetorical question.

**Cheryl Hitzeman:** Uh huh. When I move, I am not going to ask for a subsidy.

**Paul Moss:** That is a very good response. Don't get me wrong, I think we should try to encourage investment in the downtown area, to a certain extent. But as Councilwoman Hughes mentioned, very appropriately, it is a tough balance. That is one of the key things that we are going to look at.

**Cheryl Hitzeman:** And that is another thing with abatements, you should be able to give them alternatives. That may be a broader discussion for economic development.

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**Cal Miller:** I would like to add something. One of the things that didn't come out in the discussion with One Resource is that, what I understand about their business is that they can do that anywhere but they are drawing from a very rich pool of talent that suits their needs in terms of positioning and compiling information to take the insurance policy applicants as a brokerage function and then they go out and shop at the different insurance companies to get those the best rate. I understand that aspect of it. What didn't come out, and I think would be affirmatively responded to by Andrea Baumer and Todd Stewart, is the proximity to the airport. When you have a business like that and people coming in, it is very important. It is much like it is to their competitor, Ash Brokerage who happens to be right off 24 by Casa and exit 102. In my mind, although unspoken in this meeting, certainly have concerns about companies leaving the downtown area. What I understood, about the nature of their business, is being close to the airport with respect to traffic coming in and out. It doesn't have anything to do with downtown. It would have been nice to know what your concerns were before but that is a failing of this Council and we should have known. The next time you want to come, talk to Becky and she can get you on the agenda. She works for Auditor Blosser. Then we can ask more questions and probe a little deeper to address some of your concerns. Your comments are greatly appreciated.

**Cheryl Hitzeman:** I will check the website to see if there is a list of the meeting dates for the subcommittee.

**Paul Moss:** I think that we have the next one scheduled, do we not?

**Darren Vogt:** On Monday, August 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:00.

**Paul Moss:** You are welcome to join us.

**Cheryl Hitzeman:** 1:00 here?

**Paul Moss:** No, not here.

**Cheryl Hitzeman:** Thank you very much.

**Paul Moss:** Thank you. Okay, I think you are officially done.

**Paula Hughes:** One other comment. Something that came up in the tax abatement subcommittee was the method for distributing information about abatements to the Council members. I wanted to make the full Council aware that we talked about it in the committee and the committee preliminarily agreed that we would prefer and it would be more than acceptable to have the information emailed to us ahead of time. Then for basic level, print copies inserted in the binders that we have on the day of the meeting.

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**Paul Moss:** Okay, we are moving on to the appropriations in the General Fund. Item one is Countywide Expense, Group Insurance. I don't know who would have this one, Judy?

**Lisa Blosser:** That's mine. At the pre-allocation meeting in June, \$1.5 million was earmarked for the Health Self-Insurance Fund. In 2007, we experienced our highest health insurance cost of \$12.3 million. That was a 37% increase over our five year average. Since we are self-funded, I think that we should maintain a reserve amount in the fund to cushion the affects of the high years. This appropriation is recommended to replenish that fund reserve balance.

**Paul Moss:** The overall claims expense is what, 25% over prior year?

**Lisa Blosser:** It is up 37%.

**Paul Moss:** That is something that I think folks, particularly in the viewing audience, need to be aware of. That is a significant issue, obviously. I participated in a meeting with the Commissioners and the Auditor, talking about this issue. I think it would probably be wise, and Judy if you don't mind communicating this to the Commissioners, at some point we are going to have to have a formal discussion and idea of what the Commissioners are proposing to do to try to address that. One of the things that occurred over the past couple of years, as you recall, is that we implemented an employee health clinic. While that is certainly a really nice employee benefit, I don't deny that for a second, there were some assertions at the time, in terms of savings and reductions in the overall healthcare claims which clearly has not come true, as some of us predicted, at the time. I think we need to have a fairly comprehensive discussion about what we are going to do. Whether it is benefit changes, looking at the employee clinic and we are getting close to the time where we are going to be having open enrollment. I would ask that the Commissioners have some internal discussions and I would be happy to participate in those as well. Then come to us and say what they are looking at doing and here is what the hoped for impact is of that.

**Darren Vogt:** Move for approval of item one in the amount of \$1,576,714.

**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.** Item two and three is from County Council to Human Resources. I am not familiar with this.

**Brian Dumford:** I am Brian Dumford, Director of Human Resources. In the 2009 budget paperwork, that we had to turn in, Human Resources had requested a new copy machine. The copy machine that we currently have has reached its suggested life by the manufacturer. It is a hand-me-down from another department. We got it from the Commissioners. We have had over a dozen service calls since the first of the

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year. We're putting it through its paces and it is looking like it is costing us more than we need to expend. I put that in the 2009 budget request and in the discussions through that, it was suggested that I request it this year. I have submitted analysis of two different copiers. I brought that again and if anyone wants to see it, I can give you a copy of it. I contacted Purchasing and got the information on two different models of copiers. We are currently running about an 80,000 click per year average. I guess a click is the turn of the drum or a sheet or whatever. The two copiers that they had on contract were a 60,000 click and a 120,000 click. I am right in the middle of the two levels. I analyzed the smaller and the larger copiers and they are based on a per click basis. I found out that it is more cost effective, from a purchase standpoint, to purchase the larger copier. They will both have the exact same maintenance cost. We are going on a comprehensive, per click maintenance cost of .7 cents per click. That includes toner and maintenance. That was a better deal than going with just a per click maintenance cost and buying the toner cartridges separately. Using that information and looking at the features, it was more cost effective to buy the larger machine. It is more of a business class type machine than the small one. I am requesting \$3,800 to purchase this copier.

**Paul Moss:** For those that aren't aware, this is always my favorite topic. Anyone want to go look at the copier, at this point?

**Roy Buskirk:** I appreciate you saving money for the County by purchasing instead of leasing.

**Brian Dumford:** Thank you, I think.

**Paula Hughes:** My question is, didn't we approve a new copier for the office when it was up here?

**Brian Dumford:** The one that we have is the one that we have had for about four years.

**Paula Hughes:** This is the only copy machine that you have been using since you were adjacent to the Commissioners' Office?

**Brian Dumford:** Yes.

**Paula Hughes:** Okay.

**Brian Dumford:** One thing too is that I talked to the County Print Shop and now that we have it broken down on a per click cost, we will be able to better judge what jobs to send downstairs and what jobs to keep in our office.

**Roy Buskirk:** Will you check the maintenance contract each year to make sure it is in line with the copies that you are actually running?

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**Brian Dumford:** We are charged on the basis of per clicks that we do. We have to report the pages that we do and that is how they figure our bill. It is not a flat maintenance contract.

**Paul Moss:** Hopefully there is no further discussion but I have to offer.

**Darren Vogt:** move for approval of Item 2 and 3 in the amount of \$3,800.

**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.** Circuit Court, Mr. Miller, how are you?

**Tim Miller:** I am doing well, thank you. I am Tim Miller with Circuit Court. This is the annual increase for the Judicial Officer that is in the Title 4D Paternity Court. They follow the judges pay and is effective July 1<sup>st</sup>. We always have to do this in the middle of the summer. This request reflects that increase.

