

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 17, 2019
8:30 AM

The Allen County Council met on Thursday, October 17, 2019 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, budget approval and any other business to come before Council.

Attending: Robert A. Armstrong, Joel M. Benz, Larry L. Brown, Kenneth C. Fries, Tom A. Harris, Kyle A. Kerley and Sharon L. Tucker.

Also Attending: Nick Jordan, Auditor and Jackie Scheuman, Finance and Budget Director

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

Tom Harris: Good morning everyone. We will start with the financial report from Auditor Nick Jordan. I will mention that we do not yet have the minutes. Generally we go over those minutes but we had a very long session.

Nick Jordan: The minutes will be done Tuesday and you will approve them at the next meeting. Additionally it is always recorded and you can watch it online. A full day meeting takes a little longer to transcribe. In your packet today you see the financials through the end of September. Property tax is only 56% and that is because it is distributed twice. Miscellaneous Revenue is almost at 90%. I will note that about \$2 million of the \$35 million collected is one-time. About one million was supplemental distribution. The other \$700,000 to \$1 million is a change from the DOC on how they reimburse us for prisoners. They gave \$1.5 million lump sum that traditionally we would have received in the first six months of 2020. That came in advance and does bump up our revenue a little bit.

Tom Harris: Council, are there any questions for the Auditor?

Sharon Tucker: Just curiosity as to why the DOC changed their distribution process.

Nick Jordan: I can only imagine for efficiency. The reason I say that is because each County would submit billings and the DOC would reimburse them monthly. I think they took an average of the last two years to look at what they were reimbursing. It is supposedly hold harmless and no County will be harmed in the reimbursement under this method. We won't really know until next year after we see this year's population of inmates in the local Jail. In addition to that if the Legislature bumped up the rate to \$37.50 starting July first, then it will bump up again next July to \$40. Those should be factored into the distribution. I compared our \$1.5 million to what we had received in the past and it is right on target. We receive more from the Feds because they pay higher.

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Kenny Fries: This doesn't take into account the 940 inmates. I know we are substantially overcrowded at the Jail.

Nick Jordan: It is based on the history. That is what some of the other Counties have complained about because historically let's say you had 500 inmates and now all of a sudden that has blown up or we had 700 and now it is 900. The one-time distribution is not going to show that but the true-up would be next year when they give us that distribution. Arguably we would have gotten that money six months earlier. Here we have \$1.5 million that we can generate interest off of. It will take a year or two to see how it actually pans out. I believe it has to save a ton of time at the local level and at the State level in regards to monthly billings. It was usually three months after the inmate was here before we would even see reimbursement. There was a significant lag.

Sharon Tucker: Do we know if they are going to use an audit method? Will they audit the records for reimbursement?

Nick Jordan: I am going to for sure. That is what I talked with the Sheriff's Department especially the individuals that do this to ensure that we keep track of that. And then Spillman, they have quite a bit of information regarding why the inmates are here and the level and so forth. We should be able to go back and say that during this window, we had this many DOC inmates and this many Fed inmates and then see how it reconciled with the \$1.5 million.

Tom Harris: Council, are there any other questions?

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

Sharon Tucker: Second.

Tom Harris: **We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye, those opposed, like sign. The motion passes 7-0.** Total appropriations requested in the General Fund are \$75,000 and total appropriations requested in Other Funds are \$101,972. At this time, we open it to Public Comment. We would like the comments limited to five minutes this morning.

Bud Mendenhall: Bud Mendenhall, Fort Wayne, Indiana. I am the Co-Chair of Neighborhoods United.

John Modezjewski: John Modezjewski, Citizen. You guys took me back by not having your meeting minutes published. I didn't expect that today.

Tom Harris: It has turned out to be about 100 pages in meeting minutes that are being finalized.

John Modezjewski: Everything I wanted to talk about, I can't talk about. If you remember, at the last meeting that is why I wanted to be here that I need your approved

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minutes. That is fact. To be able to use what I wanted to talk about. I won't talk about it because it is not fair to you guys because they are not approved. It is not fair to me or Bud or the people we represent within the Neighborhood United Group either. I have been looking all week. There is nothing on the website.

Larry Brown: John, this has happened many times when we have had a long and drawn out meeting.

John Modezjewski: Okay.

