

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 16, 2015
8:30 AM

The Allen County Council met on Thursday, April 16, 2015 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, Joel M. Benz, Larry L. Brown, William E. Brown, Roy A. Buskirk, Tom A. Harris and Sharon L. Tucker.

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 Tom Harris with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silent prayer.

Tom Harris: Good morning everyone. First on the agenda is the approval of the March 19th meeting minutes. Are there any additions or corrections?

Roy Buskirk: Move to approve the minutes from March 19, 2015.

Bob Armstrong: Second.

Tom Harris: All in favor signify by saying aye, opposed, same sign. The motion passes 7-0. Next is the financial report, Tera.

Tera Klutz: Good morning, Council members. In your packet is the March 2015 financial report showing that we are a quarter through the year. We have only received about seven percent of our income revenue for the year but that is expected as we normally get a lot more in the second quarter of the year with property tax and excise tax and some of the other larger tax revenue sources. We have spent about 22% of the General Fund budget through the quarter and everything appears to be tracking on for 2015.

Tom Harris: Okay, great. Are there any questions or comments for the Auditor?

Larry Brown: I offer a motion to approve the financial report.

Roy Buskirk: Second.

Tom Harris: We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye, all opposed same. The motion passes 7-0. Next is the unemployment rate, Nick.

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Nick Jordan: Good morning, Council. On your agenda you see the January and February non-seasonally adjusted unemployment rates. Allen County went from 6.6% to 5.9%. Indiana went from 6.7% to 6.1% and the national went from 6.1% to 5.8%.

Tom Harris: Are there any questions on that? Thank you very much for that. The total appropriations requested in other funds are \$6,457. Before we move to the Sheriff's Department for the first items on the agenda, we are going to hear from the Board of Health and Mindy is going to talk to us about the item that she has. She has another appointment this morning and we will take a look at her request.

Mindy Waldron: Good morning, Mindy Waldron, Administrator of the Fort Wayne-Allen County Department of Health. It was my understanding that Tracy asked for this to be expedited and I do appreciate it. I will just go ahead and tell you because this is a fairly easy issue. We have a position that is an Environmental Health Specialist that will become vacant tomorrow. It has been reviewed a couple of times but I had approached HR last month about possibly reclassifying that because it had gone through some changes in the last couple of years and doesn't have oversight anymore. It doesn't really do similar things like when it was classified at the time because we have made some changes in that division. They agreed and we would like to reclassify that from a PAT 4 to a PAT 3 effective as soon as you can do that. We have the position posted and are currently interviewing. We thought this was a good time to make that change. I am glad to entertain any questions.

Tom Harris: So that is a PAT 4 to a PAT 3.

Roy Buskirk: The one thing in bringing it before the Personnel Committee is the fact that they have no supervision and previously they did.

Mindy Waldron: Correct.

Roy Buskirk: So the position is vacant and she is reducing the salary.

Tom Harris: Are there any questions for Mindy?

Bill Brown: I will make a motion for a salary ordinance amending the pay for an employee within the budget of the Allen County Board of Health, 285-7302-441 for the Environmental Specialist, PAT 4/2 with a salary of \$42,383 to PAT 3/2 at \$37,662.

Joel Benz: Second.

Larry Brown: You need to include the effective date.

Bill Brown: The effective date is April 20, 2015.

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tom Harris: We have a motion and a second. Are there other thoughts, questions, comments or concerns? All in favor say aye, all opposed same. The motion passes 7-0.

Mindy Waldron: Thank you very much.

Tom Harris: With that we will move back to the agenda and we will look at the Sheriff's Department and they are requesting permission to apply for the Drug and Alcohol Consortium Grant to purchase in-car cameras as well as a grant for housing criminal aliens. Did anyone hear from the Sheriff's Department? I have spoken to them and they indicated that they would probably not be here. We have passed this throughout the years and this is something that they do on an annual basis. This is an opportunity for them to provide machinery equipment and such for OWI processes in the County. With that I would accept a motion for approval to apply for the DAC grant and the SCAAP grant.

Bill Brown: I make a motion for permission to apply for the Drug and Alcohol Consortium grant to purchase in-car cameras and also for permission to apply for the SCAAP grant for expenses for housing criminal aliens.

Bob Armstrong: Second.

Tom Harris: We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye, all opposed same. The motion passes 7-0. Next up is the Prosecutor's Office with a request for permission to apply for a grant.

Mike McAlexander: I am Mike McAlexander, Chief Deputy Prosecutor. As you just approved with the Sheriff's Office, the Drug and Alcohol Consortium does an annual grant program in several different areas and most of the people will be requesting various types of equipment. Later, the DAC people will be in front of Council to seek approval of the recommendations that they ultimately make. We are here to ask for your permission to apply for it. Sometimes, on these, there is a fairly narrow window and so we actually already applied for it. The DAC Board will meet eventually to approve the recommendations to bring to you and the Commissioners. What we are asking for is, as you may or may not know we have three different locations in Allen County where we operate breath testing machines for drunk drivers. In the process, we have added a second room that should be opening in the next couple of weeks, at the Jail. There is also one at the ISP Post and one at New Haven. What we want to do with the new room that we have added is go to the iRecord System that the County and City uses in their interview rooms. We have moved towards that in the new room at the Jail and the existing room at the Jail. We want to do that also for ISP and New Haven.

Tom Harris: Mike, the amount on this is approximately \$15,000?

Mike McAlexander: \$14,900.

Tom Harris: Is this the first time that you have applied for this grant?

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Mike McAlexander: No, we actually have been back here several times waiting for the new breath machines to be provided to us by the State. That was finally done last year. That is why we are getting the additional room updated.

Tom Harris: Okay, are there any questions?

Roy Buskirk: Yes, are there matching funds or anything of that type?

Mike McAlexander: This is for equipment and so we ask for the amount of the cost of it. If there is any change in that between the time of the bid and implementation of it, we will cover that.

Roy Buskirk: From what I read, there are no matching funds or anything. I just wanted to bring that out that there is no expense to the County and there is an opportunity to pick up some equipment.

Tom Harris: Are there any other questions?

Bill Brown: I will make a motion to approve the request for permission to apply for the Drug and Alcohol Consortium grant to purchase equipment for the second OWI testing room.

Sharon Tucker: I second that.

Tom Harris: I'm sorry?

Tera Klutz: They have another grant.

Bill Brown: A motion to approve the permission to apply for renewal of the Domestic Violence Coordinator position through the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute.

Mike McAlexander: I was going to mention that separately.

Tera Klutz: You can still talk about it.

Tom Harris: We have had a motion for both grants, at this point.

Bob Armstrong: Second.

Tom Harris: Is there any further discussion? Mike, I will turn it over to you if you want to address this second one as well.

