

**ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 18, 2010  
8:30 AM**

The Allen County Council met on Thursday, February 18, 2010 at 8:30 a.m. 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: Paula S. Hughes, President; Darren Vogt, Vice President; Roy A. Buskirk; Maye Johnson; Paul G. Moss; Larry Brown and Bob Armstrong.

Also Attending: Tera Klutz, Chief Deputy Auditor, Jackie Scheuman, Budget and Finance Director; Nelson Peters, Commissioner; Linda Bloom, Commissioner and Becky Butler, Administrative Assistant.

The meeting was called to order by President Paula Hughes with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

**Paula Hughes:** This is our first meeting with the Consent Agenda. Grouped in the Consent Agenda, we have Approval of Minutes, the Financial Report, any Grant Requests of which there are none and three of the four Salary Ordinances that went through the Personnel Committee. One of the salary ordinances has been pulled at the request of Councilman Buskirk. Does anybody wish to pull anything else from the Consent Agenda?

**Darren Vogt:** No, but I would like to add one. Item number four is the Christmas Bureau money that gets put in for promotional items, on a regular basis. They have done it for several years now. The Christmas Bureau gives them \$1,000 and they use it for promotional items for the graduates of the Drug Court. I don't think anyone has an objection to putting that into the Consent Agenda, as well.

**Paula Hughes:** I don't think there is a problem with that. I look for a motion approving the Consent Agenda including item number four.

**Paul Moss:** So moved.

**Bob Armstrong:** Second.

**Paula Hughes:** We have a motion and a second. Is there any further discussion? All those in favor please signify by saying aye. Motion passes 7-0. We will move on to the salary ordinance for the Executive Director of Planning Services. Commissioner Peters is with us this morning.

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**Nelson Peters:** Good morning, Nelson Peters, Allen County Commissioner. The position that you have before you is a position that we began to look at back in October. As you may recall, there were about eleven positions that went through prior to that and because this one was such an oddball, in terms of oversight and comparables, it did not go with the original eleven. We began to look at it back in October and it got pushed off until the beginning of the year. With the former Personnel Committee, there was some thought that we ought to go out and look at this a little bit differently with respect to positions outside of Allen County which is where we draw a lot of our comparables from. The reason for that was because Ms. Bowman is in a position where she oversees a dual department situation with a City Planning Department and a County Planning Department. She has never been recognized, in the time that she has been up there, for that work. There aren't a whole lot of departments like that, around here. I think Kokomo, Howard County, may be the only one in Indiana. The suggestion was that since there isn't a lot to compare to here, why don't you go out and look at other cities that have similar type departments. We did that and compared about five of them and then ran a regression analysis. A regression analysis really determines the relationship amongst a number of factors. In this particular case, we really looked at budgets and the number of employees supervised. We then took the average of the five comparables that we found and came up with a midpoint of \$99,942. If you look at the way that we have set the ranges on all of the other jobs, we set the maximum at 25% higher than the midpoint and the minimum at 25% lower than the midpoint. That gave us a range of \$74,957 to \$124,528. We rationalized that Ms. Bowman, wait let's back up. It typically takes, in a Human Resources' setting, about five years to get to the midpoint. Just generally speaking until someone is up to speed with the skills and background and so forth. MS. Bowman had been in that position for twenty-two months. What we did was prorated her salary in two ways. We prorated a recommendation based on her salary relative to the midpoint and we looked at the minimum relative to the midpoint and said that it really brings us to a range of \$84,118 to \$87,902. Our recommendation was rather than, I would be happy to pinpoint it if you want me to but rather than pinpoint a specific salary, we said that we should recommend to the County Council a salary of \$84,118 to \$87,902. When we met with the Personnel Committee, I believe that Councilman Brown had suggested a salary somewhere around \$86,000 to split the difference. There was a vote and the vote was two to one and because it was not a unanimous vote, that is what brings me to you today.

**Paula Hughes:** Okay, Council is there any questions or discussion with Commissioner Peters on this? We do have a vote of passage from the Personnel Committee.

**Darren Vogt:** Commissioner, basically this is a position that was pulled out of the original Executive grid and was never gone through the process that we had done for every other Executive within the County. Is that a fair statement?

**Nelson Peters:** That is a fair statement.

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**Darren Vogt:** The reason this was pulled out is because now it is a joint situation and we wanted to make sure that we had it done and done right. I look at this as a continuation of, or finalization if you will, of a position that would have been done and would have gone through the regular process that we did over a six year span now. That is how I am looking at this as just a finalization of the Executive grid and putting this job evaluation system to bed.

**Paula Hughes:** I agree with that. Councilman Buskirk?

**Roy Buskirk:** As far as the Personnel Committee, I did support it out of Personnel because I wanted it to be discussed by full Council. At the time that we did the Executive rating, that position was actually being paid more than what the rating showed that it should be paid. It was only at the time of the mergers of the two departments that the rating has changed and it has come up now with the higher funds for the current position. What you were saying is correct but at that time, the rating system was less than what the current pay was.

**Darren Vogt:** Because it was not a joint department.

**Roy Buskirk:** Because it was not a joint department and that is the reason that it was not done at that time. I really have trouble supporting this with the current economic conditions that we have and it is a little bit over a six percent increase in wages. I know that the Director is doing an excellent job for the citizens of this community but I just feel that this time is the reason that I can not support this.

**Paul Moss:** I think that Auditor Blosser has a couple of comments.

**Lisa Blosser:** I just wanted to let you know that it really isn't finalized yet because we have another Executive, Mindy Waldron, that hasn't been addressed yet. There were also a couple of Elected Officials that opted out, so there are a few positions that still need to be classified correctly.

**Roy Buskirk:** Yeah, there were a couple of individuals that asked to be pulled off of it, at the time.

**Lisa Blosser:** Right but they will be leaving office and you will want to get that addressed.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Moss?

