

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 17, 2014
8:30 AM

The Allen County Council met on Thursday, September 17, 2014 at 8:30 am in the Discussion Room at Citizens Square. The purpose of the meeting was for the non-binding review of the Tax Units.

Attending: Robert A. Armstrong, Larry L. Brown, William E. Brown, Roy A. Buskirk, Tom A. Harris, Kevin M. Howell, and Darren E. Vogt.

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

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

Darren Vogt: Good morning everyone. The way that the agenda goes, we will have Chief Deputy Jordan give us an overview and then we will go through the review process as far as we can of each individual taxing unit. At 9:00 we will hear the Library and at 9:15 we will hear Grabill. We may stop if we don't get through all of them before 9:00. With that I will turn it over to Nick for the overview.

Nick Jordan: Good morning, Council. If you look in your packet at the second page, it provides some information of the overview of what we are doing in regards to the Non-Binding Review. You will see that per Indiana law, County Council shall perform a non-binding review on those civil units that have a majority of elected members on their governing board. That is what we will be doing today. Additionally the Library does not anticipate going over the assessed value growth quotient of 2.7% and so you will also do a non-binding review of the library. The Civil Taxing Units, except for schools, were to submit their proposed tax rate, tax levy and budget. Essentially that is on the County Council review worksheets that we will get to. Schools are only required to submit their proposed tax rate and levy but all of them submitted the exact same County Council worksheet and so you will see their estimated budget. The Council's job is to essentially issue a non-binding recommendation except for the schools. In that recommendation, what we have to incorporate is a comparison of the taxing unit's budget and levy to the Statewide and County six-year average increase in non-farm personal income. We will see that on each of the review worksheets when we get to them. We also need to compare to the overall average increase in the other taxing units budgets and levies. It is going to be kind of tricky. If you can go to page three, we will do an overview of where different things are on the review worksheet. Up in the left-hand corner you are going to see the State Growth Quotient and the County Growth Quotient for 2013 pay 2014 and 2014 pay 2015. Please note that the State Growth Quotient of 2.7% looks at the change from 2007 through 2013. The County Growth Quotient is lagging. It only looked from 2006 to 2012. We are supposed to make a comparison to that but it is essentially almost three years behind because you are doing it for 2015 but it is looking at the change up through 2012.

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The information is not available on the County level for 2013. That is why it is a year behind. Directly underneath that is the County average total proposed budget increase percentage and the levy increase percentage. Those are based on these review worksheets that have been submitted. I did take out certain funds, for example, some people will put CREDIT in here but that is not a budget-order fund. I took those out because what happens is that it greatly sways the budget increase from one year to the next because it wouldn't be in your 2014 certified budget. I removed those kinds of funds for certain units and can specifically note those as we get to them. Up in the right-hand corner you see the different fund names and the 2013 pay 2014 net assessed value and 2014 pay 2015 net assessed value. The 2014 pay 2015 is an estimate. It should be based on what we gave them which was an estimate of about a ten percent decrease and is solely for advertising purposes. We are not anticipating a ten percent decrease in net assessed value. It is to ensure that their tax rate is adequate when they do their advertising that they can capture their levy that they are anticipating. Below that, you will see the sections for Budget, Levy and Tax Rate. Each one of those is the 2014 certified budget and the 2015 proposed budget. In the Levy section it lists the 2014 and the 2015 and the same for the Tax Rate. It looks at the change from year to year of the difference between the State Growth Quotient. For example, if you see Aboite there in their General Fund, the difference for the State Growth Quotient is negative 10.14% that is because the Growth Quotient is going up and they anticipate going down and that is where the ten percent difference is. It does the same thing with the County Growth Quotient. You see that in both the Levy and the Tax Rate sections. Right below that are the County Council Review questions. I have put their answers there and I have put "See attached" if they submitted an actual formal document and put it in here. If they did not provide, I put "Did not provide". You will also see the area where Darren will sign and the recommendation that Council will do at the end of this meeting. Just a quick summary, on the raise question, there was a potential of 32 responses. Fourteen said yes or were anticipating it but would decide at their actual budget adopting meeting. Fort Wayne and Woodburn said they don't know at this time but it wasn't definite no. There were approximately seven or eight "no" answers.

Tom Harris: So it was fourteen yes, seven no's...

Nick Jordan: Fourteen yes and approximately eight no answers. You can fill in the rest of those with no's. That would be about ten no's.

Darren Vogt: Two maybes.

Nick Jordan: Some of those "yes" can be unknown. They anticipate it but until their Town Council or Township Board meets, it could be a no at that time. In regards to increasing your levy greater than 2.7%, St. Joe and Wayne need to essentially recapture the levy that they didn't capture in prior years, similar to what Fort Wayne did. They had used cash balances in prior years and this year the cash balances have kind of dwindled down. They see the need to go back after the max levy. The other one was Milan Township. I am not exactly sure if they are going to go over the 2.7% or were just putting it on there because they have a new fire fund. We will see when we get to that one. New Haven has a 27th-pay and she noted that it is greater than the 2.7% but I don't know if

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they are in fact going to go over that compared to just having the 27th pay. As we get to look at each one, certain units have a Rainy Day Fund balance and other ones don't. For the most part they answered why and what their intent is for it.

Darren Vogt: Can I ask a question? A lot of them had the Rainy Day Fund in there and were actually budgeting the Rainy Day Fund. Would this show that they are actually budgeting funds out of the Rainy Day Fund or is it just saying what the Rainy Day Fund is?

Nick Jordan: If they have a budget in here that is what they are budgeting. Cedar Creek has a \$19,000 budget for the Rainy Day Fund. Cedar Creek has a \$43,000 balance in the Rainy Day so they are only budgeting \$19,000 of it.

Darren Vogt: I just wanted to clarify that it is a situation where they are actually using those funds.

Nick Jordan: Just like if we had a \$13 million fund, we did a budget for it compared to not doing one. Cedar Creek is budgeting to use some of the \$43,000 balance.

Tom Harris: It says it is going to be used for an emergency.

Darren Vogt: They are appropriating it in case they need it.

Nick Jordan: If that doesn't come or arise, it will just roll.

Darren Vogt: Councilman Buskirk, do you have a question?

Roy Buskirk: It is not on that. On the assessed value, you said you used ten percent?

Nick Jordan: Yes.

Roy Buskirk: Some of these are not ten percent.

Nick Jordan: They have their choice. We send an Auditor's Certificate out that we do an estimate on and they also meet with the DLGF for a budget meeting. They can also put something differently on their own. We send a ten percent decrease estimate but if the unit chooses otherwise, that is their option. I don't modify these in any way except for that information at the bottom.

Tera Klutz: That ten percent is an estimate because we don't know the true net assessed value for another month.

Roy Buskirk: Okay, thank you.

Darren Vogt: And then on the Library, we can have a binding review only when they are going to go over and above the Growth Quotient?

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Nick Jordan: Yes. They don't anticipate that.

Darren Vogt: They are coming before us but don't anticipate going over. I just wanted to clarify that.

