

**ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**JANUARY 16, 2014**  
**8:30 AM**

The Allen County Council met on Thursday, January 16, 2014 at 8:30 am in the Discussion Room at 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: Robert A. Armstrong, Larry L. Brown, William E. Brown, Roy A. Buskirk, Tom A. Harris and Darren E. Vogt. Absent was Kevin Howell.

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

The meeting was called to order by President Darren Vogt with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silent prayer and please keep Commissioner Therese Brown in your thoughts and prayers as she lost her mother this past week.

**Darren Vogt:** Good morning to our first official full Council meeting of 2014. First on the agenda is the approval of the December 19<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes and the January 7<sup>th</sup> organizational meeting minutes. Are there any additions or corrections?

**Bill Brown:** Move to approve the minutes from December 19, 2013 and January 7, 2014.

**Bob Armstrong:** Second.

**Darren Vogt:** All in favor signify by saying aye, opposed, same sign. The motion passes 6-0-1 (Howell absent). Next is the financial report.

**Tera Klutz:** Good morning. I wanted to take a few minutes to recap 2013. All of our major funds and General fund financials are in your packet for 2013 as well as the budgets for 2014. We ended the year with property tax revenue of 89% collection of what we certified or what we adopted in our budget. The difference of that is Circuit Breaker. What we billed to the taxpayers, we collected 99%. Our collection rate is good however we are going to continue losing the property tax levy due to the Circuit Breaker as the levy continues to increase at a higher rate than the property values.

**Darren Vogt:** And that credit for 2013 was \$5.7?

**Tera Klutz:** Yes, \$5.7 million. The other revenue was slightly above our estimates and came in at 102%. After you back out reimbursements for property tax refunds, which we don't count because there are millions and millions of dollars back in the General Fund that we pay out without appropriation. Overall, we finished 2013 on target. One thing to note is the rollover and unspent. For 2013, our unspent was approximately \$2.2 million

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which is lowest amount that it has been in years or at least the past five years. The amount of the 2013 budget that departments encumbered or rolled into 2014 was also the lowest it has been in several years at almost \$2 million. After accounting for both of those and increase budget appropriations because we just take those 2013 rolled purchase orders and add them onto the 2014 adopted budget so that it increases your overall budget. It leaves you with about \$1.7 million to spend in 2014 that we have not appropriated. I will say that the number will change. I am highly looking forward to how the new property tax relief from the newly adopted Local Income Tax that the City adopted for the whole County will affect our budget and tax rates and mainly the Circuit Breaker. We have thrown some estimates out there that we should be able to collect a little bit more of our levy however the City adopted new property tax levies at the same time with their CUM CAP rate and they went up to their maximum. Our piece of the pie will be a little smaller. To see how it all shakes out will be very interesting. We will probably find that out in April. That \$1.7 million that you have available is definitely going to change but I am just not sure which direction and how much.

**Darren Vogt:** We need to be very cognizant of that. One question I have is that the income tax that was raised to 1.1%...

**Tera Klutz:** Well, it is 1.35% total.

**Darren Vogt:** Okay, the City's increase is...

**Tera Klutz:** It was .35. Point one percent is for Public Safety and .25 for property tax relief.

**Darren Vogt:** The question is when did that take effect from a taxpayer standpoint? I thought it was October.

**Tera Klutz:** October first, however, I am sorry for interrupting.

**Darren Vogt:** No, go ahead and explain.

**Tera Klutz:** It took effect October first however the State Budget Agency and the Department of Revenue in Indianapolis actually gives you a pro-rata estimate of what they feel you will collect all year and give it to us ahead of time. This is the one circumstance where they don't rely on property tax returns processed. They went ahead and increased our certification so that they are giving us more revenue based on those estimates. We started receiving the increased distributions the first of this year.

**Darren Vogt:** Okay, so if I am an individual and I am looking at this, is my tax retro back to January?

**Tera Klutz:** No.

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**Darren Vogt:** The tax forms, according to accountants that have talked to me don't make sense because...

**Tera Klutz:** It is a pro-rated annual rate. What they have done is you get the one percent all year on the income tax that you have earned in Indiana. Then they will take the .35 and multiply it by 3/12ths and add that smaller rate to the one percent and you have ended up with...

**Nick Jordan:** I think it is 1.0875%

**Darren Vogt:** Okay and so that is what they are expecting.

**Tera Klutz:** That is what you can multiply by your annual income. Is that the fairest way? No because they are taxing that on your annual income whether you earned it all before or earned it all at the end.

**Darren Vogt:** So that is how they are doing it which is very confusing for those folks.

**Nick Jordan:** It is on the State's CT-40 form which is the County Tax. There is a tax schedule on the second page and it lists that rate, the blended rate, so to speak.

**Tera Klutz:** That blended rate is the appropriate term.

**Darren Vogt:** Okay.

**Bill Brown:** And that is over the total year.

**Tera Klutz:** Yes.

**Darren Vogt:** Which may not be accurate but when you try to figure it out.

**Tera Klutz:** It never is when you are reporting once anyway.

**Roy Buskirk:** It would also be confusing and some people might think that the option income tax was raised. They look at that number and might think that is what it is going to be for the whole next year when it is actually going to be 1.35%.

**Nick Jordan:** That is for filing your 2013 income taxes. When you file this spring, the blended rate that you are talking about is the rate that you use. For withholding, it is 1.35% as of October 1, 2013. It can get confusing and we have already had a couple of questions in that regard from people trying to do their income taxes already this year.

**Roy Buskirk:** That needs to be referred to as the blended rate.

**Darren Vogt:** Are there any further additional questions on the financial report?

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**Tera Klutz:** I wanted to note one more thing with the Rainy Day Fund. It has \$13 million in it.

**Darren Vogt:** Okay, great.

**Tom Harris:** Is there a necessity to do something with the \$1.7 million at this point? Do we just let it sit or move it to Rainy Day?

**Darren Vogt:** My thought on this point is that we won't know until April, as Tera said, and that number could be more or less based on what the City has done with their tax increases. I think we just need to hang tight. We will obviously have requests that come before us and we will need to consider whether we will hold off on those as long as we can for additional appropriations. There is no reason that a lot of those budgets can't be worked within. This is early in the year, it is January. We do have some requests today for dollars for projects that have been ongoing for a long time. Are there any other questions on the financial report?

**Larry Brown:** I will make a motion to approve.

**Roy Buskirk:** Second.

**Darren Vogt:** We have a motion and a second. All in favor signify by saying aye, opposed, same sign. The motion passes 6-0-1 (Howell absent). Nick, do you want to talk about unemployment?

**Nick Jordan:** Good morning, Council. On the agenda, you see the October and November non-seasonally adjusted unemployment rates. You see that Allen County went from 6.7% to 6.9%. Indiana went from 7.0% to 7.2% and National went from 7.0% to 6.6%.