**Paul Moss:** I serve on the joint Board and have since its inception and I have been on the Planning Commission, this is my second year. The fact that she does a great job is irrelevant. She does a great job and there is no question about that. I think we have done a fairly good job of looking at the position and the responsibilities and all that goes along with that. I want to make sure that I understand Councilman

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Buskirk, are you saying that prior to them combining the two departments that her salary rating was actually lower than what her actual salary was?

**Roy Buskirk:** Correct. She was being paid in excess of what the rating actually showed that it should have been.

**Paul Moss:** Is that right?

**Nelson Peters:** I can't address it. It really predates my involvement with this whole situation.

**Paul Moss:** I don't recall that.

**Paula Hughes:** I don't either.

**Paul Moss:** How many additional employees has she assumed responsibility for? I should know that but I can't recall.

**Nelson Peters:** She picked up, I think, in the neighborhood of fifteen.

**Paul Moss:** I look at these things, not necessarily as a raise but as a market adjustment in order to retain good talent and make sure that the range of the position is appropriate. I am really hesitant, as well, because of the current economic conditions. I do support this and to put it in the context of the Regional Partnership, the Alliance and those types of salaries. Would you tend to agree with that?

**Nelson Peters:** Absolutely.

**Paul Moss:** Those are dramatically higher and you never know when one of those might come open and then we would lose a very valuable employee. I lost my train of thought so I guess I will give it up to someone else.

**Maye Johnson:** I think we are all concerned about the current economic climate but I would also agree that we have to be mindful of our employees. We compete for good people. People can leave. I am familiar with this individual's work history in having worked extensively with her on the City-County Comprehensive Plan. I think this is someone who has certainly earned this additional increase.

**Paula Hughes:** I look for a motion.

**Maye Johnson:** Motion to approve.

**Larry Brown:** Second.

**Paula Hughes:** We have a motion and a second. Is there any further discussion?

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**Paul Moss:** I have one other comment that popped into my head finally. As a member of that joint Board, we have had discussions about this. I believe that our current President is Connie Zuber and she may have been driving some of this. The general consensus has been that we need to take a look at this, take an objective look at this and let the chips fall where they may. Everybody was in agreement that they wanted to make sure that they have a salary range that is going to recruit or retain the appropriate individuals. I don't want to speak on their behalf because we didn't have an official vote or anything along that line but my sense of it was that there was general support for letting the Personnel Committee do their work and then be supportive of that.

**Roy Buskirk:** They actually attended the Personnel Committee meeting.

**Paul Moss:** Connie did?

**Roy Buskirk:** Yes.

**Darren Vogt:** One more question. Did we approve the range yet?

**Nelson Peters:** I was going to ask you to do that. What you'll need to do here is to approve the salary ordinance, and presuming that it is based on Councilman Brown's recommendation at \$86,000, and secondarily you would need to approve the range of \$74,957 to \$124,528.

**Tera Klutz:** It is listed on the salary ordinance as both of those.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilwoman Johnson, do you want to amend your motion to include both of those points?

**Maye Johnson:** Yes.

**Paula Hughes:** Do you want to amend your second, Councilman Brown?

**Larry Brown:** Indeed.

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

**Roy Buskirk:** Aye.

**Paula Hughes:** The motion carries 6-1 (Buskirk). Moving along, we have an appropriation in the Sheriff's Department for Commissary.

**Ken Fries:** Good morning, Council. Kenny Fries, Sheriff of Allen County. This is what we do every year. We give the Auditor money and then it is passed through

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back to us for the Commissary. I believe you have already received the money back in January.

**Tera Klutz:** Yes, this is just like the Promotional item that comes every year. If you wanted to, in the future, you could have this on the Consent Agenda.

**Roy Buskirk:** That is the one thing that when I first looked at this I thought why are we paying Commissary employees out of the General Fund? Then I realized that you had already put the money in there. This is one of those transfer issues that we need to expedite as much as possible.

**Darren Vogt:** Move for approval of item number one for Commissary Part-Time for \$36,500.

**Bob Armstrong:** Second.

**Paula Hughes:** We have a motion and a second. All those in favor please signify by saying aye. All those opposed same sign. The motion carries 7-0. We will jump ahead on the agenda and talk about 9-1-1. Sheriff Fries has graciously agreed to discuss the consolidation of the 9-1-1 operations. We had approached him to talk about this back in January and I know that you were still in progress on this.

**Ken Fries:** And we still are. What I gave you this morning is for your perusal not for your approval. This is a rough draft of a rough draft. We still have not heard back from the City Attorney and I do know that there is going to be one minor change before it goes to the Commissioners tomorrow. Chief York and I and the Head of Communications and Chief Gladieux have been meeting since December. I think that we have come up with a plan that is very workable. We have been able to take most of the politics out of it and the four of us are going to be in charge of it. We are concerned about public safety first and that is what we need to be concerned about when it comes to 9-1-1 communications. With the draft that you see in front of you, there will be some very minor changes before it goes to the County Commissioners tomorrow and it is a very workable plan.

**Darren Vogt:** I want to point out one important statement in here and that is, statement number eleven, you are retaining Sheriff, Police or Fire's right to dispatch from their own protocol. That is one of the issues that was out there and makes the most sense. If you are the one responsible for those people, you get to choose how you want to dispatch those folks. That is the important distinction for everyone to understand.

