

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 16, 2012
8:30 AM

The Allen County Council met on Thursday, February 16, 2012 at 8:30 am in the Discussion Room in Citizens Square. 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 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 and Becky Butler, Administrative Assistant.

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

Larry Brown: You all will notice that we have an addendum to our agenda by adding an item for Department 40. I think we will slip that in with the other item for the Commissioners. You will notice that the unemployment rate is on our agenda. I will read that real quickly. Allen County, November was 9.3% and December was 8.6%. For the State of Indiana, November was 8.7% and December was also 8.7%. National, November was 8.2% and December was 8.3%. I will now turn it over to Tera.

Tera Klutz: Good morning, Council members. This morning, for the financial report, I want to run by three things. One is that the majority of the appropriations that you see before you are from the rollover discussion that we had last month. The other items that I wanted to bring forth are that we just received our PERF contribution letter for 2013 and it went up by 1.5%. That is the maximum that it can go up and if we would still have been paying the employees' three percent that would be 11.75% of salaries. This is the first year that we have had employees contribute the three percent out of their own pay. Our contribution will be 8.75%. That is the highest rate that it has been since 1987 and is probably the highest that it has ever been. That is a result of PERF taking the gains and losses of a running four-year average. We are still seeing the losses from 2008 and 2009 showing up in our PERF rate. They expect it to increase one more year up to 10% and then level off after that.

Darren Vogt: Are they trying to guarantee a certain return?

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Tera Klutz: That is a very good question. When you have a pension, you are guaranteed a certain benefit. There is absolutely a guarantee for every employee that is in PERF for a certain number of years, with a certain amount of salary, a certain benefit. When the market doesn't make that up in interest and gains, the employer has to make it up. That is why we are seeing our rate increase.

Darren Vogt: So that is on the other side and not the three percent side.

Tera Klutz: It is the pension benefit.

Roy Buskirk: So, in the PERF, there is a guaranteed amount that you will receive the day you start working.

Tera Klutz: You have to vest. There is a ten-year vesting period. If you meet the qualifications, it is called the defined benefit plan. That means that the benefit is defined. Most in the private sector have a defined contribution plan meaning the contribution is set. The benefit, later, will determine how the contribution grew or lost depending on the market. The third thing that I wanted to bring up is our 2012 budget has still not been approved by the DLGF. Last year, by this time, we had already received it and we are expecting it in the next month or so. Any additional appropriations that we do have, we have to wait on final certification from the DLGF before we can actually spend the money. I just wanted to remind you of that in case you are hearing things from departments, that is why we are waiting.

Larry Brown: Is there any particular reason, Tera?

Tom Harris: You mean reason for concern?

Tera Klutz: I am not concerned. Several years ago, we wouldn't get our budget order until July because of the backup in reassessment. It was usually on the County side because they were changing the way that we were assessing property and it was taking a long time. Currently the State is implementing these new online, digital or electronic, ways to submit budgets and report information. One of the mechanisms that they use wasn't quite developed yet and I think it just got developed in the middle of January. They are rushing to get all 92 Counties in before they can certify the budget. I know that they are working on ours because we have had contact with them. I am not concerned at this point.

Roy Buskirk: Because we cannot make appropriations until that is approved; do we have funds in the Council's contract line so that we can make appropriations out of that?

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Tera Klutz: You have \$520,000 but you are going to transfer that to the Permitting Board this morning. I still think that we are okay. If we don't have a budget order by next month, we will do a fund analysis and see if we need to halt any operations. As long as you can anticipate the revenue, we were able to appropriate it at budget time. I don't have any concern that some department or anybody would run out of money before the budget order is approved.

Roy Buskirk: My next question is with the increase of the participation of the County of 1.75%...

Tera Klutz: It is 1.5%. It would have been higher but the maximum that it can increase is 1.5%.

Roy Buskirk: Okay. That is how much additional money?

Tera Klutz: \$750,000 is the estimate of the amount of additional money that we will be required to pay next year.

Roy Buskirk: Okay, in 2013. Thank you.

Larry Brown: Is there anything else, Tera?

Tera Klutz: No.

Larry Brown: Do we have a motion to accept the...

Roy Buskirk: Wait a minute, I have one more question. In the revenue, you have showing that we received one payment per year for Homeland Security. I would like to discuss Homeland Security during our discussion period. I guess I am giving you a forewarning of that for some facts and figures on the grants and what the cost is to the County and the City.

Tera Klutz: Okay.

Darren Vogt: Move for approval of the financial report.

Bob Armstrong: Second.

Larry Brown: All in favor signify by saying aye, opposed, same sign. The motion passes 7-0. I apologize, we need to back up one step and approve last month's meeting minutes.

Roy Buskirk: So moved.

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Darren Vogt: Second.

Larry Brown: All in favor signify by saying aye, opposed, same sign. The motion passes 7-0. Next is Economic Development. Paul, is there anything you want to lead off with?

Paul Moss: No.

Nikki Liter: Good morning, Nikki Liter with Allen County Economic Development. We have before you today Parkview Health System which is leasing their medical office building to Orthopaedics Northeast. Orthopaedics Northeast is requesting an abatement of real property. Based on the point system, they are eligible for the ten-year real property abatement. The investment involves \$3.75 million and construction of an additional 15,000 square feet to their medical office building. Most of that will be on the first floor with about 1,300 square feet on the second floor. The project will create eighteen new jobs. You are looking at three new physicians, three new physician assistants, three LPN's or nurses and three medical secretaries. In all, the annual salaries will be around \$1.149 million. With the ten-year abatement, you are looking at a savings of about \$432,000 and that is with using the 2011 tax rates. We have before you the consideration to approve their Statement of Benefits but before we do that, we have quite a few here representing the hospital. With me is Todd Churchward from Baden Gage & Schroeder. He is going to give some detail to the project and introduce who he has with him today. We can then answer any questions.

Todd Churchward: Good morning. We appreciate the opportunity to be before you this morning. Actually, Nikki covered the scope of the project in pretty good detail. With me today is my colleague, Rebecca Ward. Also with me from ONE is Paul Ward, the Director of Finance. From Parkview Health Systems, we have Darrell Gerig, Director of Treasury and Cash Management and Pete Mallers from Beers, Mallers, Backs and Salin. We feel that we have assembled everybody that would be able to answer any questions that the Council would have this morning. The key thing here is that this property is being constructed and would be owned by Parkview but leased under a long-term lease of fifteen years for their existing facility and this proposed new project. The property would not be exempt for property tax purposes as a result of that lease to ONE. With that, we would be glad to entertain any questions that you might have.

Larry Brown: Okay, very good. Gentlemen, are there any questions?

Roy Buskirk: I would like to make three comments. When I get going, I sometimes don't know when to stop. The one thing, I get a little upset that it

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is called tax abatement. All we are doing is not starting your additional property tax for ten years, if this is passed. The other thing is that I really appreciate you participating in the five percent give-back program so that we can do other economic development programs with those funds. The other thing I want to point out and I think a lot of people forget is that with the new expansion of this type, we have the Option Income Tax which immediately becomes available as a revenue stream for the County and the City. If there are no other questions, I would make a motion in favor of this.

Tom Harris: Second.

Larry Brown: Is there other discussion? Darren.

Darren Vogt: Nikki, did you run this on the Super Abatement side?

Nikki Liter: Yes I did and they were not eligible.

Darren Vogt: I just wanted to make sure that we are using that tool.

Larry Brown: Is there any other discussion? We have a motion and a second. All in favor signify by saying aye, opposed, same sign. The motion passes 7-0. Mark.