Nick Jordan: If you can, use your bookmarks and turn to page eleven so I can give you an example of what I meant about taking out a budget to arrive at the County total proposed budget increase. It is Fort Wayne and it is very small in size. If you look at the budget section, you will see the 2014 Certified Budget and if you will go down to Economic Development Income Tax CEDIT, there is nothing in there. For 2015, it is \$29 million. That is why they have a 33% increase because it is factored into 2015 but not into 2014. It doesn't mean that they didn't budget something. It is just not a certified budget order fund. Other units will have various funds in there and you will see a similar scenario and I did pull those out.

Tera Klutz: When you say pull those out can you help me understand where you pulled them out?

Nick Jordan: In a separate spreadsheet, what I would do is take those two columns and deduct off that \$29 million and then it would be around \$205 million and do that change to arrive at the average budget increase.

Darren Vogt: Where do we see that number?

Nick Jordan: It is not on here. I can get that separate spreadsheet for you.

Darren Vogt: It is not in the 2014 certified budget but it is in the 2015.

Nick Jordan: The proposed 2015 budget. They may have had a 2014 CEDIT budget.

Darren Vogt: But it is not part of it.

Nick Jordan: It is not entered into this spreadsheet.

Tera Klutz: Are you looking at different averages than we are?

Nick Jordan: My averages, what I tried to do was take a more realistic approach compared to the alternative which would be if I went back in and put in their CEDIT. The alternative is that I go in and fill in the 2014 budget figures with what they were and then you would be comparing apples to apples instead of zero to \$29 million.

Tera Klutz: Is this something that I can get a copy so they can see it?

Nick Jordan: I think I can actually email it to them.

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Darren Vogt: In the future, it might be easier to leave that number in there or pull it all out.

Tera Klutz: It looks like he has a whole separate spreadsheet where he has more realistic averages. That might be beneficial for us to look at while he was talking about pulling them out.

Roy Buskirk: So on Fort Wayne, why is the Fire Pension zero when last year it was \$7,800,000?

Darren Vogt: That is not a zero it is \$8 million.

Nick Jordan: The budget went from \$7.6 million to \$8.5 million anticipated for 2015.

Tera Klutz: You were looking at the Net Assessed Value?

Roy Buskirk: Correct.

Tera Klutz: Those numbers are pulled from information input by the Tax Units and they just did not fill in that bucket when they put their Net Assessed Value in their budget forms. I can tell you that the Fire Pension is going to be the same as Fire which is \$7,079,500. That is two-thirds of the way down. The Fort Wayne Fire Fund and the Fort Wayne Fire Pension Fund are all the assessed value in the Fort Wayne area with the exception of the Fort Wayne Fire District. That just has that net assessed value deducted and is why it is different from the \$7.2 million in their General Fund.

Nick Jordan: Part of the reason that they may not have added that is because they are not anticipating a tax levy.

Roy Buskirk: Okay. If they don't have it listed, how in the world are they going to generate the funds?

Nick Jordan: They are not generating any funds in the Fire Pension. They just have a budget on there. There is not a levy.

Roy Buskirk: Oh, I see there is no levy for the Fire Pension or the Police.

Darren Vogt: Council, are there any further questions? Not hearing any, what we will do is go through each one. We will start at Aboite and move through these very rapidly since they are non-binding reviews. We will see if there are questions or comments and then at 9:00 we will have the Library come before us. With that we are on Aboite Township. They chose to answer the questions: Do you anticipate going over the 2.7%? Do you plan on using your Rainy Day Fund and what is the balance? The employee raise question. What we will do is highlight those three questions for each unit and if they responded or didn't. If I don't hear any questions, I am just moving on. The first one, again, is Aboite Township. Their answers were No, Zero Balance on the Rainy Day Fund and No to the

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employee raises. Are there any questions? Moving on to Adams Township, page four. They did not provide answers to the questions. Nick, did you look at their numbers? When we get to this, I don't want to put you on the spot but I am going to. Could you ascertain if they were going to go over the Growth Quotient? I know when we advertise it is kind of a challenge to figure that out.

Nick Jordan: In looking at the figures that they have here, it is very close. The budget is below it and the levy is slightly above it and I think that it would be for advertising purposes. The one thing with Adams is that two years back they were stuck at their prior year levy and I think they recaptured all of that last year and brought themselves back up. I think they should essentially be staying within the Growth Quotient. It is hard to tell besides what is presented here.

Darren Vogt: Do we put any response back to them when they don't respond to the questions?

Nick Jordan: You can put it in your recommendation but I don't think there is any statutory obligation that they have to answer those questions.

Tera Klutz: He does follow up with them. If they don't submit it right away, he does a reminder.

Roy Buskirk: You're talking about the whole report and not just the questions.

Nick Jordan: The report has to be submitted but I will send out a reminder that they haven't submitted the worksheet and/or the questions. The DLGF and George Helton also remind them.

Bill Brown: I think it would be a good idea to at least fill it out with "Didn't have time", if that is the answer.

Nick Jordan: Some of these people, I have zero contact with them throughout the whole year. I send them stuff all the time and they do what is statutorily obligated, but other than that I never hear from them.

Darren Vogt: All right, we will skip Allen County Public Library.

Tera Klutz: They are here.

Darren Vogt: Let's go ahead and bring them up.

Dave Sedestrom: Good morning, I am Dave Sedestrom and I am the Chief Financial Officer at the Library. I want to introduce Greta Southard and she is our new Library Director. I thought this would be a great opportunity to bring her and introduce her to all of you. Some of the housekeeping items, as far as the budget, we submitted the answers to the questions and has been the case in the last few years. We will not be going over the

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Growth Quotient on any of the levy. I know that on the form you have, it shows the advertised is 4.5% but as always we have to advertise higher so that we can capture that maximum levy. We are planning on doing raises and have budgeted three percent for the total compensation benefit area but as in the past, we do a fairly comprehensive salary survey that is being done currently. The Board of Trustees will decide in November for 2015. That will typically follow what is going on with the cost of living. We are going to do raises but are not sure of the final amount.

Tom Harris: Has the Board ever come back with a different recommendation?

Dave Sedestrom: Absolutely, most years.

Tom Harris: So they could come in under that?

Dave Sedestrom: Most years, they do. Again, it is encompassing the benefit package and they look not only at the raises but also what are we going to ask the employees for insurance premiums and that sort of thing. Usually it comes in lower. As far as the anticipated need for additional appropriations or additional levies, no, we will be staying within the 2.7%. As far as the Rainy Day Fund, it continues to be at the \$836,000 that it has been for the last few years. It has no plans for use other than if a major capital item were to come about. With the changes in bonding, it would probably be easier to use that for those kinds of projects. It may be coming up. It is hard to imagine but as we are talking about our capital plan, the first of the expansion projects was completed in 2001. It is coming up on fourteen or fifteen years and we are starting to get roofs and heating and air conditioning systems that need to be reviewed. That is what those funds will be used for.

Roy Buskirk: Do you have other accounts that you have set aside for capital maintenance?

Dave Sedestrom: Yes. Our Library Improvement Reserve Account and that is one that only gets funded with transfers from the General Fund. There is about \$3.5 million in that. We are running between about a \$1.2 million and \$1.9 million capital annual expenditure on all of the buildings. Our Property Manager would like to spend more but we try to slow him down. They are coming up and there is no getting around systems needing to be replaced or roofs needing to be replaced. We try to do it in a very conservative way. Sometimes you can put something off and it costs you more.

