

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MAY 28, 2015
8:30 AM

The Allen County Council met on Thursday, May 28, 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; Nelson Peters, Commissioner 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. As we start the meeting this morning, we are going to make a few changes in terms of items on the agenda. Let's first start as we do with the approval of the April 16th meeting minutes. Are there any additions or corrections?

Roy Buskirk: Move to approve the minutes from April 16, 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 from Auditor Tera Klutz.

Tera Klutz: Good morning, Council. In your packet are the financial statements through April 30, 2015. The revenue and expenses are tracking very close to projections and so I have nothing major to report. This month, you have net appropriations in the General Fund of \$57,996. Other funds equal \$179,322.

Tom Harris: Thank you. Are there any comments or questions for the Auditor?

Bill Brown: I make a motion to accept the financial report.

Larry Brown: Second.

Tom Harris: We have a motion and a second. All in favor of approving the financial report say aye, all opposed same. The motion passes 7-0. The next item up is the unemployment rate.

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Nick Jordan: Good morning, Council. On your agenda you will see February and March, non-seasonally adjusted. The State's April rate has been released but not the County. For March you still see Allen County at 5.7%, Indiana at 5.9% and National at 5.6%.

Tom Harris: Very good. Are there any questions or comments?

Roy Buskirk: I understand that the trend has continued going down.

Nick Jordan: Yes. I didn't want to convolute the numbers because we don't have Allen County's yet but they have gone down and I would hope that Allen County has followed that also.

Tom Harris: I think it has based on what we have seen preliminarily. We will keep an eye on that as well. The total appropriations requested in the General Fund total \$209,243 and appropriations requested from other funds is \$179,322. The Personnel Committee Recap, are there any comments or questions on that?

Nick Jordan: It will be discussed at the time of the position.

Tom Harris: All right, very good. The next item up is the Drug and Alcohol Consortium.

Jerri Lerch: Good morning. I am Jerri Lerch and I am the Executive Director of the Allen County Drug and Alcohol Consortium. We appreciate the opportunity to come before you which is annually to request appropriation of funding for drug and alcohol prevention and law enforcement and treatment programs. We are a coalition of 140-member organizations. When our fiscal year closes December 31st, we request proposals in March based on the State-approved plan for these funds. We receive those requests and in April we have a funding committee of community leaders review everything. Before you is the recommendation of the group and we are required, by statute to distribute those equally. The Commissioners have approved \$187,893. We have had some funds from last year returned to us and so we are holding those and will use that for the gap between the appropriations we are requesting of \$171,822. I am happy to answer more questions if you have any.

Tom Harris: Council, are there any questions? One of the questions that I have is, in looking down through the list, those numbers from some of the different departments, one caught my eye was the Sheriff's Office and such. Are those requested from the Sheriff or is that something that you follow from a State formula or projection?

Jerri Lerch: Good question. The statute requires that we either grant out or spend a quarter of our funding in each area. In the area of Justice, each of the entities makes requests. Most often, the Sheriff's Department has made requests for in-car cameras. Over many years we have been funding those in-car cameras. Other department of jurisdictions may ask for cameras or BBT's, the alcohol testing measures. There is actually a little sharing on the small supplies between the departments.

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Tom Harris: Do those numbers change and are they coming to you with new numbers every year?

Jerri Lerch: Yes. This year we had \$115,000 in request for Justice but unfortunately we only had \$47,000 to allocate. The Allen County Sheriff's Department requested more cameras than we were able to give them and so we gave them a couple. Is that what you are asking?

Tom Harris: Yes, thank you. Are there any other questions or comments?

Bill Brown: I will make a motion to appropriate \$171,822 into Drug Free Communities Fund 745 for Program Grants.

Sharon Tucker: Second.

Tom Harris: We have a motion and a second. Is there any further discussion? All in favor say aye, all opposed same. The motion passes 7-0. Thank you very much. We are going to move beyond Economic Development and come back to that in a couple of minutes. First is the Surveyor's Office.

Al Frisinger: Al Frisinger, Allen County Surveyor. Thank you for having me today. I am here this morning for a request for a vehicle appropriation. I think we supplied everybody with a report of our needs and the status that was presented through the Service Garage. I would be glad to answer any questions that anyone has about that request.

Tom Harris: Initially, what started the request? Was there concern over vehicles at that time? Were there issues that brought that up?

Al Frisinger: Of course.

Tom Harris: It wasn't a calendar thing and now it is the time to get new vehicles.

Al Frisinger: Yes, I have hit the 15-year point in vehicle acquisition. The maintenance element and the look at safety on the vehicles have brought me before you today. We have had some concerns about vehicles that pause and stop when put into reverse or put into forward. The Garage and a private dealership were unable to figure out why the vehicles do that. This is an on-going problem over a couple of years. We put a lot of miles on them and use them in varying areas of construction, inspection and a lot of areas that aren't friendly environments. I don't mean people but out in the middle of nowhere. It is always a safety concern for me. Over the years I took three of the vehicles and replaced two of beds on the Dodge trucks that were rusted out and repainted them and I put tires on them three years ago to try to extend their life. The Jeep that is now 20 years old, I repainted that and kept it in fairly good working condition. I think we are at the point right now where we may be able to make a return on the sale of these vehicles as used vehicles and get some of the investment back. Then we can move forward with new vehicles that are safer for the County employees that are using them.

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Tom Harris: Any other questions?

Roy Buskirk: Yes, in this letter that you presented to us you stated that this office has not received new vehicles from the General Fund since 2000. Only one of your vehicles is older than 2000. Where have you been receiving your vehicles?

Al Frisinger: I have been switching them out with the Service Center, used vehicles that they have. The Dodges, I bought in 2000. The red truck was a changeover and the Jeep was a switchover from the Board of Health. I bought the red truck that my crew uses out of Cornerstone money.

Roy Buskirk: Okay because as I read the statement that you had not purchased new vehicles since 2000 but all of you vehicles except one are newer than 2000.

Al Frisinger: Out of the General Fund.

Roy Buskirk: Okay. One thing, you provided us with a list of the maintenance cost and to me a lot of the maintenance cost is like 4 new tires, a new battery and items of that type is just ongoing expense of owning a vehicle. I really don't think that your expense on maintenance is as great as some people might think they are. I realize that you need to have good vehicles in the Surveyor's Office. The other thing is a lot of people don't realize is that the fees that you charge for services goes into the General Fund. The one thing that we usually want to watch is the fees and who sets those fees?

Al Frisinger: The Commissioners.

Roy Buskirk: Okay, it is not a State regulated fee amount?

Al Frisinger: No. It is a locally transcribed ordinance that is set forth based on what we do. Those were established in 2008, I believe. Before that we had another fee structure that was in place. With the new ordinance on water quality and water quantity, we needed to have that more current. With yesterday's announcement through the EPA on new water regulations, there may be another need to take a look at those issues again. This has been an ongoing thing, not to switch subjects, through the Federal Government and national organizations, the Association of Indiana Counties and National Counties have all been involved in trying to influence every Congressman and I know at the Federal level has been trying to influence the water quality legislation. It is going to affect everyone. My office handles water quantity and water quality issues and what came out yesterday will definitely affect how we do business. There is no other way to put it.

Roy Buskirk: What he is referring to is yesterday the Federal Government now has a lot more control over any water, actually in the United States. Even your personal ponds that you have on your property are under federal regulations now. I read it last night and it is almost like they can even control mud puddles. It used to be on open ditches there was a requirement of so many cubic feet of water and now they have almost done away with

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that totally and any open stream comes under the control of the Corps of Engineers. There are just a lot more regulations put in place yesterday on water. A lot of times, we as a County don't have any choice in that but we need to enforce it. That is where some of the expense is put onto the taxpayers. Are there any more questions?

Tom Harris: Are there any other questions, at this point?

Larry Brown: Yes. Al, as you move forward and do your vehicle selection, I would ask that you consider and maybe even talk to the Building Department. The reports that I am hearing on the Escapes that they are using are having fantastic service records and fuel mileages and they drive more than anybody in the County. I ask that you consider those Escapes in place of the Equinox.

Al Frisinger: Not a problem at all. I am not real familiar with those. I talked to Bob Bolenbaugh and went through what was out there and thought that the Equinox looked like a decent vehicle. The Escape may be too.

Larry Brown: Dave will help you out, I am sure.

Tom Harris: Councilman Tucker.

Sharon Tucker: My question would be more for the Auditor. Do we have an idea of how much we collected in fees if we are going to use the General Fund to offset it?

Tera Klutz: We are not using the fee revenue that the Surveyor brings in, to fund this request. Every year, we have that budgeted and it is in your financial report. We make an estimate of the fee revenue that each department will bring in and it is a funding source for the full General Fund to help offset his entire budget. This funding request is currently being funded out of Council's Other Capital account. The first page of the agenda, down at the bottom, the first is an Appropriation Reduction in the County Council Other Capital line and then there is an appropriation in the Surveyor's Vehicle line. That is going to be a net zero to our budget this year.

Sharon Tucker: Okay.

Tom Harris: Al, approximately how much revenue do you bring in? Do you know that number off the top of your head?

Al Frisinger: I think \$549,000 since 2008 when we began our real accounting. This year, if I find the right piece, is \$214,000 last year.

Tera Klutz: I have it. In the General Fund we are budgeting around \$100,000 this year and we have collected \$38,208 through April 30th.

Tom Harris: And it is probably anticipated with additional activities and some of the things we just discussed that it could increase.

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Al Frisinger: Exactly.

Tom Harris: Other questions or comments at this point?

Roy Buskirk: For 2014, it was \$214,000 that was collected for the Surveyor's Office. For people to understand, it is copying fees and review fees, inspection fees for regular drains, application fees and erosion control. Every time there is construction on a road and you see the black fences along the side for erosion control, the County Surveyor, by law, has to inspect that and make sure that they are being properly maintained.