**Ken Fries:** I think everyone needs to understand that this is not a fast and quick process. It shouldn't be a quick process. We know that it will probably take a year to get all of the employees trained on all of the different policies from the City and the County. At probably 2013, at the latest, we are going to have a new radio system that we have to put in place. If we would decide to move forward on this right away, tear

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down the wall and move all consoles for one big center, we would spend about \$500,000 to put in new consoles. Then in another year and a half, we are going to take all of those consoles out and buy all new consoles again. My goal is to make sure that we don't spend that half million dollars first. We may wind up trying to get a new radio system sooner so that we can get all of the new consoles put in at one time and only be down once. Don't expect this to happen in a month. We know we are going to have at least sixty days, once this is all done, to try to find a new Executive Director and then start working on it. It's a lengthy process but to be done properly, it needs to take some time.

**Roy Buskirk:** What is the timetable as far as getting this approved? I think tomorrow is the Commissioners?

**Ken Fries:** The Commissioners are going to vote on it tomorrow. We haven't heard from the City yet about any changes but then we are going to go to the Mayor and then back to both Councils.

**Roy Buskirk:** So we should anticipate having this on next month's agenda?

**Ken Fries:** Yes.

**Larry Brown:** Does this document address the combining from a personnel standpoint?

**Ken Fries:** Yes. The change that we had made to this from what we had seen originally, it cuts down dramatically the bureaucracy that was inherent with the other plan. Basically the CCP, which will become in charge of communications, is the Chief of Police, the Fire Chief, me and my Chief. The MACP Board that we currently have, their function will be to break a tie vote between us four. Otherwise, the CCP handles everything. We are keeping the Commissioners and the Mayor out of the whole thing. Politics are hopefully out of it and it is just public safety.

**Paula Hughes:** That is how it should be. Councilman Vogt?

**Darren Vogt:** You mentioned new radios and new consoles for the dispatchers. Have you had any thought process on where funding is going to come from for those or any of that kind of stuff?

**Ken Fries:** A lot depends on what the Legislature does with 9-1-1 fees. It is probably going to be a bonding issue but it may be able to be covered by the increase in 9-1-1 fees. If that goes through, that is where most of the funding will come from. Luckily we have more than one company now that has built the backbones for these systems. Typically it was Motorola and they could charge what they wanted. I know, today, there are meetings with Harris Communications that has also built the backbones. I think we are going to see some competition and the initial price that we heard will be cut in half.

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**Darren Vogt:** What kind of price is this?

**Ken Fries:** Initially we were hearing around \$14 million. Now we are hopefully going to be somewhere in the \$7 million to \$10 million range. Luckily, with the new system, what we have been looking at instead of replacing the entire system, like we had to do the last time, we would basically replace the guts of the system. We would keep all of the same radios that we have but these things are kind of done with modulars and computers. As time goes on, twenty years from now, we don't have to replace the whole system. We would just replace components. We shouldn't have the big hit every seven to ten years.

**Roy Buskirk:** The change on the radios and everything, it's a State or Federal mandate that these be upgraded?

**Ken Fries:** Yes and no. We all have to be P25 compliant but the system that we have now has come to the end of its life technically in 2009. Motorola said that they have quit making parts to replace it. There are still parts on the shelf and we know that we will be able to get through 2010 and 2011 and hopefully 2012 before we have to do it. The sooner that we get it done, if we need to replace the system, if we get a good price, get the consoles at a good price and get it all done at one time, that seems to be the best way to do it financially.

**Roy Buskirk:** Is it just that Motorola has just discontinued making parts for it or was there some Federal mandate on upgrading?

**Ken Fries:** We have until 2013 to become P25 compliant. A lot of the radios that we now have are P25 compliant and that is so we can talk statewide.

**Roy Buskirk:** Is there any legislation, currently in Indianapolis, for funding of the upgrades on the radio systems?

**Ken Fries:** There was a bill that was put forth but I don't know. The last I knew it was still alive but I haven't heard if it is still surviving.

**Roy Buskirk:** There is some concern as far as the cell phones and the voice-over internet.

**Ken Fries:** On prepaid phones, I think there was legislation that charged twenty-five cents per phone that was sold and will not generate a whole lot of revenue.

**Darren Vogt:** One more question on the cost piece of that, what are you doing or have you even thought to say to other communities that if you are all going to have to be P25 compliant, and I assume that the majority of them are not yet, what are you doing to look at some cost sharing when it comes to buying this equipment?

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**Ken Fries:** That is the one thing that we have to look at. When we did the original system, New Haven was just brought along without any increase at all. I think when we do this, we are going to have to look at the other users and say that there has to be some cost and they have to bear some of the brunt. That will probably be based on their use percentage.

**Darren Vogt:** I would think that when it comes to negotiating, if we have communities north, south or Indianapolis for arguments sake, if they have to do the same type of scenario, the conversations might need to be had.

**Ken Fries:** Many of them of them have tried to become P25 compliant by getting on the State's system. The State's system, through IPSC or whatever it is has run out of id numbers for the radios. They are looking to get more id numbers and it is a very long and drawn out process. The number of radios that the State has out and who is using them has them going through the process to try to figure out who is not using the radios but has the id numbers. When I was in a meeting with them, I told them that we, as law enforcement and fire personnel, can get very creative if you say that you are going to take our radio away because we aren't using it. We will then use it and it will show up on their screen that we are using it and then they will let us keep it. It is going to be a long process to get everybody P25 compliant. Are there any other questions?

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Moss?

**Paul Moss:** Yes. This is not intended as a trick question or anything but now that you all will be co-located without a glass barrier, in the various scenarios that have been on the table, does anybody recall where on those design templates, where all of the communications stuff is to fall?

**Paula Hughes:** I think it was always going to be here.

**Paul Moss:** Always intended to stay where it is at.

**Paula Hughes:** It was always going to be in this building regardless because of the amount of infrastructure that is already invested in that spot.

**Ken Fries:** There has been conversation for a stand alone communications center outside of here.

**Roy Buskirk:** I think at one time, Paul, they were considering using the building at Southtown. They seemed to have some space down there that was available.

