

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MAY 17, 2018
8:30 AM

The Allen County Council met on Thursday, May 17, 2018 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, Tom A. Harris and Sharon L. Tucker. Justin T. Busch and Eric M. Tippmann were absent.

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

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

Joel Benz: Good morning everyone. First on the agenda is the approval of the April 19th meeting minutes. Are there any additions or corrections?

Tom Harris: Move to approve the minutes from April 19, 2018.

Sharon Tucker: Second.

Joel Benz: All in favor signify by saying aye, opposed, same sign. The motion passes 5-0-2 (Busch and Tippmann were absent). I will point out that we are a couple of members short this morning. I got a 2:00 a.m. text from one of them and the other one had a planned absence. Hopefully all is well there. Next is the financial report from Auditor Nick Jordan.

Nick Jordan: Good morning. In your packet, you see the financials through April 30th. Miscellaneous Revenue is trending right along, year to date. We got notice yesterday or the day prior of the Special Local Income Tax Distribution because our balance at the State was above the 15% threshold. Our piece will be about \$800,000. There is \$500,000 that is property tax relief that the City will have to give their okay on to distribute it. That is \$800,000 that the County was not expecting to receive. It is just how the law works and our trust balance has exceeded the 15% threshold. We will get a property tax distribution at the end of this month. I don't anticipate anything out of the ordinary. Some people pay both installments in the spring and so it is usually higher than estimated. The other positive note is our Health Insurance Fund and claims experience continues to be unprecedented. The Health Insurance Fund balance is now over \$10 million and that is because we continue to experience low health insurance claims. Knock on wood that it continues but we are more than healthy there and will allow us to reduce our General Fund contribution to the Health Insurance Fund coming into 2019. Those dollars could be used for one-time projects not to be built into operating but for one-time items. That

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could easily be reduced \$1 million for our 2019 contribution because the balance is so high.

Joel Benz: Good news. Thank you, Nick. Is there anything else?

Nick Jordan: Not unless you have questions.

Sharon Tucker: I have a question. Nick, on the healthcare, I know we have seen a trend where we are up a couple of years and then down. Where are we on that trend? Are we down, down?

Nick Jordan: We are on our fourth year of going down or flat. The historical trend of almost every three or four years of that uptick is not playing out for this year. Year to date, through the end of April, we are maybe 90% of 2017 and quite a bit under 2016. At the very least we are maintaining flat if not dropping. That can change in any given month but to date, it has been great.

Sharon Tucker: Cool. I wonder if that is contributed to our YMCA program that more employees are going to.

Nick Jordan: It could but you have to give credit to our third party administrators because they do a great job. If you have health insurance claims and you look at your EOB, Explanation of Benefits, you can see the discounts taken off right on there. I definitely think they have a huge hand in as well as a few years ago when we went to one provider or one network as well as the spousal rule and things of that regard. It's all helping.

Sharon Tucker: Thank you.

Tom Harris: With that I will move for approval of the financial report.

Larry Brown: Second.

Joel Benz: **We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye, those opposed, like sign. The motion passes 5-0-2 (Busch and Tippmann absent).** This morning we have total appropriations in the General Fund of \$56,970. Actually, that is not going to be correct because some of that was withdrawn.

Nick Jordan: It is \$10,000.

Joel Benz: Yes, \$10,000. Total appropriations in Other Funds totals \$191,955. Although we have a somewhat slim crowd, we are going to open it up for public comment on any of the items that we are going to be discussing. Is there anyone who would like to come forward? Seeing none, we will move on to the Drug and Alcohol Consortium's appropriation in the Drug Free Communities Fund 745.

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Jerri Lerch: I am Jerry Lerch, Executive Director of the Allen County Consortium. On an annual basis, we operate under the Drug Free Indiana statute with an approved comprehensive plan and an extensive membership of 140 community agency members. We conduct a grant request process. We evaluate what people are asking for against our goals to provide access to treatment, to enhance law enforcement and to, most importantly, do prevention. I believe you have received our request of \$191,955. By statute, we are required to either allocate or spend collaboratively one-quarter in each of those key categories, law enforcement, prevention, intervention and the fourth category is for DAC to operate. We only do single year funding each year. Can I answer specific questions?

Joel Benz: Council, are there any questions? It is easier when it is a grant and not coming out of our General Fund.

Tom Harris: This grant is from the State of Indiana?

Jerri Lerch: It is a statute that once we complete a comprehensive plan annually, it is reviewed and approved at the State level. Then we have access to the local Drug Free Communities Fund that resides here in the County which includes the OWI fines and drug interdiction fees of this County.

Tom Harris: You say that you have to break those up in the four areas. What about the opioid crisis? Do you allocate more funds for that issue or is that not part of this?

Jerri Lerch: We have not done that at this point in time however we have always continued to include opioid issues. We also address marijuana and alcohol and we don't have so many funds to make as big of a dent as we would like. The ways we handle that are a couple ways, one in our prevention area we work collaboratively with other agencies in the community and schools and do a lot of education and opportunities for outreach. On the intervention side, we have operated for many years with what we call an intervention scholarship. It may be people with an opioid issue and we target towards what I call the working poor. People who have worked at recovery for the last 30 days and are working at least 30 hours a week but they don't really have money for treatment or halfway houses or childcare during it.

Tom Harris: So the opioid is not as much as some of the other drivers you are dealing with.

Jerri Lerch: Well, today it is very rare to find a single alcoholic or very rare to find a person that is only using one substance. Often opioids are on the menu but so are the other substances too. And very often the abuse and use of opioids don't necessarily start with opioids unless it happens to be through that medical door. Trying to work with people with those other social and chemical gateway drugs encourages them to go on to more and that is what we are trying to prevent in the first place. We are trying to catch the front-end of the problem rather than so much the backend.

Tom Harris: Any positive trends happening?

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Jerri Lerch: Actually I think your next speaker is going to be able to tell you more about her reporting on the projects they are doing. I will tell you that one of the areas that we really specialize with is working with youth. We know that three quarters of all addictions start before the age of eighteen. We know that from adults that have been hospitalized and so we focus hard on that. We work with our schools and in the first quarter of 2017 we worked with the schools to survey sixth through twelfth grade students. We want to know lots of things. We want to know at what age they started using so do we catch them as high school seniors or 30-year-olds or sixth graders and the answer is sixth graders. We want to know how much they have used in the last month. We want to know to what degree they think a substance harms them. A lot of them think they are harmless. It's no problem, the doctor prescribed it. It's official. We want to know to what degree their friends or family disapproves. Are they living in a place where everybody is using or are they being naughty? We collected that on 12,000 students in Allen County. When we were reporting on the last 30-day use, we are trending slightly ahead on prescription drug abuse, meds not prescribed to them. We are about par on the alcohol issue. The point we are most worried about is that for particularly our eighth and tenth grade students. They report twice as much 30-day use of marijuana as the State of Indiana or the national statistic. So here, in Allen County, we are seeing really young people being involved with marijuana very heavily and that leads to other things. We spend a lot of attention on knowing and then working with the people who do that. We try to distribute these funds related to those kinds of priorities.

Tom Harris: Thank you.

Jerri Lerch: Thank you for asking.

Tom Harris: I will move for approval of the appropriation in the Drug Free Communities Fund 745 in the amount of \$191,955 for Program Grants.

Sharon Tucker: Second.

Joel Benz: **We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye, those opposed, like sign. The motion passes 5-0-2 (Busch and Tippmann absent).**

Jerri Lerch: Thank you for helping.