Tom Harris: You will see those and I think they were getting to the end.

Nick Jordan: They should be done Tuesday.

John Modezjewski: Can we agree that the meeting notes from last month should have been approved this month and can be talked about next month?

Tom Harris: That is how it is done.

John Modezjewski: Is that in an agreement here?

Tom Harris: We don't need to agree to it. That is how it is done.

John Modezjewski: I don't appreciate it. The law is clear.

Larry Brown: John, you can file for candidacy any time you want to.

John Modezjewski: That is a discussion for another time.

Tom Harris: John, we will plan to see you guys next month then. Are there any other comments this morning?

Steve Cain: I am Steve Cain and thank you for allowing me to speak. I am from the Faith United Methodist Church with Faith in Indiana. We really believe it is time for Fort Wayne to recognize that there is a need for pre-arrest strategies that will save people and help people to not be in Jail. We want to work with the government and with our Sheriff to bring about reduced incarceration. We have a goal of reducing incarceration by 2024 by one-half. We believe that it is pretty apparent that if you jail a mentally ill person or an autistic kid or a person who is in domestic stress, you are going to be hurting them and the community. We have pre-arrest strategies that we believe and presented to everybody that could really make a difference. I just really believe it is time. We know that there are budget surpluses and it is time to realize that when a young person is mentally ill or incapacitated or challenged, to put them in jail the first thing that will happen to them is they will be raped. They will not be helped. You're not going to be helped and I am not going to be helped if we keep doing this. Thank you for my time.

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Pastor Karen Statton: My name is Pastor Karen Statton. I am the Senior Pastor at Destiny Life Church and the Co-Chair of the Clergy Table for Faith in Indiana. We are just here to urge you to include a line item for pre-jail diversion for the 2020 budget. As was already said, we believe there are families in our community that would be better served if there was a strategy for pre-jail diversion and also the opportunity to talk about collaboration for a treatment center for them as well. We talked about this and there were some commitments made at the Town Hall meeting where you agreed to present this to the Council. We just want to be able to hold you accountable for that and see if there is an opportunity that we can do this maybe even before the meeting next month and add this as a line item in the budget. Thank you.

Kenneth Christmon: I am Kenneth Christmon and I am the Pastor at Turner Chapel AME Church. I am glad to see everybody. I just want to make the most of the time to say that I understand that there were some designations on the budget, \$200,000, to make sure it happens. I have a lot of people who come to the church and come to that region throughout the City. They obviously have problems and I think our money ought to follow what we say we are about dignity. I had a great opportunity to meet with Sheriff Gladieux and I know he has a preponderance of people in the Jail and not all of them belong there. I believe we should partner, we should collaborate and that our money and resources and our politics, regardless, should follow this investment in making sure that who needs to be in jail is in jail and who doesn't need to be there has the reference of resources. We have an outstanding opportunity and I would like to see that we make full proof of what we promised and that we follow through with that accountability because we want to help. We believe we can help but we also need your help. You are in positions to make sure that not only we incarcerate people but that we do some better diversion for the dignity of all persons. Mental health is a real issue all the way from those that are incarcerated to the mental health issues of those in law enforcement, administrations and our communities. We are just asking for your help and support. Mr. Harris, we thank you for the promise and pledge that you made and we would like to continue to work with you.

Tom Harris: I appreciate that but I want to make sure that you are clear that I did not commit any funds nor did I make a promise at that session. I want to make that point clear. I said we would support initiatives in the future but I was not in a position at that meeting to commit any funds. That is not what I would have done and I didn't do that.

Kenneth Christmon: Thank you and I would like to say thank you for the adjustment on the words. I would appreciate the opportunity to just have full support and an opportunity should it arise. I apologize to you for that word that you edited.

Tom Harris: Thank you. Are there any other public comments? Hearing none we will move forward on the agenda. First up is the New Allen Alliance.

Kent Castleman: Kent Castleman, President of New Allen Alliance.

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Christy Sturtz: Kristy Sturtz, New Allen Rural Liaison.