**Darren Vogt:** That is always an interesting number on the National side of things. Indiana is doing very well and creating jobs and you look at the National side and it drops.

**Nick Jordan:** They all have an asterisk designating that they are preliminary. We'll see what they are next month.

**Darren Vogt:** Before us, today, we have total General Fund requests of \$298,500. First on the agenda is the Clerk. This is one of those projects that I was referring to. It has been ongoing for I don't know how long now.

**Lisa Borgmann:** Since 2008. Lisa Borgmann, Clerk of Courts. Did you want to take the first part?

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**Tera Klutz:** Yes, absolutely. The first one is consideration of three salary ordinances that we did not have split correctly in the original salary ordinance that you passed last fall. There is no change in the classifications or the pay.

**Darren Vogt:** So we just need to read the resolutions?

**Tera Klutz:** Yes.

**Tom Harris:** Motion for consideration of a salary ordinance amending the 2014 pay of the following employees. Their salaries should be split between County General Fund 100 and Clerk IV-D Incentive Fund 899, 13-71 for Records Manager, 13-73 for Director of Systems Operations and 13-75 for Court Records Deputy III.

**Bob Armstrong:** Second.

**Darren Vogt:** We have a motion and a second. All in favor signify by saying aye, opposed, same sign. The motion passes 6-0-1 (Howell absent).

**Lisa Borgmann:** I am asking for a funding change salary ordinance. I have had to relocate one of my Finance Deputies to our Small Claims Division in the Courthouse Annex. She will no longer be doing any of the Federal Title IV-D work. This is just a change to the salary ordinance that was divided between two funds. It will now be coming completely out of the General Fund.

**Darren Vogt:** This is just the opposite of what we just did with the other one.

**Tom Harris:** I will make a motion for consideration of a salary ordinance amending the pay for an employee within the budget of the Clerk of Courts, 100-0101-412, Finance Deputy, 13-57, OSS 4/3 and an annual salary of \$32,958. That is retroactive to December 14, 2013.

**Tera Klutz:** As were the other three.

**Roy Buskirk:** Second.

**Darren Vogt:** We have a motion and a second. All in favor signify by saying aye, opposed, same sign. The motion passes 6-0-1 (Howell absent).

**Lisa Borgmann:** At the March 2012 County Council meeting, I had requested an additional appropriation of \$90,000 to fund our final implementation of our Odyssey Court Case Management System. We thought we would go live in May but it was delayed. The State had some issues with such a big data conversion that we finally went live October 15<sup>th</sup>. Because of the delay from the State, I am requesting that the balance of those funds be re-appropriated this year into my budget. It was the Extra Deputy hire at \$42,000 and Overtime at \$24,000.

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**Darren Vogt:** Council, are there any questions on this?

**Roy Buskirk:** So these funds are actually part of the \$1.7 million rollover that we had?

**Lisa Borgmann:** Yes.

**Darren Vogt:** Money that was committed to spending for a long time now.

**Tera Klutz:** My only question was in the letter that you sent. This project has been going on for a long time. You said you came in 2012 but then in 2013...

**Lisa Borgmann:** It was last year, 2013.

**Tera Klutz:** Okay.

**Lisa Borgmann:** I'm sorry that I put the wrong year. I totally did that.

**Tera Klutz:** It is no problem. It has been going on so long that I could have seen that happening.

**Lisa Borgmann:** No, it was just last year, 2013. Thank you, I am sure that was confusing.

**Roy Buskirk:** I will make a motion to approve the appropriations from the General Fund for Extra Deputy Hire and Overtime. Do you want the numbers?

**Tera Klutz:** As long as you say the Clerk's budget.

**Roy Buskirk:** The amount of \$42,000 for Extra Deputy Hire and \$24,000 for Overtime.

**Bill Brown:** Second.

**Darren Vogt:** **All in favor signify by saying aye, opposed, same sign. The motion passes 6-0-1 (Howell absent).**

**Lisa Borgmann:** Thank you.

**Darren Vogt:** Next is the Sheriff.

**Ken Fries:** Good morning, Council. I am Kenny Fries, Sheriff of Allen County. The first order of business is our annual request for the Commissary Part-Time. I think the check has already been sent to the Auditor's Office. Basically what that is, if you don't remember, the check is sent to the Auditor's Office and we pay that out throughout the year.

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**Roy Buskirk:** I do have a question in reference to the Confinement Officer. How is he doing?

**Ken Fries:** He is doing better. He will have surgery the first week in February and he is doing better. He is not back to work yet. It will be a while.

**Roy Buskirk:** Thank you.

**Ken Fries:** Thank you for asking. It matters to him.

**Darren Vogt:** Are there any questions on the request?

**Roy Buskirk:** I will make a motion for the appropriation in the Commissary Part-Time for \$32,500.

**Bob Armstrong:** Second.

**Darren Vogt:** We have a motion and a second. All in favor signify by saying aye, opposed, same sign. The motion passes 6-0-1 (Howell absent).

**Ken Fries:** Number two on the list is consideration of a salary ordinance amending the 2014 pay for Part-Time with a range of \$10 to \$20. That is for a B of I Clerk that was moved from the General Fund to be paid for out of the Records Clerk, Records Check money. Before we can do that, Council has to approve to appropriate that money.

**Tom Harris:** With that, I will make a motion for consideration of a salary ordinance reclassifying the pay for an employee within the budget of the Sheriff's Department, Extra Deputy Hire, 11-03, from \$10 to \$18 to \$10 to \$20 per hour. That is retroactive to December 14, 2013.

**Roy Buskirk:** Second.

**Darren Vogt:** We have a motion and a second. All in favor signify by saying aye, opposed, same sign. The motion passes 6-0-1 (Howell absent).

**Ken Fries:** I have been told that I will need to come back next month because we will have to pay for the health insurance out of that same fund that has to be appropriated by Council again.

**Darren Vogt:** I would suggest that you don't need to come. We will put it on the agenda and Tom, you can handle that from the liaison standpoint.

**Ken Fries:** Very good, thank you. Next on the list is our request for the \$200,000 for the squad cars. They were ordered November 12<sup>th</sup> and should be delivered sometime at the end of this month or the first part of February. We paid \$169,644 already for the four-

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wheel drives. The \$200,000 will pay for part of the cars and there is another \$60,000 that we will have to pay out of Commissary.

**Tom Harris:** This is the amount that was budgeted for this last year and going into 2014.

**Ken Fries:** Correct.

**Tom Harris:** With that, I will make a motion for appropriation reduction in Department 42, County Council for the amount of \$200,000 into appropriation Department 05, Sheriff, for \$200,000.

**Bob Armstrong:** Second.

**Darren Vogt:** We have a motion and a second. All in favor signify by saying aye, opposed, same sign. The motion passes 6-0-1 (Howell absent). Thank you.