Joel Benz: Next we have Rachel Blakeman from the Lutheran Foundation.

Rachel Blakeman: Rachel Blakeman and I am the Director of the Community Research Institute at Purdue Fort Wayne. Marcia Haaff was not able to join us today. She has a family funeral that she needs to attend. I am here on behalf of the Lutheran Foundation and FATOS which is the Fort Wayne Allen County Task Force for Opioid Strategic Planning. The Lutheran Foundation contracted with CRI to help lead a project to look at the opioid crisis in Allen County. We recognize that there is a problem but we didn't really know much about it. The Lutheran Foundation has made a priority in the past few

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years to look at mental health and behavioral health issues. This seemed like a natural extension of that work. What we did was come up with the name Turning Hope into Action Evaluating the Opioid Crisis in Fort Wayne and Allen County. We have both good and bad news. The top line, in green, is the prescription rate per 100 residents for the State of Indiana. The orange line is for Allen County. Historically, when we look at those numbers, more populated Counties such as Allen, Lake, Saint Joseph, Marion are below the average for the State of Indiana. Those that tend to be higher are actually the more rural Counties. If we are looking at Blackford, Grant and some of those, they actually have higher rates. The population density actually works in our favor. What you will notice is that opioid prescriptions peaked in about 2012. Even though I said Allen County was below the State average, we were above the national average in the rate of opioid prescriptions. At one point, in the State of Indiana, we had more than one prescription being written for every 100 residents. We know that not all of us were getting those prescriptions. The bad news is we need to look at opioid poisoning deaths. Those are overdoses and we are looking at the same time period and you are going to see that as the prescriptions went down, the deaths have started to go up. We don't have enough data for Allen County specifically to create a reliable trend lines. We had to look at the State numbers but you will see that is simply going up. What we think is happening is that a lot of folks who may have started using with prescriptions are now using illicit. What happened is the trend was that opioids were being used to treat chronic pain. Then the doctors recognized there was a problem and have stopped prescribing but the dependence and addiction has not ended and so those folks are transferring their needs to illicit supplies. That is obviously fentanyl, some car fentanyl the elephant tranquilizer and it is simply becoming deadly. The next slide is the information that just came out on Monday. This is from IU Kelley School of Business, the Business Research Center. They publish the Indiana Review Quarterly. Since 2003 the opioid crisis has cost Allen County, not government but geography, more than \$1 billion. If we look at the chart that starts in 2003 and goes to 2017, it shows the direct and indirect damages. Again, once people started dying the cost has gone up substantially. We are looking at things such as property crimes, hospitalizations, things such as endocarditis which is a heart condition that comes from intravenous drug use. Those folks end up in the ICU and it may cost \$100,000 and is often on public insurance such as Medicaid or the like. Also in there, the total damages include lost productivity and the fact if somebody is not working because they are disabled or deceased. We are having a significant cost to the State of Indiana since 2003 of more than \$43 billion. Some of these are direct costs and some are indirect costs as well. Let's take a look at FATOS which is the Fort Wayne Allen County Task Force for Opioid Strategic Planning. This was a multidisciplinary team that was assembled primarily by the Lutheran Foundation along with the help from CRI. We brought together folks from Criminal Justice, from the judiciary, mental health providers, the healthcare systems, social service agencies and also folks with the lived experience. We realized we needed to take a look at this and this kind of project would ordinarily take about a year to eighteen months. We did it in about four months because of the fact that we recognized that this is a fast moving problem and the longer we research it without doing any work, the more problems are being caused whether that be death, injury or simply lost productivity. CRI was the project manager on this. Our priority was to look at what is happening well. There are good things happening and we need to know

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about that and then what needs improvement. We structured this under four subcommittees. We used a strategic approach to addressing substance abuse in Indiana as the guide. That is the plan that came out from the State's substance use plan. Jim McClellan was appointed by the Governor and they created an outline and strategic plan. What we wanted to do was follow that model so that we are aligning local efforts with what might be happening at the State. We looked at four areas. We looked at prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery and enforcement. What we also learned was that while those distinctions look very clear on the screen, once you start talking about it the distinctions start to collapse. When the police arrest somebody, it may serve as an intervention that gets them into treatment and recovery. It was an interesting exercise on that. We will take a look on the next slide at about what the bright spots were. Here are some of the good things that are happening in Allen County. First and foremost is that interdisciplinary commitment that we saw from those groups. We looked at what was happening nationally and it is hard to get folks to the table together. We are pleased with what is happening in Fort Wayne and Allen County. It wasn't hard to do that. That is really a starting point and the fact is we are getting the right people in the room to discuss. On the breadth of treatment and recovery services, we are clearly the population center for Northeast Indiana. We have those treatment options and recovery facilities here whether it is Parkview Behavioral Health or Saint Joe Behavioral Health, the medication assisted treatments that are available whether through a methadone clinic or Vivitrol or Suboxone. We would like to give credit to our courts. The problem-solving courts, which started with Drug Court and we have Hope Probation, Veteran's Court and those are rather innovative. When Marsha travels the State and says that she is from Allen County, often she hears about the great work that is happening in Allen Superior Court. We can feel good about that. The other thing that is also going well is the Syringe Services Program which is also known as Needle Exchange. That is the only one available in Northeast Indiana. It serves a harm reduction function. We know that not everybody is a fan of this program and it can be controversial. When we talk about things such as harm reduction and cost avoidance, this is a pretty substantial one. The fact that they are able to get paraphernalia that is clean means that we are reducing the risk of HIV and Hepatitis C and endocarditis. Also importantly, there is the opportunity to connect them with treatment and recovery. There is reason to believe that folks who are using the services will connect with treatment and recovery.

Tom Harris: Just on that note, are there any kinds of stats?

Rachel Blakeman: That would be a better question for Susie Cisney with the Board of Health. I have heard it but I don't know if off the top of my head. Their data is very well tracked and maintained. By law, they are required to do a lot but they just really have good information. The last one of the bright spots is the availability of Naloxone without a prescription. The areas that we can be doing better at, we recognize prevention education is important with an emphasis on students and parents. We clearly have some trend lines that we need to be working on and making sure they understand the hazards and changing that conversation. We also see that there is work to be done for the seamless transition between intervention and treatment and recovery. We recognize, in talking to folks of the lived experience that they may recognize a son or a daughter or a

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spouse has an opioid problem but how do they connect them to services? What is available and how do they find out? That ability to move them from one segment to another, from recognizing the problem to receiving services, there needs to be some work done on that. While we have the advantage of the broad breadth of treatment and recovery services, we need more of them. There is especially an emphasis on it being holistic and not just a clinical aspect but also incorporating the spiritual component. Some of those wraparound services as well. We need more mental health professionals as we simply don't have enough credentialed folks. The fourth one is more treatment and recovery services for people in the criminal justice system. While we have positive things happening with the Drug Court, there is a clear need for additional services especially in the Allen County Jail. What we recognize is that most of those folks come back into the community and can we be working to treat those substance disorders while they are there. The last one overarches everything we have talked about and that is the need to reduce stigma. Part of the problem we have is that people don't want to talk about it. We need to be able to have an open conversation to be able to engage folks in services that looks at stigma from whether that be within a family, a neighborhood, with the faith based community, with employers and so it is a broad base. The opportunity to have this discussion is really important. The question is what happens from here? Next week we have a fifty-page report that goes into far more detail than what I was able to share with you today. That is going to be released at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 23rd at the Allen County Public Library downtown. It is open to the public and we would be happy to have you and anyone else who would like to join us. We will be releasing the report and we would be happy to share it with you. If you are interested in learning more and are not able to attend, we would be happy to sit how with you. We put together a rather swift timeline to get this report done which was simply a need of services assessment. We haven't looked forward, we have some ideas where we need to go but we haven't put any structure to that. That is going to be the next part where we are developing those work groups. We are advantaged to have the interdisciplinary teams already established and there are some things that we are going to be able to do at relatively low cost. It is simply a matter of getting the right people in the room, talking through and coming up with a strategy and plan that will have minimal financial impact. Others are going to have resources that will be needed for some of the more ambitious reforms. With that I would be happy to answer any questions.

