

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

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

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

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

Roy Buskirk: Good morning everyone. First on the agenda is the approval of the January 21st meeting minutes. I think all of you have had the opportunity to approve them. Are there any additions or corrections?

Tom Harris: Move to approve the minutes from January 21, 2016.

Bob Armstrong: Second.

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

Tera Klutz: Good morning, Council. You have in your packet the General Fund financial statement as well as all of the major funds financial statements as of January 31st. We also have a report of Miscellaneous Revenue that goes into the General Fund, a monthly report of how that is tracking. If you have any questions, I would be happy to answer them.

Roy Buskirk: How is the Miscellaneous Revenue tracking?

Tera Klutz: Fine. With the first month's end, we are 8.3% through the year with about five percent of revenue collected but that is anticipated because a lot our revenue comes one or two times a year or four times a year which January is not one of those months.

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Tom Harris: The cash balance is strong compared to the beginning of the last several years, is that correct or am I off on that?

Tera Klutz: No. Our cash balance is up probably around \$4 million. We carried \$4 million over from last year's budget to pay our PERF and so that is sitting in there. It is relatively similar.

Tom Harris: Okay. Thank you.

Roy Buskirk: And that PERF is because of 27 pay periods or something?

Tera Klutz: No, it is because of the transition that we did with new employees and that liability, to pay at that time, was a soft-freeze and is to pay off the unfunded portion of our current employees. That was about \$4 million and going forward we will pay the normal PERF rate for all of our existing employees that stay in PERF and so that we don't have to pay any additional later.

Roy Buskirk: Okay.

Tera Klutz: We plan on making that payment sometime in May of this year.

Roy Buskirk: Are there any other questions?

Larry Brown: Move to approve the financial report?

Sharon Tucker: Second.

Roy Buskirk: All in favor signify by saying aye, opposed, same sign. The motion passes 6-0-1 (Benz absent). Next we have the unemployment rates.

Nick Jordan: Good morning, Council. On your agenda you see the November and December rates. January will be out in March. Allen County remained at 4.4%. Indiana went from 4.5% to 4.6% and National remained at 4.8%. I did want to highlight that if you looked back at December 2014 through December 2015, the work force has increased by around 2,200 people. The employed has increased by almost 4,000. The unemployed has decreased around 1,700. We have made great improvement since 2014. At that point in time, the unemployment rate was 5.5% in December 2014.

Roy Buskirk: Those numbers were for Allen County or the State?

Nick Jordan: Allen County.

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Roy Buskirk: Are there any questions on that?

Sharon Tucker: Can you repeat the work force increase number?

Nick Jordan: Yes, from December 2014 to December 2015, the actual amount was 2,250 people.

Sharon Tucker: Thank you.

Roy Buskirk: Then what was the 4,000?

Nick Jordan: I gave you round figures. If you want the employed, it was 3,981. You had 2,200 new people, approximately, come into the labor force. Of those existing and the new people, approximately 4,000 or 3,981 are now employed. Then you had the unemployed decrease by 1,729. Some of those that were already in the workforce went from unemployed to being employed.

Roy Buskirk: Right but do you have a total number of employed in the County?

Nick Jordan: Yes. For December 2015, the amount is 169,082 people.

Roy Buskirk: Thank you. We have no requests from the General Fund today, which is good news. First on the agenda is the Sheriff's Department.

Tom Harris: We are going to have to talk through this but it is basically an error that happened in the process.

Brad Kohrman: Brad Kohrman, Deputy Chief of Administration. What happened, as Tom said, last year the Sheriff came and requested \$325,000 for a security system that needed updated at the Jail. The appropriation was approved. We received an invoice at the end of November for the amount of work that had been done in 2015 and that invoice was for \$135,000. That left a balance of \$190,000 to be paid on the remainder of the work. As Tom said, we dropped the ball and didn't encumber that money from 2015 to 2016. We just now received the final invoice and instead of the \$190,000, the final bill is \$164,000. We are just requesting the appropriation to pay the balance of that contract.

Tom Harris: We had a chance to talk through this about a week ago and it was an administrative issue that they needed to make that change and that is what this is about. With that I will make a motion to approve...

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Roy Buskirk: Do we have any questions concerning that? Was that in part of the rollover?

Nick Jordan: It would have rolled over in the Public Safety Fund. In all reality, as Brad mentioned, it should have been encumbered into 2016 and that is all they are doing.

Roy Buskirk: Okay, I will entertain a motion.

Tom Harris: Move for approval of the appropriation in the COIT Public Safety Fund 120 for Jail Equipment in the amount of \$164,000.

Bill Brown: Second.

Roy Buskirk: All in favor signify by saying aye, opposed, same sign. The motion passes 6-0-1 (Benz absent). Now it is the IT Department.

Ed Steenman: Good morning Council, Ed Steenman, County IT Director. Similar situation to what you just talked about with the Sheriff's Department. Every three years, we have our orthophotography updated. We do this in conjunction with the State of Indiana. They fly over a third of the State each year. They do it in the springtime and last year they did it in the March and April timeframe. We get delivery of the product in the October timeframe. We didn't receive the invoice for the services until January of this year. It is a situation where we budgeted for it last year in the GIS Infrastructure Fund but we didn't have the invoice and we didn't encumber the money and so it rolled back into the fund. This is just an appropriation to pay the invoice that we now have.

