

**ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**SEPTEMBER 19, 2012**  
**8:30 AM**

The Allen County Council met on Wednesday, September 19, 2012 at 8:30 am in the Discussion Room in Citizens Square. The purpose of the meeting was to review the proposed budgets and property tax levies for the tax units located within Allen County.

Attending: Robert 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 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:** We are following our agenda. Nick, you have the floor.

**Nick Jordan:** Good morning, Council. You have a packet for the Allen County Council Non-Binding Review. I am going to do a high-level overview of what this process is and why we are doing it. Per Indiana statute, County Council shall perform a non-binding review of all units' budgets within the County that have a majority of Elected Officials on their governing Board. In addition, you perform a non-binding review of a Public Library that anticipates their levy not exceeding the average growth quotient of 2.8% this year. This year, the school corporations are included in this non-binding review, for the first time. All units, besides the school corporations, are required to submit to us a proposed budget, a proposed tax rate and a proposed levy. School corporations are only required to submit a proposed tax rate and a proposed levy. They were to submit these items to us by September 2<sup>nd</sup>. After County Council performs its review, you are required to make a recommendation to tax units besides the school corporations. The recommendation must include comparisons to the Statewide and County six-year average increase on non-farm personal income, increases to budgets and tax levies of all other units within the County. If you could, open your packet to the third or fourth page. Up in the left-hand corner are the State Average Growth Quotient and the County Growth Quotient for 2012 pay 2013. It is 2.8% for the State and the County is 2.2%. Under that are the County Average Total Proposed Budget Increase Percentage and the County Average Total Proposed Levy Increase Percentage. Those are the two items referred to in regards to making your recommendation. The 7.16% increase in the proposed budget and 9.18% increase in the proposed levy.

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**Roy Buskirk:** So what are they supposed to fall within? What range?

**Nick Jordan:** I don't know that there is a specific range that they are to fall within. They submit their proposed budget. You will see the average that I have taken of all of the units within the County of their proposed budget increases which is the 7.16% and the proposed levy increases of 9.18%. The proposed levy number can be kind of skewed because some of these figures are used for advertising purposes and are a little bit higher than what the actual increase would be once they are adopted by their Board and submitted to the DLGF for final approval.

**Tera Klutz:** I just want to add one thing on this. The levy, which is the amount that they will charge taxpayers, has State controls over how much they are allowed to grow per year. This year it is 2.8% that the operating levy can grow. Their Debt Funds can fluctuate depending on their Debt Service for the following year. It could double or it could go away depending on the Debt Service that they have for the next year. The thinking on that was that the debt went through petition remonstrance or the opportunity to have one by advertising it in the paper and nobody objected to it, at that time, and now they have to make the debt payments. Those levies will fluctuate as the Debt Service is required. The other type of fund is a Capital Fund like CUM CAP Development or CUM FIRE Fund. Those are rate-capped funds. Generally, the only way you can raise a rate in those funds is by re-establishing the fund and re-advertising that rate. You will see a lot of different percentages when you look at these levies. Like Nick said, if it is a General Fund, it will be limited and cannot increase that more than 2.8%. You have to consider the other funds in their maximum levy. They have a General Fund, like us, and a Reassessment. They can change the levies around within the funds as long as the total growth is not more than 2.8%.

**Darren Vogt:** One question that I have is, once the Debt Service is done, the Debt Fund is done.

**Tera Klutz:** Yes.

**Larry Brown:** Unless they go through the process of advertising?

**Tera Klutz:** Yes, unless new debt is issued. Oftentimes you won't see a debt go completely to zero in a large unit because they have different categories of debt coming on and rolling off at the same time. For smaller Townships, you do see the debt go down to zero and then maybe in a couple of years, it will pick back up and that makes a big change on their tax rate.

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**Darren Vogt:** If they do that, they still have to go through the process and come back before us.

**Tera Klutz:** I don't know if you actually approve Township debt. I believe that they advertise in the paper and the taxpayers have the right to petition a remonstrance against that. If they want to bond for over 2% of their assessed value they have to take it to the voters in a referendum.

**Roy Buskirk:** In years past, we looked to see if they stayed within the growth rate.

**Paul Moss:** That is what I was going to ask.

**Roy Buskirk:** If they did, it was A-okay. Is that figure on these sheets to see if they did stay within that growth rate?