Joel Benz: Thank you. You really breezed right through that. I will say that I have been on the frontlines of this in my part-time job and this is a messy problem. It's ugly. The demographics involved are not just one section. It is the more wealthy people in our community and also the very low end and are homeless and don't have anywhere to go and use it as an escape mechanism. It is a continuing problem. Thank you for coming and sharing.

Tom Harris: I have just one question. I have had some issues in the last couple of years and the doctors prescribed 100 pills and you only need ten or fifteen. Is that changing?

Rachel Blakeman: Yes. Last year, it went into effect that generally speaking your first prescription for opioids needs to be no more than seven days. That is a substantial change.

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Tom Harris: I had heard that. That should start to show in some of our stats.

Rachel Blakeman: Exactly. What we are seeing is the number of prescriptions is going down but the problem is that those who are already using and misusing are now turning to illicit substances. They are starting to use heroin. If you are using it illicitly, heroin is often cheaper than buying a prescription on the streets. It is just a curious market condition. Councilman Benz, as you were noting, it is a challenging problem because we can't target one population. It effects across all socioeconomic groups, across race, gender and that sort of thing.

Joel Benz: Thank you for your presentation. Okay, Building Department.

John Caywood: John Caywood, Building Commissioner. I am here for an appropriation. What I would like to do is, I am on the Board for the Ivy Tech Construction Management Program. There is a need in this community for more people going into the construction field. The Building Department would like to participate in something that will not only benefit the community through Ivy Tech but will benefit the Building Department. This proposal would fund a second-year construction management student to come onboard as a paid intern. It is a twelve-week program and they would get credit for and we would teach him how to do some of the inspections that are lower priority and lower technically. Then we can have our experienced seasoned Inspectors out doing more complex inspections. If this is successful this will probably not be the last time I come to you but I would probably incorporate this into my budget. I think it is needed in the community. I would like to try this for twelve weeks and then report back the number of inspections we gained and the efficiencies we have gained at this. For \$10,000 I think it is a fairly conservative gamble to put out there.

Joel Benz: I will say that I think Councilman Brown has been a big proponent of integrating trades and that sort of thing. I think this is great and is a win-win for you and the school.

Larry Brown: John, do you see this reducing or improving the backlog on inspections?

John Caywood: I absolutely do because right now we have things like water heater replacements or furnace replacements and just talking to an HVAC person, as soon as we hit 80 to 85 degrees we will have a mass of air-conditioning replacement type of things. Those tend to go to the back burner so that we can get the PF Changs and Chick-fil-A off the ground and running. As this backlog comes, we can only hit those when we have a spare hour here or there. By having an individual that we can train to do these very repetitive types of inspections, I think this will reduce the backlog and help free my normal full-time Inspectors up for these other ones.

Larry Brown: A follow-up question. I am being approached by my fellow contractors in the general trades complaining about the backlog of the time it takes to get a job inspected so that they can move onto the next phase. What are you doing, whether it is

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going from 37.5 to 40 hours or overtime or whatever since it is so difficult to hire? I think your employment count went backwards instead of forwards.

John Caywood: We went backwards with one in the office but are actually fully staffed now because we were able to hire a commercial person. To answer your question, I am going to come to you and filling your email boxes with information in the next month to ask for permission for the Building Department to go to 40 hours permanently. Two weeks ago I put everyone at 40 hours because of some wiggle room that I had in my payroll. Our doors close at 4:30 but if you are in the door at 4:30, we will serve them until 5:00. The best kept secret, which is not really a secret, is that we are open at 7:00 a.m. Increased time for permitting. We have the counter staff doing 40 hours and the Inspectors doing 40 hours also. It will last until the next time I come before you. We are starting earlier because of all of the traffic. June first we are going to go seven to four so that we can better match where people are working, the true construction hours. One thing I implemented just this week is some of the low hanging fruit I am having the Assistant Commissioner train everyone on how to do concrete inspections, partial wall inspections and some other things. A good example is the remodeling of an apartment complex on the north side of town and we are talking about furring out a wall in a closet for an electric panel to go in. Before, we would have to have a structural person go out and approve the framing for this which is very basic. Then we would bring the electrician out. I am now making it so one person goes and does both of those very simple ones. That is a big efficiency. It has been a cultural hurdle to change in my department but we are up for the task. That will reduce the number on some of those by half.

Larry Brown: Awesome.

Joel Benz: Councilman Tucker.

Sharon Tucker: John, the twelve week trial program, will this individual be ready to hit the ground running or do we have to pull an Inspector out of the field to train them? I guess what I am asking is how do we make sure we are not putting ourselves into a liability?

John Caywood: What we are going to do is, I am working with Ivy Tech to get their best and brightest person to fill this kind of position. We are going to vet the position very well with someone who is capable of doing that. It would probably be a day or two of training with either me or the Assistant Building Commissioner on the specific jobs that are here. It would probably be a day or two of riding with one of the Inspectors getting some knowledge on what we do but the great thing is we have the mobile app. I don't know anyone under 30 that doesn't have a smart phone but put that application on their smart phone and they will have access to that right away. Roof inspections are probably the first thing they will do. You go out and look at a roof and look at the ventilation to see if it meets capacity and is a very basic inspection. We'll start with that and prove them out and then go to different ones in the trades.

Sharon Tucker: Thank you.

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Joel Benz: Council, do you have any further questions here?

Larry Brown: If I can figure out how to say it here, I will make the motion. I will make the motion to approve John's request for Extra Deputy Hire in the amount of \$10,000.

Bob Armstrong: Second.

Joel Benz: We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye, those opposed, like sign. The motion passes 5-0-2 (Busch and Tippmann absent). Moving on, we have Human Resources and an amended salary for the UPROB grid.

Charity Murphy: Charity Murphy, Human Resources.

Mary Rian: Mary Rian, HR Generalist and Recruiter.

Eric Zimmerman: Eric Zimmerman with Circuit Court.

Andrea Trevino: Andrea Trevino, Allen Superior Court.

Joel Benz: I know we have beaten this one up and this is probably the third or fourth time you have come back. Hopefully we will get you taken care of today. Does someone want to give us a brief overview of what's going on here and we will move forward.

Charity Murphy: We were here last month to request an amendment to the UPROB grid. HR had come up with an initial request for increasing the UPROB grid and the main rationale for that amendment is to create internal equity in the County. As you recall, the PAT grid, the LTC grids, the other grids were all amended last year. This was the remaining grid that was not increased and therefore the UPROB grid lagged behind the other grids as far as compensation. In looking at that we also noted that Probation Officers that fall in the UPROB grid are almost identical in nature to Case Managers that are at Allen County Community Corrections and Criminal Division Services. As I started out with, the goal is to create internal equity within the County. We came up with the initial proposal and after last month's meeting, we had made some alterations to that. What I believe everyone should have is the new amended proposal. It is not exactly the same as the PAT grid but brings these employees pretty close to the compensation on the PAT grid. I want to let Eric and Judge Trevino also speak but I don't know if you guys have any initial questions.