**Ken Fries:** Thank you, Council, I appreciate it.

**Darren Vogt:** Next is Purchasing.

**Bob Bolenbaugh:** Good morning, Council, Robert Bolenbaugh, Allen County Purchasing Director. I am here today to ask for your consideration of transferring \$2,265 from Building Repairs to the Contract/Billing Clerk's salary.

**Darren Vogt:** Council, are there questions?

**Larry Brown:** How are you going to fix the service center taking \$2,265 out?

**Bob Bolenbaugh:** We probably won't know until near the end of the year if there are any unusual things. Dan Freck has been doing a good job of taking care of our buildings. Hopefully we won't have any surprises.

**Roy Buskirk:** What is the remaining balance in that account? Do you know off-hand?

**Bob Bolenbaugh:** I want to say probably about \$6,000. I will probably put that back into the General Fund at the end of the year. As I said, Dan Freck does a good job of keeping the building envelope up-to-date.

**Darren Vogt:** Council, are there any further questions?

**Roy Buskirk:** I will make a motion to transfer General Fund money from the Building Repairs account to Contract/Billing Clerk in the amount of \$2,265.

**Larry Brown:** Second.

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**Darren Vogt:** We have a motion and a second. All in favor signify by saying aye, opposed, same sign. The motion passes 6-0-1 (Howell absent). With that, we are onto Allen County Juvenile Center and the JDAI grant.

**Jamie Mann:** Jamie Mann, Chief Probation Officer and Superintendent, Allen County Juvenile Center.

**Chandra Reichert:** Chandra Reichert, Personnel Manager, Allen County Juvenile Center.

**Mary Rian:** Mary Rian, Allen County Compensation Specialist.

**Jamie Mann:** We are here today for two related items. One is to request permission to apply for a JDAI grant and also to request a salary ordinance for a JDAI Coordinator. I am not sure how much background information you want on this. I know that we have been here multiple times with JDAI. It stands for Juvenile Detention Alternative Program. It is a statewide initiative that is being rolled out in Allen County. In order to get going on the initiative, we need a Coordinator to run the program. The Department of Corrections is financially assisting Counties that are rolling this out. There are joint partners, the DOC, DCS, the Indiana Supreme Court and the Indiana Juvenile Justice Institute. Allen County is one of eleven Counties that have been selected as an expansion site for the next JDAI sites. They have told us that we will get \$20,260 for personnel and startup cost for February 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup>. There is an additional \$50,000 for additional startup cost and data collection for the first half of the 2014-2015 fiscal year. We will be back in March to ask permission to apply for additional funds.

**Roy Buskirk:** This salary will be paid from the grant?

**Jamie Mann:** We will have to supplement with Probation User Fees. The salary scores as a PAT 4 and the funds that they are giving us will not cover the entire salary and benefits.

**Darren Vogt:** Along with all of the program things that have to be done.

**Jamie Mann:** Yes.

**Tom Harris:** Is there a percentage of what that is going to pay? What is the grant going to pay for this position?

**Chandra Reichert:** Initially the job has been scored at \$44,322. They are going to give us \$19,000 and that is only for the first five months. After that, if they give us \$50,000 total cost, we'll probably only supplement 25% to 30% of it.

**Tom Harris:** The request for is permission to apply so this has not been applied for yet.

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**Jamie Mann:** I left that out. Yes, we have applied. We found out that we actually had to apply for the funds on December 27<sup>th</sup> and the grant application was due on January 8<sup>th</sup>. We had to get that done before today's meeting.

**Tom Harris:** When you spoke of 20% and 50% that has already been approved?

**Jamie Mann:** Just the 20%. That has already been applied for.

**Tom Harris:** Applied for but not approved.

**Jamie Mann:** They initially said that we would hear on the 13<sup>th</sup>. On the 14<sup>th</sup> I received an email saying they would let us know for sure on the 20<sup>th</sup>. There will be a conference call with all eleven Counties. I don't have any issues that we are not going to get it. The timing is just not real favorable.

**Roy Buskirk:** Would you be upset with a motion approving this subject to obtaining the grant?

**Jamie Mann:** Would I be upset with that? No.

**Roy Buskirk:** I mean because you don't need the Coordinator if you don't get the grant. I will apologize to the Council because they called me and we discussed applying for that grant. I gave my blessings to it.

**Jamie Mann:** I don't have a problem with that because I feel that we are going to get it.

**Darren Vogt:** This is the same program that the Judge has talked to us about forever and a day. It is not something that is new to us. It is not the same program that we were originally going to do but it is a scaled-down version.

**Jamie Mann:** That other one is still on hold. We are still waiting to hear back on that one.

**Larry Brown:** Roy, the only thing I caution you on how you make your motion because if you recall there is a cooperative effort with all four school systems. If the grant doesn't come through, maybe the money will be found somewhere. If we don't put that contingency about the grant approval onto the motion then they still have the ability to go forward if they can find the funding.

**Roy Buskirk:** Correct. They are going to need additional private funding but the thing of it is...

**Darren Vogt:** Hang on a minute.

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**Jamie Mann:** (Pointing to Larry) I think you might be talking about a different grant. Last month we were in here about the Check and Connect grant and that is the truancy grant. This is about a detention alternative program.

**Larry Brown:** You're right. I got them confused.

**Darren Vogt:** Easy to do.

**Chandra Reichert:** We have been very busy and the Judge has been very active in going out and seeking other funding sources. We have a lot of balls in the air waiting to see which ones we can grab and move forward with.

**Darren Vogt:** Roy, to your point of the motion, there is no money attached from our end if we pass the salary ordinance as it is. We haven't funded it at all. They will have to come back and get an appropriation to fund it if they need to.

**Tom Harris:** The User Fees are going to pay for half of it and the grant is going to take the rest of it.

**Darren Vogt:** Exactly. I think we are safe in making a motion without any kind of caveat because there is no money behind it. Is there any further discussion?

**Roy Buskirk:** We need to vote on permission to apply for the grant?

**Darren Vogt:** We can take those all in one if you would like.

**Tera Klutz:** Can you just do both, including permission to apply in March?

**Jamie Mann:** That would be great.

**Darren Vogt:** Does that make sense?

**Roy Buskirk:** I think someone needs to put the words in my mouth so that I can make this motion.

**Darren Vogt:** The grant application is going to be for the December one that they already applied for and the one that they want to apply for in March and then the salary ordinance.

**Tom Harris:** We can do them separately.

**Darren Vogt:** However you want.

**Tom Harris:** Do you want me to take a shot at it?

**Roy Buskirk:** Go ahead.

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**Tom Harris:** I will make a motion for permission to apply for the JDAI grant from the Indiana Department of Corrections with the December and March consideration.

**Bob Armstrong:** Second.

**Darren Vogt:** We have a motion and a second. All in favor signify by saying aye, opposed, same sign. The motion passes 6-0-1 (Howell absent).