**Cal Miller:** That increase is established by State Law as some portion of the judge's salary?

**Tim Miller:** Yes.

**Paula Hughes:** Is that increase reflected in your 2009 budget?

**Tim Miller:** Yes.

**Roy Buskirk:** This salary is reimbursed two-thirds, I believe I read?

**Tim Miller:** That is correct.

**Darren Vogt:** Move for approval of the amended salary ordinance setting the pay for the employee within the budget of Circuit Court 100-6102-412, Judicial Officer in the amount of \$104,518 effective July 1, 2008.

**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.**

**Roy Buskirk:** Additional comment on that is the fact that this is a situation again where the State is setting the salaries and we have to pay for it. Same thing in which this last week, all of you received a letter from the State on the Public Defender Commission in which the County was reimbursed for 60%, I'm sorry, we were reimbursed 40% from the State. What is amazing to me is the 64 days that the Courts

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were open the first quarter of this year, it cost us \$7,279.67 per day for Public Defenders. I guess that is a sign of the times.

**Tim Miller:** I can't argue with that statement.

**Darren Vogt:** We also need approval of the appropriation. Item 4 is an appropriation for Judicial Officer in the amount of \$2,622.

**Patt Kite:** Is that a motion?

**Darren Vogt:** Yes.

**Patt Kite:** I will second it.

**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, CASA is next.

**Rex McFarren:** Good morning, Rex McFarren, Director of Allen County CASA Program. I am here to request the Council appropriate the \$24,799 of our State grant money that is considered leftover money that is not distributed the first time around, at the beginning of the year. Our goal is to use it for a public relations campaign. \$7,563 is for print, radio and television in trying to recruit additional volunteers. It is really getting hard with the cost of gas and what we ask people to do. We are going to see what kind of impact that will have on a recruitment campaign. This year, we did a spring training and had eight volunteers and there will be a summer training session for the first time in fifteen years. We will have thirteen going through there and we will have a fall training session. We are hoping that this late summer PR campaign will have a positive impact. Since 2006, the number of new cases that our program has received from the court has tripled from the number of new cases that we had received in 2000. In 2007, we broke that record and we are on pace to break the 2007 record. We are desperately trying to recruit more volunteers due to the number of kids coming into the court system. It is cheaper than using paid attorneys. We are looking for equipment at \$9,490. We want to purchase two scanners. One is the heavy duty scanner. We have a closet that has five file cabinets and the other side of the wall is filled with boxes and closed cases. We want to be able to scan that information onto discs so that we can save them and then destroy the public records. Right now, that closet is a walk-in closet that is completely full and we are now storing boxes in my secretary's office. If you destroy cases, which we did the first few years, after the time limit is allowed, invariably you wind up getting the same case back in and you have lost all of that information. There is a heavy duty scanner and one for the office so that we can start using the Quest program that the court has and actually submit our forms and information directly from our office which will put it into the scanner and into Quest and will save driving time, gas money and mileage money. There is a \$250 maintenance and training fee on the scanners. Contractual services are for a part-time person to be a subcontractor just to do the scanning. It is

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going to take numerous months to scan from 1994 to the present. So that is our request for today.

**Paul Moss:** Councilman Vogt?

**Darren Vogt:** Since you have the public forum, what kind of volunteers do you look for?

**Rex McFarren:** They must be 21 years of age, for liability issues and confidentiality issues. They need to be emotionally stable and care about children. They need to be willing to undergo a criminal and welfare check, thirty hours of initial training and then provide volunteer professional level social work under the direction of four professional staff. You don't have to be a social worker.

**Paul Moss:** Council is there any other questions on this issue?

**Cal Miller:** Mr. McFarren, with respect to the heavy duty scanning and the scanning project, have you considered outsourcing the project just to get the closet cleaned up and then having the smaller scanner going forward?

**Rex McFarren:** Yes and we had a price of \$27,000. It would have eaten up the entire amount and more of the State money and we wouldn't have had any money left for the recruitment aspect.

**Cal Miller:** Did you mention that in your submittal and I just didn't see it. If you didn't, that's fine.

**Rex McFarren:** No I didn't submit that part.

**Cal Miller:** All right, not a problem. I figured that you had gone through that analysis and just wanted to confirm it. It wasn't a criticism, it was just more of me saying that if you submitted it, I didn't read it. I just wanted to make sure that that angle was covered.

**Darren Vogt:** You may want to keep those scanners available for other court people because I know they are always looking for high speed scanners.

**Rex McFarren:** Okay.

**Paul Moss:** Any further questions?

**Cal Miller:** Move for approval of Items five through seven for CASA.

**Paula Hughes:** Second.

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**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.**

**Chris Dunn:** Good morning, Chris Dunn with Youth Services Center. I am coming to request approval to use 737 funds to purchase a biometric clock with time and attendance system for \$5,499. We currently have three different time clocks on our grounds and used by roughly forty members. Our main time clock was purchased in 1992 and is relatively old. It struggles to keep the time and so we are constantly adjusting it to keep up. We have three different types of time cards that are used by the staff. I have been working very closely with Mr. Miller from Circuit Court with regard to this system. We think it will resolve a lot of our issues. We are excited about going paperless.

**Paula Hughes:** I heard about this in Data Board yesterday. Circuit Court has implemented it and they are looking at doing this countywide.

**Lisa Blosser:** Right. That would be my recommendation.

**Cal Miller:** Do you clock in by virtue of getting on your pc?

**Chris Dunn:** No, we are going to use the fingerprint. I don't want excuses and first of all, we don't have a pc for everyone and I don't want to come back and ask for that. I also don't want excuses that the computers are down, people can't forget something or lose something. Using the fingerprint solves a lot of our problems.

**Paul Moss:** I hope that the County does pursue that countywide. I know at our facilities, we just have our id badges to swipe.

**Chris Dunn:** If people forget them or lose them...

**Paul Moss:** They learn if it affects their paycheck. Are there any other questions on this?

**Darren Vogt:** Move for approval of Item 8 in the amount of \$5,499.

**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.**

**Chris Dunn:** Thank you.

**Paul Moss:** Okay, salary ordinance, two for the Board of Health. These are the ones that went through the Personnel Committee and we should have gone through the Personnel Committee report. If it is okay, Mindy, could you stay there for a minute?

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Mr. Buskirk, would you care to zip through the Personnel Committee report that would be wonderful.

**Roy Buskirk:** I think most of you received an email regarding the minutes on the Personnel meeting. The Board of Health came before us and they are eliminating a laboratory director position and they are having an assistant director added to Vector Control. Also, the Plan Reviewer and Swim Program Supervisor and those are the two that are on the agenda for today. They were approved by the Personnel Committee. The other item that was discussed was the merit compensation study that is going on. It is very close to being completed, thanks in part to the Auditor's Office providing two additional interns. So now there has been four interns gathering info and assisting Brian on that project.

