

**ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 18, 2008
8:30 AM**

The Allen County Council met on Thursday, September 18, 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 and Calvert S. Miller.

Also Attending: Lisa Blosser, Auditor; Tera Klutz, Chief Deputy; Nelson Peters, Commissioner and Becky Butler, Administrative Assistant.

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

Paul Moss: We are going to start out with the review of the proposed budgets and property tax levies for the Allen County Public Library, Wayne Township, Jefferson Township, Lafayette Township and Madison Township. As you probably recall, we had a meeting a few weeks ago in which we reviewed a pretty significant number of township budgets and a couple of municipality budgets. Have there been any additional entities that submitted their budgets?

Lisa Blosser: We will try to fit the remaining units in at the October and November meetings.

Paul Moss: Does everyone have those?

Lisa Blosser: We have extra copies.

Paula Hughes: I have this but it is just a summary.

Tera Klutz: Yes, that is the one. That is all you had the last time.

Lisa Blosser: It is the budget review sheet.

Paul Moss: In the order that we have on the agenda, the Allen County Public Library is the first one to be before us. I believe that we have a couple of guests here from the Library. Please come up and introduce yourselves for the record. I think everyone on Council realizes that this is a bit of a Herculean task and is something new for us. Just to reiterate our review is simply that. We are allowed to offer recommendations. You can ignore those, if you like but I think it is a good exercise

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

and we appreciate you coming forward. If you could provide us with some of the highlights of your budget, that would be quite helpful.

Jeff Krull: I am Jeff Krull, Director of the Library and with me is Dave Sedestrom, the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer. Alan McMahon, our Board President, is here also. We weren't quite sure how we should proceed but I thought I would give a brief introduction. We have detailed information, if you want to go through it and Dave is with me if you want to go into further detail. In terms of strategy, that is what we have been thinking about, as we looked at the property tax legislation that was passed and try to look ahead, as far as we can, to prepare ourselves to deal with what is on the horizon. We know that in 2010, the property tax caps take full effect. We have been given some estimates by the legislative services agency, about what that is going to mean for our revenues. That is really where we targeted our planning is on 2010. By the time that we get to 2010, we want to have the expenditures and revenues balanced. So 2009 is the transition year. Everyone knows that the property tax cap is a phase-in and the full affect isn't in 2009. Nevertheless we, in planning, looked at a straight line reduction. We need to get to 2010 and get the budget in balance. To do that, we have made some adjustments on revenues and we cut the expenses. In terms of revenues, we have increased our overdue fees on library materials. All of the things that we are doing are not necessarily popular with anybody but we think they are necessary. We also feel that the sooner we get started on this, the better chance that we have to get things in sync by the critical year of 2010. We have increased the overdue fees. We are about to institute paying for prints from the computers. For many years, we have allowed patrons to print things off the computers and in our library and branches, we have more than 350 public access computers. There are a lot of paper and supplies being used up. Most people use this responsibly but we hear, all the time, about someone printing off a stack of paper and we said that we really have to deal with that. To get there, we have had to install software and now we are in the learning curve. Now we just have to educate the public. We are going to be charging five cents per page, which we think is reasonable. That should have two affects. It should generate some revenue for us and it will reduce the number of prints so our supply expenditures will be reduced somewhat. We have also implemented parking payment equipment on our surface lots at Harrison and Washington and Webster and Washington. This will allow users to park in those lots at anytime and pay at the site. At first, we were limiting those lots to library users and we discovered that we have enough capacity that we can open these up. We think it is a better use of those lots and to provide parking for the people that use downtown especially with Harrison Square coming. It will also generate some revenue for the library.

Paula Hughes: Jeff, could I ask a question about that? Are you going to rent that out to monthly parkers or is it an hourly basis?

Jeff Krull: It is an hourly basis, one dollar per hour with seven dollars per day maximum. It is an airport type credit card pay system. On the expense side, we are doing the obvious things. Energy conservation, we are programming the lighting system, at the main library, so that in the stack areas, for example, those lights

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

automatically go off unless someone needs to retrieve a book. We have increased the number of light switches so that can be done. We have focused primarily in reducing expenditures on staff reduction. As we all know, that is where the biggest chunk of the budget goes. We have been using a process of attrition. Every position that comes open, whether through retirement, resignation or for whatever reason, we have our senior staff cabinet review that and that is everyone, right down to shelvers that work about ten hours a week. We have, as a goal, not been filling every position that we can leave vacant. For those that we feel are essential to fill, we have opened them up for internal applications only. For quite some time, we haven't hired any outside people. There may be, at some point, a critical position that has the skills and qualifications that just aren't available in our staff. To date, we have reduced the staff by eighteen full-time equivalent positions. The savings, in terms of salaries and benefits is approaching the half million dollars. We are going to continue to do that but, I have to be honest, that we are reaching the point where these decisions are getting extremely painful. These meetings that we have every Wednesday, nobody is looking forward to them because almost every week there is some position that has come open. Can we do without this one? If we can't can we take someone from over there and put over here? What we are trying to do is avoid a layoff situation. Looking at 2010, if we can tighten the belt and get down to where we need to be without having drastic disruptions to the staff, we think that is preferable.

Paula Hughes: How many total employees do you have?

Jeff Krull: We have somewhere in the 300's.

Roy Buskirk: And how many did you say?

Jeff Krull: Eighteen full-time equivalent and that could be two part-times.

Roy Buskirk: Okay.

Cal Miller: What else would you need to do beside the measures that you have outlined to get to the target in 2010, in terms of dollars or other ideas and strategies that you are going to have next year to continue to reduce and get to the 2010 target?

Jeff Krull: The 2010 target is a little bit of a moving target because we are unsure what the growth will be. We have been given the impact of the tax cap by the legislative services agency and that is telling us \$1.6 million. However, we are not expecting to have to absorb the full \$1.6 million because of growth in the levy. We have different scenarios in mind. It could be a million dollars, \$800,000 or \$600,000. It appears that if we were to have to take that type of reduction, we would have to get into reducing the opening hours of the library branches and the main library. There will have to be a continuing staff reduction because 65% of our budget is in personnel. The next biggest portion is about 17% and that is library materials, books, media, databases and so forth. That is the heart of the library but we can reduce that if we have to. We don't want to rely solely on that to make up the slack.

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Cal Miller: With that answer in mind, it may be difficult to give a concrete answer to the next question because of the moving target with respect to the reductions you'll need to achieve to get to the 2010 target, whatever that may be. How far did you get this year in terms of the 2009 budget, how far did you get towards the total goal, even though it is somewhat elusive, in putting a finger on how much it is?

Jeff Krull: The budget that we published is balanced. Expenditures and revenues are in balance. We included an increase in the book budget which hasn't been increased in probably six or seven years. We probably wind up not spending that. I think we will wind up underspending the 2009 budget so that we can build up a little more reserve and keep moving towards that 2010 target.

Cal Miller: The reason that I ask the question is that the County Council's approach to the impact of the Circuit Breaker, this year, was to get halfway to what the projected reductions were going to be in revenues in 2010 that the Auditor's Office provided to us. The County Council, with the assistance of all of the budget makers in the County, this year made it 80% or more to the target goal in 2010, as we understand what that number is going to be. Are you saying that there was actually no decrease for the 2009 budget that will assist in getting to the 2010 target reduction in revenues, irrespective of whether it is a million or \$1.6 million?

Jeff Krull: I think the difficult reductions are there. That is the staff. Those are the hard ones to do without laying people off. We can reduce the book budget, if we have to. We spend \$4 million on books and materials. If we had to take an immediate hit, we could survive and do a pretty decent job of running the library by taking \$500,000 to \$600,000 out of the book budget. I think we are probably 40% of the way to where we have to be for 2010. That is just off the top of my head.

Dave Sedestrom: Actually I would go about two-thirds. If we are looking at a \$1.6 million impact and right now, today, all things being equal, my deficits are right about \$480,000 that we still have to make up by the end of 2010. So somewhere between 60% and 70%.

Cal Miller: Thank you.

Paul Moss: On the revenue side, how much of your revenue is non-tax revenue?

Dave Sedestrom: Property tax makes up about 76% of our entire revenue. Of all of the taxes, including COIT, license, excise and FIT, it is 92%. So only 8% is really non-tax revenue.

Paul Moss: What is that made up of? I am sure it is not all late fees.

Dave Sedestrom: No. Interest on investments, user fees, the parking revenues, collections and research fees and these are not a huge amount.

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Paul Moss: You don't anticipate that really changing, given the mix that you have there and the fact that it is on 8%? My point is that I wonder if there are other potential issues that you might have to face on the revenue side.

Dave Sedestrom: I guess, as Jeff had mentioned, the different initiatives such as pay for printing, we estimate that it will generate between \$48,000 and \$50,000. In a \$23 million budget, it is not a huge amount but it is still towards that \$480,000 deficit.

Maye Johnson: How much of your revenue is derived from the rental of tapes, videos and that type of service?

Jeff Krull: We don't rent those. They are loaned out like books.

Roy Buskirk: Some of the other counties, I think St. Joe County just to give an idea, didn't they close on Saturdays?

Jeff Krull: Yes. We are developing contingency schedules that would accomplish that if we had to. Our goal is to provide the same level of availability, of the library to the community, as we can. Just as an example of some of the positions that we have eliminated, when we moved into the main library, the public computers were scattered throughout the large building. We created some new positions that were called Computer Reference Assistants. These were positions where people would be available throughout the building to assist an individual with problems. Not a high level position but with good skills. We had to say that as nice as that is, we are just going to not have that and we will have to rely on other staff in that department to fill that function.

Roy Buskirk: Which day of the week do you have the most activity?

Jeff Krull: The busiest day, per hour, is Sunday.

Darren Vogt: I want to understand, from a pure numbers standpoint is it safe to say that for 2009, you did not make any cuts in things? You shifted things around and tried to increase revenue in anticipation of getting to the 2010 target but your budget is planned for some decreases for 2010 but in reality, it didn't decrease for 2009. Is that right?

Jeff Krull: The published budget is not a decrease from 2008. But, again, the one area that we have the capability to quickly take some cuts would be in the materials budget. We were hoping to gain some economies on the utilities. We didn't cut that budget because we are not certain of the success that we are going to have. We think, as the year goes on, that we are going to have some leeway there.

Paul Moss: You are hoping to reduce expenses enough in 2009 to essentially have a cushion in 2010.

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Jeff Krull: Right.

Roy Buskirk: The one thing, with the new regulations and so forth, you might want to keep in mind because of the \$1.6 million, you need to depend upon the assessed values of the housing market and it is very possible that it would even be greater than \$1.6 million.

Jeff Krull: Right. With the economy heading where it seems to be heading, we have to be very certain about the income tax.

Roy Buskirk: Very much so. Do you have any kind of a Rainy Day Fund?

Jeff Krull: We don't have a formal Rainy Day Fund but we do have cash reserves.

Dave Sedestrom: We do have a Rainy Day Fund that was established just this year for the excess COIT distribution. It has about \$94,000 in it. We aren't adding money to it in an ongoing basis.

Paul Moss: Do you intend to lobby the City Council to increase the income tax?

Jeff Krull: We have not had any discussions about that. I would say no.

Paul Moss: I am only one of seven but I am certainly hoping that that is not the option that they take.

Darren Vogt: Two.

Paula Hughes: Three.

Cal Miller: Four.

Roy Buskirk: I think he said seven.

Paula Hughes: I have a question. The numbers that we have in front of us, the response to the question about the property tax levy, says that it would not be above the 4% maximum growth factor. But the actual layout of the numbers indicates a 5.9% increase. Can you talk about that?

Jeff Krull: The operating fund levy is advertised a little high. That has been the strategy. In our actual budget, we have included a revenue figure for property tax that is 4%. On the debt service fund, I will defer to Dave because that is a little out of my...

Dave Sedestrom: The reason that you are seeing those advertised levies is because the DLGF will only give you the lesser of the advertised or the actual. We have

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

always had the practice of advertising higher in order to make sure that we capture whatever the levy is available. Our budgets have been set up with the 4% levy and we aren't going to get anything more than that. The 5.9%, it wouldn't be that we were asking for a levy excess or anything like that.

