

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 17, 2011
8:30 AM

The Allen County Council met on Thursday, March 17, 2011 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: Bob A. Armstrong, Larry L. Brown, Roy A. Buskirk, Tom A. Harris, Kevin M. Howell, Paul G. Moss and Darren E. Vogt

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

The meeting was called to order by President Darren Vogt with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silent prayer.

Darren Vogt: It has been noticed that we have a relatively quick agenda of one page and one addendum. We do have some discussion items that may take a little bit of time to get through but with that, we have the February 24th meeting minutes. Are there any questions or amendments to those? Is there a motion to approve those minutes?

Tom Harris: So moved.

Larry Brown: Second.

Darren Vogt: **We have a motion and a second. All those in favor please signify by saying aye. All those opposed same sign. The motion passes 7-0.** Next is the financial report from the Auditor.

Tera Klutz: Good morning. I can report that we are on track for revenue and expenses on the budget expectations. We were informed recently that our PERF rate is going up one-half of a percent. It is from 9.75% in 2011 and increased to 10.25% in 2012. That cost the County about \$200,000, the last time it went up half a percent. It will cost approximately the same for 2012. I just wanted to note that.

Darren Vogt: And the County picks up, if you could elaborate a little bit more on that, on how PERF works in Allen County and that it is not always the same in every County.

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Tera Klutz: There are two pieces of the PERF contribution. One is for a pension and the other is like a 401K. The employees have to contribute three percent of their pay or, as in Allen County, the County has elected to pick up three percent of their pay. It is at the option of the County Council. Jackie Scheuman recently learned that the Council could pick up the full three percent or they could pick up one percent or two percent. It is not all or none.

Darren Vogt: It is a benefit that the employees receive. It is a required contribution by the employee but in Allen County, we choose to fund that for the employee.

Tera Klutz: Right, the employer has agreed to pick that up. If Council decides not to pay that, it would come right from the employees' salary.

Darren Vogt: Council, are there any questions on that?

Roy Buskirk: When will that occur?

Tom Harris: 2012.

Roy Buskirk: That will start in January of 2012?

Tera Klutz: The increase? Yes that will be our rate for 2012.

Darren Vogt: Are there any other questions for the Auditor? Not hearing any, we need a motion to approve the financial report.

Kevin Howell: So moved.

Bob Armstrong: Second.

Darren Vogt: **We have a motion and a second. All those in favor please signify by saying aye. All those opposed same sign. The motion passes 7-0.** If you will notice, the Allen County unemployment rate is at 10.3%. That is an increase. We were at 9.4% last month. Next on the agenda is Economic Development.

Mark Royse: Mark Royse, Deputy Director of Economic Development. Before you is a resolution that is a bookkeeping matter. Back in 2005, the Council entered into a LEDGE agreement with General Motors Corporation, at the time. Part of that agreement was based on an up-front payment of \$2.1 million with a provision of \$210,000 over ten years. In June of 2008, Darren, Commissioner Peters and I went to General Motors to discuss another project and another agreement. At that time, we talked to the City and were going down the path of a joint LEDGE agreement with the City and the County as

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well as General Motors. June 1, 2009, General Motors Corporation filed for bankruptcy. It was probably the largest and quickest bankruptcy that has occurred to date. With all of that, one of the things that came out of that is that now there are two separate entities now at General Motors, LLC and a General Motors Liquidation Corporation. The current agreement that we just had signed, the joint LEDGE agreement with Fort Wayne and Allen County will be with the LLC. What this resolution does is establish that the current LEDGE agreement that we are operating under will supersede any prior LEDGE agreement. That way, they can take the provision for the last five years off of their books.

Roy Buskirk: So it is basically the bookkeeping situation?

Mark Royse: Right. It should not have shown up after the bankruptcy.

Darren Vogt: Right now they have to carry it on there since it is still an agreement with us, at this point in time. If you could, refresh Council's memory on our current agreement and the provisions that are in it, from a performance-based standpoint.

Mark Royse: The current agreement is a three-year agreement with both the City and the County paying \$333,333 a year over a three-year period. That is paid in arrears. The agreement has been back and forth and so where we are is that even though we are in 2011, we have not met 2009 or 2010. We will be paying two years at one time.

Roy Buskirk: I think Darren's question was more on what are GM's performance requirements.

Mark Royse: Performance requirement from them is to maintain at least 2,000 employees and a payroll of \$124 million.

Roy Buskirk: Do you know what the numbers are, approximately, now?

Mark Royse: They have not filed for 2011 but as of 2010, they had 2,482 for employment and the payroll was \$166 million.

Roy Buskirk: Some of these agreements and numbers that you are giving are prior to the time that they put on a third shift.

Mark Royse: Right.

Roy Buskirk: So as far as their side of the agreement, they have way more than what was expected.

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Mark Royse: A few months back, when we were discussing a potential investment out there, they had between 3,300 and 3,400.

Darren Vogt: Councilman Moss?

Paul Moss: The LEDGE agreement itself has not changed, correct? You are just changing the entity that it refers to.

Mark Royse: No, what it would say is that the current LEDGE agreement that is performance-based would supersede the previous LEDGE agreement.

Paul Moss: Okay. It seems like this resolution has conflicting statements but it could be that I am misreading it. Has anybody else read this?

Darren Vogt: What are you saying is conflicting?

Paul Moss: It sounds like, whereas said agreement included a repayment provision for 2006 to 2015 in the amount of \$210,000 per year based on failure of General Motors Corporation to perform and then it goes down to say whereas said agreement. Are you referring to the same agreement?

Mark Royse: No. If you read up above, the 2005 agreement was the one that had the 2006 to 2015 provision and then once you hit the June 1st bankruptcy you then come down to the December of 2009 with the current agreement.

Paul Moss: Okay, so then the next paragraph refers to that agreement, correct?

Mark Royse: Right.

Paul Moss: Where it says whereas said agreement is performance-based, are they both performance-based?

Mark Royse: No, the second agreement is performance-based. It will be paid a year in arrears and is set up that the maximum would be \$333,333. They have to report for the prior year just like you pay your taxes.

Paul Moss: I understand that and it is just semantics and I am getting bogged down in it. That is my problem. It seems to me that the second paragraph infers that it is performance-based as well.

Roy Buskirk: The one thing that might be a little bit confusing on reading this is the fact that it states the General Motors Corporation has failed to live up to their agreement, which is true, because they went into bankruptcy.

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They were then replaced with General Motors, LLC and is exceeding what the expectations are.

Paul Moss: The part where it says based on failure of GM to perform makes me think it is performance-based. That is my problem, I guess.

Darren Vogt: Keep in mind that in a resolution, the only thing that is really binding is the Now, Therefore be it Resolved. That is the important part that we need to focus on and the resolution part that is stating that we are superseding the LEDGE agreement from 2005.