**Paul Moss:** The only thing that I would add to that is that I don't know that I would describe that as a discussion about the merit compensation but more of a postponement. Do you have any comments on this, Mindy?

**Mindy Waldron:** Not on the first one. The second one is not something that went to the Personnel Committee. The first one is a request for an amendment.

**Paul Moss:** Are there any questions on these salary ordinances?

**Darren Vogt:** Can you tell me what new duties are going on within these to make them adjust?

**Mindy Waldron:** Sure. It is just the one position because we don't have the second one on the agenda because we are putting that one in the 2009 budget. The first one that you have on the agenda is what we have done is a very small reorganization within a couple of our environmental sections, to eliminate a full-time position. By doing that, we have separated our environmental lab and clinical lab which will still continue, but the duties were spread amongst two other people. These are existing people that have existing duties in the lab and we are elevating them to supervisory level. They are not division directors. One will continue as our lab tech but will also be considered, for lack of a better term, Lab Director for the clinical end. The one that we have on the agenda today for the current Plan Review person in the Pollution Control Division, is also the Swimming Program Supervisor, and will now be the Environmental Lab Supervisor. That is a lot of titles and a lot of duties but what it means is that we have dwindled what we do in our environmental lab portion of our department because we don't hold the Northeast Indiana Milk contract any longer. All we have done in the last year has been collecting water samples environmental ditch samples and those types of things. We have discontinued doing the potable water samples because we can't afford to keep that operating when it is not a mandated service. By eliminating the full-time position who had taken over those duties, we are distributing the remaining duties among two people. One of those is the request today.

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**Roy Buskirk:** You just mentioned something there and I am always concerned that different departments of the County are working together and hopefully you are aware that that Soil and Water District does pull a lot of samples as far as ditches.

**Mindy Waldron:** Yes. Our data is shared amongst the two entities. Our ditch samples are concentrated mainly where we have failing septic systems in a congregate area where we, for the last five or six years, have been pulling consistent data to show some reduction in some of the pollution that does occur.

**Roy Buskirk:** Thank you.

**Darren Vogt:** I have a question related to that then. Would you say that when sewers do go into an area where there are currently failing septic systems and it is pretty clear that there is some pollution runoff that there are some savings there?

**Mindy Waldron:** Absolutely. There is also the lessening of the potential for West Nile Virus because that is where those mosquitoes like to head. There is a lot of trickling affects to upgrading a system and/or installing sewers to an area.

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

**Paul Moss:** Any other questions or comments for Ms. Waldron, on this?

**Darren Vogt:** Move for approval of consideration of an amended salary ordinance reclassifying a position within the budget of the Department of Health 285-7301-441 Plan Reviewer/Swim Program Supervisor from PAT 4 to PAT 5 in the amount of \$49,334.

**Roy Buskirk:** Second.

**Cal Miller:** Hold on, we do have an effective date.

**Darren Vogt:** We do have an effective date of August 4, 2008.

**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.**

**Darren Vogt:** There is one for Extra Deputy Hire?

**Mindy Waldron:** Yes, within our Allen County On-Site Waste Water Management District, we have created a part-time technician position to do some of the inspections for the new experimental and discharging septic systems. This will be a part-time position but we needed to extend the amount for Extra Deputy Hire range for future hires. Right now we just need a part-time person. We do not currently have a salary ordinance for that position.

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**Cal Miller:** What about the complexity of that position, up to \$30 per hour, what is it about that range and position that you want the top end to be \$30 per hour?

**Mindy Waldron:** Sure. If, in the next few years, we are able to or there is a need for an environmental health specialist, those are usually between PAT 4 and PAT 5. Depending on where they come in, or their longevity, we wanted to ensure that we could cover that at any time. The upper end is usually the environmental people.

**Cal Miller:** What are they doing, just testing the water?

**Mindy Waldron:** No, these are actual inspections for new types of environmental or experimental septic systems. The reason that the Commissioners had to create the district was so that Allen County, and if I do recall correctly the only county in the State of Indiana that has such a district, that allows discharging septic systems as an alternative to sites where they need to do a repair and that site is not large enough to accommodate another site. Usually that means eviction. This gives us the opportunity to provide a different type of treatment, a little more expensive, but they can opt to do that to remain in the home. The creation of the district allowed us to, through IDEM and EPA there are certain testing requirements, perform a lot of those duties. It is an upper end of inspection to a new type of system.

**Cal Miller:** So, the greater complexity with these systems would warrant more degree of training and understanding of the system. I just wanted to understand the \$30 range.

**Mindy Waldron:** And again, we are just hiring a part-time technician for now but it would be equivalent to some of the Bachelor Degreed registered environmental health specialist type positions that we currently have as septic inspectors. We might have to increase that as the number of systems come into the district and increase over the years.

**Roy Buskirk:** That is not the range of salary for inspectors, is it?

**Mindy Waldron:** No, do you want to explain it any differently than I might be? This is Extra Deputy Hire.

**Lisa Blosser:** This is for part-time hire.

**Roy Buskirk:** Currently, I am involved with a couple of complaints on people having to pay inspection fees. Some systems have to be inspected every year, some every two years and some every three years. Correct?

**Mindy Waldron:** Yes.

**Roy Buskirk:** And are all of the fees \$150?

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**Mindy Waldron:** No.

**Roy Buskirk:** It varies on the number of years?

**Mindy Waldron:** Yes but most of the time it is spread out over the one, two and three year type systems. I did bring that in case there was a question. I can look that up, if you like. I can't tell you, off the top of my head, the three ranges. It is between \$100 and \$150. The \$150 would be like a gravity type system.

**Roy Buskirk:** That is correct, for three years.

**Cal Miller:** Are these systems whose frequency has to be monitored in one to three years because they have been labeled as troubled or failing in some way?

**Mindy Waldron:** No, not at all.

**Cal Miller:** I have a septic system and believe me, I am not inviting an inspection of it but do all of them get tested or inspected?

**Mindy Waldron:** No they don't. As a new system goes into the County now and/or you repair a system, you become a member of this district. We perform the inspections for you. Current systems that are already in the ground, that we have not received complaints on, those remain somewhat grandfathered. Those stay as they are until there is a change. There is no requirement on the change of ownership, for that.

**Cal Miller:** So this is a plan and it is implemented going forward because all of the grandfathered systems are going to fail, at some point, or they are going to do something that will require them to do a new septic or update their septic and then they will fall within the scheduled systems.

**Mindy Waldron:** That is correct and I will add one thing to that. Part of what we have found on going out and monitoring each of these new types of systems, over 80% of them have some sort of issue where we have been able to intervene and have it corrected after one or three years of having a system in the ground versus letting it fail and you have to pay \$15,000 to \$20,000 to put in a new one. There is something to be said for having the maintenance and inspections that we do that are proactive for the homeowner. I also receive the complaints about a new fee but in the end, it will all work out and it is a proactive thing that we hope will extend the life of septic systems that have to remain in the ground and may never become sewers.

