

**ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**AUGUST 18, 2016**  
**8:30 AM**

The Allen County Council met on Thursday, August 18, 2016 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 and Sharon L. Tucker. Tom A. Harris was absent.

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

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

**Roy Buskirk:** Just in case you are wondering and there won't be any rumors, I have been fighting liver cancer since last June and two weeks ago they did a bone biopsy and I now have cancer in my bones. We're fighting.

**Larry Brown:** Keep up the fight.

**Roy Buskirk:** First on the agenda is the approval of the July 20 and 21, 2016 meeting minutes. Are there any additions or corrections?

**Bill Brown:** Move to approve the minutes from July 20 and 21, 2016.

**Joel Benz:** Second.

**Roy Buskirk:** All in favor signify by saying aye, opposed, same sign. The motion passes 6-0-1 (Tom Harris absent). Next is the financial report from Auditor Tera Klutz.

**Nick Jordan:** Tera is at a meeting in Indianapolis and so I am going to handle the meeting for her. For the July financials, they are trending very well today. We are through approximately 58% of the year and the Miscellaneous Revenues are at about 61%. The property taxes, as she mentioned last month, are as expected. Another item to note is if you looked at the Expense area, the percentage of disbursements are around 52% and we are a little more than halfway through the year and may be setting up for a good rollover at the end of the year. When you dig down to a couple of pieces of the Miscellaneous Revenue and look at the Building Department and Surveyor, they are continuing the trend of very high revenue which was last seen in the early 2000's when we had the building and development boom. It is a good economic climate in Allen County.

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**Roy Buskirk:** Are there any questions for Nick?

**Sharon Tucker:** I will make a motion that we accept the Auditor's report as given.

**Larry Brown:** Second.

**Roy Buskirk:** All in favor please signify by saying aye. The motion passes 6-0-1 (Tom Harris absent). Back to you, Nick.

**Nick Jordan:** On your agenda you see the non-seasonally adjusted unemployment rates for May and June. July should be out tomorrow. Allen County went from 4.1% to 4.4%. Indiana went from 4.3% to 4.6% and National was 4.5% to 5.1%.

**Roy Buskirk:** Dan Freck, would you come on up and bring your new friend.

**Dan Freck:** Good morning, Council. Dan Freck, Director of Buildings and Grounds. I would like to introduce Vance Hernandez who will be the new Director of Buildings and Grounds for the Allen County Commissioners.

**Larry Brown:** Welcome.

**Roy Buskirk:** Welcome.

**Vance Hernandez:** Thank you.

**Dan Freck:** I wanted to take a few moments to say goodbye. I want to thank everybody for 17 years of support. I have been the Director for over half of my time here and you guys have been good. You have treated me well and I hope I haven't caused too many problems but have found a way to get the money we needed to do the projects. I just wanted to take a little time to say goodbye and wish all of you well and wanted to introduce Vance. He will be taking over September first and we stole him from the City of Fort Wayne and I think it is a very good move for County government and Commissioners. He should do very well once we figure out which way is north and which way is south. We haven't toured all of the buildings yet but meeting the Courts and meeting the Sheriff's Department and touring the buildings. It just takes some time and he will get adjusted to that as well. I just wanted to stop and say thank you and goodbye.

**Vance Hernandez:** Nice meeting you.

**Bob Armstrong:** Welcome aboard.

**Roy Buskirk:** Yes.

**Vance Hernandez:** Thank you.

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**Roy Buskirk:** Is that the only comment you have? I figured you had a whole list of things.

**Dan Freck:** That will probably come next month.

**Vance Hernandez:** I will go easy today.

**Roy Buskirk:** If I had a list, it would be very, very short.

**Vance Hernandez:** They are going to be tough shoes to fill, for sure.

**Roy Buskirk:** We really appreciate the work that you have done, Dan.

**Dan Freck:** I have appreciated working with County Council as well.

**Roy Buskirk:** Good luck in your retirement and we will see you down the road, I guess.

**Dan Freck:** I will come in as a public citizen and complain about some of the issues.

**Roy Buskirk:** That's good.

**Dan Freck:** I wouldn't do that to you.

**Roy Buskirk:** When is your official last day?

**Dan Freck:** My last day is Wednesday, August 31<sup>st</sup> and Vance takes over the following day, September 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Roy Buskirk:** How many weeks of vacation do you have coming?

**Dan Freck:** I have donated that away and so I will be here until the end of the time.

**Joel Benz:** Thank you for your service.

**Roy Buskirk:** Are there any other comments?

**Larry Brown:** Yes. Over my tenure on County Council, I have been the liaison to the Building Maintenance most of the time and the one thing that always stands out with Dan is the can-do attitude. That speaks the most of your character and I really appreciate everything you have done.

**Dan Freck:** Thank you. Well, we are going to go back to work.

**Bill Brown:** I want to sum that up in a term I like to use and that is the "go-to" guy. Call Dan and things get done. Good job.

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**Dan Freck:** We will continue that on with Vance as well. Thank you.

**Roy Buskirk:** Today in appropriations we have \$2,032 from the General Fund and \$1,110,436 in Other Funds. Would the Allen County Public Library come forward?

**Pete Mallers:** Good morning, my name is Pete Mallers and I am the attorney for the Allen County Public Library. This is Dave Sedestrom, Financial Manager. With us today is Greta Southard, Library Director and Kent Castleman, one of the Trustees. Another Trustee is Bill Brown but he is not here in that capacity. Thanks for giving us the opportunity to meet with you. This is a resolution, 2016-08-18-01, which is a resolution of the County Council for the approval of the amendment to the lease between the Allen County Public Library Building Corporation and the Library. This is related to the issuance of First Mortgage Refunding Bonds. We have been through this exercise before with the County Council when there has been an opportunity to refinance bonds that were issued over the years related to the capital project that the Library entered into many years ago for the construction or expansion of the main Library and eleven of the thirteen branches and other buildings. This particular refunding goes back to the 2002 bonds that were reissued or refunded in 2005. The amount was \$31 million and the balance is approximately \$29 million now. The Indiana Code authorizes the refunding and the Library has taken the position with its financial manager, Umbaugh that it would not refund unless there was a savings of a particular amount. This was presented to the Library Board and to the Building Corporation and was approved by separate resolutions. Now we are bringing it to you for your approval. We can go through the resolution and as much detail as you would like. Dave is here and can talk about the specific numbers but this will amount to a savings to the taxpayers of Allen County of over \$2 million over time.

**Roy Buskirk:** Go ahead, Bill.

**Bill Brown:** This is one of those benefits to low interest rates that sometimes we don't see on the various accounts or in the bank but this is a great example of going to work and saving a political subdivision, like the Library, considerable amount of money for the Library and the taxpayer. I would like to make a motion for the approval of Resolution 2018-08-18-01 authorizing the issuance of First Mortgage Refunding Bonds by the Allen County Public Library Building Corporation.

**Sharon Tucker:** Second.

**Roy Buskirk:** I am sorry but what kind of savings is this going to generate?

**Dave Sedestrom:** What we structured and what has been approved is that we would have to see a minimum of three percent net present value savings. Given the interest rates today, these are set to be sold in late September and priced at that point, it would generate around \$420,000 per semi-annual payment savings or around \$2.1 million. We are currently refinancing bonds that are at five percent and the current rates are running at about 1.9 to 2 percent. That is where the generated savings is coming from. This is not

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extending the term it will still be maturing in 2021. About another five years on those. The threshold of the three percent, if the market takes off and the interest rates grow, we won't do it for less than that.