Darren Vogt: How often do you do your salary survey?

Dave Sedestrom: Every year. It is of the region and national as well. It takes into account the various libraries that are peer libraries, in size and scope of our library. That is kind of the general budget information. Like I said, I wanted to bring Greta over so that she could talk to you a little bit.

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Greta Southard: Good morning. I have been here all of three weeks and so I am new to your process and learning lots as we go through it. I think the Fort Wayne Library system is great and Fort Wayne is a great city. I am very pleased to be here. In terms of the things that I hope we can focus more on, the materials collection is something that we always have to keep refreshing and making sure that we have the materials that our community wants to read. We are taking a look at our outreach efforts and how we can do more of those types of activities and how we can have a better working relationship with the school systems. The community that I came from was very focused on education and making sure that all kids were going to leave the school system with the skills that they needed to be successful in life. The Library was very much a supporting player in those activities. I hope that we will be able to do the same sort of efforts here in Fort Wayne. Not that they aren't being done now but being much more strategic and helping focus those efforts. I am very pleased to be here.

Tera Klutz: Where are you from?

Greta Southard: I am most recently from northern Kentucky. I was the Director of the Boone County Library System. If you have ever flown into the Cincinnati Airport, that is the County that the airport is actually located in. That really helped spur growth and development in that community. The community had gone pretty much from a rural community to very much a suburban community with pockets of urban issues as well. The library was slightly smaller in scope but certainly with the same kinds of issues and challenges that all libraries face across the country.

Darren Vogt: Kevin?

Kevin Howell: I am a school teacher. Give me an example of what you did in the library system there.

Greta Southard: We developed, over the course of time, a close working relationship with the schools in Kentucky. There were two County systems along with a number of private schools as well. We would work to put together curriculum kits for teachers in terms of subject areas. We would put together activities, reading material and things to help teach a component of the curriculum. We worked very closely with the teachers to put those materials together. We had a number of former educators on our staff who worked in our Youth Services Department to work with teachers to beta test it in their classrooms to see how these materials worked. We put together these kits that teachers could check out and use in their classroom. We put together classroom collections so that teachers could check out a whole array of materials on a subject matter and use them in their classroom. We did what we called the Great Annual Teacher Books Giveaway. When we withdrew materials from our children's collection, we would invite educators in for about a three-day period where they could come and take materials instead of selling them to them. We gave them to the teachers so that they could use them in their classrooms. They would have more reading materials in the classroom. We recognized that we served a very diverse socio-economic population and not all kids had the opportunity to have books in their homes. We tried to make sure that teachers could have

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a more extensive collection in their classroom. Those were the kinds of things that we worked with the schools to try and implement. We worked very closely with teachers so that they knew what kinds of materials that they could stream into their classroom. We had a service called Access Video on Demand. If there were portions of a curriculum that they wanted to teach, there might be videos that would support that and they could stream those videos into their classroom. We tried to do a number of different things based on what the educators wanted to do. We came about through a process of talking and meeting with them and asking how we could help support their efforts.

Darren Vogt: Councilman Buskirk.

Roy Buskirk: Go ahead.

Kevin Howell: Are you going to set up a community committee or how are you planning on doing this?

Greta Southard: I need to find out first what our existing scope of work is. I need to have a better understanding of how the school system works here. Every school system works differently. In Boone County, it was very much local controls and site-based decision making of each individual building. Working with individual schools to see what kinds of things they were interested in and in terms of how our Youth Services Department could be supportive of their efforts. These things didn't happen overnight. They took a long time of talking to people and finding out what gaps might be and how we could be useful to the educator.

Kevin Howell: If you have an advisory committee, I would be interested in it.

Greta Southard: Okay.

Darren Vogt: Councilman Buskirk.

Roy Buskirk: I was just curious on the filing system between the public schools and the libraries in Kentucky. Is it the Dewey decimal system and is it the same? Here, in Indiana, it is different. The schools have a different numbering system than the libraries. I think that is ridiculous.

Greta Southard: Well, it is yes and no. Let me give you an example. A lot of public libraries in the Country use the Dewey Decimal System but there are libraries that are moving away from that system. In Boone County, the Youth Services Department undertook a year-long study and really thought about how they could make the children collection more useful to the public. They created their own classification system. They grouped the picture books together in families and reclassified them. If a five-year-old is coming in to find all of the truck books, they know where the truck books are because they would all be put together in one category. We are talking about our youngest learners who don't the author's name. They know they want a book on frogs and where can they find the animal books. Our Youth Services Department really tried to think very

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creatively about how they could make the collection more user-friendly to the people that were going to use it. I don't know what that means here in our community but those are the kinds of things that we are going to be asking ourselves to make sure that we are making the collection user-friendly and accessible.

Roy Buskirk: The longer you are in town, you will realize that I am very conservative in trying to save the taxpayers money and several years ago before we did all of the branch libraries, my suggestion was to work with the school corporations and have the branch inside the schools. They would use the same books and the same room and have an outside entrance so that in the summertime they could have that one room open. The big problem was the numbering systems were completely different.

Greta Southard: There are challenges with joint-use facilities whether they are at the elementary level or at the college level. There are lots of things that need to be worked out with joint-use facilities in order for them to be used successfully by the community. There are different issues depending on the age group you are dealing with. I can appreciate that it was something that was studied but not necessarily feasible for this community.

Roy Buskirk: Thank you.

Darren Vogt: Councilman Harris.

Tom Harris: Just a comment and welcome. It is great to have you here. Last year Jeff had come before us and Dave I think you were here as well and we had a little philosophical discussion about where libraries were headed. Is the necessity there to keep having bricks and mortar and more buildings? It is not necessary to go into that discussion at this time but just a cautionary note that libraries don't have to be a new building because there is more and more technology that keeps reaching out. I think he had mentioned some thoughts that there didn't have to be a building anymore but could be a virtual building that you could come in with technology and go into the library and check things out without even leaving your home.

Greta Southard: Exactly. More and more libraries are building what they call their virtual branch or their digital branch. That is a wider array of services that you can get from your home, you can check out and are returned automatically so that you don't have to worry about returning them yourself. Having said that one of the things, as a Library Director, you always want to make sure that you have service points in the communities where you have your population. I think that is probably true here. The question always becomes do you have the right size service point for the community that you are servicing. I don't have those answers because I have only been here for three weeks. Those are the issues that you always think about and I would say that the buildings are becoming used much more as community centers. Places that can draw people together from a number of different activities and not just library programs. That would be my hope that our facilities can really be a catalyst for community building and helping people come together on whatever their issues are.

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Tom Harris: Okay, thank you.

Dave Sedestrom: As a follow-up on what Jeff talked about last year, he was talking about creating a library as a learning center. That continues to this day with the emphasis on the ability for someone to come into the library, his analogy was always that in the past the libraries were always considered a supermarket with lots and lots of information. Now we are moving more towards the kitchen where not only are there all of the ingredients but also the tools that you could employ that information. We've had a lot of activity going on in things like the Maker Movement that have been started in a couple of our branches as well as 3D printers that are going in. These are all of the things that are drawing people into the branch to not only take classes and learn about this new technology but actually employ it and make things that are quite amazing sometimes. Between that and the Youth Services' Studio Z with the ability to make videos, recordings and things like that with Access Fort Wayne and the technology that is available.