**Roy Buskirk:** Adding to that, I have been getting a real education in the last week and a half, is that with a new system put in, the distribution box, which disburses the fluid to different laterals settles. It is not level and the distribution is not going to all of the laterals and it causes it to plug. The other item is that the bacteria are not

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working well and you have the septic tanks fill up. Is that more than you wanted to know?

**Paul Moss:** This is a riveting subject.

**Darren Vogt:** Move for approval of consideration of amending the range in pay within the budget of the Department of Health 790-7320-441 Extra Deputy Hire \$10 to \$30 an hour.

**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. Your grant request was withdrawn so the Sheriff has a grant request for the Operation Pull Over Seat Belt grant.

**Brian Knuth:** Lieutenant Brian Knuth, Sheriff's Department.

**Lin Wilson:** Lin Wilson, Allen County Grant Administrator.

**Brian Knuth:** We are here to ask if we can renew the seatbelt enforcement grant for next year. It has been an ongoing grant for a number of years. Just to give you an idea of where we are at, when I took over the program in 2003, the usage rate was around 69% to 70%. It is now up to about 93%. That is a dramatic increase. What we have really seen, since they changed the State law last year is that the reduction in fatalities has been tremendous. The purpose of this grant is from July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup> and they have been steadily dropping. Last year we had fourteen fatalities and this current grant year, we had nine. I have never, in my career, seen it drop below ten. It use to run eighteen to twenty a year. I think it has been a tremendous advantage there. We have also made other numerous arrests, 29 criminal arrests, 16 DUI arrests and those were daytime seatbelt enforcement. They were stopped for seatbelt and they were drunk. Fifty-six suspended drivers so far this year. We also respond to other calls for service. Those officers are doing those reports technically on seatbelt time. I know that in the past we have talked about revenue and cost and all of this good stuff but to give you a general idea, seatbelt tickets are being put on pre-trial diversion, \$15 a ticket. The Prosecutor's Office estimates that 80% of all tickets go to pre-trial diversion. My calculations are 50% of the seatbelt tickets are going to pre-trial diversion. So far, this year, we would have generated approximately \$19,000. Next year, basing it on the same number of hours, the grant minimum requires 1.5 seatbelt tickets per hour. Right now, we average 2.3 and have averaged over two for four or five years. Even with that, at 1.5, we generate about \$16,500 in revenue. That does not include any pre-trial diversion money that comes from speeding tickets or other traffic violations. Right now we are projected to drive a little over 11,000 but we actually have driven over 8,000 miles. We track our miles and the average gas usage, in those cars, is 12.78 for the department. When I look at just the people working the program, their average usage is 14. That is because of the job and what

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they do for the department. We will run about 883 gallons. As of May, it was \$3.32 a gallon so we will burn about \$2,900 in fuel. Next year, if I say that we drive 10 miles in an hour, right now it is about 7.6, if the mpg dropped to 11 miles per gallon, we would burn about 1,300 gallons. This is not really costing the County. Councilman Buskirk has expressed concern before about the workload this puts on the courts. Just to give you an idea, so far this year, we have spent just a little over \$50,000 in all of our arrests combined and we have 2,800 arrests. To give you a comparison of where that workload is coming from, the City of Fort Wayne has spend \$277,000 in grant money and over 11,000 arrests. They put a lot of their money into DUI enforcement which puts a tremendous burden on the courts. The money that we are talking about is awarded regionally. In our region, it is pretty much us and the City of Fort Wayne.

**Paula Hughes:** The bottom line is that it is making the community safer.

**Brian Knuth:** I think so because when we got down to nine fatalities, I couldn't believe it because I had never seen that. I have been a fatal investigator for a number of years and eighteen to twenty was the norm.

**Darren Vogt:** There are a lot of other mitigating circumstances besides that.

**Paul Moss:** It is not a one-to-one relationship. I don't believe you are stating that it is a one-to-one relationship between increased seatbelt use and lower fatalities.

**Brian Knuth:** Well, NHTSA will tell you that it is. Statewide, NHTSA predicts every one percent rise in seatbelt usage will save ten lives.

**Cal Miller:** What does that stand for?

**Brian Knuth:** National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration. The big change was the pickup truck law. The usage rate used to be a lot lower than cars but since they passed that law and with increased enforcement, that usage rate has gone up. That is where, in previous years, we had a lot of fatalities because they were ejected from the pickup trucks. I just had one two weeks ago that was a pickup at 55 mph and ran into the rear of another pickup truck and he almost walked away with minor injuries. He had his seatbelt on and if not, he would have gone through the windshield.

**Paul Moss:** I have some familiarity with the pre-trial diversion program. Are you sure that it is fifteen dollars? I thought it was \$25.

**Brian Knuth:** The last time that they told me, it was \$15. If they raised it, I am not aware of that.

**Paul Moss:** The grant money, is that mostly overtime money?

**Brian Knuth:** It is all overtime.

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**Paul Moss:** Wouldn't it be more efficient to figure out a way to not do it on overtime? What I am getting at here, and I am just generalizing, is that it seems to me that a lot of this grant money, yeah it generates some revenue and I think it is extremely frustrating if any municipality does look at seatbelt enforcement or general traffic violations as a revenue generator. I have a philosophical issue with that. From what I understand, a vast majority of this is utilized as overtime. Given the fact that the officers have base salaries that aren't as good as they should be, they kind of count on this additional overtime. It starts to feel like it is an opportunity to provide some overtime work for some officers but it also feels like it is not the most efficient way to do it. If it wasn't done on an overtime basis, we would get more time spent doing the enforcement.

**Brian Knuth:** The grant is from NHTSA and it specifically states that it is to be paid for officers to work overtime for this type of enforcement. We combine two grants, Operation Pull Over, which is done in blitzes, and Big City Big County which is done throughout the year. Those two are primarily seatbelt enforcements. I usually work seatbelt because that is what I am here for. The NHTSA grants are specifically to pay officers overtime.

**Paul Moss:** I just view that as a flaw. Not a flaw with you but with the grant process. I don't know why they would insist on overtime because that clearly increases the cost dramatically. I would also say that given the discussions about the helmet laws and things of that nature, personal liberty still is important to some people. Certainly to me. What's next? Are we going to have cell phone grants too? Is it your opinion that cell phone usage while driving is a significantly dangerous thing to do and causes accidents?

**Brian Knuth:** It does. People get so caught up in their conversation that they are not paying attention.

**Patt Kite:** Comment.

**Paul Moss:** My point, and then I will shut up, is that where does this stop? The nanny state, and there are plenty of bureaucrats that are encouraging this, is frustrating. I don't know where it is going to stop.

**Patt Kite:** One traffic fatality, here in Allen County last year, was in fact was caused by a person on a cell phone who ran a red light and hit another car and killed the lady who was driving the other car.