Joel Benz: Go ahead and weigh in.

Eric Zimmerman: I think this is our third time here and I am appreciative of the time and consideration that Council has given this matter. It is important to our staff and for the reasons we have previously discussed about recruiting and equity among other Criminal Justice departments within the County. I have seen the revised HR recommendation and I feel that it does achieve the problematic areas that we were finding

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and recruiting quality applicants. I would encourage your passage of the amended UPROB grid.

Andrea Trevino: I don't have much to add to what Eric said. I thank you for allowing this new kid on the block to be at the table and thank you all for your careful consideration of this issue. I know a couple of you have put forth your own proposals and I thank you for your time in putting together those numbers. I am with Eric in saying this new proposal while it isn't the original one, is a very fair compromise and achieves what we were hoping to do which is to put out what is an attractive and fair recruiting number. It was hard for us to compete when we are talking about youngsters coming out of college with the Bachelor's degree and asking them to do the wealth of things they are now required to do under our new probation standards. It is a lot more than it used to be and requires them to wear many hats, quasi law enforcement, quasi mental health, meeting with families and testifying in court. They are doing a whole lot more than they did back in the day when the decisions were to send them to detention or some sort of simplified probation. They are really reaching and wearing many hats these days and I would love to be able to recognize that with a nice attractive starting salary. I think this does that and marginalizes kind of in the middle from where we started and where UPROB is as the years go on. I think it is a good compromise and I also would encourage you to adopt the amended HR proposal as well. Thank you for your time today.

Joel Benz: Charity, go ahead.

Charity Murphy: One other thing, along with this is we are requesting that this become retroactive from the first date that we came to request this.

Andrea Trevino: I forgot something as well. To lessen the fiscal impact, they did some work to lessen the fiscal impact to you and in a further gesture of good faith ACJC does have an historic rollover amount that we have been willing to give back. We are willing to throw every penny to absorb everything that we can to push this through. It is based on a five-year rollover and I think we can absorb most if not all of it. That rollover is based on employees being out and items not being used and if that holds true, I think we would be able to absorb a good portion of this. There is a shot and I wanted to throw this out so you are not surprised and if things don't hold up to the five-year average and we would have to come back to request a small amount, it is a very insignificant amount compared to the \$200,000 that would have been needed otherwise.

Joel Benz: Councilman Harris.

Tom Harris: Judge, in other words, you would take existing funds and be able to implement this and then in essence you wouldn't have as much rollover at the end of the year.

Andrea Trevino: Exactly.

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Tom Harris: Okay, very good and for HR, I guess I wanted to understand that you modified the initial HR proposal and what is your strategy behind that revised proposal?

Charity Murphy: Councilman Benz had taken a lot of time in doing his own calculations and came up with a proposal and this is kind of the third modification. As I talked about at the last meeting, his modification saved some money from the initial proposal but our concern was that at the very beginning stages of Step One and Two, there wasn't enough of an increase and that was one of our goals for not only internal equity but to be more attractive in recruiting. They are looking for the same candidates as Community Corrections and CDS is looking for in their Case Managers and when they are starting \$12,000 and \$15,000 lower than those agencies, we need more parity at the beginning stages. This second amendment was really to just alter those first steps and increase those to have more parity with the PAT grids in the initial stages.

Tom Harris: So more of a fiscal initiative rather than a recruitment strategy.

Mary Rian: Are you talking about the difference between the first proposal and the second?

Tom Harris: In six months they would get what they would have gotten.

Charity Murphy: Correct but when we are posting positions, we have to post what they are going to come in as. It looks like the position is only at \$33,000 and that kind of thwarts any efforts at recruiting on the first amendment. It was proposed at \$33,800.

Tom Harris: \$36,800.

Charity Murphy: Oh, that's right.

Joel Benz: What she is saying is they have to advertise with whatever the lowest point it.

Tom Harris: I understand. I was trying to understand if there was a strategy in terms of modifying some of those numbers from a recruitment standpoint or simply was it a fiscal initiative that we were trying to reduce some of those costs.

Charity Murphy: Fiscal for the first amendment.

Tom Harris: I didn't see the strategy of recruitment being modified in that as much as fiscal.

Charity Murphy: The first was fiscal.

Tom Harris: Okay.

Joel Benz: Councilwoman Tucker.

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Sharon Tucker: I was in favor of the original request and so I will be voting yes to support this one especially since I know before we talked times one and two that my major concern was that there was money within the ACJC budget and Judge, thank you for being willing to utilize those dollars. We knew right up front that Adult Probation would need a little assistance. I am thankful you crunched the numbers several times and I do realize that in the event of something happening that you might have to come back and I will be in favor of supporting you then depending on what those numbers are but thank you for taking a look at it.

Tom Harris: I will make one other comment. I will be voting in favor of this today but I can't help but think that we created some of this when we revised some of the grids. Our goal in getting the grids more competitive was the right approach. You guys are last of the different grids that we looked at and while it pains me to vote in favor of this, I think it is the right thing to do from an internal equity standpoint. The challenge for Council becomes what's next? Once this happens, do we have other ramifications coming at us from other departments saying gosh we can't recruit as much and easier and la la la. At some point we have to say that's it. We are literally competing within ourselves. I think it is the right thing to do in this case.

Larry Brown: Tom, I don't see that happening.

Tom Harris: Good.

Sharon Tucker: It could but...

Larry Brown: I suppose it could...

Tom Harris: I think we are putting the announcement out there that we hope that it won't.

Larry Brown: Then make it loud and clear. There is one category and I think you all have been hit up on this, and that is the top level.

Tom Harris: That's next.

Sharon Tucker: But UPROB falls within and they have waited. That is why I don't think the justification of other departments coming and saying we want to have parity because we have given them parity already. We have pushed this one down and it is time to address it.

Joel Benz: Hopefully, at this point, we have addressed each grid and I don't see us revisiting this for a while. Hopefully we have gotten these parity levels correct.

Sharon Tucker: I would like to make a motion for the amended salary ordinance for the UPROB grid retroactive to March 15, 2018.

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Bob Armstrong: Second.

Joel Benz: We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye, those opposed, like sign. The motion passes 5-0-2 (Busch and Tippmann absent).

Nick Jordan: The last one on this page is a transfer for Circuit Court. This is similar to ones we have had in prior months and is strictly related to accounting and our preference that equipment items are paid out of the 400 Series versus Supplies. There is no new money just a transfer of existing funds.

Tom Harris: I will move for the transfer of funds within the Circuit Court General Fund from Supplies to Computer Equipment in the amount of \$174.

Sharon Tucker: Second.

Joel Benz: We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye, those opposed, like sign. The motion passes 5-0-2 (Busch and Tippmann absent). Next on our agenda is an update from the Commissioners on LIT projects.