**Roy Buskirk:** Okay but the life of the bond and everything will remain the same?

**Dave Sedestrom:** Yes with a maturity date of the last payment in January of 2021.

**Roy Buskirk:** We have a motion and a second. All in favor please signify by saying aye. The motion passes 6-0-1 (Tom Harris absent).

**Pete Mallers:** Thank you.

**Roy Buskirk:** Who is going to do the presentation of your budget?

**Dave Sedestrom:** I am.

**Nick Jordan:** To give a little introduction, at the very end of the meeting you will see that we have the 2017 estimates of the maximum levies and Circuit Breaker Credits. As part of that under the new law, the tax unit can voluntarily come and speak before you. The Library has chosen to do so and rather than wait until the end, they will speak right now. We will do the rest of it when everybody else is done. They are not required to provide you with anything, under the new law, but the DLGF did that and I sent the packet to you.

**Dave Sedestrom:** Good morning. Again, I am Dave Sedestrom with the Library and Greta Southard, Library Director. As has been the case in the last few years, even though we have not been required to do so, we like to take this opportunity given the taxing size of our budget it is good to talk with you and give ideas of where we are heading with our budget. Greta will explain some of the initiatives and items that we are dealing with. From the boring items, the number stuff, the budget will be set up with a balanced but with the 3.8% growth quotient maximum. We will be taking the levy to that amount and we will set up the expense but for the same amount. The caps will obviously come into play as I am sure Nick has talked about. We are now required to put those in the expense budget projections. While our final budget will be around \$29 million it will actually be showing up around \$33 million because of these caps being put in there now. The budget that will be approved will be the \$29 million which is the 3.8% increase. Our internal budget will be even lower than that because we always have a balanced budget with the internal and net of cap. We are looking at a \$27 million General Fund budget. The Debt Service budget is set up at \$6.6 million right now but if the resolution that you just passed allows us to refinance those bonds, they would go down to about a \$6.2 million and everything will be adjusted accordingly. It is all keyed off of the amortization table that the bond will have. Other than that there is nothing really exciting except that Nick and I are jumping up and down when the DLGF estimate of 3.8% growth came up because that really changed the tide of a number of years of going down. It looks as if nothing else, the economy is starting to turn around in some respects. Hopefully that good news continues.

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Speaking for all of the taxing units, having the economy do well and property values go up and incomes go up makes for a better ability to deliver services. I know part of the growth quotient in our budget is going to be able to address some capital items that we have had to put on hold for the last few years. It is hard to imagine but this expansion program is fifteen years old. I know Councilman Brown knows that we have had to start replacing roofs and HVAC systems. You think, oh we just did those buildings but the fact is that they are getting older. Our ten-year capital plan for all of these maintenance items and replacements now makes it a little easier to do them without having to pick and choose. Do we need to make this branch a little warmer because we can't replace that heating and cooling system? Those are the highlights and I would be happy to answer any questions you might have. I do turn it over to Greta who can talk about the initiatives and things that are going on in the Library.

**Greta Southard:** In terms of the programmatic things that we are taking a look at, we always look at how we can better serve our community. A number of things we are implementing and finalizing right now go towards that. For example, you are probably not aware of, because we haven't really announced it, but we have been slowly making this change branch-by-branch. So far we have done two branches and our third branch is being worked on this morning. We are changing our DVD circulation period which is one of the most commented on features of our services in terms of the Library comment cards that we get from the public. There was always the complaint as to why can't we circulate DVD's for longer than three days? Hundreds of comment cards all the time wanting more time. Staff took a look at this and had conversations about what all would need to be changed. We have a policy that needs to be changed. What kinds of procedures need to be changed? We went through the whole laundry list of procedures that would need to be changed and what kinds of computer changes would need to be changed. What kinds of physical changes would need to be changed to the material? After all of that had been looked at, planned for and put together an implementation plan, we were able to go forward and by September 1 at all of our locations, our DVD's will go from circulating three days to seven days. That doesn't sound like a very big deal but we are also making all of the materials hold able which means you can go in and search the catalog, find a movie you want and put a hold on it. Before, we didn't allow that. That provides a much more convenient service to our customers. Movies can be renewed for up to five times. All of that is an expansion of the community's ability to have those materials longer. We are continuing to look at the services that we provide, how we do it and does it still make sense? Back in the day when DVD's were sort of a new item to a library collection, a three-day loan period made sense because we didn't have that many DVD's and we wanted to make sure everyone had equitable access. Times have changed. We continue to look at processes and procedures, what are we doing and does it still make sense? That is a little snapshot. David always has the numbers and as he alluded, one of our biggest expenses is building maintenance. As you well know, from having your own facilities, people come in and talk to you about the buildings that you deal with. We too are in the same position. There are always unexpected opportunities to fix things that you hadn't really planned on. You thought that the life cycle of a particular piece of equipment was going to be ten years but it turned out to only be seven. Why is that and do we need to take a look at it? Is there some preventative maintenance that we haven't been doing or is

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this not really as good a piece of equipment that we thought? We continue to dig into those kinds of issues. Just two weeks ago we replaced the air conditioning at Pontiac. Those folks will be cool and comfortable but things happen and you have to take care of them. I am happy to talk about anything you want to talk about.

**Roy Buskirk:** Are there any questions? On the hold policy, how long can you hold something?

**Greta Southard:** We have shortened that up a little bit. It used to be we would have materials on the hold shelf for ten days. We thought that kept the stuff out of circulation a little bit long. We have shortened that window to seven days. The materials are still there for people to pick up but instead of it being ten days, it has shrunk down to seven days. We thought that was more in keeping with the seven-day concept that were going for other things. We have some materials that circulate for seven days; we have seven-day express books and trying to have a little more consistency in our numbers.

**Roy Buskirk:** Obviously, if you have to put a hold on it, it must be a popular item. With the 3.8% growth factor, how much more revenue is that going to generate for the Library?

**Dave Sedestrom:** All things being equal, we are estimating around \$253,000. Again, it is not insignificant compared to what we have been looking at. That is going to go a long way and we have earmarked all of that for capital items. There is always a list of items longer than we have revenue for. This will help greatly.

**Roy Buskirk:** Are there any other questions?

**Bill Brown:** Just a couple of comments. With the tax caps obviously that has created pain for all of the taxing entities but it is interesting to see over time how the State has put in a mechanism to illustrate the dollars that are being saved through the property tax caps. Over time, as the economy improves, more money coming into the coffers and as a Trustee of the Library, we go to the different branches for meetings and there is a spirit of continuous improvement that runs throughout. You can see that in the various Managers at the Library branches. That is good to see because it is an ongoing process. Greta, with two years under her belt right now that is the process underway now to continue to figure out how to be relevant especially in the new age of so much electronic media.

**Greta Southard:** The community is looking to be sort of a 21<sup>st</sup> Century community. There are all sorts of things that go along with that and a huge component of that is having an educated workforce so that people are college and career ready and can move into whatever career or profession that they are interested in. We have a role in being supportive in all of that and the challenge for us is to figure out how the Library can be a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Library and what that means for us. What does that mean in terms of training our staff and rethinking our skill sets and making sure we have the capacity to serve the needs of the community? All of this is a work in progress.

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**Sharon Tucker:** I have a question. Have you guys gotten into E-books?