**Tom Harris:** Nick, in that first column of the budget category, is it the percent change from 2012 to 2013 that is the best number to look at?

**Nick Jordan:** The Growth Quotient, you want to refer to the levy in the second and middle column. If you are looking at Aboite, their proposed levy increase is 5.41% but like I said, some of the figures that they provide to us are advertising figures. They might advertise five to ten percent higher to ensure that they capture the maximum levy.

**Paul Moss:** Are you talking about Column J?

**Tera Klutz:** Yeah and he went straight to the bottom instead of reading the General Fund decrease by 2.7%. The funds in their max levy are probably General, Township Assistance and Recreation which all the way to the bottom. The percentages can be skewed because they are based upon the dollar amount from prior year.

**Roy Buskirk:** Some of them are Debt Service, are they not?

**Tera Klutz:** Right. You can't look at the 5.41% and say they are not in their Growth Quotient because some of those funds are not tied to the 2.8% Growth Quotient.

**Roy Buskirk:** So what you are saying is that there isn't a number that we can look at and say that they are within the 2.8% Growth.

**Larry Brown:** Yes, the first line item, General.

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**Tera Klutz:** Historically, Council has made the recommendation that they do not increase their levy by more than the statewide factor of 2.8% because you have never been able to tell from these forms. One is due to the advertising and two is due to the percentages. First of all, I will go back and say that Nick did not create these forms. These are State-prescribed forms. You have always had to say what you recommend. We went a step further this year because sometimes you guys like to see what they are actually budgeting and what is behind those numbers. We collected that information from the tax units and that was in the link that we sent to you. If you don't have a problem with what they are technically budgeting for or you didn't have time to look, then you can just make the blanket recommendation that they stay within the 2.8%.

**Darren Vogt:** That is what we have done in the past by asking if they are planning on staying within the growth.

**Roy Buskirk:** So which one of these funds that they are paying here are bond payments?

**Tera Klutz:** They don't have any debt service on Aboite.

**Roy Buskirk:** CUM Fire?

**Tera Klutz:** That is a capital line.

**Roy Buskirk:** East Allen County School Corp has Debt Service listed. It is about the third sheet in and on the second line. Is that how it is normally shown?

**Tera Klutz:** Yes. Usually you will see the word "Debt".

**Nick Jordan:** For example, Springfield Township has Fire Equipment Debt.

**Paul Moss:** Is there some way of looking at this in terms of pulling out operating expenses year-to-year? For me, it is pulling it down to layman's terms in understanding if there is growth or not. All of the other funds and debt complicate it. For our purposes, to actually make it through this is there any way to do that? Looking at this sheet, it certainly isn't easy to do.

**Nick Jordan:** Not from this sheet alone. Previously I provided you with a link of about 500 pages that included some of their specific budget information but that was just for one year and not a comparison for prior years. From this sheet, besides seeing the increase in the figures that they are proposing, I don't know that there is an easy way.

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**Tera Klutz:** There was a new law written in this last legislative session that is tasking the DLGF that oversees this process to determine a better way for this process to happen. It might possibly be through the new Gateway system where everybody submits their budgets. I don't think that they have started that process but they are going to get a couple of Counties to pilot that. We would be happy to work with them.

**Paul Moss:** Going back to what Roy had mentioned earlier about what we did last year about telling folks, in a non-binding way that they need to stay within the State Average Growth Quotient, what was the result of that?

**Nick Jordan:** With rare exception, they are allowed to exceed the 2.9% that it was last year. You also mentioned not giving raises. We don't know, once you have given the recommendation, if they provided raises or not.

**Darren Vogt:** To give you an example, Aboite answered the three questions that we asked. Has your unit experienced unique financial issues that would cause you to raise your levy greater than the 2.8%? They answered that question but not with a yes or no. They mentioned the EMS Fund, Park Maintenance and Office Equipment and communication upgrades. We asked about Rainy Day Funds and they answered zero. We asked about raises on there and the answer to that was no.

**Nick Jordan:** I have all of the answers so if you have a specific unit that you want to know the answers, I will read it out loud.

**Tom Harris:** Nick for my benefit, looking at Fort Wayne Civil City, they are increasing the budget by 9.26% and yet in the levy column they are going up 3.34%. That appears larger than what the State is suggesting. Is that correct?