Chris Cloud: Chris Cloud, Chief of Staff with the Board of Commissioners. My presence today is at the request of a question that Councilman Armstrong asked. He asked for a report of projects of 2018 LIT dollars and how the rollover money from 2017 is spent. What I tried to do was put together an easy to understand list. CEDIT is a little strange, LIT now. I still call it CEDIT. There is so much money coming in and out because of the way Highway is involved in it. Federal aid money goes in and projects sometimes are reimbursed from TIF and so there is a lot of in and out. It is a little confusing to track year to year. When Jackie sends the monthly financials, it is kind of hard to understand what is in there. This is an attempt to go beyond just the budget that we submit to Council and show a little more of how it is broken down. This was prepared for the April meeting and so these numbers are as of the end of March. The cash balance at the end of March was \$21,493,000. What you see here then is sort of what is going to be added or subtracted to that throughout the year. That represented the first quarter and we expect another three-quarters of the LIT revenue to come in of \$7.7 which is a guess. The Auditor's Office does a very good job guessing. Some years it is actually more than that. On top of that we need to take out what Highway already had in purchase orders, contracts that are in place that they expect to spend money on and things that they knew they were going to put under contract yet this year. The first two deductions of about \$13 million are Highway's portion of CEDIT that is going to be out the door or committed to contract. What is left then is the portion of LIT that is under the Commissioners' jurisdiction. Highway's portion is as well but it gets put into Highway CEDIT sections of lines. They oversee that portion. We have certain expected expenses this year. Projects that we know are going to take place or expenses we know are going to take place. We fund several economic development partners, Greater Fort Wayne, Regional Partnership, Downtown Improvement District, Northeast Indiana Innovation Center and these are just year-to-year static numbers that we fund as economic development partners. Late last fall, the Board of Commissioners committed \$1 million to Electric Works for the remediation project along with the Capital Improvement Board. The thinking being that

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even if this project doesn't come to fruition, a remediated property is worth more for the community than an un-remediated property as far as trying to get it into someone's hands. I think this is up to a \$9 million remediation and so this is by no means funding all of it. We have asked, along with the CIB, this money actually be spent on the ground remediation. They have submitted cost estimates of the proposal and we are working through on odd set-up. The Downtown Trust is acting as the fiduciary agent for the CIB and Commissioners for the money to funnel through and so we are working through them as the agent to do this with milestones or things that must happen in the project scope to get the money. They can't just be handed the money but must complete certain portions of the work to get that provided. We have also committed to several rural development projects. That is things that happen in unincorporated Allen County. It could be trail work or money for one of the communities in unincorporated that have a project going on there. Most recently the Commissioners have committed upwards of \$1 million for trails. That is not in one year but just in general. How we have partnered with trails recently is we have assisted them with right-of-way acquisition because we have the expertise in Highway for right-of-way acquisition, Lara Dorsett will work with Kent Castleman to identify the parcels along the trail path that will need right-of-way and help them acquire it. Also, if they need any engineering done, again we know people and we do that sort of thing. That is part of the commitment. It is not necessarily going to them but is in our funds but they are telling us to please do this and we get it done and under contract.

Tom Harris: On that note, the rural development projects, does that include the neighborhood street revitalization where you do the 60/40?

Chris Cloud: I will get to that. It's separate. Just in general, we have asked Highway to increase their concrete work in subdivisions. We have several unincorporated subdivisions that we all kind of built around the same time. For whatever reason, concrete must have been cheap because they all have concrete. We would never do that today because it is very expensive to replace. They are all becoming due at the same time. We have given them more money for that out of CEDIT. Their community crossings projects where they get money from the State as sort of a match, has been concrete work for the last couple of years. You recently approved the Revolving Loan Fund. We will seed that money and is an expected expense this year. Whether or not the developer ends up needed that we have heard that they may already have someone interested in that so it may just stay there and the next project that comes along, they have money. Finally, Diebold Road Phase Two, if you have ever been up north there is a lovely roundabout and Diebold Road is actually the dividing line between Fort Wayne and Allen County and so we have half of that reimbursed by the City. Phase Two is to go from the roundabout, basically from Berger Auto south to North Clinton. This has been on the books for a few years and part of the hesitation has been nothing is happening in the parcel that is in our TIF zone which is to the east of the roundabout. Until something happened there, we didn't want to expend any more money out of TIF. That parcel has been sold to Meijer and so there will be development. There are a few other things but I don't know that the developer wants me to mention them. There are other projects that are happening and have been signed and we know are going to sell. The people that care about Phase Two aren't the developers there but actually Parkview. Parkview has

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actually been more concerned about Phase Two because we have seen their plans for that campus and it is going to look drastically different than it is today in the next ten to fifteen years. They view Diebold to North Clinton as a very strategic corridor for staff and patients who want to avoid Dupont because it is a busy road. Most people coming from town north they think will actually be more inclined to take North Clinton to Diebold. North Clinton is actually on the 2035 NIRCC Plan and is on the list to be widened and intersection improvement. Our Phase Two project would straighten out the strange curve on Diebold so that the intersection with North Clinton is 90 degrees where right now it is a really bad sight line. There is a lot of traffic turning in and out on that. Phase Two will probably get underway this year. The way that works is Fort Wayne reimburses for half and both parties get reimbursed out of that TIF. It has been slow coming up front that is why we waited until actual development is taking place but we will get that paid back over time.

Larry Brown: Chris, I want to make sure I hear you right. So that will be a County project but the City will reimburse a percentage.

Chris Cloud: It is literally the road is split in half. We said we would take the lead. We have a commitment from them and they have already reimbursed us for the first half.

Larry Brown: Is that in the engineering stage yet?

Chris Cloud: Phase One was fully engineered and Phase Two was 90% engineered but because it sat for a couple of years, they will need to go back and make sure. We may need additional right-of-way purchasing in anticipation of a larger North Clinton.

Larry Brown: Do you know is part of that Phase Two widening Diebold?

Chris Cloud: It will look just like Phase One and I think that is one lane with a center turn lane. I don't think, from Berger south, there is a lot of development right now but I don't think it is going to be two lanes. I haven't looked at the engineering plans in a while.

Larry Brown: I ask because I am concerned that the intersection of North Clinton and Diebold, the traffic count has got to be off the charts.

Chris Cloud: It is.

Larry Brown: That is an extremely dangerous intersection.

Chris Cloud: It is and that is why Parkview is more concerned.

Tom Harris: I spoke to the owner of the motorcycle shop and he has asked that we please do something because he is going to watch someone get nailed out there.

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Chris Cloud: The problem is that the North Clinton section is expensive project and is on the NIRCC plan. When they make these plans, they don't know what is going to happen ten years down the road. While they assume that North Clinton needs to be approved and widened, the Commissioners have approved several rezonings in the last year. Parkview is going to grow drastically and I think North Clinton is probably going to get moved up the list.

Joel Benz: Councilman Armstrong.

Bob Armstrong: When I was on Plan Commission last year, we passed the south side of Clinton and Diebold. There is going to be a development going in there. Hopefully they will put that North Clinton widening issue in because if that grows on the south side that is going to be a lot more traffic.

Chris Cloud: I am speaking a little out of school here and they may be further along than I think they are I am sort of speaking of what I last remember. We have been meeting with Parkview and we have established a TIF area on Parkview's Campus because we know there will be several public improvements that we are going to have to do on some of the roads there. I will see if I can get an update for the next meeting on that. That is sort of the expected expenses. We have a bond for GM that is actually going to come off the books in a year or two, I think.

Nick Jordan: We just redid that one and I think that one piece is but there are three, A, B and C.

Chris Cloud: We have to keep a bond reserve. To my knowledge in my ten plus years here, there has been one year that we used part of it.

Nick Jordan: This reserve will be smaller.