**Greta Southard:** Oh, yes. We do have E-books. We have a couple of ways to access E-materials. I wish I would have brought this little flyer on 24-hour access. I came directly from home because of the fog this morning. We have electronic materials that you can download from a service called Overdrive. You can download the app onto your I-phone or whatever phone you have and you can access the Library's catalog and checkout materials and listen to them on your device. I will give you a little tip, if you have a Bluetooth speaker in your car, you can listen to your book as you are driving. I will make sure to send over the fliers on how to do the 24-hour access.

**Sharon Tucker:** Awesome, thank you.

**Bill Brown:** I have one more quick comment. When Greta came onboard, she had expressed a real interest in connecting the reading gap with the schools. Kent Castleman is a new Trustee and he has been really effective in Monroeville with the Cornerstone Youth Council. I think something to look forward to in the future is the various branch Libraries and the downtown Library becoming more connected in a way that will help close that reading gap. We know we have a double digit situation out there when it comes to literacy to have that qualified workforce. I am glad you brought that up.

**Roy Buskirk:** Now is your opportunity. Are there any more questions? How is circulation?

**Greta Southard:** Our circulation is always influx and we are seeing it increase in our electronic circulation as well as increase in our access to electronic materials. A lot of the genealogy materials that we have in electronic form ebbs and flows. Our print circulation will be up and then it will be down but overall, circulation is holding relatively steady. We are seeing changes in our circulation patterns in terms of the kinds of material that is circulating. That is something that we pay attention to. Circulation is important but that is an indicator of transactions and we need to be paying more attention to how we are serving our community. We are trying to take a look at a broad array of accountabilities and circulation is certainly one. I haven't seen all of the numbers yet from our summer reading program but we had over 40,000 folks in the community participate. I deliberately say folks because we had children as well as adults. We had people of all ages because we wanted to create a program that was multi-generational and we wanted families to model reading. That is why we had an adult component to our summer reading program. People typically think of a summer reading program as just an activity for kids. We wanted to create that atmosphere so that adults, caregivers, guardians or parents were modeling the benefits of reading so that everyone in the family or entity could participate. We have been really pleased at how successful that has been.

**Roy Buskirk:** Very good, I appreciate it.

**Dave Sedestrom:** Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you. We love coming to talk with you.

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**Greta Southard:** I will send some of those fliers over.

**Sharon Tucker:** That will save me a lot of money if I don't have to buy E-books.

**Greta Southard:** That way, they just go away and there are no overdue fees.

**Roy Buskirk:** The Sheriff's Department. Are you going to run this, Bill, since Tom isn't here?

**Bill Brown:** Yes.

**Charlie Edwards:** Charlie Edwards, Chief Deputy of the Sheriff's Department. I am here to get some money. Last month we came to you about Quality Correctional Care and I am here to move some funds to Contractual so that we can pay these folks \$368,410.

**Bill Brown:** I think all of the questions were answered last month. It sure seems like a good program and that they have hired a good contractor. All indicators are that this is going to actually be revenue positive over time and operationally much more of a streamlined approach.

**Charlie Edwards:** In the last thirty days they have saved us money on prescriptions because their buying power is tremendously different. They have gone back as far as April to reprice them. We are also in compliance with 1269 or will be by the end of the week as far as HIP2. That brings us into compliance with State law that went into effect last year. Our mental health is also being addressed.

**Roy Buskirk:** Are there any other questions from Council?

**Bill Brown:** I think that is great. Thanks for bringing this forward. I will make a motion to approve the transfer within the Sheriff's County General Fund for items one through 18 in the amount of \$368,410 into Contractual for \$368,410.

**Larry Brown:** Second.

**Roy Buskirk:** **All in favor please signify by saying aye. The motion passes 6-0-1 (Tom Harris absent).** Department of Planning Services is next.

**Scott Harrold:** Scott Harrold, Department of Planning Services. I am here representing the County Redevelopment Commission. The first item is an appropriation for \$27,000 in Fund 813. Basically this is for money to make a payment to the City of Woodburn. Some of the Cities and Towns have their own Redevelopment Commission but the ones that don't County Redevelopment Commission have the jurisdiction. Woodburn wanted us to help them out with some projects that they want to do through TIF but they didn't want to set up their own Redevelopment Commission. The County Redevelopment Commission agreed to reimburse them to pay for capital projects that are appropriated under State law.

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The City of Woodburn extended a road in their industrial park a year or so ago to help the development for a project for North American Cold Storage. It is a large facility that they were very happy to get. They spent about \$200,000 to extend the road and utilities. We need this money appropriated so that we can start reimbursing them for that project. It should have been in the budget last year but it was an oversight on our part.

**Roy Buskirk:** In essence, this is Woodburn's money from their TIF Fund and they don't have a Redevelopment Commission and so it all comes through the County and we just need to give this back to Woodburn. They have done some great things out there with their industrial park. Recently they have acquired more ground and are extending utilities and roads. They have a lot of activity out there. I think they were down to one less desirable lot and now they have bought some additional ground.

**Joel Benz:** I just have one question about this form. You have a current fund balance of \$13,000. What fund is that referring to?

**Scott Harrold:** It is that same Fund 813.

**Joel Benz:** So you are requesting that we put an additional \$27,000 into that fund?

**Scott Harrold:** No that is just the appropriation. We expect to get another payment through property taxes at the end of the year. We may not have that in time to pay it to Woodburn and may have to pay it next year.

**Joel Benz:** Okay.

**Scott Harrold:** We did some work with a consultant and this was with the previous Mayor. They have a lot of great plans to improve Woodburn and fortunately the new Mayor sees a lot of value and wants to continue down that path. There may be a lot of other work that they want to do but this is a start to reimburse them for what they have already done.

**Bill Brown:** I will make the motion for the appropriation in Woodburn TIF Fund 813 in the amount of \$27,000 for Infrastructure Projects.

**Larry Brown:** Second.

**Roy Buskirk:** All in favor please signify by saying aye. The motion passes 6-0-1 (Tom Harris absent).

**Scott Harrold:** This is a new fund that was just created this year. The Stonebridge Fund is really meant to be for reimbursing the County Commissioners for a bunch of money that they helped us with infrastructure for road work, water, sewer and utilities and drainage work for the Stonebridge Park that the Redevelopment Commission constructed. We sold some land recently and have a little over \$1 million there. Part of our loan agreement with the Commissioners was to repay them with either tax increment funds

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that we get from property taxes or from future land sales. We would like to have that money appropriated so we can make a payment on that loan now.

**Roy Buskirk:** Are there any questions?

**Bill Brown:** I know you have been working with them on that. It is standard operating procedure, in that regard. I would like to make a motion for the appropriation in Stonebridge TIF Fund 862 in the amount of \$1,000,000 for the Stonebridge Project Loan.

**Larry Brown:** Second.

**Roy Buskirk:** All in favor please signify by saying aye. The motion passes 6-0-1 (Tom Harris absent). ACJC.

**Wendy Kyler:** Good morning, Wendy Kyler, Budget Analyst for Allen County Juvenile Center.

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

**Wendy Kyler:** As you recall, we have begun our third year of the JDAI grant cycle which started July first and will continue until June 30<sup>th</sup> of 2017. Since the July letter to get on the agenda, we have received our 25% upfront and the July and August payments. We are asking to have the total amount appropriated so that we can get the cycle going.

**Roy Buskirk:** This is the case in which the money comes to the County and then we have to appropriate it to your department.

**Wendy Kyler:** Correct.

**Roy Buskirk:** The other thing is that the State fiscal year is from July first to June 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Wendy Kyler:** That is correct.