**Nick Jordan:** Yes.

**Tom Harris:** That is versus if you jump back a little further to the Town of Leo-Cedarville. They appear to be dropping in terms of the budget. Their budget is actually being reduced, is that correct? I just want to make sure that I am looking at the right numbers.

**Tera Klutz:** I might say, for Fort Wayne, all of their funds are in their max levy and so you don't have to pull any out and you can go straight to the bottom. They can push their levy to the funds where they think they need it. They get to allocate it and it is all part of the maximum. You could say that they are proposing a budget increase of 14.5% and a levy increase of almost 7%. I will say that it is also done to provide flexibility. Once these are advertised, by fund, they cannot be lowered. By advertising higher, it allows

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the City of Fort Wayne to determine where that money needs to go and still be at the 2.8%. You can appeal to the State for an increase over the 2.8% but they did not. At the end of the day, they will not go over that 2.8%.

**Darren Vogt:** They do the typical advertise high to get what they need. A lot of units do that.

**Roy Buskirk:** If they went at 2.5% last year, in essence, they would have .4% carryover and they can use that this year?

**Nick Jordan:** Yes, they can adopt back up to the max levy. I was going to add a note on that. With the exception of one unit that specifically talked to me, if you look at Monroe, they are not increasing their levy at all because they have significant cash balances on hand that they are going to use up. Before 2011 pay 2012, you lost half. That is no longer in place and I am not sure that all of the units are aware of that. In looking at some of the balances on hand, some of these units have funds to be used. You see that in the Fire Funds also. I just wanted to make you aware that they don't lose it anymore if they don't adopt up to their max levy. They can adopt whatever and recapture their max levy in the next year.

**Roy Buskirk:** I don't know if we have any this year but in the future, there is the possibility that they could be higher than what the growth rate is for that particular year.

**Tera Klutz:** I misspoke because Fort Wayne can go above the 2.8% because at the Mayor's recommendation, they held a flat levy last year. They can raise that up to almost the 6.9%. This is the hardest process throughout the State. At the end of the day, how much work you put into it, does it matter?

**Paul Moss:** That is why I asked the question earlier and I will ask it again. What was the impact of our recommendations?

**Tera Klutz:** Nothing. You have recommended the salaries for the Washington Township Board to be lowered for the past three years and it has not happened. Anytime that you made a true recommendation, I don't believe it was...

**Roy Buskirk:** Followed through.

**Tera Klutz:** Right. It might have been considered but not adopted.

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**Roy Buskirk:** The train of thought that I forgot a moment ago was that you might have some items like the Fire that is for equipment that is going to be coming in and they have to pay for it before the end of the year.

**Larry Brown:** Are there any other questions for Nick before we move on to our next agenda item? In an attempt to halfway stay on time and be respectful of people coming before us today, we will move on to the Library.

Jeff Krull and Dave Sedestrom presented their budget. They said that they inflate the number for advertising but in reality they see the number that they are going to get and they tailor their spending to that. They have scaled back staffing to stay within the constraints of the budget. Jeff talked about the added strain of E-books and the issues that libraries are having with publishers making E-books available to libraries. E-book lending is a small part of the Library's circulation. We have what looks like a seven percent increase on our General Fund. We have decided that we will not appropriate anything into our Rainy Day Fund nor the Library Improvement Reserve Fund and all capital expenditures will be moved back into the General Fund. The LIRF has a balance of about \$3.3 million and is tied to the ten-year capital plan. Jeff Krull spoke of the salary survey, pay raises and hiring practices. They have three percent in the budget for compensation and benefits.

Tom Harris asked if there is a chance that in the future there won't be as much spent on capital in terms of buildings because of the E-books. Jeff said it is something that they talk about a lot but he doesn't think that they have seen it yet. Jeff said that the libraries are full because people are coming to use the computers because they have no other place for access.

Larry Brown asked about the media area having mentors that could volunteer to help the folks that are learning to navigate in computers. Jeff said that volunteers are hard to keep because of the different times that they are really needed. It would be good to have someone always available but we don't know when the need would be there.

Roy commended them on the efforts that they have done at the Library compared to other Counties that have had to close branches because of the budget issues.

**Larry Brown:** Are there any other questions for the Library? Thank you very much. Tera, I have a question for you. It appears that all of these have a stamped signature except for the Library.