Tom Harris: Are there other questions or comments?

Joel Benz: I have one brief comment. I appreciate that you took the time to replace the beds and things like that. To me, that shows that you are committed to maintaining the vehicles.

Al Frisinger: I have always had the opinion that if you can make it last that is what you do. We had one vehicle almost fifteen years ago that I replaced a motor in it. It lasted another three years. For a couple thousand dollars, we could move on. That is kind of the way that I have always lived. I don't drive new cars.

Tom Harris: Thank you. Are there any other questions?

Bill Brown: I will make a motion for Department 6, Surveyor's Office, for an appropriation reduction in Department 42, County Council Other Capital in the amount of \$108,965 to Surveyor Vehicles in the amount of \$108,965.

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.

Roy Buskirk: Al, you are not done yet.

Tom Harris: We have a couple of items yet. The next item up is a transfer in County General.

Al Frisinger: Oh, I forgot.

Tom Harris: It is a transfer from Gas, Oil and Lube to Maintenance Agreements.

Al Frisinger: Yes.

Bill Brown: I will make a motion to transfer from Gas, Oil and Lube in the amount of \$2,475 to Maintenance Agreements.

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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 next item is the Cornerstone Fund 247. This is Surveying Supplies to Miscellaneous Equipment.

Bill Brown: Move to approve the transfer in the Surveyor's Cornerstone Fund 247 from Surveying Supplies in the amount of \$6,700 to Miscellaneous Equipment.

Roy Buskirk: Second and I will make a comment that all of us here are aware that the Miscellaneous Equipment is a printer and plotter?

Al Frisinger: Yes. The one I have has been a 48 inch copier, plotter and scanner. It has been a disappointment. It is four years old and it has been one of those things where you step back and after thirty days we had a service on it and the next thirty days. It has not been a good piece of equipment. We are moving in a different direction. We have to have something that works because the electronic formats that everyone is going to, scanning documents and printing off the electronic submittals is important.

Roy Buskirk: It is kind of a specialty type of item for the Surveyor's Office. There are other departments that sometimes use that also. I will call for the question.

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 Human Resources.

Janette Jacquay: Janette Jacquay, Human Resources Director. I am here to ask for an additional appropriation. Through the reclassification of the Human Resources Department job positions that happened last year, it was after the 2015 budget was approved that we came to ask for the reclassifications.

Tom Harris: Are there any questions from Council?

Roy Buskirk: Is this to correct an error for funding that we approved previously but now we have to move the money.

Janette Jacquay: That is correct. I had the money in my budget for 2014 but it still needs funding for 2015.

Bill Brown: Move for approval for Human Resources appropriation in County General in the amount of \$52,100.

Roy Buskirk: Second.

Tom Harris: We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye, all opposed same. The motion passes 6-1(Armstrong). Next item up is ACJC.

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David Korus: I am David Korus and I am the Budget Analyst with the Allen County Juvenile Center. In brief, the reason for my appearance today is for a transfer in our JDAI grant fund. We had an agreement with a partner JDAI County to co-host the training seminar at ACJC and for reasons unknown, they pulled out on us. The cost of hosting the seminar ourselves would have been too great of a burden to bear and we believe we have a better use for those funds and would like to transfer those funds to support our new day and evening reporting detention alternative program. We will use these funds to acquire workstations, reading materials and other supplies that would be needed to start a program from the ground up.

Tom Harris: Great. Council, are there any questions?

Bill Brown: I will make a motion for Department 55, ACJC to transferrin the Juvenile Detention Alternative Fund 223 from Schools and Seminars, \$5,000 to Office and Computer Equipment and Supplies.

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.** Thank you, David. The next item up is Superior Court.

John McGauley: I am John McGauley, Court Executive for Allen Superior Court. I am here to ask you to move around a couple of small amounts of money for us. The first being in our Travel line for \$1,371 and this represents a scholarship that Judge Craig Bobay received for training that he went to through the Indiana Judicial Center. The scholarship has already been received and deposited into County General. The amount of \$4,525, we have an arrangement with the Allen County Bar Association where we pay out of Superior Court budget approximately \$43,000 for salary, FICA and PERF for the Law Librarian. The Bar Association reimburses us 50% of her base salary. That money comes back into County General and we are asking to put that into our Extra Deputy Hire line primarily for some help that we have had in place in Small Claims Court helping us get caught up on some backlog of cases. The \$7,500, we came to you last month to talk about a grant that we received and was a one-time amount that we received from the Indiana Conference for Legal Education Opportunity. It is to increase diversity in the legal profession and we received this grant and didn't get the number in time to get with you last month. The grant has already been received and placed into County General and we are just asking for them to be placed in these lines so that we can pay our intern.

Tom Harris: Thank you.

Bill Brown: Move for approval for Department 62, Superior Court, to appropriate \$1,371 for Travel and \$4,525 for Extra Deputy Hire for a total of \$5,896.

Joel Benz: Second.

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

Bill Brown: Move for approval of the appropriation in the Legal Education Fund 850 for \$7,000 in Extra Deputy Hire and \$500 in FICA for a total of \$7,500.

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. Thank you, John. All right, Council, instead of going to the Oversight Permitting items, we are going to move to the Economic Development portion of the meeting. The first item up, let's look at the Regional Development Authority. We have a presentation and some information to consider this morning.

John Urbahns: Good morning, John Urbahns, Executive Vice President for Greater Fort Wayne, Inc.

John Stafford: John Stafford, assisting the Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership on this project.

Alan Tio: Alan Tio with the Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership.

John Urbahns: Thank you for the time to talk this morning. You have before you a draft ordinance to join a regional development authority. A little background on this, Governor Pence proposed a Regional Cities Initiative in the General Assembly this year as part of his budget proposal. The Regional Cities Initiative was really looking at how to advance our regional communities to have more national prominence, to look at population stagnation and how we are growing as a State. The Indiana Economic Development Corporation last year was charged with studying how other communities across the country have grown their economy and looking at population trends in those communities, two percent a year and three percent a year and how they did that. When we look at where we are in Northeast Indiana, we are growing .7%. We are barely keeping up with births over deaths. When you look at where we are headed with changing demographics with the aging of America, how is that going to affect our workforce in the future? We looked at job creation and it's hard to create jobs if we don't have employees. With the aging of America, we are headed into a situation where we are going to have fewer workers in the workforce. That is what lead the Governor to look at this proposal to really help address where people are choosing to live and quality of place was something that was found in every one of those communities. They were focused not on just traditional job creation but focused on economic development and its role with quality of place. This is really the IEDC's first foray into quality of place and something other than pure job creation. John will talk a little bit about what was contained in the legislation but the key piece to go after here is they are looking to identify two communities or regions as part of the Regional Cities Initiative. That is with a pot of \$84 million out there. A regional development authority is the only agency that can apply to become an applicant to the Regional Cities fund. Right now there is one Regional

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Development Authority in the State and that is in Northwest Indiana. We are looking to create one for the eleven-County region that surrounds Allen County. We are on a two-track process here. We are working to form the Regional Development Authority by the July 1st deadline for application. At the same time we are working on the application to the Regional Cities Initiative. We have a 30 member steering committee that is formed by the 11 Counties. Commissioner Therese Brown is one of the representatives on that steering committee. We have been meeting over the last several months working on the application piece. I will tell you that this has been a process that we didn't envision at the end of last year when we looked at our work plans and what we are moving towards. We knew the proposal was out there but we didn't know how it was going to go at the Statehouse. April 29th, when the session was over, there wasn't really a program. We have been working expeditiously to try to get this approved. We are working with all of the Counties in trying to get the RDA created by June 15th so that we have time to finalize the application. I will let John talk a little bit more about some of the legislation and how it affects us.

John Stafford: Thank you. I will try to give an overview but if you have questions, please interrupt me at any time. As John mentioned, not only did the appropriation of \$84 million pass the General Assembly on the last day of the session so did the approval of House Bill 1403. That bill significantly altered, in a number of important ways, the legislation that had previously been enacted in 2007 allowing local communities to create Regional Development Authorities. It is really a four-step process here. The first step is to form a Regional Development Authority and as John mentioned that is the only entity that is eligible to apply for these Regional Cities funds. A County, by itself, cannot. A municipality, by itself, cannot. The second step, once the Counties form the Regional Development Authority, would be the selection of the Development Board by the members of the development authority. An application would be submitted to the State and here is where the time crunch really comes in. They are hard and fast on a July 1 submission date. It takes an RDA to make that submission. Lastly, and I think the most important change in House Bill 1403, previously it was essentially that Counties that were members either increased the Local Income Tax by 120th of a percent or provided a like-amount of revenue to the RDA. That has been sunset out. The new provision is if a unit of government as a member has a particular project that it wants to move forward through the RDA process, it enters into a interlocal agreement with the Regional Development Authority and other units of government that would want to participate in that project. The interlocal sets for the perspective financial participations and any other conditions that those units of government choose to put into that interlocal document. That is a radically different process of funding rather than the top down where you give money to the RDA and the RDA decides what projects. This one bubbles up from the individual member units, the Counties and the Municipalities within the respective redevelopment authority. I would like to emphasize that there are several ways to form it, two or more adjacent Counties, a qualified City which in northeast Indiana Fort Wayne is the only City to meet that criteria of being larger than 35,000 in population. It could form one with an adjacent County. If a County chooses to join an RDA, not only do you become a member of the RDA but also the second and third-class Cities in Allen County, in other words, the City of Fort Wayne, the City of New Haven and the City of

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Woodburn. They also become members of the RDA and their executives can also participate in the selection of the RDA Board of Directors. I want to talk briefly about that Board. It is a five-member Board. By statute if we end up with eleven Counties in Northeast Indiana RDA, there will be five members on the Board. If we end up with three or four Counties, there will be five members on the Board. The Executives from the respective member units of government, County Commissioners in the case of Counties and Mayors in the case of Cities, must unanimously select those five Board members. We are seeking to have eleven Counties in Northeast Indiana.