Bill Brown: Ed sent an email about this and it was an oversight. I will make a motion to approve the appropriation in the GIS Infrastructure Fund for \$70,620 for Maintenance Agreements.

Sharon Tucker: Second.

Roy Buskirk: Are there any further questions or comments?

Tom Harris: No, but we can see the rollover money slowly going away, right?

Nick Jordan: It is in its own fund.

Roy Buskirk: All in favor signify by saying aye, opposed, same sign. The motion passes 6-0-1 (Benz absent). That is very true, Tom. Rollover money is being reduced. Next is Superior Court.

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John McGauley: Good morning, Council members. I am John McGauley, Court Executive for Superior Court. With me is Leslie Blevins, Financial Coordinator. We are here asking for a Temporary Salary Ordinance for the training of a new Court Reporter for Judge David Avery. His Court Reporter is retiring effective, I believe, March 15th. We have hired someone new that we would like to put with her for a couple of weeks before she departs. We don't ask for this for very many positions but we do ask for it in key positions such as this one. We are not asking for any additional money to take care of this. We will pay for it out of what you have already given us. I believe the dates are incorrect on the agenda but they are changed on the salary ordinance. That was our error and had sent it over like that. We weren't entirely clear on her plans for departing when we had asked for this. We have hired an individual who comes to us with a great deal of experience and who we think will be terrific in the position but we would like to have her sit down and look at the intricacies of the job for a little while before we lose our experienced employee.

Roy Buskirk: Joel Benz, your liaison, is a little under the weather today.

John McGauley: I was hoping that he wasn't just trying to avoid us.

Roy Buskirk: No. Maybe that was his reason. Is this an in-house promotion?

John McGauley: This is someone that we actually hired from Circuit Court so in a way yes and in a way no. It is not someone that we already have as an employee in Superior Court. It is someone that we stole from Circuit Court.

Roy Buskirk: Okay. Tom, did you have a question?

Tom Harris: I was just going to ask that it wasn't the person sitting back in the back that is going to be the Court Reporter.

John McGauley: No.

Tom Harris: I would make a motion for consideration of a temporary salary ordinance for training purposed for a Temporary Court Reporter, PAT 3/5 at \$44,557. This will be effective March 1 through 14, 2016.

Bob Armstrong: Second.

Roy Buskirk: Does this have anything to do with the lady that was having some illness problem?

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Leslie Blevins: That is me.

Roy Buskirk: Well, welcome back.

John McGauley: We did talk about her a few times.

Roy Buskirk: All in favor signify by saying aye, opposed, same sign. The motion passes 6-0-1 (Benz absent).

John McGauley: Thank you very much.

Roy Buskirk: Next is Community Corrections.

Jeff Stevens: Good morning, Council. My name is Jeff Stevens, Senior Finance Manager at Allen County Community Corrections. I have two appropriation requests today. The first one on the agenda is in the amount of \$29,500. Included there is a replacement vehicle for one of our Field Officers. The second is a donation, actually, given to us over the Christmas holiday for \$1,000 that we want to put into a line item for our offenders' use. If you have any questions about either of those, I would be happy to answer them.

Tom Harris: I guess I have a question. You said two items. One is \$29,500.

Jeff Stevens: No it is \$28,500 and the donation of \$1,000.

Tom Harris: Okay that is what I am showing. We talked a little bit about this and it is basically those funds that are coming in from the State that are helping you to get the kind of resources that you need as you take on more clients and such, right?

Jeff Stevens: These are Project Income Funds, in this case.

Tom Harris: Okay. You better explain that then.

Jeff Stevens: Project Income is our home detention fees and other services that we provide. We charge a fee for certain things that we provide. At this point in time, we have money in our fund to be able to go out and buy a vehicle. The \$1,000 though was a check specifically given to us and it was asked that we use it for certain purposes for our clients and so we just want to get it into a line item so we can do that right away.

Roy Buskirk: Okay, are there any further questions?

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Tom Harris: I will make a motion for the appropriation in Home Detention Fund 236 for Vehicles in the amount of \$26,000, Other Equipment in the amount of \$2,500 and Other Supplies for \$1,000. That is a total of \$29,500.

Sharon Tucker: Second.

Roy Buskirk: All in favor signify by saying aye, opposed, same sign. The motion passes 6-0-1 (Benz absent). Your GPS?

Jeff Stevens: Yes. The second item for an appropriation request is regarding a grant that we were awarded from the Criminal Justice Institute. It is for 50 GPS units in the amount of \$95,100. We want to get that into the line item so that I can create a purchase order and get those moving.

Bill Brown: Congratulations are in order.

Jeff Stevens: Thank you.

Roy Buskirk: We very much appreciate that it is not a General Fund acquisition.