Mark Royse: Good morning, Mark Royse. This is a discussion item on your agenda. I have some larger copies of the process flow chart for you. This effort has been one that has taken about a year. The basic thing that we wanted to accomplish was to put on paper how the actual economic development should flow through the system. First and foremost is to make sure that those entities that are involved in the approvals at the back end know as much as possible on the front end. The group that met was representatives from County Council, the City, the Chamber, the Alliance and County Commissioners. It took several iterations of this to get it down to where it was acceptable to everybody. I just want to walk through and point out where some of those changes were made. One of the things, besides getting all of the County entities involved, is that they are primarily the entities that are funding the development activities but also to get those folks that go through the review process or analyze sites to have as much information upfront as possible. Then we can detect any red flags or at least get an idea of what an overall cost of a project is rather than find out in incremental approaches. We try to get that ahead of the whole incentive side of it so that when we start talking about incentives, we know what we are actually looking at. This is just one piece of the puzzle of many more to come. If you look in box fifteen, it talks about using point systems and a cost-benefit model. We've tweaked the tax abatement point system several times since we began that system.

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Recently, with the new abatement eligibility, the cost-benefit model is one that we have used for several years and we would like to get a group of representatives from the Council, Commissioners and the Redevelopment Commission to sit through and review and/or revise the existing cost-benefit model that we are using. When we do, then everybody understands that this is what we are trying to accomplish and here is the benefit and here is the cost. Other than that, as I said after several meetings, Darren Vogt sat in on many of those meetings in his role on Council. If there are any questions, I would be more than happy to answer them. Along with the flow chart, you have a handout that has numbers that reflect back on the boxes on the flow chart.

Darren Vogt: I want to make a couple of comments. The biggest thing that we were trying to make sure that we were doing was that the Alliance, as the primary contact for economic development, knew where to go and what the process was. That was so we didn't have incentives being offered before we even knew what the site work was going to involve or whatever the case may be. The concept is to follow the chart and follow the process so that if there is a question on where this particular project is, you can say that it is in box seven, eight or nine or wherever it is. Everyone can figure out where it is at and hopefully this will help to streamline some of that and allow us to have a concrete way to do it. There may be some exceptions but generally speaking, it should flow this particular way. It took hours of meetings to get it figured out.

Larry Brown: I do have a question. Is there some significance to the background lines on this?

Mark Royse: If you look at the division on it, left of the yellow is the Alliance, the middle is the company and the right-hand side is the government. It better defines roles and responsibilities.

Larry Brown: Okay, very good.

Tom Harris: I was going to make a comment or a quasi-question. With the complexity of this, you can truly see that this process shouldn't be taken for granted. It is complex. There are lots of players in it. One of the challenges, when you read about successful communities that have assertive and successful economic development programs, is that there is collaboration and coordination of all of these different players. Tactically we have a plan and it is all laid out but how do we make sure that we rise above just the tactical approach and make sure that we have great communication and great leadership in all of these different parties?

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Mark Royse: That is part of this process is to understand the roles and responsibilities of each of the entities when those folks are brought to the table. Again, the emphasis is the sooner, the better.

Tom Harris: So we now have a tactical plan and we have to make sure that the relationships and communications are effective particularly for the site selectors that are looking at this community. We had a successful year last year but if site selectors come into a community and they see us tripping over each other or fighting for egos or doing different things like that, it leaves a bad taste in their mouth and they move on. Whatever we can do to make this tactical approach rising so that we don't look that way is truly important for this community.

Mark Royse: Again, it is internalized.

Larry Brown: Very good. Are there any other questions or comments for Mark?

Roy Buskirk: We don't need to take any action on this?

Mark Royse: No, this is just a discussion. As you will note at the top, in the red, it is final as of February third but as we work through this, it may need some further tweaking. All of the groups that were represented were comfortable that this is a good place to start.

Larry Brown: Very good, thank you.

Roy Buskirk: Thank you and your staff for the work that you have done on this.

Larry Brown: Okay, moving on. Tera, do you want to lead this next discussion?

Tera Klutz: Sure. I will just review for you. The appropriations under the Appropriations from Rollover Discussion include the Appropriations in the General Fund, one through four, for the one-time three percent bonus. The County Council Capital appropriation of \$199,460 and Circuit Court, one through six and Superior Court, one through twenty-six, represent the amounts needed to replenish the Judges' salaries and the move to put the Superior Court people back into the General Fund. The last is the Department of Health, one through three, is the one-time three percent bonus for the Health employees. They are paid from a separate fund. That concludes the rollover.

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Darren Vogt: Will these have to be re-appropriated once the budget is certified?

Tera Klutz: No. Every appropriation that you make pends the DLGF approval.

Larry Brown: Is there any other discussion?

Tom Harris: This is basically everything that we decided on last month and now we are officially going through the steps.

Tera Klutz: Right. We couldn't take official action and appropriate it because it hadn't been advertised.

Darren Vogt: Would you like me to make a motion? Would the totals be sufficient on each line? Move to appropriate in County Wide Expenses in the amount of \$2,150,000, County Council Capital line in the amount of \$199,460, Circuit Court \$13,974, Superior Court in the amount of \$203,000 and the Department of Health \$80,053.

Tom Harris: Second.

Larry Brown: Is there any further discussion?

Roy Buskirk: I have a question on the Department of Health. I don't understand why that is in there. I didn't realize that we had cut that during the budget hearings.

Tera Klutz: You didn't. When you awarded the one-time bonus of three percent, there are certain funds that pay their employees from that fund.

Roy Buskirk: Okay, I understand now.

Larry Brown: Is there any other questions or discussion? We have a motion and a second. All in favor signify by saying aye, opposed, same sign. The motion passes 6-1 (Moss). Next is the Prosecutor.

Mike McAlexander: Mike McAlexander, Chief Deputy Prosecutor. I think this is the eighth year that we have applied for this grant for a Domestic Violence Coordinator. The State pays, through the Federal government, about \$44,000. We make up, through discretionary funds, any other differences in their salary and benefits. There is no direct cost to County General for this position. The letter that we provided explains what the person does. The general goal in domestic violence cases, which tend to be very difficult to

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prosecute, is to try to reach out to the victim very early in the process so that they understand how the court system works and what the options are as we move through this. There are generally personal issues that come to the front when we are dealing with families in this regard. This position is very valuable to us in trying to make the system comprehensible to the victim as well as to come to a successful prosecution. I will be happy to answer any additional questions on the position or the funding.

Larry Brown: Kevin.

Kevin Howell: This is a general information question. This one person, does he or she have a staff?

Mike McAlexander: It funds this one person but we have other people that deal in this area and are investigators. We try to use interns from local colleges that show an interest. We have had very good success in having those people also.

Kevin Howell: Are there any other agencies that are coordinating with this person?

Mike McAlexander: Obviously Police agencies and Victims Assistance through the City of Fort Wayne. The letter emphasizes that we have some outreach to other social service groups in the community. This person also works with the Mayor's Commission on Domestic Violence, the Victims Assistance network and some things like that.

Larry Brown: Darren.

Darren Vogt: Do you anticipate this grant going away? It has been eight years. If that is the case, what is Plan B?

Mike McAlexander: I think this body has made it known for at least fifteen years that grant positions are gone if the funding disappears. If that did happen, obviously the Feds are working with their budget or not working with it as the case may be, we will be working with domestic violence victims. I don't see the crime disappearing. We would make do with what we've got but we do understand the Council's rules on this. We would not be back for this position or would try to find another grant or some other form of financing.

Larry Brown: Are there any other questions for Mike?

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Darren Vogt: Move for approval of the renewal of the Domestic Violence Coordinator grant position through ICJI.

Bob Armstrong: Second.

Larry Brown: We have a motion and a second. Is there any other discussion? All in favor signify by saying aye, opposed, same sign. The motion passes 7-0. Next is a request from the Building Department.