Mike McAlexander: The second one just opened and we asked permission and were given it to bring it to you now. Most of these grants have a 30-day window or less and it is really hard to get here before they become due. This is a position that we have had

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

funded by the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute for the last ten years or so. This is a person who works on domestic violence and that is her complete focus. We found this to be very valuable to have someone to look into that as well as coordinate with Police agencies for educational training and community groups about the problems of domestic violence.

Tom Harris: And this represents how much?

Mike McAlexander: I believe it is for \$49,000. Anything that is different from that we will pay out of the IDP funds.

Tom Harris: In both cases, these are State funding?

Mike McAlexander: DAC is actually kind of a hybrid pursuant to State statute but it is actually funded by everyone who is convicted of OWI's and certain drug offenses that pay countermeasure fees.

Tom Harris: Council, we have a motion and a second. Are there any questions for Mike in regards to these grants? All in favor say aye, all opposed same. The motion passes 7-0. The next item on the agenda is the Wayne Township Assessor.

Bev Zuber: Good morning, Bev Zuber, Wayne Township Assessor. This is Sam Walker, Chief Deputy. We are here to ask to transfer funds and Sam is going to walk you through the paper that he just handed out to you.

Sam Walker: Good morning, Council. The first page is the page that I emailed out to the Council a few days ago. That was to give you a heads-up on what we are actually requesting. I printed one off in case you didn't get a chance to. Also, the second page is more informational as to what the conference actually offers to those in attendance. I would be more than happy to walk you through the paper if there are any questions. What we are asking is just to transfer money from two salary lines. One employee left for the private sector in October and the other transferred to the County Assessor in February. That is why there are these additional funds. If you have any questions, I would be more than happy to answer them.

Tom Harris: Council, are there any questions, at this point?

Sharon Tucker: Will this class provide certifications or designations for the staff that is attending?

Sam Walker: It will give us Continuing Education hours. For any certifications or designations, there are specific classes that need to be taken. For the most part, those are offered outside of any conferences. This is mostly for Continuing Education. On a more personal level, for me, this is the first time that Indiana has hosted this conference. It will be the only time that Indiana will host it for quite some time. This is the international conference and we have people coming from South Africa, Pakistan and Australia. There

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

are a lot of networking opportunities and a lot of chances to get ideas. What it boils down to is we are all in the same boat as far as assessments go. We are able to get a lot of ideas from all sorts of jurisdictions across the world.

Bev Zuber: In addition to the fact that this is the IAAO which is the internationally renowned authority on assessing. It is a huge opportunity.

Roy Buskirk: I am curious, they do assessing in Africa?

Sam Walker: They actually do. I believe they had five dignitaries that came. Granted, it will be a little different from what we have here in the United States because of the demographics. They levy property taxes in almost every country, as far as I am aware.

Roy Buskirk: Thank you for the education.

Joel Benz: Is this the first time anyone from your office has gone to this?

Sam Walker: I actually went last year. I am the President of the ICIAO which is the Indiana chapter. In preparation for this conference, I flew to Sacramento last year. The County did not pay for any of my expenses. It was all taken care of by the Executive Board. We went out there just to get an idea of what we were getting ourselves into and to see how the conference actually ran. I was able to attend one of the classes that were held by three individuals from the Netherlands. They talked about their appeals process out there. In that one class, I got more information than what I typically get at the Indiana conferences that they offer.

Tom Harris: Are there any other questions?

Sharon Tucker: I will make a motion that we transfer from the General Fund, Real Estate Appraisal Deputy, \$4,000 to Schools and Seminars for the Wayne Township Assessor.

Bob Armstrong: Second.

Tom Harris: We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye, all opposed same. The motion passes 7-0. Next on the agenda is ACJC.

Judge Heath: Judge Dan Heath from the Allen County Juvenile Center. This is an appropriation for \$4,270. I go to Holy Cross Church and when they found out we were doing some programs, they offered to raise money for us and whatever the congregation raised was matched by the District of the Lutheran Church. We told them that it would be specifically used for books for juveniles. We have online systems that derive juvenile reading to upper levels so that they can move along. We also allow juveniles to have books in their cells if they are behaving appropriately. These books would be used with a certain purpose and intent and that is to buy certain books at Lexile levels. You can take any book and go online to find out what its Lexile level is. That tells you what age

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

appropriate and grade appropriate level that book is and if a kid is slightly behind that you use that book to drive that kid's reading level. We get a lot of books from a lot of places and we use volunteers to find the Lexile levels. We end up with some gaps. It is not a perfect system. These would be used to fill in those gaps. The Lutheran Church has given this money. I told them, at the outset, we can't use it for religious books because that could run afoul of the establishment clause but it could be used to purchase books to move their reading levels along. They had no problem with that. It's a good mission anyway.

Tom Harris: That's great. Council, are there any questions? If not, I will accept a motion.

Sharon Tucker: I move that the appropriation for Department 55, ACJC, in Supplemental Education Fund for \$4,270.

Bob Armstrong: Second.

Tom Harris: We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye, all opposed same. The motion passes 7-0.

Judge Heath: The second matter was consideration of an amended salary ordinance but we are asking that it be tabled to give more time to discuss matters.

Tom Harris: Okay.

Judge Heath: I talked to President Harris yesterday and we discussed that there are a number of issues floating around. We would like to give the matter more time so that you can work on whatever questions you have.

Tom Harris: Okay, we will pull that out.

Tera Klutz: Do you want a motion to table that or do you want to withdraw it?

Tom Harris: I think it is withdrawn.

Judge Heath: For now.

Tom Harris: The next item up is Superior Court.

John McGauley: John McGauley, Court Executive for Allen Superior Court and with me is Leslie Owen, our Financial Coordinator. The items that we are here to talk about, the salary ordinance request, is reflective of a grant that we have recently been notified that we received. It is called the ICLEO Gateway Diversity grant. It is the Indiana Conference for Legal Education Opportunity. Judge Davis serves on their Board and she recently notified us last week. We missed the cutoff to ask for the appropriation and so we are just here to let you know about it and to get the salary ordinance established. That

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

is reflective of a position that will be a summer intern this year only. We received a grant for \$7,500 to bring in a summer intern to reflect the goals of that program. It is something that we probably will bring in after the first of June because we have to come back to get the approval for the appropriation of the money next month anyway. The second is a regular recurring grant that we apply for not to do something independent of the General Fund budget but to supplement it. That is money that we get every year from the State of Indiana to help supplement our needs for foreign language interpreters. That also, this year, is seeking information from us and to help us with sign language interpretation. There was a recent Court ruling in a southern district of Indiana that unfortunately has the great potential to bump up the amount of money that we have to pay for interpreters. The Federal Court found in an ADA case that local Courts have to pay for sign language interpreters for certain non-party participants in a case. For example, in the case in southern Indiana, it was the son of the person whose Court case was before the Court. He asked the Court to pay for the sign language interpreter, they declined, he sued and the Court lost. They are looking into that this year and seeking to help with those expenses. I don't have to tell you that our expenses for interpretation services are never going to go down. They tend to tick up every year and we predict that to be the case again this year.