Kent Castleman: First off I want to say thank you to Council for your support for the work that we have been doing with East Allen and the seven communities in the area. As you know, we have been very busy and there is a lot going on. We have been implementing not only the Stellar Initiative but a lot of other capacity building programs and opportunities and having good conversations about how we continue to ensure our community is going to be robust for the future. From that perspective we started this process about five years ago really working through a strategic investment plan that has got us to this point. Mr. Benz and I were having a conversation this morning and the way that funding works anymore, you have to almost have plans in the pipeline and plans on the shelf. That strategic investment plan that we had allowed us to be prepared to apply for the Stellar Communities Grant and we were prepared and put a lot of time in prior to that coming into place. It all worked out the way it needs to go. We have a lot of other things and initiatives that are really about the sustainability in East Allen and each of those communities that we are going to continue to work on. We are grateful that the Commissioners have worked with us to have Christie in place to continue a lot of those initiatives in addition to supporting the Stellar work that is being done. I am going to turn it over to Kristie to give a little overview. I know we have a couple of new Council members. I sat down with Mr. Kerley a little bit and had a conversation with him. I haven't met yet with Mr. Fries but hopefully we will have an opportunity to catch up on things. I know you have followed things in East Allen as well.

Christy Sturtz: Just to give you a little overview, what we are working on is the Regional Development Plan for the East Allen Region. We have named it East Allen Rural Revival. As part of the Indiana Regional Stellar Designation that was our application and our submission was actually this plan. It is a portfolio of projects. When we received the award in December of last year, it was actually a designation. Some people call it a grant and there is money tied to it but the money is set aside. We have a four-year period to go about implementing the projects that were presented and all the money that is coming through the State are Federal dollars. There are lots of rules and regulations tied to that. We actually have an entire portfolio that is approximately \$65 million. There are certain ones that have some level of Stellar funding to them and there are also a number of complimentary projects. As we have gone through and put together this over-arching plan, we were really looking at a variety of things. I will go over a little bit of the portfolio first. You will see out of the overall \$65 million that approximately \$8.8 million is being committed in some form or fashion through Allen County, the Commissioner, the Capital Improvement Board and Allen County Council. There are also funds being committed by each of the Cities and Towns, through Stellar and also there is significant low income housing equity investment. That is enabling the equity to be able to be realized for a housing project. We have private investment, NIRCC dollars, INDOT dollars, East Allen County Schools and other contributions and fund raising. The over-arching plan, we look at three ultimate goals, Economic Sustainability, Regional Vitality and Livable Communities. I will touch on a few of the projects that we are actively developing right now. We have four years and so we are not going to hit it all.

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Kent Castleman: Three years and two and a half months.

Christy Sturtz: In year one, we were able to go out of the gate with Monroeville Park. That was already under development. NIRCC has done a great job of developing that project. Allen County provided funds towards that. You will see I have a little icon beside the project where there is some County money. Those are not solely County money. Monroeville put a significant amount of money there as well as the State. That project is near completion but there are some things that will go into next spring. That is approximately \$1 million. When you have a population of between 1,000 and 2,000 that is the Riverfront for their community. It has really been exciting. Harlan and Hoagland have operation and maintenance dollars that were committed through your fund. Street lights and parks in Hoagland that we are working on and anticipating construction next year. Park improvements in Harlan and the other four projects, Leo, Woodburn and a couple in New Haven Meadowbrook Trail and Community Center Park are all Stellar-funded projects. We are doing things like hiring engineers, doing environmental studies, acquisitions and those types of things. Those are all under Active Development and we anticipate going into construction next year. We can just kind of buzz through these. This is an example of the Monroeville Community Park. This is the plan for the streetscape in Leo-Cedarville. This goes north of Hosler up to Walnut. That streetscape will ultimately be developed as well as Grabill and connected through the Cedar Creek Parks Trail. We see this as a great regional investment to attract people to that part of the County. This is what we are doing in Woodburn and is the second phase to the streetscape that they had already been doing and goes from Bob's Restaurant and over to Carl. This is the Meadowbrook Trail Rural Revival Area. It goes 930 to Moeller and over to Hartzell on the east side. You will see that about a third of the investment of the overall portfolio is within this target area. This includes a park at the New Haven Community Center. It also includes Kady Gene Cove which is senior housing. It is a combination of the LIHTC investment and private investment. Trail connectivity to the surrounding areas and East Allen County Schools is going to be rehabilitating the Meadowbrook Elementary into their Career and Tech Center. These are just a few things as we are looking at the Quality of Place on the horizon. Coming up is Cedar Creek's Parks Trail is the biggest one in the overall portfolio. If you flip to the next slide, you'll see that this is approximately an eight mile trail. It will connect from Metea through Leo-Cedarville and then to Grabill and up to the Hurshtown Reservoir. What is in red is already in place but that connectivity, we are working in collaboration with the County, Leo-Cedarville and Grabill. It is a completely locally-funded project. We are excited about that project. I don't know if you want to add anything to that.