Dave Fuller: Good morning, Dave Fuller, Building Commissioner. I believe you have the packet but I won't go through all of that. In 2003, we had 33 staff in the department. Through some technology and some procedural changes, we were able to reduce that in the 2003 to 2004 timeframe and take that down to 29 staff. We did some automation similar to the Accela system that is in place now. It was a custom built system that allowed us to do a lot of tracking of statistics that we had not had previously. Our business is very reactive in that we are pretty much at the mercy of owners building and homeowners buying and those kinds of things. There are certainly trends that come up. We have been able to reduce or increase staff as we need to in order to meet those trends. As the economy began to cut back, it showed up first in commercial construction, around 2005. We had three Commercial Inspectors in 2005 and we cut back to two Commercial Inspectors. The trend continued and there are some statistics on the table that are identified as Allen County Building Department Commercial Permits. It gives you an idea of the top three line items on that. They are the three items that determine what the workload is going to be. Any one of those can give us a false indicator. For instance, we can look at building permits. In the recession, the building permits that we issued only dropped about ten percent total from where it was before the recession. The economy felt it a whole lot more than that. New family homes went down from 1,900 single-family homes in 2007 to 500 in 2008. That dropped drastically. We saw a tremendous increase in remodeling and repairing of existing homes. Just the number of permits is not necessarily a good indicator or the number of inspections. Job value has to be thrown in there also. If you look at the table, this specifically breaks out Commercial only, which is what we are here for today. I am requesting another Commercial Inspector. As you can see, from 2003 to 2007, our commercial permits stayed fairly consistent. Job values stayed relatively consistent and inspections stayed relatively consistent. That is during the period where we cut back from three to two. We evaluate our inspectors business based on the average inspections per day and the number of positions. As you can see, it started to increase in 2008 which was right in the middle of the recession. The types of jobs that we were getting were considerably different from what we had been getting previously. They were not the great big jobs but the small remodeling jobs. They still have to be

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inspected and they take a lot of windshield time to get to a lot of different jobs. As you can see, the numbers have gone up dramatically and in 2011, we more than tripled where we were when the economy was good in 2003 or 2004. Job values are also going up which is a good indicator that the economy is starting to recover and that is probably is one of the biggest issues related to us. Our permits are based on job value and the dollars of revenue that we bring in. The more job value that there is in those permits, the more revenue the County brings in. The difficult part for us, as you can see, is the inspections per day have increased dramatically. It is starting to show up in customer service and in our response time to get there. That affects the contractors and keeping their people moving and busy on the job. We had hoped to be able to put this off until 2013. We anticipated that we would be coming back when we did budgets in 2012. The first half of 2011 was very similar to 2008 and 2009. The last half of 2011 really increased and we decided it was time to move that up to try to get an inspector this year instead of waiting until next year. It takes about four to six months to get an inspector fully up to speed and productive. The sooner we can get somebody in, the more ready we are going to be when the construction season really kicks off in the summer. There are some statistics, department-wide, that don't deal with just the Commercial side but when I talked to Councilman Brown about this, he asked for some history on revenue versus budgets and that is what this represents. There is a table and there is a graph that shows the same thing. It indicates that except for 2009, we brought in more than we spent in our budget. 2009 had 27 pays which affected that to some extent but we still would have fallen short. All of the other years, it has been better and you can see that the revenues are increasing. It looks like the economy is starting to recover. Traditionally, Commercial is about a year and a half to two years ahead of residential. Commercial picks up this year and it will be about eighteen months before we see a significant increase in residential. We see the same thing when the downturn starts. Commercial hits much quicker than residential and we did see that in 2005 and 2006 when we were issuing almost 2,000 residential permits for new single-family homes. Commercial permits and job values were decreasing. We are confident that we are seeing the rebound. It is going to be slow but we are trying to get geared up and be responsive to those needs.

Larry Brown: That statistic that Dave just quoted is puzzling to me. Having come through the late 1970's and 1980's of the construction down cycle and back up, residential lead the way. For commercial to lead the way, it is just puzzling to me. I find it interesting also the dramatic increase in Commercial permits in 2003 to 2011 and especially from 2008 to 2011.

Dave Fuller: And again, those aren't necessarily permits for new buildings. Contractors that typically do new buildings are now doing small remodeling

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jobs. They want to keep their people busy and stay in business. They are taking on things that they never would have touched. We are seeing contractors who build buildings starting remodeling divisions. They are taking on building decks and a lot of things out of necessity. They have to adapt.

Larry Brown: I want to also point out that the Parkview figures have been removed.

Dave Fuller: That is correct.

Roy Buskirk: I have a question, Dave; the numbers are added to that year of when the permits are pulled?

Dave Fuller: Correct.

Roy Buskirk: In the case of Parkview, it has been a couple of years ago that they actually pulled a permit.

Dave Fuller: They actually have over 100 permits out at Parkview. The main building permits started in April or so of 2009. They started getting foundation permits and then they started getting other permits. That was phased in and they are still getting building permits out there for new medical office buildings and outlier buildings. We issued the C of O for the main hospital and the Heart Hospital yesterday. They can occupy portions of that but we are going to be there full time for at least three more months. They are expecting construction to stay pretty busy through the summer. As was brought up this morning, we have a couple of new projects that are going to be starting. It is kind of a phasing when you get into a project of that size. It is not that they get all of the permits at once and everything goes. They are remodeling spaces that they built in 2009 and 2010. They're remodeling spaces under new permits now.

Roy Buskirk: Another drive for this additional inspector is for the fact that you have an employee with a medical situation. What kind of hours is he now working?

Dave Fuller: He is working a full 37.5 hours. That is certainly a consideration for this but with two inspectors, they get vacation and sick days and we have one person covering the entire County unless we pull someone from one of the other divisions. That is a consideration going forward but the big driver is that we are seeing the numbers increase fairly dramatically. Tera provided the numbers for revenue for January of this year and it was almost double what it was in January of last year. We are still seeing that trend into 2012.

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We have to cover too many inspections. Commercial inspections are much more complicated than residential inspections and much more time consuming. We have too many to do in a day to be able to do as thorough a job as we need to do and to get to the jobs as quickly as we need so that the contractors aren't held up with continuing work.

Roy Buskirk: But you can pull some of the commercial inspections to be done by residential?

Dave Fuller: In the areas of concrete, for instance, there is not a whole lot of difference between commercial and residential. When you get into the framing and the structure, there are two totally different codes. Our residential guys are experts in the residential codes and are not experts in the commercial codes. To a minor extent, we can do that but we can't do that across the board.

Tom Harris: The position that you are looking at is for residential or commercial?

Dave Fuller: It is for commercial.

Tom Harris: You pulled Parkview stats out of this because they probably skew everything, is that right?

Dave Fuller: Yes. It wouldn't be comparable for the previous years.

Tom Harris: On the third sheet, when it talks about revenues, the revenue for 2010 actually shows it going down for 2011. That is not accurate if you add the Parkview piece back in.

Dave Fuller: Parkview figures were left in there. We had no way of breaking out the revenue short of going through every permit and adding up that information.

Tom Harris: Help me understand why we would have a downward trend if business is picking up in the commercial arena.

Tera Klutz: It looks like it went up. You said 2010 to 2011 revenue.

Bob Armstrong: He is looking at the bottom one.

Tom Harris: I am looking at thousands.

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Tera Klutz: Are you looking at permits? That is at the bottom and the top is revenue.

Tom Harris: Okay, I see. So the permits are going down.

Dave Fuller: Permits went down slightly and that would be expected. The bigger the jobs, the fewer permits you have and the bigger the job values is the bigger the revenue. The less revenue, the smaller the jobs and there are more jobs but they are less revenue and job value.

Tom Harris: The trick is to try to stay ahead of that trend a little bit. Are you beginning to get concerns and complaints from contractors?