Bill Brown: I will make a motion for Department 90, Community Corrections for the appropriation in the GPS Byrne Grant Fund 855 for GPS units for a total of \$95,100.

Sharon Tucker: Second.

Roy Buskirk: All in favor signify by saying aye, opposed, same sign. The motion passes 6-0-1 (Benz absent). We have the additional item on the agenda. It is a transfer.

Nick Jordan: Are you doing the addendum?

Roy Buskirk: Yes.

Nick Jordan: I will handle that. What it is, Council, in the County Council's budget, we budgeted around \$1 million in the 100 Series which is salaries. If you will recall, last November and December, we talked about the Waggoner Irwin Scheele contract in reviewing our grids. The first invoice has come due and is around \$3,000. It should be paid from the 300 Series which is Services and a Contractual line. All we are doing is transferring \$17,000 and I think the contract is around \$16,500. We are transferring \$17,000 into the 300 Series so that we can pay those invoices as they come due. The outcome of the

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whole review process, if the grids change, is why the money is in the 100 Series.

Roy Buskirk: Do you have a question?

Tom Harris: I was just going to make a point on that. One of the things on that but not necessarily on the transfer of these funds but on that project, it is interesting that one of the things that we are asking Waggoner Irwin to do is compare and contrast the rates to the City of Fort Wayne. We have heard just recently that the City of Fort Wayne's Mayor has asked that those rates be increased or at least evaluated so that they can increase those rates. One of the things that we are going to have to do is talk to Waggoner Irwin about, are we getting the post or pre in terms of comparing and contrasting to Fort Wayne? We could see a substantial increase if Waggoner Irwin comes back and raises the City of Fort Wayne's employees' rates up, it could have a significant impact if we are trying to meet, match or beat those rates.

Roy Buskirk: One other thing that the Mayor brought out is that he wants to make sure all City employees are above the minimum wage. I don't want to put any of the staff on the spot but we don't have anything close to minimum wage even on our part-time people, do we?

Jackie Scheuman: There are probably some part-time wages like part-time Parks employees. That would be the only ones I can think of.

Tom Harris: As this project is moving forward, it is probably good for all of us to be aware that while we are trying to compare ourselves to a particular target, that target is moving.

Tera Klutz: Maybe, at the end of the day, we will be exactly where we were before and everybody is happy.

Roy Buskirk: One other thing, I had a discussion with HR this week concerning the fact that when I originally came on the Council, we had Waggoner Irwin do the scoring system for wages. We then brought that in-house. We have some departments that are not very happy with our in-house scoring. It was discussed, and I am just throwing this out for discussion purposes, we could offer departments if they want to go to Waggoner Irwin and have them score the position that they would be welcome to although they would have to pay for the services provided by them. Does anybody have any comment on possibly doing that?

Tera Klutz: I feel like we don't want to get into a pay-to-pay situation but it maybe could be used as a second opinion if the department does not agree

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with the original scoring of the HR Department. It is only normal that you would have people not happy if they don't get what they want. Everybody is like that, generally. Maybe that would be an alternative to say that you can pay to have the second opinion done and then we could have Council decide between the two if there is a difference. I feel that if we already just offer that then it becomes only the departments that can afford to have a job to get reclassified and you might end up opening a different can of worms.

Roy Buskirk: You said it a lot better than I did. That was basically the idea that it would be a second opinion. It would still have to come before the Personnel Committee and the Council.

Tom Harris: Roy, I had a chance to talk to HR as well and I recommended that it be the third option but ultimately Council or the Personnel Committee would have to make a recommendation and if they didn't like that then they could go to the third party. That way we wouldn't spend as much. It is still County taxpayer dollars whether they spend it or we spend it. By making that the third option might slow some of that down and we would have a voice in that before they go to the outside.

Larry Brown: Let's say that it did go into effect and was a procedure that a particular department took on review of a position, is it not still the Personnel Committee that would review that second opinion and then bring it back to Council?

Roy Buskirk: Yes.

Tom Harris: Yes.

Larry Brown: That is what I wanted to hear.

Roy Buskirk: We have in the past year, and with me and you two on the Personnel Committee, they have changed a few words on the job description and come back again. It was turned down the next time. I think it is staff time and Council time and everybody's time and is really not fair to change a couple of words in a job description and try to get it through. Anyhow, we need a vote on this transfer.

Tom Harris: I will move for the transfer within the County General Fund from Compensation County-Wide to Contractual in the amount of \$17,000.

Larry Brown: Second.

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Roy Buskirk: All in favor signify by saying aye, opposed, same sign. The motion passes 6-0-1 (Benz absent). Now we are down to the Discussion items. The one item on the agenda has basically been pulled. The Commissioners and the Highway Department has asked for another month to prepare. They will also be scheduling meetings with individual Council members to discuss it.

Larry Brown: To discuss what?