Tom Harris: John, what is the amount of that grant?

John McGauley: We don't get to tell them how much we want. What we do is prepare for them the statistics for what we are doing currently and what we predict will be the case in 2015. Last year, the grant award was about \$36,000. We will be pleasantly surprised when we hear what the State believes we need.

Tom Harris: Okay, Council, are there any questions?

Roy Buskirk: I would like to make a comment. I really appreciate the information about the interpreters and how many different languages that we have in Allen County and how many hours we have had to hire and retain interpreters. It is amazing. It is just really amazing how often we have to hire interpreters.

John McGauley: It is an all day, every day affair for us. There are several languages that are predominate and we have to seek help with, Spanish and Burmese among them. I think I told Councilman Benz about this recently but we had to go out and crowdsource on social media to help us find a Romanian. We had a native, Romanian defendant that needed interpreter services. None of our usual wells that we go to could come up with a Romanian. We took it out to social media and found someone working on Chuck Surack's staff at Sweetwater Sound. We are constantly on the search for interpreters.

Roy Buskirk: The one thing that upsets me a little bit is the fact that it seems like, in this country, we almost encourage people to maintain their native tongue because we supply so much for drivers' license tests and such in the different foreign languages instead of encouraging them to learn English.

Tom Harris: That was a comment rather than a question, right?

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Roy Buskirk: It was a comment.

Joel Benz: I also have a comment. The ICLEO grant is a one-time deal and the only time we will get it, for a while?

John McGauley: We are one of two Counties in the State and I believe Henry County was the other one. With the amount of money that they have available, I don't see it coming back to us. We anticipate this being a one-time deal for this summer. It is to meet the program needs of ICLEO and will be working in Judge Davis' office.

Tom Harris: Council, are there any other questions? We have two items in front of us and we can split those up. The first one is a salary ordinance.

Joel Benz: I will make a motion for Department 62, Superior Court, to consider a salary ordinance establishing the pay for an Extra Deputy Hire with a range of \$10 to \$25 per hour.

Roy Buskirk: Second.

Tom Harris: We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye, all opposed same. The motion passes 7-0. The second item is permission to apply for the Court Interpreter grant.

Roy Buskirk: So moved.

Joel Benz: Second.

Tom Harris: We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye, all opposed same. The motion passes 7-0. The next item up is Community Corrections.

Jeff Stevens: My name is Jeff Stevens and I am the Senior Finance Manager for Allen County Community Corrections. I am here today with two items on your agenda. The first is an additional appropriation request in the amount of \$2,187 from our Fund 832, Allen County Community Corrections Commissary Depository Account. What this amount represents is the remaining unappropriated balance of the funds in that account. The goal of this is to have the ability to spend the remaining cash balance in that fund before the end of our fiscal year which is coming up on June 30th. The reason for the spending and why we want to do this is that the fund was only used for Kelley House purposes and as you know, the Kelley House is no longer in operation. I want to clarify that this is not additional spending to Community Corrections. This will supplement what we would normally spend from our Project Income. I will answer any questions.

Tom Harris: Council, are there any questions?

Bob Armstrong: What are you doing with the Kelley House?

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Jeff Stevens: The Commissioners or the County are the owners of the Kelley House property. All of the equipment that was used in the operations has all been auctioned or what have you. At this point, I think they have been entertaining some people for walk-throughs. I don't really know much more than that.

Bob Armstrong: Okay, thank you.

Tom Harris: That is on the Commissioners' docket to deal with. With that the first item was \$2,187. Is there a motion for that?

Bill Brown: I will make the motion to appropriate in the ACCC Commissary Depository Account Fund 832 for Other Supplies in the amount of \$2,187.

Larry Brown: Second.

Tom Harris: We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye, all opposed same. The motion passes 7-0. The second item.

Jeff Stevens: This is relating to the first, this is a transfer between series in Fund 832. The amount of that is \$6,317. Again, the purpose is to be able to put that cash in a place for us to spend it by the end of the fiscal year.

Tom Harris: That is going into the Rent/Lease line.

Jeff Stevens: Yes.

Tom Harris: Council, are there any questions?

Roy Buskirk: Yes, the Rent/Lease of what?

Jeff Stevens: We pay the Commissioners an annual rent for the Superior Street location for Community Corrections.

Roy Buskirk: Okay.

Jeff Stevens: That comes from our Project Income. We are going to supplement what is left in Fund 832.

Roy Buskirk: And that is the entire balance that you currently have in the Commissary Account?

Jeff Stevens: Yes.

Bill Brown: I will make a motion to transfer in the ACCC Commissary Depository Account Fund 832 from Other Supplies to Rent/Lease in the amount of \$6,317.

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Bob Armstrong: Second.

Tom Harris: We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye, all opposed same. The motion passes 7-0. The next item is the Department of Planning Services.

Kim Bowman: Kim Bowman, Executive Director of the Department of Planning Services.

Tracy Mitchener: Good morning, Tracy Mitchener, Assistant HR Director.

Dawn Kennedy: Dawn Kennedy, Compensation Specialist.

Tracy Mitchener: We have reviewed the Economic Development Specialist and we are recommending it go from a PAT 4 to PAT 5. I think this is one of the positions that you are very familiar with. This position comes to you often for tax abatements etc. Kim will explain more.

Kim Bowman: With Nikki Liter resigning in January, it gave us an opportunity to review the functions of the Economic Development staff and we found that there are a couple of things that have changed since Nikki was hired three-and-a-half or four years ago. One of the things is the Redevelopment Commission is getting more into the Land Banking Program which requires more specialized skills as far as legal ads, site analysis and working with contractors. In addition, we are working with Accela for tax abatements and companies to apply through Accela. With some of the projects in the work plan for the Redevelopment Commission, there is a need for more specialized GIS skills. We are looking more for a little bit of more technical skills and along with the previous job responsibilities, we are kind of adding on. Because of that I think that is the reason for increasing the job from PAT 4 to PAT 5. This job is funded through the DPS CEDIT fund and there is enough money in this year's 329 DPS Fund to cover the increase. With that I can answer any questions.

Roy Buskirk: Is this position with the City? Is this on the 60/40 pay?

Kim Bowman: No.

Bill Brown: I will make a motion to approve the salary ordinance amending the pay for an Economic Development Specialist, PAT 4/2, \$45,208 to PAT 5/2 at \$49,687.