Tom Harris: That is all good and I congratulate you on all of that but just a cautionary note on the need for building more and more buildings.

Greta Southard: I completely understand that point of view.

Darren Vogt: Councilman Howell and then Brown.

Kevin Howell: Last year, when the prior Director was here, libraries are also becoming a refuge for kids who do not have dads and moms at home.

Greta Southard: Absolutely.

Kevin Howell: It is obviously a learning environment but is also a safe haven, as I call it, in terms of being a teacher. I want you to keep that in mind too. Don't downgrade this.

Greta Southard: Absolutely. We would hope that in every community in the Country that libraries are considered safe havens. A place where people can come and have refuge, so to speak, from whatever else is going on in their life. That is a big piece of what libraries have historically also always been about in addition to being centers of lifelong learning. Everybody is on a different learning continuum regardless of their age and hopefully we are able to provide something for everybody regardless of where they are in their personal journey.

Larry Brown: Quick question and maybe you can answer or maybe you can't but we have spoken about this at least at the last two budget cycles, giving us an update of the usage of the technology room. For people that don't have a home computer, whether it is unemployment or whatever, they might need it for employment applications or whatever. How are you seeing that usage? Has it leveled off? Can you give us an update?

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Greta Southard: I personally haven't looked at those statistics yet. I can't really speak to that question. I would say in general, based on what I experienced in my prior community we had branches that were very similar to library locations here where you would have a very high door count. Lots of people in the building but relatively low checkout statistics and what people were really coming for was using the technology. Staff needs to provide a lot more one-on-one assistance as opposed to large training classes. People are learning how to attach their resume or how to apply for a job online or how to find services that they need. That requires much more one-on-one. From that point of view, I would say our computer use continues to hold steady and is increasing. What the specific numbers are, I don't have at my fingertips. That would be my observation when I have gone out and visited the branches. I have been to all of the branches and that is what I have observed as well.

Larry Brown: I wasn't after statistics but just generally speaking.

Darren Vogt: Councilman Brown.

Bill Brown: As a member of the Board of Trustees, I have become very impressed with the library and the way it is integrated with the various communities. I think it has created a world class system and that integration more and more with relevance with the schools, public and private, I am happy to say is really on the front end of your agenda. We have had discussions with the Board of Trustees about continually becoming as energy efficient as possible. Those dollars are dollars that are saved and can be used for other things. I do appreciate, as Dave mentioned, the Maker Movement and fashion, fabrics and so many different things that are being integrated in the whole learning process.

Darren Vogt: Council, are there any further questions? Appreciate you coming and welcome to Fort Wayne and Allen County.

Greta Southard: Thank you.

Darren Vogt: Is Grabill here?

Roy Buskirk: Like with Aboite, are we going to make recommendations individually?

Darren Vogt: We will do it at the end like we have done in the past. Isn't that right, Nick?

Nick Jordan: There have been rare exceptions. Last year you did a different one for Wayne Township and the year before for Washington Township.

Darren Vogt: With that we are on to Cedar Creek Township. Their answers to the questions were No to going over the Growth Quotient of 2.7%. The Rainy Day Fund balance was \$43,920 and they will use it for emergencies. They do not anticipate any type of raises for employees. Are there any questions on that? Next is East Allen County Schools.

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Roy Buskirk: I'm sorry but there is another one for Cedar Creek where you have estimated the assessed value is 9.76%.

Nick Jordan: The 2013 pay 2014 figure that is in there, I am almost positive, is the certified budget order figure. Out ten percent decrease is based on the abstract net assessed value for 2013 pay 2014. There is a little bit of a difference between the abstract and the certified budget order. The certified budget order is in the winter/very early spring. From then until we get to the abstract, changes take place where appeals and corrections and adjustments to values are. The abstract is more up-to-date and is what we base our estimate off of. That ten percent estimate that we did on the Auditor's Certificate is a little bit different. As you see, you are comparing it to the 2013 pay 2014 certified net assessed value. That is why it may not be exactly ten percent.

Roy Buskirk: Okay. Thank you.

Darren Vogt: We will take East Allen and then bring up the folks from Grabill. We have East Allen County School Corporation. Their answers to the questions are No to the 2.7%. The Rainy Day Fund balance is...

Larry Brown: \$2,578,769.

Darren Vogt: Thank you very much. They borrow against that internally and it is something that we have done to avoid tax anticipation warrants. It is saving money to have that. They are in the middle of their collective bargaining and anticipate some sort of pay increase. With that if we could move on to Grabill. The folks are here and we will go ahead and bring them up. Go to your packets to Grabill.

Larry Brown: Page 20.

Cynthia Barhydt: Cynthia Barhydt, Clerk Treasurer for the Town of Grabill.

Paula Walker: Paula Walker from CPW Consulting.

Tera Klutz: Do you want to tell us a little bit about what is going on?

Cynthia Barhydt: Our Federal grant is going to take effect by the end of the year. They are going to start it in March for Second Street. We have a new subdivision that they are starting now, Granite Ridge.

Tera Klutz: That was controversial, wasn't it?

Cynthia Barhydt: Yes, very much.

Roy Buskirk: So it is already in the city limits? Has it been annexed?

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Cynthia Barhydt: No, it's not but we will supply the water and sewer.

Darren Vogt: Is that Witmer Road? It's about a mile outside the city limits?

Cynthia Barhydt: Yes. Approximately, yes.

Darren Vogt: I know the Commissioners negotiated some road improvements in there. Are you going to participate in those road improvements as needed if that development causes some need?

Cynthia Barhydt: Yes, if we have to.

Darren Vogt: Are you aware of that?

Cynthia Barhydt: No, I wasn't aware of that. I know it was one of the topics that was brought up. They were concerned about congestion and stuff in there.

Darren Vogt: With buggy traffic and everything else, it is a major buggy road for the Amish folks in that area. You may want to get with the Commissioners on their road projects. I don't know that works out but on Planning Commission that was one of the things that came up. You may want to be aware of that in case that ends up being something that you are asked to participate in.

Cynthia Barhydt: We are going to do some resurfacing also on Indiana Street this year. That is \$250,000.

Darren Vogt: You don't anticipate going over your Growth Quotient?

Cynthia Barhydt: No.

Darren Vogt: You have a Rainy Day Fund of about \$28,000?

Cynthia Barhydt: Yes.

Darren Vogt: And you just use that strictly for emergencies?

Cynthia Barhydt: Yes.

Darren Vogt: You've got the Council members getting a three percent raise but no other employees were getting the three percent?

Cynthia Barhydt: We don't have any employees.

Tera Klutz: What about you? Aren't you an employee?

Cynthia Barhydt: Well.

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Tera Klutz: That is fine so there is one other person?

Cynthia Barhydt: And she is seasonal. She waters the flowers for the Grabill Days.

Darren Vogt: So it is just the Council and you, right?

Cynthia Barhydt: Right.