Paula Hughes: We have that same practice. We do, we advertise high and we very rarely go all the way to that amount, to give ourselves some cushion in how we are getting to the actual numbers. Correct?

Tera Klutz: Last year, we advertised a 3.7% but this year I think we went 5%.

Darren Vogt: That is the same problem that we had with the Tax Adjustment Board. We couldn't figure out what they were doing because they were saying one thing and the advertising was completely different.

Paula Hughes: My point was going to be that is that what we are seeing on these spreadsheets is the advertised amount and not the actual budget amount.

Tera Klutz: Whatever they submit to us is what we put on there.

Paula Hughes: This is such a fun process. It just makes it not useful information.

Tera Klutz: That is why we stuck the box, with your questions, up there. We modified the form to let the unit say what they really intend to do. I agree that the process is hard.

Paula Hughes: Flawed.

Tera Klutz: Yes.

Paul Moss: This is the first iteration, in my mind, of this process. I think they are going to get changed after we have another legislative session. Hopefully, after this is all done, we will be able to talk to our legislators about some of the flaws that we have seen and some of the things that we can do to improve it. Are there any other questions? We are supposed to fill out the part where it says Council Recommendations and it would be nice to have some sort of thought on what we want to do and recommend for them.

Paula Hughes: Our recommendation to them should be that they stay under or at the 4% maximum growth factor.

Paul Moss: That would be consistency.

Paula Hughes: Do you need that in a movement?

Paul Moss: Probably do.

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Paula Hughes: So moved.

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 6-0 (Kite absent). Thank you very much. Next up, we have Wayne Township and as Mr. Stevenson comes up here, I want to say that I participated in an event a couple of weeks ago, The Walk a Mile in Her Shoes. I have to tell you, and I wouldn't say this because it would be considered sexist if I said it to a woman, I thought that when I saw Councilman Vogt that he was probably the prettiest guy there. Then I saw Mr. Stevenson come up and was just blown away. You looked great. So now you have to introduce yourself.

Rick Stevenson: Thank you. It is always great to see everyone. I am Rick Stevenson, the Wayne Township Trustee. I must say, Darren, you still are the GQ in County Government, in spite of what Paul said. With me is my CPA and financial advisor for the township, Curtis Whitaker. My goal, as Wayne Township Trustee, is to provide the best possible service to our clients and in the most cost effective way for our taxpayers. As we all know, property tax supported local government units are all facing more and more budget challenges. Yet, even in these difficult times, Wayne Township is charged, by law, to help those in need. I have worked hard, beginning shortly after taking office, to put in place several cost-cutting measures. As you have heard, recently, the terminology is structural deficit. Some of the things that we have put in place are that we have not filled vacant positions of employees that have left the township employment. We have not replaced those. We have made difficult decisions to close out programs such as the Outreach Program. We have changed personnel policies to save the township dollars. We allow employees to carry only two weeks of vacation over therefore reducing vacation payouts when employees leave township employment. Employees are encouraged to use personal time, during the calendar year, reducing payouts, again, when employees leave. No longer does the township pay for unused sick days when they leave employment. Employees are required to use all of their personal pay before going on disability. One of the big changes that we have taking place is our changes in our eligibility standards which limits the amount of money that assisted clients are eligible to receive. After three months, shelter assistance is reduced to fifty dollars as the lowest amount. Fifty dollars or thirty percent of the income and this is in line to encourage people to obtain affordable housing. If one is low income, we think that they should be registered and receiving housing assistance from the Fort Wayne Housing Authority. That eliminates the big payment of rental assistance. Other things that we have reduced are the cap on utilities. Again, lowering the cost for utilities, clients now are now receiving not the full amount of the utilities. We had to spread it so that we could serve as many clients as possible. In spite of all of the efforts that we have made, we have still found that there is a 46% request in assistance, this year, compared to last year. We have, as of August, received requests in the amount of over 11,000. We have reduced our direct assistance, by 20%, due to the things that

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

we have put in place. In spite of that, we find ourselves in a problem that we know we are going to face year in and year out because of the structural deficit. The structural deficit simply means, as you well know, our needs far exceeds our levy. This came about as an inheritance to this administration. The previous administration did a large loan at a time when a cap was on for the levy. The cap was spearheaded by the State Legislature. As a result of that, the levy was lowered and a lowered levy is good for the taxpayer when the economy is going along beautifully. Unfortunately, that is not the case now. We are seeing more and more and we have a tax levy that doesn't meet that need. Each year, we have been fighting that. Previously, we appeared before the Commissioners and we talked about the things that we put in place. For the last three months, we have been able to assess that and see that our operational costs go down tremendously. To that affect, we are looking at a \$1 million loan to cover our shortfall for the end of the year. I am glad to say that at our next board meeting, we will reduce that amount to \$630,000 because of the things that we put in place has lowered that. We have not eliminated that shortfall totally but we are moving in that direction. It is our hope, as we present our budget to you, that you realize the obstacles that we are up against. We are asking that you approve of the \$420,000. Then the township assistance we understand, that the levy is going to max out at 2.283. Finally, we ask you to approve the \$630,000 for the debt loan services. Thank you for your consideration and if you have any questions, again, I have Mr. Whitaker with me to address them.

Paul Moss: I suspect that we will. Councilman Miller?

Cal Miller: Thank you, Mr. Stevenson. Could you back up just a minute and go over what you said last? I am looking at the information that we received that indicates there is a 2009 tax levy request of \$4,270,000.

Curtis Whitaker: One of the things...

Cal Miller: Curtis, let me get my questions out. I do want to hear from you on that. There is the request for the 4.27 but if you add the 400,000, then the \$630,000 loan were significantly under that. Or that is significantly below the 4.2. Do you want to explain that?

Curtis Whitaker: I thought I understood your question but you confused me.

Paul Moss: I don't understand it either. The math is correct. Are you saying that the math is not correct?

Cal Miller: He asked for a 2.283 plus six plus four.

Tera Klutz: If you just let him explain it. Just answer it like you were at first.

Curtis Whitaker: Councilwoman Hughes said it best when she mentioned that this task is flawed. What we have done at the township and I would suggest, is to

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

compare apples to apples. What I mean by that is all of these numbers came from Form 3, which all units of government have. On Form 3 for last year and Form 3 for this year, are what we estimate what the township would receive in the property tax collections. Last year, our board approved \$4.8 million. This year, we reduced that to \$4.7 million. That results in a \$100,000 reduction in our levy. That won't be reflected here because of the structural deficit that the Trustee mentioned. Our township assistance account, we have more need than our maximum levy in general. We have about a \$900,000 shortfall that we can not or do not have any other way to obtain revenue except to borrow money. What the Trustee has been doing, we are hoping that those things, over time, will help. This year we reduced our budget but if you looked at this, you wouldn't be able to tell it. We reduced our budget by almost \$300,000 and we were trying to keep in line with the 2009 and 2010 mandates set forth by House Bill 1001. Those won't be reflected here because you are not comparing apples to apples. What we plan and hope to do is continue that. We have done that by some of the things that the Trustee mentioned. If the person has left the township, the Trustee has made the decision to not fill that position. He has eliminated an Outreach Program. Those are some of the things that we are doing. We have been evaluating the programs at the township. We believe that they are all necessary but in some instances, you have to bite the bullet and do what the Trustee wants done.

Paul Moss: So the \$300,000 reduction is primarily from operations.

Curtis Whitaker: Yes. The largest fund is the township assistance fund. That is the fund where an individual or client comes to the township and receives assistance. In that fund is \$4 million that we budgeted for this year. Last year was \$4.3 million. Of that \$4 million, approximately \$2 million is direct assistance to individuals who come into the township for assistance. Those are the costs that the Trustee mentioned. The request for assistance, for the first eight months this year, went up 46% over last year. Those are things that the Trustee can't control. What he has control over, he has done. Although the number of requests has gone up, we have reduced the amount that we are paying out by 20%.

Cal Miller: I wanted to follow up, if I may. Mr. Whitaker, I know you have your mind wrapped around this and I am just trying to play catch up. Setting aside the reasons that we are in the predicament, and those were expressed very well by Mr. Stevenson, what is the percent difference then between the 2008 and 2009 budget when you factor in all of the factors including the \$600,000 and the \$400,000 and the 2.283?

Curtis Whitaker: One of the things that we all have to recognize, and I am sure that you do, is there is what is called a maximum levy. The two funds that are maximum levy controlled are the General Fund and the Township Assistance Fund. The debt service fund is outside of the maximum levy. We are pretty certain that our maximum levy, we advertised \$2.7 million as our maximum levy, which grew by 4%. We had on our sheets that we don't believe our maximum levy will increase by

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

more than 4%. Our debt service will increase by more than 4%, from the \$335,000 to the \$630,000 because of the needs that we have and the structural deficit which forces us to go out into the market and borrow money. The statutes allow us to do an excess levy appeal but because our tax rate is above the .0016 rate that a unit of government, township, has to have in order to make an appeal. We are above that rate so that is the only relief that we have at this point and we don't have any additional revenue resources. The Trustee is looking at other ways to increase revenues but at this point, the only option is to continue to reduce costs, which affects services to the clients.

Tera Klutz: Fourteen percent is what the new amount would be if they only get the four percent on both and the debt.

Cal Miller: The rest of the Council, you may already understand this but I ultimately want to know how this is going to affect the taxpayers in Wayne Township, irrespective of the fact that you are going to be at your max levy, you don't think that is going to be over the four percent and then you have to do this debt service. With that background, where does the debt service, is that solely from loan?

Curtis Whitaker: Yes.

Cal Miller: How, ultimately, is the overall strategy of Wayne Township Trustee to get out from under this predicament that was created in whatever way it was created and you have expressed? When does this end? When does the debt service aspect get retired? What is the strategy for doing so, so that we get back to just dealing with the levy?

Rick Stevenson: That is the question that the entire community is waiting to see. The answer to that is that none of us has any control over the economy. The things that we control, and it has been the biggest excitement of my administration, I have cut costs and we will continue to look at our operations to find how to cut costs. Whether it is pencils, personnel or programs, we will continue to do that. We have put in place is that we offer people to take time off without pay, anticipating that things are going to get worse. We also understand that the Gas Company and light bills are going to escalate. Each year, we are looking to do better and better. Last year we did better but things have gotten worse but we still feel that we have our reins on it. The answer to you, if we can continue to maintain, we will get to a point where we will not have to have a loan each year.

Cal Miller: How does the loan, I'll end it at this, how does the loan aspect that the Trustee's office finds themselves in, impact if at all, the tax rate for Wayne Township taxpayers?

Curtis Whitaker: This year, at a million dollars, it would have been about five cents. Our overall tax rate is \$21 a year.

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Paula Hughes: Per \$100,000 of assessed value.

Curtis Whitaker: Per \$100,000 of assessed value. That is estimated for next year as to what a person would pay too. That includes the million dollars. It is going to be somewhere less than that at about \$18.

Cal Miller: For the entire budget or just the loan?

Curtis Whitaker: For our entire budget.

Paul Moss: What is the loan part of that?

Curtis Whitaker: About five dollars.

Cal Miller: This is really a significant percentage, in my mind, of the total \$18.

Curtis Whitaker: That is at a million dollars but it will be less than that. Depending on where the assessed value is, that number could go down even further.

Cal Miller: So, to understand the dynamic of this, you have said that there is no excess levy appeal for Wayne Township. There is no mechanism out there?

Curtis Whitaker: There is a mechanism but we don't meet the requirements to qualify for it.

Roy Buskirk: That is part of the problem on the townships and their assistance. The State is advising them to go and borrow the money instead of raising the levy.

Cal Miller: This is exactly what has come in my mind. Does borrowing the money put you in a situation to where you are less likely to qualify for the excess levy appeal?

Curtis Whitaker: No. It is because our tax rate is above the .0016 rate that is set in the statute.

Roy Buskirk: The other thing that I want to bring out, Councilman Miller, you asked what affect it would have on the taxpayers of Wayne Township. It has an affect on the taxpayers of this whole county.

Cal Miller: That is one of the five questions that I had written down. Go ahead.