**Tom Harris:** Motion for consideration of a salary ordinance establishing the pay for an employee within the budget of the Allen County Juvenile Center from the JDAI grant and Fund 222 Juvenile Probation User Fee, 16-64, PAT 4/2, \$44,322.

**Roy Buskirk:** Second.

**Darren Vogt:** We have a motion and a second. All in favor signify by saying aye, opposed, same sign. The motion passes 6-0-1 (Howell absent). Next is the Board of Health, Department 285.

**Roy Buskirk:** I think this is the one that we told her she didn't need to appear.

**Nick Jordan:** It wasn't in the salary ordinance, correct? We are just putting it in there for 2014.

**Darren Vogt:** It had been left out.

**Jackie Scheuman:** Right.

**Nick Jordan:** It just needs to be read.

**Tom Harris:** With that, a motion for consideration of a salary ordinance establishing the pay for an employee within the budget of Allen County Board of Health, 285-7301-441/768-7307-441, Disease Intervention Specialist, PAT 3/6, \$44,453. Retroactive to December 14, 2013.

**Roy Buskirk:** Second.

**Darren Vogt:** We have a motion and a second. All in favor signify by saying aye, opposed, same sign. The motion passes 6-0-1 (Howell absent). Next is the amended salary ordinance discussion for Chief Deputies.

**Tera Klutz:** This is included in your packet, both the salary ordinance and the attachment. Last month, you guys wanted to discuss when a Chief Deputy is replaced to have their salary revert back to a certain percentage of the Elected Official's salary. That is unless the Elected Official comes to the Personnel Committee and Council and gets permission to go above that.

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**Darren Vogt:** Based on qualifications or whatever.

**Tera Klutz:** Yes.

**Darren Vogt:** This resolution sets it at 75% of the Elected Official's pay.

**Tera Klutz:** Yes.

**Tom Harris:** This is not new though, correct?

**Tera Klutz:** This is new.

**Darren Vogt:** This is completely new.

**Tera Klutz:** It is not a new concept but it is a new practice.

**Tom Harris:** We have not done it as a salary ordinance. Is that what you are saying?

**Tera Klutz:** That's right. You will have to adopt this every year. It is only an annual and is only as good until it is superseded that year. By adopting this, it will let the Auditor know to do a new calculation if a new Chief Deputy is filled. Right now, there is just an amount at that line item in your salary ordinance. If Nick left tomorrow and I got somebody else, I don't have a choice but to pay him, the new employee, exactly what Nick was making because that is the salary ordinance.

**Darren Vogt:** And they may not have the same qualifications. What we are trying to do is make sure that we hire someone who has the qualifications. If Nick was gone and we hired someone with the same qualifications, it wouldn't be an issue. They would come before the Personnel Committee and Council to get that salary to where it needed to be. We have not argued on that range that has gone all the way up to 100% of the Elected Official's salary. What we are trying to do is make sure that we capture, if and when elections take place and somebody new comes in and appoints a new Chief Deputy and they have to take the 75% or come back to Council and follow a process to get that bumped up. That is all we are trying to do, clean that up so that there isn't any issue. If an Elected Official brings someone on that doesn't have the experience but wants to give them the experience they won't be overpaying them. We would need a resolution.

**Tom Harris:** I will make the motion for consideration for a salary ordinance amending the pay for employees within the budget of Allen County on the attached page. Whereas, Allen County Council desires to automatically set the salary of any new employee appointed to one of the positions listed on the attached spreadsheet after the effected date of this ordinance to 75% of the respective appointing Elected Official's annual salary. The respective appointing Elected Official may come before County Council via the Personnel Committee to request a different annual salary for their respective Chief Deputy if they so desire. Now, therefore be it ordained by County Council the salary,

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wages and other compensation paid the positions on the attached sheet are amended as described above. This ordinance read, considered and adopted by the members of the Allen County Council on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2014.

**Larry Brown:** Second.

**Darren Vogt:** We have a motion and a second. All in favor signify by saying aye, opposed, same sign. The motion passes 6-0-1 (Howell absent).

**Tera Klutz:** I want to point out that the ones listed are those that do not already have a legal obligation tied to the Elected Official. If the Elected Official's salary is established by the State or a State statute or are paid by the State, the Chief Deputies are not listed.

**Darren Vogt:** The Sheriff would be an example.

**Tera Klutz:** The Sheriff's and Chief Deputy Prosecutors are not listed.

**Darren Vogt:** It is not all of the Chief Deputies but most of them.

**Tera Klutz:** Right.

**Darren Vogt:** Council, that leads us to the discussion for the request from the City of New Haven. Chief, do you want to come on up?

**Steve Poiry:** Good morning, Council. Steve Poiry, Chief of Police for New Haven.

**Darren Vogt:** Chief, could you please tell us briefly what your Council did? You have gone ahead and purchased but scaled back?

**Steve Poiry:** That is correct. Originally we had a request for \$105,622.88. That was for three 911 consoles. I met with the Mayor and we had approval from the Board of Works to purchase these but we scaled back to two consoles because of the network fees and licensing fees. We amended our request in front of the County Council and brought that down to \$75,873.84.

**Tom Harris:** Say that number again, please.

**Steve Poiry:** \$75,873.84.

**Darren Vogt:** What was the reason for the scale back? Help me understand that.

**Steve Poiry:** We have two consoles that we use primarily, the vast majority of the time. The third console is depicted in the letter if we would have a natural storm or something, we would have all three of those consoles up and running. We feel that we can get by with two. Ideally, we would have loved to have had the three but for cost and everything, we feel that the two is more sufficient.

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**Darren Vogt:** Obviously Tim Lee is moving on but the question for me is do you have a plan with the current CCP if your building was without power or anything like that to move your dispatch people? They will take your calls no matter what, that is not an issue but from the staffing standpoint there is an issue in New Haven, an evacuation or natural disaster, is there a plan or space for you to move into that? Do you know? Have you worked through that?

**Steve Poiry:** As we discussed in the previous meetings that is one of the things that the Director brought up. There would be room and consoles for us. That is something that we would have to discuss with whoever is going to be his replacement.

**Darren Vogt:** That is something I want to make sure of. I would prefer you being in the CCP. That is a job that can be done but I understand your concerns and the fact that you are there.

**Larry Brown:** To take that thought one step further, it seems to me that there should be cross-training, the equipment may not be identical and so there should be some time and effort put into familiarization of New Haven's staff to the CCP equipment especially now that they are moving to a new location. There should be familiarization so if something happens it is a smoother process.

**Darren Vogt:** It is not on-the-job training but something that has already been done. Another question is, do you guys participate in the shutdown scenarios where they shut down the location and fire up the academy?

**Steve Poiry:** No.

**Darren Vogt:** I would suggest that you work that coordination out because we may need you or you may need us when there is an emergency. That is something that needs to be worked through. I know they do that every six months or so and actually go live with it. I think that is something that we need to work together on. We need to make sure that we are doing the best that we can for Allen County citizens. Councilman Harris.