Dave Fuller: We are. Our goal is to do all inspections, whether commercial or residential, within 24 hours and cover some of the time sensitive things because they have concrete coming. We try to do those within two hours. Our system tracks response time and we are seeing those response times increase. Two years ago when things were slower, we were getting to inspections within fifteen minutes of the time that they were called in for concrete and we are now pushing the two-hour limit. They have five guys waiting to finish concrete and they have the concrete truck sitting there and they have to wait for the inspection. They are wasting labor and are starting to complain about that. Part of it is perception. Anywhere else in the State, no one gets to inspections as quickly as we do. They have come to expect that here and that has become such a standard that now, when we are not quite meeting that same standard, they are complaining about it.

Tom Harris: Hats off to you for being ahead of that. We heard from Economic Development a little bit ago that we are tactically putting that plan together to do this entire process faster and to bring people in faster and get them moving. This is the other piece of that equation and it is good that you are staying ahead of that trend.

Larry Brown: Darren.

Darren Vogt: I had one quick question. When you were pulling out Parkview numbers, I want to make sure that the project that we approved today, would you consider pulling that out or not pulling that out?

Dave Fuller: That is not part of the official Parkview Campus. We are looking at just the hospital and the buildings connected to it.

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Darren Vogt: Okay. Maybe you said this but help me relate why the number of permits issued is dramatically higher yet the Commercial inspections aren't quite as high. Is it the size of the project that makes a difference?

Dave Fuller: Yes.

Kevin Howell: On an average day, how many inspections do your Inspectors do?

Dave Fuller: It depends on the Division. I've got that on the same table. From 2003 through 2008, they averaged about 4.5 inspections per day for the Commercial Inspectors. That is now up to 9.4 in 2011. It has more than doubled. If you figure a 7.5 hour day and they are in the office for 45 minutes or so each day to return phone calls, so in a six and a half hour day, they are doing inspections about every 45 minutes including driving time and reporting time. You go to a Parkview or General Motors, for instance, you can spend a half hour just getting to where the inspection is to be done because of security and other things. The amount of time that they are spending makes them really rush. My concern, and we haven't seen the issues yet, is the quality of inspection they can do because they are rushed to get to the next one. They also don't have time to answer questions from the contractor superintendent about code issue or something happening. They don't have time to stand and talk to them very much because they have so many other jobs waiting to get inspected. It is kind of a ball that keeps rolling downhill, the more inspections that we have to do. You go to the Residential side and they can easily do ten to twelve inspections a day and not have any problem. They may have three inspections in the same neighborhood and would have very little drive time. They would have very little contact with contractors because most of the time, on a residential structures, contractors have done their thing and moved on. We do the inspection, they come back and we do the next phase. It is not the same structure as it is with Commercial.

Kevin Howell: For the novice as well as the public, on this concrete thing which I am very interested in, how long does it take to get it approved?

Dave Fuller: It depends on the size of the job but typically they will pour 100 feet of footing or a 5,000 square foot of a slab area. We check the reinforcing steel, the size of the footing and the soil bearing. If it is a small area, it could take fifteen to twenty minutes but if it is a large area, we would be there for a half-hour. That includes the reporting time and the time onsite. Every job that we go to on Commercial, we go to the jobsite trailer and check the jobsite plans. The plans that the architect drew up tell us the size of the reinforcing steel, the size of the footings and all of the conditions that we expect to find.

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Besides meeting the code, we have to verify what they are building matches what the architect designed.

Kevin Howell: Do you already have candidates available for this?

Dave Fuller: No, we have not started to look at interviewing until we got this approved.

Kevin Howell: If it is approved today, how long will it be before the person is on the job? What is your estimate?

Dave Fuller: Inside of a month. We will have lots of candidates. That is one of the upsides of the way that the economy is. There are a lot of people looking for jobs. In the other positions that we posted, it is not unusual for us to get 150 resumes.

Kevin Howell: So that person would be available for the summer.

Dave Fuller: If we have it approved today, we should have someone onboard before the end of March. We would spend the time training so that by the end of May, they will be on their own. We typically put them on smaller jobs. There is a Senior Inspector in each Division that mentors them through the process until they are familiar and comfortable with what they are doing.

Larry Brown: Roy.

Roy Buskirk: Dave, I would like to take the opportunity while you are here to ask you, as far as the Permitting Committee, how is the Accela program coming? Is the Building Department fully on that now?

Dave Fuller: We have been on Accela for four years. We got off of our custom system that we had before which did very much the same thing as Accela but it didn't do it enterprise-wide. We started on Accela in 2008 and were fully implemented on it by mid-2009. The things that we are working on with the other departments now are the integration of being able to communicate. There are some automation things that when Planning issues the Certificate of Compliance, we are setting up the system so that it will automatically trigger the C of O instead of our person going manually into every morning to issue the Certificate of Occupancy. There are those kinds of integrations that are still taking place in the Building Department. For the most part, we are fully implemented and have been for several years now.

Roy Buskirk: That is what I meant as far as being integrated with the other departments. It is the plan of having nineteen departments on this system of

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being able to see where the permits are and which department they are in as they move through.

Dave Fuller: That is in the works. We are having meetings weekly for the portal and the integration. The routing process that all of the departments are involved with is already in staging and all of the departments are practicing that process on real projects. We are still doing the paperwork side for the official determinations but the plan reviews are being entered into the staging process of Accela to work out some of the bugs for those departments. We have a lot of departments in the City and County that aren't even familiar with how to logon to Accela. There is a learning curve that is pretty steep for those departments. The Building Department and the Planning Department and the Health Department have been on it for a while, it is relatively simple for us to do it but it is a matter of the Atos people getting things set up. We are making good progress with that.

Larry Brown: One last question, Dave. Have we had enough time pass that you might have some statistics that you could share next month on the hybrid vehicles?

Dave Fuller: I can give you an update on that now. We clearly have saved money. We are averaging about a 300 gallon per month savings. That is skewed a little bit based on how busy we are but on an average of 250 to 300 gallons. There is a definite savings there. We have gotten rid of a lot of the vehicles that were poorer mileage. That gap is getting a lot closer. The gas engines that we have now are running 20 to 22 miles per gallon. Bottom line is I would be very surprised that at the end of five years, that we look at the cost for those vehicles and what we have saved and looked at the \$10,000 extra that it cost to purchase those hybrids, I don't think we are going to break even. I would be surprised if we do. We are looking at being green and we are looking at the culture of being conservative from the energy standpoint, the \$2,000 or \$3,000 that we may pay extra may be worth it. If we are strictly looking at the economics, we won't be able to justify hybrids.

Larry Brown: Okay, thank you.

Roy Buskirk: You mentioned maintenance. Is there more maintenance on them?

Dave Fuller: There is actually less maintenance. We have not had any problems with batteries. They are the big ticket item and they are guaranteed for 100,000 miles. The research that I have read is seeing 150,000 miles out of the Ford Escape batteries pretty routinely. We have less oil changes because they run so much on batteries instead of gas. There is a

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reduced maintenance cost as far as the scheduled maintenances. You have to offset the \$10,000 extra to buy the vehicles. That is where we will have to make the determination. We purchased five vehicles since then, they were five gas vehicles, Ford Escapes. That was simply because we couldn't justify it at the time. We are not anticipating getting any new vehicles this year. The price may get closer between hybrids and gas vehicles and that might make the justification. That is a decision that we will have to make when we get to that point.

Larry Brown: I am glad you are tracking it and please keep us informed.

Dave Fuller: Sure.

Darren Vogt: One other comment on that is you have to look at the disposition of the vehicle. When we sell them, we have to look at the value that comes back. A vehicle that has a huge maintenance item such as batteries isn't going to get a whole lot of dollars at the auction.

Dave Fuller: Sure.

Roy Buskirk: Do you have any idea what the batteries cost? I have heard numbers all over the board.