**Paul Moss:** I don't doubt that for a minute. Councilman Miller?

**Cal Miller:** Three things. One, as I recall, one of the first years I was on Council, there was a discussion about the cost of doing this versus the benefits. I didn't take your presentation of the numbers and the generation of revenues to be the reason why you were interested in doing this. I understood that as you were just justifying

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that it essentially pays for itself and there are other benefits in terms of saving lives that you believe to be the more important factors. Am I stating your position correctly?

**Brian Knuth:** That is correct. I knew that the Council used to have issues with that and that is why I presented that.

**Cal Miller:** I appreciate that but I wanted to make sure that President Moss was aware because that may have been the year before he was on the Council. There was a lot of discussion about wanting to see where the breakeven point was. I believe that the presentation with respect to the revenue aspect was a carryover from concerns that were raised probably six years ago when there was a lot of hub-bub about utilizing County resources.

**Paul Moss:** That is a valid point. Let me clarify real quick that I was generalizing there and almost from a national perspective but also here locally, my personal opinion is that there is a difference between what the County does and what the City does. I believe that the City spends a considerable amount of time on some of this because it is a revenue generator. I think that is wrong. I think that those enforcement efforts could be, in this case those enforcement efforts could be focused on more important issues.

**Cal Miller:** I do appreciate those points.

**Paul Moss:** Let's have an \$80,000 grant to prevent child abuse.

**Cal Miller:** I am not suggesting that your points are invalid. I just wanted to make sure, from the Lieutenant's standpoint, the history of why he was presenting the revenue end. Secondly, and most importantly, if I had Councilman Buskirk or Councilman Moss sitting in my passenger seat and they weren't wearing their seatbelts, who gets that ticket?

**Brian Knuth:** They do because they are older than sixteen. If they were under sixteen, you would get the ticket and that includes the rear seat.

**Cal Miller:** And lastly, you have indicated that the seatbelt utilization has increased to 93%.

**Brian Knuth:** Correct.

**Cal Miller:** So based on your projection of the revenue end, to support the justification that the County is not losing money by trying to undertake this enforcement and embracing the grant funds to do the work that you have done, what consideration have you given to the fact that the pool of people not wearing their seatbelt has been reduced to 7% and therefore the ability to generate the revenue to get to a breakeven point to address the concern of this being a losing proposition

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when you take away the overall arching impact of decreasing fatalities. You are going to have a smaller number of people out there to catch, aren't you?

**Brian Knuth:** That is true but I look at it the other way around. You say that seven cars out of one hundred aren't buckled in one form and you are going down the road where you have a thousand cars an hour, you now have seventy people in that hour that are not restrained.

**Cal Miller:** My point again, and I am not going to dwell too much on the number aspect, is that I am comfortable in knowing that it is not a losing proposition in terms of the grant money versus the resources of the County. The point is, have you considered what the revenue stream will be if you have fewer numbers of folks that are complying with the law?

**Brian Knuth:** That is why I said at 1.5, if we fail to achieve the 1.5, we have the money on quarterly draws, they tell us either you do it or you don't get your money and it is done. You have to at least get the 1.5. There are a lot of people out there and I don't see a problem. Until we get a lot higher, we can do a lot better than what we are doing. That sounds crazy when you are at 93% but the reality of it is that people are still dying and people are still not buckling up. I know, Mr. Moss, about personal freedom but we can discuss that at another time. I think we will stay at 2.3 or higher.

**Cal Miller:** And even at the 1.5, from the revenue and expense side, is that still a breakeven?

**Brian Knuth:** Yes. Even at 1.5, we would generate about \$16,600.

**Cal Miller:** All right, thanks.

**Paula Hughes:** Move for approval of the Sheriff's application for the Operation Pull Over Seat Belt grant.

**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. Thank you very much for answering all of those questions. I think that moves us to Other Business to Come Before Council. I am not aware of any additional business. Councilman Miller?

**Cal Miller:** I don't know if this is other business but in terms of the upcoming meetings, the three days that we have set aside, how is that shaping up and when is the appeal deadline? Are we really going to need to devote three full days?

**Lisa Blosser:** No, I don't think that we will. The appeal deadline is over and there are four departments that appealed. I can give them to you. County Extension mainly for capital type expenses and they appeal about every year.

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**Paula Hughes:** Yes, they do.

**Lisa Blosser:** Parks Department, NIRCC and the Commissioners. We are going to have the regular Council meeting first on Tuesday and I think we could possibly be done in one day.

**Cal Miller:** Can we release one day?

**Lisa Blosser:** I think you still may want to schedule two days but definitely you wouldn't go three.

**Cal Miller:** President Moss, what do you think? Could we release a day?

**Paul Moss:** What are the dates again?

**Paula Hughes:** Starting on the 12<sup>th</sup> of August.

**Lisa Blosser:** Unless you want to go late on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Paula Hughes:** Do Tuesday and Wednesday?

**Roy Buskirk:** You are talking about having a Council meeting with that?

**Lisa Blosser:** Yes, in the morning on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Paula Hughes:** Council meeting on Thursday or on Tuesday?

**Lisa Blosser:** Tuesday.

**Paul Moss:** I am perfectly content to shorten it to two days if you believe that is all we need.

**Lisa Blosser:** If you want to go late, I think we can get it down to one day.

**Paul Moss:** Do we want to cut off the Tuesday or the Thursday?

**Paula Hughes:** I much prefer Thursday.

**Cal Miller:** Cut off Thursday?

**Paula Hughes:** Yes.

**Cal Miller:** That would be my preference too.

**Darren Vogt:** Okay with me.

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**Maye Johnson:** Okay with me.

**Paula Hughes:** We will have to reschedule the Personnel Committee meeting. So we are going to do it the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Lisa Blosser:** If you are willing to go late on that Tuesday, I think you could get it done.

**Paula Hughes:** The quality of our decision making after eight hours of sitting here is not exactly stellar.

**Paul Moss:** I am returning Monday from Sturgis so I don't know how that will affect my ability to make decisions.

**Cal Miller:** So Tuesday, we are somewhat optimistic that we can get through the entire schedule but everyone needs to reserve Wednesday.

**Lisa Blosser:** Just in case.

**Paula Hughes:** Want to reserve just half a day on Wednesday?

**Darren Vogt:** I think we should just reserve the whole day. You never know what is going to come up.

**Tera Klutz:** We will get the budget books out as soon as possible. Is there any desire to have any other departments appear? The Airport and Southwest Fire District will come to get their budgets approved.

**Lisa Blosser:** Do you want Highway?

**Darren Vogt:** Yes, I want Highway.

**Paul Moss:** How about, if you have specific departments that you would like to add, if you just email the Auditor?

**Paula Hughes:** After we see the budget books.

**Paul Moss:** Is that fair enough?

**Tera Klutz:** Fair enough.

**Darren Vogt:** Council, one of our other roles is to review the budgets of everyone else. I guess that Wednesday...

**Paula Hughes:** They are not going to be prepared.

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**Paul Moss:** We may need to devote some additional time...