Darren Vogt: I just wanted to make sure. It was worded very oddly and I wanted to make sure.

Cynthia Barhydt: So you consider me an employee, huh?

Tera Klutz: It says no other employees as if there were other employees. I think it is the way it was worded. You would be an employee of the town just as they are.

Cynthia Barhydt: Okay.

Tera Klutz: Usually raises are given to full-time people and many times Elected Officials take themselves out. You rarely ever see them just giving the Council raises and nobody else.

Darren Vogt: Councilman Harris.

Tom Harris: Has Visit Fort Wayne been in touch with you? There was some interest in obtaining State grants and State funding.

Cynthia Barhydt: We haven't heard anything.

Tom Harris: We will follow up and see what we can do there.

Cynthia Barhydt: Okay.

Tom Harris: The State provides various communities with grant opportunities to improve their downtown areas and Grabill had an interest in pursuing that, right?

Cynthia Barhydt: Yes.

Bill Brown: Was that Visit Fort Wayne or The Alliance? I believe The Alliance did a study when Andy Udris was involved.

Tom Harris: Yeah.

Roy Buskirk: So it is The Alliance instead of Visit Fort Wayne?

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Tom Harris: Visit Fort Wayne indicated that they were going to work with the officials in Grabill to see about applying for some of those grants.

Roy Buskirk: Very good.

Cynthia Barhydt: We have heard from both The Alliance and Visit Fort Wayne trying to get some grants.

Darren Vogt: Is your Federal grant for Second Street a matching grant?

Cynthia Barhydt: Eighty twenty.

Darren Vogt: And you already have your twenty set aside?

Cynthia Barhydt: Yes.

Darren Vogt: Will that be a next season construction project?

Cynthia Barhydt: It is going out for letting in December and they want to start it in March.

Darren Vogt: How long will that project take?

Cynthia Barhydt: I'm not sure.

Darren Vogt: Will that be major construction problems going through there, right?

Cynthia Barhydt: Yes for the businesses at one end of Second Street, it could be cut off.

Darren Vogt: And they are well aware of what is going on. They understand it.

Cynthia Barhydt: They just don't know when.

Darren Vogt: I think that is the key thing, communicating what is going to happen and how it is going to happen so they can plan accordingly from a business model standpoint. If it is their high time or slow time, they can consider the alternatives for the business.

Tom Harris: Another comment is that I had a chance to be in the parade and part of the festivities and you just do a tremendous job.

Cynthia Barhydt: Thank you.

Tom Harris: As it always has been and the parade was just jam-packed. It was a great day.

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Darren Vogt: Are there any other questions for Paula or Cynthia? Appreciate you coming out before us this morning. Thank you very much. Did we finish East Allen County Schools?

Tera Klutz: Yes and you are on Eel River.

Nick Jordan: For the schools, you will not make a recommendation. You are just reviewing the levy and the rate.

Darren Vogt: That's right, thank you for reminding me of that. Did we sufficiently review that enough to call it?

Nick Jordan: If you note in their letter that they don't anticipate going over the 2.7%...

Darren Vogt: I did.

Nick Jordan: If you look at the levy, you can see the advertising aspect of 18.36% increase.

Darren Vogt: There is no way around that based on our current system. I think that is the critical piece when you ask the question if they are going over and if the public started looking into this and looked at the advertisements, they would go "Wow".

Nick Jordan: Along those same lines, when you make the recommendations you are going to do it to an average total proposed budget increase and levy increase, all of those are based on advertising. It is kind of skewed high compared to what they may be. Please keep that in mind when we do the recommendation.

Darren Vogt: Eel River did not provide any answers to our questions. Nick, does it appear that they seem to be going over their Growth Quotient?

Nick Jordan: Their budget is higher but the levy is only .14% increase. They may be using cash balances to fight some of those budget increases.

Darren Vogt: Okay, so they are .14%. Does everyone see where that is within the chart? It is in the levy chart, the actual third column over, Percent Change from 2014 to 2015. Just want to make sure that everyone understands that. If it is not an advertised high number and this one isn't even advertised high. We are assuming cash balances so as not to go to their max.

Nick Jordan: That is where you capture it in the lower net assessed value.

Darren Vogt: With that we move to Fort Wayne Civil. The question about the 2.7%, they will not go above that. They have a zero Rainy Day Fund balance. They have no Rainy Day Fund. On raises, they do not know at this particular time.

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Roy Buskirk: They don't consider the Legacy Fund as Rainy Day, do they?

Tom Harris: A bit controversial, possibly.

Roy Buskirk: Yeah.

Tom Harris: Some feel it is and some it is not.

Darren Vogt: If you look at their original intent, for lasting and impacting projects and now it is road salt. You figure that one out.

Roy Buskirk: That is an impacting event.

Darren Vogt: The pile of salt does transfer from a pile to going away. With that we will move to Fort Wayne Community Schools. In answering their questions, it says "See attached". The advertised levy is 16.3%. The answers to the questions are they do not anticipate going over the 2.7%. They do not maintain a Rainy Day Fund. They are in bargaining groups to provide a raise for 2015. They are in collecting bargaining and anticipate some sort of increase.

Roy Buskirk: Their Rainy Day Fund is bonds.

Darren Vogt: Yes that would be correct. Then we have the Town of Grabill.

Larry Brown: Huntertown is next on page 21.

Darren Vogt: They did not provide answers to the questions. Their advertised percentage is 19.93%. They have a proposed budget increase of about \$22,000. Are there any questions on that one? Jackson Township has No on the 2.7%. They have a Rainy Day Fund of \$1,503. They do not anticipate raises although they are deserved. We are on to Jefferson Township.

Bob Armstrong: Do we know, when it says "No Raises", how many employees do they have?

Tera Klutz: Usually it is two if they are really small.

Bob Armstrong: So we are not talking a large, twenty or thirty employees. We are talking a very small number.

Nick Jordan: They have the Board and the Trustee and maybe another person.

Darren Vogt: When you think of the Town of Grabill, they have the Board and the Clerk Treasurer and that was it.

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Tera Klutz: I would say Wayne Township and St. Joe Township and Washington Township would have a few more. Wayne Township is the largest, by far. The rural Townships have the Trustee and usually one Deputy along with the three Board members.

Bob Armstrong: All right, thanks.

Darren Vogt: Councilman Brown.

Larry Brown: I may be incorrect but just so you know a little history about Grabill. They did have as many as 1.5 and maybe two employees in the past but that is now part of a service contract. Their water and sewer is maintained under a service agreement by a company that employs a person or two but they take care of several towns and not just Grabill.

Tom Harris: I can't think of the name of the company.

Darren Vogt: All right, we are on Jefferson Township. They did not provide answers to the questions. Their proposed levy is 20.57% and the budget increase is 28.8%. Are there any questions on Jefferson?

Tom Harris: Again, the only question I have is the 20.57% change in the levy, is it fair to say when we see that they are making up for where they haven't been?

Nick Jordan: That is even if they can. It can just be for advertising purposes. They are going to be locked in at those figures. They won't be able to go above them if that is what they advertised. They give themselves some wiggle room. Until you get to Wayne and maybe St. Joe where they may be able to go above so they can capture prior years, it could be Jefferson too but I just don't know. They may be stuck to the 2.7%.