Dave Fuller: I have not heard it on the Ford Escapes, specifically, but on the Toyota Prius I have heard around \$2,000 to \$3,000.

Larry Brown: Okay, are there any other questions for Dave?

Darren Vogt: I will move for approval of the Appropriation in the General Fund for the Commercial Inspector in the amount of \$39,500.

Tom Harris: Second.

Larry Brown: We have a motion and a second. All in favor signify by saying aye, opposed, same sign.

Roy Buskirk: Whoa, whoa, whoa. Don't we have to approve the PERF and FICA?

Darren Vogt: That amount includes it. I said \$39,500.

Larry Brown: Is everybody okay? All in favor signify by saying aye, opposed, same sign. The motion passes 7-0.

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Tera Klutz: The salary ordinance, please.

Darren Vogt: I am working on that. Move to approve the consideration of a salary ordinance establishing for an employee within the budget of the Allen County Building Department, 100-2901-424, Commercial Inspector, 13-31, PAT 3/2 with an annual salary of \$35,490.

Tom Harris: Second.

Larry Brown: Is there any further discussion? All in favor signify by saying aye, opposed, same sign. The motion passes 7-0. We are moving onto the Commissioners. First we will hear from Ed.

Ed Steenman: Good morning, Council. Ed Steenman, IT Director. The appropriation before you today is in the Internet Access Fund. This is to pay for the ongoing cost for our Comcast Internet Service. Last year, we initiated a project to install a backup internet service so that if our primary internet service was to go down, we would not be left out in the cold. We installed this service as part of that project. We established a three-year contract with Comcast to get the best pricing. The appropriation today is just the second year of this contract.

Larry Brown: Any questions? Darren.

Darren Vogt: Is there any kind of budget that is put together for the Internet Access Fund? I don't recall seeing that.

Tera Klutz: Yes. It is in the budget book.

Darren Vogt: Okay, that's fine. I will look later.

Larry Brown: Are there any other questions for Ed? I would entertain a motion, if not.

Darren Vogt: Move for approval of Appropriation in the Internet Access Fund 318 in the amount of \$29,400.

Bob Armstrong: Second.

Larry Brown: Is there any further discussion? All in favor signify by saying aye, opposed, same sign. The motion passes 7-0.

Jolie Walker: Jolie Walker with the Allen County Commissioners Office. I am simply here to transfer money in the CUM CAP Fund 321. I am transferring

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from 36-88, the line number, which is Building Projects to 49-10 for Miscellaneous Capital. That is the line that I am paying the City-County Building renovations from. I am doing this because the appropriation that was approved in January is not able to be utilized yet because of the DLGF not approving the budget yet. I have the cash available in the Building Projects line to use for projects throughout the County. I will then be back to transfer those dollars back when the DLGF approves the budget.

Darren Vogt: You don't need to come back. We can just put it on the agenda and do it.

Jolie Walker: Okay.

Larry Brown: Does everybody understand what she is asking for? Is there a motion?

Roy Buskirk: So moved.

Tom Harris: Second.

Larry Brown: Is there any further discussion? We have a motion and a second. All in favor signify by saying aye, opposed, same sign. The motion passes 7-0. Okay, Superior Court.

Kim Churchward: Good morning, I am Kim Churchward and I am the Director of Criminal Division Services for Allen Superior Court. I am here to talk with you about the appropriation of the \$1,000 donation that our Drug Court Program received from the Christmas Bureau this year and to thank the Christmas Bureau for their generous donation and continued support of the Drug Court Program. Obviously, if you have any questions, I will be happy to answer them.

Tom Harris: They have done this for a number of years?

Kim Churchward: That is correct.

Darren Vogt: Move for approval of the ACP User Fee Fund 741 in the amount of \$1,000.

Paul Moss: Second.

Larry Brown: We have a motion and a second. All in favor signify by saying aye, opposed, same sign. The motion passes 7-0.

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Kim Churchward: Thank you.

Larry Brown: Okay, Mindy.

Mindy Waldron: Good morning, Mindy Waldron, Administrator of the Department of Health. Today you have three items before you for appropriation into our Contractual, Meds and Vaccines and Medical/Hospital Services lines for additional costs for this year that were unanticipated. We pre-buy a lot of our vaccines so that we are then reimbursed for those when people come in. We need those upfront. Generally what happens with some of our credit card payments and some of our service payments are that they go into the Star Bank account and they need to have those transferred back in. I would be glad to answer any questions on the specifics.

Larry Brown: Does anybody have any questions?

Roy Buskirk: So this is a transfer issue from the Star Bank account to another line item.

Mindy Waldron: Some of it is but I won't say that it all is. Some of that is money that was left over from 2011. Because we know that we are going to need those extra expenses this year, I would like to get them appropriated now so that when we do start, and we already have, we will be able to pay the bills.

Darren Vogt: Move for approval of the Department of Health Contractual in the amount of \$10,000, Meds and Vaccines \$50,000 and Medical/ Hospital Services \$15,000.

Roy Buskirk: Second.

Larry Brown: Is there any further questions or discussions? All in favor signify by saying aye, opposed, same sign. The motion passes 7-0. Thank you, Mindy.

Mindy Waldron: Thank you.

Larry Brown: Highway Department.

Bill Hartman: Good morning, Bill Hartman, Allen County Highway Department. Before you today, we have a \$1 million relinquishment check that came from INDOT back in December. We negotiated this about three years ago. It is the overall relinquishment for the eleven miles of US 24 and the improvements thereabouts. All of you were emailed the cash flow chart

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that we approved back in 2008. We have the bridge over Gustin Ditch designed and there is the Woodburn and Webster Roads intersection realignment. Once we get the bridge reconstructed and hopefully when the State completes the Fort to Port project, we should have enough money to resurface all of Old 24, the old portion that we are going to take back in. You can see that the estimate has been multiplied by 1.2. By Indiana Code, they allow 20% without a change in scope for additions for the project, if you run into issues. We are rehabbing an old bridge.

Larry Brown: It is like contingency, right?

Bill Hartman: Yes, sir.

Larry Brown: Any change still has to be approved, item by item.

Bill Hartman: Yes. That is what the 1.2, at the bottom is about. We are asking to put the \$1 million into this project, upfront. Hopefully, in a month or so, the project is already designed and we want to get it under contract and begin construction this summer.

Larry Brown: If this is approved, you can go out for bid yet this spring?

Bill Hartman: Yes.

Larry Brown: Darren.

Darren Vogt: Has the State already given us the \$1 million?

Bill Hartman: Yes.

Darren Vogt: If the bid comes in at \$700,000, do we get to keep the \$300,000?

Bill Hartman: Yes. However we chose to use it to make improvements on Old 24 and around it is up to us.

Darren Vogt: We have eleven miles of road that we didn't have before to be maintained.

Bill Hartman: Yes, exactly. We will resurface it to get it up to good standards and that should last ten years. We get about \$6,000 a mile for each road and our MVH after that. I would imagine that with no more traffic that it will have on it, it will probably just get chip and sealed over it. It is about \$100,000 a mile to put down hot asphalt and it is only about \$10,000 to chip and seal.

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Larry Brown: Roy.

Roy Buskirk: I wanted to go into a little bit more detail so that everybody understands that this was an agreement that Commissioner Bloom worked out with the State on the \$4.8 million before we would accept the Old US 24. The State is required 1,200 miles...

Bill Hartman: ...that they can keep in their inventory.

Roy Buskirk: Any time that they build a new State highway, they have to get rid of...

Bill Hartman: ...an equal number of miles.

Roy Buskirk: And turn it over to different Counties and Cities. And they pass the expense of maintaining them to the different Counties and Cities throughout the whole State. And because of picking up the additional mileage, we also pick up some additional funding from the State Gasoline Tax. It is around and around. What you were asking, Darren, is the reason that Bill mentioned anticipating being able to resurface all of Old US 24 once this is done because of the savings that we have on some of the improvement projects.