Roy Buskirk: It is because of the fact of the Circuit Breaker and everyone who is in Wayne Township and has hit the Circuit Breaker, the Airport, the Library, the County and the City, is prorated on how much of the one percent that they receive. It has an impact countywide, based on what Wayne Township's budget is. Don't ask me for percentages and numbers.

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Curtis Whitaker: We are aware of that fact which is why we reduced the amount that was originally approved by our board. One million dollars is down to \$630,000, based on the strategies that the Trustee has put in place.

Paul Moss: Councilman Vogt?

Darren Vogt: I have a couple of questions. Your township assistance is about \$4 million. You said that \$2 million of that is direct assistance to people of need. The other \$2 million is for what?

Curtis Whitaker: Salaries, other services and charges and supplies. Salaries make up about one-third of that.

Roy Buskirk: To administrative.

Curtis Whitaker: Yes.

Darren Vogt: So it is almost a dollar-for-dollar cost. I would like to get the breakdown of that, for me personally, if I could. The other question that I have, is the eligibility standards, help me understand on rent. You said that that was a significant one that you are looking at. I didn't get what you said about the percent of income versus the fifty dollars.

Rick Stevenson: We call it the Stevenson 30/90 rule. It simply means that if you come into our office for rental assistance, we previously, if you were one individual, would pay \$300 towards your rent. And that was whether your rent was \$350 or \$800. We found that in trying to deal with and educate people to be good consumers, that 30% of your monthly income is the figure that Fort Wayne Housing Authority uses to compute your rent. We encourage everyone to make application. It is mandatory for you to make application with the Fort Wayne Housing Authority and we give the ninety days of assistance at \$300. After that, we reduce that assistance to no more than 30% of your income or a minimum of \$50. It has saved quite a bit of dollars.

Darren Vogt: To make sure that I understand this, if my rent was \$1,000, you are going to give me \$300 for the first three months.

Rick Stevenson: Yes.

Darren Vogt: If my rent was \$350, you are going to give me \$300 for the three months.

Rick Stevenson: Yes.

Darren Vogt: It is not a percentage of your rent. It is a flat \$300 for those three months.

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Rick Stevenson: Yes. The key thing is that we are going to educate you to live according to your income.

Darren Vogt: I definitely understand that concept. And another thing, I would like to get a copy of your eligibility standards so that I can understand and wrap my mind around those things. Your biggest cost is your eligibility and if there is any way that we can educate people on spending, those are the kinds of things that can get people in trouble when they live beyond their means.

Curtis Whitaker: I would like to add to that though. There was a lawsuit filed in Calumet County and it challenged the continued reduction of eligibility standards. It was filed by individuals who felt that they were not receiving the proper assistance. We have the risk that another lawsuit may be filed. The Calumet County lawsuit made them pay and they still do. Every time that we go before the DLGF, they always bring it up. Are you still under the judges' decree to pay at a 100% level of the eligibility standard as has been set by the federal government guidelines? I have made the Trustee aware of that fact and since you brought it up, I want to make you aware of that too. You would be treading on dangerous waters and we are aware of the fact that we are doing that.

Darren Vogt: I will tell you what are dangerous waters to me is paying a flat rate of \$300 on someone whose rent is \$350 and my rent is \$1,000. I would prefer from a percentage standpoint. I don't know what the federal regulations are but we need to lobby our local Congressman and State Legislator to make that more equitable and is something that we need to look at from a County level. I do understand what your concerns are.

Curtis Whitaker: That would be great and we recommend that but that would increase the cost of us operating.

Roy Buskirk: To be honest with you, I like your approach better. It encourages the person to get a more equitable rent.

Darren Vogt: Wait a minute. Let me respond to that. You are taking that way out of context. I said there is living within your means and there are all other kinds of eligibility standards. If you are paying \$1,000 of rent and you are making enough money to pay that to begin with, then I would eliminate the assistance altogether. Don't misunderstand what I am saying. If you are living beyond your means, that is a problem and I am not sure that you should be receiving assistance if you can't manage your budget because you are living beyond your means.

Rick Stevenson: That is one of the eligibility standards, waste of resources. If you are wasting your resources, you will be determined ineligible for assistance. We hold people accountable and if you are in need of assistance, we will try to find you a job. I am proud to say that, I don't know how many employers can claim that they have brought to the community 130 jobs, the Wayne Township Office has found jobs for

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

130 people. They weren't \$15 per hour jobs but we have done that and we are proud of that. Each time someone gets a job, we ring the bell and we clap hands and encourage the people. It is about when dollars get short, what do you do? A lot of it has to come into education, advocacy and so forth. In spite of all of that, how do you tell a child that is hungry, what is best for him to do? You must give him advice but you must feed him first. Those are the things that Wayne Township does. We feed and clothe them. We give them utilities and rental assistance as well as trying to give them consumer awareness and educational things that empower them.

Maye Johnson: Trustee Stevenson, you talked about reducing your expenses by use of attrition when it comes to not filling positions. You also talked about eliminating the Outreach Program. What kind of reduction in staff did that involve?

Rick Stevenson: We reduced one person with the elimination of that. The other two, as you well heard, we have a 46% increase in requests and that means that we need staff to deal with that. So, the other two people, we reassigned with other responsibilities. Those costs are going down considerably and we continue to watch them. Mr. Miller, the way that we are trying to cut that annual loan amount is that as our levy, each year, grows 4% and our cost cutting measures go into affect, we are hoping that soon, how soon, soon, that they will come at the same and then we can look to keep control of those things. I am pleased to see that those things that we put in place have gone down considerably.

Paul Moss: Do you anticipate lobbying City Council for the increase in the income tax?

Rick Stevenson: No, I'll leave that to greater politicians. One of the things that you might have heard me say is that wherever there is a need for advocacy for low income people, for Wayne Township, I will do it.

Paul Moss: There is no question that your heart is in the right place. I think everybody is in full agreement on that. My question is more of a philosophical question. I am trying to put people on the spot. A lot of what 1001 has created was for various taxing entities a scramble to try to replace revenue as opposed to looking at the expense side. It appears that you are looking pretty hard at the expense side to make adjustments there. There is only so much you can do on the poor relief side although there are some things there that can be done. I will acknowledge that and I think you have done a good job there as well. I want to understand that your philosophical position is that you are not going to approach Council or you are going to approach them. I do believe that discussion is going to come up as a replacement revenue stream with the income tax. You are saying that is not the case.

Rick Stevenson: Not at this time.

Paul Moss: Now you are leaving yourself some room.

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Rick Stevenson: We have learned to never say no but not at this time. We will always reevaluate our position so that we can be most effective to those in Wayne Township that needs our assistance as well as keeping in line what is best for the taxpayers.

Paul Moss: Councilman Buskirk?

Roy Buskirk: Going back to the housing assistance, I know that you say you pay \$300 for three months and then it is based upon their income. Part of your problem has also been the fact that the Fort Wayne Housing Authority, through their Section 8 Program, has had a two-year waiting list?

Rick Stevenson: Yes. Section 8 housing is the ideal program that all low income people would like to have because it allows them to live next door to you and me and neighborhoods that is more conducive for enrichment. However, the fact is that low income housing is available other places such as McCormick and Millbrook. I was just recently out and being a native of this community, I was proud to see McCormick and Millbrook is being kept in a very nice condition. The atmosphere has enhanced, tremendously, and as I saw the people, I saw a neighborhood community. Public housing is not the stereotype that it once was. We are encouraging our people to make application for all public housing programs and not limit it just for Section 8.

Roy Buskirk: On the Section 8, the reason for the two-year waiting list is that because of availability of units or because of funding?

Rick Stevenson: It is because of funding. Units are available. You see rent signs all over Wayne Township. There are more rentals in our township than any but again, it is a matter of funding. Once it all works together, as we send referrals over to the Fort Wayne Housing Authority, their numbers go up and they tell the federal government that they need more money because they have a demand for services.

Maye Johnson: Trustee Stevenson, could you enlighten us in regards to the utility assistance? How does that work or other agencies that are providing utility assistance? What is your share of that whole burden?

Rick Stevenson: Thank you for asking that question. Another element of cost savings for us, previously when one came in for assistance on a gas bill that is \$112, we would pay that for that month. Because of the budget challenging, we had to do some capping. We have capped utilities, for example, \$50 for one bedroom. So instead of the \$112, we would pay \$50. So Paul says, what happens to that residual? We have found from talking to other townships that people come up with that money. In our own township, we have specialists that deal with community agencies and churches and then we refer them to them. It is a coordinated effort to meet the township assistance. We also require that everyone who is eligible for township assistance, to make application for energy assistance under Community Action. We

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

also require them to make application for the weatherization program. That encourages them to live in a manner that is cost effective for utilities. Your home is weatherized and therefore your utilities go down. It is a matter of dollars for utility payments as well as educating them as to how to keep the thermostat down. As a result, those two costs, shelter and utilities are the biggest costs for township assistance.

Maye Johnson: What about deposit assistance when someone has had an interruption in their service?

Rick Stevenson: It has been the practice, over several administrations of the township, not to pay deposits and reconnect fees. Even though those are challenging circumstances, we don't make a payment to Mr. Buskirk, we make it to NIPSCO. If we make a deposit or a payment, after a period of time, that deposit payment could go directly to that person. We have a practice that we don't make deposit payments. One of the things, the uniqueness of township government is that trustees have a discretionary policy that they can use. If I see there is a need or a stumbling block of putting a person in Fort Wayne Housing Authority and there is a utility payment, I can document and use the discretion and show that by putting him in public housing, it has saved the taxpayer X number of dollars.

Maye Johnson: How healthy is your Rainy Day Fund or should I say do you have a Rainy Day Fund?

Rick Stevenson: You said it right, Rainy Day is crying. One thing last year is that we had to go to the Department of Local Government Finance for our shortfall and we have to do it this year too. We had a Rainy Day Fund and they wanted us to exhaust it before we asked for a loan. We have done that. We wish there were monies in the Rainy Day Fund to cover a part of that shortfall.

Paul Moss: Councilman Miller?

Cal Miller: Perhaps, after a couple of questions, I will come see you to get a little bit better background because this is all very interesting. There has been some discussion about people that live above their means. I don't understand the concept of this loan and the idea that there is a max levy but there is the ability to get a loan. It seems to me to sidestep the max levy. What are the criteria, and I know this is not something that you created with respect to the need for the loan, but what criteria are there for getting a loan? Is it just a shortfall because the tax revenues haven't shown up yet or is it based on the requests or a combination?

Curtis Whitaker: I don't think we are a unique entity. I believe the public transportation entity needed some additional funds and they sought a loan. There is a maximum levy set but the statute, all of this is driven by the statute, there are particular requirements as to what needs to be in place for a unit of government to

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

apply for the loan. Then a unit of government can go outside the maximum levy and get a loan. It is not unique to townships; it is all units of government.

Tera Klutz: The taxpayers have the right to petition and remonstrate against any loan taken out in this way. It is not like the taxpayers don't have a say, in getting this loan, if they thought it was outrageous and too high. I think that might help too.

Paul Moss: How well known is that fact, though? It doesn't seem like, when this occurs, that it is known.

Lisa Blosser: It has happened.

Tera Klutz: The ones that fight against it, they should know. Anybody who calls and asks us any information, and I hope that the Wayne Township Trustee, would let them know.

Paul Moss: But there is nothing, from a State law perspective, that requires as a part of the process, to advertise it?

Tera Klutz: Oh, yes, it is required.

Paul Moss: But the ability to remonstrate, specifically?

Tera Klutz: It is filed, as such, in our office. Ten or more and it's specifically on that. When you said, is it widely known? People don't read the newspapers. That is why I would say that we mostly take it from calls where the people complain. That is the easiest way for us to let them know.

Cal Miller: Going back to the living above the means analogy, this whole system strikes me as of a perfect example of where the Trustee's office is getting in backward like someone does who refinances their house and gets an appraised value that is inflated way over what it is really worth. You have undertaken some great measures to address this problem but at this point in time, where you say that the debt service is going to vanish and you are having increases in your requests and looking at your cost measures, it doesn't sound at all optimistic to me that the debt service and the need for the loan, that is over and above the max levy and you indicated that you can't appeal for any excess levy, it seems that it is just a cyclical problem. It is going to be exceedingly hard to eradicate even with your stewardship and the great things that you have indicated you are doing for Wayne Township. I go back that I think there is something fundamentally wrong with this setup in the first instance. And when we are talking about living above your means, what is wrong with, and again I know you didn't create this mess, merely taking what the max levy has allowed us and doing what great things you can do with that money? What is wrong with that? Where would you be if all you had was the max levy and assuming that you didn't have the loan obligation? What would suffer? Who would suffer? How many people would suffer?