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**Tera Klutz:** I was going to wait until after they left and you guys approve them.

**Larry Brown:** We will go on to the City of New Haven.

Mayor Terry McDonald, Brenda Adams and Greg Guerrettaz represented City of New Haven. Mayor McDonald said that they would be happy to answer any questions that the Council might have.

**Nick Jordan:** When they were asked if they had experienced any unique financial issues that would cause you to raise your levy greater than 2.8%, they answered no that they are experiencing reduced revenues like any other governmental entity. What is the balance in the Rainy Day Fund and how do you anticipate using it? As of June 30, 2012, they had \$996,295.50 and would be used in an emergency event only. Does your tax unit foresee giving employee raises in 2013? We have budgeted a \$700 flat raise for our employees and we have decided not to spend money on a consultant to evaluate what we pay our employees. We have looked at the public information available on the IACT site salary survey and check the wages of neighboring communities.

Paul Moss asked what made you want to do \$700. Mayor McDonald said that a couple of City Council people urged us to go with the flat rate to keep the disparity from growing too big. The employees said the same thing during a meeting with the Council. Those raises were achieved by cuts in the departments' budgets.

Tom Harris asked about last year and Mayor McDonald said that they did two percent last year. Brenda Adams said that in 2010 there was no increase. They went to HSA program with their health insurance and it really hit them and so we are trying to catch up a little bit.

**Larry Brown:** Are there any more questions?

**Roy Buskirk:** Didn't New Haven get caught a few years ago losing because you were underneath your levy increase?

Mayor McDonald said that they lost \$2.2 million in banked levy. Greg Guerrettaz said that the reason was because the legislation came about in November. When that came through, it came through after the budget season.

**Larry Brown:** Are there any other questions? Thanks for your time.

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**Tera Klutz:** Grabill is here. Let me see if they are ready. He is waiting on a couple of people yet. In the meantime, you can make your blanket recommendation for everyone else.

**Roy Buskirk:** Is it worth our time to go through these individually? I think it was ridiculous for the State Legislation to put this burden on the County Councils to look at budgets that we can't do anything about.

**Tera Klutz:** I testified this spring about this whole process. It is a significant amount of time for our office and if you were to go through each and every budget, it would take a significant amount of time and all for a non-binding recommendation. I don't think they took that into consideration. I think they want this process to go forward and I think they are going to wrap in the schools for a non-binding recommendation next year. I don't know if they foresee this as being a binding recommendation going forward. They don't want this to go away.

**Darren Vogt:** I think the concept is good that someone is looking out at the overall finances of the community. I think that is good. The way it is done now is absolutely pointless.

**Tera Klutz:** Like maybe they adopt their budget and then it comes to Council. Then we can see what they are actually planning on doing.

**Paul Moss:** There is a midpoint between binding and non-binding too.

**Larry Brown:** I think it is clear that it was an effort to get it out of the shadows. I don't know what you have experienced in conversations with the State Legislators but I have heard the same comment from several. Be careful what you ask for.

**Tera Klutz:** We asked for it to go away or change. That is what I asked for when I testified.

**Larry Brown:** It is not going to go away is the impression that I get. If it is coming in a binding format, be ready.

**Tera Klutz:** How about if we just change the timing of everything? Right now you are looking at proposed numbers that aren't real. Maybe if we let their bodies actually adopt a budget, right now the City Council hasn't even seen their budget. How are you to make a recommendation on something that they haven't even seen?

**Larry Brown:** I agree.

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**Nick Jordan:** Just the timing of it, if it was after they adopted it would already be submitted and would be readily available. It wouldn't require much from the Auditor's Office to gather this information. That is half the battle, pulling teeth to get these people to submit. If the timing was changed to after it was adopted, I would be able to pull it out from Gateway and you would have the actual figures.

**Larry Brown:** When the discussion flows through in Indianapolis, it would be prudent on their part if they had selected Auditors involved in the conversation. That makes way too much sense, I guess.

**Tera Klutz:** This year I am on the AIC Legislative Committee and we are in a position to have our experiences and our opinions heard.

**Roy Buskirk:** The one question that I would have is if we don't review it until after it is adopted, then we would definitely not be able to change anything.