**Tom Harris:** To my understanding, the consoles have already been purchased, I think.

**Steve Poiry:** That is correct.

**Tom Harris:** I think I read that this would be in the form of reimbursement.

**Steve Poiry:** Exactly.

**Roy Buskirk:** In the \$105,000 that you were asking for earlier that also included more than just the equipment. It included the repair package for five years.

**Steve Poiry:** It included the maintenance package for five years.

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**Roy Buskirk:** Does the \$75,000 still contain that so it is just more than the equipment?

**Steve Poiry:** I would assume that it has some type of maintenance in there and am fairly certain it does. Unfortunately I don't have that with me.

**Darren Vogt:** Council, are there any further questions?

**Roy Buskirk:** That was one of the items in which the possibility of paying for this equipment that there was nothing to be paid on the maintenance agreement for the City-County CCP. That is the reason that I was trying to do the same for both.

**Darren Vogt:** I would assume we would have some maintenance agreement.

**Roy Buskirk:** We had a maintenance agreement on it but it was not included in what we paid for.

**Steve Poiry:** It came out of the new 911 money or the old 911 money, I don't know.

**Darren Vogt:** Tera, we don't have an appropriation request.

**Tera Klutz:** You don't need one. If you guys want to approve it, you can today. There is money appropriated already in the fund. We would write a claim based upon your motion.

**Larry Brown:** To bring this to a head, I will offer a motion to approve New Haven's request of \$75,874.

**Tom Harris:** Second.

**Darren Vogt:** We have a motion and a second. Is there any further discussion?

**Tom Harris:** From my standpoint, the one thing they discussed the last time was that the equipment being purchased could be used in the future with some of the upgrades going on with the 911 Center. One of the concerns that I had was that Tim mentioned last month that if he had to hire additional staff, his amount of staff that he would have to hire would be more than what is presently on staff with the City of New Haven. That was a concern for me. And not only with Tim's departure, there was some question about where we were going with regional 911 and have yet to get a clear picture of where our strategy is. It seems a bit in the air particularly now with the resignation of the Director. For all of those reasons, I seconded this so to keep New Haven in a good position moving forward.

**Larry Brown:** I would like to make a comment. I assume that you all read the article in the paper where the Mayor of New Haven was quoted. I don't want to encourage, in fact I would like to put it to bed here and now that it is not a we/they situation. New Haven is part of Allen County and is a working partner in this whole scenario. I feel that they have

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done their due diligence to decrease the amount of the request by over 30% and that is why I am comfortable approving their request.

**Darren Vogt:** Tom, I share your concerns on what Tim Lee said about hiring additional staff. That wasn't the impression that I got but that it could be absorbed into the additional framework. That has me a little concerned and I don't know if the question was asked off the cuff or if he had thought all the way through that. Councilman Buskirk.

**Roy Buskirk:** I think part of the confusion is the fact that Tim Lee said he could not do that facility as economically as what New Haven is doing it because of the current situation that they handle their utility calls also. I think that was being included in being able to handle the calls was the utility calls and everything that Tim was looking at as far as personnel that he would have to have to cover that complete operation.

**Darren Vogt:** The non-emergency calls.

**Roy Buskirk:** The non-emergency calls and the emergency calls. I think that was part of the confusion on this. I have a little problem with the motion because it includes the maintenance agreement cost in what was paid out of the old money did not include the maintenance cost. I definitely do support New Haven and I think that there should be a change on the CCP policy that their reimbursement should be based upon the number of phone calls and that it should be adjusted annually. I think that all we can do as a County Council is make a recommendation to the CCP.

**Darren Vogt:** The funding is now different and I am not sure but I think the money is just coming into the CCP. That is entirely up to them.

**Larry Brown:** I am the liaison to the CCP and I will convey that back to them.

**Darren Vogt:** As well as the training piece that we need to make sure that they are up to speed on how to work in that environment and the environment of the academy. **All in favor signify by saying aye, opposed, same sign. The motion passes 6-0-1 (Howell absent).**

**Steve Poiry:** Thank you, Council.

**Darren Vogt:** Tera, do you need to work with him on that?

**Tera Klutz:** I think we will make it to Brenda, the Clerk-Treasurer.

**Steve Poiry:** I will let her know.

**Darren Vogt:** With that, Councilman Buskirk and I had a discussion about one of the pieces of legislation that I left in my vehicle this morning. That is the Single County Executive bill that is out there. I don't know the number of it, off the top of my head. Do you have that bill number?

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**Beth Lock:** HB1243.

**Darren Vogt:** Do you want to come on up? Martin Carbaugh has authored this bill on the Single County Executive. As I read it last night and I will apologize that I didn't get all the way through it, there were thirty pages and it is pretty mundane. By the time I got to about page 20, I lost focus. Can you identify yourself, please?

**Beth Lock:** I am Beth Lock, Director of Governmental Affairs for Allen County.

**Darren Vogt:** You may have more on this. From what I read, this is a referendum. It sends it straight to a referendum and there is no unanimous consent of the Commissioners. It then gives Council the fiscal and legislative powers. It adds two members to the Council and makes it nine. The nine would be all district seats and none would be at-large. I know Councilman Buskirk has some concerns about not having any at-large seats. With that, we will open this up for discussion. Did I miss anything, Beth?

**Beth Lock:** No, the referendum would be this November, if this was to pass. That is different from all of the other bills because before, if there was an ordinance passed it would be two years after the ordinance was passed. This goes straight to the ballot in November.

**Darren Vogt:** And it takes effect in 2018.

**Beth Lock:** That is when the first Single County Exec and the new Council members would take office.

**Darren Vogt:** Councilman Harris.

**Tom Harris:** This House Bill 1243, is this pertaining just to Allen County or is this statewide to all Counties?

**Beth Lock:** This is Allen County specific.

**Tom Harris:** Just to Allen County. What are the thoughts of this passing? Does it stand a pretty good chance?

**Beth Lock:** There was discussion yesterday and I do not believe it is going to receive a House hearing. The deadlines for the House Committees are next week and that is the last that they are going to hear. It is a very short session. It is like three weeks that they have been hearing bills and in this second week, bills have been flying through. Because of some of the issues that occurred last year, the Chairman said he is not going to hear this bill. There was something that suggested they could amend it on the Senate side and maybe get the House Chairman to hear it but I don't think the Chairman is entertaining that. At this point, it may be of no consequence. That being said, if it were to be

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resurrected at the very end, it is good to have the discussion to know where Council stands on this.

**Bob Armstrong:** Who is pushing this bill?

**Beth Lock:** From a legislative standpoint or from a local standpoint?

**Bob Armstrong:** Both.

**Beth Lock:** The Chamber and Greater Fort Wayne, Inc. are the ones that took this to the Legislature. Representative Carbaugh authored the bill or sponsored the bill in the House last year. Senator Holdman was the one that authored it in the Senate last year. This year, the rationale was to have it in the House first and then to the Senate. Those two organizations are the ones actively pushing it.