Kent Castleman: No, I think the biggest thing is that it is a nice connector to County assets such as the Hurshtown Reservoir. The point of this is to create a regional destination that people can take part in and can spend a half day in that area just exploring the communities and the trail. The long-term goal is down Union Chapel Road which connects to Metea Park. That would have connectivity into the regional system for the 115 miles that already exist in Allen County. I know Fort Wayne Trails is continuing to work on that.

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Christy Sturtz: As we look at that particular goal, ultimately it is to connect people to place and each other. The other part of Economic Sustainability is looking at Education and Training as it relates to entrepreneurship. We had a great opportunity to partner with the SEED District which is a new organization or reformed organization through the City of Fort Wayne through the Urban Enterprise Association. IT is the Summit City Entrepreneur and Enterprise District. They have reached out and are actually in the middle of offering eight-week courses to startup entrepreneurs. It is being held at the New Haven Community Center. Through the designation and our capacity building, we are starting to reach out into our own communities to do a better job and make connections to resources. We are really excited about how that facility is being used.

Bob Armstrong: On that it talks about education, training, legal, finance and all of that. Is there anything in any of that training that will address the need for trades or anything like that since we are lacking in training and education in the trades? Or is it that we are just addressing that?

Christy Sturtz: That is being addressed through East Allen County Schools through the Career and Tech Center. New Allen, while they are part of our team and we consider that part of what we are doing, it is not something that I have actively been working on.

Larry Brown: Bob, excuse me, this is a great opportunity to mention that is not only part of the initiative needs to not be only adding the educational segment but we have 20 plus years of parents that need to be retrained to think that Susie and Johnny's only opportunity in life is with a college education. Don't get me wrong, college is great but it is not for everybody. We have 20-years' worth of parents that don't know that.

Bob Armstrong: You know as well as I do the lack in the building trades.

Larry Brown: It is catastrophic.

Bob Armstrong: It is terrible.

Christy Sturtz: I know Greater Fort Wayne, Inc. has that on their radar screen as well.

Tom Harris: As a reminder, you guys are kind of focused in on what was received as part of the Stellar Grant.

Kent Castleman: We have several other initiatives that we will talk about a little bit.

Christy Sturtz: We are all volunteers except for me at a part-time level. I think what we are doing is a lot for the resources that we have. If there is a way to engage and bring others in that is our role.

Kent Castleman: I think I will jump in with that. I think one of the other things that we recognized in our communities is that we need more volunteers and more community

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members engaged in the process. We have been having conversations about what to do with that.

Christy Sturtz: That is in here. Go ahead and take this one.

Kent Castleman: Through this we have had the opportunity to partner with Purdue Regional Development Center out of the West Lafayette campus. They are working with us to design some leadership programs and different things along those lines that we can come into the communities with. They have an existing rural leadership program that we want to take portions of. We are also partnering with GFW and Leadership Fort Wayne. They will be at the table because that will be the sustainable piece of it. As Purdue is helping design what this looks like, we are really hoping to partner with Leadership Fort Wayne and have that be a sustainable program that would be an annual type of offering that we can continue to educate our community members on. The other piece is that we have to do a better job as New Allen Alliance in encouraging people to get engaged and continuing to market those new opportunities.