Chris Cloud: The Nestle TIF Bond is much smaller and I think it only counts for about \$90,000 of this. The GM Bond, once it rolls off we won't have to have the bond reserve any more. There are several things that we are building up for that we know about. As Councilman Harris mentioned, the 60/40 concrete project, we have had a 60/40 asphalt project for when a neighborhood association might say that they know they are not on the list for a couple of years and the roads aren't that bad but we would like to get moved up the list. We aren't opposed to that but they contribute financially to that. If they put in for it, we will put in 60% and do the project. There are a handful of subdivisions that will do this. Given the rise of the concrete issue, we said we need to expand this to concrete. It is a much harder and difficult thing to do and more expensive. We use the Pacer Rating that is a statewide road rating to figure out how much of the cost we are willing to do. Even though it is called 60/40, we have renamed it because there may be times that we do way more than 60% depending on what condition the road is in. We are putting money aside for that because we know there may be situations where it comes up. North Campus clean up and prep. We are in the process of working on construction drawings for the Work Release Project. We don't have any reason to believe that Byron is not continuing on

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their path of buying property, building and moving out. We know that we will have a large parcel of land that we will not have anything on. We know they are going to need building demolition and possibly some basic site prep. We don't know what that number is going to be or what it will look like. We are setting aside some money for those sorts of things. There are several things that we just sort of know about but don't know what the number is. The big thing this year is for the Stellar Communities Grant Project that the New Allen Alliance is involved in. They submitted a proposal to be considered for this State Stellar Grant. It is a substantial program. They need match money and so the Commissioners have committed to be part of that. Until they know how much they are getting, if they get it, we have it sort of earmarked but if it doesn't get awarded, it is not spent. Between that and the GM Bond, it could raise the cash balance almost \$5.5 million or we may use it. It sort of ends up what is needed and when? I know they are going to ask the CIB as well for match money for those so the County's number may be lower and the Commissioners may not choose to fund the full \$4.25 million. I think at the minimum it is going to be \$1.5 million over the course of a three or four year period.

Larry Brown: Chris, this may be more of a budget question but while we are talking about a pretty big bucket of money here, I challenge you to not forget that there needs to be a piggybank created for abatement within the Rousseau Centre. As you recall, we did what was necessary at the time but there is a whole lot more that will come as that building gets remodeled.

Chris Cloud: Sure.

Larry Brown: Every remodel will require additional abatement.

Chris Cloud: CUM CAP is typically where we would take those expenses from but CUM CAP is going to be tapped quite a bit for elevator work in several buildings for the next year. This may be that piggybank but we have had pretty good luck with not having a lot of need for big building projects lately. Your words are well heeded. Thankfully we haven't done a lot of remodeling since a couple of years ago. The other thing we did was also was install HEPA filters as part of that project. We had them looked at to see if any asbestos was being collected in those filters and there was no sign of it. That's good to know that we are protected. They do get dirty quicker and maintenance has realized that they need to be changed more often. A couple of other things, I would just say and it is kind of hard to understand even internally. We were able to do the Winters Road project out by GM, over \$4 million road project, that the State paid for but we had to front the money. Through CEDIT we were able to front all of the money for this project and get reimbursed by the State. Even though it shows a cash balance of X, we did spend money but we were reimbursed. Between that and Federal aid and some other projects, money comes back in and the balance grows but money is being spent. We were able to do the Winters Road project fully with money on hand. The other one is the Commissioners committed money as a loan to the Boutique Hotel planned for downtown and is currently sitting in Redevelopment's pocket waiting to buy a TIF Bond that is a Redevelopment issue. It is going to be paid back by TIF and so money is going out but money is coming back in. I would hope that while there certainly is a cash balance and there can be more

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done with the community's money to put it back in the community, the money is being used.

Joel Benz: Councilwoman Tucker.

Sharon Tucker: I have a couple of questions for you. One is I am shocked to see the Stellar Communities reserve that you guys have on here of \$4.2 million. I know they have met with a couple of us on Council and asked for the exact same thing.

Chris Cloud: They have also asked the CIB for the same amount.

Sharon Tucker: So, are all three organizations reserving this amount?

Chris Cloud: I think that is an interesting point. When we were asked, they didn't say they were asking everybody else. We knew about the CIB but were unaware that they asked you. I don't intend for all of us to fund that. Frankly I think it is more appropriate for us to fund that because we have been asked to be sort of the lead. The Commissioners signed the cover letter and I think that is how New Allen has viewed us.

Tom Harris: I think we signed something as well.

Chris Cloud: You may as well. We are helping them with cost estimates. Knowing that we are all on the same team, I would ask you not to commit those funds. We have it earmarked and you don't need to.

Nick Jordan: We don't have it earmarked anywhere.

Chris Cloud: I think they have made that ask of everyone just because they know they are going to need it. I don't know what the CIB will do for them. I don't see them funding the full thing. I think we will have to make a decision on how much the County will contribute. They have identified three specific projects for that amount of money and one of them was almost \$3 million.

Sharon Tucker: Looking at everything that you have put out here, ever since I have been on Council I have not been quite able to wrap my mind around how we assign a pot of money to the Commissioners to do as they will with whatever projects they have and not have to come back to the Council. I don't question how it went but I just can't wrap my mind around that. Maybe this is a question for Nick too. Have they ever attempted or tried to go back to a zero sum budget when you keep building up a huge balance and is there a point where we have enough and start over?

Nick Jordan: I want to make clear that every year, if we say there is \$21 million in there right now and they have all but \$2 million budgeted. There will be approximately another \$10 million of fresh new revenue that this year in the budget cycle you guys will approve. Every year prior, the Council has had the ability to approve, review or deny. Last year it was \$10.3 million in revenue that was budgeted for these types of things. That is how it

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has gotten to where it is. It was approved by the Council and had to be. They create by law otherwise I am not allowed to distribute it to any city or town in the County, a capital improvement plan that spans three years. Is it very high level? Yes because you don't know what revenue that you are going to get three years from now especially if based on income taxes and if the City changes the rate as they have this most recent year. The Council has the ability every single budget cycle to take full reins and negotiate and communicate and deal with what the Commissioners are proposing. That is why the budget book is so big. Every one of those, with rare exception, do you guys not have the appropriation in hand and giving the approval for those dollars to be spent.

Chris Cloud: It is Fund 329 and we submit the budget every year to Council. Again, budgets for some departments are generally salary heavy and they don't have a lot of operating expenses and so it is kind of them knowing what they are going to spend. For example, at the last quarter of last year, almost \$5 million of spending was identified. That would have been after the budget was submitted that the request came. It isn't as clear cut knowing as the personnel costs are going to come out every two weeks in payroll and sometimes we don't know what is going to come up or when and so we sort of plan and think. Absolutely Nick is correct that we come before you every year with a budget and you can pick it apart. Feel free because I don't think the Commissioners are above getting feedback on prioritization of projects. If you think that something should be pushed up the list or is not a priority, they are not immune to hearing that. We submit a budget like everyone else. I will say that the roughly \$10 million, about \$5.1 goes to Highway. When the City increased the LIT, we put the entire amount to Highway. I think this is the first year they have been able to do their full amount of reseal, resurface and road conversions that they had projected to do every year to keep up and this is the first fully funded year that they have had. They used some rollover of their own and we gave them some extra money plus what they usually do. We feel that the money is coming from unincorporated Allen County and should go right back to unincorporated Allen County. The additional \$4.9 is what we would do these other projects with. That is what we have traditionally done given Highway off the top and then whatever is left goes for economic development or community oriented projects.

Nick Jordan: It is important to note that on the Highway and Commissioners, from 2013 through 2017 there was over \$12 million came back in as Highway reimbursement. When there is more money allocated to Highway, on top of the \$10 million we may receive on income tax, in 2017 we got \$6.1 million back and it is important to keep that in mind when you are doing the next budget. We are recycling those Highway dollars so of the \$10 million coming in we may not need \$6 million for the next Highway but can use some of the reimbursement. That is part of the reason, \$10 million came in from Highway reimbursement over the previous five year period not including this year and the budget has been bumped up for Highway. You can anticipate another, I would say, \$5 million but depending on the timing of it.