**Ken Fries:** Your question is for what reason and it is security. If you stop and think about the world that we live in since 9/11, if eventually you have all City and County Police in the City-County Building and you have Communications here, there is one place to attack. It comes to the point that you want to separate some of

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your services so that if there is going to be a problem, they have to hit multiple places. Currently, we are fairly secure down there but we would be much more secure to build it out separately but you are talking \$30 to \$40 million. That is taxpayer money. The conservative thing to do is keep it where it is.

**Paul Moss:** Along those lines, have you been asked to, those of us on the Task Force will recall at the last meeting we talked about having the Police Chief and you attend one of our meetings. It is to discuss the benefits and any other issues related to co-locating public safety in this building or wherever. Have you been approached about that?

**Ken Fries:** No sir. I am keeping my calendar open.

**Paul Moss:** I think that would be valuable. Do the other Task Force members agree with that?

**Roy Buskirk:** Yeah, I hoped that John Stafford would have been contacting you about that.

**Paul Moss:** I would hope as well.

**Paula Hughes:** I think he will but I don't think it needs to be a separate meeting.

**Paul Moss:** John is a busy guy.

**Ken Fries:** The way my calendar is, I usually need two weeks' notice. The sooner, the better.

**Paula Hughes:** Thank you for the update. Council, I want to go back a little bit. I meant to bring up when we were finished with the Consent Agenda, with the Consent Agenda unless a salary ordinance has been pulled off, I think we should send out the word to the Department Heads that they do not need to appear in front of Council. I see Mindy sitting back there and I see that this is the only thing that you are connected to. No? Oh, okay. I'm sorry but I wanted to make that clear and make sure that the full Council is okay with that. If you, as a Councilman, intend to pull something out of the Consent Agenda, I would make you responsible for contacting that Department Head to make sure that they are here for the discussion. And Becky, if you can let all of the Department Heads know. Moving right along, we have a request from the Highway Fund, item two. Councilman Armstrong?

**Bob Armstrong:** I'll let Bill come up and address that. It is pertaining to the fees from the Surtax/Wheel Tax for bridges and the breakdown.

**Bill Hartman:** Good morning, Bill Hartman from the Highway Department and with me is Martha Starnes. This is more of an accounting issue and I think I am going to let Martha and Tera explain it.

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**Tera Klutz:** Sure. This appropriation request is due to the reason that we want to spend our additional Wheel Tax/Surtax money, from the doubling of the rate last summer, on bridge repair and maintenance. Originally we had thought that all of the money would go into a separate fund and all of the bridge repair maintenance would come out of a separate fund where we are depositing the additional revenue from the Cities and Towns. I read the ordinance recently and it is just for the money that we receive from the Cities and Towns, to be deposited into that separate fund. Our additional Wheel Tax/Surtax must still be deposited in the Highway Fund and spent out of there. There is an email with your documentation on this particular item that will explain the breakout for every City and Town plus our portion. The expenses will just come from two funds.

**Darren Vogt:** Is there a way that we can transfer that from one fund to another?

**Tera Klutz:** No. Plus, you might not want that because the Highway Fund has to be appropriated and approved by you but this new fund does not.

**Paula Hughes:** This is all part of the bridge issue but one of the things that I have been wondering about an update on, we have been hearing a lot about contracts coming in much lower and I wonder if maybe you could provide an update both on how that has impacted the Maplecrest Road Bridge project and other bridge projects and what can we do to accelerate the process to get more bridges done while the timing is good and our local contractors need the work.

**Bill Hartman:** We are heading in that direction. When we had the Bridge Bond, we had twenty-nine bridges in there. Previous Bridge Bonds had the same situation as what we are going through right now. We put a bond together based on the estimates, contracts came in less and then we scramble to put more bridges on the bond to be able to use that money. This time it went the other way on us and we had eight or nine bridges that didn't get it. We have a backlog of eight bridges or so, left over from the Bond and hopefully we will use some of this money from the more competitive bidding.

**Paula Hughes:** You are talking about the Bridge Bond that we did several years ago and not about the Maplecrest Bond.

**Bill Hartman:** Right. Our local money that we used on Maplecrest was Major Bridge money and we need to make improvements in the St Joe Center Bridge over the St Joe River, the Van Buren Street Bridge over the St Mary's and hopefully the money that is left over from the Maplecrest Bridge we can use that money to move those ahead. Maplecrest was estimated at nearly \$50 million and bid right around \$30 million. We have just barely gotten started and until the foundation work is done and the rivers and the fill are done, I hesitate to transfer too much money away from that contract. I would like to get a year into the contract before I really proceed with seeing if those proceeds are available for other projects.

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**Paula Hughes:** Okay. Still, I would like to see that list and how it is coming together. Just out of curiosity. We made some major decisions on how we fund that infrastructure and I would like to see the follow-up on it.

**Bill Hartman:** Sure.

**Roy Buskirk:** The actual Maplecrest Bond is not a Bridge Bond although most of that cost is bridges. The Bond is not necessarily what you might think of just being a Bridge Bond. There was about \$9 million out of Major Bridge that was used to pay on the Maplecrest Project because of the considerable amount of expenses with the bridges. The one thing that I wanted to ask you, I am not longer on UTAB or anything, the bids that have been coming in from the stimulus money and the resurfacing have been coming in considerably under. I know that we had the opportunity on January 27<sup>th</sup>, some bid letting, and we were able to take advantage because some of the other funds to the City of New Haven and the City of Fort Wayne, our Highway Department was aggressive enough to get a lot of additional projects turned in and there was excess money from New Haven and Fort Wayne that we were able to take advantage of. Do you know, off the top of your head, how much funding we were able to use?

**Bill Hartman:** We still have bids that are coming in February 24<sup>th</sup>. Until that takes place, I really won't know for sure. It depends on whether this bidding climate stays the same and come in as cheaply as they have. I won't know until the end of the month.