**Sharon Tucker:** I will make the motion for appropriation in the JDAI Grant Fund 223 for items one through eight in the amount of \$81,936.

**Joel Benz:** Second. I would also like to say that I have seen continued returns from Judge Heath and this has been a great initiative. Keep up the good work.

**Roy Buskirk:** All in favor please signify by saying aye. The motion passes 6-0-1 (Tom Harris absent). Tell those boys over there that it is a lot easier when you ladies come here. Now we have John and Superior Court.

**John McGauley:** John McGauley, Court Executive for Allen Superior Court. We are here to ask for some appropriations for some money that is in hand. There are no new

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dollars here. The first one is in the Legal Education Fund 850. We have had the good fortune over the last two years to receive grants from the Indiana Conference for Legal Education Opportunity which is trying to increase diversity in the Indiana Bar. This is to hire a Law Clerk who has worked for Judge Davis for a substantial chunk of the summer. This year we actually wanted to increase or extend his stay. The State actually provided us with a little additional funding and we are just asking for that to be appropriated.

**Roy Buskirk:** We wouldn't have much of an agenda today if it wasn't for the State sending money.

**John McGauley:** That's right.

**Larry Brown:** Is by chance an individual a student at the new Law School?

**John McGauley:** Absolutely is. He is born and raised in Fort Wayne and going to school at Indiana Tech. If it is of interest, because of their accreditation we are also able to extend the opportunity to Indiana Tech students this year for the two Civil Division Law Clerks that we will be posting here shortly. We do this every year. We have been looking forward to the opportunity to extend that to them as well and now that they are accredited, we will be doing that as well.

**Joel Benz:** I will move for approval of the appropriation in the Legal Education Fund 850 for Extra Deputy Hire in the amount of \$1,350 and for FICA in the amount of \$150 for a total of \$1,500.

**Bob Armstrong:** Second.

**Roy Buskirk:** All in favor please signify by saying aye. The motion passes 6-0-1 (Tom Harris absent).

**John McGauley:** Our second item is an appropriation from General into our Travel line. This is actually money that was reimbursed to us. Judge Bobay is one of several Judges around the State who are overseeing pilot projects in Commercial Courts. He got the opportunity to go to San Antonio to train in that area and I believe this is 80% or more reimbursement of the cost of that. We received that back from the organization and we are just asking to have that back into our Travel line.

**Joel Benz:** I will make a motion for the appropriation in the General Fund for Travel in the amount of \$2,032.

**Sharon Tucker:** Second.

**Roy Buskirk:** All in favor please signify by saying aye. The motion passes 6-0-1 (Tom Harris absent).

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**John McGauley:** Our final item is a request for a salary ordinance. We are losing Judge Gull's long time Court Reporter at the end of next month. When we hire her replacement, we would like them to be able to sit together for a couple of weeks and get the lay of the land before we turn over a very busy Criminal Division Court to a new Court Reporter. We will take that out of our existing 100 Series and are not asking for new dollars.

**Roy Buskirk:** Could that possibly be an internal transfer?

**John McGauley:** Possibly. We interviewed several people internally but we also like to look at what is available in the outside world too. For these kinds of positions, regularly look at folks from the legal community, paralegals and people of that sort. I think we have also interviewed a couple of Reporters from other Counties. I remember a Dekalb County Court Reporter in that mix too and so we are looking to the outside as well as the inside. We advertised it externally so we could get as broad a selection as possible.

**Joel Benz:** This has been a common practice for you to use a couple weeks of overlap to bring up the new person on the nuances of the Court Reporter.

**John McGauley:** Especially in important positions like that. We don't always do it but in key positions we like to try to do that whenever we can.

**Roy Buskirk:** In a situation like this, is each Court just a little bit different because of the personalities of the different Judges or the working arrangements?

**John McGauley:** It is really an Executive Assistant kind of relationship. Every Judge and their Court Reporter operate a little differently but the key responsibilities are the same. They are responsible for documenting all of the proceedings that go on in Court and generating transcripts wherever that is applicable. It does change a little bit but they find their own comfort zone. The key responsibilities are always the same. There is chemistry involved.

**Joel Benz:** I will go ahead and make the motion to consider a temporary salary ordinance for training purposes, Temporary Court Reporter, PAT 3/2, \$38,490, non-exempt, 37.5 hours per week. It is effective September 19<sup>th</sup> through 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Bob Armstrong:** Second.

**Roy Buskirk:** All in favor please signify by saying aye. The motion passes 6-0-1 (Tom Harris absent). Thank you, John.

**John McGauley:** Thank you very much.

**Roy Buskirk:** Next is the Health Department.

**Mindy Waldron:** Mindy Waldron, Administrator of the Fort Wayne-Allen County Department of Health.

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**Tracy Mitchener:** Tracy Mitchener, Assistant Human Resources Director. The Health Department is asking for a full-time Environmental Technician. It is a part-time that they are moving to full-time. They are not asking for any General Fund money and Mindy will explain it further.

**Mindy Waldron:** I will answer any questions about the position but I will try to explain what we are looking for. We currently have two part-time Environmental Technicians that work out of a fund that is generated through the fees that come in for doing those tasks. This started in 2004 with a one day a week, part-time Technician and now we are twelve years in and are at two part-time Environmental Technicians for those inspections. We are comfortable, at this point, to take one of them to a full-time position. They are very transient, unfortunately, because they are part-time without benefits. It is very technical and has a lot of training. We are pretty hopeful that we can have approval for this so we can get one of them to full-time. Our hope would then be that within the next one to two years and based on monetary positions that we can take the second one to full-time as well. It is simply going from a four day a week position to a full-time position with benefits paid out of a fund that has existing funds to do so. We will be coming in a year or two for that second position. I would be glad to answer any questions about the position.

**Joel Benz:** I just have one brief question. How much of the time do they spend in the field versus in the office?

**Mindy Waldron:** Having just done interviews in the last couple of weeks, most of the candidates asked that same thing, it ends up being about 90% in the field and 10% administrative. They cover all of their own administrative tasks, they write all of their own letters and all of their enforcement letters and those kinds of things. As far as field work, it is pretty much all day every day. When the Environmental Health Specialist has to do inspections for new systems and needs assistance with mapping GIS, they will take a Technician with them and so they are almost always in the field.

**Roy Buskirk:** The inspections are on environment-type issues?

**Mindy Waldron:** Yes, and I will be really brief, there is legislation that passed for Allen County only in 2002. About 2004 is when the ordinance was incepted locally. What occurred was Allen County has some pretty poor soils for septic systems and there were a lot of homeowners where they didn't have another option if their septic system failed and sewer could not be brought to them. They would have had to abandon those homes. We sought some assistance from IDEM, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, and the State Department of Health for another option. IDEM had to issue us an NPDES permit to do what is called a discharging system so that these homes could utilize existing land that they had but was not big enough for a traditional system. They did not have to leave the home but could put in a different type of system that treats it onsite and then discharges off of their property. This was a requirement to create this onsite wastewater management district. In essence, our maintenance inspections are done by us yearly or

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once every two years or once every three years depending on the type or risk of the system. We provide recommendations. It is not generally an enforcement issue. It extends the life of the septic system usually many years. Almost 75% of the inspections we do in this particular district come with some sort of recommendation that says this is broken, this might need pumped or those types of things to extend the life. It has also saved a lot of money for these homeowners where we have said that they don't need to pump. They were pumping every three years because that is the rule of thumb but maybe it wasn't needed. It has a lot of benefits on both sides. Just to give you an idea, out of about 15,000 parcels in Allen County that are served by septic systems and can't be served by sewer yet, about 1,600 are in that district. Every day there is more that goes into the district and so the work increases. That is kind of the history of it but it is a requirement to have this district to allow what we have now is 45 homes that are served by these discharging systems that would never have been able to stay in those homes.