Paul Moss: I would move for approval of Resolution 2011-03-17-01, Allen County Council Resolution regarding the original General Motors LEDGE agreement.

Tom Harris: Second.

Darren Vogt: We have a motion and a second. All those in favor please signify by saying aye. All those opposed same sign. The motion passes 7-0. Next we have a couple of grants from the Sheriff.

Dave Gladieux: Good morning, Dave Gladieux, Chief Deputy of the Sheriff's Department.

Roy Buskirk: This morning, the Sheriff is requesting the approval for a couple of grants.

Dave Gladieux: These are grants that we apply for every year. The first one is the DAC grant. That is a Justice grant that has been used, in years past, for equipment such as video cameras. Again, it will be used for that this year.

Roy Buskirk: Do you want to do the second one too?

Dave Gladieux: The second one is a SCAAP grant. It is an offender reimbursement for illegal aliens that we house in our jail. It is a Federal grant and is usually in the area of \$20,000 to \$25,000. We don't know what that is going to be this year. It has been used for offsetting overtime cost and things like that. I don't know if you remember but one year we used the entire grant to build the health clinic over at the jail.

Roy Buskirk: Some of it is used for reimbursement of the housing?

Dave Gladieux: Yes.

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Darren Vogt: How is that dollar amount determined? The Federal government just tells us how much we are going to get or is it based on population?

Dave Gladieux: It is based on population and how many we have in a certain period of time.

Tom Harris: Those are both State grants?

Dave Gladieux: Yes, they are State grants.

Darren Vogt: The Drug and Alcohol Consortium is a local.

Dave Gladieux: It is a Federal grant coming through a local entity.

Paul Moss: Let's just say it is all coming from the same pocket.

Darren Vogt: Actually I don't think that DAC works that way. I think DAC is actually offender-based.

Tera Klutz: Yes, it is user fees.

Darren Vogt: Council, we have two grants before us. Are there any other questions?

Roy Buskirk: I'll make a motion that we approve the application on both of the grants.

Bob Armstrong: Second.

Darren Vogt: We have a motion and a second. All those in favor please signify by saying aye. All those opposed same sign. The motion passes 7-0. Thank you. Next is Highway, Mr. Armstrong?

Bob Armstrong: Bill is coming before us today because he pulled this one last month. This is an appropriation for engineering and right-of-way money for the Bass Road project.

Bill Hartman: Bill Hartman, Allen County Highway Department.

Kim Yagodinski: Kim Yagodinski, Controller.

Bill Hartman: I think Bob stated it very well. We are here to appropriate money that we have been reimbursed on in the process of design towards the

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right-of-way on the first phase of the project of Hadley and Bass Roads intersection.

Darren Vogt: Councilman Buskirk?

Roy Buskirk: This is one of those situations in which it is revolving money that goes through the engineering and then through land acquisition and then construction. My question is, where does this money start from? Is it CREDIT funds?

Bill Hartman: You've got me there.

Kim Yagodinski: This is the wheel tax surtax.

Tera Klutz: Highway, gas tax, MVH distribution.

Roy Buskirk: So it is all of the above.

Tera Klutz: All of the above.

Roy Buskirk: Okay.

Tom Harris: Just a question on mechanics. It was pulled last month and then brought back this month. Help me understand how that happened.

Bill Hartman: There was an error in the amount of money that we had in cash and we found that we were too late to adjust the agenda and accomplish this last month. We completely dropped it from the agenda last month and put it on the agenda for this month.

Kim Yagodinski: Since we were too late, it couldn't be advertised for the meeting.

Darren Vogt: Council, are there any further questions? Not hearing any, do we have a motion for Highway Fund 250?

Paul Moss: Move for approval of the appropriation in Highway Fund 250 for Bass Road in the amount of \$200,000.

Roy Buskirk: Second.

Darren Vogt: We have a motion and a second. All those in favor please signify by saying aye. All those opposed same sign. The motion passes 7-0.

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Roy Buskirk: Can we ask him some questions? I was just wondering if we could have an update on Maplecrest and are we on budget.

Bill Hartman: There is \$2 million worth of contract modifications on a \$29 million bid. That is based on a \$50 million estimate. We are doing quite well. The bridge over the Maumee River has all of the piers in place. All of the beams are over that bridge. Three of the seven spans have the deck and walls poured. The bridge between Do It Best and the rail yard for Norfolk Southern, we are working on the last two hammerheads on the piers on the north end. We anticipate, in the next month or so, to start setting beams on that. We are seeing that bridge construction should be completed this year. There is a new entrance to the City's recycling area on Lake Avenue and that drive should be poured this year. The bulk of the road work will be done next season and then due to be open to traffic in the fall of next year.

Darren Vogt: I have one question. You need to explain to those listening and some of us up here as to what a hammerhead is.

Bill Hartman: When you pour a stem, there are arms that come out to hold the beams up and above that stem the arms are called the hammerhead.

Darren Vogt: I kind of got that.

Bill Hartman: You pour a footer and you pour a stem then you pour the hammerhead and set the beams.

Roy Buskirk: When you are in a big city and see where a road is built in the air, it is just what he said. You have the stem going up and the part that the road actually sits on is the hammerhead.

Darren Vogt: How are you working the coordination with the City and their piece of the Maplecrest Road that goes north of Lake Avenue? Are you working with them at all to make sure...

Bill Hartman: No, we have monthly UTAB meetings and David Ross gives a report on their progress on that project. They are well into the design on that. I am not sure when their planned letting date is on that.

Darren Vogt: Is it this year, do you know?

Bill Hartman: I don't believe it is this year. I believe it is next year. They are going to four-lane that on up to State and I believe they are going to go on north of State too. They are proposing to widen Maplecrest on north of State because north of Stellhorn is already four lanes.

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Darren Vogt: I guess this is a Dan Avery question but from my perspective, are we going to have Maplecrest Road not finished before the bridge opens?

Bill Hartman: I don't believe it will be done before the bridge opens. That construction will probably start shortly after we get completed. I will have to check with David Ross.

Darren Vogt: Can you to that and get back to me because as I am looking at that, I am concerned that we are going to have an increase in traffic flow during construction. That is not making any sense to me at all as to why we are not working on that before the bridge opens.

Bill Hartman: I will get with David and get back to you.

Roy Buskirk: They are working on it but it takes time to work through the steps to be able to coordinate it together.

Darren Vogt: They have been working on this bridge for a long time.

Roy Buskirk: I understand that but you have to have patience.

Darren Vogt: That right-of-way has been purchased a long time ago but we need to make sure that we are coordinating things so that we are not creating worse traffic problems.

Roy Buskirk: So you have all of the piers and stuff in the river?

Bill Hartman: Yes.

Roy Buskirk: That is the one thing that I was worried about so that we wouldn't be bothered by high water this spring.

Darren Vogt: Councilman Harris?