**Roy Buskirk:** Okay, very good. Do we need to vote on this?

**Paula Hughes:** We do. I look for a motion for item two.

**Paul Moss:** Move for approval of item two.

**Roy Buskirk:** Second.

**Paula Hughes:** **We have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All those in favor please signify by saying aye. All those opposed same sign. The motion carries 7-0.** Here is the Health Fund.

**Mindy Waldron:** Mindy Waldron, Administrator for the Department of Health. This \$10,000 was already appropriated in 2009 for this purpose. Because we didn't receive our invoice in 2009, our finance folks did not make provisions to hold that. It rolled over into our unexpended. I just need to re-appropriate it into Contractual so that we can pay the bill.

**Darren Vogt:** Move to approve item number three, Workforce Capacity Project in the amount of \$10,000.

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**Roy Buskirk:** Second.

**Paula Hughes:** We have a motion and a second. Is there any further discussion? All those in favor please signify by saying aye. All those opposed same sign. The motion carries 7-0. We are now ready for Community Corrections.

**Sheila Hudson:** I am Sheila Hudson, the Director of Community Corrections and with me is Jeff Stevens, the Financial Coordinator. We are here to ask your permission to transfer money from our one line item into the items that are shown before you, items six through fifteen. This money was appropriated in July from the Indiana Department of Corrections for the use in the Work Release Transitional Housing. That was prior to the time that we really got moving on the Washington House Project. Now that we know what we are in for, we are transferring money into the areas where we feel we need to have them.

**Paula Hughes:** Council, I sit on the Community Corrections Advisory Board and do you want to talk a little bit about how the project is going?

**Sheila Hudson:** It is really very exciting. Those of you that have been in Fort Wayne for a long time and know what the Washington House Building was used for before, the Board of Directors gave the building to the County and everything that was inside of it. It hasn't been used in the last three and a half years and hasn't had anything done to it over the last ten or more years. With the County's help and with my staff's help, we have done some wonderful things inside the building with carpet and paint and new exit signs. We have contracted with two consultants out of New York. They are the only ones, in the country, that do Modified Therapeutic Community Settings. It is for the mentally ill and chemical abusing offender. They have provided some immersion training for getting adjusted to what this philosophy means. Over the spring, they will come back in and train the staff. It will be a medical model and will be for people who are severely and persistently mentally ill and have a substance abuse problem and are in the criminal justice system. We are very excited about it because the State Department of Corrections is talking with the Division of Mental Health and will provide additional funding. I know that Paula Hughes was concerned about sustainability with the Transitional Housing things that I do and there will be money available, through the State again, to sustain this project after the stimulus money is over. The \$500,000 has been designed for this project but I foresee that it will be double that in the yearly budget that we will need to operate that facility. We are out there every day. If you are ever driving by, please stop in and we will show you around. Probably in late spring, we will have an open house. Thank you for letting me talk.

**Roy Buskirk:** You commented there that you not only got the real estate but everything inside of it also. I was just curious, do you have any comments on everything that was inside of it?

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**Sheila Hudson:** Everything that was inside was from beds, we removed the mattresses and springs because they were very old. I just felt that since we had the additional money, we could replace that. There were a number of kitchen items that we have to replace. There is an actual commercial kitchen.

**Roy Buskirk:** So basically, they just walked out and left everything.

**Sheila Hudson:** Right. Part of the Therapeutic Community, there is to be an external and internal business enterprise. We are setting up one of the rooms to be a Craft Room where we will be working on a lot of the upholstery on the lounge chairs that need to be done. There are lots and lots of things that we can use.

**Paula Hughes:** In a conversation earlier this week, we were talking about the fact that you have a lot of projects going on. Community Corrections has been doing a lot of good work to curb recidivism in Fort Wayne and Allen County. We have been hearing about the lower crime rates and I think a lot of that can be directly attributed to the work that you are doing. Thank you.

**Sheila Hudson:** Thank you, I appreciate that.

**Darren Vogt:** You mentioned that your operating budget would be about \$1 million. Is that what you said?

**Sheila Hudson:** He keeps me in line and they keep me in line too but we are really working towards the different components. The program has gotten so large that the different components that we can assign money to, staff and operating costs for the specific projects that we have, the Washington House I don't want to blend that money in. We have almost a \$6 million budget now. If someone asks me what the per diem is for this type of offender, I will be able to say that it is twenty-seven or fifty dollars a day. That was my own logistical way of saying that is how much I think we are going to need.

**Darren Vogt:** How much additional funding are you going to need, in the future, going forward once the current grant money runs out.

**Sheila Hudson:** We have a \$650,000 Federal Stimulus Grant and \$500,000 and that is really what I am estimating that I will need, somewhere between \$1 million and \$1.1 million.

**Darren Vogt:** So you are going to need another \$600,000 roughly from the State or somewhere.

**Sheila Hudson:** Yes. They are so amenable that they are coming up with it. The Division of Mental Health, that is FSSA, the people will also qualify for disability and there are all kinds of money attached. There is also the availability of HUD dollars for housing later. I am into areas where I really don't sleep at night because I

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am not as familiar with these things. The nice thing about having the kind of Advisory Board that we have is that we have a representative from FSSA that is more than willing to do a presentation on all of the social service and public service dollars that are available.

**Roy Buskirk:** That is one thing that we are so fortunate to have her because she searches and finds all kinds of grants and everything else. Am I wrong in saying that there is no property tax money used here?

**Sheila Hudson:** That's right.

**Roy Buskirk:** It is all through grants and working with the State and everything. She has been recognized as one of the top working units in the State and in the nation and that is the reason that we get some of the funding. I think we really owe you a lot.