**Joel Benz:** I will go ahead and make a motion that we consider a salary ordinance establishing an Environmental Technician, OSS 5/2, \$35,905, 37.5 hours per week, non-exempt.

**Larry Brown:** Second.

**Roy Buskirk:** All in favor please signify by saying aye. The motion passes 6-0-1 (Tom Harris absent).

**Nick Jordan:** Council, before we get into the last item for the agenda, the 2017 Maximum Levy and Circuit Breaker estimates, do you want to discuss the Wheel Tax/Surtax Ordinance that was sent by County Attorney Fishing?

**Roy Buskirk:** Okay. We can do it now.

**Bill Fishing:** Bill Fishing, County Attorney. Let me start out by apologizing. I have an ear infection and can't hear a thing. If I am shouting or miss a question, wave at me and we will try and address it. In 2008, you adopted an ordinance approving the construction of the Maplecrest Road Bridge. That ordinance is rare for the County in that it is a revenue ordinance as compared to the standard property tax bond backed ordinance. In 2009, as part of your negotiations with the various Cities and Towns, you adopted an amended wheel tax/surtax ordinance which included a sunset provision which paralleled the termination of the intergovernmental cooperation agreements with the Cities and Towns for bridge repair. All of that basically arose out of the decision to eliminate the Cumulative Bridge Fund which freed up money for the General Fund because originally the Cumulative Bridge Fund came out of the General Fund. We are in the process of refunding the Maplecrest Bridge Bond and the proposed savings is about \$1.3 million. Many things have changed since 2008 including the caps provision which has directly affected the revenue for Major Bridge. Recently they slightly modified their interpretation but forever the caps were reducing it and Major Bridge was just barely providing enough funds to pay for the Maplecrest Bond. Also, things have tightened up a lot in the disclosure requirements for bond issues and as part of the process of doing that

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and in talking to Moody's, the sunset provision came up. It was requested that if we wanted to maintain our ratings, the sunset provision be extended to 2029. That is when the bond is paid off. We agreed to make the presentation to you and that is your choice to do that or not do that. You do have a maintenance of effort provision in the 2008 bond and again, we don't do revenue bonds but it is similar to what you see in utility bonds where the issuing authority agrees to levy a high enough rate to make sure you can pay for utility bonds. This is a proposal to extend the sunset to 2029. It has no implications to the agreements with the Cities and Towns on continuing to repair their bridges and will be revisited by you next year. I would be happy to entertain any questions I can hear.

**Roy Buskirk:** Are there any questions? I thought in the ordinance that we were provided with Friday that the Council is responsible for paying the fees on redoing this bond.

**Bill Fishering:** It is a standard bond and all you are approving on this is the sunset. You have no additional responsibility for fees.

**Larry Brown:** What he is referring to Bill, is the fourth "Whereas". It says blah, blah, blah and to pay related costs.

**Bill Fishering:** Related costs are the issuance fees and that comes out of the bond proceeds. That is typical for all of the bonds that we do. There is nothing unusual about that.

**Roy Buskirk:** So that is paid out of the proceeds.

**Bill Fishering:** Proceeds of the bond, yes.

**Roy Buskirk:** But we are not going to have any more proceeds from this bond.

**Bill Fishering:** The refunding will provide proceeds. The money will be taken and deposited in an escrow account to refund the bonds and pay the cost of the issuance.

**Roy Buskirk:** Okay.

**Bill Brown:** You were here with this was issued with the sunset. What was the purpose of the sunset? Did it have a specific purpose?

**Roy Buskirk:** Yes that it be required for us to look at the Wheel Tax/Surtax again and make adjustments of reduction or increase if we were still falling behind on road expenses and bridge maintenance.

**Bill Brown:** How does that effect the flexibility of us extending this to 2029?

**Bill Fishering:** You still have flexibility to increase it is you determine that you're not generating sufficient funds. What you do is eliminate your ability to reduce it unless you pay off the bonds.

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**Bill Brown:** Do we maintain flexibility in specifically how the dollars are allocated?

**Bill Fishing:** Yes. Your flexibility remains with respect to where the money goes and entering into a new agreement with the Cities and Towns, which every City and Town and the County entered into that agreement in 2009.

**Roy Buskirk:** There are nine government units.

**Bill Brown:** From a timing standpoint, is it something that needs to happen this month?

**Bill Fishing:** I have been told the original sale was supposed to be the middle of next month. They can put it off one month without a problem. The only problem you run into is changing interest rates. If you have read the paper, apparently the Fed is now discussing changing the interest rates. For those of you who were also following the Coliseum, they hit it dead on and saved about \$300,000 more than what they thought they were going to save. That is because the interest rates didn't change and they hit a short sale week where nobody else was selling. The timing and the savings are just very up and down.

**Larry Brown:** Bob was here and Roy was here when we did this. There was a lot of concern about this. I guess my only concern is jamming it through so quickly without the opportunity for public input and it being readily available for criticism and review before we make a decision. I personally am in favor of postponing it for a month.

**Sharon Tucker:** I am too.

**Joel Benz:** Can I ask Nick, what effect does extending the sunset clause have on our credit rating?

**Nick Jordan:** Yes.

**Joel Benz:** What effect will it have if it is not in there?

**Nick Jordan:** I was just going to say, County Attorney Fishing was saying, this ordinance is extending the sunset as well as noting that you will not reduce the rates from what they currently are. If you want to increase them based on the law that was just recently passed that allows you to increase them, you can do that in a subsequent ordinance to this. This is locking you into the longer sunset and not reducing them at their current rate. If you did not pass this, one of the pledge revenues is potentially in limbo for the fact that it goes away December 31, 2017. What I don't fully understand is if they did not pass this, the bond goes through as it is pledged and do they revert to the second or additional pledge revenues to pay off the bond?

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**Bill Fishering:** What occurs is Moody will reduce the rating of the bonds which will result in less savings because with a lower rating, you pay higher interest because of the perceived greater risk.

**Nick Jordan:** It is even more interesting that at this time the Maplecrest Bridge bonds are actually paid from CEDIT. The Major Bridge Fund was cutting it very, very close to the debt service for the Maplecrest Bridge bonds and they simply switched and moved the bond payment to CEDIT and moved some of the bridge expenses to Major Bridge. This year it is being paid out of CEDIT and the Commissioners agreed to that earlier this year. I don't know if that is indefinitely but to my knowledge it wasn't a one-time thing.

**Roy Buskirk:** This Maplecrest bond was passed in 2008?

**Bill Fishering:** Yes.

**Roy Buskirk:** So it was already on the books when we passed the Bridge bond in 2009. Not the bond but set the rate and put the sunset.

**Bill Fishering:** You had approved the bond before you put the sunset provision in.

**Roy Buskirk:** So why wasn't the Bond Counsel concerned about the wheel tax sunset?

**Bill Fishering:** Because you had a maintenance of effort provision in that bond which basically says you will maintain all of those rates. In 2009, your sunset was fairly far enough off that people weren't concerned about it. We are now within a year of that sunset.