Roy Buskirk: I understand advertising higher but some of these really seem a lot higher than what they can anticipate. They are not realistic at all.

Tera Klutz: All right, I might be able to shed a little light besides some of them are not realistic. A lot of times, these Trustees haven't met with their Board yet by the time that they have to submit this information to us on the proposed budget. Our maximum levy can be spread across the General Fund, the Reassessment Fund or the Health Fund. Not knowing where my Council or Board would want to put the growth in my levy, I might have to advertise it in all of them. You can see their second fund is Township Assistance and has an increase of about \$3,500 and it looks like a 400% increase. Sometimes looking at the dollar amount might help versus the percent.

Roy Buskirk: Right.

Darren Vogt: Any further questions?

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Larry Brown: Their increases, for Jefferson Township, are all on fire, CUM and Fire, both.

Tera Klutz: For their budget but if you go and look at their levy, it is in almost all of them.

Roy Buskirk: Their Township Assistance has actually been reduced.

Larry Brown: On the budget.

Roy Buskirk: On the budget.

Darren Vogt: But on the levy, it goes up. With that we will move onto Lafayette Township. They did not provide answers to the questions. If you look at their proposed levy change, it is zero. We are moving on to Lake Township.

Larry Brown: Is this the one...

Darren Vogt: I moved onto Lake. Is this Lake or Lafayette?

Larry Brown: Lafayette. Is Lafayette the one that...

Roy Buskirk: Was in a bunch of trouble...

Larry Brown: maybe two years ago?

Roy Buskirk: Yeah.

Larry Brown: And they don't have a line item for Fire?

Roy Buskirk: No, they are in the Southwest Fire District.

Darren Vogt: Okay, now move on to Lake Township. They have "See attached". The levy is 5.48 on the sheet. Lake Township had an exceptionally heavy year with Township Assistance but hopefully things will get better but they don't anticipate going over the 2.7%. The Rainy Day Fund balance is \$25,008. They want to build some kind of building for community events. No on the raises for employees and they haven't given any raises for the last several years. Are there any questions on that? Moving on to Leo-Cedarville, they answered the questions. The levy increase was No. Their advertised levy was five percent. The Rainy Day Fund balance was \$75,000 and change and they have no intent to use it except for emergencies. They will do a cost-of-living adjustment but is not finalized at this point in time. Are there any questions or comments on Leo-Cedarville? Southwest Allen County School Corporation. Their proposed rate levy is 11.89%. They haven't experienced any unique financial issues that would cause them to go over the 2.7%. Their Rainy Day Fund balance, as of July 31, is \$1.5 million and some change. They have no current plans for those funds. The raises will be tied closely to school

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funding. Interesting that one school corporation has a Rainy Day Fund and another one does not have a Rainy Day Fund. Southwest also did a referendum and they re-upped that referendum last year or the year before.

Roy Buskirk: So they are actually able to collect over the tax caps.

Darren Vogt: That is correct. It was passed by their taxpayers. Madison Township did not provide answers to our questions. Their advertised levy increase is a decrease of 17.37%. Are there any questions on Madison Township? Moving on to Marion Township...

Roy Buskirk: Wow.

Darren Vogt: Are you back on the other one?

Roy Buskirk: I am back on the other one.

Darren Vogt: You have to go faster.

Roy Buskirk: I just noticed they had no Township Assistance for 2014. They have \$5,000 for 2015. That is very unusual that they have no Township Assistance.

Darren Vogt: Does anyone know the population of Madison Township?

Roy Buskirk: I know, I know.

Darren Vogt: That is part of it.

Nick Jordan: That is part of their certified budget. They still had a levy in there so I don't know how it actually panned out. On the Township Assistance, I heard from a handful if not more of a significant need having to do with the harsh winter and ongoing types of things for assistance. Even though things seem better out there, they still saw heavy demands in Township Assistance for 2014.

Darren Vogt: All right, are we through with Madison? We will move from Madison to Marion. They answered our questions. They do not plan on going over the 2.7% Growth Quotient. Their advertised amount was a negative 5.26%. Their Rainy Day Fund balance is \$15,733 and will be used for cemetery or Township Assistance. They do not plan on giving any raises. Maumee Township answered the questions. They do not anticipate going over the 2.7%. Their advertised was 8.09%. They do have a Rainy Day Fund balance of \$18,500 and a portion of this will be used for our five-year park master plan. They do not anticipate raises.

Roy Buskirk: I've noticed this before that some of the Townships have parks and obviously the County has parks. It seems like a little bit of duplication, possibly.

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Darren Vogt: Milan Township doesn't have anything in the questions box.

Nick Jordan: Milan Township said yes on the greater than 2.7%. The Rainy Day Fund is \$73,408. The raise is yes. Back to the 2.7% increase, there is a new fund, Fire Building Debt. Budget is \$127,000 and a levy of \$190,000 approximately.

Roy Buskirk: From what I understand, and I have received a couple of phone calls on this, Milan and another Township are going together and they are building a new fire station across from Woodland High School.

Nick Jordan: Earlier in the year we had received some advertisements and we had sent it back to the Township Trustee because it didn't quite coincide with Indiana code and I have not heard anything since until I saw the figure here. I am not sure what the exact circumstances are for that new fire department.

Tera Klutz: I think they are setting up a lease financing. I am not sure of the other Township that is involved. I thought it was just Milan.

Roy Buskirk: I think maybe it is Maumee. The two individuals that called me are very upset with it because there is a fire station already in Woodburn. This is a mile or a mile and a half away.

Larry Brown: And there is one in Harlan. When I first heard about this, it was a discussion about possibly being a fire territory. In those early talks, Adams Township was the neighboring Township and they were somehow involved in that. They provided, through a contract agreement, coverage of some of that area. It has been going on for some time.

Darren Vogt: Is there any further discussion on that? I am not sure we have a clear answer on it but at least we know where they stand.

Roy Buskirk: I just mentioned it to give you a heads-up.

Darren Vogt: Nick, does it say in that letter what the percentage is?

Nick Jordan: For the raise?

Darren Vogt: Yes.

Nick Jordan: No.

Darren Vogt: Okay. There levy change is 189.17%. Substantial because they are adding the new fire district fund, that is the reason behind it. We don't know how that is going to play out and whether it is a fire district or a station or whatever. Now we will go to Monroe.

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Nick Jordan: Before you go on to Monroe, there are apparently two or three dropped off. The first answer is No on the 2.7%. The Rainy Day Fund balance is \$3,330. The raise is yes.

Roy Buskirk: Again, that would probably be the Trustee and the three Advisory Board members.

Darren Vogt: Most likely. Their levy percent change is 3.15%. Moving on to Monroeville, Town of, we have the answers to their questions. They do not anticipate going over the 2.7%. They have a zero balance in the Rainy Day Fund. In the past we have given three percent raises pending available funds. The budget includes a three percent raise. Their advertised levy percentage was 7.34%. Are there any questions? We will move on to New Haven. Their advertised levy was 10.80%. Their letter indicates that they anticipate going over the 2.7% because of the 27th pay for 2015. They are planning on going over the levy to get the extra pay.