Larry Brown: Thank you. Anybody else? I will entertain a motion.

Darren Vogt: Move to approve the appropriation in Highway for \$1 million for US 24 over Gustin Ditch.

Bob Armstrong: Second.

Larry Brown: Is there any further discussion? All in favor signify by saying aye, opposed, same sign. The motion passes 7-0.

Bob Armstrong: I have a question. How are we doing on Maplecrest since winter is treating us fairly?

Bill Hartman: It is coming along quite well. The bridgework is nearly complete. We have three spans of the bridge at Do It Best that still needs to be poured this spring. All of the handrails and barrier walls are being poured in this weather which is getting us ahead. There is a little bit of MSE wall work where Maplecrest will go down into Nelson Road and that is getting completed. They have been able to work just about all winter.

Tom Harris: What is the completion date again?

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Bill Hartman: Hopefully October of this year.

Larry Brown: Thank you, Bill. Okay, moving forward. Next on the agenda is a transfer from our County Council line item to the Commissioners line item of \$520,000. That is the remainder of the \$700,000 that we approved last year for the Joint Oversight Permitting Committee. What we are doing here is suggesting that this money be transferred over to the Commissioners so that they can actually pay the bills on a day-to-day basis. Darren.

Darren Vogt: The estimates, I want to make sure of, were for the permitting and the combining of the ordinances, right? Didn't that come in a lot less than we anticipated?

Larry Brown: There are elements that have come in less and there are items that have surfaced that we didn't anticipate. I can assure you that if we don't spend all of this money, it won't be. As Chairman, Roy will continue to approve the claims.

Darren Vogt: Okay, that is where I was going to go. The claims still come through your group and then they get signed off by the Commissioners. Okay.

Roy Buskirk: This move is so that we don't have to wait a month for it to be approved by the Council. With what you were asking, some of the bids have come under but the big expense is the Accela program. We went to an enterprise licensing contract with Accela and before, the City and the County was on an individual terminal fee instead of a County-wide licensing fee. That was over \$360,000 for the licensing fee. They email the invoices to me because I am not downtown every day. I review them and once I approve them, the Commissioners have them to turn in for payment.

Larry Brown: Entertain a motion.

Tom Harris: So moved. I will make a motion to transfer \$520,000 from Contractual Services, 100-4201-413.31-06 to 100-4005-411.31-13, Contractual.

Roy Buskirk: Second.

Darren Vogt: It is really not a transfer but a reduction and appropriation.

Larry Brown: Is there any further discussion? I want to make sure that everybody is okay with this. All in favor signify by saying aye, opposed, same sign. The motion passes 7-0. Before we go around the table for open discussion, I tried to email everybody, the Redevelopment Commission has

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asked for an executive session to share their progress on land banking. Because of obvious reasons, it needs to be in executive session. We came up with two dates and times. We would like to have it all in one meeting but I would suspect that if everyone can't make it to one of those, they would probably be willing to have two meetings rather than one. If we could, it would be nice if everybody could meet together. The choices are Tuesday, the 28th at 4:00 p.m. or Wednesday, the 29th at 8:00 a.m.

Roy Buskirk: Personally, I would prefer the 29th.

Larry Brown: At 8:00 a.m. Will that work for everybody?

Darren Vogt: It depends. I have a Career Day at Maple Creek Middle School. It is a backup date if we have a snow date on the 22nd. I am already on the Redevelopment Commission so if it works for everyone else, fine with me.

Roy Buskirk: How long are you anticipating that this would last?

Larry Brown: I believe an hour. Okay, very good. I will tell them Wednesday, the 29th, at 8:00 a.m.

Tom Harris: Where is that at?

Tera Klutz: We will find out and let you know. DPS has a conference room. Becky will know for sure when we advertise it.

Larry Brown: Are there any other general discussion items before we go around the table for liaison reports. Kevin.

Kevin Howell: Is this the time for me to talk about the conferences that I attended?

Larry Brown: Please.

Kevin Howell: I attended the Association of Indiana Counties. Tera and I were down there and obviously it is a very good conference. The thing that I am really excited about and wanted to bring back to this body is about David Bottorff, the Executive Director of the AIC. In his general remarks, he mentioned that he was in Noble County talking to their County Council about items and issues. I talked to him after lunch and told him that I think we might have some interest for him to come to Allen County. He could talk about issues that involve the State of Indiana because 70% to 80% of our time refers back to things that are going on in Indianapolis. He said that he would be more than happy to do so. I told him that I would bring it back to the body

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here and find out what procedures we need to go through to make a formal invitation to him. I strongly, strongly, strongly would love to get this man up here at this table to speak for at least an hour to give his entire overview of what is going on in Indianapolis. We could then ask all of the questions that we normally ask at these meetings anyway. Is there any general interest in having him up here?

Tom Harris: Kevin, what issues...

Kevin Howell: He is the Director of the Association of Indiana Counties.

Tom Harris: Is it a number of legislative...

Kevin Howell: Everything.

Tera Klutz: I think the session is over on March 14th. Maybe we could invite him to the meeting on the 15th just to...

Kevin Howell: ...do a wrap-up.

Tera Klutz: ...do an overview.

Bob Armstrong: Is that something that we want to do at a regular meeting?

Larry Brown: I don't know about the rest of you but I kind of feel like it ought to be at the tail end of our regular meeting. Department heads and folks that are involved in the monthly stuff can get in and get out.

Darren Vogt: We ought to coordinate that with Beth as well. Sometimes the AIC's agenda and Allen County's agenda don't always mix. They represent a wide variety of folks and sometimes we are the minority in some issues.

Tom Harris: I would agree and maybe even have Beth give us updates. She kind of does that anyway but maybe she does it on a quarterly basis. Having this gentleman up at least once to understand post wrap-up makes sense.

Kevin Howell: He had all of the details and I was very impressed with his presentation and willingness to come to Allen County.

Roy Buskirk: Each District has officers in the AIC and that is where a lot of the input to the State AIC comes from on which bills to support or go after. There is research and stuff that they are doing year-round. Their main emphasis is when the Legislation is in session.

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Larry Brown: Kevin, if you wouldn't mind, why don't you take the lead on that and I would highly suggest that you get with Beth and coordinate that with her. You can come up with the best plan and the best idea and let us know. I think the key is, if we need to plan to allow for an extra hour or so next month, let us know as soon as possible so that we can adjust our calendars.

Kevin Howell: Will do.

Darren Vogt: Next month's Council meeting, I will need to be in Detroit by 1:00. I will be expediting the conversation as much as possible.

Tom Harris: I was going to throw out there is next month the best time to do that? Maybe we need to think through that a little bit. If it wraps up the day before, maybe you back it off a month and give Beth an opportunity to understand what was on Allen County's plate. Maybe we can use it as a wrap-up and also maybe some thoughts on going forward into next year.

Kevin Howell: So you are talking about moving it to April?

Bob Armstrong: I agree. You are ending the session and you are going to ask him to come the next day.

Larry Brown: That session may not end until midnight.

Bob Armstrong: Right. If you roll it out, he can prepare and Beth can prepare and we will be good to go.

Darren Vogt: He may be at the session until midnight.

Tera Klutz: I think it is a good idea to move it out. It is more of a top level anyway in the issues facing Counties. He could better wrap-up the legislative session so anytime in late spring or early summer.

Larry Brown: Is there anything else?