**Darren Vogt:** Councilman Brown.

**Larry Brown:** I sent an email to Beth and if not to all of you at least to some of you and I want to make my position real clear. I am in favor of the Single County Executive. I am in favor of nine Council persons. I am not in favor of nine districts. I am in favor of six districts and three at-large. Personal opinion only, this will be a tough, tough, tough sell to the voters no matter what. It will be an uphill climb. I am not sure it will ever pass in Allen County. But I am still in support of it. I think one of the important factors, and Roy may be able to articulate this better than I can, currently the voter perception is that they have four votes for Council. They vote for their District Councilman and they vote for three at-large Council persons. Oversimplified, I am sure, but they have four votes. If you go with Carbaugh's bill and how it is written currently, they have one vote. That is only for their district. You are going to slice that pie into nine segments. If you all recall the difficulty we had in adjusting boundaries in past with just four districts, now try to do that with nine districts. It's going to be tough enough with six but nine, oh my goodness.

**Darren Vogt:** Beth, do you know what St. Joe...

**Beth Lock:** St. Joe and Lake have legislative and fiscal authority and they have the seven single districts. That is part of the rationale. The other part of the rationale, just to give you some clarity about where it came from, you could essentially have four Council members living on four corners in the City. The three at-large could be anywhere and the fourth could be from that district. I think they wanted to move away from that. That can happen now but I don't think there is the appetite to change all of the Councils across the State. Those are the two reasons, I believe, they went for districts. I know when this was introduced into the Senate last year, I pushed back very hard to keep the at-large seats but when it moved to the House that is when they took the at-large out.

**Larry Brown:** We had the same situation with Commissioners. There are currently three Commissioners and they could all three live in the City.

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**Roy Buskirk:** But all different areas.

**Beth Lock:** I think the point is that they are all in different districts.

**Larry Brown:** They could live within the City limits.

**Roy Buskirk:** Correct.

**Tera Klutz:** If you draw it like a pie, no matter what, they could all still live right in the heart of the City.

**Darren Vogt:** When Councilman Buskirk and I had this discussion, I wouldn't see the pie version but I would see the bull's eye version. You would have an urban, suburban and rural set up and you would have to get population in there. Council would be the ones drawing the districts and that is how I would consider drawing it. I don't know exactly how we would do it with the populations because I haven't looked at it. If it were to pass that is how I would look at it. The other thing you could do, if you threw out the population scenario, you could almost do the way the Commissioners are. You could have small districts and cut it into four but if the population becomes the issue, it is the challenge.

**Larry Brown:** The thing that I said in the email was that I encourage this discussion today and I was hopeful that we could come to a consensus and write a letter of support or suggestion of change, whatever the case may be, to Representative Carbaugh and the Fort Wayne-Allen County delegation to follow whatever our consensus is.

**Darren Vogt:** Greater Fort Wayne, Inc. doesn't have an issue with the districts. They are just on the Single County Executive piece. I think our recommendation could be followed through with them.

**Larry Brown:** One other thing, and we have all talked about it at different times and different ways, this will not be cheaper. It is not a savings in any way, shape or form. Anybody that thinks it will is misinformed.

**Darren Vogt:** This is a streamlining of government.

**Larry Brown:** Exactly.

**Darren Vogt:** Streamlining at the Executive level.

**Bob Armstrong:** With a price.

**Tom Harris:** So, if all of a sudden financially it does not save us anything, the concept would be instead of three executives trying to decide on something, there is a perception that there is only one and so that makes it easier? Now, legislatively, those issues come to nine people to try to figure out what three people were figuring out. I don't think that is

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going to be easier. You will now have nine people who are going to have to weigh in on issues.

**Darren Vogt:** It is no different than how City government runs all day long. Whether it is more efficient or not, I think we are more efficient than they are. I am taking a different approach and a higher approach of the economic development piece. You don't have three people trying to figure out the economic development and what incentives and jobs. If I am the CEO of XYZ Corporation and I want to consider moving here, who do I talk to? Do I talk to Greater Fort Wayne, Inc. because they are the economic development arm? I want to meet with the person in charge and that is how I look at it. It is the person making the day-to-day decisions on those kinds of high level who do I contact? That is my personal opinion of it. That is how I see it as a more efficient way of doing County government.

**Roy Buskirk:** Counterpoint I guess with what you were saying, Tom, is the ordinances and everything. You would have a closer relationship with your Council person; the general public would as far as expressing their concerns. Last year, in which I talked to Martin and several of the State Representatives suggesting that the Council be increased from seven to nine in part because of the fact of the additional work that the Council would have because of the legislation being handled through the County Council instead of the Commissioners. That finally was changed in the bill where they went to nine Council members. I expressed my concern that I felt there still should be six single districts and three at-large because of the fact of having the general public vote on this. It is going to be very difficult to sell this because currently you vote for four County Council members. If they go to nine districts, all of a sudden you only have one vote. You are already losing two votes with the Commissioners because you are going to one single Executive to vote for. You can come up with scenarios but what you need to do is look back at history as far as the at-large for Council. They have never been next door neighbors. Some people are basically saying that the individual in the district and the three at-large could live on the same block. That has never occurred. In the current proposal that they have, I can support the single Executive. I think it is the makeup that they are doing of the County Council is what I disagree with. In essence then, you cannot support the bill because you don't agree with it 100%.

**Darren Vogt:** Councilman Brown.

**Bill Brown:** I am on record for supporting a Single County Executive. I have been there for years. I don't think we have done due diligence for the constituents in this issue. It is highly unlikely that it will pass or go anywhere this year. I know we do County Night Out three or four times a year with very little attendance. I would think that this year would be a good opportunity since this is going to be on the forefront of the legislative agenda. It seems like this year would be a good time to do some focus groups and put it out there on the County Night Out. Get the constituents' input so that we can get a sense of what they feel like. We have talked about several different scenarios and I think a little more information would be good. I do believe that in 2006, when we were looking at House Bill 1362, it was very divisive and a big piece of that was that there wasn't enough

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outreach. When the consultant came in that had worked with Louisville, a key point that he made was that you need outreach. People care about these things in small ways. I would advocate for that. I would advocate that we come to consensus to do outreach with focus groups and incorporate them into the County Night Out.

**Tom Harris:** A question in terms of the Commissioners, have they taken a position?

**Beth Lock:** As of right now, I have three different opinions on the bill. From our perspective, we will not be taking a position. I just wanted to make sure that you guys had the information so that you could weigh in as a body.

**Tom Harris:** That is the irony of the situation.

**Beth Lock:** To clarify, I am simply monitoring the bill because it is going to impact Allen County if it were to move. I want to make sure that all of the players are aware of what's going on as it moves. If those positions change then perhaps the Board's decision would change.