Roy Buskirk: CEDIT funding. They felt that it would probably be better if they met with a couple of you at a time and before they come before Council. The intent is that they would still come before Council. The information that was passed out to you this morning, you can see that several of the CEDIT funds, they have in different pockets for goals that they have so that they fund is available for economic development. I think that is one thing that we need to have a clear discussion with them. For instance, they have Shovel Ready sites and they want \$3 million but they only have \$1 million. By the way, we did close another site on Bluffton Road this last week. As those properties sell, the money is going back into the fund so the Redevelopment Commission can acquire additional properties and get them Shovel Ready. We are running out of Shovel Ready sites that we have available currently. I was glad to see this because Tom, like you say, if they need additional funds for acquiring these Shovel Ready sites, we know where we can go and get some. There is the Shell Building Program and that has \$1 million but they would like to have it up to \$3 million. This is one reason why their balance in the CEDIT fund increases from year to year. Unless you have a specific question, I will try to answer it for you otherwise we will let the Commissioners and Highway Department meet with you.

Tom Harris: That will be happening in the next couple of weeks?

Roy Buskirk: Yes.

Larry Brown: Help me understand what Highway has to do with this presentation of the Commissioners' CEDIT money.

Roy Buskirk: Because quite a bit of the CEDIT money is in road improvements. Actually, most of it is.

Tom Harris: That might be a good question for the Commissioners. That 60/40 program is an example of what is done with...

Roy Buskirk: The 60/40 program is particularly with concrete replacement for subdivisions. The Commissioners had been working with neighborhood

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associations on which they are paying for part of the replacement of their streets. The neighborhood associations agree to pay part of the cost to replace the concrete.

Larry Brown: I understand but that amount of money, these are current balances?

Roy Buskirk: Correct.

Larry Brown: \$200,000 is going to do about twenty feet of the street.

Tom Harris: That is one of the concerns that I have raised to the Commissioners is that some subdivisions in the County need to repair their streets. For them to repair their streets, is actually improves the value of their neighborhood and the value of their property as well as the sale ability of additional people moving to northeast Indiana. One of my challenges to the Commissioners was is \$200,000 enough? There is enough in the CEDIT Fund that they could move funds from one line to another to get more into that. They have indicated to me that they have a long-term plan for that neighborhood street repair process. This is just part of that plan.

Bill Brown: One other quick piece to that is there is \$600,000 in the unincorporated additions.

Nick Jordan: A couple of lines up you will see Concrete Repairs.

Roy Buskirk: Right.

Tom Harris: This will be something that we can talk to them about and they can probably talk to each line.

Roy Buskirk: Some of the funds can be switched. I am sure if they had a 60/40 program and needed more than \$200,000 they could come up with it. The ones in blue have a goal of having \$3 million available and they are all \$1 million or less. That is a thumbnail sketch for the reason that they have about \$20 million. I think there is \$86 million worth of road projects currently going. I think most of the Council members understand the fact that even if it is 80/20, 20% being paid by local funds and 80% by State and Federal funds, you cannot let a contract out unless you have the funds available. They do the engineering and turn it in and get 80% back and we have to re-appropriate it. Then they do the right-of-way acquisition which is appraising and purchasing the additional right-of-way they need and then they turn that in. They get 80% of that back and then they can let it out for contract for construction of it. I think it is three different times that they go

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through this of turning the bill in and getting 80% back. You need some floating money to be able to accomplish that. Now it is time for the liaison reports.

Sharon Tucker: No, resolution for the Rainy Day Fund.

Roy Buskirk: Pardon me?

Nick Jordan: The resolution...

Roy Buskirk: Oh, oh, oh.

Nick Jordan: The last item on there before the liaison reports is the cash flow resolution that we have done in at least the last five years from the Rainy Day Fund to the General Fund. We call it a short-term loan and under Indiana law it has to be paid back by the end of the year which we do with the November property tax collections. I would note that the \$5.5 million is the lowest it has been in five years and that is because of our good cash position in the General Fund. Once we take the \$5.5 million from the Rainy Day Fund, there will be about \$6.8 million left in the Rainy Day Fund until the December.

Bill Brown: Having said that I will make a motion to approve Resolution 2016-02-18-01 to temporarily borrow funds from the Rainy Day Fund to cover cash flow in the General Fund for 2016.

Tom Harris: Second.

Roy Buskirk: What would we do if we didn't have the Rainy Day Fund?

Tera Klutz: Borrow it from CEDIT.

Roy Buskirk: All in favor signify by saying aye, opposed, same sign. The motion passes 6-0-1 (Benz absent).

Sharon Tucker: I have a question. When we loaned the money to the Highway Department, has that been completely paid back?

Tera Klutz: I think they still have a few years left. They are paying it back. I can pull up the financial statement real quick.

Nick Jordan: We are in the second one. They did one back in 2011 and they repaid that and we just did one last year and they are finishing the purchase this year for another \$1.7 million for another ten trucks. That will continue

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for another five years. They are paying \$340,000 and have a perfect track record of repayment.

Sharon Tucker: Okay, thank you.

Roy Buskirk: And they are taking that out of CREDIT Funds?

Nick Jordan: No, that is coming out of the Highway Fund.

Tom Harris: With the weather, maybe we should reconsider.

Roy Buskirk: Liaison reports.