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Curtis Whitaker: Again, our request is \$2 million. Our maximum levy is \$2.7 million. That \$700,000 is what we would be left with and it costs almost \$2 million for the people who need to be there to provide the service to those who come in for the service. We would be in a really bad spot.

Cal Miller: Why not max the levy? If you are asking for \$2 million and your max levy is \$2.7, doesn't that at least get you on the way? It raises taxes but aren't we doing it by asking for a loan? I know that is not a politically favorite thing to do but isn't it all the same thing? Doesn't it all come out in the wash because the loan has an impact on the tax rate? Once you get it under control, can't you back down the rate in any given year, by not asking as much? I don't understand why that is not being done.

Curtis Whitaker: We have no control over that. It is statute driven. If the statute was changed to where the rate, .0016 percent was increased large enough, then you are right and we wouldn't have to request a loan every year which comes with financial advisor costs, legal costs and interest. Those are additional costs to taxpayers.

Tera Klutz: They are at their max, Councilman Miller. He was talking about something else. There is \$2 million in direct assistance plus the other \$2 million to get to the \$4 million.

Cal Miller: I thought you said that you were at your max and then you said the max was \$2.7.

Tera Klutz: The overhead is what got them over.

Paul Moss: Are there any other questions or comments?

Paula Hughes: I guess I would say, and this kind of dovetails on the conversation that we had when Council first met and talked about the township trustees' budgets, the basic operating premise seems to be fairly radically different from how County Council approaches their budget. Some of the manipulations of these budgets, there has been advice from the DLGF that rather than creating Rainy Day Funds or using Rainy Day Funds, they have spent down any cash reserves that they may have had. If I recall correctly, this is what happened with this budget before. But before we were in the max rate and max levy issues and the prior township trustee lowered those levies because there was a cash reserve and then spent down all of the cash reserve. In some ways, it artificially deflated the annual operating budget because they were burning up that cash reserve rather than plumping up the Rainy Day Fund, which is what County Council has done for troubled times. Then, while they were in that lowered state, they were capped out and the law changed. You were locked in at the artificially low rate and so these loans are a reaction to that. They spent down all of that cash reserve and what would have happened before is that

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

they would have been able to increase their levy and continue business as usual. But now you are stuck.

Curtis Whitaker: I would like to add that the reserve was brought about by a loan.

Paula Hughes: Is that accurate?

Tera Klutz: Absolutely.

Paula Hughes: And it is not unique to this office.

Rick Stevenson: I would like to say last year, your demonstration and support of Wayne Township Trustee told the community that all government units are working in their behalf. When we went down to the Department of Local Government Finance and we presented our argument and we have to go again, I would hope that this body supports us. They are going to be proud to see what cost effective measurements that we have instituted since last year. I want you to be proud more so than them. I want you to be clear on that and that Wayne Township is looked on favorably and in control of its budget on the State level. They understand that shortfall and told us that we were going to be back. I am not taking anything for granted. Mr. Miller, next year I am not looking but am trying to do some more cost cutting. We promise you that we will look better. Even if we have a shortfall, we will look better.

Maye Johnson: I have a comment. It is not just Wayne Township. There are other townships that are being put in this position. You are being encouraged to apply for loans after spending down your cash reserves. It is kind of like robbing Peter to pay Paul. It is a lot of townships. The need is increasing. In terms of talking about living beyond your means, we all want to stay warm and we all need a roof over our heads. You are tasked with the responsibility of seeing people, day to day, with that need. You also have the concern of getting sued because people who have worked all of their lives now find themselves unemployed or in dire circumstances and feel that they have a right to exist. My philosophical position is that I agree that we have to find a way.

Roy Buskirk: I want to make one point here. Maybe this will help Councilman Miller a little bit. In the past, and it is not only Wayne Township, they were very frugal with their money and did not raise their tax rate to the max levy. You mentioned it prior but I just want to emphasize that a few years ago, the State Legislature changed this. When you did not raise it to your max, you always felt that you would be able to use that amount of increase in later years, if the need ever came. The State Legislature wiped out that opportunity of being to go back up. That is why it is so important to go to your max levy every year and if you do have excess that is when you need to move it to the Rainy Day Fund. The next township that we have coming before us has the same circumstances.

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Cal Miller: I appreciate the recap and I understood what Councilwoman Hughes was saying. I would say, Councilman Buskirk, I wouldn't agree that every year they should go to their max levy. I would agree that they should get a Rainy Day Fund established that has considerations that the Auditor's office provided us and the research of the sufficient amount to be in the Rainy Day Fund. Then, to the extent that that has been established, and you are in a situation where you don't need to max out the levy, then you don't max out the levy. I think we owe that to the taxpayers. I agree that the Rainy Day Fund ought to be something that is looked to in your budget, when this thing gets under control and righted under your watch.

Darren Vogt: Curtis, were you going to say something about State Legislature and lobbying the State Legislature to change something? You started to talk about that and I wanted to give you the opportunity if that was something that you were looking at or not.

Curtis Whitaker: We had done something in the past and it didn't work.

Darren Vogt: Okay.

Paul Moss: Well, to kind of wrap this one up, are there any additional comments or would someone want to make a motion in terms of recommendations for Wayne Township?

Curtis Whitaker: And Mr. Chair, we would like to suggest that the number be \$3,350,689 because we know that the \$3.2 million for township assistance, we will not receive.

Cal Miller: And that is the 14% increase over 2008.

Curtis Whitaker: Yes.

Cal Miller: Before we address that number, procedurally, what is happening here? We are making some recommendations. Let's assume that the recommendation is what you are requesting or if the recommendation is something else, what happens next for Wayne Township?

Paul Moss: I think I am correct in saying that the DLGF will take our recommendation and take it into consideration.

Paula Hughes: But first, the Wayne Township Trustee board will.

Curtis Whitaker: That is right, they will act on that on the 30th of this month.

Darren Vogt: Unfortunately, I could not attend the meeting that was scheduled earlier. What was done with the other townships? Consistency is important from a

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

township level. I don't know what happened and what the other townships requested. What were our recommendations to them?

Paula Hughes: They varied but we generally recommended to them that the budgets be held within the 4% average growth quotient allotment. We recommended a denial of additional township assistance loans but it was different because several of those townships had large fund balances. I agree with being consistent but I believe there are extenuating circumstances.

Cal Miller: This is the question that I have, the meat and potatoes question for you, Mr. Stevenson. If this Council were to say that we want there to be a 4% increase and not a 14% increase, despite all that you have outlined for us, the recommendation is going to be 4%, and you get down to the DLGF and they look at the recommendation and says that we agree, what I understand happens then is that you would have a \$335,000 decrease in the \$3,350,000 that you are requesting, which is roughly 10%. How is that going to impact what you are doing in Allen County? How would you make that work?

Rick Stevenson: I kind of alluded to it when I talked about how you have to give the kids information without feeding them or giving them information without paying the utility bills. It has compound affects.

Curtis Whitaker: One of the things is that our debt service is outside of the max levy and they do not want us to default on the debt service. If they did not do that, we would have to do some creative things so that we don't default on the debt service. That would make us \$300,000 short in township assistance which would make us that much shorter in the next budget cycle. Our loan amount next year would be \$300,000 more because we didn't get \$300,000. We have to pay back our debt service. We don't have a choice.

Cal Miller: Wouldn't the other option be granting less in terms of relief?

Curtis Whitaker: The \$630,000, we will get this year and it is repaid next year. We would have already gotten the money and spent it. If next year, we don't get \$300,000 then we would have to make up the \$300,000 that we didn't receive for debt service, which we would probably take from township assistance because that is our largest fund. That will be \$300,000 short and we would be back next year with maybe \$900,000 or whatever that new number would be.

Roy Buskirk: You mentioned about cutting the benefits by \$300,000 but yet your administrative costs are \$2 million. Wouldn't you cut the administrative costs and not the benefits?

Curtis Whitaker: We would have to make some hard choices. I don't know if I said direct assistance but we would have to cut in township assistance. Somewhere, in township assistance, we would have to come up with \$300,000. What it would do is

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

reduce both because if you don't have people, you can only see so many people in a day which means that people would turn around and have a domino affect as it relates to all of this.

Rick Stevenson: Mr. Miller, for example, when you talk direct assistance, you need so many people to provide that shelter and utility. We have another program where we have people staffed to assist better than 120 people that receive SSI or small income. Some of those have disabilities, physical, mental or other problems. If we had to cut back those administrative staff from that, it would make a dramatic impact on the homeless. It would make a dramatic impact on the social life in Fort Wayne and would not be a nice thing especially when other agencies have fallen short of meeting the needs of this particular people.

Cal Miller: I have heard so many good things about what you are doing and the one thing that I haven't heard, and I know it is easier said than done, if I were the Wayne Township Trustee, I would be looking at this problem and saying that I would eradicate the cycle of needing these loans in a four or six year period of time. I am going to eliminate the need for that and I am going to do that by instituting this sort of budget and this is going to be the pot and it is not going to get any bigger. I will be exceedingly judicious, as I know you are, in the administration of the relief that your office provides. I haven't heard that yet and maybe you are developing that. I know that you have talked about trying to get rid of that and have taken these measures. But I think that is what needs to happen. This problem needs to be eliminated with a definite plan that is going to hurt but hopefully not too much with respect with what you do in your office and the relief that you give over a period of time that isn't unreasonable.

Curtis Whitaker: In all due respect, I think that is what the Trustee said when he said that all of the measures that he had put in place, we looked at the amount of assistance that was given out and we have reduced it. What we are waiting on now is the affects of that reduction. This is why we came before this body and we told our board that we don't want a million dollar loan but we want a \$630,000 loan. That is the reduction that we are seeing. We just did that in May and over time, we do hope to see those costs continue to go down.

Cal Miller: Mr. Whitaker, I applaud that, I really do. I understand all of the things that you have said. I am sincere in my applaud for that. It is a mathematical equation. You have all of the variables. No?

Tera Klutz: Except the people that are in need. They cannot control that. When he said that he cannot help the economy, he is really going to try. If they see this 46% increase, it is going to be hard for him to tell you that it is going to be eliminated in four years.

Cal Miller: Isn't there a finite amount of money available?

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tera Klutz: It says that you shall provide assistance and they don't have a choice. If it was optional, then he could say four years we are going to have it. When he mentioned that the economy is what he cannot help, but he is going to try, in all fairness, if he gave you a time, I don't think he could hold to it.

Maye Johnson: I don't think you have any control over the economy.

Darren Vogt: And there are the eligibility standards. You have done things on the eligibility standards, which is why I would like to see those to see if there is anything further that needs to be fleshed out to make sure that you have explored all things.

Rick Stevenson: I assure you that we are moving in that direction and when that comes, you will know it. Our goal is to be the type of township that not only the State can be proud of but the country to be proud of to say that this is how you meet those challenges. We do it by working with the community, existing agencies and keeping the costs down. I can pay your medicine bill but there are other places that can pay your medicine bill and so we direct them there. Capital outlays, we are watching those types of things. It won't be long but you will be proud to say that our township, Wayne Township, is the type of example that is the epitome of service as well as responsible for the tax dollars.

Paul Moss: We are going to need to bring this to closure. Would anybody like to make some type of suggestion as far as a recommendation?

Maye Johnson: I will make a motion to support the request, as it has been expressed and in keeping with what this Council decided at the first hearing, encourage Wayne Township to stay within the 4% and support it as it has been asked today.

Paul Moss: Those are contradictory statements. They are not talking about staying within the 4%. That was a little contradictory in my mind. Maybe I am confused. Are you supporting this as is? I think it is an either or.

Maye Johnson: That is why I was reluctant to get the jump out there and make it. I want to support it and I am trying to find a way.

Paul Moss: I think it has to be an either or. If you support it as is, that's fine. But if you throw in that you want them to stay at the 4% that is not what they are proposing.