Tom Harris: I had a question on the St. Joe Center Bridge. Do you have a timeline on that one?

Bill Hartman: We haven't established a completion date on that yet. We are going to try to let it next month. I think we can do it in this season. It will be done in two phases. Traffic will be shifted either north or south. It is essentially two separate bridges. We are going to take the whole deck off that bridge and put new concrete back on it and widen it for a trail.

Tom Harris: So it is a possibility of this season.

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Bill Hartman: Not sure yet.

Darren Vogt: Councilman Howell?

Kevin Howell: So when is the proposed grand opening then?

Bill Hartman: The fall of 2012.

Darren Vogt: Council, are there any other questions? Thank you.

Bill Hartman: Okay, you are welcome.

Darren Vogt: Council, we are down to discussion items on the agenda. We are going to move one of these around a little bit. We have a gentleman here, Neil Ternet that wants to talk to us about county roadways. If you want to come up and introduce yourself for the record, please. I know that he just had a conversation with the Commissioners and wanted to talk to us a little bit about it.

Neil Ternet: Neil Ternet from Monroeville. Something that has come up over the years, a time or two, and I think it is time to talk about it again is recreational use of ATV's in this County. I have the colored version here and the green Counties are the ones that allow this. The ATV's and the UTV's, the UTV is the unit where you sit next to each other and there is a steering wheel and usually a dump bed in the back. They are becoming very popular with the farmers and people like me. It is just recreational use for me. I ride all over the State of Colorado, Utah and West Virginia. I do it legally but here we don't have a provision for that. Technically, the way that the law is now, you can ride on the right-of-way. On State Road 101 or old Lincoln Highway, you have a nice big right-of-way. On the County roads, the edge of the road is the beginning of the ditch. If you actually complied to the law, you would be in the grass and the ditch and be running over signs and mailboxes, telephone poles and culverts and all of that. It is just not feasible to be law-abiding in that case. Myself and people like me just want to be law-abiding. We are just begging to be legal. Even if I have two wheels on the grass and two wheels on the pavement, it still bothers me that I am not legal. The County officers, for the most part, don't give us a bad time but they could. If they are not giving us a bad time, then why not let us be legal? If they are looking the other way, it must be semi-legal in their minds. I just want to be 100% legal. We had a case over in Woodburn the other day. Lynn Rorick was telling me that they have a guy that lives just outside of town that uses this for snow removal. You can get snow blades on the front and they work great. This guy comes into Woodburn and does ten driveways and sidewalks for the old folks and he doesn't charge them. He got yelled at and threatened to be

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towed and all of that and here he is doing a good deed. He is not making money for doing it. I left the barbershop for the restaurant and Warren Coonrod, County officer, and told him. He said that wouldn't have been one of us older guys that would have done something like that. It had to have been one of the rookies or new people. The fact that the County looks one way and a mile on down the road you have a DNR officer or a State officer and they might give you a ticket and tow your machine. It would just be nice to have some consistency. The average rider, nowadays, is people in their fifties. The high performance market is dead. That died with the economy when a young guy could go into a Honda shop or Polaris or Arctic Cat dealer and come out with a high performance machine. They could go in during the morning and get financed and come out in the afternoon with a high performance machine. That market is dead. Those are the ones that have probably given the bad impression. The farmers use them and we would like to be able to go from one place to another legally and not cause any trouble. If it is good enough that they can look the other way and not bother us, then it ought to be good enough that we can do it legally. By doing it legally, you buy the Indiana DNR sticker and put it on the vehicle, as you are instructed to. You pay \$30 and have the sticker for three years and operate only on the County roads. That doesn't allow you to go into town or ride down State Road 101 or 30 or anything like that. As you can see here, I can start out in Adams County and go all the way to the Michigan line if I just go west a little way. I don't like being a lawbreaker. I like knowing that I can go down the road and be 100% confident that I am not subject to arrest.

Darren Vogt: Councilman Buskirk?

Roy Buskirk: Are you required to have a flag or anything?

Neil Ternet: Not a flag but all of these newer vehicles have brake lights and headlights. I think lighting is the only thing that is required, I believe.

Roy Buskirk: What kind of speed do these vehicles go?

Neil Ternet: The newer utility models, with fuel injection and so on and most of them have gone that route, mine is a Polaris 500 and it will go 57 wide open. I generally run about 45 because I don't want to beat the snot out of the poor thing.

Roy Buskirk: I understand. My one concern would be the fact of vehicles not seeing you when you are over a hill. That is the reason that tractors have to have the flag.

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Neil Ternet: Well, in Allen County, we don't have a lot of hills to worry about. I think they are much more visible than a motorcycle because an ATV will just fit in a pickup and a UTV are quite a bit larger yet. You can sit three across in a UTV. They would be in the general shape of a golf cart.

Roy Buskirk: I think most of us realize what they look like.

Neil Ternet: They are becoming more popular for people my age and older because you can get in and out of them easy. As the knees and things get achier, people are giving up the handlebars and going with the UTV's. That is who they are marketing towards. You can get these things with power steering now. Even the handlebars have power steering because it is this age group that is buying them.

Paul Moss: So it is safe to assume that the Commissioners are responsible for making any changes to that?

Roy Buskirk: Right.

Paul Moss: And you spoke with them?

Neil Ternet: Yes. I just thought it was a good opportunity here to make them legal so that we don't have to be lawbreakers.

Roy Buskirk: You realize that the Council has nothing to do with this, right?

Neil Ternet: Yes. I just got to talking to Kevin a while back and that is the route that we took to come here and visit with you people.

Darren Vogt: Councilman Howell?

Kevin Howell: First of all, thanks again for coming. You are a friend and a constituent, in that order. The thing that really caught my attention about it, I am a city boy and never heard anything about these before, and kids ride these things. Young kids tooling around and riding from here to there and that raised a red flag for me right there. Is there an age requirement, per se?

Neil Ternet: For highway use, I think you have to be sixteen.

Kevin Howell: Okay, that is the reason that I brought you here.

Neil Ternet: You absolutely don't want unlicensed people on them. As far as being on your own property or being in your own yard, there is no minimum age there.

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Darren Vogt: Are there any further questions? Thank you for the update. Appreciate it. Council, I did forget that we have one addendum. Superior Court has their Interpreter Grant that is to come before us. I saw Mr. Noble yesterday in the hallway.

Roy Buskirk: As liaison to the Court, Superior Court wants to apply for the grant for the Interpreter grant. I told them that I would take care of it and it wasn't necessary for them to appear today.

Darren Vogt: Let me just interject quickly on that. If we have grants to come before us that have been here before, please make sure that they don't need to come here. We can take care of those so we don't have people sitting and waiting.

Tom Harris: If we have questions in regards to the grant, we can get with them directly.

Darren Vogt: And if they need to come before us, then they can.

Tom Harris: The question I have is that they have the grant application in here but I would like to see it when it is completed. There are a number of things in there that I had questions about that would be answered through the grant process.