**Nick Jordan:** In the chronological events, if you approve the bond prior to the sunset provision, the bond was already said and done and you did the sunset provision after that. At that point in time, the Bond Counsel or someone would have had to have brought up that last year you approved this bond and it was sold without the sunset provision and a year later you are adding the sunset provision. At this point, you are essentially going to refund this bond and the sunset is next year and the chronological events are in a different order this time that they were in 2008 and 2009. That may have been one reason it was not brought about because when you did the bond, there was no sunset.

**Roy Buskirk:** Right and that is what I mean that it was not brought up. The bond was already established.

**Nick Jordan:** You would have had to have an investor, Bond Counsel or somebody paying attention in 2009 to say "Hey, this last year you passed or sold this bond without this sunset in it."

**Roy Buskirk:** Right.

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**Bill Brown:** I guess my comment about this is that I appreciate this being brought to us now and is on the radar, if you will. To wait a month sounds like it is a little roll of the dice.

**Bill Fishering:** It is a roll. It may have no bearing at all or it may have a significant bearing. I can't tell you.

**Bill Brown:** I do believe, County-wide, we are going to need a wheel tax because infrastructure is continually an issue. I think that discussion does need to happen. You three that were on Council when that took place, I believe it was the intent to extend beyond the sunset that a good discussion would take place. It seems like, to Larry's point, a little time does need to be put into the process here to allow for that discussion. I, for one, feel that the wheel tax is important to implement and it is just the timing to your point.

**Larry Brown:** That is exactly where I am coming from.

**Roy Buskirk:** It would actually be a little premature but this does give us the opportunity to talk to the City. Actually, we have had a wheel tax raise for the bulk of the County's citizens and that is through the City's wheel tax. There are some things that are going to take place between the County and the City as far as with their additional wheel tax and are they going to take over the maintenance of the bridges in the City? That is one question that needs to be asked. I would highly recommend that we postpone this for a month. I would entertain a motion.

**Joel Benz:** I will make the motion that we postpone further discussion until next month's meeting on this issue.

**Bob Armstrong:** Second.

**Roy Buskirk:** All in favor please signify by saying aye. The motion passes 6-0-1 (Tom Harris absent).

**Bill Fishering:** Thank you.

**Roy Buskirk:** Now we will go back to County Council Review of 2017 Maximum Levy and Circuit Breaker Estimates for all Tax Units per IC 6-1.1-17-3.6. Nick, you are on.

**Nick Jordan:** I sent a separate notebook out. Due to the size of it, 122 pages, I don't know if you need a second to get that.

**Larry Brown:** Please.

**Nick Jordan:** Yes that is fine. Take your time.

**Roy Buskirk:** Did you just send that out?

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**Nick Jordan:** It was the day after Becky sent your meeting notebook out so it was on Friday.

**Larry Brown:** Can you tell me what it was called?

**Nick Jordan:** It is called Allen County Council Review of DLGF Estimated 2017 Maximum Levy and Circuit Breaker Credits. I can send it again, if we need to.

**Bob Armstrong:** Can you resend it?

**Nick Jordan:** Yes.

**Larry Brown:** Here it is.

**Nick Jordan:** Who needs it? Bob?

**Roy Buskirk:** It was sent Friday. What was the date on Friday?

**Sharon Tucker:** Bill and I can share.

**Roy Buskirk:** Okay, Nick.

**Nick Jordan:** The first page just outlines the IC 6-1.1-17-3.6 that essentially takes the place of what was the non-binding review. Now what the DLGF sends is the estimated maximum 2017 levies as well as the estimated Circuit Breaker Credits. Council's responsibility is to review these. You can, if you want to, provide a formal recommendation that we will distribute on your behalf. If you choose not to and just talk through the meeting, we will just send the minutes out to the taxing units letting them know that this is what was discussed. As a summary, to try to provide some kind of comparison, the first five pages what I did was to take, if you turn to page two for example. You will see that I took the taxing unit and their 2016 Certified Levy and the 2017 Estimated Maximum Levy provided by the DLGF. The right hand columns, I took the 2016 Abstract DLGF Circuit Breaker and the 2017 DLGF Estimated Circuit Breaker to provide a comparison of what we were looking for. A couple of items, just to go into detail there, when you look at Aboite Township you will see their Civil levy. What that means is their Township Fund and Township Assistance will fall under their Civil Max Levy. In the example of Aboite Township, this year they adopted a 2016 Certified Levy of \$321,644. The 2017 Estimated Maximum Levy is \$334,948. The dollar change is \$13,304. That is approximately 4.14%. In that example, they can go up slightly higher than the 3.8% Growth Quotient because in prior years they haven't captured their max levy to the dollar. You will see that in most examples. Some people have and other people haven't. Then you will see the Fire Fund. That is under a different amount and a different cap. The Cumulative ones are a little different in the fact that the Cumulative Funds are tied to a rate. Just to mention too, it is in the other 100 and some pages, but I have attached the exact files from the DLGF. You will see the same figures as well, but

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for the Cumulative Funds you will see the rate. What the DLGF says is the current rate, this is the 2017 Estimated Rate and in some Cumulative Funds you can't increase that rate unless you re-establish it. As Allen County, for example, our Cumulative Fund rate may be .198 and that will stay at .198 unless it was re-established and that is a different process to take. Otherwise, the Cumulative Fund, what the DLGF does is a calculation and there is a rate cap. The Cumulative Fund will continue that same rate and what fluctuates is the assessed value. That rate may stay the same if the assessed value grows and the levy is pretty similar to the prior but may grow a little. The Cumulative Funds that are on here, the whole point that I want to get to is the DLGF didn't provide the Cumulative maximum levy I have listed there. If they showed an increase in the rates, I took an estimate and said here is the 2016 Cumulative Levy and increased it by the percentages that the rate could increase. If the Cumulative Fund rate couldn't increase, all I did was increase it by the 3.8% Growth Quotient. That is what you will see in Aboite Township Cumulative Fire, the rate will stay the same and all I did was increase their 2016 Certified Levy by the 3.8% Growth Quotient. It is a long-winded explanation but the Cumulative Funds don't necessarily grow by the 3.8%. The other item I wanted to point out, if you go to page three, the bottom of the page says Allen County Public Library. I am using them as an example because when Dave was here earlier, he mentioned this. It says Allen County Public Library Debt Service. Their 2016 Certified Levy is \$6.1 million and their 2017 Estimated Maximum Levy is \$9.5 million almost. You heard Dave mention that their 2017 Levy that they are anticipating for debt is only \$6.6 million. The reason the DLGF has these so high is because in their estimates, they didn't take into account any cash balance, any miscellaneous revenue and to be very, very conservative on what the debt funds or lease-rental funds, what the maximum levy would be. In the example of the Library here, this levy is overstated by two-thirds. In that regard, it kind of skews the Circuit Breaker on the other end of the spectrum. The Library only anticipates going from \$6.1 million to \$6.6 million. If you flip to page five, you will see Allen County, Bond #2, and for this year it is approximately \$4 million. The 2017 Estimated Max Levy is \$6.7. That is not correct. We really anticipate in the \$4 million region again but what is really happening is the DLGF is not taking into account our anticipate cash balance of \$2 million or so. Those types of things kind of skew what we are looking at but the DLGF really took a conservative approach because they won't know what cash is going to be there until closer to yearend. That is why some of the numbers in the Debt Funds seem so high. In the right-hand column, when you look at the Circuit Breaker increases you will see astronomical increases. In Allen County, our 2016 Abstract Circuit Breaker is approximately \$7.167 million and the DLGF has estimated it going to \$12 million. That is a 67% increase and the estimates that we comprised were only a seven percent increase. There is a huge difference there. I have already had some of the units call me asking what is going on. I explained to them that the DLGF is going very conservative with anticipated zero cash balance, zero revenue and that is what resulted in these very high Circuit Breaker estimates. If they were this high, we would be in a whole different ballgame. Leo-Cedarville increased over 1,000% but I don't anticipate that happening. The reason being is the Growth Quotient is 3.8% and we are anticipating the Net Assessed Value to be around three percent or a little bit higher. While there still is a little bit of a gap there, it is not as significant as it would need to be

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in order for these Circuit Breakers to increase by this amount. The last point that I really want to make is...