Sharon Tucker: Second.

Tom Harris: We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye, all opposed same. The motion passes 7-0. Thank you very much. Items before us, as far as Other Discussion and such, first is the update on the joint City/Council Committee discussing vacant building and 20-year personal property tax phase-ins. Is Mark here? I think he was anticipating that it wouldn't be for another hour.

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Nick Jordan: He is coming down the stairs right now.

Tom Harris: After we hear from Mark we will have a discussion in terms of the Election Board and electronic poll books and voting machines.

Mark Royse: Mark Royse, Director of Redevelopment for Allen County. This is just an update of the joint committee of City Council and County Council on tax abatements. Basically, the County representatives are Councilmen Harris, Larry Brown and Buskirk. We have met with staff of the City between our meetings. There are two issues and one is with vacant buildings. We, as a County, have not had that issue.

Tom Harris: You might explain what that means.

Mark Royse: A vacant building is a building that sits vacant for more than a year. When a company would like to occupy that they can come in and get a reduction based on State law, tax abatement law. At one time it was 100% abatement for one year and 50% abatement for the second year. The State law changed in 2013 which allowed a legislative body or a fiscal body to give up to 100% abatement over ten years. We have not had that issue and so we have not addressed it. As I said, we have only had one. The City has different issues with vacant buildings and they may take a different approach. I have met with their staff and my recommendation or staff's recommendation would be that we follow what that policy is that the City has to do the two-year thing. I don't see us having that many going forward.

Tom Harris: With that question, have we had many? How many have we had?

Mark Royse: We have had one and that was in the Huntertown area.

Tom Harris: One at this time or one in the last two years?

Mark Royse: One at this time.

Tom Harris: And maybe over the last two or three years, how many have we had?

Mark Royse: That would be one.

Roy Buskirk: We have had one and only one.

Mark Royse: The bigger issue is the 20-year that takes effect July first. The 20-year personal property tax abatement that any fiscal body can do for 100% a year, you would set the schedule right now for properties that are under the Super Abatement. We went through this process as a joint committee two years ago and came up with a delineation of requirements that would allow a company to get more than just what the State's standard abatement was. I met with the staff of the City and we believe it needs to be addressed because it is going to be asked as some point in time. You have to set a standard that

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

would at least provide any fiscal body or community return on investment. We are looking at issues in terms of the number of jobs, at a baseline of 1,000. In investment we are looking at a huge number. The most important number is how much income tax from new payroll would that generate? You are not limited on the income tax side. You are limited on the property tax side but not on the income tax side. We would like to see something to the effect that however you choose, it is not a staff decision but a fiscal body decision, whether or not what you feel comfortable as to how much income tax is being generated compared to how much savings the company is getting from the property tax standpoint. Those are the things that we are looking at.

Tom Harris: Council, before we entertain some questions, I just want to mention that there is no action required today. This is more of an update. One of the discussions that we had during the joint committee was the fact that the General Assembly is still in session and things are still changing and evolving. We thought it would be best to wait until that is concluded before, I think the City has not taken a position yet.

Mark Royse: They as I sent out, the City staff made a presentation and there was no decision. They updated the City Council just like I am here updating you.

Tom Harris: Similarly, we are doing the same and so as the General Assembly concludes, we will have approximately one month or two months, it is July first, right?

Mark Royse: We will meet again, I believe, May 19th and then come for recommendations at your June meeting.

Tom Harris: So the intent is we are still gathering information and this is a great time to dive in and understand it a little bit further. At this point we will turn to questions and Councilman Brown.

Larry Brown: You took my thunder.

Tom Harris: Sorry about that.

Roy Buskirk: Following that up, it is kind of a gentlemen's agreement that the City and the County, is the reason that we have this committee...

Mark Royse: We are trying to align both as we did two years ago to try to keep them as close as possible with the acknowledgement the City can operate with Economic Development and target areas for retail types of operation. They may take a different approach on vacant buildings.

Roy Buskirk: There are a few things that are different between the County and the City such as doing tax phase-ins for retail and the County can't. There are some differences like that. The way you explained it, Mark, I guess I never understood it that way but this is on a vacant building only when they have somebody that is going to occupy it? I thought it was while it was standing vacant.

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Mark Royse: There are two separate statutes. There is the Tax Abatement statute that allows it when it is empty. I don't want to advertise it but if the building is sitting vacant for six months, they can go to the Assessor's Office and automatically have it reduced by 50%. All I am saying is that's why I would recommend at the most to do what the City is doing on their vacant buildings which is a two-year with 100% and 50%. You have to understand that once you have a vacant building it is already on the tax rolls. You start taking that away...

Roy Buskirk: You are taking the revenue.

Mark Royse: You start taking away tax base...it is existing tax base that you are taking away.

Tera Klutz: You want to try to incentivize someone to pick it up and make it more valuable.

Roy Buskirk: The other thing, this 20-year personal property tax phase-in, we have talked to General Motors and some other large manufacturing, the one thing here is they really feel that it wouldn't help them any because they don't keep tools or anything for 20 years. The life expectancy and the reason that they are constantly coming in for new property tax phase-in is because the equipment is obsolete and they have to upgrade it. They felt that 20 years was way too long and wouldn't help them at all. I have been checking with surrounding Counties and I have another meeting coming up before ours on the 19th with Regional 3A. I think that will have some influence on what we will be doing or recommending. My personal opinion on personal property is to do nothing on it and stay with the 10-years.

Mark Royse: I don't disagree. I think you have to address it at some point. You have to set the standard because you will be faced with it. To your point, the personal property, as we look at projections if a company files for tax abatement, we provide you with projections based on both real and personal property. The real property is given reassessment since 2002 and we have an intern, Jacob, who will be before you next month to walk you through what a company puts on the tax abatement application to what the contractor puts in terms of a building permit application and terms of when it is finally assessed. We need to retool that. The personal property, we use a pool two which is pretty much a two to five year thing on property. It is not just that a company, in fact Troy Kennedy from General Motors said that you are going to have a bigger problem if we are not coming back every four to five years with a major investment in personal property.

Tom Harris: There are quite a few things for consideration and all of these points are valid. One is how do we look in a competition or competitive mode across the country. While other States, other communities or other Counties throughout the United States is offering a benefit package to locate in their area, we should be thinking along those same lines. Otherwise it would be easy for a business to look nationwide and simply go

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

somewhere else. There are a lot of pieces but also to make sure that we look at the Counties surrounding Allen to make sure that we are not developing a competitive piece to the extent that we work against each other rather than trying to attract new economies to this area. There are a lot of things to think about. Are there any further questions for Mark, at this point?