Kevin Howell: Yes, part two. The next day I was at the Purdue Road School and that was excellent, it really was excellent. I was very surprised that the folks there were happy to see an elected official at their school. Obviously we don't show up there. I spent the entire day there. The thing that I came away with and was very interested in is that there is a component to the Purdue Road School. They are part of the national association that deals with roads and bridges across America. There is a component there that deals with elected officials and what they can get involved in. What I want to do is get

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involved in the State Elected Officials conference dealing with roads and bridges. There are different County Councils throughout America that are doing the same things that we are doing. I know the value to us is that we would be able to get the information from different Counties throughout America as to the best practices of what they are doing. I know every County is different and I understand that. It is just the idea of being plugged in nationally to see what is going on in new technologies and financing and how different County Councils might approach what we are doing here. Then we would be able to improve our level of expertise, if you will, in this area. It was an excellent conference. Southeast Allen County has a lot of roads and bridges there and there are some major issues. That is the reason that I went in the first place. They have another conference next month for three days but there is no way that I can be there for three days but I do plan on attending at least one day in order to plug in and get involved in the Elected Officials' part of what they are doing. It is important to us moving forward. We spend a lot of time and money on roads and bridges. The more we know, the better informed we are and be able to make better decisions.

Larry Brown: Very good, thank you.

Roy Buskirk: The one thing that I might add to that is the Federal Highway Bill, which is in discussion in Washington, typically funds 80% with 20% being local on road projects. They are talking about reducing the federal participation from 80% to 50% or 60%. The County would then have to pick up the additional funds. Once in a while, the State puts some in but normally it is Federal funding. If that does go through, which it looks like that is what they are shooting for, a lot more funding would have to come from local.

Larry Brown: Okay. Is there anything else? Liaison reports, Darren, do you want to start?

Darren Vogt: I have really nothing other than the Alliance portion that we wrapped up. We are still working on the contract, if you will. It is basically wrapped up. Other than that, everything else is good. I will note that I am going to attend the Hoagland Chamber of Commerce, if anyone else is going.

Larry Brown: Okay, very good. Kevin.

Kevin Howell: I will be at the Hoagland thing too.

Roy Buskirk: Aye on Hoagland. Two things, the Permit Committee, next Tuesday and Wednesday, are having a series of meetings with a public meeting on Tuesday evening with Clarion. That is the firm that the Permit Committee has retained to go through all of the City and County ordinances

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to try to reword them and even possibly eliminate some that are old and not needed anymore. Some of them go back to horse and buggy days. They are also to coordinate so that it is easier to have the City and the County ordinances with the same number or something so that it is easier to transfer from one to the other one. This is something that the Planning Department had started working on. Pat Fahey had started it a couple of years ago and he kept getting pulled off of this project and put onto other projects. It wasn't moving forward at a very good speed. I would appreciate it if you could possibly attend one of the sessions. There is a lot of information on the Allen County webpage and a survey there that can be filled out by the contractors and developers or anybody that has an interest in the permitting process.

Larry Brown: As well as Elected Officials.

Roy Buskirk: Correct.

Larry Brown: There is also a follow-up meeting with Clarion that is for the two fiscal bodies and the two Executive bodies on Wednesday. Do you have the time of that? Is it 4:00, perhaps?

Roy Buskirk: You mean the Joint Permit Committee meeting?

Larry Brown: I am mistaken and you are correct.

Roy Buskirk: They are sure welcome to attend that. That is an open meeting.

Larry Brown: The one I was referring to is from 4:00 to 5:00 on Wednesday the 22nd. I believe it is in this room. Is there anything else, Roy?

Roy Buskirk: It is actually in the Omni Room. The other thing was to discuss the Homeland Security issue. What made me think about it is on the explanation that we have received part of it to go into Miscellaneous Income?

Tera Klutz: Yes. I am going to have Jackie come up because she was able to do a little research during the meeting. It has been a hot topic lately. She was able to dig in and learn a little bit more about it. She can explain the reimbursement into the General Fund.

Jackie Scheuman: We received a Federal grant that is passed through the State for salaries for Homeland Security. Part of that we keep and part is forwarded to the City for Bernie's salary. We also reimburse the City, out of the Homeland Security budget for a quarter of his salary.

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Roy Buskirk: So that is a quarter and how much does the grant cover? Is that 50%?

Jackie Scheuman: I believe it is 50%. Well, no, I don't think it is quite 50%. In 2011, we sent the City \$39,715. The grant is in arrears and so that was actually for 2010 salary reimbursement.

Roy Buskirk: Okay. Do you have any idea of the number of grants, Federal and State, we receive for Homeland Security?

Jackie Scheuman: For salary purposes?

Roy Buskirk: No, for anything. I believe we have a trailer that is stored off of Lima Road. The County paid to put up a building to store that trailer in. It's not a trailer but I have never seen it. Has anybody seen it?

Tera Klutz: It is a Mobile Command Center. It is like a big RV.

Jackie Scheuman: We do receive a lot of Federal grants for capital-type purchases for Homeland Security.

Tera Klutz: Not lately. It was really in the mid-2000's. That is when we saw a lot of grant money coming here. It has kind of trickled off. I don't hear about new Homeland Security grants.

Jackie Scheuman: We were actually the hub for this area. A lot of the grant money that we received was to purchase outlying Counties' capital. We coordinated all of those grants. We are no longer that hub. I am not sure what County that went to. A lot of the grant money that came through here wasn't for capital within Allen County. It was for the whole northeast area.

Roy Buskirk: Okay, so would it be possible that the County would receive some grant money and you not be aware of it because it is going to another County?

Tera Klutz: No, we would know about that. If you want specific dollar amounts, we can get that for you.

Jackie Scheuman: As Tera said, not only are we not the hub anymore but we are not spending it either. It is kind of a two-fold thing.

Roy Buskirk: The reason for asking that is that I have been asked a couple of times that people have the image that we were receiving a lot of grants. I know that State Senator Wyss is on some national committee and I am sure

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it has to do some with his influence but in the fact that we had a joint working relationship with the City of Fort Wayne, was one of the reasons that we were at the top of the class because of the cooperation that we had.

Jackie Scheuman: I can't answer that, sorry. Lori, in Homeland Security, kind of coordinates all of their grants and the grant money. I am sure that she would know. It was a pretty hefty amount that came through for capital purchases. If you want that number I would be happy to get for you if you want it.

Roy Buskirk: Yeah, if you would. Can you email it to all of the Council members?

Larry Brown: I think the bottom line is that Bernie is the point of concern or the topic of news headlines right now and by having served on the Local Emergency Planning Commission, Bernie is one heck of an asset to this community and nine-county region. He is extremely highly respected in Homeland Security. His opinion is sought after all across the nation, actually. It is an ideal situation with his military background and then moving into Homeland Security. It is a perfect fit. I think the Executive bodies of the City and the County needs to rethink what they are going to do. Hopefully they are going to do that soon.

Jackie Scheuman: We currently have something like \$35,000 budgeted in Homeland Security for his salary. That is what we would forward to the City in 2012 for the quarter of his salary.

Larry Brown: Bob.

Bob Armstrong: Along with what Larry said, Bernie has been in contact with Larry and I and we are in the process of setting up a meeting with a couple of the Commissioners sometime next week. The questions that you have asked are some of the questions that we are going to ask and see where we are, where we are going and the funding streams. After Larry and I meet with Bernie and the Commissioners, we will get back to you through email so that you know what is being discussed and what the plan of attack will be. We will keep all of you in the loop on that.

Roy Buskirk: I appreciate it. I am done.

Larry Brown: Tom

Tom Harris: I had an opportunity to talk to Judge Sims and the Juvenile Probation area as well as Judge Avery and Judge Heath. It was to begin to

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understand some of the different needs and challenges that they have. While we are at the very beginning process, it is impressive that Allen County is recognized and called upon just as you mentioned a minute ago in Homeland Security. They are also called upon in terms of best practices in both Superior Court and the Juvenile Probation area. Both in terms of software systems as well as some of the practices that they do and so I will continue to dig a little deeper to learn some of the areas where we can become more efficient than they already are. I hope to provide more input to that in the future.