Curtis Whitaker: We have the maximum levy but then we have funds outside of the maximum levy. So how about this, we stay within our maximum levy controlled funds within 4%, which we already are. You are going to have a two-prong approach. We stay within the 4% of the General Fund but allow the debt service fund to go outside of the 4%.

Cal Miller: But you have no options to go above the 4%.

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Curtis Whitaker: We don't for our two funds. We do for our debt services.

Cal Miller: Right.

Paul Moss: Let's keep in mind that these are simply recommendations. If it is our desire to say that they should stay within the 4%, then we can say that. That is a philosophical opinion that we are providing. Your approach certainly circumvents that. If someone wants to make a motion to that affect, that is fine.

Cal Miller: I will move that the Wayne Township Trustee's Office stays within the 4% State Growth Quotient. I appreciate all of the work that you are doing. I am trying to do my job and I do respect what you are doing. That is my motion.

Maye Johnson: I think we have to be consistent with what we have done with the others. I will go along with that but at the same time I have to acknowledge that you have to do what you have to do to continue to provide services for people. So I second the motion.

Roy Buskirk: I call for the question.

Paul Moss: Moving right along now. We have a motion and a second. All in favor please signify by saying aye. All opposed same sign. The motion carries 5-1 (Hughes) (Kite absent). Thank you both very much, interesting discussion. Moving right along to Jefferson Township, is there anyone here that would like to come up? We can probably get through these pretty quick then.

Cal Miller: Make a recommendation with respect to Madison Township that we adopt their 6.7% decrease.

Paul Moss: Okay, hold on here. We have a motion for Madison, let's get through this.

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 6-0 (Kite absent).

Cal Miller: Move to make a recommendation for a 4% increase for Jefferson and Lafayette townships.

Roy Buskirk: I want to point out, on Lafayette Township, the response to question one is exactly what we were talking about in the fact that they did not go over their max levy because they had funds available. They have spent those funds and now they are being penalized because they didn't go to the max levy. They have some capital improvements because they want to do the cemeteries. The township is responsible for cemeteries.

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Cal Miller: I don't see how the argument is any different than the one Mr. Stevenson was presenting.

Paula Hughes: It's not. It is exactly the same situation. However, what is different is the percentage of their budget that is available as fund balance. If you looked at Wayne Township's fund balance, they had a balance of \$249,000 on June 30th, and I don't have my calculator but it is about 10%, less than 5% of their budget. The fund balance for Lafayette Township, they have \$51,000 and their annual proposed budget is \$37,000. They have an excess of 100% of one year's budget available in the fund balance. And that is mid-year without the 2008 tax revenues. That is a very compelling reason why they have a different story.

Roy Buskirk: Sounds like they still have some money in the bank.

Paula Hughes: Yes, they do.

Darren Vogt: So you are agreeing with Councilman Miller's motion?

Paula Hughes: Yes, I am agreeing with Councilman Miller's motion. I was disagreeing with Councilman Buskirk's argument.

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 6-0 (Kite absent).** We are now at the 2009 Allen County Budget approvals.

Paula Hughes: We have the Southwest Allen County Fire budget and the Airport budget as well.

Paul Moss: Where do we have that on the agenda?

Paula Hughes: Right here.

Paul Moss: We are starting out with Southwest Allen County Fire budget. I am sure that everyone had ample opportunity to understand the budget, based on the discussion that we had previously. Are there any additional comments or questions? Hearing none, is there a desire for a motion?

Darren Vogt: Unfortunately, Councilman Moss, I have the wrong seat. I will remember that next year. Be it ordained by the County Fire Protection District of Allen County, Indiana: That for the expenses of the County, City or Town government and its institutions for the year ending December 31, 2009, the sums of money shown on Budget Form 4-A are hereby appropriated and ordered set apart out of the several funds herein named and for the purposes herein specified, subject to laws governing the same. Such sums herein appropriated shall be held to include

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

all expenditures authorized to be made during the year, unless otherwise expressly stipulated and provided for by law. In addition for the purpose of raising revenue to meet the necessary expense of county, city and town government, tax rates are shown on Budget Form 4-B and included herein. Two (2) copies of Budget Forms 4-A and 4-B for all funds and departments are made a part of the budget report and submitted herewith.

Paula Hughes: Second.

Cal Miller: Are we just voting to approve their budget?

Paula Hughes: Yes, Southwest Allen County Fire.

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 (Kite absent).

Darren Vogt: Council, I will pass these around for you to sign. Councilman Miller, could you make a pile at the end for us?

Paul Moss: Moving along to the Allen County Airport Authority budget. We had discussion on that and we do have representatives of the Airport Authority here if anybody has any questions. If there is a desire to have them come forward and talk about this, we can.

Paula Hughes: I have a question. I would like confirmation, from Mr. Richardson, that this is the same information that was presented to us in August.

Tory Richardson: Tory Richardson here representing the Fort Wayne-Allen County Airport Authority. Everything that was provided to you previously has remained unchanged.

Paula Hughes: Okay, thank you.

Darren Vogt: Be it ordained by the County Fort Wayne-Allen County Airport Authority Board Indiana: That for the expenses of the Airport Authority government and its institutions for the year ending December 31, 2009, the sums of money shown on Budget 4-A are hereby appropriated and ordered set apart out of several funds herein named and for the purposes herein specified, subject to the laws governing the same. Such sums herein appropriated shall be held to include expenditures authorized to be made during the year, unless otherwise expressly stipulated and provided for by law. In addition, for the purposes of raising revenue to meet the necessary expense of the Airport Authority government, tax rates are shown on Budget Form 4-B included herein. Two (2) copies of Budget Form 4-A and 4-B for all funds and departments are made a part of the budget report and submitted herein.

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Paul Moss: That was a motion.

Paula Hughes: Second.

Paul Moss: We have a motion and a second. I would like to briefly comment that there is a substantial increase associated with this and I feel like our hands are tied. There is some debt service that we can't default on but I do want to say prospectively, we have all learned some important lessons in terms of how to deal with these types of situations in the future. I think some of that has been in play over the past couple of years. I wasn't involved in that situation at all but I think it is important to at least acknowledge that it was an unfortunate situation. Councilman Buskirk?

Roy Buskirk: I have a question on the Special Airport Cum Building Fund. It has shown an increase of 5%.

Tory Richardson: Again, as you have typically heard is that at 5%, we will get reduced down to the 4%.

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 (Kite absent). Moving right along, we have the approval of the 2009 Allen County budget.

Lisa Blosser: I can give a brief summary, if you would like.

Paul Moss: Go right ahead.

Lisa Blosser: The 2009 General Fund budget total will be \$88,615,383. During budget hearings, there were five appeals that were granted totaling \$404,436. Included in this budget is a 3% cost of living adjustment of \$1,496,494. Also included in this budget is the 27th pay allocation of \$1,968,951. The total of the other fund budgets is \$74,483,494. That gives us a grand total of the 2009 total Allen County budget of \$163,098,877. There are summaries of allocations and total budget submissions of all other funds, for your approval.

Darren Vogt: Councilman Moss, I have an ordinance. Where would you like me to go?

Paula Hughes: First, should we discuss the fact that Councilman Miller and I met with the Commissioners, earlier this week, and they have officially removed their request for appeal. We did not grant it within their budget. We granted it as a Council earmark. It was a complicated enough discussion that there has not been time for the Auditor's Office to calculate all of the transfers within funds that their amended request requires. Our recommendation is that Council approve this budget as is and the Auditor's Office will make the changes and have them ready for the

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

December meeting when it looks like we will be ready to make salary recommendations.

Darren Vogt: That has to do with the judge and the other funds.

Paula Hughes: Yes.

Lisa Blosser: It affected quite a few other budgets also.

Paula Hughes: Yes it did.

Cal Miller: Paula and I will make some recommendations about which line items should be transferred out of the Commissioners budget because it is not Commissioner related responsibilities. We have an agreement with the Commissioners, at least Commissioner Brown and Commissioner Peters were there, and they are comfortable and we have come to consensus. ACJC has also agreed so there is a good spirit of cooperation to try to get their budget in a position that reflects what they are trying to do in their office rather than have oversight of some things that doesn't really impact their office.

Roy Buskirk: What happened with Soil and Water?

Paula Hughes: I believe the intention will be to make that request whole. That is what the Commissioners indicated in the meeting on Tuesday.

Cal Miller: I think the way it has worked out is that once ACJC is done, the funds that the Commissioners had, they are going to be reevaluating their budget, it seems that there were going to be some available funds for Soil and Water Conservation. I don't know exactly what the decision, by the Commissioners, is in that regard. It looked like they were going to be considering having some level of funding to make up for the withdrawal of the appeal. I don't want to speak for the Commissioners or anyone else, in that regard.

Roy Buskirk: They sent a letter to Soil and Water that they weren't going to fund them.

Paul Moss: Well, we have Commissioner Peters here.

Nelson Peters: Good morning, Nelson Peters, Allen County Commissioner. First of all, thanks for taking the time to meet with us, the other day. We are withdrawing all appeals. What we originally requested, in terms of reductions with respect to Soil and Water Conservation, 4-H and Maumee River Basin Commission, still stand. We are requesting that the cuts, at the levels that we proposed, when we came before you before, in meeting with the Council members earlier this week, it appeared that with some of the budgetary shifts that will occur and some that will have to be reconciled, after this vote is taken. There will be funding, for the most part, to restore the Soil

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

and Water Conservation to the level that they had requested and close to but not all the way for funding the Maumee River Basin to the funding that they requested. With those changes, we effectively made Soil and Water Conservation whole but not the Maumee River Basin. The other cuts would remain as proposed.

Cal Miller: What we determined, or found out, they were shifted out of their line items, that we thought would be appropriate and we were going to recommend to Council that they be put somewhere else but when they recasted what they needed to do to get to the 3.75% Circuit Breaker, they actually had more funds to reinstate the Soil and Water Conservation.

Paul Moss: Any additional comments in regards to the Allen County Budget?

Roy Buskirk: So, we are putting the Surveyor's request into the Council?

Lisa Blosser: It is earmarked and it is in your Council budget.

Paula Hughes: Are you waiting for the language?

Cal Miller: So what do we do with the Commissioners allocation appeal that we held?

Paula Hughes: We leave it as an earmark in our budget and that would, I would suggest, go into the Circuit Breaker allocation.

Paul Moss: Just to clarify, the \$842,000 that is on here for compensation, is to be utilized to address the outside inequities or is that simply for the merit pay?

Paula Hughes: Both. It is all that we earmarked and what is left of what we have earmarked for both external inequities and the remaining internal inequities with elected officials, chief deputies and executives. With executives, we pushed forward the merit pay system and I believe we are getting close to having something in place for elected officials and the chief deputies. I believe, from the preliminary numbers, that we will be able to address external inequities as well.

Paul Moss: Within the \$842,000?

Paula Hughes: Yes.

Paul Moss: What I am getting at is that once that \$842,000 is expended, we are going to be able to say, with a relatively straight face, that the external inequity issues, countywide, have pretty much been...

Paula Hughes: As of three years ago, when we started this process?

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Paul Moss: We have another 3% cost of living adjustment and to use the argument that has been thrown out at me, we should be keeping up and it should be fairly accurate.

Paula Hughes: Yes we should.

Cal Miller: I think a better way to put it is that County Council, as a body, has done what it is going to do. I think there can be some debate about whether it is enough but we have made some significant progress.

Roy Buskirk: Some of the exterior that is being done at this time, actually with the executives, because of the Human Resources study that is being done also, incorporates not only governmental jobs but also exterior jobs and coming up with their recommendations on them.

Darren Vogt: If we approve the salaries for elected officials today, can we adjust that?

Lisa Blosser: Yes, until the end of the year.

Roy Buskirk: The one thing, on the 3% cost of living, the County's increase according to the State study was 2.6%. They are in excess, a little bit, of what the State's study was.

Paula Hughes: So we are making up for lost time.

Paul Moss: I can't remember if we have a motion on the floor.