**Paula Hughes:** September or October.

**Darren Vogt:** Is that when they are all due, September or October?

**Tera Klutz:** Fifteen days before they approve their budget. Their budgets are due to be approved September 30<sup>th</sup>. We had sent out a memo, and copied you, on the new process this year. After everyone turns in their budget, we should have them by September 30<sup>th</sup>, and in October the Council could review and make non-binding recommendations. The DLGF said that they would take those into consideration and they will not be reviewed by the DLGF until the spring or late winter...

**Paul Moss:** So October is the most appropriate time.

**Tera Klutz:** Or November.

**Darren Vogt:** What information will we have from them?

**Tera Klutz:** The memo that we sent out basically requested a lot of information that CTAB did before. You have to make comparisons of their budget growth to the countywide income growth and the State income growth. And you have to compare their growth to all of the other units' growth. Basically you are looking at why they are over the 4% growth that they are allowed in 2009. We asked them to explain that. We try to get as much information that we thought could easily be handled by them and that you would need to make your non-binding recommendations.

**Paul Moss:** Thank you for emphasizing non-binding several times.

**Tera Klutz:** Well, it is important to know.

**Paul Moss:** Absolutely.

**Roy Buskirk:** The Surveyor has contacted me on a couple of capital items for 2009. Should that be brought now, do you think?

**Lisa Blosser:** You pulled the capital requests out and there is some money set aside. Is it a capital item that he needs now or is it something that he needs next year?

**Roy Buskirk:** I think it is something that is actually for next year but I know that we have some funds available now.

**Lisa Blosser:** Yes you do.

**Roy Buskirk:** So, should I suggest that he go ahead and propose it?

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**Paul Moss:** Yes.

**Roy Buskirk:** Okay.

**Paul Moss:** Other Business to Come Before Council, one thing that was mentioned a while back is that we have a couple of appointments that we need to make here soon.

**Paula Hughes:** The Redevelopment Commission.

**Paul Moss:** Right and I have a name that I would like to submit for consideration. Do you recall when we have to make that appointment?

**Paula Hughes:** One of them was the first of July. I had expressed interest in serving on the Redevelopment Commission. We talked about it two months ago and at that time, you had somebody and I had expressed interest.

**Paul Moss:** So, we have two appointments.

**Paula Hughes:** Correct.

**Tera Klutz:** But one you were asked to appoint for January 2009.

**Paula Hughes:** One for now and one for January.

**Paul Moss:** If anyone else has names that they want to submit, what I will do is have this individual provide a resume and get that out to all of you to take a look at.

**Paula Hughes:** Could I request that the Council appoint me for the position that starts in July? That is unless you are going to argue with my placement on that. We asked for submissions two months ago and you haven't had any. The Redevelopment Commission is down a person right now. They expected me to attend in July, or somebody from the Council to attend.

**Paul Moss:** I would never express concerns about your participation on that.

**Cal Miller:** I make a motion to appoint Councilwoman Hughes to the County Redevelopment Commission, effective immediately. I look forward to learning about the other individual who has expressed an interest and their willingness to start January 1, 2009.

**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.

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**Darren Vogt:** Do you have anything that describes the duties of what the Redevelopment Commission does? How often do they meet?

**Paula Hughes:** They meet monthly. Much like the City's Redevelopment Commission, they have bonding ability but the County has not exercised it as much as the City has. I will say that. Maybe we could have someone put together a summary description.

**Lisa Blosser:** We can track something down for you.

**Cal Miller:** I recall, at the first Maplecrest meeting, our appointments came up and gave us a report of what is going on. I would like to continue to hear the reports and their willingness to serve. I would like to hear it, not only at time of reappointment, but more often like the Library Board does. Can we have the individual that has expressed an interest to you President Moss, come before Council like the rest of the candidates for appointment so that we can have a look at him or her and find out their basis of desire?

**Paul Moss:** I am sure that wouldn't be a problem. We can do that at the next meeting and get that out of the way. If anyone else has a name they want to put in the hopper, feel free.

**Cal Miller:** Is it my understanding that the only meetings that we have in August is the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>?

**Tera Klutz:** There is one August 4<sup>th</sup> for the subcommittee and the GASB 45 on August 7<sup>th</sup>. Those are the only other two I can think of.

**Cal Miller:** I was just talking about the County Council meetings. I remember getting your email on one of them.

**Paul Moss:** August 4<sup>th</sup> is the tax abatement discussion.

**Roy Buskirk:** But you responded that you wouldn't be able to attend the GASB.

**Cal Miller:** I would like to come to the August 4<sup>th</sup> one. What time is that?

**Paula Hughes:** 1:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Office. No, 1:30?

**Paul Moss:** We can figure that out at another time.

**Cal Miller:** That is just a continuation of the subcommittee?

**Paul Moss:** Yes. Is there any other legitimate business to come before Council?

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**Paula Hughes:** I wanted to give a couple of updates on recent meetings. I can't remember if I discussed with this group, last month, the ongoing discussion between City and County about the consolidation of GIS departments. Did I talk about that last month? No. We had a meeting in the last four weeks, with key City officials and County officials, discussing the City formally moving over to the County's GIS platform. Those conversations went well and the ball is in the County's court. We are putting together a draft memorandum of understanding between the two entities. We will get it to City officials to review and edit and hopefully that will be done with effectiveness for the beginning of 2009, if not before. There is a little more pressure on the City side because they have a couple of departments extremely interested in joining the Acela enforcement platform. They can't do that unless they have access to iMap. I think that is part of what helped those conversations go as well as they did.

**Darren Vogt:** Will we need to approve that or will that go before the Commissioners? I would like to see a copy of that.

**Paula Hughes:** I can make sure that you get a copy of the final agreement. I believe that it would only be the Commissioners because it is revenue coming in. The tentative discussion was that the City will share in the ongoing expense of maintaining the system. They will keep their own staff and pay for their own training. Any individual licenses, they would have to pay for. We outlined over a ten year schedule. The investment in infrastructure, that we make to maintain that system, was presented to them on an annualized basis. They were agreeable to it in a preliminary fashion.

**Tera Klutz:** If it is an interlocal, it will have to pass here.

**Paula Hughes:** I thought it was going to be an MOU and not an interlocal but I could be wrong on that. We were talking about which vehicle would be more appropriate. Also, from Data Board and an FYI for this group, we had in our pre-allocation meeting, a request from the Commissioners that we increase their budget by \$1 million for the IT contract. I had a conversation, right after Data Board, and I don't think that we will need the full million dollars in excess funds for the IT contract. It will probably grow some over the current contract amount but they are still in final negotiations.

**Cal Miller:** I remember discussing this in the pre-allocation meetings. Was there any money set aside for that?

**Paula Hughes:** No, we didn't set aside any funds for that. I felt very strongly that a million was way too much and that we should be reconsidering the contract if that was going to be. The County only pays half of the contract increase amount. Currently, the total contract is \$4.3 million. That seemed like a dramatic increase, to me, and I was not interested in supporting that.