Christy Sturtz: The other thing we are looking at is a place-making initiative. The State is offering up some dollars for that and we see that as a great way to engage with some of these volunteers. A lot of the projects and dollars are being put into the place and infrastructure and that requires some of the technical aspects of construction. But how do you activate the space and create a vibrant economy? That really is engaging with the people that use those spaces. You will see that there has been a lot of engagement over this last year. We meet on a monthly basis within the New Allen Alliance. We have communication with the Stellar Team. We have collaborative meetings where you all are invited as well as each of the communities and do some educational things and general awareness presentations. We do Facebook posts and we have a communications team which is going to be doing a more robust website and doing a little more to get the word out. We have had a couple of honors, the 2019 NIPSCO Luminary Award and are being highlighted in the American Planning Association as a best case study through their new Rural Program. Last is Livable Communities. As we create great places where people want to live, we need to have places for people to live. One of the exciting projects is approximately \$15 million total. About half of that is through the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program. It will include fifty two-bedroom duplex units with one-car garages. These are for seniors and are being developed by Keller Development. Keller has done a number of really good projects throughout our region. This will be part of the Meadowbrook Rural Revival Area just north of Moeller Road. If we flip to the next screen, Phase One is in application and we think it will go into construction next year. Already, through some of our outreach, are getting people that are interested in that. We see this as a great way to keep people within their communities as they age. The second piece would be fifty two-bedrooms with two-car garages. This is the private investment and not a tax credit project and it is not age restricted. We are also working on an owner occupied rehabilitation program. This is money for lower income individuals and seniors do have some preferences. The can get up to \$17,000 to help keep them livable. It could be ADA accessibility, new windows or new roofing and those types of things. It is an excellent program being run by Brightpoint. We will only be able to fund about fourteen

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given the money that we have. Brightpoint is coming together with winterization dollars as well. We have gotten applications from 51. Hopefully this is the first opportunity and we will be able to go after additional money down the road. We also have an exciting program that is in collaboration with the St. Joe Community Health Foundation and Parkview Health. They currently offer Our Healing Kitchen classes primarily in Fort Wayne. They are expanding their program into the rural areas and are renaming it Healing Seeds. They are taking the existing curriculum and modifying it a bit for the rural areas. They have selected seven sites throughout the region and are actively working to get them under contract and will be doing those classes at the beginning of next year. I just had a conference call with the national organization through the State Board of Health that is doing an article on them and a case study. They will be offering at least two years and then the thought is they give those organizations the tools to be able to sustain it going forward. That is my overview and Kent may want to talk a little bit about things.

Kent Castleman: Last year, when we came before Council, we had a façade grant program. The way we presented it was as a fifty-fifty program trying to improve our facades in the downtown areas. I know one concern was that we had some language in there that was giving preference to the East Allen area. I know there were some conversations with Council to expand that to the rest of the County. We have been having some additional conversations and we would love to see that opportunity come in again this year. That was pulled out of the appropriation. The \$1.25 million was set aside specifically for other projects that were being funded. It would need an additional appropriation to make that happen. We would ask that you consider that as you are working on the budget process and have that be something that you would consider putting back in. We would love to be a partner in helping create what that would look like. We believe a County-wide program outside of the city limits of Fort Wayne would be a good opportunity for a lot of our downtowns. As we know, our downtowns are really aging and we have a lot of needs. We know the price of construction is not going down and so we would like to see some kind of program put into place to encourage property owners to do more.

Christy Sturtz: I will say that I have stood these programs up in rural areas before. Typically what we would do is something like up to \$15,000 with a fifty-fifty match so that the property owner would ultimately get at the most \$30,000. Sometimes they can just do some upper level windows or maybe awnings and windows on smaller structures. A couple of things I really like about these programs are those that own the downtown buildings are oftentimes people from your community. You are giving back and engaging with people that are rooted there. The other thing about it is, an example is one community allotted \$50,000 a year with a match that made it \$100,000 a year going into their downtown. Over a ten-year period that is \$1 million. In a rural community that is a significant investment.

Tom Harris: Council, we will have an opportunity to talk through that during the budget discussion coming later.

Bob Armstrong: If I stopped by the office can I get a copy of the presentation?

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Nick Jordan: You all have it electronically.

Kent Castleman: Christy also puts together a quarterly report that is submitted to the State. You are all copied on those quarterly reports and you can keep up on the projects as well. She talks about the timing and the investment that is being made and where we are in the process.

Tom Harris: Very good. It is a lot of activity and congratulations again. We were pleased to play a part in receiving some of those additional funds. We will look for great things to come.

Kent Castleman: Thank you for your continued support.

Tom Harris: Next on the agenda is Economic Development.

Rachel Black: Rachel Black, Allen County Economic Development.

Tom Kennedy: Tom Kennedy, Senior Finance Manager with Viant Medical.