Darren Vogt: When the grant is completed?

Tom Harris: No, the application isn't filled out and I would be interested in understanding what they are filling out. It would be a good learning exercise for us.

Larry Brown: To your point, normally a grant application is filled out, when we see it. I don't understand why this one is not.

Becky Butler: They got it the same day that he added it to the addendum. He hasn't had time to fill it out yet.

Darren Vogt: That is why it is an addendum.

Larry Brown: That was ten days ago.

Becky Butler: They need to have it in by the 8th of April.

Larry Brown: Certainly it is filled out by now.

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Becky Butler: I think so.

Roy Buskirk: You realize that on some of these grants, we have approved them after they have already applied.

Larry Brown: That is all true but normally we see a filled out grant.

Tom Harris: That makes sense.

Darren Vogt: If you are concerned, you can get with Mr. Noble. He can get us a copy of the grant application.

Tera Klutz: I can have Becky do it and then she can email it out.

Darren Vogt: That would be great. I did talk to him and it is the same grant that we have seen for the last seven years. It is a much-needed grant from a language standpoint, in this community, that is for sure.

Roy Buskirk: They use all of the money that they get through this grant plus more. There seems to be more and more need every year for interpreters in the Court system. I make a motion that we approve the application for the 2011 Interpreter grant.

Larry Brown: Second.

Darren Vogt: **We have a motion and a second. All those in favor please signify by saying aye. All those opposed same sign. The motion passes 7-0.** With that, let's go to Board Appointment Updates. I know we had a list of appeals or the Assessor's Office. Does anyone have any other Board meetings that they want to update us on?

Roy Buskirk: Does everybody get that? I think the one thing that I thought was very interesting is the number of people that don't show up. I would think that if you are appealing your assessment, you would show up for the hearing. A very high percentage of people don't show up.

Darren Vogt: I wonder if they don't show up, what happens. Do they automatically lose the appeal?

Tera Klutz: I don't think that they automatically lose it. I think a lot of time they don't show up because they have had the time to do their own research and they realized that they knee-jerked on the appeal and that their market value is probably closer to the assessed value than they originally thought.

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Darren Vogt: I was just curious as to the process.

Roy Buskirk: They are looked at on an individual situation. Some of them don't show and some were rescheduled for the following meeting. Some of them, the agreement gets worked out. And some of them realize that they are barking up the wrong tree.

Tom Harris: As far as the update from the Strategic Planning Committee, Tera, Larry and I sit on that committee, what we have learned from the last meeting is that we have received input and participation by all departments and Elected Officials. I know that has been an initiative from Council over the last few years. It is encouraging to see everyone on board with that. One of the questions that was raised, I brought up, was the idea should County Council have some input in terms of a Strategic Plan and into the entire document. From my understanding, we have required or requested that Strategic Planning take place. My only question was should we participate and also propose or submit something in terms of our vision of Strategic Planning for the County? That is probably going to take some more discussion but I am just throwing it out, at this point.

Roy Buskirk: To my knowledge, I thought we did. When I was President two years ago, Maye Johnson served on that committee. The Council has a section in there like every other department. It was to show what we plan to accomplish in the next two years, three years and five years.

Tom Harris: Okay.

Darren Vogt: I think what he just said was that it is your job.

Tom Harris: There was some discussion as to whether we needed to do that or not. If that is the case, we will have to discuss what we would like in it. Larry, Tera and I can submit something but it would be wise to discuss it before we submit something.

Darren Vogt: I think what would be a good idea is for the three of you to come up with some sort of draft and then have it as a discussion item for Council.

Tom Harris: Okay.

Larry Brown: Thank you very much.

Darren Vogt: Does anyone have anything else? Commissioner Peters, do you want to come up so that we can talk about the Personnel Committee? If you recall, the last meeting or the meeting before that, we had a change to our

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agenda with removing the consent agenda. The Personnel Committee policy and procedures shows that there is reference to the consent agenda. We need to clarify our fix or whatever the case may be on that. Commissioner Peters was involved in this as well.

Nelson Peters: Nelson Peters, Allen County Commissioner. For a real quick read, the section that has caused the most issue is under Rules, Section 4. It deals with matters that come before the Personnel Committee which have received a unanimous due pass and whether or not they appear on the consent agenda. That is actually paragraph C.

Darren Vogt: The reason that I did away with the consent agenda is the fact that things need to be read into the record, especially for salary ordinances and didn't want us to not be following the law the best way possible. I had a conversation in our Wednesday meeting with the Commissioners regarding the process and paperwork flow. I think we have that worked out where Council will see, as they come onto the agenda, all of the supporting documentation that the Personnel Committee sees at the same time. We were getting it but not in the same timeframe that the Council agenda books were coming through. We are going to clean it up a little bit in a timing standpoint when they go on the agenda. If we are not going to have a consent agenda, my suggestion would be simply to remove paragraph C from the Rules section of the policies and procedures for the Personnel Committee.

Nelson Peters: If I might just make one mention, the consent agenda appears in paragraph D as well. Certainly any member of Council has had the prerogative to wipe any specific item off the consent agenda. I want to caution you that we brought Tracy Mitchener, who is sitting behind me, to serve as our Compensation Specialist. We have redefined the department and compensation has a person of its own. We are finding some things, right now, that may cause us to come before Personnel Committee and subsequently this body probably more often than what you have seen us in the past. She is going back through all of the jobs upgrading job descriptions, modifying the system and my suspicion is that you haven't seen much of us over the last year or even two years. I say that because the Personnel Committee has been a good processing in vetting out the things that come before you. I don't want to prolong these meetings with compensation issues that may come before you. All I am saying is consider that in whatever you might want to do with this policy.

Darren Vogt: I agree that the intent isn't to belabor these meetings but it is to make sure that all Council members have the same items available for discussion if they have questions.

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Nelson Peters: I think if you just change the term consent agenda, it still allows for individual Council people to pull jobs off of whatever we want to rename it but allow for the positions to be read into the record. I think you would accommodate a lot of the concerns that I had heard.

Roy Buskirk: I think all you need to do is remove the word consent and then each individual one can be handled. I think that most of us on the Council think it is very non-productive to have department heads or other personnel sitting here when there are really not any questions that the liaison can't handle. I think that sometimes, it depends upon the individual request. If it has to be discussed more by full Council, this year I am the head of the Personnel Committee and it would be my responsibility to make sure that the individual comes to the Council meeting.

Nelson Peters: I think if that communication occurs upfront, then you probably have a more seamless process.

Darren Vogt: I think that is the role that we are looking at so that if we do have questions, that person is here. And if they are requesting funds, we definitely want them to come before us. If they are asking for additional dollars, it makes sense for them to be before us. If it is a reorganization piece, then that is when we wouldn't need them to attend. I think, to Councilman Buskirk's point, you need to peruse that and if we have questions as we see things come on the agenda we make sure to get them to Councilman Buskirk.