Tom Harris: I can probably start. This is not necessarily a liaison report but I attended a meeting last week with the Greater Fort Wayne Chamber held at Sweetwater Sound. They brought in the Legislators with a halftime report about what is happening down at the General Assembly. They talked about numerous bills that are still afloat and moving forward. One that caught my eye is House Bill 1110 which is the Local Option Income Tax reserves. What happened is that they basically take those reserves, and Tera you might help me out if I mess it up, and keep them down at the State House and then give them back in smaller portions as they are needed. This Bill 1110 will actually allow those funds to stay or come back to the local but we will have the ability to use those in ways that we choose rather than the way that the State allocates. Maybe you can give us an update, if you know where that bill stands.

Tera Klutz: I believe it was heard in committee, Tax and Fiscal Policy, two days ago in the morning. Senate Bill 67 is the Senate side of the same thing. It has more strings attached to us spending the money. It was heard in Ways and Means yesterday afternoon. The House has presented the bill to allow us to use those reserves as well as the Senate which wants to put more focus on roads. Clearly we feel that 1110 is the best because all Counties have different needs. Most Counties have road funding needs. There are a few Counties that have casinos that are taking care of the roads and they may have a Jail to take care of. With the Criminal Sentence Reform, there is a lot of other cost out there. I have no idea which one is going to come out. Both sides feel that theirs is the best solution.

Tom Harris: In talking with Beth Lock, she indicated approximately, they represented at the meeting that there would be \$14 million back to Allen County however the County would receive about \$4 million. I think that is what Beth Lock mentioned at this meeting. If that was to pass, it would be money coming back, \$4 million, to the County. I am not sure if that would

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come to County General or how that would come back to us. It is too early to tell, probably.

Tera Klutz: I feel that it is probably going to get put into the Rainy Day Fund and then it will be up to Council to spend within the parameters with whatever law is passed.

Roy Buskirk: That is some of it and I don't know the Legislation numbers but some of it has been the State wanting us to spend that on certain programs. As Tera said, it was for roads and there was quite a bit of opposition in the fact that they have never told us before and it is the County's money sitting there. It is County money because it is the Local Option Income Tax. We should have the ability to decide what needs to be done within the County.

Tom Harris: What is the number of the Senate bill?

Tera Klutz: 67.

Roy Buskirk: The Senate bill tells exactly that it needs to be spent on roads. That is how the Governor was coming up with the \$400 million dollars for roads. He was actually using our money to be able to do it. I think Tera is in agreement in the fact that it is better for the Counties to get the money sooner. Before, they were able to hold it for eighteen months, isn't it, before they make the distribution?

Tera Klutz: That happens because of timing of how we get the income reported on tax returns. This Trust Reserve balance had to be at least 50% of your current year distribution before they would make a distribution. In both bills, they lower that threshold. If there ever is more in our Trust balance than is needed, it can grow up to 15% under 1110. If it goes above 15%, we will get a distribution in the following year. The other one, I believe, goes down to 25%. Right now it is 50%. Under either bill we will see money. We have road issues and even under 67 we were saying thank you because we want something. We would rather have 1110 for the entire State but for Allen County, we have enough road issues that our \$4 million can easily be spent.

Tom Harris: I shared, in the past, with some of the Legislators that in my concern and so we might want to make sure if we talk to any of them that we want that to move forward. I have shared in the past that I don't like, necessarily, the philosophy that they take local money at the State level and give it back to us in terms of grants and they only give certain amounts back. The taxpayers are not getting all of it and it has to be doled out in a way and we have to fit certain needs that the State wants us to do to get our own tax money back. So anyway, this gives more options for us to be able to use the

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local taxpayer money on the local level. I just wanted to bring that to everyone's attention.

Bill Brown: I know what you are talking about but especially when it is the Local Option Income Tax, to hold it in reserve and then mandate its use. That is just not fair.

Roy Buskirk: Some of the reason that they need to hold part of it, to me it is a mathematical nightmare on the calculations, is that they need to see the April 15th State returns that you file to know for sure if some of the Local Option Income Tax money might be part of a refund that you get.

Bill Brown: I can understand the rationale to hold the reserve but the point is it goes into reserve and then comes back out and is restricted. I favor the House Bill, obviously.

Tom Harris: That is all that I have.

Larry Brown: And it is not new money.

Roy Buskirk: No.

Larry Brown: That is the way that I took some of the publicity was presenting it in such a way that...

Tom Harris: the State is giving us money.

Larry Brown: And that is was new money and it is not.

Tera Klutz: I wanted to bring up an upcoming meeting on April 13th. The AIC will hold it Northeast Indiana District meeting and they are considering, before that meeting, holding something special for the County Councils. I don't know where it is going to be located yet but I thought if I mentioned it you could block off some time. They are going to go over the new income tax structure that passed out of the Legislature last year. It changes how a County or Local Income Tax Council can allocate the income tax rates.

Larry Brown: Any idea where it might be?

Tera Klutz: In the past it has been at the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum. It has been at the Botanical Gardens. I have no idea where it will be. The date has been set but the location has not.