Larry Brown: Is there anything else? I have a question and hope that I am not putting you on the spot. Have you had a chance to meet with the Sheriff and/or his staff?

Tom Harris: It is on deck. He is next up.

Larry Brown: All right. Bob, do you have anything?

Bob Armstrong: Nothing other than the Homeland Security thing.

Larry Brown: Paul, do you have anything to share?

Paul Moss: I am assuming that everyone is aware of the interim Alliance CEO is Mick McCollum. That would be the only update that I would have.

Darren Vogt: I have one more thing that I forgot and sent you a note on. The Air Base, we didn't talk anything about it. I was hoping to have some information and resolution about it but they didn't get that to me in time. We need to take a strong stance on keeping that Air Base the way it is right now. They are talking about changing it from fighter jets to basically to airplanes with props on them. It is not anything like we have now. The impact that the base has on take-offs and landings, through my meeting with the Airport Authority, is significant. All of that said, I am hoping to have that stuff before our next meeting but if I have it before then, I will circulate that resolution and support for keeping the base here. I think the Commissioners have supported it and I think we all would support it. I want to put something formally together. I thought I would have it before this meeting and I didn't get it.

Larry Brown: We used to think that the 12,000 foot runway kind of locked us in to better aircraft, better technology, more jobs and better jobs. Apparently that doesn't hold water.

Roy Buskirk: If you stop and think about it, they are not sending up the shuttles like they used to. Our runway was the second choice as far as

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landing a shuttle. The other thing, sitting on the UTAB Committee is the fact that a lot of the funding that we receive out at the Airport is through Federal funding and having the Air Base there. Basically, what Darren said, is they are taking away Federal jets and putting in props surveillance.

Darren Vogt: The good thing is that Senator Coats sits on the Armed Forces Services Committee. If we can get that letter to him, I think that will help.

Larry Brown: Are you heading up drafting that letter?

Darren Vogt: Yes. I thought I was going to have it but I didn't get it yet.

Larry Brown: I was thinking that there was a suggested deadline on that and we need to get it on it pretty quick.

Roy Buskirk: I wonder if maybe we shouldn't vote on it so that the letter can be drafted and the President could sign it showing that the Council supports it. I am sure that the deadline is before our next meeting. It might be tomorrow.

Paul Moss: Is anyone actually going to be against that? I think it is kind of perfunctory.

Darren Vogt: It is supporting keeping the Air Base the way that it is and not changing its current function that is something reconnaissance or surveillance scenario.

Paul Moss: I am happy to defer to our Council President to sign whatever letter is supporting this.

Tom Harris: I have another question. Going back to the money that has been put aside for the Alliance, I think Darren was part of that proposal last month. Is there a timeline that you were looking at? Based on the recent changes, are we kind of in a holding pattern?

Darren Vogt: I will defer to Paul as to how that will play out.

Paul Moss: Are you talking about the \$100,000? I don't understand the question.

Tom Harris: There was a timeline to move that forward because it has not been appropriated to them. We have \$100,000 on the shelf for County Council to give to the Alliance and does that come before, during or after the changes there?

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Paul Moss: I don't think we have had a Board meeting since that occurred.

Tom Harris: I just brought that up that the money is sitting there.

Tera Klutz: Well, currently there is less than \$100,000 with the approval of the Building Department Inspector of \$39,500. An option is to raise the revenue for the Building Department because they will have more permits is you want to keep the \$100,000 available in the General Fund for appropriation. Or it will be \$60,000 that will show next month.

Tom Harris: So that was kind of the remaining balance.

Larry Brown: I thought it was a specific amount in the rollover discussion.

Tera Klutz: We were told on hold at last month's meeting. I was told that it was still in negotiations.

Roy Buskirk: Right. It wasn't appropriated. We were expressing ourselves of being willing to go up to \$100,000.

Darren Vogt: I will just say that there has been a lot of question to the proposed budget and the needs of the Alliance. That is still what we will find once Mr. McCollum takes over and figures out how he wants to run the operation in the interim. If there is an additional request, it will come before us and we will go from there on it.

Roy Buskirk: I think the Commissioners also have some available too.

Larry Brown: There are a couple of things that I want to share with you. The Capital Improvement Board is continuing to move forward with creating and putting online a web access for those that are interested in filling out an application for distribution of the Capital Improvement Funds. The Capital Improvement Board has no staff and cannot hire staff. It needs to be a very effective, online tool where the applicant does all of the work. That is being worked on. We are meeting a week from today to continue to tweak that web portion. Also, something that should be of interest to you is the remodeling of the City-County Building. It is winding down. People will start moving in the beginning March 5th and then it will progress over about ten days to two weeks. By the 15th of March or so, everyone from Creighton Street should and will be in that building. There are some other departments from other buildings coming into that building including the Sheriff's personnel. I believe that is a little bit later in March. By the end of March, everybody should be in that building.

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Darren Vogt: Have you had any more discussion on the Lima Road property? Have the Commissioners expressed any more interest in what is going to happen with that? There is a lot of property out there.

Larry Brown: Specifics, no. There is conversation.

Darren Vogt: They have done Phase One and Phase Two but I am not sure how far those have gone.

Larry Brown: I have only met with them twice so I haven't gotten very far in some of those discussions. The ownership of Irene Byron and what their plans are and where they can go is all part of that corridor of discussion.

Roy Buskirk: That brings up something that is interesting to me. Is Irene Byron current on their rent payment? Is the rent payment enough to cover the maintenance cost and overhead?

Tera Klutz: I believe they are. They had made a catch-up payment a while ago.

Darren Vogt: We also have Work Release out there as well.

Tera Klutz: Right, Work Release is out there and they have always been allowed to offset the rent payments by capital improvements that they make.

Roy Buskirk: That's right.

Tera Klutz: I can get an update for you.

Roy Buskirk: So our County Maintenance is not involved in the capital improvements on that?

Tera Klutz: No.

Larry Brown: Tera.

Tera Klutz: When you mentioned the Capital Improvement Board, you mentioned that they are going to allow companies or entities that are interested in accessing some of that money to apply online. I didn't know what for. Is it the same kind of projects that would be coming to Allen County under this scenario or are they completely different?

Larry Brown: Fair question. In conjunction with the website is a clear, more specific statement from the Capital Improvement Board...a real brief

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summary is that the Capital Improvement Board's goal is to help economic development that results in higher paying jobs, above the norm in pay scale. That is very generic. I can see it being an additional funding source in addition to that fund map that you referred to.

Tera Klutz: Right, so when I look at this and I think it is absolutely excellent, somewhere along the way it is a big deal, the Alliance or someone would say to also apply here. I know it is an independent body. We are all trying for those bigger companies and higher paying jobs. That is why we have the Super Abatement.

Roy Buskirk: Maybe they should be in the flowchart.

Tera Klutz: Maybe you could talk to them about that. The Alliance will probably be the one directing the companies to that website.

Larry Brown: Most likely.

Tera Klutz: It would make sense and it would help us get more incentives if it was that big of a project. I didn't know if it was government related or company.

Larry Brown: To the best of my knowledge, there are no restrictions.

Roy Buskirk: It is capital improvements but it can be private or government.

Larry Brown: Is there anything else to come before this body? Darren, would you please?

Darren Vogt: Sure. Approval to waive the reading on any matter approved today for which it may be deemed necessary for the County Council meeting of February 16, 2012.

Bob Armstrong: Second.

Larry Brown: All in favor please signify by saying aye. The motion passes 7-0.

Tom Harris: Move to adjourn.

Darren Vogt: Second.

Larry Brown: All in favor please signify by saying aye. Opposed like sign. The motion carries 7-0. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:24.