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**Cal Miller:** When you are finished, I have something that I want to address too.

**Paula Hughes:** There are two other things going on. I know several Council members were present for the 911 Consolidation meeting. I will say that I attended a meeting and I have been on the record for a long time in support of the consolidation but I was a little dismayed by the City's presentation. The City put together a proposal with no input from the County or New Haven officials. That bothered me tremendously. I think that there are elements of that plan that are workable and would be good for the City and County taxpayers and residents, for safety purposes. The architecture was suspect. I think that there can be an agreement but it needs to be more collaborative than this effort was.

**Cal Miller:** That is what I wanted to talk about so I will chime in now. I was not at the meeting and recall getting an invitation that gave me about a week's notice which is not enough time on a lot of people's calendars. I am interested in the overall concept, as this Council has demonstrated an interest in the wisdom and feasibility of combining E911 for the County and the City. I want this County Council to have a voice and to have its recommendation about what should happen so that we can continue to be involved in that process. Can we, at the next meeting, so that everyone could read the proposal that was put together by City, have a discussion about what our thoughts are so that County Council can perhaps reach a resolution or some consensus about what its thoughts are on that? We can use our pulpit, so to speak, to lend some positive influence on getting that project accomplished in some form whether it is the current form or some tweaking of the form that would be acceptable to all. We have been involved in the past in that and there is no reason for us to be completely silent. As the County Council and fiscal body, we ought to be involved in trying to assist all other people that are interested in that getting done.

**Paula Hughes:** If I could say, as the liaison to the Sheriff, I have not been silent in the process. I would caution us against basing a discussion on the City's proposal because I find it lacking and in some ways, misleading. There is partial information and partial data. I think the Commissioners and the Sheriff are crafting what they believe would be a good solution. The current Sheriff, perhaps in direct contradiction to the previous Sheriff, is supportive of the consolidation and is interested in moving forward on that. We are not facing some of the roadblocks that we have in the past. We wouldn't have to have as heavy a hand as we tried to in the past. That heavy hand was not productive.

**Cal Miller:** I agree that it wasn't productive and didn't get done. I am not suggesting that the County Council needs to get behind a report that it believes, based on your review, has some troubling aspects to it. I wasn't suggesting that. I was suggesting that, to the extent that this County Council has an ability to be an active participant that allows it to eventually get done in a manner that is acceptable to the City and the County. We ought to utilize our positions to do that. I will take lead from you, if you think that County Council really ought to sit back while the Commissioners and the Sheriff work with the City and try to come to some common ground, in their

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respective positions. I am fine with that. I just want to make sure that we are not losing an opportunity to have a voice that would be constructive and help to get it accomplished. Ultimately, there will be a funding aspect of this that is going to come to us. I will defer to you and what you think is the best level of involvement for County Council based on your greater familiarity with the current posturing of the City and County.

**Paul Moss:** I saw the presentation as well and I applauded Ms. Taviano for putting the effort into it. I agree with Councilwoman Hughes that there are some substantial issues with how it was developed, the lack of input and the proposal itself. What I have done is sat back and let her make her presentations. I think the City Council presentation was just this week. Who else has seen the presentation?

**Maye Johnson:** I haven't seen the presentation but I read the proposal. I would agree with you, Councilman Miller that we do need to take a role in it. I wasn't aware that there hadn't been as much communication with parties in the County until I talked to Councilwoman Hughes. I do think that there were some excellent features as a part of the proposal. I think that I can't disagree with the fact that we need to be looking at ways of consolidating that service. I do think that there is merit in the proposal and I think that it probably will require a lot of tweaking. It was just that, it was a proposal. I think we should take a close look at it.

**Paul Moss:** It is a good opportunity for discussion and again, they should be applauded for starting that discussion. I would suspect that Tina would be more than happy to come to one of our Council meetings and go through that.

**Maye Johnson:** She has expressed that desire.

**Darren Vogt:** I don't think we are going to get anywhere with this proposal or any other proposal until everyone who has a say in it, New Haven, City of Fort Wayne and the Allen County Sheriff, gets together.

**Paula Hughes:** And sits down at the table.

**Darren Vogt:** Put a proposal together that is a joint proposal and isn't one-sided one way or the other. They all need to take into account the aspects that each one of those departments need, come up with a proposal and then bring it to us. We can work out whatever funding mechanism that needs to be worked out between us and whoever else is funding this project. That is the way that it should be done. It should have been done fifteen years ago. We now have gotten into the situation where people are talking about it. Get together, sit around the table and I am personally done with it until they do that. I don't want to see one side's proposal and then see the other side's proposal. It needs to be everyone getting all of the aspects of what they want to get done.

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**Maye Johnson:** But at least you do have that proposal. That is a great starting place. I am not aware that we had a proposal until now.

**Paul Moss:** Hold on, let's try to get back on track a little bit. I understand your frustration, Councilman Vogt, but I think that there have not been any proposals from each of the entities and so again, we do have something on the table that may at least be a foundation. It will hopefully bring people to the table.

**Maye Johnson:** I agree.

**Paul Moss:** So I guess what I would ask, is there a desire to have Ms. Taviano make a presentation to us? She is doing that for the Commissioners tomorrow morning.

**Paula Hughes:** I think the presentation is wrong and the discussion needs to be with the Sheriff and New Haven, as Councilman Vogt said. I am not interested in giving audience to a presentation that is as lopsided as that one is. I think it needs to be more fairly developed. I can't speak for New Haven but I know, from the County's perspective, they are more than willing to work on a mutually agreeable proposal. They are understandably irritated with the way this was initially handled. To give further audience to that proposal would not further the cause.

**Darren Vogt:** What outcome would you expect to get out of that proposal?

**Paul Moss:** Purely informational. That is all I am suggesting. I am not snubbing the proposal by not hearing it. It doesn't make a lot of sense to me. I think I am capable of understanding it. It may be a little lopsided but there is some useful information that I think this Council probably should hear. But if it is the will of the majority of the Council to not do that, I am not going to lose any sleep over it.

**Maye Johnson:** I would agree that we could hear it and make our determinations after hearing it.

**Roy Buskirk:** It is not to that point.

**Paula Hughes:** I would rather not sit through it twice, frankly.

**Paul Moss:** Councilman Miller?

**Cal Miller:** I understand Councilwoman Hughes' concerns. I can read the proposal and we are all capable of doing that but I would like to hear from the person who developed it. The reason that I am interested in doing that is to begin to understand the process and what are the obstacles? Where are the points that there is a meeting of the minds with respect to the City and the County so that we can see how significant those are? Then we can be a part, through out role as the fiscal body, in attempting to come to some consensus on things that are preventing this from happening. That is why I think it is important to hear from the person who was a key

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participant in preparing at least the City side of the proposal. I see no harm in that. I understand the appearance of that as it relates to the County's end of it but I would, in the future, want to hear from the County, as a member of the fiscal body and the body that would be voting on the funding mechanism for any change to require that. I would give them the same audience so that we can be informed on both ends and identify, very clearly, what the obstacles are and whether those obstacles can be overcome and where we have common ground. I would be in favor of hearing from her with the idea that we would love to hear from the Sheriff or whoever is going to present on the County end.