Tom Harris: John, can I jump in right there?

John Stafford: Sure.

Tom Harris: Why eleven? Why not six or fifteen, what made these eleven Counties significant?

Tom Stafford: It was really the footprint of the Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership. They had been working as a ten-County entity for the past decade. Rather than try to create a subsection of that the initial decision was let's at least provide the opportunity for all ten Counties to participate. Just recently Kosciusko County and the City of Warsaw decided that they would like to participate in the Northeast Indiana RDA rather than the one in Michiana. That was their decision but they have yet to vote on an ordinance to join but they have passed resolutions indicating that this is the direction they want to go.

John Urbahns: It is an important piece that you can only be a member of one RDA. Kosciusko County, for example, had to make a choice. Did they feel more tied to Fort Wayne and Allen County or are they more tied to South Bend and St Joe County? They determined, after looking at it, they feel more connected with our region. I believe that is good for us in looking ahead to other things that we are looking at along US 30. It helps us in the things that we are working on.

John Stafford: Back to the five-member development Board. If all eleven Counties would become members of the Northeast Indiana RDA, there are 27 members with the Counties and second and third-class Cities. All 27 Executives, the three-member Commissioners of the Counties serve as one member. Your Commissioners would represent 1/27th of the group that would unanimously have to select the five Saints to become members of the Development Board. That will be a challenge to get everyone to agree. The next step would be to submit an application and an application is really a broad blueprint of the types of projects that a region believes improve the quality of place and improve the ability to attract and retain talent in the region which the Indiana Development Corporation, many of us in economic development have come to realize that companies today look for talent more than any other factor. This is all aimed at retaining and attracting talent. That application, the blueprint of projects, is submitted and should this RDA be a recipient of a portion and perhaps up to half of the State funds of \$42 million then you get to the last step of the project. Individual members, be they municipalities or Counties or a combination choose to move forward, individual projects

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are looking for some of those State matching dollars in an interlocal agreement with the RDA. I anticipate that it would be the Commissioners and Mayors that would propose those projects but in no case can an Executive, A Board of Commissioners or a Mayor enter into an interlocal agreement for a given project without the approval of their respective fiscal body. You have two steps in this process. By State statute, it is the County Councils that must pass an ordinance to join an RDA and at the far end of the process no financial participation in the RDA by Allen County would move forward without the authorization of yourselves. That is pretty much the process in a nutshell and is condensed from an hour-long presentation that I was strongly advised not to enter into. We would be happy to answer any questions. I would point out that we are making these presentations to all eleven County Councils. Huntington and Wabash County Councils have voted to join the Northeast Indiana RDA. We will be in Whitley and Wells Counties next week and subsequent Counties the following week. We would like to get everybody onboard by the middle of June, hence the request to enact the ordinance today if you choose to consider membership.

Tom Harris: One question and I am sure there are a number of questions from Council, maybe at the 50,000 feet but economic development and local economic development organizations (LEDO) have focused on job development and job creation. This is a little bit different in you going after things to attract people and what kinds of things are going to be successful and trying to understand track records of how successful we have been or are we in getting people to come and live in Northeast Indiana? What makes this project a little bit different than some of the economic development initiatives?

Alan Tio: That is a fantastic question. This is new territory for all of us. We are meeting with County Councils in eleven Counties four of which are at least one County removed from Fort Wayne Allen County and yet we are asking folks to buy into let's build the brand that we are known for nationally. As John Urbahns mentioned, this came out of IDEC research looking at national sort of known communities. You could name names, places like Austin, Raleigh-Durham, places that have a quality of life. The difference is when we look at bringing business to our region we are looking for industrial parks and hard assets. This is going to parallel track the quality of life that we need to develop and cultivate and it is not public sector only but it is going to involve creating connectivity within our region and creating amenities. Every community benefits somehow, right? We don't know yet what this project will be. It is actually parallel to forming the RDA Steering Committee. We mentioned Therese Brown is on the Steering Committee and is working to develop that initial list of projects. What are the areas we can focus on and what are the projects we can focus on that we can submit to State to show that we have a compelling work plan to get us out of the gate. That just creates a starting point. If we are all at the table together, if we are committed to this, we will see over the eight, ten or twenty years that we are working together we will be able to come up with more projects and set the bar even higher and higher. We will have that national identity like Austin and Raleigh-Durham. We are working with Counties that are at least a step removed from Fort Wayne Allen County and they are all willing to buy in and to support building that brand promise.

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Tom Harris: Without going into it, I will turn it over to Council to ask questions but these projects are not creating that industrial park in a County somewhere. These are projects that are going to be attracting people to come to Northeast Indiana. It is not the jobs that we are trying to create to bring people here, it's something beyond jobs.

John Urbahns: The traditional focus has been on having land and business parks and having water extensions, sewer extensions to attract jobs. This is focused on the quality of place issues. One of the big things that we get asked about is the trail system. The trail system that we have is a job attractor. It's a talent attractor. What we have done downtown with Parkview Field and that is not just about the City of Fort Wayne and Allen County that is a regional draw. We get support from Mayor Hickman in Angola and Mayor Yoder in Auburn and they are very supportive of what is going on here. When you look at projects that have come out of some of the regional activities like looking at the riverfronts and we talk about riverfronts and you automatically think of Fort Wayne. As we have gone out and have met with all of the eleven communities and taken the Steering Committee out to Bluffton and Decatur and Wabash and Huntington and the Cities in the northern areas, they are all focused on the same kind of activities. When you look at some of the things happening in Decatur in their downtown and along their rivers and the same thing is happening down in Bluffton. There are people in those communities that are working on the same things that we are here. It may be a little bit different scale than what we are doing but in those communities it is impactful. That is what is going to make those communities be attractive to the talent in the future.

Tom Harris: Thank you. That will open it up to questions and comments. Roy, do you want to start?

Roy Buskirk: That is the one thing that needs to be pointed out that this is quality of life is the theme of what the whole project is and not industrial parks and things of that type. I think this will be tremendous for our area if we are fortunate to be able to get the funding for it. I think there are some items that used to attract a lot to this area such as Bledsoe Beach. For years we have not promoted the lakes in this area as a great asset that we have. I think with the riverfront and other projects, let's take advantage of the water. The one question that I have is being on the County Council and we are the fiscal body, what kind of commitment would we be making as far as if we are fortunate to get the funding? I understand there would be matching funds either privately or from the government and so what kind of commitment is the Council making on that?

John Stafford: To join, no commitment. To move a project forward that might be eligible for a portion of a State allocation to do a portion of a northeast Indiana RDA, there will have to be some match for those dollars. That match can come from local dollars, from foundations or private sector but to move a given project forward, yes. You do that at the last of those four steps that I mentioned you don't do it today. You make no financial commitment today. You make it when there is a project that you would like to move forward as a unit of government in anticipation of getting some matching dollars and it could be you or other units of government that are interested in that project. Let's say a trail that would go through four or five Counties. That would be an example of one

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that would cross County boundaries and you would work out those details in that interlocal agreement. The RDA does not tell you what those details are going to be. You do that in the interlocal.

Roy Buskirk: But I understand that we have, in the submittal to the State, the projects listed in the July 1st application. Then, correct me if I am wrong, the State selects which projects they want us to focus on.

John Urbahns: We have to have a portfolio or projects that could move forward but they won't be selecting individual projects. We will submit a plan that says these are all of the types of things that we want to do. If we are selected, we would go back and have to submit to them on individual projects. They are going to use each applicant, we think there will probably be eight or nine applicants for the two slots, to submit their portfolio or how they want to go about advancing their community. Once we are selected, we will have to figure out what is first. The State will have to approve the individual project.

Tom Harris: And on that list down, it will be those five Board members that will begin to prioritize and then ultimately that goes back to the State?

John Urbahns: We will use the Steering Committee to prioritize the broader group.

Tom Harris: Okay.

John Urbahns: At the end of the day, projects are going to move forward if a local community steps up to match the dollars. Without matching funds we will not be able to move a project forward. We will make that decision when there is an actual project.

Roy Buskirk: But it is the State that selects which projects they approve. We submit 20 projects and after that they decide which of those we should work on, correct?

John Urbahns: What they will do and this is has been a process that we are working through just like the IEDC is working through their process, they are establishing a review committee to review the plans and hopefully by the end of September decide which two regions will be selected. Let's say we submit 20 projects and it is not going to say A, B and C but will say that we have been selected to begin participating. Then we will determine which projects we will try to move forward. That is a decision that we will have to do locally and we will have to find communities that will have to match the dollars. Let's say Allen County and Whitley County would like to move a project forward, we would have to develop the project fully, get the funding lined up and try to get the State to award the match out of the pot that was set aside for us.

John Stafford: If you are selected, you would essentially have the opportunity to continue negotiations with the State as a group of local communities under the umbrella of the RDA. I don't think they are going to give us \$42 million and tell us to take our best shot at it and do whatever you want to do with it.

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Roy Buskirk: I understand that, John. To me you are dancing around the question. Maybe you're not. We have to submit 20 projects or so for this region. Then they give us a grant and then they still have a say in which one of the 20 projects.

John Stafford: There is the difference. I don't think they'll give us a grant. They will designate us as a region for which they will make specific awards to. Those awards will be on a project-by-project basis. The legislation says they can fund projects.

Roy Buskirk: So they are going to pick out of the 20 that we submit which one of the projects their grant is to be used for.

John Urbahns: We have to leave this as a multistep process. Submitting our application and being chosen as one of the two is the first step. That just gets us identified as one of the two to make application and then for specific projects. We are getting designated as one of the two regional Cities is our hope and then we will have to follow up with specific projects to go through their process.