Bill Brown: What is the economic development entity, currently Greater Fort Wayne, Inc., do they have an opinion?

Mark Royse: The only opinion that I have heard, and I sit in coordinating meetings every other week and project meetings once a month, on the surface it is a great marketing tool. It can be marketed as “Hey, you are getting 20 years tax free.” In reality, what is the bottom line? If you look at the bottom line from a business standpoint, as I referred to earlier with Troy Kennedy, it would be more fluff than stuff.

Tom Harris: Are there any other comments or questions?

Mark Royse: Any of the Council members that are not on the committee and want to weigh in on any of the topics that we are talking about...

Tom Harris: ... go see you.

Mark Royse: Or bring them up right now.

Roy Buskirk: The one thing, I guess, would be in the fact another way of doing this is they would give this as an incentive if they were extremely high paying positions of maybe 20% over the national average or something of that. That is the one thing when you are working with the numbers on a situation like this you have to remember that the City Council raised the local option income tax and if they are really good paying positions, the revenue from the wages when you might not be getting any at all from real estate or personal property.

Mark Royse: That is what I tried to explain further. That is what we have to focus on. There is no cap on income tax. What you collectively need to decide is over what period of time are you willing to forego property taxes to the point where the income tax generation either reaches a breakeven point or produces some return on investment.

Tom Harris: A simple example is if a company came in with 4,000 jobs, a large employer, we may not be collecting some of those taxes from that employer, in property taxes but those employees are now paying income tax and those funds come back to local government. As well is all of the infrastructure and additional jobs that might come with that. The additional buildings, the additional suppliers and everything that might come with that could generate additional taxes to the community.

Mark Royse: It could but we are not going to base an incentive for one company on the possibility of generating additional revenue from other companies. If you look back at

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

1984 or 1985, when General Motors was locating here, it was thought that by the time they were up and running that Airport Expressway was going to be wall-to-wall with businesses that were supplying to General Motors. We take a little different approach when we look at a project. You've got to look at it just based on business. You can't look at it on these multipliers. You can do it two ways, is the multiplier effective and the second way is your income taxes are based on employees that reside in Allen County and not where they work. That is a big issue.

Tera Klutz: So we may not get all of those 4,000 employees.

Mark Royse: Yes. Look at the facts of matter, 50% of the GM employees do not live in Allen County. 30% of Uniroyal employees don't live in Allen County. As long as they live out of State, they are at least paying a little bit.

Tom Harris: Councilman Brown.

Bill Brown: I guess that does speak to this whole concept of attraction and the ten-County region. When we look at tax abatement and those models as an incentive, it is important to look at it in the context that we all know of talent, attraction and retention. That is a weakness that we have in this region. That is where so many of these initiatives are in place to increase that factor, if you will. The higher paying jobs, the talent, attraction and retention and without it being voluminous it would be interesting to see what our package looks like. I know that is the Greater Fort Wayne Inc. piece that shows what the County can offer from an incentive standpoint. What else is there in the market, so to speak, for attraction so that we have a little broader look at what the full package is? I am not so sure that is something that you would create. What is your opinion on that?

Mark Royse: It is interesting when you are looking at multiple levels in terms of the focus right now should be on infrastructure and job training. I said that back in 1991 and those are the two biggest drivers. We still have a workforce that has a gap between skill sets and what the labor market is requiring right now. Is that the purview of County Economic Development? I don't think so. It goes beyond that. Infrastructure, sure it is. It is something that maybe isn't in our department but County-wide we can address. You can throw as much money at a company as you want to but until you address the bottom line factors, it doesn't matter.

Tom Harris: The challenge for Council is to understand both the fiscal impact, a short run, but also strategic in the long run. Our next steps, by the way, we will be meeting with the joint committee in May and then be able to come back to this meeting to have further discussion. In the June meeting we would make a decision which would be effective in July. Is that accurate?

Mark Royse: I believe the way we want to do it is to have it in place before July first.

Tom Harris: Okay.

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Mark Royse: It could go to the July meeting because it is doubtful there would be someone coming between July first and your next Council meeting demanding a 20-year abatement on personal property.

Roy Buskirk: On the 20 years for personal property, I was trying to run through my mind as far as any requirement to make sure that they had not disposed of the asset in less than 20 years. They would want to take it off because they still would be paying some tax on it. It is not 100% abatement over the 20 years.

Mark Royse: Whatever the fiscal body decides.

Roy Buskirk: Okay. This is a question for the Auditor. I will let you off the hook, Mark.

Tera Klutz: He is doing a great job. He is representing us very well.

Roy Buskirk: We have had problems in the past on all equipment being reported. We had discussed a couple of years ago the possibility of hiring a firm to do that. How do you feel that is running now? Do you have any feelings on that?

Tera Klutz: That is actually not my office. It is the Assessor.

Roy Buskirk: You are correct.

Tera Klutz: We did a homestead audit with the same company that the Assessor hired to do the personal property audit.

Roy Buskirk: Okay, thank you.

Tom Harris: That might be something that we look further into. Council, are there any other questions? Thank you, Mark, we look forward to talking to you again.

Mark Royse: We will be back in June.

Tom Harris: All right, next item on the agenda is the Election Board to discuss electronic poll books and voting machines. Again, no action is to be taken on this at this time.

Beth Dlug: Beth Dlug, Director of Elections. I'd like to thank everybody for the opportunity to talk about some investments that we would like to make with Allen County elections. It occurred to us during this municipal election year that we charge the municipalities for our services in administering their elections. I would like to ask County Council to reinvest those funds in election technology, specifically in electronic poll books. There are jurisdictions in 24 States and 23 Indiana Counties that currently use electronic poll books instead of paper poll books. The 2014 Presidential Commission on Election Administration recommended that all jurisdictions transition to electronic poll books. Electronic poll books automate manual processes for basically three election