**Tera Klutz:** It would be kind of like a pre-adoption.

**Darren Vogt:** An adoption subject to Council approval.

**Tera Klutz:** Yeah and then they could be set for two weeks to see if there are going to be any changes. I think it is doable.

**Larry Brown:** It is more of a timing issue. Okay, we are going to move on to Grabill. Wilmer, is there anything you want to highlight in your budget?

Wilmer Delagrang, Cindy Barhydt and Paula Walker represented Grabill. Wilmer said there were no increases in the budget and no pay increases to come.

Tom Harris asked if there were any concerns about the services that they receive from the County. Wilmer said that they get a lot of the things that they use from the County such as things they use for roads and they get along well with the County. Tom asked how they are keeping costs down in Grabill. They are doing more of their own repairs to the streets. When they see the cost going up, they just cut out something else. Wilmer feels that they have a good Council right now and they all seem to think the same way. There are plans to do some sidewalks this fall. They try to keep things local and have had good results with that. Tom said it appears that they are going into their Rainy Day Fund. Paula Walker said that they would be through that by the end of this year. There will be a transfer from the General Fund into the Rainy Day Fund from excess from 2011. Paula said that Grabill is doing a good job with their money and are frugal in what they do.

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**Larry Brown:** Are there any other questions, Council? Thank you very much. It seems that we should discuss formalizing a summary statement for the non-binding reviews or are their individual ones that you want to go through?

**Darren Vogt:** I will read the recommendation that we did last year. Allen County Council recommends in a 6-1 vote that the units adhere to the 2.9% statutory levy increase. County Council recommends in a 5-2 vote that the tax units not give employee raises outside those associated with labor contract agreements and/or set related increases for those units on step or grid systems. Basically we said no raises and stay within the 2.9% but this year it would be 2.8%. We also pulled out Washington Township for their Board salary recommendation. We made a statement that the Township Board salaries should be brought in line with similar Township Board salaries.

**Larry Brown:** Is there any comment to last year's recommendation? Darren, I did want to ask you, do you have the backup data on your Ipad? Was that sent to us? I know it was something like 500 pages.

**Nick Jordan:** It was a link to obtain the information. We put it on the internet and I sent you a link in an email so that you could get it because of the size of the PDF.

**Larry Brown:** I remember that now and I forgot to download it.

**Nick Jordan:** We have it on the computer over there so if you have any questions, we can look it up.

**Larry Brown:** Okay. How do you feel about following what we did last year as a recommendation? Are there any specific changes you want to make to it?

**Darren Vogt:** The only issue that I would see is, with the banked levy scenario, if someone were to decide that they didn't need the levy this year and wanted to bank it next year and we aren't privileged to that but again, it is a non-binding recommendation. We didn't have that before and so it is a different type of scenario that might come into play.

**Roy Buskirk:** That is why I think this whole process is a waste of time. What a lot of them are doing here is going to the max for advertising purposes and we don't really know what their budgets are going to end up being anyhow.

**Larry Brown:** I don't want to single anybody out but looking at the General line item, Adams Township has an increase of 35%.

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**Nick Jordan:** What happened last year, Adams Township did not advertise on time and so the DLGF froze them at their prior year. I think they are trying to add two years' increase into that budget. To Darren's comment, on the units that did not capture the max levy and then this year are going to go over the 2.8% to recapture any levy that they didn't, you can always add that to your recommendation. The DLGF is the final say on this and will make sure that they are only capturing up to the max levy even if it is above the 2.8%.

**Tom Harris:** The amount of variables is amazing. Being in a Township previously, the State penalized some of the Townships because they pulled that levy back and then they were stuck. Now the Townships say they are going to max all of the time because if they don't, we will get burnt by the State.

**Nick Jordan:** That has changed and I don't know if every Township is aware of that. That is why Monroe froze their levy this year and is using some of their cash balances. I didn't do an in depth search of all of these cash balances but I think that is something that could be added to the recommendation that some of these Townships or other units use some of the cash balances on hand if they can. Just like on the County side, we push departments to use the special fund balances rather than using the General Fund or Rainy Day Fund or whatever. I think there are balances out there, in certain units that could be tapped into but it is a matter of educating those Townships.

**Tom Harris:** Can they continue to maximize the levy and use the balances in those accounts? Do they have to reduce the levy if they are using the balances?