Sharon Tucker: So once we are designated as an RDA and we submit our list to them, do they still go through that list to determine which projects they will fund?

John Urbahns: They are going to go through our plan to determine which two regions to select. Then there will be a second phase where we will have to go in with individual projects. We may take the first project forward and they say yes and we do it. We may take the second project forward and they say that they don't fully agree with that one and so that doesn't move forward. It is putting us in the queue to go after those funds.

Tom Harris: Very good, Councilman Brown.

Bill Brown: There are two operative words here. It is the concept of attraction and participation. To your point, we are in a State-wide competition for the most attractive package. That will be one of the two that gets selected. The goal, State-wide is to bring more people to Indiana and we hope more in Northeast Indiana. With the most attractive and compelling projects, those will be vetted and I am just asking a question and statement at the same time, those most attractive projects will be worked through by the Steering Committee. The State has to buy in at some level and then we fund what is selected in the end. That is what we approve, I should say.

John Stafford: On a given project where there would be State funding and local funding, both sides, the locals have to pass the interlocal to put in the local dollars. The State, through action through the State Budget Committee, has to approve the specific projects awards as well. There is kind of a second step here where you talk conceptually and then in the end you start talking actual dollars from State and locals and third parties.

Bill Brown: With the goal being to have the most attractive package in Northeast Indiana to bring people here. People move to where they want to live first and then many times understand where they want to work later. Thank you.

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Tom Harris: Councilman Brown.

Larry Brown: You have talked about some dates and deadlines beyond the July date that you referred to. Has the State committed or the deciding body when they will make their decision on which two communities?

John Urbahns: Our understanding is that it will be done in late September.

Larry Brown: To take it a step further, is there a stated deadline to have projects before or in for review or consideration and for the money to be spent? Or is this like a three-year, five-year thing?

John Stafford: The dollars that are funding the State contributions to the Regional Cities Fund will come from the Tax Amnesty Program. That program will start fairly soon but it hasn't generated the dollars yet. The money goes into a non-reverting fund. The State is not required, the IEDC, to spend it all in the two-year biennium or lose it. It stays in the fund. It may take multiple years if you are one of the regions designated for \$42 million. I can't imagine \$42 million and the local matching for that being spent in the next six months. It takes a lot longer to generate projects.

John Urbahns: It is important to point out that they envision the concept for this proposal to be a multi-year process to where the State would match over an eight-year period and select as many as up to eight communities. What the Legislature passed was a two-year trial. They said to pick two and show us that it works. They want to see things that can happen within the next 18 months to 24 months so that in two years when the Legislature goes through the next biennium budget they can set aside funds for additional communities or additional years. It is not a quick process, a quick deadline, but the idea is that this could stretch out.

Tom Harris: Councilman Benz.

Joel Benz: I just have a couple of comments that tie in with what Councilman Brown said. Moving forward, this is not a small process and is a pretty short timeline and so you guys are pretty committed to getting this thing done and getting us to be one of the two. I appreciate that. Moving forward you are looking at the sorts of programs that are transformative, like Councilman Brown was saying and you're saying these are not just programs but more of a brick and mortar. Can you expand on that a little bit? You mentioned trails but some other things down that line so that we have an understanding of where this is headed.

John Urbahns: Sure. What they are looking for are bricks and mortar projects. They are not looking for programs and that is why you will see things that are actual physical pieces. They are not looking for us to create. We talk about talent retention and attraction a lot and internship programs and other educational activities but those are not part of this. These are dollars for physical improvements within the communities. There are

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other pieces that we are working on as far as program side but these dollars can't be associated with that.

Alan Tio: It is interesting that there is a lot to do here. I am pretty well convinced that if there are eight or nine regions thinking that they are going to compete for the funding and this opportunity, there are probably a few that are just meeting each other for the first time. We have been at this for at least ten years working through the Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership, the Mayors and Commissioners Caucus and our LEDO's are working together. We have a shared vision of what we want to do. We even have Warsaw and Kosciusko County wanting to join our team. They have a lot to offer and they could have gone in a lot of directions but they wanted to part of what is happening in this region. We are very confident and this is kind of a mile marker along the way of our journey and this is something that we can utilize going forward for a long time. No matter what the initial project might look like, we will find more opportunities to work together and take the discussion to that level.

Tom Harris: Councilman Benz, are there any other questions? From my perspective again, the timing couldn't be better. We are watching the economy starting to take off, the unemployment rate is dropping and the projects that are coming are going to attract people or are they attracting employers that say this is the kind of environment that we like but the employers are going to say that they don't have the people to come to Northeast Indiana. Are we trying to get the people here first or the employers? Again, it's a 50,000 foot question.

John Stafford: You can never separate the two. It is an ongoing process. It's not we have the talent and now they will come. It is always evolving.

Tom Harris: This is happening in Northeast Indiana and the rest of the country, if the economy takes off, is competing as well. We are literally competing from a national standpoint. I used to recruit for some large employers and helping people understand that this is Fort Wayne, Indiana and not Fort Worth, Texas, you have to explain where we are at. That's a challenge and hopefully this will take us in that direction.

John Stafford: As a certain generation that I happen to be a member of, called the Baby Boomers, starts to retire, we are going to go from a Country that has been talent-rich to a Country that is talent-poor. Those regions that are able to hold onto their quality workforce and/or attract to add onto that are going to be the ones who keep and attract the jobs. We just saw a huge investment this week in the General Motors facility. Absolutely, part of their thinking had to be we have the workforce we need here and we believe we will be able to keep it here. That is critical to any company's thinking. I don't think you can separate the two.

Tom Harris: Auditor Klutz.

Tera Klutz: When I first heard about the original Cities Initiative last fall, it was really important to have the commitments and matches up front when you applied. I am hearing

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that it may have changed a little bit with 1403. I am just very curious as to how we will fit into that application process and how confident we may be without having any commitments when we turn that application in on July first.

John Stafford: I would think that every region is going to face this same problem. Who blinks first? Projects have their own timetable and they are ripe when they are ripe. No piece of State legislation and no State allocation are really going to change that to any great degree. I think every region is going to face that. It is certainly a learning process on our end and I suspect it is quite a learning process at the State level too. You can't wave a wand and make local commitments. They come when local communities are ready to do them. Obviously the regions that look like they are closer to being able to implement are going to be more attractive than those that are talking about things that maybe they could do in ten years. We have some things in this region that are relatively close and that helps us make a compelling argument. It's a competition.

Tera Klutz: I am excited and so excited that you guys are working so hard this summer. Some people think that summer gets easier but for you guys it just got a whole lot harder. I am excited that we are going to participate together and was just curious about if anybody took the IEDC serious last fall, they could have had a lot of ducks in a row by now and had all of those interlocals. I would hate to see us lose out but we may and I hope we don't.

John Urbahns: One of the big pieces that they are going to look at is what communities have gotten done already. I would say, as a region, we have been working together for ten years and so we have the connectivity there. We have gotten things done as communities and have shown that we can get them done. That will be a big piece of what they are looking at. Don't just come to the game late and show us that now we are going to change. We have been changing over the last decade anyway. I love what we have been doing in Allen County and they are finally taking a page from our book with some of the things that we have been doing to change our communities. I think we are in good shape there.

John Stafford: We do have a track record in economic development in Northeast Indiana. When we have an opportunity in front of us, I really don't recall a situation across the region where the particular community has not responded to the opportunity and nailed the project. We do have a track record of being able to follow through on opportunities.

Tom Harris: Councilman Buskirk.

Roy Buskirk: I was just going to say that we are a step ahead when the race starts because of the fact of the partnership that has been going on for ten years. Last winter I was working on a committee with Regional 3A on quality of life in this area and Joel, the question you asked, it is not only trails but in some of these smaller communities it is like parks or streets and anything that will improve their quality of life. We started out with probably 30 different ideas and a lot of them were not on the main focus that we had.

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Some of them were schooling and degrees to be offered in the area. This is more the brick and mortar quality of life instead of the degree picture. Parks are another thing that could be worked on.

Tom Harris: Are there any other questions?

Bill Brown: I would like to make a motion for Allen County Council Ordinance number 2015-05-28-03, an ordinance authorizing the creation of a Development Authority to be the Northeast Indiana Regional Development Authority.

Roy Buskirk: Second.

Tom Harris: Are there any more questions or comments?

Bill Brown: I would like to say that we have come a long way in ten years. Seeing Alan Tio here at the table, we talk about young talent and John we will include you in that also.

John Stafford: What about me?

Bill Brown: You already made your statement. I think it is very fascinating to see the talent when people come together in the region and is so critical.

Tom Harris: I will also add that the importance of this project is crucial for Northeast Indiana in terms of getting additional people to live here and attract people and keep them here. Our hats off and we will keep our fingers crossed in your success and our success. **We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye, all opposed same. The motion passes 7-0.** Thank you very much. Next up, also under Economic Development we can have Mr. Royse come forward. We have a variety of issues to talk about.

Mark Royse: Good morning, Mark Royse, Director of Economic Development.

Tom Harris: Mark, I guess the importance of that is that the success of that project will probably land in your lap somewhere. In some way, shape or form it will be coming your way, I think. What is the first item you want to cover this morning?