Bob Armstrong: Isn't everybody going to have 27 pays next year?

Darren Vogt: It depends on how you pay and if you pay every other week, yeah.

Tera Klutz: We are not. It is due to the Fridays that they picked.

Roy Buskirk: We pay twice a month.

Tera Klutz: No, we pay every other Friday for everybody except Elected Officials. Our 27 pay is not next year. It affects the people that are getting paid on the opposite Fridays that we are.

Roy Buskirk: Do they have reserve so that they can raise it more than the 2.7%?

Nick Jordan: I am not sure compared to their max levy what they are asking. Additionally, if they were to go above the 2.7%, I don't know if a 27th pay is a reason that you would be able to do an excess levy.

Darren Vogt: That has to be appealed, right?

Nick Jordan: Yes and I don't know, if in fact if it is something accurate, if it would be granted by the DLGF.

Tom Harris: Is that something that you talked to them about?

Nick Jordan: I did not follow up with them on that. I apologize.

Tom Harris: Is that something that you could talk to them about or is that something that the State will basically work with them on?

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Nick Jordan: If they want to go above and beyond the 2.7% then it has to be approved by the DLGF.

Darren Vogt: And remember that we will make a non-binding recommendation. We can make the recommendation that they don't go above the 2.7% Growth Quotient. They have a Rainy Day Fund balance of \$1.1 million and only used in the event of an emergency. There will be no raises this year. Now we go to Northwest Allen County Schools. They have an advertised percentage change of 18.66%. The said it will not be more than the 2.7%. The Rainy Day Fund balance of \$1 million and some change and will use it for unseen expenses and revenue shortfalls. They are projecting a pay raise but it is dependent on the funding levels. Do we have a question?

Larry Brown: Before we go on, you had pointed out that one of the previous schools had a Rainy Day Fund. East Allen, Northwest and Southwest all have Rainy Day Funds. Fort Wayne Community does not.

Darren Vogt: That is correct. Are there any further comments on the school corporations? Perry Township is next. They answered the questions as follows: No to going above the 2.7%. They have a Rainy Day Fund balance of \$18,000 and it will be used for Township expenses if needed. They do plan to give a raise but the amount has not yet been determined.

Roy Buskirk: Larry, what school corporation do you live in?

Larry Brown: Fort Wayne Community.

Darren Vogt: Pleasant Township. Their advertised rate for Perry Township was 6.72%. The advertised rate for Pleasant is 3.33%. They do not anticipate going over the 2.7%. They have a Rainy Day Fund balance of \$1,726 and for cemetery improvements as needed. Possible \$500 raise to the Trustee and a \$50 raise for Board members.

Roy Buskirk: Do you happen to know what they are paid now?

Nick Jordan: No but I can look that up.

Darren Vogt: Scipio Township, we are getting closer to the end. Their advertised rate was 7.12% and they did not provide answers to the questions. Are there any comments on Scipio?

Roy Buskirk: Their proposed budget is pretty flat. I wouldn't anticipate them going over the 2.7%.

Darren Vogt: Moving on to Springfield Township and their advertised rate is 47.82%. They do not anticipate going over the 2.7%. The balance in the Rainy Day Fund is \$21,707 and it will be used to offset the regular expenses in order to lower the tax rates to their taxpayers. That is an interesting comment based on the 47.82%.

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Tera Klutz: It looks like the debt is one of the levies that are significantly increasing.

Darren Vogt: I was going to go back to that but thank you. They answered No on the raises. If you go back to the debt service for fire equipment and it is the biggest increase along with the fire above it, the fire line above it. I am assuming that the budget stayed the same on that. The first fire line is proposed so are they paying debt out of that one too?

Roy Buskirk: They are not paying any more on the fire equipment debt. The same as it was in 2014. The one thing I noticed was that in 2014 they had zero for the Rainy Day Fund and in 2015 they have \$20,000.

Darren Vogt: So they plan on using some of the Rainy Day Fund which was \$21,000. They are planning on using the \$21,000 to help offset. They really have some expenditures going on but we don't know what they are. If you look, their lease payment has gone up as well.

Roy Buskirk: That must be a fire station?

Darren Vogt: Well, I don't know the answer to that. It all has to do I am going to guess, with the fire.

Tera Klutz: It looks like the budget increases for those debt service funds. When you see the budget stay relatively the same from year to year and an increase levy, a lot of times it is due to funding an operating balance in the fund to allow you to make that final payment when you don't have a tax rate the next year. Recently the DLGF has limited the amount you can raise in an operating balance for any new debt that you would go into. Now it is up to 50% of your debt service for that year. Property taxes are collected and we won't get them until June 30th but if you have a debt payment that is due in January, you want to have the money ahead of time. They have decreased that to 20% or 25% for new debt issued. I don't know if this is "we had better get this now so we can make our last payment" because that is what it appears to be in the lease rental and the fire debt service.

Darren Vogt: Could be. Are there any other questions on Springfield? We are now onto St. Joe Township. They advertised an increase of 25%. Their response was that they anticipate going over the 2.7%. They have used their cash balances in prior years and now need to increase their levies to ensure that their funds maintain positive balances and services can be provided. They have a Rainy Day Fund balance of \$130,000 and there is nothing particular that they plan on using it for but possibly for fire and Township Assistance. Their employee raises are going to be three percent. They do budget the Rainy Day Fund at the entire \$130,000.

Roy Buskirk: The Township employees, are part of them with the Fire Department? Didn't they turn that over to the City?

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Darren Vogt: No.

Nick Jordan: No, they set up a corporation, I think.

Darren Vogt: If you notice...

Larry Brown: They turned over ambulance to TRAA.

Roy Buskirk: Okay.

Larry Brown: But they are maintaining Township Fire along with the City of Fort Wayne in the incorporated area. I think they have a contract with an adjoining Township.

Bob Armstrong: Mutual aid?

Larry Brown: I don't think it is mutual aid. I think they provide a faster response time.

Roy Buskirk: I think you are right. Otherwise, how can you justify a Fire Department for such a small area?

Darren Vogt: This will be an excess levy appeal. Am I reading that right? It has to be.

Tera Klutz: Unless they have banked levy and I think that they did.

Nick Jordan: Kind of like the City and it will be the same thing when we get to Wayne. They are going to capture their max levy that they didn't in prior years.

Darren Vogt: It would be interesting to see how long it took them to drain down the cash balances and maybe they could have increased the levy slowly over time versus doing it all at one particular time. When you are nearly tripling your General Fund spending, it is going to increase your levy which in turn increases the rate. Am I right?

Tera Klutz: You are correct. It took a lot of political will to lower their levy in the prior years when they had a cash balance. It took years of pressure to trust the Legislature to not take that banked levy away from them and to use it all the way down. Particularly in St. Joe Township that took the max every year and then had significant balances. I believe they did use it over three years. Now they need it and though it appears to be a very large increase, the taxpayers that are at the caps really won't feel it but the people in the unincorporated area that will notice it the most.

Darren Vogt: So 6,000 homes will feel it but everyone else won't.

Tera Klutz: Right.

Roy Buskirk: That will affect our revenue also.

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Tera Klutz: Oh, yeah.

Darren Vogt: Yes.