**Tom Harris:** I have a couple of other thoughts on that. My concern is that I am not sure there is consensus. I am not convinced that this is the route to go. The concern that I've got, Mike Downs was a Professor of Politics at IPFW and I took his class years ago, is one of the things that I learned in his class was when they studied all of the different kinds of changes in government worldwide, ultimately when we change government we end up with what existed previously. Nobody knows what else to do. They ultimately fall back to the same model that someone else had because they don't know how to get to a different model. My concern on this bill and the previous bill that came up is that we are setting the form of government up basically like the City of Fort Wayne. You've got one person in charge and nine legislative folks. The concern that exists in our rural communities is that everything seems to be done in Fort Wayne and that is what has to be done in the County. We have that same concern when we say everything is done in Indianapolis and we have to follow what they do instead of what we want to do. That same feeling exists, I think, in a rural community. I think our job is to make sure that their voice is heard. In some arguments, this bill would help them. In a concern that I've got, I have expressed this to Roy, is what's next? When the County government has the same design as the City of Fort Wayne, what is the next part of that discussion? The next part of the discussion is why do we need two forms of government that are doing exactly the same thing? Why couldn't it just be one? If you make the argument that direction, you are headed for a feeling that I think the community maybe in the City of Fort Wayne would like but our rural friends in Scipio Township and Woodburn and Harlan, those folks aren't ready to be part of the Fort Wayne government system.

**Darren Vogt:** So we have obviously got a wide range of opinion, I think. I think we have four that are here right now that are in favor of the Single County Executive. I include myself in that. I am not sure where you (pointing to Bob Armstrong) stood on that.

**Bob Armstrong:** I don't have a problem with the Single County Executive.

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**Darren Vogt:** Okay, so here is my thought. Your issue is the district makeup?

**Bob Armstrong:** Yes.

**Darren Vogt:** Again, I don't disagree with some of that. We have one dissenting member against the Single County Executive and I don't want to discount that. We do have a majority of Council that is in favor of the Single County Executive with the caveat that we need to adjust the makeup of the at-large districts that need to be there and really study it. I personally think, my opinion is, start with a clean slate and what would be the government today in Allen County? That is my personal opinion whether it is City or County. Let's start from scratch and that is what 1362 attempted to be able to do not discounting the rural folks, Hometown, Woodburn, Leo and all of those small communities outside that are still a part of this and very unique in nature and makeup. That would be my position on it. What we could look at is some sort of general support for the Single County Executive.

**Roy Buskirk:** To me, you are reading it wrong on what we are saying in the one statement of the Single Executive or in support of the bill.

**Bob Armstrong:** It is all or none.

**Roy Buskirk:** Yeah.

**Darren Vogt:** Did I mention the bill at all? No, I didn't mention the bill at all. I was talking about the Single County Executive.

**Roy Buskirk:** I am not in favor of signing or endorsing any letter or anything to the Legislators in favor of the Single County Executive until the issues are straightened out.

**Darren Vogt:** If you would let me finish my statement, I will tell you what I was getting to.

**Roy Buskirk:** Okay.

**Darren Vogt:** What I was getting to was that if we drafted some sort of letter that says we have a majority on Council that supports the Single County Executive and a makeup of Council, if it is going to have legislative duties that includes representatives from districts as well as at-large. It doesn't reference the bill at all but that is what the statement says.

**Bill Brown:** With the caveat upon referendum.

**Darren Vogt:** Oh, yeah, I don't have any problem with that. I don't think that is any issue at all.

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**Bill Brown:** I would like to add that I think that it is so unlikely that this is going to pass or even be introduced. This is the time that the Commissioners could take the lead on it and do those focus groups.

**Darren Vogt:** The problem is educating folks to understand what it really does and what the concept behind it is. Most people don't understand how County government works. It is very convoluted in how it works anyway and is confusing for folks.

**Bill Brown:** I think at the County Night Out meetings I can visualize a room with adequate space and a Power Point presentation about why this is looked to be a good move especially in the context of Greater Fort Wayne, Inc. and the context of all of the strides that have been taken to move us forward with economic development and looking through the lens. That outreach and level of understanding has really helped our whole regional effort. I look at New Haven, if we use them as an example, coming into the mix here. Moving forward is really important that we put our very best foot forward to illustrate to people. This is how all of this works, incorporated into that, having people understand how a change in County government could integrate into a more powerful and more robust worldwide effort to bring jobs to Fort Wayne and Allen County. I know that is pumping it up a lot but that's really the reason to do it and that is the expressed reason why this is important. With that presentation, so that it isn't just people showing up and saying no, people want to learn and understand how they can be part of a greater effort.

**Darren Vogt:** Councilman Harris and then Councilman Armstrong.

**Bill Brown:** Just real quick, I have a 10:00 and so if I have to leave, I don't want it to appear that I am leaving for any other reason than that.

**Tom Harris:** Might I ask what, this is a short session and the session ends when?

**Beth Lock:** March 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Tom Harris:** It is fair to say that this is going to be discussed or not discussed and we will know that within a week?

**Beth Lock:** You will know whether or not the bill is heard, at any time an amendment can come forward. I am not actively looking for an amendment on any bill or to amend the bill or anything like that. There are other groups that are. I am just monitoring what the other groups are in discussion with.

**Tom Harris:** I was going to at least throw out the idea might we wait until we find out even next week if the bill is going to be heard before we take any position?

**Darren Vogt:** That is a very good point. By the time we could draft something and have everyone comfortable with the wording on it, you are probably right.

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**Tom Harris:** It may not even be up. To her (pointing to Beth Lock) point it may come up at the midnight hour, in the last moment of a conference group discussion, right?

**Darren Vogt:** I think we all know where we stand on it. I don't think that is the issue. Individually we can do what we like but as a collective body, it is a different scenario.

**Beth Lock:** The only thing I would caution is in the legislative process, you don't want to blindside your Legislators. For example, let's say it was to come up for hearing. This is just for any piece of legislation and that is one of the reasons that when I send out emails, I try to get information as quickly as possible because things can change very quickly. I appreciate all of you that did respond to the email. You don't want to say that it is coming up for a hearing tomorrow and suddenly now you are going to write a letter to your Legislator. Let them know in advance so when the hearing comes up, they have already drafted the amendment of what you need to do. To Councilman Vogt's point, you can draft a letter that says a majority is in favor of the Single County Executive and are in favor of the nine districts however we will only support the bill if there are three at-large. That way, it makes your position very clear that unless that change was to be made, you as a Council don't support it. I want to make it very clear that is how you would approach your position in that letter.

**Darren Vogt:** Without that letter...

**Roy Buskirk:** Can I interrupt? Do you need Bill's signature before he leaves?

**Beth Lock:** I do on a couple of other issues that I was going to catch people after the meeting but sure, I can pass these out.