Mark Royse: We'll take the resolution of the issuance of bonds and authorizing a pledge for CEDIT funds. We have spent the last few years developing Stonebridge Industrial Park. We are now going back through the other Commission-owned properties trying to put them into a more competitive situation than they already were. They are all certified as Shovel Ready but even more so. This is a situation where we are going to refund the General Motors Series A and Series B bonds and then issue a C bond off the Nestle tax increment finance district. The purpose of which is going to be to improve Pleasant Center Road east of Bluffton Road basically to serve what we commonly refer to as the Brandenberger property that is at the northeast corner of Bluffton and Pleasant Center. That will be a half-mile of frontage done to the same level as the roads in Stonebridge Business Park. The CEDIT pledge has been used as a backup for any of our tax

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increment financing bonds. Currently, for the General Motors Series A and Series B bonds, it has been about \$1 million to \$1.2 million that the Commissioners have to set aside in CEDIT and once we refund it will basically until 2020 we'll have that pledge there. It will then be reduced to about \$175,000. All told, in the overall refunding and reissuance, it will be a savings of \$300,000. That is what is for your consideration today. This is the last resolution that needs to be approved. We will have a conference call with the Rating Agency on Monday and the last correspondence that I got is looking at closing by the middle of June.

Tom Harris: Council, are there any questions?

Roy Buskirk: I think it is very important in the timing that we get this done as soon as possible. The talk is that interest rates are going to be going up by this fall.

Mark Royse: Councilman Buskirk is on the Redevelopment Commission and has sat through all of these discussions.

Tom Harris: Okay, very good.

Bill Brown: I will make a motion to approve Resolution 2015-05-28-01 a resolution of the Allen County Council approving the issuance of bonds of the Allen County Redevelopment Commission, approving the pledge of County Economic Development Income Tax Revenues to the payment of such bonds and related matters.

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.**

Mark Royse: The next item is just a discussion item and a follow-up to the final meeting of the Joint City-County Council Tax Abatement Committee. Councilmen Harris, Brown and Buskirk were part of that. Coming out of that meeting on May 19th was a consensus that there were two issues the main one being the ability, beginning July first, to offer twenty year tax abatement on personal property at the percentage in any given year that the fiscal body would so choose. The request from staff was to put together some criteria and guidelines that would delineate that type of award over what we did a few years back on the other Joint Committee on the Super Abatement, ten-year 100% kind of situation. First, on the twenty-year personal property tax, the consensus from both the City and County Council Representatives was that the criteria would be in three parts. One would be a minimum of 1,000 new jobs, not retained jobs. A half a billion dollars or \$500 million investment in personal property and at some point, I believe we left the discussion at ten years. At some point, the Councils have to decide where they want some type of return on investment and where the amount of new income tax dollars being generated are at least equal to if not greater than the amount of the assessed value being deducted. I believe the Joint Council said it was ten years.

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Tom Harris: That was a little bit gray in terms of understanding where that mark should be but I think the general consensus was a ten-year timeframe.

Mark Royse: That is what we will do as staff is to bring that back. It will be an amendment to your procedures regarding tax abatements and we will include that in there. As you notice, not only does the State law change but it has changed locally that you want to reconvene and discuss changes to your program. There will be a few more coming up. The second issue that we were discussing was the vacant building abatements. This does not really impact Allen County all that much. We have done one in the time that it has been eligible. The City has a formal policy that they have adopted based on the State statute that was implemented a few years back and that you would go with 100% on the first year and 50% on the second year. In trying to keep the program as similar as possible, I believe we should have no problem or you as the fiscal body, have no problem adopting that to be as close together as possible. We can always revisit that.

Tom Harris: And today is discussion only. However, next month...

Mark Royse: Next month...

Tom Harris: ...we will act on this as a resolution.

Mark Royse: There will be a resolution amending your rules of procedure with regards to tax abatements.

Tom Harris: If there are any further questions or concerns over the next thirty days, we should be engaged to understand what those concerns might be and try to answer any questions we might have. Are there any questions further at this point as we move onto the next item? If not, thank you for that.

Mark Royse: The next item up, I am going to call Jacob Rose to the table. Speaking of young talent, locally grown and matriculating recently from IPFW, we were presented with an opportunity. Given a staff position leaving and a staff position that was on leave for medical issues, Ellen Cutter presented young Jacob as a highly recommended student. One of the things that we were looking at was to provide you with the best information in regards to tax abatements. Not to steal any of his thunder but we do projections, modeling and whatnot and this is going to be focused on how we project the real property tax abatement savings over time. With that I will turn it over to Jacob.

Jacob Rose: Like he said, my name is Jacob Rose and I have been interning at the Department of Planning Services. During my time in the department my specific project was to research tax abatement projects strictly on real property. The current model for real property has been seen that it is not really reflecting reality as opposed to personal property that has been validated by General Motors and BF Goodrich. Strictly I am talking about real property tax abatement projections. To adjust our model on real property tax abatement deductions we went back from 2002 and developed a spreadsheet and made several comparisons. Basically we took the Statement of Benefits and

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compared it to the assessment right after their project was complete. We then again took the Statement of Benefits and compared it to the 2014 assessment. Of the 35 companies studied, 25 stayed at the value of the real property improvements on an average of 25% higher. Basically what they said on the Statement of Benefits was higher than what it was assessed at right after completion. Again, of the 35 companies studied, 22 stated a value higher by 31% of the 2014 assessment. After analyzing the data, staff recommends that we reduce the value of the projections by 25% for real property improvements. I can answer any of your questions, if you have any.

Tom Harris: Council, questions?

Roy Buskirk: So your recommendation is when they make application that we just reduce that number by 25%?

Jacob Rose: When we are projecting the savings. Instead of what they put on the Statement of Benefits, we cut that by 25%.

Tera Klutz: Can I just follow up with that so I understand right? Not only when used for projecting the tax savings but also on the application when awarding the amount of abatement that they qualify for. I think that was Roy's question. I think it is appropriate to do in both places but I want to make sure...

Tom Harris: ...that it is on the application. Is that what you said?

Tera Klutz: It is used in the rating of the abatement that they qualify for.

Roy Buskirk: On how many years they are going to be able to get the abatement.

Tera Klutz: Yes.

Roy Buskirk: If we drop that by 25%, in some cases instead of getting a ten-year they are only going to get a seven-year. Somebody is going to have to sit across the desk there and explain that to the applicant why you are dropping their estimate on improvements.

Tera Klutz: At least 71% of them will be "I guess I overstated it anyway."

Roy Buskirk: Right.

Tera Klutz: I think he has the detail now to show.

Roy Buskirk: That is something that I have questioned for years particularly not only that value of the new construction. You really would think they would already have an estimate on what it is going to cost to have it built from a contractor or something. It may not be nailed down. I have to look across the table here at a contractor but have a pretty good idea. The other thing that I am concerned about is that they always have the number of new employees high. I understand economic conditions and things of that can

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sometimes make it be longer than what they originally had anticipated. I can understand that but I think that sometimes they put it up high because they then qualify for a longer term as far as years on getting the tax phase-in.

Tom Harris: Thank you and let me just add a couple of questions and then we will turn that over. If I am filling out the application and I know you are going to reduce that by 25%...

Jacob Rose: That you'll just jump it up 25%.

Roy Buskirk: I will jump it up 30%.

Tom Harris: Right? Secondly, has this been done in other Counties around us or is this a model and we have picked up a best practice? Why are we thinking of doing this?

Mark Royse: We tend to set the trend. We tend to lead with regards to these types of things.

Tom Harris: So it is not a practice that is around us. It is not a best practice that we are setting up.

Mark Royse: It will be once we implement it.

Tom Harris: Councilman Brown.

Larry Brown: Maybe a better approach is to change our scoring rather than to adjust their numbers which provides more false numbers. Maybe we change our scoring system. What's the difference?

Mark Royse: It's your program and you can do whatever you want. We will implement what you want. Here is the whole premise of the situation, the numbers being put down on the Statement of Benefits as an investment does not necessarily reflect what is eligible to be deducted. They may add in the cost of the land, the engineering and all of the soft costs involved in that. I can guarantee you that at the end of the day the \$1.2 billion that GM said they are going to invest in this community is not going to be reflected on assessed value.

Larry Brown: Correct.

Mark Royse: Okay. We can do it however you want to do it. If you look back prior to moving from the old means of assessment to the current means of assessment basically there was a 30% reduction in terms of value there. What I would like to recommend, and it is up to you, is that I think we are not going to be too far off base with just taking what is provided to us and reducing it. I don't think we are going to offend anybody and I don't think people are going to say that they will just add 25%. At the end of the day,

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everybody has to fill out a form and everybody has to comply with that form. You are going to face in the next item on the agenda will be in regards to compliance.

Larry Brown: To the concern about sitting across the table and justifying the reduction, the key word that I heard you say answers the question and that is that we deduct 25% for soft costs. Nothing more need said.

Tera Klutz: That's good.

Tom Harris: That adds to the question I was going to ask. Could this negatively impact economic development?

Mark Royse: Are you serious?

Tom Harris: I am. Meaning that if the other Counties don't do this.

Mark Royse: This is a value-added step that we provide to the Council and to the companies just so you understand the value of what you are giving up from an assessed value standpoint. If other Counties don't do that, and it helps the company because it gives them what the value is to them, I don't think it is going to be, I think it is overstated if it is going to have any impact on economic development.

Tom Harris: We have spent a considerable amount of time this morning on economic development and we don't necessarily want to send that negative signal that we are going in a different direction. That doesn't make sense.

Mark Royse: This is internal procedural stuff.

Tom Harris: Councilman Buskirk.

Roy Buskirk: What Councilman Brown said earlier on the soft cost, I like that very much. I think that would be a very good way to explain it. I was letting my mind run wild before that when I said these numbers are subject to change. I like this soft cost a lot better.

Tom Harris: Council, are there any other questions or comments?

Sharon Tucker: I just have a comment. I would like to see, and maybe it is my naiveté with how it works, but if we don't see the results we are looking for in the end and there is no recourse for it makes it a moot point no matter which process or procedure we use.

Mark Royse: You are going to see that coming up on the next item. We have compliance every year a company that has received a deduction or filed for a deduction has to submit a compliance form. Scott Harrold, from the staff, has put together all of that and he will be up momentarily to give you a synopsis of where things lay.

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Tom Harris: What is needed at this time?