Bob Armstrong: So in this, are we just going to clean up the language and get rid of the consent agenda wherever it appears?

Roy Buskirk: I think just get rid of consent. It would still be on the agenda.

Darren Vogt: I think you should remove C altogether.

Tom Harris: Also, F. Items not gained by unanimous approval from the Committee will not be eligible for placement on the consent agenda.

Darren Vogt: Let's clean this document up. Councilman Buskirk, if you could do that through the Personnel Committee, knowing that we don't have the consent agenda and then we will get it next month. I will bring up one other point that I want to make sure and that is one citizen member. Do we have that member of the Personnel Committee? Have we ever officially adopted this document?

Nelson Peters: In many ways, shapes and forms.

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Darren Vogt: All I have is an unsigned copy and I wondered if we had actually officially done that.

Nelson Peters: That specific one, perhaps not but only because it was a re-codification of the stuff that had been adopted. I don't know when the last time was that we actually had that person. I don't know if, in Councilman Harris' day, we had one but it has been some time.

Roy Buskirk: One other quick comment is the fact that there are times in which the Committee approves a certain request just to have it come before full Council. It is felt that the Committee wants it brought before full Council for more discussion and decision on it. That is the reason that it is approved out of the Committee to the Council.

Darren Vogt: Councilman Buskirk, if you could rework this and then get it back to us. When is the next Committee meeting?

Nelson Peters: I think it is April 7th.

Darren Vogt: I don't know if that is a full agenda or not.

Nelson Peters: It is getting there.

Roy Buskirk: Consider it done.

Darren Vogt: Thanks Commissioner. Next on the agenda is the Rainy Day Fund. I asked Auditor Klutz to talk a little bit about our Rainy Day Fund. As you all know, we use \$4.5 million out of the Rainy Day Fund this year for balancing the budget. We anticipate doing that again next year as well. This is discussion item only but I would like to have some significant discussion on it. The concept is that, from my perspective, I wanted to make sure that this Council could maintain a Rainy Day Fund moving forward. We've had discussions about the appropriate balances and how much we should have in it percentage-wise. The Auditor has done a good job of giving us that background information. With that, I will turn it over to you to give us a little bit of your research and analysis on that and then we can go into discussion of the actual resolution that is before us.

Tera Klutz: Thanks. Probably last fall, Darren tried to talk to the Auditor about writing a Rainy Day Fund policy. Every time that I met with him, I was very discouraged about writing the policy because I felt it would reduce the flexibility that County Council had to address budget shortfalls, natural disasters or emergencies. I thought that no policy could be the best policy in terms of uses of the fund. Nick and I were conducting a lot of research and it

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was determined that most Rainy Day Funds across the country were not adequate to continue to operate governments during this latest recession. I believe that Allen County is different and we will have Rainy Day Fund balance to help operate during the next few years. Also with this research, I found that the governmental accounting standards have been adopted to make governments disclose their Rainy Day Fund policy and permitted uses so that way bond holders that want to invest in our bonds would have some kind of assurance that the management of the County is looking at the future or at trends or saving for rainy days when the economy does take a drop. Services are still in demand and sometimes are more in demand. I do support a Rainy Day Fund policy now, thanks to Darren. I believe that the way it is written still allows for flexibility for revenue shortfalls. There is one percent revenue shortfall which means it could go into property tax or it could be because of income tax. The one thing that was similar in all of the Rainy Day Funds that we did our research on was that they are always used for budget shortfalls, natural disasters or emergencies. Never once were they used for planned capital expenditures. Anything that you can plan for belongs in a savings account for capital expense items. It does not belong in a Rainy Day Fund. Our current Rainy Day Fund is at an adequate level. Our research shows that a minimum that you would want is 16% of your operations. Some have shown possibly 32% could be the top amount of money you could save. I have put our goal, in this policy, at 16%. We are going to dip below that in the next few years and would have to create a plan to show how we would get back there. Each year those numbers will change and we will update them with actuals. If any of you have any questions, we would be happy to answer them.

Tom Harris: I have a question on the sixteen percent. What is the magic of sixteen percent?

Tera Klutz: Two months of operating.

Darren Vogt: I just want to make sure that we are clarifying, what is our operating expense? I am on the second page of the resolution and it is the three i's and then number one which is one percent of operating revenue. That is approximately the \$84 million number? I am assuming that is what the General Fund operating revenue is?

Tera Klutz: Yes.

Darren Vogt: That is the number and not the total funds which would include Highway and CEDIT and \$160 million.

Tera Klutz: Right.

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Darren Vogt: I just wanted to make sure that Council understands what dollar amounts we are talking about.

Tera Klutz: Should I change that? Should I say one percent of operating revenue instead of just the General Fund?

Darren Vogt: No, I believe the General Fund is right. I just wanted to make sure that Council understood. One percent would be roughly \$1,000,000 to get to trigger any dollar amount coming out of the Rainy Day Fund.

Tera Klutz: This would still have to be approved by the Council. I would not be recommending if we were only going to be short \$800,000. I don't know that I would recommend using the Rainy Day Fund, at that point. This policy allows us to use Rainy Day Funds if it is necessary, for example, in situations where we would be forced to reduce some services that we could not live without.

Darren Vogt: It is a low threshold to initiate the conversation. I don't know that you would want a higher threshold. One of the things that we talk about is refunding and I don't mean refunding as in giving back but putting into the Rainy Day Fund and continuing to replenish the funds that are being used to get us to the sixteen percent. We have had discussions about our rollover and how to eliminate rollover. The Auditor and I have had several discussions about that and why we have this rollover. The more I thought about it, it makes sense. You are never going to be able to budget down to the penny. From an operating standpoint, there will be staff rollover and things that rollover and that has been averaging approximately \$4 million for the last three or four years. What my suggestion would be is to get back to the stabilization piece of it is one other option, other than saying we have to have a five-year plan, is to create a separate resolution that says a percentage of our rollover, every year, automatically goes into the Rainy Day Fund. That percentage can be whatever percent we want it to be but that would be an automatic and if it is in a resolution form, it says that the Council has to come and discuss whether they want to make that change. Any Council, as we are all here for a limited amount of time, would have to go in and create a new resolution. That would be another way to do it without putting any usage piece of that. Some suggestion that I had was taking half of the rollover and putting it into Rainy Day, back up a minute, which would be approximately \$2 million half going into Rainy Day and the other half going into the Economic Development Incentive. That is a conversation that I am having with the Commissioners and they need to have the flexibility of funds and one of the places to get those funds is from rollover, unspent money that is really not part of the budget but can be a percentage and if it is there, then we have it to use. They are thinking that they need approximately \$2.5

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million available. It doesn't mean that they are going to spend it but available on an incentive basis for when companies do come. There are several things in the works right now where incentive money is going to need to be used and they want to have the flexibility to not have to make public options on things that need to be done. With that, those are my thoughts and let's have some discussion. Councilman Buskirk?