Rachel Black: Today we are continuing to wrap up our compliance for tax abatement from a couple of months ago. In front of you today is consideration of a resolution regarding compliance with Statement of Benefits for Viant Services, Inc. They have had several different names Bandera Acquisition, Precimed and Great Batch Medical. They are located on Kroemer Road south of Sweetwater. The project that was originally approved was back in 2011. They had \$11 million in real property investment and \$5.2 million in personal property. They were approved for the ten-year abatement for both real and personal property. Why we are here today is that the company did not file their CF-1 paperwork nor their scheduled deduction for the assessed valuation personal property which is the 103ERA form that is required as well at the business tangible personal property which is the 103 long-form in a timely manner. They have now submitted all of those documents and forms. Just a little bit more information, they have two running abatements on real property, so they have three in four years remaining. On the personal property, they have four years remaining. I want to mention that I contacted the Auditor's Office and the Assessor. Sometimes you like to know this information. Their deduction for 2019 pay 2020 for the real property was \$1,295,492. For personal property, it was \$229,560. Once they submitted those compliance forms to me, they did meet all of the policy that you have put in place for the goals and have exceeded those in almost every category. We have two resolutions today. One would terminate the abatement. The other would allow the abatement to continue and the applicant would be treated as though they had met all of the conditions.

Tom Harris: We might turn to the company official. We would like you to talk a little bit about why you missed the deadline.

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Tom Kennedy: As mentioned, we have gone through several name changes. In 2018, a private equity firm purchased what is known as ASO Division which is Advanced Surgical Division of Integer, at the time. It was just the operations piece leaving behind the corporate functions. They then combined the ASO Division with some other pieces of business that they had and formed Viant Medical. We became a standup company in May of 2019. In the period from July of 2018 to May of 2019, all corporate functions were performed on a service agreement with the former owner. Unfortunately property taxes got missed in the service agreement and no one on our side knew to pick it up. We hadn't developed our Tax Department and things like that. It was just purely an oversight on our part. The other thing we would like to say is we do continue to invest in the facility. As of the 15th, we are over the headcount of \$2 million over the commitment. We continue to look for good people in the Fort Wayne area. It was mentioned in the last presentation about skilled trades and we definitely fight that. We know there is low unemployment in the area and we have 23 open requisitions right now.

Tom Harris: Mr. Kennedy, give us an understanding of how many employees you have right now and maybe total payroll and the plans for the future.

Tom Kennedy: In 2012, it was probably a \$17 million plant and for 2020 we are planning for \$35 million revenue. We continue to grow and are expecting about 12% growth next year. We have 23 open requisitions now and as of the 15th we had 184 full-time Viant employees and also 11 contract associates there. The total base payroll is roughly \$11 million. For the hourly associates it is about \$23 in base pay. We run about 15% overtime. The benefits are pretty good and we provide training, employee assistance and things like that.

Tom Harris: How were you notified that you missed the deadline?

Tom Kennedy: We received a letter in July from Ms. Black. We followed up immediately and engaged Katz, Sapper and Miller which has a local presence here in Fort Wayne to take care of this issue going forward.

Larry Brown: I think it needs to be said that Council can be very forgiving when things like this happen. We want to be assured that there are procedures, people and processes in place to make sure it doesn't happen again. It is a very important document. Assure us and make us feel warm and fuzzy.

Tom Kennedy: I think the assurance is going to come from Katz Sapper. We have turned it over to them with an engagement letter to do this year and into the future. Another piece of that is Viant has matured as a company and are building those internal resources as well.

Larry Brown: I will over a motion...

Nick Jordan: Here is the form. I assume you want to keep the abatement going.

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Sharon Tucker: I was going to make a motion for Allen County Council Resolution 2019-10-17-01 waiving non-compliance for Viant Services Inc. formerly known as Bandera Acquisition LLC and Precimed Inc.

Larry Brown: Second.

Tom Harris: Are there any other questions?

Joel Benz: Does this fall under what we changed so there are penalties associated with it?

Rachel Black: There was a fee incurred.

Joel Benz: Did they fulfill that?

Rachel Black: Yes.

Tom Harris: We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye, those opposed, like sign. The motion passes 7-0. Next up is the Coroner's Office.

Mike Burris: Mike Burris, Chief Investigator with the Allen County Coroner's Office.