Mark Royse: Just a consensus that if we move forward using that it is not a matter of your procedures and won't be on your agenda next month.

Tom Harris: It is a matter of soft costs and I think that is the approach to take. Are there any other comments, Council? Thank you.

Roy Buskirk: Welcome aboard.

Mark Royse: He is gone Friday.

Tom Harris: Mark, the next item?

Mark Royse: Scott Harrold will be up to give a synopsis of the annual summary of compliance.

Larry Brown: While he is making his way to the table, Scott, it is so good to see you.

Scott Harrold: That is what a lot of people say. This guy, at times doesn't think so.

Larry Brown: I am telling you, wow. There is a God.

Scott Harrold: This isn't a formal approval. We will do that at the next meeting. If you had a chance to look over what I sent out, a lot of the companies do very well as far as meeting their goals on investment or hiring and payroll and that sort of thing. We have a few companies that haven't reached their goals and I guess the question is what do you want us to do with them? Some of them are very old abatements and are probably about ready to expire. It might not be worth messing with them. My understanding is that you would like to meet with companies that are not in compliance to get a better understanding of what is going on. I just wanted to check with you to see if that is still your preference.

Tom Harris: Can you tell us a little bit about the timeline? Is there a timeline that we need to act on?

Scott Harrold: Yes, you have 45 days from the time that the compliance form was submitted to accept or reject it.

Tom Harris: Where are we in that 45 days, at this point?

Scott Harrold: They were just due May 15th. We have until July.

Tom Harris: So this is something that we can continue to look at, not only today but evaluate and come back in June to discuss further? I guess the reason that I am

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mentioning it, Council, is that it can set some precedents in terms of how we deal with a company or several companies in terms of going forward as well. Is that fair?

Mark Royse: Right and the issue becomes back to State law in regards to what is substantial compliance. This is one of the unique portions of State law that would really put the onus on the Council to make a statement or a decision that a company deliberately inflated their investment or inflated the jobs just to get a level of abatement. What I wanted Scott to do today was just ask how you want staff to move forward in terms of addressing the compliance. In the past, we followed up as staff with phone calls and emails asking why they did not meet this portion of your compliance form. They would provide the answer and we would provide that to Council. There has been a movement from a few of you that say they would like to go and meet to discuss that face-to-face with the company. You do have a window of opportunity but I think it would have to be on your June meeting.

Tom Harris: In layman's terms, in essence these companies came forward and said they were going to produce this many employees and invest this much money. In times and years that we have had an economic downturns, the process reflects that and says that we recognize there has been a downturn in the economy. If the economy is in a positive direction, there is really no reason that they couldn't or shouldn't have hit what their projections are. Then it becomes more of a question for Council to understand and not necessarily set precedence because case-by-case there could be an issue that would defend their position of not hitting those numbers.

Mark Royse: We are going to have one this afternoon where we are going out to do a business visit with R3 Composites in Grabill. They stated that they were going to create 400 jobs. They are at about 150. They are not going to be eligible for any of their Ledge benefit and it will be up to the Council to understand why they did not meet that.

Tom Harris: Okay. Council, are there any other questions or comments. So it is an item that we are going to have to deal with in terms of setting some guidelines in terms of how we deal with those companies that don't hit their projections and what they have stated they are going to hit. And do that in June.

Mark Royse: The guidelines have already been set. It is just a matter of how you want to approach them.

Tom Harris: Exactly. Councilman Buskirk.

Roy Buskirk: I personally would like to know, have the math re-run with the actual number of employees that they did obtain. What we are discussing I don't think everybody understands this. If they are going to get a property tax phase-in for ten years or seven years or five years on the real estate and then on the personal property there would be a different number of years on that. I would actually like to see the math calculated to see if it would change the number of years that they are going to receive the phase-in effect. Now, particularly with the things that have changed in the last recent

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years, the Local Option Income Tax being increased because we, as a County, can give a new employee some benefits because we are picking revenue up on the other end through the Local Option Income Tax. I think maybe, if possible, we should use Ledge more than the property tax phase-in. We have control over Ledge. Every year, if they don't perform, they don't receive it. It is a little bit different than the property tax issue. It is almost next to impossible to go back to a company and change it especially to get a refund from them because they didn't perform. That is the way it is in the private sector. If you don't perform, you either don't get paid or you have to give a refund. This is something that we have done in good faith and they are not performing as they had committed to do. There are several issues here that need addressed and I know some of it needs to go through State legislation. The current atmosphere now is you don't want to do anything against economic development.

Mark Royse: First, I don't disagree with you at all. I think the paying in arrears based on performance is the best means of doing an incentive program. But then to address Councilman Harris, is that going to set you as a Council and a County saying that we are no longer going to do tax abatements but we will value your project based on this. We will pay you based at the backend. Is that going to set you back from an economic development standpoint? I don't think so. I think you would be setting a good standard.

Tom Harris: Very good. Council, are there any other questions?

Tera Klutz: I have a question on an email that was forwarded to me on a couple of them that didn't file CF-1's. Is the process then to follow-up with them? We had a thorough research of the statute last year and went through with the City of Fort Wayne about if you don't file, you don't get the abatement.

Mark Royse: Exactly.

Tera Klutz: We struggle with how often to contact and follow-up.

Mark Royse: We have worked with the City staff on the same issue over the years. Once they receive their final approval, they get a final designation packet, the same one that is supplied to the Auditor's Office. It has the resolutions and filing dates and whatnot. That goes over and above notifying them in March that they have the opportunity to file and here is the deadline and the links to all of the forms. How far do you go with trying to do that? I agree that if they don't file, they don't get it.

Tera Klutz: If they file subsequently late, they have the opportunity to come back to this body and get a waiver from my understanding.

Mark Royse: That would be up to the Council.

Tera Klutz: But if there is no filing, there is no abatement.

Tom Harris: Councilman Benz.

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Joel Benz: I just had a question. You said you contact these individuals that don't live up to the standard. You say you get the information internally. This is my first time through this but do you share that information with Council?

Mark Royse: The difference is that right now this is how we have been doing it. I think there are a few Council members that wanted to take it a step further and they wanted to go out and meet with the company. It gives them an opportunity to do a business visit with the company and get a handle on what their operation is. They couldn't make a decision right there. They would still have to bring it back to the Council. We can do that. This is what Scott was asking for this morning. How do you want to approach those that are in non-compliance?

Roy Buskirk: The company that they are going to this afternoon, are you going with them?

Joel Benz: Yes.

Tom Harris: All right, thank you. Are there any other comments? If not, Scott, thank you very much. Mark, thank you very much. Are there any other items for discussion?

Mark Royse: Nope.

Tom Harris: I think we have another item left on the agenda as we turn back on the agenda and that is the Joint Oversight Permitting Board. It is consideration of a salary ordinance establishing the pay for a Permit Systems Coordinator.

Dawn Kennedy: Dawn Kennedy, Compensation Specialist.

Janette Jacquay: Janette Jacquay, HR Director.

Ed Steenman: Ed Steenman, IT Director.

Janette Jacquay: I am filling in for Tracy Mitchener this morning. She was unable to come into the office this morning. We are here to ask for a salary ordinance establishing the pay for a Permit Systems Coordinator which is a Special Occupation position. The range would be from \$54,055 to \$66,067.

Tom Harris: With that let's just talk a little bit about this. This is a new position, is that correct?

Ed Steenman: Correct.

Tom Harris: This is reporting up to your area. Maybe talk a little bit about what this position will be responsible for.

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Ed Steenman: This position is going to report through the County IT Department but it is going to serve both the City and the County. From an actual reporting standpoint, this person will report both to me and Jim Haley. From a functional standpoint, they will work very closely with the Permit Leadership Team which is comprised of Department Heads from six departments both City and County, Health, Planning, Fire, Building...

Larry Brown: Surveyor.

Ed Steenman: The Surveyor is not on the Permit Leadership Team. It's Development Services and Community Development.

Roy Buskirk: The Building Department is.

Ed Steenman: Yes, the Building Department is. This person, a large part of their work will be working with them helping them with a lot of permit issues that exist today. Just as an example, there is a large gap that has been identified in the Commercial Remodel Permit System. There is no process for it. This is something that will be a high priority for this position to develop that process and work with each of the departments that are involved and come up with a method and a process to make sure everything is routed the way it is supposed to be and prevent the issues that are occurring today where a contractor or developer gets fairly far down the road and then they get contacted or come to realize that they need a Health Permit or a Fire Permit that they had no idea about upfront. It makes for some pretty strained relationships when that occurs. From a Customer Service standpoint, it gives us a big black eye. This creates that stop where that person can help that developer make sure that they have all of their ducks in a row before they get too deeply into the development.

Tom Harris: So is this working in a proactive manner creating systems or simply waiting for issues to land on their desk?

Ed Steenman: We would very much like it to be proactive.

Tom Harris: So they are gaining insight and input from this committee and this leadership team and being told that "Gosh, if we could create a better, faster system", software system or some kind of process, that would streamline the permitting for a particular process, they would put that in themselves.

Ed Steenman: Yes.

Roy Buskirk: Let me make a couple of comments here. Number one, yes this is a new position. No, it is not a new position. Prior to this time it was a contract person. In working through the Joint Permitting Board, we have gone through a couple of individuals in that position. Part of the complaint has been the fact that they did not receive any benefits. It was decided, by the Board, to work with Ed and Jim (Haley) and this individual would be working with them. They would be making improvements for the Joint Permitting Board on software, the primary aspect, but that will not be all of their

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responsibilities. There are several software programs; I think there have been ten listed, as areas where the permitting process needs improvements. That is what they will be mainly starting with. It always confuses me is that they oversee but it is Atos who is hired to actually do the software work. This individual will not be doing the software work. That is what they will oversee.

Ed Steenman: Right.

Tom Harris: Kind of a Project Manager, if you will.