**Sheila Hudson:** I appreciate that.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilwoman Johnson?

**Maye Johnson:** Could you refresh my memory? Do you have a waiting list? Two questions, how many people are you prepared to serve and is there a waiting list?

**Sheila Hudson:** In the Washington House, there are forty-eight beds. That will be the residential piece. There will also be an out-patient piece too. Once they go through the three to six month in-patient, they will come back into the out-patient care. We have a really big aftercare where the family and community are involved. We have to develop that out too. There probably will be a waiting list.

**Maye Johnson:** Do you have a relationship with the local churches?

**Sheila Hudson:** Yes, in fact since we have been working on this, we have not only increased the involvement of the churches because of this population but now I notice Ministers coming into Re-Entry. That hasn't happened before and so I am really excited about that. I do have to mention that I did a really smart hire and hired Brenda Robinson who used to be the Executive Director of the Old Fort Y. She is the Community Resource Coordinator for Community Corrections now on a part-time basis. She has done more to bring the community in than all of the years that I have done my job. In public, I would like to say that.

**Paula Hughes:** Wonderful. I would look for a motion for items five through fifteen.

**Roy Buskirk:** So moved.

**Bob Armstrong:** Second.

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**Paula Hughes:** We have a motion and a second. All those in favor please signify by saying aye. All those opposed same sign. The motion carries 7-0. Thank you, Sheila. I do not see Sue out there. Is someone representing the Treasurer's Office?

**Tera Klutz:** We are. She stopped in yesterday and she is at training at the Public Safety Academy today. She wanted to request an ordinance that is just a formality for the Treasurer to collect installment payments, throughout the year, for property taxes. This is something that she has always done but the State law was amended to request that the County Councils adopt an ordinance.

**Paula Hughes:** So will this be a one-time ordinance?

**Tera Klutz:** Yes.

**Roy Buskirk:** How does that work? Do they start making one-twelfth of their payment a year in advance and so that money is accumulated for when the actual property tax bill is due?

**Tera Klutz:** I believe that Sue starts them in January on an estimated tax bill. They make installment payments and hopefully by May 10<sup>th</sup>, they will have paid their full six months. The penalties are still incurred if they do not pay the full amount that is due by the particular due dates.

**Roy Buskirk:** Hopefully the tax bill is sent out at the appropriate time so that it would be due May 10<sup>th</sup>. This year, we are on it.

**Darren Vogt:** Is there any type of notice or anything that says that they haven't paid or to let them know what they have paid? If they are working on estimates and all of a sudden the taxes go up \$150, I hate to see someone get a penalty for not having some sort of reconciling balance.

**Lisa Blosser:** She works with all of those situations.

**Tera Klutz:** The tax bill will go out with the amount that they owe minus any payments. They will post the payments that have been made on that account, on the tax bill. They will be able to see how much they are going to need to pay through November 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Darren Vogt:** Okay, great, thanks.

**Paula Hughes:** Does somebody have the ordinance?

**Darren Vogt:** Move for approval of Allen County Ordinance 2010-2-18-1, dated February 18, 2010, an ordinance allowing taxpayers to pay property tax bills by monthly installments or monthly automatic deductions.

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**Roy Buskirk:** Second.

**Paula Hughes:** We have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All those in favor please signify by saying aye. All those opposed same sign. The motion carries 7-0. The last item on the agenda is the consideration of transfer of funds which I was made aware of this morning that we can not transfer funds between funds, the Tax Abatement Fund to the Redevelopment Capital Improvement Fund. I guess I will just bring County Council up to speed. The Redevelopment Commission has placed \$250,000 into the Redevelopment Capital Improvement Fund for Shovel Ready Sites and Land Banking. When Councilman Vogt brought up the issue last month about possibly doing residential tax abatements, the consideration was using the existing Tax Abatement Fund that County Council controls. I thought that since that didn't work out, maybe we should talk about whether we should allocate some of that fund towards Land Banking and Shovel Ready Sites. There is a fair amount of momentum gathering towards a collaborative effort. The County, the City, the Alliance and possible involvement of foundations to acquire property in Allen County that would be dedicated to Economic Development projects. It is something that other communities in Indiana and across the country have been doing for years. We are, frankly, in a non-competitive situation right now because we have not done so. That is what this conversation is about and I wanted to bring it up for Council to chew on for a bit. I am not looking for any definitive action. We can't make the transfer, in any case, but maybe we would want to earmark some of those funds towards Land Banking if we indeed find the right project. I know that Scott and Mark are in the audience, if you would like to join us.

**Darren Vogt:** While they are coming up, one of the things that I want to make sure that we have in place is a long-term plan and a short-term plan. We tend to walk a fine line with property and owning property in a governmental entity. I understand the need for it and I support it but I want to make sure that we have a plan in place to know what we are going to do and how we are going to do it and why we are doing it. I want to make sure that we have that in place and that we are thinking it through and that it is not just something that we are going to throw some money at and see if it sticks. We have to have a plan in place for the long and the short-term.

**Paula Hughes:** Council thanks, I will ask these gentlemen to introduce themselves for the record.

**Scott Harrold:** Scott Harrold, Senior Economic Development Specialist with Planning Services.

**Mark Royse:** Mark Royse, Deputy Director Economic Development for the Department of Planning Services.

**Scott Harrold:** Just to address Darren's comment, we are working on a program for how we would go about doing Land Banking, setting aside properties for economic development purposes. Once we get something together that we feel has some teeth

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to it, we will run it by a few of you. We had an ad hoc group that got together a few weeks ago and we will probably have them get together to see if what we have in mind is what you have in mind. Once we are past that stage, we will bring it back for a more formal approval by the Redevelopment Commission, the County Council and the Commissioners. Once we have everyone on board, we can then talk about transferring money to the Redevelopment Capital Improvement Fund. The Commission is serving as the body that would be actually acquiring land.