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Roy Buskirk: How many Counties are in that? It will be in the District but is that like five Counties or something?

Tera Klutz: There are six Districts and so six divided into 92 would be the best rough estimate.

Larry Brown: Quite a few.

Tom Harris: That is all that I have.

Roy Buskirk: Surely they discussed some other legislation.

Tom Harris: They had a variety of things but I think this was the biggest piece affecting this table. They talked about all kinds of different things.

Tera Klutz: The Non-Binding Review changes are still going strong down there as far as minimizing the amount of effort that this body would have to have when making a non-binding review. I expect that to pass.

Roy Buskirk: The one thing that passed a year ago, I guess I am a little slow, on the State Audit they raised the rate considerably that they charge the County and the City and everybody that they audit. The almost doubled it, didn't they?

Tera Klutz: At least and maybe even more.

Roy Buskirk: This is just another way, in my mind, that the State keeps turning over more expenses to the locals. Then they keep waving the flag of how they are reducing cost and lowering the income tax rate. We are under a freeze, almost, with the tax cap and not being able to just raise the revenue.

Tera Klutz: Since you mentioned the State Board of Accounts audit fees, we were in support of those increases; the Auditor's Office as well as the AIC, because when we have the option to go out and hire a private audit firm and pay three times more at least. We want the viability of the State Board of Accounts to stay strong. The thousands of units that they audit every year and we were getting charged so much a day for every day that they worked...

Nick Jordan: \$45.

Tera Klutz: \$45 a day. To expect CPA's to come in and do an audit and stay up with all of the regulation and reporting for that level was tough. We do have options. We don't have to go with the State Board of Accounts. We can

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hire an outside audit firm because we are a large enough County, they gave us that option.

Roy Buskirk: I think the State should offer it free. Why are they trying to have a revenue stream off of the...

Tera Klutz: It is definitely not covering and the State still subsidizes it. I guess you will just have to have a philosophical question on who is responsible. One, we want an audit.

Roy Buskirk: Sure.

Tera Klutz: We get Federal grants and we need an audit. Who is responsible to pay for it and I guess that will be the question that we all have to come and give our opinion on.

Roy Buskirk: Are there any further meetings or updates?

Bill Brown: Just a couple. Highway is in the process of upgrading these new trucks and it is really quite impressive with the steel beds and the method of using the beds from the old trucks. I also attended the Purdue Extension for their annual meeting for the Master Gardeners. It was a nice presentation of a really engaged group. I had a conversation with Randy Hammond about the Public Defender issue. I think we are still waiting for cost. I don't know if you had received anything regarding what it may actually cost to hire more Public Defenders.

Roy Buskirk: I haven't unless it is in an envelope that I received this morning.

Bill Brown: Gotcha. I know they feel that they are meeting the need but that is something that we are going to have to see before we understand how to fund any new initiatives there. That is about it.

Roy Buskirk: Since you brought that up, we have retained Jim Posey for our attorney. The last I talked to him was probably a week ago. He was going to have to make an appearance on our behalf. There was a date that they had to be back in court. The Commissioners, Bill Fishering is their attorney and he is trying to get the Commissioners withdrawn from that lawsuit. I was trying to work the Council and the Commissioners together with just one attorney. When I was told that the Commissioners were trying to have their name withdrawn from the lawsuit, it was necessary for us to retain our own attorney. As far as anything else on the how the case is going, I don't know where it is at. Liaison reports.

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Larry Brown: I checked with all of mine and I have no report.

Roy Buskirk: They are all in good shape, huh?

Tom Harris: Mine as well. I had two of them in front of us today but no report.

Roy Buskirk: Bob?

Bob Armstrong: Nothing.

Roy Buskirk: Anything more on the dog building?

Bob Armstrong: Haven't heard a word. I haven't heard a thing from Dave.

Roy Buskirk: Bob has been working some on the City and the County and both need new dog training facilities. They are trying to work together and have a single K9 facility.

Tom Harris: Probably no update since the last time we spoke but Bill and I had met with the Sheriff and the Sheriff's Department was looking at private funding and what the other entities within the County might consider being able to give for some kind of a fund raising process. He was going to look outside of the County to the private sector to see if he can get some funds raised as well. No report back at this point.

Bill Brown: A little bit more on that. There seems to be an interest from the City to work together.

Roy Buskirk: Bob had also told me there are some private individuals that are willing to underwrite it.

Bob Armstrong: As long as everyone ponies up their fair share.

Larry Brown: I thought I heard one time that the State might be interested in being involved to do regional training.

Bob Armstrong: I have sat down and talked to the State and the State is interested but interested to the point where they can use our training facility. Right now, Dave houses a couple of State dogs out at the kennel now. It is kind of a split where the State helps train our dogs and we house theirs. There was talk about it and then it kind of went away. After we get the facility built, we will go back to the State and bring them in.

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Roy Buskirk: Not all training is the same program. The City has one and the County has a different one. For the City of New Haven, Fort Wayne trains their dogs. There would be opportunities for picking up additional Cities or Counties if we had this new facility. Ours is out at the Irene Byron and the City's is on Wells Street by the Police and Fire Memorial.