Roy Buskirk: How much rollover did we have last year? I think it was around \$4 million.

Tera Klutz: Yes.

Roy Buskirk: What happened to it?

Tera Klutz: \$1.5 million, we held back just in case our revenue and expenses don't meet our projections. Another million dollars went to voice-over IP. Another \$800,000 and some went to pay off the parking bond. Does that get us close? Then we had \$101,000 for the Treasurer for bank fees.

Roy Buskirk: My point is the fact that we usually now use that rollover to meet the following year's budget.

Tera Klutz: We have done that a couple of times but it is not our big recommendation.

Roy Buskirk: We have also taken advantage of it and used it for some capital types of items. I'm a little concerned on pledging 100% of that rollover and not having the opportunity of making that decision that year.

Darren Vogt: I never said 100%. It was 50% of the rollover. So \$2 million and that being split with half into the Rainy Day Fund and \$1 million into the Economic Incentive.

Larry Brown: So 25% into Economic Development and 25% into Rainy Day.

Roy Buskirk: Thank you, Larry. Why didn't you say it that way, Darren? The Rainy Day Fund that has been established in the past years, some of it was a blessing or an accident on how that revenue came to us. One, in which we are having the reverse affect now, was because a couple of years ago the State realized that they had underfunded us on COIT?

Tera Klutz: Income tax.

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Roy Buskirk: And so now we have a considerable amount that one year. Now they say that they have overfunded us and we will be short for the next year or so. There needs to be, and I am glad to know now, 50% of the rollover fund will have the flexibility to make some adjustments like that. Good idea there.

Tera Klutz: I will draft a policy like that.

Darren Vogt: Council, if you will also notice that under the three i's, permitted uses, it does require the super-majority vote to have any kinds of money spent out of it. I want to make sure that I understood structural budget deficits. What did you mean by the word structural when you put that together?

Tera Klutz: If you have a balanced budget then you think your revenues meet your expenses that should come to zero. Eight years ago, when we came in, we were not funded for health insurance. That is a structural budget deficit. We don't want to fund that with the Rainy Day Fund. We need to plan for the expenses that we know are going to happen. They should all be in the budgeted expenses and we should use the revenue that we have to balance that. The Boys and Girls debt, eight years ago they were not putting that payment in or the cost to incarcerate juveniles into the General Fund budget. They knew it was an expense but were letting the debt roll down to the State level. When we came in, we started putting \$2 million in the budget every year to not only pay the current cost but also to pay back the debt. Basically a balanced budget is all of the expenses that you can foresee are in there and they balance to the revenue that you get. If you have more expenses than revenue then you would go to the Rainy Day Fund.

Darren Vogt: If the revenue threshold was met.

Tera Klutz: Yes.

Darren Vogt: Thank you. I just wanted to make sure. Council, this was a discussion item and I don't want to belabor it. Are there any other thoughts or discussion?

Tom Harris: I like the idea that, philosophically and strategically, as we have encouraged Department Heads and Elected Officials to establish a strategic plan with some kinds of fundamentals and strategies for dealing with the Rainy Day Fund does make sense. I do worry, as Roy has pointed out, that the storm is still forming. From a Federal level you can see that we are cutting back and there is a strong demand to cut government expense. The Federal wave is going to hit States and States are going to hit local governments and we have to be ahead, a little bit, of that curve and

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understand what that might mean and strategically putting a number on this might make sense. I think there is a feeling that we can continue to dip into the Rainy Day Fund for lots of different reasons but it is there for that purpose and we need to be ready for that wave when it comes.

Tera Klutz: On the second page of the resolution, you can see that I have us using the Rainy Day Fund at the current level for not only 2011 but also for 2012 and 2013. I did not increase it because I think that it would not be wise. If we have any deficits after using \$4.5 million from the Rainy Day Fund, then we may need to possibly look at lowering our expenses.

Darren Vogt: At some point, that needs to be. The other reason that I brought this up is I keep hearing this murmur in the background saying that we have all this money, we have all this money and people need to understand that this money is not money set aside for operating expenses but for sudden losses of income based on economic downturns and the pressures that we have when the revenues don't come in. That is really what this does is codify that so that people realize that this money is off the table. I want to point out the loan provision because we do use that money when tax collections don't come in on time or if there is an issue with assessment and the bills don't go out and the money doesn't come in. We use the Rainy Day Fund for loan provisions.

Tera Klutz: Temporary loans that are usually paid back in one year.

Larry Brown: So would things like debt retirement, if the market is right and we choose to retire a debt early, is that where we would be able to have that flexibility?

Tera Klutz: Not as it is written. We can look at that.

Darren Vogt: That is one of the questions that you and I had talked about changing the number four to not necessarily talk about Indiana Code but to say that it is still going to take a super-majority and it is going to have the ability to take temporary loans from it.

Tera Klutz: To provide money for cash-flow purposes and to reduce debt.

Darren Vogt: Reducing debt obligations will increase our bond rating which will allow us to do better in the bond market and overall reducing the debt that taxpayers would receive by lowering the interest on any bonds that we would offer. We will probably have to bond in the next few years if these radios come out as the \$14 million number from the Sheriff's Department. That will probably be a project that we would have to bond for. If we can

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clean house enough with debt like we did with the parking garage, then we can offer a lower interest rate.

Tera Klutz: The way that you have worded temporary loan, would the parking garage revenue then go back into the Rainy Day Fund to pay back the temporary loan?

Darren Vogt: I think we need to work through that.

Tera Klutz: It wouldn't really be a temporary loan if you never planned on paying it back or a loan at all.

Darren Vogt: Right.

Tera Klutz: We could just add it as a separate to pay off. I think you should say in a savings account to pay off debt. I don't know if the Rainy Day Fund is necessarily a place to gather cash to pay off debt.

Roy Buskirk: I don't think we want too many different accounts, if possible. Super-majority, what is the magic number on that?

Darren Vogt: Five.

Roy Buskirk: I think that needs to be spelled out.

Tera Klutz: What if not everyone is here? Is it a super-majority of the people that are here?

Roy Buskirk: That is something that needs to be discussed. Is it the majority of those that are here?

Darren Vogt: Must have five votes to pass.

Tom Harris: I guess the flip side of the argument to do this would be the very premise that this exists is to deal with the unforeseen. If we establish too many rules and processes to even access it when we don't know what might be coming, then we have set up rules to trip ourselves up. There is a balance that we need to think through in terms of restrictions for Council.

Darren Vogt: Do you think a five-vote versus a four-vote makes that difference? I guess my thought was is that we don't want somebody to see it and say there is too much money in there and Council thinks we can just spend it, spend it and spend it. It needs to be a thoughtful process and that was my thinking behind it. We need to have enough teeth in it to really have

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to consider it before it is spent. I understand putting the regulations on it so that you still can't use it at the same time.