**Maye Johnson:** When do you anticipate that it will be ready?

**Scott Harrold:** Hopefully, fairly soon and maybe by your next meeting.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Moss?

**Paul Moss:** We are talking about several different things. The item on the agenda obviously relates to operations of that entity and not purchasing any property or anything along that line.

**Paula Hughes:** No. My original intent was to ask Council to consider transferring funds from the Tax Abatement Fund to the Capital Fund and nothing to do with ongoing operations in the Redevelopment Commission.

**Paul Moss:** I thought the intent was to allow them to tap into those funds for operating expenses.

**Paula Hughes:** No.

**Paul Moss:** That is off the table then.

**Paula Hughes:** No, this was strictly to dedicate funds, earmark or transfer funds into this Capital Improvement Fund for Land Banking and Shovel Ready Sites certification. There is a separate issue that I hadn't put on the table for today but we have talked about in terms of whether or not County Council would support the ongoing operations of the Redevelopment Commission, possibly out of CEDIT. That is not what we were asking about today.

**Paul Moss:** Okay. Regardless, given the amount of money and the small amount of money and what is going to be required to be able to go out and purchase some property that we can turn into a Shovel Ready Site, it seems to me that the concept is generally agreed upon by all of the principle entities that are involved in Economic Development. There was an article in yesterday's paper about the City giving \$325,000 to the Regional Partnership, to fund their operations. Obviously, I believe to fund the operations.

**Mark Royce:** It was for both. The \$200,000 that they committed to the Alliance and the \$125,000 that they dedicated to the Regional Partnership and you are right that it

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was more for operations. There was not any money dedicated for either Shovel Ready Sites or for site certification.

**Paul Moss:** That is my point and I am not doing a very good job of getting to is that everybody is in general agreement and if you listen to John Sampson, he has said repeatedly that we need to be out there. We need to be developing these sites and purchasing land. Personally I think I would like to see us identify some property, prioritize it and I think you have done that to a certain extent and start to purchase that property. Then we would be really ready and not have another Harley Davidson or something along that line and we miss an opportunity. If you look at that, it is the bones of all of this but there is no meat to it because nobody has dedicated any money. To take it full circle, I just want to reiterate my personal position. We have a lot of balls in the air right now and a lot of discussions going on where we can spend an awful lot of money and we are moving into a year where we are going to have to set some pretty specific priorities. I am going to take it back to, and I know that some folks won't like it, the Task Force that we are talking about with the buildings. There are two options on the table right now which I believe most objective folks would agree have a difference of about \$2 million. I am going to keep hammering away at this at the Task Force meetings but is it worth \$2 million to co-locate Public Safety in this building or should we have \$2 million to provide to folks like you to go out and develop Shovel Ready Sites? I know that it is irritating but I am going to keep bringing it up because we have got to set priorities as a County. I believe that this type of opportunity is much, much more important than spending additional money on government buildings. Now I will shut up.

**Roy Buskirk:** You did a fine job, Paul.

**Paula Hughes:** Councilman Vogt?

**Darren Vogt:** I won't disagree with you, Councilman Moss. I will add to that, if you listened to our Sheriff today, he said there are some concerns about threats and housing everyone all in the same building. To get to the point of the Task Force and having conversations with the Policing entities to really talk that through, that does make sense. The business community would probably rather see us do something more towards Economic Development that would bring more jobs and more stimulus to the economy. That is where I am leaning and I agree 100% that we need to look at where we are spending our dollars and setting those priorities and including the money that we have for rollover. We need to figure out a budget and how much we need to spend to put the meat on the bone. We can say this is how much we have and this is how much Council is willing to dedicate to doing that. Are we willing to fund that alone if nobody else is willing to do that? We have some cash that we can use to do this type of project. These are the kinds of things that we need to do, as a Council, to put us in a different position than where we are and not have Harley Davidson or any other plant that wants to come here.

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**Roy Buskirk:** There is a lot more cost involved with the certified Shovel Ready than with the Shovel Ready in the fact that is not only acquiring the property. I would appreciate you gentlemen doing some checking as far as options on locking the property up on options of purchasing the property. I agree that we need control of it somehow. You have the situation of extending utilities to that property because more than likely it would be a raw piece of property. There have been numbers thrown out that it should be a 500 acre industrial park to work with. There is a lot more cost involved with it than having the private ownership maintain the property and then we turn around and extend utilities to it and the private ownership takes advantage of the increase in value on it. I have read where they go even as far as test borings and everything else which probably should be done to tie the property up on some short-term type basis with options to renew and do the test borings to make sure it is suitable property. I just wanted to say that there is a lot more expense than just purchasing the property.

**Paul Moss:** You are absolutely right. I lied when I said I was going to shut up. This is a great concept but it goes nowhere until we start putting the money towards it. We have a surplus and we have a Rainy Day Fund and we can blow through that in a heartbeat and in a variety of ways. That is my whole point. Money is scarce, contrary to what a lot of people think.

**Roy Buskirk:** I do have a question for the Auditor. On the funding, can you have just one line item or do you need one for Certified and another one for Shovel Ready because of the descriptions of the two different things?

**Mark Royle:** Right now, in the CEDIT Fund, they will separate it out for acquisition and for Shovel Ready.

**Scott Harrold:** The Capital Fund budget for this year has separate line items for paying consultants to do soil bores and capital purchasing.

**Tera Klutz:** You have to at least separate your Capital purchases from your Contractual purchases. Within the Capital, you could have one line for Shovel Ready Sites and it could include the purchase of land, the building and any improvements that will be capital and appreciated over the life of its use. Separately, paying a consultant to give you an estimate of what it will cost, those legally have to be separated.