Sharon Tucker: So you are saying we have a \$12 million influx from Highway plus the \$5 million that they get plus their budget?

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Nick Jordan: No. This year the Highway budget at the end of April was \$14.1 million. Depending on the breakdown of the Federal percent that they will cover for those types of projects, of that \$14 million we may get \$5 million back. We really only spend net \$9 million. It is important to keep in mind that next year's budget, depending on the timing, have \$5 million coming back to fund these new Highway projects. The Highway reimbursement sometimes gets overlooked, not blaming but it is just the timing of it and we are so conservative. Over a five year period prior to this we have gotten \$12 million back in Highway reimbursements. That is a big chunk of money.

Chris Cloud: For example, we are doing Bass Road right now. I think it is like a five phase project that goes out to 2024. We'll do engineering, right-of-way, construction and construction inspection. On Phase one we may be already in construction but are submitting money and getting reimbursed for that and then we take that money and apply it to Phase two. Where some of the complexity comes in when they go to bid they have to have all of the money. They may build up for a couple of years from those reimbursements and then let a bid or they may take those reimbursements and start seeding Phase one or two of a different project. Kim in Highway, as the Federal reimbursement sometimes it is all of the money up front and they reimburse all of it and sometimes they reimburse as we go. We can recycle the same money three or four times during a project. This is way over my head and why Highway has a couple of financial people because it is a lot to keep track of on these Federal aid projects. It is our gasoline tax going to the Feds and so we want that to happen because we want our own tax money back. It does complicate CEDIT a little because it is a mix of what we are doing with the Commissioners but also Highway Federal Aid projects and Highway local projects of reseals and conversions which have money out but no money back in. Generally it is a good thing but we don't always know when the money is going to be needed. They generally know how much they are going to get back in a given year but they don't always know when. One thing we have done is in the past they always came to you when they needed that money re-appropriated but we have offered to cover those Federal reimbursements and just transfer money to them so they didn't have to come to you every few months. It is still unappropriated but on our end and not on theirs. Then if we would need the money for something, we would come for the appropriation.

Larry Brown: We don't see Kim as often as we used to.

Chris Cloud: I think that was a little bit of your request. It was just sort of a procedural thing and we thought this was simpler. We have less need to come for the appropriation than they would.

Joel Benz: Councilman Armstrong.

Bob Armstrong: He answered all of it but it is really a revolving line of credit. They pull it out, they reimburse and that is on the Highway funding part of it. I appreciate you coming today. My question has been and still is that we are the financial body and I think, as Nick said, at this budget time we need to draw in and know exactly if they are going to spend \$5 million to Stellar or whatever that we have control of that. It would be

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no different than any other department that wants stuff. Are we going to give them a key to the safe? It is not that I don't trust the Commissioners and Chris and what they are doing but our statutory requirements are that we are the financial body and we oversee the funding. I'll fault myself even because the Council has allowed this to get out of our hands and I think it is time to be brought back into our oath of office that we oversee the finances. If you leave one organization to do it, which is to say that the Board of Health isn't going to come to us and the next department and carte blanche give them the key to the safe. That is the reason I brought it up and I do appreciate you getting this information and it was helpful for me. That has been my reason for the last couple of months for bringing this up. Come budget time, I think it is something that we need to look at.

Tom Harris: Just a point of clarification. When you were talking you mentioned that sometimes on the 60/40 we do a little bit more than the 60%.

Chris Cloud: We will for the concrete going forward.

Tom Harris: You meant that sometimes you will do more than the 40%, right?

Chris Cloud: On the asphalt program, 40% is what the neighborhood puts up and we put up 60%.

Tom Harris: Okay, I just wanted to make sure that was clear on that. I agree, Bob, we have usually started to look at exceptions and where budgets were exceeding where we thought budgets should be. If there is an exception, they come before us and we dive into those exceptions. Sometimes we don't look as deep into some of these projects. I think it would be healthy, during the budget process, to go through a list like this as well as our challenge, going forward, is strategic growth a little bit in the County. There are a lot of things going on and that seems to be growing exponentially in terms of opportunities for Allen County. It would probably be good to understand these a little bit more in detail.

Chris Cloud: Kim, every year, always makes them available to you. They have a very healthy budget book of projects and they are always willing to sit down and go over their list of projects and will give you every spreadsheet you would want to see. I really mean this but if you have a suggestion, we don't hear everything, and you know what is going on in your neck of the woods. If there is a project that you hear about or some concerns about a project, we want to hear that. The budget is a guide and not necessarily a definitive statement on money. The last thing I want to do is keep my neighbor's money. I want to put it back to use so they get value out of it. If that means we give Highway more money because we have some sitting aside and can do a couple extra miles of road conversion or chip and seal, great. As government, we don't just go out and spend money because we can. There were a couple of years that we didn't have any economic development and so the money just kept growing. We thought there was going to be an intermodal and that didn't happen and we thought something else was going to come and it didn't happen. For a while, after the recession, there wasn't a lot of economic development work going on. We are seeing a drastic uptick in quality of life projects and economic development projects and I agree with Councilman Harris that we are going to

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be asked to fund a lot more in the coming years than we have money for. Prioritizing that and keeping them in the radar is going to be more important. It may have been in the last couple of years where maybe there wasn't a lot going on and the community that needed it, there is a lot going on now.

Larry Brown: I think one of our challenges continues to be that sometimes we lose perspective of the fact that Plan Commission approves 700 houses in Perry Township, 100 on Crawford Road, the project that may or may not happen on Schwartz Road. All of those roads are rural, very rural and we are approving projects that increase traffic on those roads. Invariably, it is the way Indiana government is governed. What comes first, the chicken or the egg? You can go back and look at Lahmeyer Road, Saint Joe Center Road, on and on and on and as housing developments grew and grew and grew and the roads never, never, never got improved until ten or fifteen years later. It's sad but that is kind of the way Indiana governance has occurred.

Chris Cloud: If you are too proactive, they accuse you of wasting money and if you are not proactive enough, they get mad. It is trying to find the right balance. For perspective, you were talking about John's backlog of inspections, I pulled the 2015 and 2016 single family residence permits and there were 1,700. The vast majority was southwest and northwest. You know that not just our roads but it also impacts schools, fire, police and every government unit is affected by the growth we are seeing in unincorporated Allen County.

Larry Brown: Northwest Schools are in trailers this coming school year.

Chris Cloud: That is going to get worse. That is the problem with having a great school system is that everyone wants to move out there.

Tom Harris: As a matter of fact there is one issue to that is the Plan Commission has some discussions going on today about neighborhoods going on in the Union Chapel Road. I think Union Chapel was argued that the growth along Union Chapel continues to expand but the road hasn't. You have the ups and downs and the danger of not being able to see the cars.

Larry Brown: Dupont in the making.

Joel Benz: Councilwoman Tucker.

Sharon Tucker: I just really wanted to make a statement to Bob. I think you are right and we do need to take a deeper look into what Councilman Harris said to make sure we are on the right track with our responsibilities.

Chris Cloud: I am happy to commit to making sure that when Kim does her yearly email, we will do the same. Budget time is not that far away. We are happy to sit down and go over line by line.

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Joel Benz: Thank you, Mr. Cloud. I feel like this discussion was productive. Thank you for coming and sharing. Upcoming meetings, Nick, I would like you to highlight the State Board of Accounts meeting that is after this meeting.