Roy Buskirk: On the parking garage, it is my understanding that the revenue stream would be going into the General Fund.

Tera Klutz: Yes.

Darren Vogt: Yes. If you are following the logic of the money and it is not used and spent. If the anticipated revenue wasn't accounted for, from a budget standpoint, because originally it was going to pay off a bond and now it is going into... Eventually, if we have a resolution that says rollover, it could, in theory, be that type of situation.

Roy Buskirk: The other thing is the fact of the Circuit Breaker that was in the paper earlier this week about the Northwest Allen County Schools. They are going to be short a couple of million dollars. There are quite a few in that school district that are hitting the Circuit Breaker. As years keep going by, there are going to be more and more, in the County, that will be doing that. That is going to be affecting our revenue.

Darren Vogt: It has to do with the fact that Northwest Allen has a lot of residences that are in the City limits. Those folks have hit the cap faster than folks outside the City limits.

Roy Buskirk: That's fine and we have a large percentage of our assessed value that is within the City limits and they are hitting the Circuit Breaker as far as the County revenue is too. That is what is going to affect the County revenue.

Darren Vogt: Councilman Moss?

Paul Moss: How flexible or inflexible lies best do you believe Section Two is the level to maintain? Are we basically binding ourselves to how we get the money over there, moving the amounts into that to maintain that sixteen percent?

Tera Klutz: No, I don't think so. The chart shows that we are about to dip below the sixteen percent and stay that way for five years. Those would be updated annually. I wanted to show how we could possibly get back to the sixteen percent. Next year, when we have a rollover and we see what expenses we need to fund out of the Rainy Day Fund, then the 2012 numbers will be updated. The percentage will be updated. I think we say it is a goal. The word goal, in Section Two, allows for a lot of flexibility.

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Darren Vogt: It is not a requirement but the other advantage is that by putting a percentage on it this is our minimum. If we see some forecast and say that we have to wait a minute, let's say we have a major manufacturer go under, the jobs are gone, the assessed value in that township is gone and all of a sudden our assessed value drops and that is a long-term recovery. If we see it coming, we may want to put more money into that Rainy Day Fund.

Paul Moss: My point is that I want to make sure that what this policy does, if you look at where we are now with no policy and where we are going, it obviously reduces flexibility. That is the intent and I understand that but I am also a little concerned about being in a constant state of having a certain level of funds just sitting there. I think that the argument that we are taking more money from people than we need is a legitimate one. It is a pretty significant concern and philosophically I don't have a problem with government struggling a little bit once in a while on the revenue side.

Tera Klutz: Often though, what happens when government starts to struggle and they get into an emergency situation, I wish I could say that great decisions are always made but often I see the danger of tax increases and knee-jerk service cuts. We just have to have a little flexibility.

Paul Moss: You just stated it very clearly that the mindset of government is tax increases. I didn't hear a word about expense control. If you have money sitting aside all of the time, it makes it a heck of a lot easier to not worry about controlling expenses.

Tera Klutz: But I did say budget expenses.

Paul Moss: Most people don't say that. It just makes it easier when you have additional funds there.

Darren Vogt: Would it help to then to raise the threshold of how you get into the Rainy Day Fund? To the point of the fact that you don't want to use it for operating expenses, which I never would suggest at all.

Tera Klutz: That is what we are using it for.

Darren Vogt: Operating expenses when there isn't a drastic shortfall.

Paul Moss: Really what it boils down to is just the Rainy Day Fund itself. I am not sold on the fact, and there are good arguments both ways, that we always have to have a Rainy Day Fund. This, in my mind, is that it codifies a Rainy Day Fund at least up until 2016. That just concerns me a little bit. It

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makes it awfully easy not to look at, and I know that the Auditor is as good as anybody looking at the expense side but I think it makes it easy for government not to look at that first.

Darren Vogt: I think that you and I are eye to eye at looking at expenses first.

Paul Moss: It really is a kind of philosophical issue.

Darren Vogt: My concern has always been the drastic drop in revenue in an economic downturn. That is part of the reason why I thought it would be important...

Paul Moss: I agree but when there is a drastic drop in revenue in private business, there is a commensurate drastic drop in expenses. You just don't see that in government.

Darren Vogt: I will reflect that I have had a drop in revenue and I have taken it out of my own Rainy Day Fund. Each business can operate differently but I chose not to reduce my expenses and reduce staff and reduce staff salary. I chose to take it out of my pocket in order to keep the same flow of operation going. There are different philosophies on that.

Paul Moss: Most businesses and I will speak for mine and we are one of the largest around here, don't have a Rainy Day Fund to dip into.

Roy Buskirk: In essence you do have a Rainy Day Fund because you have a line of credit that you can call upon or you have other sources. If you have a major downfall in your revenue stream, I am sure your company has a plan in place.

Paul Moss: True we have a line of credit but you have to pay that back.

Roy Buskirk: Yes you do but the one thing with the Rainy Day Fund is that outsiders look at it as having \$20 million. It is not the \$20 million because that is only two month's operating.

Paul Moss: That, in itself, is a very sad statement, in my opinion. We are going to have to agree to disagree on this. It is a philosophical argument.

Roy Buskirk: You need to have a little bit of reserve or savings account because you do have economy downturns. I'll agree that the fund should only be used when we have shortfalls and we have one right now coming through the State. It's a couple of million dollars, at least.

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Tera Klutz: That will have to be cut from budgets. Unless you guys choose to take more out of the Rainy Day Fund than we are right now, any decrease from COIT from this year through 2012 will have to come from the bottom line.

Darren Vogt: That is an ongoing...

Tera Klutz: It is because we were overfunded a couple of years ago and so now they are going to be taking it back. Those have to level out somewhere.

Darren Vogt: And that is what I am trying to get to what is the level of funding?

Tera Klutz: I believe we will be cutting this year just based upon the income tax decreases on top of the decrease that we already felt last year.

Darren Vogt: Councilman Moss, from a discussion standpoint, the resolution on the rollover piece on that, how do you feel about using rollover funds to fund the Rainy Day Fund? I am not trying to put you on the spot. We can't operate at a zero net balance. There is always going to be rollover. What do you anticipate with that rollover and how do you feel about the resolution saying to fund that going in with rollovers?

Paul Moss: I like the concept of having rollover money to go into the Rainy Day Fund. What I don't like about that is making it inflexible. You just can't anticipate that there is some other need for that rollover money. Conceptually, I like that.

Darren Vogt: Council, are there any other questions?

Larry Brown: Should there be a statement, I apologize if it is here and I just don't see it, that once we achieve our goal of sixteen percent, does that same distribution apply?

Darren Vogt: I would think not if we have reached the level.

Larry Brown: Should that say that in here?