**Nick Jordan:** If you capture the max levy and use the balances, you really aren't using your balances because you are capturing the same money again. Freezing the levy and not capturing any that you did the prior year allow you to make up whatever is needed for the budget. In one instance you mentioned a budget that increased almost ten percent but the levy was only increasing three percent. It is just like the County. If they don't use COIT or other funds to offset the budget deficit, they are going to have to use cash balances on hand. Not just Rainy Day but cash balances that they might have sitting in these funds.

**Roy Buskirk:** But the problem has been that in the past the State has said that you can bank these but then they pulled it away.

**Nick Jordan:** Yes.

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**Roy Buskirk:** Some of them were very frugal and was building up what they thought they could increase over the growth rate and then the State came around and took that away. I think that is the reason you might have some being frugal again. They may understand what the State is saying but they don't trust them.

**Nick Jordan:** I don't want to imply or insinuate that the Townships have huge cash balances. I am just saying that it is something that needs to be looked at or if they are not aware that they can recapture their max levy. Lafayette was frozen and then they went up 400% because the law changed and they were able to get back up.

**Darren Vogt:** Some of the Township funds are designed to accumulate a cash balance so that they can pay cash for a fire truck or whatever. When we first started the process four or five years ago, we learned a lot of that. They were building up these funds for a specific purpose versus doing it all at one time.

**Nick Jordan:** That goes back to Roy's point as to why you might not see Debt Service on a lot of these unit budgets because they might save up these funds and pay it all in cash instead of financing.

**Roy Buskirk:** The other thing that throws it off too is that some of these are so small that when they increase \$1,000, it is showing a 50% increase or something.

**Larry Brown:** Back to the original question.

**Tom Harris:** I do like the idea of suggesting that they use some of those account balances to pay down, if they can do it. They are already considering it by having it on the record. We are looking at the same concept of pay down, if you can. I like that language and last year's language as well.

**Roy Buskirk:** To my knowledge, this is one of the smallest growth rates we have had.

**Nick Jordan:** For the last few years, it has been 2.9% or three percent.

**Larry Brown:** Prior to 2007, there was one year that it was 2.6%.

**Roy Buskirk:** It has been as high as four percent.

**Darren Vogt:** So our motion needs to be freeze salaries, use balances where possible and Washington Township brings the Township Board salaries in line with other Townships.

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**Larry Brown:** I think we have a Township Trustee that would like to speak.

**Bob Arnold:** I am Bob Arnold, Washington Township Trustee. Yes, we are addressing salaries on the Board. The Chairman of the Board is resigning as of the end of this month. It will make it a lot easier to make that change. I just wanted to update you on that.

**Roy Buskirk:** Darren, what you are saying in that motion, I am not necessarily against salary increases if they are prudent in other parts of their budget and have funds available to make salary increases.

**Darren Vogt:** Again, I was just reading last year's letter.

**Nick Jordan:** And you voted against it last year, Councilman Buskirk. When we made that recommendation, I think you were one of the two that voted against it.

**Larry Brown:** Is there some way that we can say reasonable compensation? I don't know how to say it but some kind of reasonable compensation increase as long as it is found within their budget.

**Darren Vogt:** We are almost oxymoron in that.

**Tom Harris:** Is it necessary to say that versus staying in the 2.8%?

**Larry Brown:** Or take the statement, salary increases, out?

**Paul Moss:** Like what we have done in the past, allow departments to work within their budget and set their own priorities.

**Nick Jordan:** On the subject of raises, of the thirty responses that I got, sixteen said no on raises. The remainder was yes or uncertain at this time. It fluctuated from a percentage to a dollar amount. I wanted to give you a heads-up that more than less were no.

**Darren Vogt:** Does that mean that nine didn't respond?

**Nick Jordan:** I am looking at all of the units through the whole thing. Some of them are binding and some like Citilink will go to the City.

**Darren Vogt:** Okay, the recommendation is to use balances where possible. I still believe that we put the Washington Township Board in there and the 2.8% growth quotient.

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**Tom Harris:** Is that in the form of a motion?

**Darren Vogt:** I will move for approval that our recommendation is that we instruct units to use balances where possible and stay within the growth quotient of 2.8% with a special recommendation to Washington Township that their Board salaries be brought in line with other Townships.

**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.

**Roy Buskirk:** Move to adjourn.

**Tom Harris:** 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 10:18.