Ed Steenman: Yes.

Roy Buskirk: Exactly. That is what they amount to.

Ed Steenman: That is one of the key ingredients that we are looking for in the candidate that we select is to have some project management background.

Tom Harris: That ability to talk to the customer, someone coming to the County but knows internal structures and systems and can tie those two together.

Ed Steenman: Yes.

Roy Buskirk: Yes, it is going to have to be an individual that can go out and possibly talk to the community to encourage more contractors to use the system but yet be a computer geek to be able to understand the computer side of it too.

Tom Harris: Is this position approved, if you will, through the City? Has the City approved this or are they in favor of this direction?

Janette Jacquay: Yes.

Roy Buskirk: The City will participate in reimbursing us for half of the cost of this position.

Tom Harris: Very good. Councilman Armstrong.

Bob Armstrong: Does this new position have benefits or are we going to go through this again?

Roy Buskirk: Yes. This position will have County benefits.

Bob Armstrong: When the Joint Oversight Permitting Board was formed, how many employees did we have in there? There were none in the beginning. How many do we have now, paid staff people?

Roy Buskirk: None.

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Ed Steenman: This will be the first.

Larry Brown: However, we had two contract people, Ombudsman and a Service Delivery person.

Bob Armstrong: Right.

Tom Harris: Councilman Benz.

Joel Benz: In that vein, since we have had a track record and I realize this position is going to entail a little bit different thing than just having a contractor on an as-needed basis. How much did we spend on subcontracting for the last year?

Roy Buskirk: It was \$75 dollars an hour and this is a lot more economical than that.

Joel Benz: That was my point. You don't have the exact number?

Roy Buskirk: I don't.

Sharon Tucker: Were they working full-time?

Ed Steenman: It was up to 35 hours a week.

Roy Buskirk: That was almost full-time.

Tom Harris: Council, are there any other questions? If this passes today, is this position to be hired at this time or wait for the approval of the Joint Oversight Permitting Interlocal Agreement?

Roy Buskirk: It is waiting for the approval of the Interlocal Agreement with the City on the whole Permitting Board issue. We hope to have that done by the end of the month. The reason that has to be done over is there was a mix-up when it was approved three years ago because the Mayor and the Commissioners signed one agreement in which it automatically renewed. The City Council and the County Council signed an agreement which terminated in three years.

Tom Harris: That will be a second issue that we will talk about in a couple of minutes.

Sharon Tucker: So right now we have no one in this position because we lost the Ombudsman and the Specialist.

Ed Steenman: Correct. This position...

Roy Buskirk: This position is not replacing the Ombudsman. That is another issue. This is the Manager that we had.

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Larry Brown: A little detail, this position will capture very, very minor details or tasks of the Ombudsman. We incorporated some little but that is the reason for creating a new position because we learned over the course of two plus years of how we can improve on things. We tried our best to write this job description towards those improvements, broaden the duties and so forth and this is a better model, perhaps.

Tom Harris: Council, any other questions?

Bill Brown: I will make a motion for Department 40/41, Joint Oversight Permitting Board and consideration of a salary ordinance establishing the pay for a Permit Systems Coordinator, SPEC OCC, with a range of \$54,055 to \$66,067. This is effective on the full execution and approval by the City and County of the Interlocal Agreement for the operation of a Joint Oversight Permitting Board.

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 is the resolution.

Bill Brown: We need to make a motion for Department 40/41, Joint Oversight Permitting Board for the reduction in County General Fund of \$42,282 in the Contractual line into Department 42 IT County General for Permit Systems Coordinator, \$35,575, FICA at \$2,722 and PERF at \$3,985.

Bob Armstrong: Second.

Tom Harris: We have a motion and a second. That is moving the Contractual line item dollars into the 100 Series. All in favor say aye, all opposed same. The motion passes 7-0. Next item up is the resolution approving the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement. Let's open this up for discussion at this time. Do we have any questions? Roy, you talked about what was perceived as a little bit of a mix-up from a few years ago. The process ended and what basically is in front of us today is the ability to keep it moving. Do you want to talk further on that or are there any questions or comments?

Roy Buskirk: The Permitting Board which was created a little over three years ago has made great strides. There still is work to be done in order to improve our permitting process and make it easier access for contractors and architects and everything else to communicate with the permitting departments. Also, to apply and pay for permits electronically and enhance the County as being a very forward and cooperating County. There have been several projects that have been saved because the Ombudsman role which is currently empty. The current one retired and we are trying to replace him. The one thing, as Council members, we need to understand is the fact that the one way of increasing revenue is to increase assessed values. That is through permits. To me this is very important on the economic growth of our community to increase the assessed values.

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Tom Harris: So this process allows for that permitting system and process to be improved and continue to be improved and for a group or team to oversee that process. Two challenges that come to mind for me is an evaluation of the outcome or a listing of enhancements or improvements. Somehow, if we can get a reporting process back to Council on a quarterly basis or something to say here are some of the improvements that have been done. I think that might be beneficial. That is one thing to think about. The second thing is that while there is still funding available from the initial amount that was passed, the number could be coming to, we could be running out and this group may come back to Council and want additional funds. I think consideration should be given to where those funds come from. Being an economic development initiative, it might be something from CEDIT or something that we can look at like from the Commissioners or some account to consider. That is not something that we have to decide today. I am just throwing that out. Councilman Brown.

Larry Brown: Back to the items before us is the resolution. I think we were naïve enough to think at the creation of this Board that we could fix 1, 2, 3 or 10 items, get it fixed, be done, close the doors and go home. In the process, we determined that not only did we want to fix but we also wanted to be the best following other communities and best practices and so on. With that in mind, it's a never ending process. You have to continue to examine and improve and make changes as technology changes, as applicants change and a variety of things that affect that. I guess the thing that I want to make sure that Council understands is that this definitely will go forward for some time. Is it forever? I don't know. I won't tell you that it is not forever. The good thing is that it is a joint between the City and the County which I think all members of this Board are committed to keep it a joint City and County effort. For those that have been around a while that is important and monumental step to keep City and County focused.

Tom Harris: With that as far as a process, a couple of things, one is that this resolution being considered today also needs to be passed by the Commissioners, the Mayor and City Council. This is the first step in that process. Are there any changes to this ordinance from the previous ordinance that existed?

Roy Buskirk: Yes, there is. Number one is that it automatically renews every three years. Number two is that there are two additional positions to the Board. Currently it is six which Larry and I both serve on it. It is two from the County Council, two from the City Council, one Mayor's appointment and one Commissioner. We have added to that the Surveyor and I don't know the title, President...

Larry Brown: It is the Joint Land Use Governing Board appointment by that body.

Roy Buskirk: And it is a City member off of that. It keeps it even that there are eight, four that are City associates and four from the County. While I have the floor, I will make one additional comment. You said about the reporting to the County Council and it so happens that is in the job description of the individual that we just approved. The position will do an annual report to the different bodies.

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Tom Harris: That might be something that we talk about further as well. Auditor Klutz.

Tera Klutz: I wanted to take the opportunity to thank Larry and Roy, who for the last three years probably worked very hard and possibly the hardest as members of the Board, trying to make the Board work. It was a working Board and their effort on trying to continue that is also appreciated. I do have concerns with the interlocal agreement as the Chief Financial Officer of the County. Under Section 6 it says “The parties agree that the costs incurred by the Joint Oversight Permitting Board will be borne equally by the City of Fort Wayne and Allen County.” One of the duties of the Board is to communicate the final budget and my concerns are how do you foresee, as the Chief Financial Officer of the County, how are we supposed to forecast a budgeted amount that this fiscal body will then have no say? If this is approved today, will the Joint Oversight Permitting Board set their own budget and then obligate without any more approval of the City and County, 50%? When I read this that is exactly what it says.

Roy Buskirk: The way I understand it is that we will have to submit a budget to both the City and the County for approval.

Larry Brown: Correct.

Tera Klutz: Number 7 leaves both submit and approval out. It just says you can communicate the final budget to all interested parties.

Tom Harris: So that may be an opportunity for an amendment to this resolution?

Tera Klutz: I am just saying that I want to understand what we are doing here today. As a fiscal body, you will lose control over the ability. You are obligating yourself to pay 50% unless this is amended.

Roy Buskirk: Where would the Board get the funding if it was not approved by...?

Tera Klutz: Section 6 says “The parties agree that the cost incurred will be borne equally...” Once the City Council and the County Council approve this, they are committing to fund it at 50% period.

Roy Buskirk: Excuse me, Nelson. Are you hearing what is being said here?

Nelson Peters: I hear what is being said.

Tera Klutz: What are your thoughts?

Tom Harris: Maybe we will have Commissioner Peters join us at the table.

Nelson Peters: Nelson Peters, Allen County Commissioner. The purpose of this interlocal is to allow for the continuation of the Board as it was constructed three years

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ago and with the addition of two people. The fiscal part is not intended to pull the wool over anybody's eyes. The fact of the matter is the Board can't spend any more money than they have. Where they are going to get the money will be borne equally by the City of Fort Wayne Common Council and by the Allen County Council. There is a safeguard regardless of what budget is or isn't presented. I think it is good practice that the Board presents, during budget time, to this body. The safeguard is still in place in that body that they cannot spend any more than what has been appropriated. This body has the final say in those expenditures regardless of how you look at it.

Tera Klutz: So, you feel that the practice will be submit the budget, get approval and then spend the money. We will actually be appropriating money.

Nelson Peters: For 2016.

Tera Klutz: Okay.

Roy Buskirk: But there will be additional funding needed before 2016.

Nelson Peters: Right.

Roy Buskirk: We will be back to Council at that time asking for additional funding possibly even next month. Again, we can't spend it until you give us your blessing.

Tom Harris: As a simple example, should Council give additional money as early as next month or the following month, whatever that amount is half of that will be reimbursed by the City of Fort Wayne.