Darren Vogt: No, I am getting ready to read. Be it ordained by the County Council of Allen County, Indiana: That for the expenses of the County government and its institutions for the year ending December 31, 2009, the sums of money shown on Budget Form 4-A in the amount of \$163,098,877 are hereby appropriated and ordered set apart out of the several funds herein named and for the purposes herein specified, subject to the laws governing the same. Such sums herein appropriated shall be held to include all expenditures authorized to be made during the year, unless otherwise expressly stipulated and provided for by law. In addition for the purpose of raising revenue to meet the necessary expenses of County government, tax rates are shown on Budget Form 4-B and included herein. Budget Forms 4-A and 4-B for all funds and departments are made a part of the budget report and submitted here within.

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 5-1 (Buskirk) (Kite absent).

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Darren Vogt: An ordinance fixing the salaries, wages and other compensation paid to the officers and employees of Allen County, Indiana. Whereas: the authority to fix salaries, wages and other compensation paid to the officers and employees of Allen County, Indiana has been vested in the Allen County Council by I.C. 1971, 7101-24, as added and amended; and Whereas: the Allen County Council has considered all statements and recommendations concerning salaries and number of employees as prescribed by law; Now Therefore: be it ordained, by the Allen County Council that the number of deputies, assistants and other employees, as well as appropriations for salaries, wages and other rates of remuneration as defined by the above law, are hereby established for 2009. This ordinance read, considered and adopted by the member of the Allen County Council on this 18th day of September, 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 6-0 (Kite absent).

Paula Hughes: Be it ordained by the Allen County Council of Allen County, Fort Wayne, Indiana that: the attached salary ordinance includes wages and other compensation received by employees under the auspices of the Allen County Council for work performed by the employees. Other compensation includes holidays and payment of the employees three percent (3%) PERF portion, established by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Allen, plus vacation, sick days and sick day reimbursement allowed as set forth in the Allen County Personnel Manual. Full time employees are employees who are paid from individual annual salary appropriation lines found within their respective office or department budget; provided, that any sworn officer of the Allen County Police Department who completes any portion of this first twelve (12) months of County employment during calendar year 2009 shall, for such period in 2008 which comprises any portion of such initial twelve (12) months of employment, be paid at a rate equal to ninety-seven and one-half percent (97.5%) of his salary as approved herein. Except as specifically excluded, full-time employees shall be regularly scheduled to work not less than seven and one-half (7½) hours per day on a five (5) day a week schedule. The Auditor shall establish an hourly rate for each full time employee. This hourly rate shall be determined initially by dividing the employee's annual salary by fifty-two (52), then dividing that number by the regular number of hours the employee is scheduled to work (i.e. 40 hours or 37½ hours per week). Once determined, hourly rates shall only be modified with the approval of the County Council. Departments who are required to operate on a twenty-four (24) hour day may establish a four (4) day on and two (2) day off work schedule. Overtime payments, as required by the Fair Labor Standards Act, are hereby specifically approved. Employees who are on a 37½ hour workweek shall receive straight time for hours worked between 37½ and 40 and time and one-half thereafter. Employees, who are entitled to overtime payment in accordance with the Fair Labor Standards Act and are not otherwise compensated, shall be paid at an hourly rate as determined above. Classified employees shall have their step increase effective on the first day of the pay period

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

beginning after their anniversary date. Departments who may elect varying work weeks and hours shall notify the Auditor of such election. Except, as set forth above or otherwise specifically allowed by ordinance, no other payment shall be made to employees for compensation for work performed. A salary grid is hereby established for all classified positions as presented and approved by the Allen County Council for 2009. Said grid shall be modified in accordance with the preceding paragraphs as required. This ordinance read, considered and adopted by the members of the Allen County Council on this 18th day of September, 2008.

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 6-0 (Kite absent).

Darren Vogt: Salary ordinance 2009 Non-Classified Employees. Now therefore; be it ordained by the Allen County Council that: the attached shall be the salaries of the Departments Heads, Chief Deputies, Attorneys, Doctors, Executive and Special Occupations employed by Allen County, Indiana. They shall be paid their salary in twenty-seven (27) equal payments and shall receive no overtime. This ordinance read, considered and adopted by the members of the Allen County Council on this 18th day of September, 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 6-0 (Kite absent).

Darren Vogt: Salary ordinance 2009 Elected Officials now therefore; be it ordained by the Allen County Council that: the attached shall be the salaries of the Elected Officials employed by Allen County, Indiana. They shall be paid their annual salary in twenty-four (24) equal payments and shall receive no overtime. Pursuant to: IC 36-2-12-15, the compensation of the Allen County Surveyor will be reduced to \$42,571, if he is not a registered Surveyor. This ordinance read, considered and adopted by the members of the Allen County Council on this 18th day of September, 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 6-0 (Kite absent).

Darren Vogt: I was informed that this is the last one. 2009 Part Time Hire Salary Ordinance now therefore, be it ordained by the Allen County Council that: the attached shall be the hourly salaries for part time employees employed by Allen County Departments that utilize part time hire. This salary ordinance indicates the range of pay received by part time county employees for work performed during the

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

year 2009. Part time employees shall receive no more than the hourly rate established by County Council for hours worked and will not otherwise be entitled to fringe benefits. Those who are scheduled to work a minimum of thirty (30) hours per week in a position that extends for twelve (12) months or more are eligible for Group Health and Group Life Insurance. Unless otherwise specifically allowed by ordinance, no other payment shall be made to part time employees for compensation for work performed. This ordinance read, considered and adopted by the members of the Allen County Council on this 18th day of September, 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 6-0 (Kite absent). Okay, I think we are through the budget process. Moving right along, we are on the third line of the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Paula Hughes: Move approval of the minutes of June 24, 2008 and August 12, 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 6-0 (Kite absent).

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Lisa Blosser: The amount left for appropriation in the General Fund is \$2,239,299. For your consideration today, there are additional appropriation requests in the amount of \$212,894. Miscellaneous revenue collections are at 68.91% at the end of August. We are right on track.

Paul Moss: Are there any questions for the Auditor?

Darren Vogt: Move for approval of the financial report.

Paula Hughes: Second.

Paul Moss: We have a motion and a second. All in favor please signify by saying aye. All opposed same sign. The motion carries 6-0 (Kite absent). There has been a request to move the Election Board, which are items 18 through 22, up on the list so that they can head out for some travel. Please introduce yourself for the record.

Jeanne Nicolet: My name is Jeanne Nicolet and I am representing the Election Board. The Election Board is requesting the transfer of \$77,800 from our 200 and 300

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

series to the 100 series. The purpose of the transfer is to cover personnel expenses, which are due to higher than expected voter turnout for this Presidential election.

Paul Moss: Are there any questions from Council on this.

Darren Vogt: From a budgeting standpoint, you are going to be okay in these other lines?

Jeanne Nicolet: I can't guarantee that. We have done some cuts, for instance, a mailer that we expected to go to every registered voter in Allen County has been cancelled. We did one for the primary and we hoped to do one in the fall but we cut that out. It has resulted in a savings of around \$28,000. We know it is going to be close but we are hoping that we don't have to come back.

Cal Miller: I am sure that none of us have forgotten how unusual the primary was for Indiana was this year. As liaison for the Election Board, I have been in contact with them and talking about this issue since the primary.

Darren Vogt: Move for approval of items 18 through 20 in the amount of \$77,800 transferred to items 21 and 22.

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 (Kite absent).** Moving right along to the Treasurer, items one and two. I'm sorry, only item one.

Sue Orth: I'm Sue Orth, Chief Deputy Treasurer. We received a refund check for postage. We had Proforma print, stuff and mail our bills. Before they could mail them, we had to overnight a check. When they calculated the amount for us to pay, they had put one of the amounts in twice. When they found that error, they refunded the check. We are requesting to get that money back into our fund so that we can cover postage that we are going to have to pay later when we mail our fall bills.

Roy Buskirk: So what it amounts to is the refund check went to the Auditor's Office and now it is being requested to come out of their account and back to the Treasurer's account.

Sue Orth: Right.

Cal Miller: Move for approval of item one.

Darren Vogt: Second.

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

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 (Kite absent). Thank you and sorry to keep you waiting.

Paula Hughes: Item two has been withdrawn.

Paul Moss: We do have a salary ordinance for the Sheriff.

Ken Fries: Good morning, Kenny Fries, Sheriff of Allen County. Beside me is Pam Thorton, Head of Nursing at the jail. Yes, we have withdrawn the first request but that is not to say that we may not be back here in November. We are doing everything that we can to make it through the end of the year but we will see. The salary ordinance that we are requesting is for three new LPN's positions. We went to the Personnel Committee, I believe it was August 19th. This will replace two RN's and a QMA at the jail. We have not been able to fill the positions of the RN's, at the jail, and so we are going to go with three LPN's and it will save a minimum of \$8,000 a year for the County. I have been assured by Pam that we will be able to fill these positions. I told her that I would have her talk a little bit but I had no idea how long this morning was going to take. I was going to have her talk about the intern program that we have at the jail, for nurses. We are actually going to hire one of them, I believe.

Pam Thornton: We have hired one. We have students from Brown Mackie College that come in and do their externships and we recently hired one as a part-time LPN. She recently graduated from there and came to us. We have another one that wants to apply. Every month, we have at least two students from there and we also have IPFW students, as well.

Cal Miller: I understand it is a challenging environment to work in. This salary, if I was an LPN coming right out of college, is a premium, isn't it?

Pam Thornton: For LPN's, yes it is.

Ken Fries: Hence the reason that we are here to fill those positions.

Darren Vogt: Move for approval of the salary ordinance request for LPN's at the salary of \$36,753.

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 6-0 (Kite absent). Item three is ACJC.

Darren Vogt: If you notice, Council, item seven is also for ACJC.

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Joe Brita: Good morning, I am Joe Brita with the Allen County Juvenile Center. A while back, we had applied for a grant from the Drug and Alcohol Consortium and was awarded a portion of \$415. We would like to use that to buy a drug identification kit for the Drug and Alcohol Counselor for educational purposes.

Darren Vogt: Move for approval of item three in the amount of \$415.

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 (Kite absent).

Joe Brita: The second request is that we would like to appropriate the remaining \$685 out of Fund 299 Project Income. We would like to use those funds to buy graphing calculators for school.

Roy Buskirk: Make a motion to approve item seven.

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 6-0 (Kite absent). I am glad we could keep you waiting all morning for \$1,000 worth of appropriations.

Joe Brita: If I might, Councilman Miller and Councilman Vogt, I know how extremely busy you are and I want to thank you for the time and counsel that you gave us this week.

Cal Miller: Thank you.

Darren Vogt: Thank you.

Paul Moss: Next is item four for Superior Court.

Jerry Noble: Good morning, Jerry Noble, Court Executive.

Fran Gull: Fran Gull, Superior Court.

Jerry Noble: We submitted documentation to go with this request. This has to do with a case that originated in Lake County. I had an opportunity to talk with Councilman Vogt and Councilwoman Hughes this week, about this. It is a change of venue case from Lake County to Allen County and it starts October 20th. It is scheduled for two weeks and we anticipate it will be a sequestered trial. We have had a little bit of experience with these, over the years, and we know the drill of preparing the logistics for sequestered trials. This is not a County Judge. Marion County will be presiding over this case. We will have expenses connected with the sequestration of

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

the jury. Criminal Rule 24, computer aided transcript, court reporter, restaurants and same day transcript, these go together to make up the request that you see before you. It is reimbursable to Allen County from Lake County. Judge Gull had the opportunity to speak with the judge from Lake County and got some good contact information about how to go about getting our reimbursed. We will work with the Auditor's Office, closely. This is going to go in the Change of Venue line item and anything that is not spent will automatically revert back to the General Fund.

Fran Gull: Candidly, I have been concerned that Lake County is facing some dire financial conditions. Superior and Circuit Courts have established outstanding relationships with our local vendors. These are going to be Allen County folks that will be called upon to be sequestered for two weeks to do this jury trial. I was concerned and remain concerned that, we will get paid from Lake County but it is going to be on the slow pay process. Rather than have our vendors slow paid, I would rather that we be slow paid because we know we are going to get that money back. We do have a good relationship with our vendors and I don't think it is fair to have a hotel wait for six to eight months, potentially, to get reimbursed from Lake County who wasn't even aware that this case was coming back up for retrial for the fourth time.