Tera Klutz: But thankfully, we got to collect more when they didn't raise up to their max.

Darren Vogt: I guess my only point was if there was a smoother way to do it versus an all at once kind of thing.

Tera Klutz: They didn't have to cut as drastically but at the same time, it's hard because we want them to.

Darren Vogt: And we are not there living it and breathing it daily so it is a challenge. I am not casting stones by any stretch of the imagination.

Tera Klutz: They could have raised their levy a little bit last year to offset this big increase.

Nick Jordan: The Pleasant Township Board members were paid \$650 for 2013.

Roy Buskirk: And they were proposing a \$50 increase. If nobody realized that Pleasant is my Township.

Darren Vogt: All right, we are on to Washington Township. Their advertised levy increase is 15.63%. They did not provide answers to our questions. They have a Rainy Day Fund balance and they budget it. The Township Assistance line is up a significant amount. Their General decreased from \$46,000 to \$22,000. Are there any questions on Washington Township?

Roy Buskirk: Yeah, they didn't respond to item number three. They are probably giving the Board a pay raise.

Larry Brown: No, that is not correct. You will be happy to know that they decreased the pay.

Roy Buskirk: Is that right?

Larry Brown: Yes.

Darren Vogt: That was one that was like \$1,600 compared to everybody else.

Roy Buskirk: \$1,600 it was like \$4,000. Do you know what they cut it?

Larry Brown: No, I do not.

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Tera Klutz: Nick is on it.

Nick Jordan: It will just take a second. They were paid \$2,500 in 2013 and in 2014 they were paid \$2,500.

Roy Buskirk: It was \$4,000. One of them told me that he figured he made over \$100 an hour.

Darren Vogt: And they met four times a year.

Tom Harris: That number is still higher than other Board members.

Nick Jordan: It was \$4,500 in 2012 for Washington.

Darren Vogt: Did I do Washington Township?

Tera Klutz: That is the one we are on right now. He is looking up Wayne.

Darren Vogt: Wayne Township has an estimated levy increase of 16.43%. It says raises for all employees except for the Trustee and Board members. They anticipate restoring their banked levy to the original amount. They are going to get some banked levy back. The Rainy Day Fund balance is about \$1,000 and Township Assistance is what they plan on using it for. They expect a two percent raise for employees. Are there any questions on Wayne Township?

Tera Klutz: I think Nick has those numbers.

Nick Jordan: In 2012, they were paid \$6,807 apiece and the same thing for 2013. In 2014, it was right around the same figure.

Darren Vogt: All right, we are now on the City of Woodburn.

Nick Jordan: Before you start on the Woodburn, these were late deliveries and that is why they are not on there. Woodburn is No to going over the 2.7%. The Rainy Day Fund balance is \$228,719 and raises are unknown at this point.

Darren Vogt: Their advertised levy is 16.66%. Council, are there any questions on the City of Woodburn?

Roy Buskirk: Yeah, I am just curious is there a river or something out there? Why do they get riverboat money of \$9,000?

Nick Jordan: You may see that on the Cities and Towns, not all of them put it on here but they do receive it. It is a share of what is collected at the riverboat locations and distributed on population.

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Roy Buskirk: I never noticed it on the other ones.

Darren Vogt: Cities, Towns and Counties.

Tera Klutz: There is \$33 million that has been pulled from the revenue from the riverboats and that has been shared with the Counties that do not have a riverboat. It is allocated based on population in Counties, Cities and Towns in that County. We started off strong and then the annexations hit. We are down to \$400 thousand or so.

Roy Buskirk: So it is gradually reducing?

Tera Klutz: Not the full bucket of \$33 million. Since it is based on population, as our population shrinks the Cities and Towns go up.

Roy Buskirk: Oh, okay.

Darren Vogt: As they take our population, more goes to them.

Roy Buskirk: I've got it.

Darren Vogt: Are there any questions on Woodburn? We have reached the end of our non-binding review. Now, we have to make recommendations at this particular point in time.

Tera Klutz: I drafted a statement if you want to look at it and see if it will work for you.

Darren Vogt: We'll see. Would you like to read that statement since you have it over there?

Tera Klutz: To see if it is something that you guys would consider? "We have reviewed the proposed budgets, levies and tax rates for 2015 and compared said budgets and levies to the Statewide Average Growth Quotient, the County-wide Average Growth Quotient, the County-wide Proposed Budget and Levy increases within the County. We recommend that the respective Tax Unit not exceed the Statewide Growth Quotient of 2.7% for their proposed tax levy when adopting their 2015 budget."

Roy Buskirk: The only...

Tera Klutz: Except for the people doing the banked levy.

Roy Buskirk: Exactly.

Tera Klutz: We would have to do another one for St. Joe and Wayne Townships.

Roy Buskirk: They would just change the wording.

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Darren Vogt: Or just as “With the exception of” at the end of the letter.

Roy Buskirk: But if you do that the other ones are going to wonder what the exceptions are.

Tera Klutz: I would do those two different wordings because there is not that much room in the box anyway. We are trying to fit it into that small box. You might want to make a similar recommendation for St. Joe and Wayne but reword it.

Darren Vogt: Okay. When do you need me to sign these?

Nick Jordan: I have your electronic signature. I will send you a draft and you can approve it through email and then I will put your signature on it.

Tera Klutz: I would like a formal motion with recommendations from somebody on Council.

Tom Harris: I will make that motion. I have to read it again?

Darren Vogt: Yes you do.

Tom Harris: We have reviewed the proposed budgets, levies and tax rates for 2015 and compared said budgets and levies to the Statewide Average Growth Quotient, the County Average Growth Quotient, the County-wide Average Proposed Budget and Levy increases within the County. We recommend that the respective Tax Unit not exceed the Statewide Growth Quotient of 2.7% for their proposed tax levy when adopting their 2015 budget for all of the units except St. Joe Township and Wayne Township.

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 7-0. Now we will need one motion that will include St. Joe and Wayne. I thought there was another one in there.

Nick Jordan: New Haven for their 27th pay but I don't think it will be.

Roy Buskirk: But New Haven is not using excess levy.

Darren Vogt: They say they are.

Nick Jordan: She responded yes but I think it is just confusion.

Darren Vogt: We are going to make that recommendation to them anyway to stay within it. Council, while we are doing the other letter, I will let you know that the November meeting is being changed to the 25th at 8:30 in this room.

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Larry Brown: Instead of?

Darren Vogt: Instead of November 20th.

Bill Brown: I would like to make a motion for a letter to be sent out to St. Joe Township and Wayne Township. We have reviewed the proposed budgets, levies and tax rates for 2015 and compared said budgets and levies to the Statewide Average Growth Quotient, the County Average Growth Quotient, the County-wide Average Proposed Budget and Levy increases within the County. We recommend that St. Joe and Wayne Townships not exceed the Statewide Growth Quotient of 2.7% for their proposed tax levy when adopting their 2015 budget except to capture their banked levy as necessary to pay for Township Assistance.

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 7-0. Are there any other comments from Council? Tomorrow we will meet and have our regular Council meeting followed by budget discussions.

Roy Buskirk: Move to adjourn.

Bob Armstrong: Second.

Darren Vogt : 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 10:11.