**Paul Moss:** It is a fairly lengthy presentation. Here is what I would like to suggest so that we can move off of this. There is a presentation, tomorrow morning, at the Commissioners meeting. That is one opportunity to view it. I have talked with Tina, after the fact, and she seems to be more than willing to talk to people on an individual basis, if they would like to do that. Would folks be willing to take that approach and individually look through that report and then if you would like for her to go through it with you, she will do that?

**Cal Miller:** Sure, I would be happy to do that. For the folks that have already seen it, it wouldn't be a waste of time.

**Darren Vogt:** A copy of it would be nice, though.

**Paul Moss:** You don't have a copy? She had copies for all of us.

**Becky Butler:** You have a copy by your mail folder.

**Patt Kite:** We are kind of back to square one if we listen to her proposal and then we listen to the Sheriff's proposal.

**Paul Moss:** Sure.

**Paula Hughes:** That further encourages the separation of proposals. I like Councilman Vogt's suggestion that we are supportive and listen to a joint approach. We need to do what we can to encourage that approach. The further we go along, encouraging one side versus the other, the longer it will take us to come to a solution.

**Cal Miller:** What if you believe, as a Council member, that there is a proposal that has greater merit than some of the obstacles that one side has seen as not having merit or shouldn't be an obstacle to making this happen? At some point in time, we may be at an impasse where County Council, as members of the fiscal body, can use their positions to articulate or support a particular position and a lack of support for an unreasonable position that is preventing this from happening. At some point, don't you think that would be an effective way of utilizing our positions as elected officials?

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**Darren Vogt:** The fundamental issue of who is going to run the 911 center.

**Maye Johnson:** The suggestion is to have a governing board. That really removes that whole issue from being under the Sheriff's control or the City's control. That makes sense.

**Paula Hughes:** That is mandated by State legislation that is in affect and would force us to move to something by 2014. We are trying to do it ahead of the deadline. There will be a solution within the six years. I have some hesitation about your suggestion. I think that pulling the bodies together and having them sit in that seat, that encourages the joint approach. That is the only way we are going to come to a good solution. If there are strong hesitations on one side or the other, it is not going to be successful until they work that out amongst themselves. Some of it is territorial, some is authority based but some of it is legitimate concerns about how things are processed. The best solutions are not going to be reached under fire by a County Council.

**Paul Moss:** All we are trying to do is gather some information. I am going to say again that I encourage all of you to take the initiative to either see the presentation or contact Tina for a booklet.

**Cal Miller:** Tomorrow the Commissioners are getting a presentation. Is it early in their agenda?

**Chris Cloud:** I would say about 10:30.

**Paul Moss:** Moving forward, any other business?

**Paula Hughes:** I have one other thing and I almost hate to bring it up. There have been some questions about the progress of discussions about the co-location of City Police and the Sheriff's Department. I have been a party to some of those conversations and there has not been a lot of back and forth on this. I am not aware of a meeting that has been scheduled but the ball is in the City's court. The County has earmarked funds for the project. They have expressed their willingness to co-locate with the City police. They are waiting for the City to allocate funds and formally express the desire to co-locate. I believe the Commissioners sent a letter to the Mayor, within the last week, urging that they move forward in the process. Again, we are putting the Sheriff's Department project on hold. In February, the Sheriff and the Commissioners sent a letter to the City requesting that there be an intense discussion period over the next six months. Those six months expire at the end of September and to date, there have been several attempts on the County side to facilitate a meeting that have not been met. I think part of it is that the City doesn't have a point person on it and the Commissioners asked for the point person. I am looking at Commissioner Brown because I think you were part author of that letter. The County sent a formal letter to the City requesting some movement on it because

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right now the County is kind of in the dark. We have put our cards on the table and are waiting for the City to do the same.

**Paul Moss:** That will be an interesting discussion particularly as numbers are attached to it. I think that the co-location process could be a tremendously expensive process. I think the thing to keep in mind is what the public appetite is going to be for co-location just for co-location purposes.

**Darren Vogt:** Council, there is one figure that I received from Mr. Cloud. One of the scenarios was moving the Sheriff and Police into this building and moving others into Renaissance Square. That was at \$12 million plus. That memo was from three or four years ago.

**Paul Moss:** It is a tremendous amount of money just to make some people feel good. It is a worthy discussion, no doubt about it.

**Cal Miller:** I guess I take issue with on one hand, it is a lot of money to make people feel good but in the same breath it is a worthy discussion to have. I am not sure you can reconcile those comments all in the same breath.

**Paul Moss:** The reason I say that is because there are a whole lot of folks out there who say that we need to co-locate but they don't talk about the shoe that has to drop. That is the cost. I don't believe the public is going to have an appetite, even though from a perspective standpoint it has been out there so long and co-location is a wonderful thing. Once the dollar figures come out, I think the perception will change. I have nothing against co-location. What I am more interested in is what is the expense associated with it?

**Paula Hughes:** Whether it satisfies long-term objectives of City and County. We keep working on the project that is right in front of us now and when are we going to take a big picture look at what the facilities, of both City and County, and how to coordinate our efforts on those? I guess I agree that in the current environment, there is not an appetite for overly expensive projects but that does not mean that there is not validity to them.

**Cal Miller:** When you say facilities, you mean space?

**Paula Hughes:** I am talking about more comprehensively than just two departments. I think we need to look at this overall in what facilities the government needs in this City and County.

**Paul Moss:** That is why I said it would be a good discussion. Recent and/or Upcoming meetings, we already talked about the Personnel Committee meeting. We talked about the tax abatement subcommittee meeting. Are there any other meetings that I am forgetting? Councilman Buskirk?

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**Roy Buskirk:** The 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1:30 is a Bridge Task Force meeting.

**Cal Miller:** What will be taken up at that meeting?

**Roy Buskirk:** I think it will be a further discussion, I have a meeting in the morning with the Mayor, on how to get better cooperation between the County and the City. To make sure that all parties understand the extent of the problem that has occurred. We need to make a better working relationship between the County and the City just as you were talking about with E911. It is something that all parties involved have to understand and the impact if we don't move forward.

**Cal Miller:** Are you going to promote the strong consideration by the City of Fort Wayne during these meetings of the interlocal agreement on the Surtax/Wheel Tax with respect to the funding mechanism for the bridges under 200 feet?

**Roy Buskirk:** Correct, encouraging them to participate with the program that was presented. I think that some of the presentation of that program has not been very good. I hope to improve the communication between the County and the City.

**Cal Miller:** Thanks for being the ambassador at that.

**Paul Moss:** Okay, anything else? Are there any public comments?

**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 July 17, 2008.

**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.**

**Darren Vogt:** 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 August 12, 2008 at 8:30 am.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.