Nick Jordan: I think Larry and Tom came last year but more or less they just let us know that they are starting the audit and you can voice any concerns or areas that you specifically want to talk about or have them look at. The biggest thing will be the exit conference at the end of the audit when we go through any findings that they have or problems that may have occurred. Everybody is invited and I think it is at 10:30 in the Commissioners' conference room. The entrance isn't as exciting as the exit. Another thing, the IRS audit, the attorney did meet with the IRS agent and wasn't able to make any progress. All of the IRS findings will stand as they are and we are waiting for word of a formal settlement agreement. Hopefully we get that finished in June. The attorney was trying to work on the early retirement incentive plan but the IRS wasn't buying the argument.

Joel Benz: Thank you, Nick. Councilwoman Tucker, I know you are in some sort of a panel this week.

Sharon Tucker: I will address the Allen County Sewer and Water District. We met with the residents of Hoagland last Monday and it was a very interested and heated meeting. They are very upset. They feel and in their words at the last minute they are finding out about a sewage change where they are being piped into the City of Fort Wayne. The biggest angst is that it is going to increase their water bill drastically. They have already had five increases where they have gone from thirty to sixty and this will, at the end of the time, basically double it to \$120 for just the sewage. It almost seemed like it was a closed deal when the people wanted to express their concern but not to modify or change the opinion of what is going to be done. They will be tapped into the City. The Board says they have done all of the research and have checked everything out and that is the way it will be. The residents wish they would expand the capacity of their current facility which is part of the problem and then tap Maples into their facility and allow them to continue functioning the way they are. That could save some money ultimately. It was interesting that the cost to tap them into Fort Wayne was more than the cost to expand but the Board found that it was still the way they wanted to go. It was settled unhappily for the residences of the Villages of Hoagland.

Larry Brown: That would be the Regional Sewer District.

Sharon Tucker: Thank you, Allen County Regional Water and Sewer District.

Tom Harris: Did you have another comment?

Larry Brown: Yeah. Knowing a little bit about sewage, Sharon, if you are going to be in the hot seat you might reach out to Huntertown and find out what they went through. They chose to build at the cost of mega millions a new sewage treatment plant. At least that is my understanding. I know how uninformed constituents can sometimes get. I don't

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want you to be put in a position for lack of information that you are in a compromising position. I am thinking without research that Hoagland area may not have all of the information about what it was really going to cost to create their own sewage treatment.

Sharon Tucker: They have their own sewage treatment right now. They just don't have the capacity. Their capacity needs to expand. And the ammonia has to be based on the State regulation. The ammonia has to come off and the capacity needs to be increased because of the new taps they put on. My main concern and it is the Allen County Regional Water and Sewer District. My main concern is always making sure that the voices are heard and that is not what took place in their opinion. I sat there and listened the entire time. There was a suggestion that was passed out and was not addressed or answered. In their opinion, it wasn't heard.

Tom Harris: I have had a chance to talk to some of the representatives in that area and they have started a letter that is going to go to the State asking for a one-year moratorium to say let's slow this thing down a little. The challenge for the Hoagland folks is that they don't know what the new rates are going to be once they attach to the City of Fort Wayne. They are saying tell us what that number is going to be before we go forward and the City of Fort Wayne can't give them that number. They are saying that until they get a number, can we stop this process to understand what the costs are going to be. I think that is getting back to the point of if the cost is going to be X then maybe we do it ourselves. Ultimately I think the district wanted to move forward and they are asking for the State to say let's put a hold on this for one year.

Larry Brown: Let's say it goes to \$120. Take that time twelve.

Tom Harris: I think they said something like \$169.

Nick Jordan: It was in the \$120's and is a blended rate by 2025. If you look over at Poe which is not very far from Hoagland, they are already paying \$120 some. It is interesting how the neighbor's right across the way is paying double and there are many neighborhoods already at the \$120 and some rate.

Tom Harris: So the concern in Hoagland, at least from some of the community leaders that you put that number on any kind of new house and who is going to want to live there? Who is going to want to build with those numbers being so high? They are saying they have other options and they want to explore those other options.

Larry Brown: Where I was headed with my discussion was compare it to a \$15,000 to \$25,000 sewage field on that property. That is what they cost today.

Sharon Tucker: I read through all of the paperwork and I don't have it committed to memory. Apparently this has been going on much longer than we have known about it. I think it has been upward of a year that has been lawsuits back and forth but the residents are the ones that are recently finding out about. They see their dollars and the question were that those that are on limited income or elderly, how much will it cost for me to have to tap into this. Those questions were not able to get answered or not answered to

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satisfactory for some people. You would have to understand and just like we are trying to figure out how we are going to do the budget and do with our dollars and they are having the big question mark and the perceived attitude that came from it was not received well.

Larry Brown: I have heard that same thing.

Tom Harris: I will jump in because I didn't know if you knew that Senator Kruse, Representative Heine and another representative have all signed that letter as well as Councilman Tucker and I am considering signing that letter also. It basically tells the State to slow down and let the folks in this community know answers before you move forward. Not to stop it but they deserve to know what the numbers are going to be before this thing moves forward.

Larry Brown: I am a little confused. The Commissioners oversee the Regional Sewer District.

Sharon Tucker: That was a great amount of conversation. The Commissioners have three appointments or two appointments to that District. The City has three and we have one. There is a non-voting individual that is on it.

Larry Brown: So it is seven members?

Sharon Tucker: Yes. From what I could gather, the Commissioners were there to answer questions but the decision was made by the Board and they don't have overruling authority for the decision that the Board makes.

Larry Brown: So that covers the appointments. The State can...

Tom Harris: ...stop the funding and they would hold the funding until the City of Fort Wayne moved forward.

Larry Brown: I think the investigation needs to be thorough.

Sharon Tucker: In all transparency, the District has hired several consultants to do their research. The entire Board was there and all of the Commissioners, their financial attorney for the District was present. The Hoagland Chamber was there and their representative and so all of the players were in the room. They took heat either way it went. Ultimately though the question of is there another option and can we do it even though it was presented. The members that came and talked to me later are dead set on not taking that option. They are dead set on tapping them into Fort Wayne. I thought we were looking for local government and this is big government taking over. The City of Fort Wayne is taking us over. All I can go off of is what I have been told. I didn't talk to Rick Zehr even though I reached out to him. He is the Board Chair. I talked to people in Hoagland and a couple of the other Board members and got their explanation of what is going on. I personally wonder why there isn't an option to expand the capacity of their current facility and remove the ammonia and go from there and tap Maples into it.

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Larry Brown: To their disadvantage, they don't have an incorporated municipality where Huntertown does.

Sharon Tucker: That is something that they mentioned too.

Nick Jordan: Huntertown is much bigger.

Larry Brown: Well, I know, but still.

Nick Jordan: When you divide the cost of the treatment plant of \$22 million by that incorporated area, you are talking about a much different subset of population.

Joel Benz: Council, I am going to wrap this up. I think it is valuable but I don't think we are going to solve anything. I will say that I have heard a fair amount about this and none of it from our Board appointment. I think he should be reaching out to us. Are there any other liaison reports?

Tom Harris: Approval to waive the reading on any matter approved today for which it may be deemed necessary for the County Council meeting of May 17, 2018.

Sharon Tucker: Second.

Joel Benz: All in favor please signify by saying aye. The motion passes 4-0-3 (Armstrong, Busch and Tippmann were absent).

Larry Brown: Move to adjourn.

Tom Harris: Second.

Joel Benz: All in favor please signify by saying aye. Opposed like sign. The motion carries 4-0-3 (Armstrong, Busch and Tippmann were absent). There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:17.