**Paula Hughes:** Those are the fine points. We need to have money in there first.

**Scott Harrold:** I know that there has been talk about how much money we need. Part of what we are putting together in the programs is projections for what we need. A minimum and ideally how much we would like to have for a large enough site for the industrial projects that we want to attract. That will be part of the program that we are putting together.

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**Mark Royle:** I think an important aspect of that too is that we are going to treat this not as a give-away program but as a revolving program. If and when we do acquire land, that property that is sold, the money would continue to locate and purchase additional property. This would be just as we have done with our TIF projects in terms of repaying ourselves back for improvements that have been made.

**Paula Hughes:** Commissioner Bloom, you wanted to make a comment?

**Linda Bloom:** Just to add to what they have said, we do have allocated money budgeted in CEDIT. We have \$1.867 million in the Incentive Pool and we have the Shovel Ready Site with \$150,000. In Land Banking, we have \$300,000. We had more but we have already used some of that in our Shovel Ready site, the Silverado Park out there. We do have some allocated monies.

**Paula Hughes:** Some of the conversations that we have been having in these committee meetings are short, mid and long-term proposals. Some of that is the readiness of property. Some of the properties have available utilities and infrastructure and some don't. That is going to be one of the big determiners of the short, mid or long-term proposal. We are moving miles ahead of where we have before. To come full circle, how does the Council feel about just earmarking a portion of the existing Tax Abatement Fund? We need to start to get a handle on of how much funding might be available once there is a plan. We have \$770,000 in there now. We have about another \$770,000 on the books, with all of those abatements.

**Mark Royle:** Over the life of the abatements which goes out to 2019. We typically get \$60,000 to \$70,000 in each year.

**Darren Vogt:** If I heard Scott correctly, possibly by the next meeting, we will have some sort of formalized plan which is more than we have right now. We will have some numbers to it. Instead of getting us on the short end, I would rather look at it from the big picture and say that if this is the total, what do we need? We know that we have some money here that is already there and do we look at if we sell buildings, is that where we put the money? Do we take money that we have in Rainy Day to make this thing start to go? There are a lot of different things that we could do and I would rather have the overall arching plan before we talk about money.

**Mark Royle:** That plan is sitting on my desk right now, in draft, and it should be to you for the next meeting.

**Roy Buskirk:** If we put money into that fund, do you still have to come to Council for appropriating it?

**Mark Royle:** Right now, we would.

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**Roy Buskirk:** Okay. I would hate to throw the mud against the wall to see if it would stick but that would be my opinion of having an approach for a fund. Putting three to five million into it and not having any say on what that money goes to.

**Scott Harrold:** I would remind you that two of the Redevelopment Commission members are appointed by the County Council and so you have some say there.

**Paul Moss:** To answer your original question, I can't think of many other uses that would be better than this for that fund. I also agree with Darren that we have another month here and can get a better feel for the total dollars involved.

**Darren Vogt:** It may be that we will change the fund. The Own It in Allen plan is dead, as you are aware but the concept was to have something long-term and sustaining so that companies that come in are going to contribute to that fund. They know what that money is going to be for versus something that is nebulous.

**Paula Hughes:** That makes sense. I will make you aware following up on one of the questions that you started to ask and that is what is going on with the Redevelopment Commission? The Redevelopment Commission, even though it has moved \$250,000 into the Capital Improvement Fund, has left about \$135,000 in their General Fund for ongoing operations. They did not have the certainty, at the time, that County Council would support its operating. I think it makes a lot of sense to create a line item in the CEDIT budget of \$15,000 a year. Everything that the Redevelopment Commission does in its operations is attorney's expenses for the TIFs and minor things like that.

**Darren Vogt:** Keep in mind that if we start to use them more, there may be an increase in that expense.

**Scott Harrold:** That could be part of the discussion of the plan for the next several years.

**Paula Hughes:** Well, all right. We have had the discussion. Are there any other comments or questions on that topic?

**Paul Moss:** I think this is a golden opportunity to turn lemons into lemonade. We are faced with a difficult situation of possibly backfilling and selling buildings and things of that nature. The proceeds of those sales have been in question and there has been a lot of pressure to do certain things. This is the golden opportunity to make something good come out of it.

**Paula Hughes:** I agree, thank you, gentlemen. Does anybody have anything that they want to bring to the attention of Council in terms of recent or upcoming meetings or liaison reports? Councilman Vogt?

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**Darren Vogt:** I was unable to attend the last meeting but I will defer to Auditor Blosser. On the MOU for the joint Data Board, it has passed?

**Lisa Blosser:** It is going before the County Commissioners this Friday for their approval.

**Paula Hughes:** Council members, is there anything else for the good of the order?

**Roy Buskirk:** On expediting the permit process, we have the final appointment to the committee and hopefully this next week, the committee will be meeting.

**Paula Hughes:** Okay.

**Darren Vogt:** When is the next Task Force meeting?

**Paul Moss:** It hasn't been scheduled.

**Paula Hughes:** There is one scheduled for March 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Roy Buskirk:** I understood that there would possibly be one before that for the sheriff and the Chief of Police would come.

**Paul Moss:** That was my understanding from the last meeting.

**Paula Hughes:** I walked away without that impression. I thought they were going to come to us at the March 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Paul Moss:** If you look at the replay, John made it very clear that he was going to try to get the meeting set up.

**Paula Hughes:** Okay. Are there any public comments?

**Darren Vogt:** Approval to waive the second reading on any matter approved today for which it may be deemed necessary for the County Council meeting of February 18, 2010.

**Roy Buskirk:** Second.

**Paula Hughes:** **All in favor please signify by saying aye. Opposed like sign. Motion carries.** The next meeting is March 18th.

**Darren Vogt:** Move to adjourn.

**Bob Armstrong:** Second.

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**Paula Hughes: All in favor please signify by saying aye. Opposed like sign. The motion carries.**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:42 a.m.