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

functions and that is eligibility checks, record of voter activity and audit trails. It replaces the traditional process of paper poll books with electronic equipment that uses a Google-like search to find voters rather than sifting through alphabetical lists of voters. It automates the sign-in process and ballot election process on a device similar to what you would see in a grocery store. You sign the tablet, get a receipt and go to the voting machine. It would solve many problems that we see on Election Day including poll workers dealing with increasingly complex election procedures and trying to train on these increasingly complex processes for seasonal workers with limited opportunities to practice what we are teaching them, failing to record ballot selection, failing to get voter signatures on the correct voter line and failing to find the correct voter record in an efficient amount of time. We see opportunities for efficiency in eliminating inconsistent and uneven A through K lines that are in the polling locations. We believe we will need fewer workers for voter check-in. We will be able to send voters to the correct location without making phone calls downtown. We will be able to scan in driver's licenses to obtain voter records. We will be able to get immediate signature counts for audits against the voting machines. Faster transfer of voter history to the State-wide Voter Registration system. As far as some cost efficiencies, we are going to need fewer personnel for Election Day phone calls that ask where people should go to vote, fewer personnel to scan in signatures after Election Day and we will not need Election Day couriers or Assistant Clerks at the polling locations to manage voter lines. We will be able to get a lot of data for election improvements. We will be able to track voter flow, wait times, eligibility and be able to provide watchers and political parties' real time voting information. We can actually eliminate watchers in the polling locations because we will be able to give them that right through our database. This makes for an easier Election Day for the poll workers and it increase voter confidence in the election administration. We expect to bill about \$400,000 this year to the municipalities and we would like to ask Council to set aside that amount for us to implement electronic poll books in Allen County. If we get that commitment, we will start the RFP process today. It is going to be a long process. I have a document that is 57 pages that I am going to have to edit and would involve several vendors. It will involve several County departments including Purchasing, which I have already talked to, Ed Steenman with Information Technology and I don't want to do that unless I feel that there is some commitment on the part of County Council to fund that.

Tom Harris: Before we open it up to a number of questions here, first would be what the cost is of the RFP process if we were to say go ahead with that step before we approve the overall plan.

Beth Dlug: There is no cost and Bob can talk about the Purchasing end of it.

Bob Bolenbaugh: Bob Bolenbaugh, Allen County Purchasing Director. The cost would be the overhead cost associated with our time. Beth has invested a lot of time already and I have only invested two hours so far. As far as hard cost, it would just be the overhead cost.

Tom Harris: For labor to look into it.

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Bob Bolenbaugh: Yes, the attorney, Purchasing and IT.

Tom Harris: The time is such that let's say Council approves the process to move forward, when are you planning on doing this?

Beth Dlug: We would actually like to put them in place in November. It is a small enough election that I have defined a timeline that if I am able to open the RFP process by the end of May, we believe we will have the equipment on site and ready to go by August.

Tom Harris: So this would impact a Fort Wayne City Election and other Cities around us or just the City of Fort Wayne?

Beth Dlug: Just the City of Fort Wayne but there will be fewer precincts involved in it and fewer poll workers involved. I definitely would not want to try this on a Presidential election year although I think we need it for a Presidential election to try to implement something like this when there is so much volume.

Tom Harris: Beth, one of the questions that I had asked was the feedback from the Board. Your Board represents two parties, Republican and Democrat parties and the feedback from each of those parties is they would be in favor of this?

Beth Dlug: They want to move forward with it this year.

Tom Harris: Council, we will open it up for other questions. Sharon.

Sharon Tucker: Beth, does the poll book operate off of Wi-Fi?

Beth Dlug: It is technology that would be similar to what Spillman uses. It would be through a VPN connection. We would have an internet connection that would go through VPN to a server that would be downtown. It would be set up so that even if we lost that connection we would still be able to check people in because the database would be on the poll book. It is a little bit different from vote centers; we are not going to vote centers but going to electronic poll books. You have to have electronic poll books before you go to vote centers. It would not be that we would be so dependent that the internet connection has to operate.

Sharon Tucker: Would we still have to have the paper books for backup if something happened at a precinct where the poll book wasn't working?

Beth Dlug: We might do that the first time. I think everyone who has done it the first time, the security of that paper just in case but we would have two at each location and the chances of both of them going down at the same time.

Tom Harris: Beth, a couple...I'm sorry, Sharon, are there any more questions?

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Sharon Tucker: Just one last question. You provided really good reasons why we should do this but are there any downsides to it that you see?

Beth Dlug: Obviously it is expensive. We are looking at a process that we anticipate will cost somewhere around \$400,000 to make the additional purchase. We are going to have an annual maintenance fee that is more than what we usually have. That is a concern. We feel that with the reduction of personnel at some of these polling locations, we won't need greeters and assistant clerks. At this point, we feel that we will break even. Instead of having personnel, we will have the cost of maintaining the equipment.

Tom Harris: The approximate maintenance fee, do you know how much?

Beth Dlug: I am going to say between \$30,000 and \$35,000 a year. That is what I have seen.

Tom Harris: A couple of more questions from me. How does this impact the concept of vote centers? Does this allow that in the future or does that slow it down? Does it keep it from happening? What are your thoughts on this?

Beth Dlug: You can't have vote centers without electronic poll books. It could be a step in the right direction. My biggest concern about vote centers is more of a building situation, the types of polling locations that we have. Right now we assign polling locations and we can control voter surges. We know that a certain amount of people are going to be going to this location. We feel that there is enough parking and the space is big enough for us to handle that controlled amount of people. When you take that control off and say that anybody can go anywhere then you have a situation where all of these buildings will not be able to accept a surge of voters. The whole idea is that it is supposed to be convenient.

Tom Harris: I'm sorry, I guess that gets into the voting centers and that is a separate issue. What I wanted to do is understand if this prevents the opportunity to move forward with voting centers or allows the opportunity to move forward. You are saying this allows the opportunity.

Beth Dlug: You can't do it without this but if we would actually go to voting centers...

Tom Harris: ...is something that we could discuss later.

Beth Dlug: Right.

Tom Harris: How about other Counties around us or in the State, have they also gone to the electronic poll books?

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Beth Dlug: There are 23 Counties right now that are using electronic poll books. Sixteen of those are vote center Counties and the rest are non-vote centers. The largest one that is not doing the vote center is Lake County. They have 350,000 registered voters.

Tom Harris: And they are not doing that?

Beth Dlug: They are not going to vote centers.

Tom Harris: And Marion County, I mean not vote centers but electronic poll books.

Beth Dlug: I don't think Marion County has electronic poll books. Lake County has electronic poll books. They just went to them last year but they are not implementing vote centers.

Tom Harris: You alluded to some of the Federal requirements and are they saying that States, Counties and local communities have to move to this direction?

Beth Dlug: No, this was a Presidential Commission on Election Administration. It was a bi-partisan group that got together.

Tom Harris: So it is not a mandate?

Beth Dlug: No it is not. It was a very thorough study of election administration.

Tom Harris: They are just saying that this is an enhancement to the process.

Beth Dlug: Correct.

Tom Harris: Council, are there any other questions?

Joel Benz: I have a couple. First of all, do you have a comparable to a County that has recently upgraded so that we can get a ballpark figure of what the cost may be?

Beth Dlug: Lake County would be the closest. Most of the Counties that have done this would be smaller. I do not know what Lake County paid.

Joel Benz: Okay. Secondly, you said the current maintenance cost would be like \$30,000 to \$35,000 a year. Do you have a ballpark again of the maintenance cost of the current poll books that you carry around and distribute? Are there going to be some cost savings there? Is that something that you can speak to?