**Larry Brown:** Can I interrupt you a second?

**Nick Jordan:** Yeah.

**Larry Brown:** What is the timing of consideration, later in the year, of actual cash balance and then approval of these budgets?

**Nick Jordan:** They will actually do what is called a 17-Line Statement that looks through the revenues and the expenses and what you are estimating for 2017. It factors in the miscellaneous revenue and cash balance. That will happen in the next couple of weeks. That factors into setting the tax rate. What they had to do, for advertising purposes, this year's advertisements will have a Circuit Breaker estimate. It is pre-populated by the DLGF. You don't have to use that in your budget, if you don't want to. It has to be out there for the ad but we don't have to put it into the budget. If we have a different estimate that we want to use, we can. What they are trying to do is get to those units that never considered Circuit Breaker to get them to understand that you are not going to collect everything as you may have in years past when the Circuit Breaker wasn't there. Some units were ignoring that. That wasn't the case for us and some of the larger tax units. More than likely they will go to meet with George Helton, the DLGF Representative towards the end of August and then they will do their budget adoption later. It doesn't mean you are going to see that reflected in the advertisements because advertisements are always high. It may be that when we get the certified budget order from the DLGF, it may be towards the end of the year or early next year. That is where you will finally see the figures. You won't even see the Circuit Breaker actuals until February or March of next year. These are very early estimates but if you think that the DLGF is working Statewide with 92 Counties, it is a very daunting task. This is the first time doing it so maybe in a year from now we will see how things actually play out.

**Roy Buskirk:** That is the thing to keep in mind, there are 92 Counties. That is one thing that you have to keep in mind is that some of the 92 Counties have a very insignificant impact from the tax caps. There isn't all of these gyrations and everything. Bill, did you have a question?

**Bill Brown:** With the \$12 million compared to the \$7 million, if there were no tax caps, it would be \$12 million in available revenue, right?

**Nick Jordan:** Or if you look at the 2016 for Actual, you could say that we would have collected approximately \$7 million more dollars. That is Allen County as a taxing unit but overall it would be \$44 million for all of Allen County tax units.

**Bill Brown:** So this really weighs into the discussion of the wheel tax and surtax. There obviously are incredible savings in property taxes taking place due to the tax caps. As we look to revenue to other areas that are definitely in need, I just wanted to mention that.

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**Larry Brown:** Good point.

**Nick Jordan:** We lose approximately ten percent of the levy that we don't collect.

**Roy Buskirk:** Did you bring copies of everything on that wheel tax?

**Nick Jordan:** No, I gave you the one for the realtors' thing but I can send it to everybody.

**Joel Benz:** When you say don't collect that stays with the homeowners.

**Nick Jordan:** Yes. It is a benefit to the taxpayers.

**Bill Brown:** It is a property tax savings. I think the State was telling us to use the local tools like wheel tax and surtax and LOIT and those kinds of things to offset because revenue is needed.

**Nick Jordan:** That is something to be cognizant of. If homeowners are not looking at their tax bills, some Circuit Breakers for houses can be 40% to 50% or may double the tax bills of where they are currently. There are considerable savings for taxpayers, especially Homesteads and depending on the value of the property. I just want to point out on some of the data here, if you look on page two at Marion Township, for Civil their 2016 Certified Levy was approximately \$11,000. They can jump up to approximately \$35,000 or a 218% increase. That is accurate but what has happened is that over the years they have not needed to collect their max levy. That is still there and in place and they are collecting what they need to operate instead of collecting above and beyond what they need. If the event arose where they needed to jump back up to the \$35,000, it could happen but the last couple of years it has not happened. The \$23,000 that they can increase, if you think the overall levy is close to or over \$350 million that is pennies in the bucket. While it is a huge increase for Marion Township, in the overall picture of Allen County, it is a very, very minimal effect because you are talking about \$24,000. Taken into context, those drastic percentages may not be so huge of an overall factor. I can take any questions or comments you guys might have. If you want to make a recommendation, we will pass it along. If not, we will just distribute the minutes. Nobody other than the Library wanted to come before Council.

**Larry Brown:** Has it not been our practice in the past that we make a general statement that we recommend that they stay within the 3.8% Growth Quotient?

**Nick Jordan:** Yes. If you want to make that recommendation we will make a note that Allen County Council recommends that you stay within the 3.8% Growth Quotient. The minutes are always publicly available.

**Sharon Tucker:** Can I ask a question on the Town of Zanesville?

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**Nick Jordan:** They are confusing because they are a cross-County unit. The 2016 Certified Levy is correct at the \$7,373 and the 2017 Estimated, I am not sure if that is only on the Allen County portion. They pull some of their funds from Wells County and some from Allen County.

**Roy Buskirk:** They have tax rates for two Counties. It is almost like two Cities.

**Sharon Tucker:** Are they on a border?

**Roy Buskirk:** They are on the County line.

**Nick Jordan:** I am not aware of a max levy appeal that they would have but that may be why they are going down.

**Roy Buskirk:** It is a little unusual but Markle is in Wells County and Huntington County. There is a City that is in Ohio and Indiana. Edgerton.

**Joel Benz:** Let me ask, going back to what Councilman Brown said earlier, do we need a motion to send out the 3.8% recommendation?

**Nick Jordan:** Yes, just so you are all in agreement.

**Joel Benz:** I will second his motion then that we send a recommendation to all of the tax units.

**Roy Buskirk:** Did you make that motion, Larry?

**Larry Brown:** I did.

**Roy Buskirk:** **All in favor please signify by saying aye. The motion passes 6-0-1 (Tom Harris absent).**

**Larry Brown:** I have one comment on the wheel tax. Before we make a decision next month or as we consider input, one thing that occurred to me that would be nice to know is an update on the Highway Department's plan for the use of that money and how all of those moving pieces are taking shape.

**Bill Brown:** I met with Highway to go over their budget and it was thoroughly laid out.

**Larry Brown:** I am sure it was.

**Bill Brown:** To your point, this is new information.

**Larry Brown:** So that something happens over the next thirty days, does someone want to take the lead on that? How are we going to make sure that we don't wait until the day before? Are you going to take the lead?

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**Roy Buskirk:** Yes.

**Larry Brown:** Okay, thank you.

**Roy Buskirk:** Bob.

**Bob Armstrong:** This year, down at the Statehouse, they passed a bill about the wheel tax/surtax on letting Cities and Towns raise their own rate. Do you know what that bill number was? Was that a House bill or a Senate bill?

**Nick Jordan:** I can send it to you.

**Bob Armstrong:** I am curious, like you are, what is the City going to do? Could New Haven do anything? Could they implement their own? What is the rollout to that bill?