Bob Armstrong: That building is going to have to come down for Riverfront.

Roy Buskirk: That is what I was going to say because it is in poor condition.

Bob Armstrong: There are also other Cities and Towns and surrounding States that bring their dogs in for training. There was a question made of what is the revenue that we make off of that? There is really no revenue but they are charged a fee for materials. Other than that it is a working relationship because a lot of these little Towns don't have the money. They might have a dog and they just don't have the money to send them out and have them trained. It is a partnership to train and help each other out.

Larry Brown: It is kind of like mutual aid with the Fire Departments.

Roy Buskirk: Do you have anything Bill?

Bill Brown: That is pretty much what I discussed.

Roy Buskirk: Sharon.

Sharon Tucker: I have no report.

Bob Armstrong: I have one question. Do we know where House Bill 1040 is at? That is the Food and Beverage Bill that Casey Cox put out?

Tera Klutz: I don't know if it is going to get a hearing. I believed it passed the House and then went to the Senate and the Department of Revenue, I believe, threw up a bunch of red flags. They would have to make the determination because they were going to report that to the Fiscal Officer of the County. I knew it would be administratively very hard to do so I think their testimony kind of stopped it in its tracks.

Bob Armstrong: All right. I think it would be interesting but I agree that it would be technically a nightmare. It would be very interesting to see where that money is being dispersed out.

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Bill Brown: Another way to do that is say the City of New Haven if they had a voluntary reporting at some level so that they could get an understanding of what the sales were, it could go to the Capital Improvement Board and that would be a way to at least have an estimation. That bill is trying to determine where the Food and Beverage taxes are coming from. That would be another way to get to it because I think it is about equitable distribution of the funds.

Roy Buskirk: So the funds collected in a certain area would have to go back to that area?

Bill Brown: Not necessarily would have to go back to but something like that. I don't think it would be mandated but if there is X amount raised County-wide and if New Haven feels that they are not getting their fair share for projects then potentially that would be a way to understand that this amount of Food and Beverage Tax money roughly comes from New Haven. The Capital Improvement Board could earmark a fund or something like that to do projects in that area. Or it could go for unincorporated Allen County also.

Larry Brown: The brief time I was on CIB...

Bill Brown: They are meeting this morning.

Larry Brown: Are they?

Tera Klutz: They always meet when we meet.

Larry Brown: I'll be darned. Anyway, my brief time on that Board never did I feel as though there was any favoritism or even discrimination against unincorporated versus New Haven versus City of Fort Wayne. It was very clear that there was a process, a Memorandum of Understanding, there were certain guidelines and that was most important, the guidelines and principles of allocating funds. I think the idea was that what is good for any address that you want to come up with is good for everybody. It is not like we only travel within our governing jurisdiction. Know what I mean?

Bill Brown: Oh yeah, just to be clear, I think they are doing a great job. It has been a deal maker in so many different scenarios. I think in the beginning there was an interest in getting a better understanding of where the money came from. The work that the Capital Improvement Board is doing is extraordinary, frankly.

Roy Buskirk: Being on the East Allen Alliance Development Group, they have met with the CIB several times and we had a meeting out in

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Monroeville a couple of weeks ago in which two of the CIB members were there. East Allen County has not been getting any benefit from the CIB Board. Part of it is, we found out, they have sort of a limit that they work with on any project that is less than \$1 million. If you can imagine like Woodburn, Monroeville and these small Towns, they don't have million dollar projects. There has been quite a bit of communication and the Board has agreed that if those Towns join together and have a million dollar project that would work. That is what they are working on.

Bill Brown: Just a little more on that is Kent Castleman, with Cornerstone Youth Services, actually he is the new Trails Director replacing Lori Rose. He was very, very motivated in the Monroeville area with that Youth Council. I know that Kent helped organize a tour for the Capital Improvement Board to get out and tour East Allen and some of the smaller communities. That is very beneficial.

Roy Buskirk: Yes, Kent is very good. He is the President of the East Allen Alliance. Bob.

Bob Armstrong: I would like to make a request that we get the Regional Cities Initiative people, whoever their spokesperson is, to come to this table and explain to us the eleven-County project regional city thing. What plans and what proposals are on the table and we are looking at that we are driving towards the \$42 million?

Roy Buskirk: I am not sure that they know that yet.

Bob Armstrong: The reason I ask that is City Council just passed that they're going to give them money for housing and the new restaurant next to the Ash Center. In that passage on Tuesday, it says they are going to go to the Regional Cities and request some funding from the \$42 million. So, my question is surely they have a plan of projects or are we just throwing projects in as we go saying this is a good project and this is a good project. I would just like to know what they're agenda is and what are we doing for eleven Counties and where are we today and where are we going?

Sharon Tucker: Weren't we required to submit an idea of projects when we did our bidding to the State?

Roy Buskirk: I think there were 38 projects from this eleven-County area and because the projects, it doesn't mean that any of them will be on the final list.

Bob Armstrong: I agree. I understand.