Roy Buskirk: Correct.

Nelson Peters: Correct.

Tom Harris: They would not have a say in the appropriations that the County is making? Or would they also have to agree to the additional expense that's happening?

Nelson Peters: They have to agree to the additional expense and they do that effectively through the Joint Oversight Permitting Board.

Tom Harris: Okay.

Nelson Peters: Let me just say one thing to the Auditor's concern. We've been remiss. There is no question that the Board has been remiss. There should have been a budget presented to this body and the City Council every year. The County Attorney pointed that out and suggested that's a practice that while it has been foregone in the past, it really needs to occur in the future. You will see that.

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Tom Harris: Is there a necessity to have an amendment in this ordinance to clear that up?

Tera Klutz: I'm glad to hear, for the record that they are going to but what I didn't hear is the City Council is going to be afforded the same opportunity. Through the Joint Oversight Permitting Board, we will be appropriating the full amount and then they will just pay us the 50%. I just want to make sure that we are all on board with that because what I don't want to happen is originally when Nelson crafted this Board, there was an appropriation by both the City and the County. It was a lump sum and it was laid out what was going to be done. There really hasn't been a large appropriation since and it has just been funded by that. Also, the Board was to expire in three years. That was the whole project. I feel that the missing part here, this time, is that there is no money being approved with it. There is no idea on how much it is going to cost going forward. No mechanism, he is saying this and it is on the record, I think that's great and we will probably practice it but where does that put the City?

Roy Buskirk: The thing of it is the City is one step ahead of us on this year because they have funding for the Permitting Board in their IT Department and it's around \$150,000. That is what Jim, the head of City IT, has in his budget to cover expenses for the Permitting Board. They did that last year. I apologize because I slipped and we should have had someone here earlier. We have not spent over what the original three-year agreement was of \$1.4 million.

Tom Harris: Councilman Brown.

Bill Brown: I was wondering where it says communicating the final budget for the project to all interested parties, if we put "for approval" in there, would that complicate things?

Larry Brown: Bill, where are you reading that?

Bill Brown: That is in the resolution.

Larry Brown: I know but which section?

Bill Brown: Section five,

Tera Klutz: Section four, line seven.

Roy Buskirk: Nelson, when do you expect the Commissioners to approve this?

Nelson Peters: After this body does so as early as a week from Friday. The only thing I would caution against amendments, and I am not suggesting that it shouldn't get the appropriate terminology in there or terminology that is more comfortable to you, there are four agreements through this process that need to be approved. The Mayor has to sign off. The County Commissioners have to sign off. The City Council has to sign off and

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this body has to sign off. In an effort to ensure that the agreements read the same, any amendment that comes forth here, since you are probably the first approving body, would have to happen in the other agreements too. With respect to what the City Council's expectations are relative to the Joint Permitting Board, I think that is mail that has to be carried to and from their appointees to that Board. It has been reduced in that agreement that they are responsible for half the cost. But the vehicle is to get that to and from the County, I don't know and I don't know if that needs to be part of the agreement. It's worked up to this point, I think, and there is no intent to change the vehicle or the approach for that particular financial piece.

Tom Harris: The opportunity would be open for the Council to make a further amendment one month, two months or six months from now, should they choose. Is that a fair statement?

Nelson Peters: No.

Tom Harris: So the ordinance passes and would not be able to be changed for three years?

Nelson Peters: You can always make the change but in an effort to maintain some uniformity, what we do we would then request of the Commissioners, the Mayor and the City Council just to ensure...

Tom Harris: The reason I mention this is the potential exists that this comes before the City Council and they make an amendment and it would come back to us. So that potential exists as well.

Nelson Peters: Absolutely.

Tom Harris: Are there any further comments? Councilman Tucker.

Sharon Tucker: Are we under a timeline for this approval?

Roy Buskirk: Yes.

Sharon Tucker: Okay, what's that?

Roy Buskirk: Yesterday.

Sharon Tucker: It needed to be approved yesterday?

Roy Buskirk: The Board is actually non-functional since May 5th because the Mayor's and the Commissioners' had no time limit but the ones that City Council and County Council signed had a three-year termination date. The termination date was the date that the last party signed which was May 5th by the Mayor.

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Sharon Tucker: So the existing agreement has expired.

Roy Buskirk: Correct.

Sharon Tucker: I guess I am leaning towards what Tera is saying. I understand what the Commissioner said and cleared up but we all saw what happened when we operated off of assumption for the State with some other bills were passed and so I hate to see us assume that we are going to work one way and not have the language to clarify that. That is my own personal thought. It seems that we are under a time crunch. They meet weekly and so they have to look at it and/or make an adjustment.

Tera Klutz: We don't have to be the first one to sign it. Like today with the RDA, we can get this amended saying that they have to submit their budget to the fiscal bodies for approval. At least, at that point, you are guaranteed a say in what you will spend and not obligating yourself 50% of some number that you don't know. I think it is good to have that for your protection. It's my recommendation. You can be the third signer or the fourth signer. You don't have to be the first signer.

Roy Buskirk: That's correct but the one other thing is that we will not be able to fill the position that we just passed until all four signed.

Tom Harris: Commissioner Peters.

Nelson Peters: I am not real clear on what the concern is. Just like the position that was just approved, you have the authority to say no we are not going to do that. You stop it right there. There is the check and balance. There is nothing that is going to happen through that body that you don't have direct control over. That checks and balance exists by whether or not you appropriate the dollars. If I was sitting on the Council and I had members of the Joint Oversight Permitting Board coming to me for dollars, I would ask what they want to expend these dollars for. That is the checks and balance that exists so I am really not sure what else needs to go into an agreement to provide the appropriate assurances.

Tom Harris: Council, are there any other questions or comments?

Roy Buskirk: I will make a motion for the approval of Resolution 2015-05-28-02, of the creation of the Interlocal Permitting Board.

Tom Harris: We have a motion. Is there a second?

Larry Brown: I will second that.

Tom Harris: **We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye, all opposed same. The motion passes 5-2 (Benz and Tucker).** Next on the agenda, before we move onto Liaison Reports and such, actually let's do Recent and Upcoming Meetings and Liaison Reports. Is there anything that anyone would like to share? I will start out by saying that I

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had a privilege and honor to speak on behalf of Council at the GM announcement a few days ago. I shared and expressed our congratulations to the employees and the entire leadership team at GM. What happened there was pretty fascinating and it took over thirty years for GM to spend about \$1 billion in this community through infrastructure, labor costs and all of the expenses. What they just did is pass a process that is going to spend \$1.2 billion over the next two or three years in this community and what is tremendous about that is that it is an investment in this community for hopefully another thirty years out. Also, what is exciting about that is with that kind of substantial investment usually comes additional vendors and suppliers and additional jobs that may come with that too. Hopeful and anticipating further growth from that investment and I wanted to share that I expressed our congratulations to all of the employees and leadership team at General Motors. With that are there other comments for Liaison Reports?

Tera Klutz: I have an upcoming meeting. The Annual State Board of Accounts Training for County Councils is June 20th. I have an agenda and a call letter that I will forward to you by email and then also a registration link. You are welcome to register yourself and select Bill Me and forward the invoice us. You have money in your budget to attend. If you would like us to register you, let us know and we can do that as well.

Tom Harris: Tera, I may be attending as well. I think I attended last year.

Tera Klutz: I believe you did. The date is June 20th and later today I will forward the information so you can look through the agenda and see if it is something that you would be interested in. I recommend anyone who is available to go because it is very educational. I also want to mention that budget projections for 2016 will be presented by Nick next month. We are getting started with that process.

Tom Harris: We look forward to that and that will begin the process of understanding what kinds of revenues and expenses may be coming at us in this next year. We will then begin to move towards the budget cycle and process. For those that are new, look forward to that. Are there any other Upcoming Meetings or Liaison Reports?

Bob Armstrong: The only thing I have is and we have had this discussion, organizational charts, I asked for last month. Also, I don't know how you incorporate the organizational charts into the budget book but it would be nice if we could print those into the budget book by department. I noticed by being online and looking at the City budget, their organizational charts are in each department. If we could do that it would be helpful.

Tera Klutz: Absolutely. I know that Tom Harris is working with HR and they sent out an email yesterday requesting organizational charts for each department. As they receive those back we will be able to add them. We will have six months to get them to include in the budget book.

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tom Harris: All right, are there any other comments? We will open it to Public Comments. We have some visitors here today.

Roger Johnson and Richard Duke from Hacienda Village talked about the Bullerman Watershed and the flooding that it caused May 31 to June 1, 2013. They have gone to many entities in order to get this rectified. They had contacted the Department of Environmental Management, the Department of Natural Resources, the Maumee River Basin Commission, various City, County, State and Federal Agencies. Roger Johnson put together some proposals, long term and short term, in hopes that this Board can tell them where they need to go to resolve this. Tom Harris asked if there had been any contact with the Commissioners on this. Yes they had through the Drainage Board. Tom Harris asked what the issue is, in a nutshell. The proposal has to do with the entire Bullerman Watershed and bringing the Bullerman Ditch into the 21st century. Tom Harris said that he thought the Surveyor was pursuing this process and they agreed with that. Roy Buskirk pointed out that there is nothing that the County Council can do about this. He said that the Council is only involved with funding of the County. The ditches or the bridges are done by the Commissioners and the Drainage Board. Roger just wanted the Council to have knowledge of their concerns. Tom Harris stated that this was good information and that they were going to contact the Commissioners and the Surveyor.

Tom Harris: Are there any other comments or questions?

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 May 28, 2015.

Bob Armstrong: Second.

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

Joel Benz: Move to adjourn.

Sharon Tucker: Second.

Tom Harris: All in favor please signify by saying aye. Opposed like sign. The motion passes 7-0. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:13.