**Tera Klutz:** I want to tell you, for the record, I am in a couple of different associations of Indiana Counties and there are people from the Association of Commissioners and those associations adamantly oppose this legislation even though it is Allen County specific. I just want to throw that out there.

**Darren Vogt:** Sure, job protection. I understand that. Councilman Armstrong, you had a point that you wanted to make?

**Bob Armstrong:** My only point is in the whole thing is Martin is my State Rep and what concerns me the most is that it would have been nice if we had been more involved in this discussion before he authored the bill. Second of all, I am really leery of what the Chamber's agenda is by pushing this. Something just doesn't smell right to me and maybe it is just me. I don't understand why the Chamber has anything in this at all. I really don't.

**Beth Lock:** I would say this, looking at it just not from the Greater Fort Wayne, Inc. or the Fort Wayne Chamber, when the Blue Ribbon Commission came out in 2006 or 2007, the Kernan-Shepherd Report the State Chamber jumped onboard supporting it from the business perspective and so that is continued through Greater Fort Wayne Inc. and the

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Fort Wayne Chamber. The State Chamber has always supported it. It is not like suddenly they are supporting it.

**Bob Armstrong:** It's ongoing.

**Beth Lock:** It is ongoing.

**Bob Armstrong:** I guess really my concern is that we know all of these bills are written and submitted and co-authored and everything. In this bill especially, I think we should have been brought into the discussion before this bill was, what we have 92 Counties, effecting one County. I am sure that the people that live in the central and southern part of the State are not concerned about us not having one Executive or three Executives. It just seems like it was a roundabout way of getting something done and there was no input from us to the bill. With Martin being our Rep in this area, you would have thought that we would have had some input or voice before we challenged a bill out on the table.

**Beth Lock:** I will say this and I am just trying to give you as much perspective as I possibly can. I am not trying to defend any one person or anything like that. He filed the bill exactly the way it was in the House last year except that he took out the local option piece. The districts were in there last year.

**Darren Vogt:** And we complained about them last year too.

**Beth Lock:** I just wanted to throw that out there.

**Darren Vogt:** If it gets a hearing, that is where we can go. Did you have a point that you wanted to make? I am going to wrap this conversation up because I think we have beat it pretty good.

**Larry Brown:** A couple of things or maybe three or four things. First of all, the skin in the game for the Chamber is that the Chamber is about economic development. There is a strong position that a Single County Executive will improve economic development. You can agree with that or not agree with that but that is the Chamber's position. Another comment that I wanted to get out earlier and I missed the opportunity but Tom, when you referred to comparing Council to Commissioners with the legislative process and the review of legislation. You made the comment about two Commissioners or three agreeing or disagreeing working through legislation compared to nine Councilmen. I have a different perspective on that. You can have two that, probably the wrong term, can railroad a piece of legislation through. When Council has control of that, and if there are nine you have to have at least five, you have a lot more eyes and ears on the situation and a lot more representation of the taxpayers and citizens than the current situation. To Bob's frustration that we were not involved with Martin Carbaugh's bill, we have been involved since the Kernan-Shepherd Report came out. This Council has talked about, year after year after year, different aspects. I was not involved nor were any of us involved directly with Martin when he authored the bill but like Beth pointed out, all he did was copy last year's.

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**Bob Armstrong:** And just changed some things.

**Larry Brown:** Right. Minor changes, in fact, but I feel that this Council has had plenty of opportunities over the last several years and I don't know that Martin intentionally, I haven't talked to him. I don't know if he intentionally disregarded Roy's comment about the three at-large and six districts versus nine districts or if it was on oversight on his part.

**Bob Armstrong:** I am not browbeating him. Wouldn't you have had a better stance if he would have, and we have talked about this Kernan-Shepherd Report, taken a bill from the last session and just change some wording we had some issues in the last bill. To me, wouldn't you want to know where you are going in a direction of a bill before you submit the bill? That's all I am saying. I am not browbeating him for what he's trying to do. I am just saying, you know, input would have been nice.

**Roy Buskirk:** I just have one quick comment. What gets me sometimes on this is compromising and working out the situation. It is just like the three at-large. You had made the comment of what they are doing in other Counties and stuff. They are worrying about everybody living on the same block. You can do the same way that the Commissioners are voted upon. Each one of the Commissioners has to live in a certain area of the County but they are voted on County-wide. You could do the same thing with the at-large on the County Council. There just needs to be some process behind that and coming up with some different ideas to come up with a compromise type of arrangement.

**Darren Vogt:** That is what I was referring to when I said you could divide it into four. Beth, if you could just keep us in the loop. Like you said if it doesn't get a hearing it isn't relative to anything. Maybe that could be what we do for the next session, here is our input.

**Roy Buskirk:** Do you realize that she has more that she wants to talk to the Council about?

**Beth Lock:** Yeah, I have like another 82 bills, I am just kidding. I will say that if you guys can just help me out a little bit. I am still going through the bills and it is going very fast. The deadline was the 13<sup>th</sup> and I have some more bills that I have to go through today. I will send out a bill track which is like a link that you can pull up at any time. It is a new feature and you will be able to see updates. I will probably send out some emails to get some input and if you guys could just email me back within a 24-hour period that would be fantastic.

**Darren Vogt:** Let me just make sure, does anyone here not check their emails on a daily basis? (Roy raised his hand) So this is the guy you need to call.

**Beth Lock:** I can do that. It is not a problem.

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**Darren Vogt:** I didn't want to single him out but if you need to get his opinion, and he has lots of them, call him.

**Beth Lock:** Yes he does and I appreciate them.

**Roy Buskirk:** I normally do but there are days that slip by. She has papers that she wants signed.

**Beth Lock:** We just need to make sure that we are in compliance with our nepotism and contracting with the unit policy. As I went through to review all of those, there were a few on Council that had not turned those in by the December 31<sup>st</sup> deadline. Every other Elected Official is in compliance but the bulk of Council has not turned it in. I just want to make sure that those are signed. It is my fault because I didn't check until after the first of the year and I was in Indianapolis yesterday and my mailbox was full. I didn't get a chance to call you and let you know that I wanted to talk to Council members after the meeting.

**Darren Vogt:** Liaison assignments, you have those and there were a couple of minor modifications. Make sure you are contacting those folks especially when they have things on the agenda. Are there any recent or upcoming meetings or anything like that? That takes us to the back page.

**Tom Harris:** Approval to waive the reading on any matter approved today for which it may be deemed necessary for the County Council meeting of January 16, 2014.

**Larry Brown:** Second.

**Darren Vogt :** All in favor please signify by saying aye. The motion passes 6-0-2 (Bill Brown and Kevin Howell absent).

**Larry Brown:** Move to adjourn.

**Bob Armstrong:** Second.

**Darren Vogt :** All in favor please signify by saying aye. Opposed like sign. The motion carries 5-0-2 (Bill Brown and Kevin Howell absent). There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:56.