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Roy Buskirk: Larry and I met with one of the five Board members maybe a month ago now. At that time, he told us they were designing the form that applicants would have to fill out.

Bob Armstrong: And that is all we know.

Roy Buskirk: That is all we know.

Larry Brown: I can tell you that since then I have talked to him and they have met with the State as a group, meaning the three selected RDA groups so that they could all hear the same message. It is a work in progress.

Bob Armstrong: I noticed there was just a thing in the paper that we went from using that money in a two-year span and now they have moved it out to a four-year span.

Roy Buskirk: And the way that I understand that, at least when it was the two-year, they have to have the projects underway. The money doesn't have to be out of the bank in the four-year period.

Bob Armstrong: Right.

Roy Buskirk: I don't quite understand where giving the private developer \$2.8 million of Indiana taxpayer money is a very good thing to be doing. The developer said the numbers weren't too good but \$2.8 million would make them look a lot better. If you can get someone else's money instead of your own, it usually makes the project look a little better.

Bob Armstrong: A lot better. I understand that it is a moving process but it just caught my eye Tuesday night when City Council was addressed for that and they said they were going to pull or ask for some of that money out of the Regional Partnership.

Roy Buskirk: They don't even know how much money they are going to get.

Bob Armstrong: Right. That is what I was trying to figure out when they started talking about Federal money, State money and local money but they really didn't have a good set on where that money was coming from.

Larry Brown: And another thing, the 60/20/20 is not hard and fast. That is another thing the RDA's wanted to discuss and get more clarity on. I was not able but did any of you attend the GFW splash when they had it a few weeks ago?

Roy Buskirk: Yes.

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Bill Brown: Yes.

Larry Brown: Did they have any information that would have answered Bob's question?

Bill Brown: It wasn't in a presentation format although there was information about all of the various projects out there. I think it is pretty well publicized what is taking place in the various communities. The wish list, so to speak. It will amount to who gets ready the quickest and who gets prepared. You start something like this with no funding and all of a sudden the fund comes together and I know there are a lot of areas that are working on pulling this stuff together. Anytime, with the process like this, the various funding streams will be complicated. When you look at the Landing and some of the various things going on in Downtown Fort Wayne right now, new market tax credits and CReED that has gone away on the residential, you folks are familiar with how complicated it is. Trying to put something together that would illustrate what these projects are, I don't think would be real difficult.

Roy Buskirk: They had up to the front and over to the right corner of the room forty to fifty projects that you could read about the project and then vote on which ones you thought were the best. It was very well done. There was much socializing taking place and they had an abundance of food and drinks. It was quite a social event.

Bill Brown: It was top shelf or I should say first class. The Regional Partnership, over the last ten years, talked about capacity building and now the Partnership is hitting on all cylinders. Them and GFW working together, I think we are getting positioned very well for the future. The whole "Road to a Million" is not being taken lightly. It is critical, the whole attraction and retention. We'll see what happens. Doden speaks about the three-legged stool in the arena and the promenade and the Landing as a central feature for Allen County. They have been selling that for quite a while.

Roy Buskirk: I don't want to give the wrong impression but the whole evening was underwritten by a couple of corporations, one of them was a law firm. It wasn't any Greater Fort Wayne money or anything like that.

Bill Brown: A lot of participation. Not only were there about 1,000 people there were corporations to fund this.

Roy Buskirk: Just real quick, I sent out the road information and I am going to try to do that each month. I didn't know if you had any questions on how to

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read the charts but I thought you need to be aware of what is going on particularly in your district or if you are At Large of all of the projects in case one of your constituents ask you about them. The information is there or you can have them call me. One other thing was this past month I attended the annual Coliseum Trustees meeting. There are good numbers for the Coliseum and the additional bookings that they have with the area that they just opened up and attendance is up. They are able to get some additional bookings that they were not able to get before the expansion. That's it.

Larry Brown: I sent all of you an email that contained year-end and January budget results for the CCP. If you recall, we charged them and had concerns about them meeting their future budgets. I intend to get that information monthly and keep you up to date as we prepare for July I guess it would be, budget discussion.

Nick Jordan: To add to that we also track the CCP stuff closely and one of the proposals right now is given their rollover and fund balance which is over \$1 million, per the interlocal it should be used to fund the CCP. If we still have over \$1 million come the fourth quarter of this year, what may happen is that the City and the County may not contribute our fourth quarter contribution so that they spend down that fund balance and doesn't just keep building up. The other thing is Bill Bassett is going to talk to his Board and there will be further discussion about the call breakout. That determines the amount that the City and County contribute to the CCP.

Larry Brown: That was discussed at Tuesday's meeting. Some figures were thrown out but they are working on that.

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 February 18, 2016.

Larry Brown: Second.

Roy Buskirk: All in favor please signify by saying aye. The motion passes 5-0-2 (Benz and Harris absent).

Bob Armstrong: Move to adjourn.

Larry Brown: Second.

Roy Buskirk: All in favor please signify by saying aye. Opposed like sign. The motion passes 5-0-2 (Benz and Harris absent). There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:46.