Paul Moss: Council, are there any questions, comments or a motion?

Darren Vogt: Move for approval of item four for Change of Venue for \$81,050.

Paula Hughes: Second.

Paul Moss: **We have a motion and a second.** Councilman Buskirk?

Roy Buskirk: I thought that, when I read this the other day, the jury will be from Allen County but not the judge.

Fran Gull: The jury is from Allen County. The judge is from Marion County. All of the Superior Court judges and Circuit Court judges recused themselves because of conflicts of residing over this case. The judge that was appointed by the Indiana Supreme Court was from Boone County and he was called to be Chief Defense Counsel for the prisoners at Guantanamo Bay. He has since been replaced by Judge Bob Altice who is the presiding judge of criminal court in Marion County.

Paul Moss: **There's a motion and a second. All in favor please signify by saying aye. All opposed same sign. The motion carries 6-0 (Kite absent).** Thank you. Commissioners and the County Liability Fund.

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

Judy Heck: Judy Heck, Financial Coordinator for the Commissioners Office.

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Nelson Peters: We are asking for an appropriation out of the General Fund of \$50,000 for the County Liability Fund. This is a fund that we typically keep around \$300,000 in. What you have, in your hand, shows some historic data about what has been in that fund and what has been expended out of that fund. You can see that typically what gets expended is what has been appropriated. We have gotten to a point, this year that we have fallen to about \$49,316 short. So we are asking for the appropriation to help cover some of the fees associated with litigation and so forth.

Roy Buskirk: Are there any questions?

Paula Hughes: Move for approval of item five for \$50,000.

Maye Johnson: Second.

Darren Vogt: One quick question. If there is a balance in the fund, if these numbers don't come in, will you keep the money you appropriated in that fund?

Nelson Peters: In that fund.

Darren Vogt: Then you will leave the \$300,000 that you put in for next year's budget as well.

Nelson Peters: Yes.

Roy Buskirk: So it will be an accumulation, kind of like a Rainy Day Fund, for you.

Nelson Peters: Yes.

Judy Heck: Self insurance.

Roy Buskirk: **We have a motion and a second. All in favor please signify by saying aye. All opposed same sign. The motion carries 5-0 (Moss and Kite absent).**

Tera Klutz: We have to do item six.

Lisa Blosser: Yes, that is part of the request.

Paula Hughes: Move for approval of item six in the amount of \$148,500.

Maye Johnson: Second.

Roy Buskirk: **We have a motion and a second. All in favor please signify by saying aye. All opposed same sign. The motion carries 6-0 (Kite absent). We are ready for number eight.**

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Paul Moss: Number eight is Cum Bridge Fund.

Lisa Blosser: I can do that one. In 2002, the Commissioners, by ordinance eliminated the Cum Bridge tax levy. In 2003, the remaining balance in the Cum Bridge Fund was spent down to zero however, the interest accrued and was not spent. It has been accumulating since that time. This appropriation is required to spend the fund down to zero and then officially close the fund.

Darren Vogt: Is this going to go into a contractual line for the Commissioners?

Lisa Blosser: No, into Highway.

Paula Hughes: It has to be spent on bridges. Move for approval of item eight for \$9,760.

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 (Kite absent).**

Roy Buskirk: I do have one question. Is that going to take every penny out of that account so that we can get it closed?

Lisa Blosser: Yes, absolutely. We went a little bit high to make sure that we got all of the interest included.

Roy Buskirk: Okay, I want to make sure that that account is closed.

Paul Moss: All right, item nine is Youth Services.

Chris Dunn: Good morning, Chris Dunn with Youth Service Center. I am requesting \$12,000 out of the 737 Placement Fund. This is to cover fuel costs until the end of the year.

Darren Vogt: Move for approval of item nine in the amount of \$12,000.

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 6-0 (Kite absent).**

Roy Buskirk: Chris, I would suggest that in the future, that you discuss this with your liaison and then you would possibly not even have to attend.

Darren Vogt: We have considered the consent agenda for a long time but not yet figured it out. We have to decide how to do it or not do it.

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Paul Moss: Maybe we can come up with some criteria. We are now at items 10 through 17, transferring Human Resources from Sheriff to Human Resources.

Brian Dumford: Good morning, Brian Dumford, Director of Human Resources. I am requesting a transfer from the Sheriff's Department budget to the Human Resources budget. This is for the salaries and expenses related to the position of HR Manager. I was approached earlier this summer and the Sheriff asked if we could house the position from his office into our office. Through mutual agreement, which I supplied copies with the request, we agreed to not only physically locate the employee here but also bring that employee under the Human Resources budget. She would be a dedicated resource to the Sheriff' Department but would be under our budget and our auspices. This would allow us to have greater flexibility in assisting her in her HR duties and also reassigning, if there is any excess capacity in that position, into other Human Resources items. The move has already been made and so we are requesting the official move. It has been a positive win-win for both organizations.

Darren Vogt: Was this reflected in 2009's budget?

Brian Dumford: Jackie and I have been emailing back and forth and I believe that she has already made those changes.

Tera Klutz: Yes they have been made.

Darren Vogt: Move for approval of...

Roy Buskirk: Wait a minute, I don't understand the salary ordinance. Why are we changing the salary amount?

Brian Dumford: We're not.

Paula Hughes: We're not.

Roy Buskirk: So we still have to approve it for his department?

Tera Klutz: Yes.

Paula Hughes: Salary ordinance is an annual amount.

Roy Buskirk: I understand that but if the salary, I guess it is because the position is being changed to his department. I understand.

Darren Vogt: Move for approval of transfer of funds for items 10 through 17 in the amount of \$10,417.

Maye Johnson: Second.

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Paul Moss: We have a motion and a second. Just so I understand, the position title has changed?

Lisa Blosser: No.

Paul Moss: The position title is the same and is HR Manager. Is there an HR Manager already in your office?

Brian Dumford: Yes, Ms. Jacquay is an HR Manager/Employment Specialist. We made need to adjust those in the future.

Paul Moss: Adjust those salaries or the titles?

Brian Dumford: Titles.

Paul Moss: Okay, so are there going to be some supervisory expectations given the Manager? Was this individual supervising individuals over in the Sheriff's Office?

Brian Dumford: No.

Paul Moss: So this is more of a physical move than anything else.

Brian Dumford: Yes.

Cal Miller: It could be management of people at the jail. It depends on how you look at it.

Paul Moss: The Sheriff has acknowledged that there is not going to be any attempt to replace this position over there?

Brian Dumford: Correct. We are taking their line item and moving it to ours. That effectively makes it go away there.

Paul Moss: There's a motion and a second. All in favor please signify by saying aye. All opposed same sign. The motion carries 6-0 (Kite absent).

Darren Vogt: We have a salary ordinance. Consideration of an amended salary ordinance transferring the position from the budget of the Sheriff's Department 100-0501-421 to Human Resources 100-4301-411 Manager 13.85 with an annual salary of \$44,747 effective September 27, 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 6-0 (Kite absent).

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Roy Buskirk: We will have to remember, when we look at next year's budget, the Sheriff is going to show that his budget is less, by this salary.

Lisa Blosser: We always make those adjustments throughout the year.

Paul Moss: Brian, are you going to stick around for the Highway Department discussions?

Brian Dumford: Yes.

Paul Moss: The Highway Department has some adjustments that they wanted to make. They were discussed at the Personnel Committee. I will let you guys summarize them.

Mike Thornson: Good morning, I am Mike Thornson with the Highway Department. I have also brought along Martha Starnes from our department. About two years ago, the Highway Department's structure included a Highway Operations Manager that works the north and south facilities' operations and maintenance activities. I included a Chief Mechanic at the north facility and a Chief Mechanic at the south facility. In our downsizing last year, we eliminated the Operations Manager position which also included lead management duties. We distributed those responsibilities among the Executive Director, Supervisor of the north facility, Supervisor of the south facility and the Chief Mechanic who took over the fleet management duties. We also eliminated one Chief Mechanic and made one Chief Mechanic oversee operations of both the north and south facilities. The Chief Mechanic that remained, having duties over both north and south and fleet management, has been handling that very well. In recognition of the fact of the extended duties that he has taken over, we would like to create the position of Fleet Manager and eliminate one of the Mechanic One positions at the barn. We would end up with the Fleet Manager, Chief Mechanic and one less Mechanic One position. We will not be increasing the number of people out there, full-time equivalent positions. We want to pay these guys for the duties that they are actually doing.

Paul Moss: Council, do you have any questions on the first salary ordinance which is the Chief Mechanic to Fleet Manager?

Darren Vogt: I am a little confused. So you eliminated the position in November of 2007?

Mike Thornson: Yes.

Darren Vogt: You gave the duties to someone else? I guess I am confused about what you are doing.

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Mike Thornson: We have a Chief Mechanic and we have nobody who is specifically assigned to fleet management. The Chief Mechanic has been handling the garage activity and the fleet management responsibilities. He has been ordering new vehicles and equipment and managing our fleet without compensation for that.

Roy Buskirk: The reason that the Chief Mechanic was given that responsibility is because you eliminated a position.

Mike Thornson: Right.

Darren Vogt: Have the job descriptions been rewritten, qualifications been redone and all of those kinds of things?

Brian Dumford: I can speak to that, Councilman, and yes they have. The Fleet Manager position has been written from scratch and has been through the Oliver system. The duties of Fleet Management and the types of activities that the Fleet Manager will be able to do will be a better management of the Highway's fleet. They will be able to do more detailed analysis and keep up on stuff more than the person who was doing it. Also he would make sure they are on the road and manage the mechanic sites as well. We are shifting around a little bit. We will take away one of the line level mechanics and not increase the headcount at all. We created the Fleet Manager position to focus on the specs, analysis of fuel consumption, vendor relationships and dealing with new products that are coming on line.

Darren Vogt: Will this position then manage the repair and maintenance? Are they managing people or are they just managing the operational pieces?

Mike Thornson: The Fleet Manager also oversees the mechanic staff and the parts staff. He is also responsible for the entire fleet, ordering new vehicles and making sure that we have the proper equipment. It is an expanded position.

Roy Buskirk: The one thing, at Personnel, is that it is basically the Chief Mechanic job and has also been given the work of a Fleet Manager. This particular individual will also oversee all of the mechanics and even do mechanical work himself. This is the reason that we had one of the low, entry level mechanic positions eliminated. We didn't feel it was necessary to replace this individual in the mechanic field.

Darren Vogt: So, the position has already been filled and you are basically reclassifying the person that is in the position? You're not posting this position?

Brian Dumford: The individual, who is the current Chief Mechanic, would like to move into the Fleet Manager position. Then we want to look internally to backfill the Chief Mechanic position. Then from the internal movement, one of those lines will be eliminated. So, not to come back to you next month and ask to have one of the mechanics reclassified to the Chief Mechanic, we create a new line item now for

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Fleet Manager and the Chief Mechanic line will be vacated. Internal movement will fill the Chief Mechanic line and then the line level mechanic will go away.

Darren Vogt: So are any of the positions going to be posted so that any of the people can apply for them?

Brian Dumford: They will be posted internally for three days.

Darren Vogt: So then people will apply for them but how does that internal work?

Brian Dumford: The standard process is that they will be posted and resumes and applications will be accepted. The hiring decisions will be made from that. Everyone will have the opportunity to apply. The Fleet Manager position has already been designated to an individual but our system does allow people to apply.

Darren Vogt: Is that a flaw in the system? If we are going to post a position, I look at it from a personnel standpoint, and we already have someone planned to move into a position but our requirements are that we have a job posted for a certain number of days, people can apply and interview for it, that is a problem that they are applying for a job that has already been spoken for?

Brian Dumford: I would agree with you.

Darren Vogt: How do we rectify that situation?

Brian Dumford: The reason that is to maintain a consistency in a system that all jobs are posted. There could be somebody out there, you just don't know.

Mike Thornson: I think it comes down to the fact that no promises have been made. We envision how it is going to work out. Like Brian said, if someone comes along that has more experience and can handle it better, we certainly could consider that. Right now, this person is the only person in our staff that has taken all of these duties and handled them.

Brian Dumford: It is a technicality that we have maintained to try and maintain the consistency of a system. It is a slight flaw. It has to go with the technicality that people have the right to be considered for a position even though there is a strong candidate ready to go. But no promises have been made.