Beth Dlug: As far as the actual cost of creating the paper poll books, I think the hard cost is somewhere around \$2,000 or \$3,000. It would be more in personnel where I think we would save money. Once we get the results in the electronic poll book, we are going to be able to push a button and send all of the voter records down to State-wide Voter Registration. This last election that we had, it took temps in the Voter Registration

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Department several weeks to go through the poll books and scan all of the signatures. We are talking several weeks of personnel costs that we would be able to...

Joel Benz: ...virtually eliminate.

Beth Dlug: Yes.

Tom Harris: Are there other questions? Sharon.

Sharon Tucker: Have you visited one of the Counties that are using the poll books to see how it actually works?

Beth Dlug: We are actually going this afternoon to see Lake County. They are doing satellites too and we are going to be doing satellite locations for this General Election coming up. We are going to look at their satellites and their poll books and see how they are doing everything.

Tera Klutz: Is the satellite early voting?

Beth Dlug: Yes.

Tom Harris: Council, are there other questions?

Roy Buskirk: Yes. You said that you are billing the City \$400,000. What is the actual cost for the County to provide voting services for the May election? I know it is not only Fort Wayne but also New Haven and others.

Beth Dlug: Right. We are basically able to bill everything except for certain months that we are not able to bill and there are certain items that we are not able to bill. If memory serves me it is almost like 75% of our expenses we are able to bill to the Cities. We divide up the cost depending on how many poll workers we send out to that City and how many voting machines we send out to that City. We are able to itemize all of those expenses. We bill a portion of our salaries, 75%, to them but only during certain months.

Roy Buskirk: Okay. Then I guess you answered this one about the voting centers and so I will skip that one. You said you would eliminate greeters? You don't need them to tell the voters to go over there? They still have to sign in.

Beth Dlug: Yes, they absolutely still need to sign in but let's say that we have three precincts in one voting location. All of the voters will be integrated into the one poll book. Everybody can go to one line, no matter what precinct they are in. They will be able to look them up with the driver's license and ask if this is you and sign here. A receipt will spit out that we give them the ballot and move them onto the voting machine. There will be one line. What the greeter does is look up in a manual book and tells them they are in the right place and this is the precinct you need to go to and go to that line over there. We won't need to do that anymore because it will just be one line.

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Roy Buskirk: Okay.

Tom Harris: That will add to that line, correct? That line is going to get very long or will you have two of those at each place?

Beth Dlug: The actual processing of the voter will take like two seconds. The backup will not be at the polling book. The backup will be at the machines.

Tom Harris: Is it fair to say that the bottleneck is there?

Beth Dlug: That is where a part of the bottleneck is.

Roy Buskirk: You talked about voting centers and Wells County has gone to voting centers. The thing you have to remember in Wells County is that there is no primary because there are not multiple candidates running for any positions and in the fall, there is only one precinct in Bluffton, Indiana that has a Republican and a Democrat. In that whole County, there is only one election. They said they had gone to voting centers but I don't think they will be using them much this year.

Tom Harris: Beth, help us understand your timeline. You are evidently looking to us for some consensus to move forward on the RFP process. If we were to say nothing today and voted on some consensus manner in May, does that put you into a situation that you could not move forward?

Beth Dlug: When is your meeting in May?

Tom Harris: May 28th.

Beth Dlug: My timeline is the 21st to put the RFP out.

Tom Harris: The 21st of?

Beth Dlug: May.

Bill Brown: I have had some conversations with Beth about this and it is very well thought out and it seems to me that it is something that we need to do. I think it seems that we can come to a consensus today.

Tom Harris: That is the approval or consensus on the RFP and not necessarily on the project as a whole.

Beth Dlug: I would come back to Council once we have gotten the quotes and came up with a particular vendor that we were interested in and to ask for the appropriation.

Tom Harris: And the timeline for that would be probably in June?

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Beth Dlug: Probably in June. When is your meeting in July?

Tom Harris: It should be the third Thursday. Oh, that's right we have two that month. It should still be the third Thursday.

Joel Benz: The 15th and 16th.

Tera Klutz: The 16th is the regular meeting. The budget allocation meeting is the 15th.

Bill Brown: Just a little clarity on my request for consensus. I do like to have time to think about things but because it isn't an overhead issue, you have the people that can work on it and it is really no cost.

Beth Dlug: Right.

Bill Brown: You are not going to be spending additional money creating the RFP.

Beth Dlug: I don't want to involve a lot of vendors in the process. I am not asking you to say yes you will give me the money. If you say that there is absolutely no money and don't even think about it, I will move on.

Roy Buskirk: I think, Bill, you need a straw vote showing that we support the idea.

Tom Harris: Are there any other questions for Beth? Is there a motion for consensus for moving forward to the RFP?

Roy Buskirk: Motion to move forward on the RFP.

Bob Armstrong: Second.

Bill Brown: It just seems to make sense to help them get prepared and no cost or commitment at this point.

Tom Harris: **We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye, all opposed same. The motion passes 7-0.** Thank you very much and we will look forward to hearing more about this project. Is there anything else for discussion? Are there any upcoming meetings that need to be reported to Council at this time?

Larry Brown: Just to reiterate, sometimes it gets very confusing when Mark tries to explain tax deferral and the process of the City and County coming together. In terms that I can understand, we decided as a group to wait until this legislative session is complete and also the City primary election. Both of those are time consuming and the landscape was changing. We backed down our aggressiveness, so to speak, until May 19th. I wasn't aware of that meeting but we will reconvene and move forward.

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tom Harris: And just for clarification, that meeting is for discussion between the City and the County but no decisions are being made there. We bring each points-of-view back to our respective Councils and that gives the Councils the opportunity to move forward, at that point.

Larry Brown: One further clarification, when Roy and others have said to do nothing on the 20-year thing and 100%, we need to do something and not just ignore it. Give staff the information and the knowledge that we have considered it and it is not available or it is available or we reconstructed it somehow. That will all be brought forward at a later date.

Tom Harris: Thank you. Are there any other upcoming meetings? If not, we will move to liaison reports.

Bill Brown: Bob and I had an opportunity to meet with ACJC and talk about a number of initiatives that Judge Heath has underway. That was beneficial. I think he has met with others too.

Tom Harris: Bill, you might talk a little bit about the meeting with the Sheriff as well. We have talked with the Sheriff on some initiatives.

Bill Brown: The concept of getting the car situation worked out as a budget line item. That can be a little more streamlined so they can purchase them earlier and things like that. Also, Resource Officers and looking at how those funds have been allocated and received from those small towns. If the funds go to the General Fund or not and it is an initiative that they are very interested in. I thought they had a lot of good ideas and they want to be transparent.