Tera Klutz: Would it be in the rollover policy that the distribution doesn't get made if the Rainy Day Fund balance is at an adequate sixteen percent level?

Darren Vogt: You can address it in one place or the other or both, if need be.

Tera Klutz: It doesn't belong in here.

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Darren Vogt: Okay. That is a funding mechanism.

Tera Klutz: Right. A lot of different places can put funds in here.

Larry Brown: The goal of the resolution, correct me if I am wrong, is so that our current philosophy is continued on and if they want to change the resolution, then they have to have two-thirds vote to do so, correct?

Darren Vogt: Right.

Larry Brown: We need to get our current philosophy in here as detailed as possible to all of the points of discussion here.

Tera Klutz: Do you want me to do draft a separate policy with that in there about the rollover? It would be like a rollover policy.

Paul Moss: Are you asking for a vote today?

Darren Vogt: Absolutely not.

Paul Moss: You just developed this?

Tera Klutz: Yes.

Paul Moss: As much as I hate to say it, is there a need for a subcommittee to discuss this? I think this is a very important policy and there seems to be some different viewpoints.

Darren Vogt: This is such a major issue and I wanted to get some thoughts on paper and get it for a full discussion. We can gladly fine tune it with a subcommittee and then bring it back to full Council. I just wanted to make sure that everyone has input on such a significant resolution. In the interest of time, why don't we do that? I will chair it and would anyone else like to be involved?

Tom Harris: I would.

Kevin Howell: I would.

Darren Vogt: Okay, so we have four and we will fine tune some of this based on the conversation today and create a resolution for rollover funds. If you can draft something along those lines, it will at least get us started. As soon as that is done by the Auditor's Office, I will call a meeting and we can have

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some more discussion on it. Moving on with the agenda, we are at Upcoming and Recent meetings. Does anyone have any upcoming or recent meetings? We have a meeting at 3:00 to discuss the building, here in this room, on the 24th. I will tell you this, I have been meeting with the Commissioners every other Wednesday and the line of communication has been going very well. I will give you a summary of that electronically sometime soon. Does anyone have any liaison reports?

Roy Buskirk: There are a couple of things that I would like to mention. One of my duties is on the Plan Commission and we had an Executive Meeting Monday concerning Greatbatch Medical. There was some formal approving of things that we needed to do for them and by having the Executive Session, we were able to knock five weeks off the permit process. As far as the Permit Committee, in the next week or two we anticipate a survey coming out. The survey has come through the input of many in the construction community and on the Department Heads for City and County. They have come up with a very short survey which will be started over the internet and hopefully we will find some improvements. The Permit Committee is meeting every two weeks and is trying to expedite the permit process through City and County. The other thing that I wanted to mention is the fact that probably a month ago there was an article in the paper about VA benefits and our Veteran Affairs Office was recognized as being number two in the State for revenues coming to this County and the great effort that they do. Indianapolis has considerably more veterans than we do but our staff here was able to get more benefits back into the community. I really looked at this, not only because I am a veteran, but \$10 million coming into this County definitely has an economic impact. The other thing that I have here to discuss is the advantage of our agenda having the different department numbers and I thought we were going to go back to having item numbers on the agenda.

Tera Klutz: Within the department, if they have more than one, we will do that. Like if the Sheriff has more than one thing, we will number the items.

Roy Buskirk: We will still use 05 for the Sheriff?

Tera Klutz: That is just his department number.

Roy Buskirk: You constantly have to shift your dividers around.

Darren Vogt: I am not sure about the shifting of dividers but let's talk about that afterwards. I don't understand why you are shifting dividers.

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Larry Brown: I personally like it because I can keep information that I want to keep from meeting to meeting to meeting and it is always going to be in that tab.

Roy Buskirk: Oh, okay.

Darren Vogt: To your point, this was a very light agenda and we didn't do much adjusting because there was only one appropriation on it. You should notice a difference once you see a list but maybe you won't this year.

Roy Buskirk: I guess my problem was that I took the different departments that were coming to last month's meeting and put them in order that they were on the agenda in my notebook.

Tera Klutz: You should let Becky put your notebook together.

Roy Buskirk: She emails it to me.

Becky Butler: I email it to everybody. I would be happy to put your notebook together.

Roy Buskirk: Thank you.

Darren Vogt: Councilman Howell?

Kevin Howell: Councilman Buskirk, this permit thing, is it to be a one-stop shop for permits? Is that what you are working towards?

Roy Buskirk: No, it will never be that. Depending on what type of permit the individual is going for, they are going to have to go to different departments. You will never be able to put it to a one-stop. Go ahead, Larry.

Larry Brown: The one thing that people don't realize is the concept of the one-stop shop takes multiple trips. Certain steps require a review process that can't be done instantly. It just can't. You can't go in on one trip and go to all departments and walk out with everything you need. It will never happen. It can't happen. What we are trying to do is cut the cycle time down to something more reasonable, or perception of reasonable, than what we have heard about in the past. That is being improved.

Kevin Howell: I got a lot of flak about that during the campaign.

Larry Brown: The one trip, the one-stop, goes to the convenience store and come out with everything you need, no.

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Roy Buskirk: We are talking about possibly having an, and I can't say that word.

Darren Vogt: Ombudsman.

Larry Brown: Project manager.

Roy Buskirk: There you go. They will help on moving it through the different departments. You have to visualize that you have a developer that needs to have plans put out with lots, streets, sewer, water and everything and those plans have to be reviewed. Then you have another contractor that is coming in and he is putting up a building. You have the architect that designed the building with all of the different regulations incorporated in there and that takes a little bit of time to review before the stamp of approval can be put on it. We are working with a computer program and will have in the very near future so that they can submit these plans over the internet instead of carrying plans down. One of the problems that has occurred in the past is that maybe the Water Department says you need to change the size of pipe coming into the building. The architect changes that page and gives it to the Water Department but all of the other departments that are reviewing the plans don't get that. If it is done electronically, it would go to every department at the same time. That would help expedite it and everybody is getting the same information.

Kevin Howell: I got a lot of flak from the farmers on this.

Roy Buskirk: I know that we have been working on this for over a year but it is something that doesn't just happen overnight. We are making progress on it.

Darren Vogt: Council, is there any further discussion? We need an approval to waive. At the end of every meeting, I am just going to tell you this now, there is a sentence at the bottom that needs to be read, motioned and seconded.

Paul Moss: Approval to waive the second reading on any matter approved today for which it may be deemed necessary for the County Council meeting of March 17, 2011.

Larry Brown: Second.

Darren Vogt: All in favor please signify by saying aye. Opposed like sign. The motion passes 7-0. The next meeting is April 21, 2011.

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Paul Moss: Move to adjourn.

Tom Harris: Second.

Darren Vogt: All in favor please signify by saying aye. Opposed like sign. The motion passes 7-0.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:04.