**Nick Jordan:** I believe you have to have over 10,000 people. New Haven would qualify. The way it works is if Fort Wayne enacted or adopted their own, the Auditor's Office would have nothing to do with it. The Department of Revenue and the BMV would handle that and remit the funds back to the City of Fort Wayne. Those are only the City of Fort Wayne's funds. It is not like the piece that comes to the Auditor's Office and we distribute it to the Cities and Towns based on population and mileage. It is only Fort Wayne registered vehicles and those funds go to Fort Wayne. If New Haven were to do it, then the New Haven registered vehicles would go to New Haven.

**Bob Armstrong:** So is the City's involvement still in ours also?

**Nick Jordan:** As far as involvement, right now under the ordinance, County Council has the authority in that regard. Under the current law, it is population and mileage and that will stay the same. If you were not to do something by December 31, 2017, the authority reverts to the Income Tax Council and the City would then have authority of the wheel tax/surtax for County-wide.

**Larry Brown:** Interesting.

**Nick Jordan:** That is very much on the Commissioners' and Highway's radar.

**Roy Buskirk:** The thing on that bill, you have to have population of more than 10,000. I have had discussions with Mayor McDonald and they are not going to do anything. They have always worked with the County in the past and they want to continue to do so. He definitely understands the fact that people keep calling it the County wheel tax. That is not right. It is the Municipal Wheel Tax of the County. It is being divided by nine. It is not just for the County. If we would not extend it or come up with a new program, all of the small communities would not have any revenue to maintain their streets and town.

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**Nick Jordan:** We are very interested to see administratively how it works out at the Department of Revenue and the BMV segregating those within the City of Fort Wayne registered vehicles. We do it for excise and so forth and it is not an easy process but it goes.

**Larry Brown:** Do you know if the City Wheel Tax is restricted dollars or unrestricted?

**Nick Jordan:** The law lays out what you can spend it for. If you wanted to say bridges, the amount coming in is about \$5 million and that could be spent very quickly on bridges.

**Sharon Tucker:** I thought the one they just increased was restricted to roads and bridges.

**Roy Buskirk:** The Wheel Tax/Surtax has to be spent on roads and bridges. It cannot be spent on Sheriff or City Police or anything of that type. I am not sure of the communication that Larry is asking about being restrictive or unrestrictive.

**Larry Brown:** I guess what I was asking is it to be spent only on roads or only on bridges or restricted? I think I got my answer and it has to be on roads or bridges and cannot be used on other General Fund items.

**Roy Buskirk:** I think the word is transportation.

**Bob Armstrong:** Can you use it for trails?

**Roy Buskirk:** Yes.

**Larry Brown:** I don't call that roads or bridges.

**Bob Armstrong:** No.

**Larry Brown:** Transportation, I can buy that.

**Bill Brown:** It is an example of Home Rule when it comes to taxing authority. Keeping the decision making closer in the community and I think what the Legislature did last year and the City enacted, it made it even closer to that particular municipality. I do believe the intent was to have that in a County that did not have a wheel tax but I am not sure about that. We know there are infrastructure issues and they continually need to be addressed.

**Bob Armstrong:** So my question would be then if the City implements their own wheel tax, does that mean that they are now going to fund and maintain their bridges within their corporate limits?

**Roy Buskirk:** No.

**Joel Benz:** Unless we make some sort of...

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**Nick Jordan:** One thing, to continue the discussion into the next meeting we can have Highway here that can better allude to what the laws are regarding bridge maintenance compared to what the municipality might be required to do. I think that will help.

**Roy Buskirk:** There are a lot of balls up in the air and there is discussion as far as the City maintaining their own bridges because of the fact that it has changed and they have their own Wheel Tax. No other municipality has and it would create some problems if New Haven would have one.

**Nick Jordan:** Not to mention that the interlocals are still in place.

**Roy Buskirk:** The other thing is that some of the things I have been looking at is trying to increase the revenue of wheel tax because electric cars buy no gas and they pay no road tax or anything. In that source, there needs to be a separate wheel tax fee on them and also, on hybrids, same thing. I have mentioned it to, and Bill has, the Fort Wayne Trails on the possibility of a registration fee on bicycles to help maintain trails. We used to have that and you had to get a license plate.

**Bob Armstrong:** At the Fire Station.

**Roy Buskirk:** Yep, for all of the bicycles and that would be another revenue source. There is some action taking place on that.

**Bob Armstrong:** I know I heard this morning on the radio, and I am trying to figure out how they get these numbers, but the usage of the trail system in Allen County is way up this year. I am trying to figure out how they generate that number.

**Roy Buskirk:** With the heat, I wouldn't be surprised that it would be down.

**Bob Armstrong:** When I heard that this morning I apparently, as you can tell don't use the trail system, are there tollbooths or how do they know how many people are using them?

**Bill Brown:** I don't know if they still do it this way or not but years ago I participated in the process and they basically stationed people on the trails and they do a sampling. I don't know if they still do it that way or not.

**Roy Buskirk:** We mentioned the bridges and the one thing on bridges is culverts. Kim, I am going to put you on the spot but what is the size of, is it 20 inches that a culvert becomes a bridge?

**Kim Yagodinski:** Twenty feet.

**Roy Buskirk:** In length but what diameter?

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**Kim Yagodinski:** Twenty inches.

**Bob Armstrong:** Is considered a bridge.

**Roy Buskirk:** Right. A lot of people don't realize that and don't consider that being a bridge. The bridge count for the County is any culvert twenty feet long and twenty inches is a bridge.

**Bob Armstrong:** So there is no bridge tax on the bridges on the trail system. There are places where the trails go across water.

**Roy Buskirk:** Oh, you mean because they are not twenty feet long?

**Bob Armstrong:** Right. So we don't maintain those?

**Roy Buskirk:** We maintain the trails.

**Bob Armstrong:** Yeah, I know.

**Roy Buskirk:** That is part of the trail and not a bridge. Are there any other questions? Are there any recent meetings that we need to share with our comrades here? Are there any meetings coming up?

**Bill Brown:** Jefferson Township Steam Engine show along with the 765 this weekend.

**Larry Brown:** And the RC Air Show. Not to be confused with the Air Show at the 122<sup>nd</sup> in September on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Roy Buskirk:** Is there anything else? We do have the Commissioners' Night Out. I don't have the dates in my mind but there are two in September and one in October. Huntertown is in October.

**Nick Jordan:** It is the 13<sup>th</sup> and the 20<sup>th</sup>. In October, it is the sixth.

**Bob Armstrong:** Isn't there one in New Haven?

**Nick Jordan:** I think the 13<sup>th</sup> is in...

**Roy Buskirk:** The 20<sup>th</sup> is in New Haven at the Training Center. Is there anything else?

**Nick Jordan:** Next month you will have the binding review with Southwest Fire, the Airport and Solid Waste. You will also have the budget appeals.

**Roy Buskirk:** Liaison reports, we pretty well went through that. It is time for public comment.

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**Bill Brown:** Approval to waive the reading on any matter approved today for which it may be deemed necessary for the County Council meeting of April 21, 2016.

**Sharon Tucker:** Second.

**Roy Buskirk:** All in favor please signify by saying aye. The motion passes 6-0-1 (Tom Harris absent).

**Bob Armstrong:** Move to adjourn.

**Sharon Tucker:** Second.

**Roy Buskirk:** All in favor please signify by saying aye. Opposed like sign. The motion carries 6-0-1 (Tom Harris absent). There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:18.