Tom Harris: It was a healthy discussion for an hour-and-a-half or two hours and was a good meeting. Are there any other liaison reports? Are there any public comments?

Joel Benz: Tera was talking earlier that she might give us a little legislative update.

Tera Klutz: Thank you. The session still has a few weeks left and right now they are to the point where the legislation has bounced from either the House or the Senate, the opposite of its house of origin. If the bill was changed in any way by the second body then it goes to Conference Committee. There are a few bills that I wanted to bring up. One that you may have heard of in the past few days is the Budget Bill. The House version was stripped by the Senate and one of the items that affect our County the most is that they moved to give for-profit hospitals, instead of a State credit, a 50% tax exemption. That is a big deal for us and I wouldn't get into whether or not we have two great hospitals and one is for-profit and one is not-for profit. I got involved when it was said that it would probably take \$2 million away from our community and shift the property tax burden. We don't have a way to recover that revenue because we are constitutionally capped. The other items that are still alive and moving are House Bill 1475 which increased the 911 for wireless phones from fifty cents to a dollar and the

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

standard line rates from ninety cents to a dollar. They expect, maybe overall, just an additional few million dollars State-wide because of the high decrease in landlines. Even though they are making up fifty cents for every wireless, they are spending almost a dollar for every line. The bill also provides that a County in which there is Public Safety LOIT and is in effect July 1, 2015, the COIT Council may adopt a resolution providing that up to 100% of the Public Safety LOIT Tax Revenue derived from the increase and if they would increase the rate could go to pay for the 911 operations. I will be curious to see if the City of Fort Wayne, which is our adopting COIT Council body, would look at that because another bill, 1485, removes the requirement and you can increase your Public Safety LOIT now without giving property tax relief. There are some opportunities for the Income Tax Council to raise income tax rates if they feel there is a need. The bill that I was talking about that eliminates the property tax replacement credit requirement to increase Public LOIT Safety, there is going to be a study and it provides for a transition from COIT and CEDIT into one single local income tax rate. There is so much confusion with all of the different LOIT rates and they are trying to simplify it into one LOIT rate with three objectives. One is for property tax relief, one is for general operating and I think the other is maybe for economic development. You have three tiers and it would allow the COIT Council to decide it. That is the City of Fort Wayne for Allen County. We are watching this with big eyes to see how it is going to affect us in the future. If there is any other bills that you are curious about, I can entertain questions.

Tom Harris: How about the one with Sheriff serving papers?

Tera Klutz: I think that one passed and not having any issues.

Tom Harris: What that reflects is additional expense or additional fees for the number of papers that are served going to the County General Fund or does that go to the Sheriff and then ultimately to the pension for the Officers?

Tera Klutz: The fees are designated for the payment of the Officers pension. Right now they go into a designated fund for the pension. The increase in fees will not offset the pension cost that the General Fund is paying but it will help.

Tom Harris: Do we know an approximate number yet?

Tera Klutz: I think we were estimating \$200,000 to \$400,000 which would get us somewhere closer to not even half of the current pension cost of \$1.9 million.

Tom Harris: So that is a positive but with the changes in the hospitals, that would be a cost to the County in terms of revenue for taxes and that would be approximately how much.

Tera Klutz: I roughly estimated it to be \$2 million. That is just a brush stroke because as soon as you lose that net assessed value, it is hard to estimate the amount of loss due to Circuit Breaker. Everybody else's rate goes up. I feel that Senate Bill 436, which is addressing whether or not vacant retail box stores can be used the sale of those can be

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

used comparing occupied retail box stores will affect us even more than that. It is not looking favorable for assessed value right now. That is the only thing I can say because it is hard because they are unique. Right now, if you buy a home it is usually vacant but it is being maintained. We don't use foreclosure sales when we value homes. Trying to find the right and fair way to handle that is challenging.

Tom Harris: Those are two examples of significant changes that will be coming in the next two weeks or not. If they come, it can greatly impact our ability to spend or understand our fiscal situation in the local County. That is the challenge of the General Assembly process but that is why we are waiting in terms of some of the economic development discussions that we were having. Let's wait and understand what the fiscal impact might be on some of the legislation that is still being considered in the next two weeks. That is what we will be watching.

Tera Klutz: We could have a fun budget session and I don't mean happy fun.

Tom Harris: If it reduces the revenue to the County, in terms of what we have to pay for County services, it would be another example of State government just pounding local. They are not doing that but they are making changes that greatly impact local government services and we have to consider that. Roy, did you have another comment?

Roy Buskirk: It is just like the big box store issue on assessed valuation. The one thing that just absolutely drives me nuts is how can they say the assessed value is less than what they pay for it? That happens every once in a while. They agree to pay X amount of dollars for it and then they come in and argue that is not really the value of the property. It is supposed to be market value that our assessments are supposed to be based upon. That never has made sense to me. The other thing that I did have a question for the Auditor is with the hospital issue and the reduction of 50%, I have heard it said that they would save about \$4 million in Allen County. You are saying that we would lose about \$2 million. Part of the money that they would save would be recouped by other taxpayers in the County. Is that the reason that I have heard ...

Tera Klutz: ...no, I think there is a lot of confusion in the numbers and nobody really knows. The full assessment of IOM Health was for what they paid in taxes in Allen County was a little over \$4 million. I can easily see that not getting dropped by the 50% tax exemption but there is also a fiscal impact statement saying that State-wide the impact is \$4 million.

Roy Buskirk: I am sure it has to be more than that.

Tera Klutz: It came out so fast that a lot of people's numbers are in different places.

Tom Harris: All right, Tera, thank you very much. Are there any other items for this point? We ask for input from the public and there is nothing at this time.

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Bob Armstrong: Between now and budget time, I would like to see departmental organization charts and number of employees per department. Can we request that?

Tom Harris: I think we can and without going too far into it, one of the items that I am going to begin focusing on is strategic planning for the County. There has been some discussion and I have a meeting with the Commissioners and one of the discussions that I had yesterday was to focus on strategic planning as well as performance assessments. That is a project that we will be working with. Bob, the conversations I have had with HR in the past is they do not have organizational charts throughout the County.

Bob Armstrong: I would just like to see it.

Tom Harris: I agree that it is a neat tool to have. I will put that request in. They may not be able to do it for all but they could get started on it.

Bob Armstrong: The larger ones would be nice.

Roy Buskirk: I would think the big departments would be able to do it. I don't think HR has to do all of that.

Tera Klutz: The departments could submit it with their budget.

Bill Brown: Approval to waive the reading on any matter approved today for which it may be deemed necessary for the County Council meeting of April 16, 2015.

Larry Brown: Second.

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

Bob Armstrong: Move to adjourn.

Joel Benz: Second.

Tom Harris: 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 10:06.