Darren Vogt: I guess I would suggest that when we post a position, that everyone has the opportunity to apply. I hear that is what you are saying but it doesn't sound like that is what you are saying. You are saying that there is already someone to walk into that position. My response would be that I want to see all of the resumes that come in and the people who apply for that position.

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Cal Miller: Since you are eliminating the one position, is it better than revenue neutral? Meaning is this going to cost any more money in your budget or is it going to be less because you eliminated a position?

Mike Thornson: We won't be increasing our budget. The position, there is an increase with the salary for that position but the way that we propose to handle that is we have another Maintenance 1 position that has not been filled.

Roy Buskirk: But it is an increase in your wages.

Mike Thornson: Yes.

Roy Buskirk: The position that you are eliminating is not as high paying as the position you are creating.

Mike Thornson: Yes.

Darren Vogt: Overall, it is costing more money.

Cal Miller: How much of an increase from the one position to the new position?

Mike Thornson: \$4,500.

Roy Buskirk: From the entry level position?

Mike Thornson: No from Chief Mechanic to Fleet Manager. The mechanic one position is at about \$31,742.

Darren Vogt: That is the position that is being eliminated? So it is about a \$21,000 difference.

Martha Starnes: The person that we have in mind is at a step 7.

Mike Thornson: If the person moves up, the difference would be from about \$40,000 to \$46,000 or \$47,000. The person moving up from Chief Mechanic to the Fleet Manager is another \$4,500.

Roy Buskirk: In answering your question, the entry level mechanic is \$31,700. What is an LTC7 entry level?

Martha Starnes: The entry level for LTC7 is \$40,609.

Roy Buskirk: So basically you are talking \$9,000.

Cal Miller: I would like to add that I agree with Councilman Vogt that there is no technical glitch. This is a situation where you are posting a job and evaluating all

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

comers and you have a strong candidate. I wouldn't characterize this as a technical glitch. I would characterize it that we are making a posting that we take seriously, we have a very qualified candidate and would welcome the opportunity to see if we can get an even better candidate. Then we would let the best person suited for the job, prevail. I think any other characterization is problematic. I can't imagine that you feel any differently than that. Mike, if you have an outstanding person that is going to blow your socks off, vis-à-vis the person that is already there, we would be foolish not to consider that. That ought to be the attitude that you take towards any of your postings.

Mike Thornson: That is why no promises have been made.

Brian Dumford: I appreciate that comment and I will say that when we changed a position in our department, earlier this year, there were no promises made to the individual either. Everyone was considered for that.

Paul Moss: The individual behind you there, are you the finance person or are you HR?

Martha Starnes: Financial.

Paul Moss: Do you have an HR person over there too?

Mike Thornson: No.

Darren Vogt: Council, the salary ordinance that we have before us today, is for the person who is at a step seven.

Roy Buskirk: Yes, you determine the salary based upon the number of years that they have worked for the County.

Brian Dumford: You can amend that to be at a step one.

Paula Hughes: I don't think we should approve the actual salary ordinance until it is filled, right?

Tera Klutz: It doesn't matter if you do or not because every salary ordinance that you pass, basically takes this grid into account. If somebody goes into that position with less service, it goes to the lower amount. You are passing this grid.

Darren Vogt: The point to me is the fact is that this job, the way it has been presented to me, I am going to vote against it based on the fact that this job has not been posted and already been committed to someone. We have a salary ordinance that is committed to that someone. I am not sure why that was done and how it was done but we need to open this up for anyone who wants to apply for it within the

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Highway Department. I am not sure that we are getting that when the salary ordinance is sitting in front of me and is for a specific person.

Roy Buskirk: May I ask the question then, how do you suggest that, in the future on any position, we need to have the salary ordinance in place prior to time of hiring?

Darren Vogt: Why wouldn't we advertise it at whatever the LTC7 is?

Paula Hughes: No.

Roy Buskirk: You would advertise the Fleet Manager position as an LTC.

Tera Klutz: Classification seven.

Roy Buskirk: Right, classification seven and the salary amount...

Tera Klutz: Varies.

Lisa Blosser: How are you going to post the job?

Brian Dumford: We are going to post the job as an internal position and only full-time County employees may apply. We don't want to increase any headcount. It will be posted as an LTC7, step two.

Cal Miller: Why the step part?

Lisa Blosser: Because it changes after six months.

Paul Moss: That is the policy. If you have an external hire, will you not increase your FTE count?

Mike Thornson: Yes, if you hire from the outside.

Cal Miller: Step two is just to accommodate the six month change. Is that where we are right now?

Paula Hughes: No, it is at a step seven.

Cal Miller: Well, let's just amend it to be a step two to address your concern.

Lisa Blosser: We can do that.

Cal Miller: It will accommodate anyone coming in and then it can be adjusted to whatever step level that person is.

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Brian Dumford: In the past, when we had positions hired from external, and you bring someone in from internal, we comeback before Council and amend it to the proper step. If you can pass the salary ordinance at an LTC7 and it can be adjusted internally, that will save us a step of coming back to Council.

Cal Miller: Why isn't the salary ordinance just an LTC7 that will be adjusted to whatever step the person happens to be that is hired for the job? That is my motion.

Roy Buskirk: But then you make a dollar amount. You leave the dollar amount off on the salary ordinance?

Tera Klutz: You can because there is no appropriation.

Roy Buskirk: Okay.

Paul Moss: We open ourselves up though, if I understand this correctly, by doing what Councilman Miller is suggesting, to an additional FTE. The way that I am viewing this is that it is almost an internal reorganization. That is what you are trying to accomplish with no net increase in FTE's. I understand that there is a modest increase in your aggregate expense because there is going to be an increase in someone's salary. But by doing what is suggested with this motion, you could go out, hire somebody in and still have this other person that you intended to put in that position, is that correct or not?

Darren Vogt: No, they are going to advertise this internally only.

Paul Moss: Okay, let's say that they hire someone from within the County.

Cal Miller: Let me withdraw that motion. Let me make a motion that we pass the salary ordinance to be filled by someone internally, at an LTC7, to be adjusted to whatever step that person happens to be when the position is filled.

Brian Dumford: Council, at the Personnel Committee meeting, there was a handshake agreement between you and Bill Hartman that they were not going to increase their FTE's.

Roy Buskirk: No, they were going to eliminate one. That was the handshake agreement.

Cal Miller: Is there any interest in a second to that motion? Does it address your concern?

Roy Buskirk: I am not sure that the motion that you made, don't you mean LTC? You said FT.

Cal Miller: Whatever.

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Roy Buskirk: We have so many antonyms here that I am totally lost.

Cal Miller: Why don't you make the motion?

Roy Buskirk: I will make a motion that the salary ordinance for Fleet Manager and the classification will be LTC.

Lisa Blosser: Seven.

Roy Buskirk: Second?

Paul Moss: She can't second. She was saying seven.

Brian Dumford: LTC7 is the pay classification.

Roy Buskirk: Because they are in the seventh step?

Paul Moss: No, that is the classification.

Cal Miller: Can I try it again? Make a motion for a salary ordinance for an LTC7 that will be adjusted without further need of Council's consideration to whatever appropriate step classification that the person is when the position is filled when hired in the existing County employee pool.

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 (Kite absent).**

Roy Buskirk: You have two more to go.

Mike Thornson: On these next two positions, we currently have an Account Bookkeeper, a Cost Accountant and a Bookkeeper. We want to reclassify these two positions so that they are both Cost Accountant/Bookkeeper. This is for the purposes of cross-training and covering for each other's duties. We are requesting an increase from level three to level four. Over the last three years, we have lost four employees in these positions, to higher paying jobs elsewhere.

Paul Moss: This was discussed pretty extensively, as I recall, and we did approve it.

Roy Buskirk: Part of the reason is that they have had tremendous turnover in this position.

Mike Thornson: We lost four in the last three years. We had three people covering these positions and we are down to two now.

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Paul Moss: And the duties have changed.

Darren Vogt: Did it go through the classification system?

Roy Buskirk: Yes.

Paul Moss: Would anyone care to make a motion?

Darren Vogt: Since I have it, I will read it. How about that? Consideration of an amended salary ordinance, reclassifying a position within the budget of Highway 250-7201-431, Cost Accountant/Bookkeeper, 13.18, OSS 3 to OSS 4 for \$28,164.

Roy Buskirk: The other one is identical except for the amount and that is \$30,755.

Darren Vogt: Correct.

Cal Miller: That is driven by the step?

Darren Vogt: Correct.

Roy Buskirk: I will second that.

Paul Moss: So we have both salary ordinances addressed in this motion, correct?

Darren Vogt: Correct.

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 (Kite absent).** We have an appointment to the Redevelopment Commission and I am going to apologize in advance because I had somebody in mind and wanted to present today but they are looking at their ability to perform adequately. I believe they will be able to but if someone else has a name that they want to put forward, that is fine. Or what I would ask is to be given a little bit of time to address that issue and bring it back. We have until January so we have a little bit of time. Again, if somebody else has a name that they want to bring forward, they can.

Darren Vogt: Has anybody contacted the list of people who are up?

Becky Butler: I am working on that.

Darren Vogt: We will need to know that if someone is not going to continue. Then we need to make sure that we have some names in the pipeline to get that done.

Cal Miller: I am all for waiting to hear what candidate President Moss has in mind.

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Paul Moss: I appreciate that. He just wants to make sure that he can commit to that appropriately. Recent and/or upcoming meetings, I am not aware of anything recent that we have had.

Roy Buskirk: Maybe Paula would want to mention about the Tax Abatement meetings and where we are on that. I know they are counting on coming before Council next month. All Council members will be receiving information to review, prior to next month's meeting.

Paula Hughes: I think you have covered it, Councilman Buskirk. The Tax Abatement subcommittee has met several times in the last couple of months and is narrowing in on recommendations to full Council for amendments to the Council Tax Abatement policy and point system. We will submit that to the agenda for October. Generally the committee agrees on everything except for whether we continue the existence of the, I get the terminology wrong, kickback fund is how I think of it.

Darren Vogt: The participation of the 20%.

Paula Hughes: Where we ask companies to give back to the County, up to 20% of the abatement that they have received. That is the only part of the process that has been even remotely contentious. That will come both in documentation and on the agenda in October.

Darren Vogt: There may be some public comment that will be included.

Paula Hughes: I think we should make it a public hearing.

Darren Vogt: Then we could have notice of action in November.

Paula Hughes: Other committees that have met, I can tell you that the iMAP board has moved forward and have formally adopted a draft of a proposal to the City of Fort Wayne to merge the City, not merge the departments, to join on the County's GIS system. It is being reviewed by the City staff, at this point. It was mentioned, briefly, to the City Council earlier this week but not any in depth conversation. Also, it has been covered pretty heavily in the newspapers, there have been ongoing discussion about co-locating the City Police and Sheriff's Police Departments. As we all suspected, we hit a big snag in funding. The preliminary estimate is that it would cost between \$19 million and \$28 million. I will say that from my perspective, that is a little cost prohibitive. The County does have money set aside and the bigger issue is that the City has not identified any funding sources for the project. On a pro rata share, the County budget that has been set aside may be appropriate because in terms of space usage, the City Police Department needs almost three times the space that the County Police Department does. We do not have any information on that and the deadline is fast approaching. If you recall, in February, the County sent the Mayor a formal letter giving a six-month deadline which expires at the end of

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

September, for decision on whether or not it will be feasible to co-locate those two departments. As of yet, we have not had any conclusion from the City on how or if they would fund that. It is a little troubling. If we do not hear back from the City by September 30th, I think we should move on with our plans to renovate the New Haven property for the Sheriff.

Paul Moss: I would certainly agree with that. Are there any other recent or upcoming meetings, from Council?

Roy Buskirk: The only other thing would be the legislation meetings that we have had with Beth and the Commissioners. We have been trying to figure out what top three items we can come up with. Beth is setting up...

Paula Hughes: A legislative preview with the legislators.

Roy Buskirk: Right, for the later part of October.

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 6-0 (Kite absent).**

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 6-0 (Kite absent).** The next meeting will be held on October 16, 2008 at 8:30 am.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.