Larry Brown: Mike, it is not that I don't like you but dang I hate to see you come here.

Mike Burris: But it is usually only in the fall. I am out of money in the Autopsy line item and need additional funds to make it through the end of the year. The paperwork that was distributed to you was drawn up September first. I had hoped to be at the September meeting but I missed that. Since September first until October 15th, we have done another 35 autopsies which is now I am in the hole. Averaged out, the \$75,000 should get us to the end of the year. My December bills will come in January and will be paid out of next year's budget.

Tom Harris: About next year's budget, have you figured out a larger amount for next year? Did you take into account the increased numbers this year?

Mike Burris: I did not. That is planned for my 2021 budget to increase the autopsy line.

Tom Harris: So there would be a chance unless we can curb something locally, we would see you at this time next year.

Kenny Fries: I was going to say not only locally but Mike had told me about the out-of-County autopsies that they do too. The money they charge for those go back into the General Fund and so hence the shortfall.

Mike Burris: We did fifteen autopsies where the incident occurred outside of Allen County but the person was brought into one of our local hospitals and passed away here. That incurs it as an Allen County Coroner's case which puts the financial burden and the duty for the autopsy on us. We bill the outlying County and are reimbursed for it.

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Tom Harris: A lot of time we will equate and correlate the autopsy to violence. It is not always the case because these could be individuals that simply passed away. Is that correct?

Mike Burris: That is correct. We will use Parkview Whitley as an example. If there is someone in Whitley County that is ill and goes into Parkview Whitley and are so sick that they get transferred to Parkview Regional and they pass away, if there is no medical history as to why this person passed away, we are bound to do the autopsy. It is not necessarily traumatic, homicidal or suicidal incident.

Bob Armstrong: So the money we get from Whitley or whomever, does that money go back to you?

Mike Burris: The General Fund.

Nick Jordan: We record it as Coroner Revenue. For example, in 2018 there was about \$31,000. In 2017, there was almost \$19,000. In 2016, there was \$10,000. As Mike noted there were only 15 so far in 2019.

Larry Brown: Mike, would another example be if one of the helicopters picked someone up outside of Allen County and brought them in and they pass away?

Mike Burris: Yes, as soon as the local helicopter lands and the patient is put in the helicopter, then they are technically a patient of the hospital. They could pass away in flight and it would still be ours.

Sharon Tucker: I would like to make a motion for the appropriation in the Coroner's General Fund in the amount of \$75,000 for Autopsy Fees.

Bob Armstrong: Second.

Tom Harris: **We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye, those opposed, like sign. The motion passes 7-0.** Next up is NIRCC.

Dan Avery: Dan Avery, Executive Director of the Northeast Indiana Regional Coordinating Council. I am here to request a transfer. It is the follow-up to the approval of reclassifying one position in December and the approval in March to take a position from part-time to full-time. I was pleased to see the New Allen Alliance presentation and that made note of several of the projects that we have been working on. That is part of the reason I came to you and asked for those modifications. I have transferred as much money as I can within the series but I have come up a little short and so I am asking for \$8,700. That is to be spread between two line items, one is the Office and Accounting Manager and the other is for the Principal Planner.

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Tom Harris: You are actually moving funds from Contractual over and these are not new funds being requested.

Dan Avery: Yes, it is just a transfer.

Bob Armstrong: Did this go to Personnel?

Dan Avery: Originally the reclassifications and changes went through Personnel.

Nick Jordan: That was done last year.

Dan Avery: I didn't ask for the money at the time because I wasn't sure that I would need it.

Sharon Tucker: I would like to make a motion for a transfer within NIRCC's General Fund for \$8,700 from Contractual to \$6,200 for Secretary/Bookkeeper and \$2,500 for Principal Planner for a total of \$8,700.

Larry Brown: Second.

Tom Harris: We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye, those opposed, like sign. The motion passes 7-0. Next up is Superior Court.

Nancy Springer: I am Nancy Springer, Director of Allen County CASA.

Kara Simonoff: Kara Simonoff, HR Generalist.

John McGauley: John McGauley, Court Executive for Superior Court.

Kara Simonoff: We are here for two new grant funded positions, Case Management Specialist and Recruitment Specialist. These are PAT 4/2 at \$51,604, 40 hours per week, non-exempt. A special Personnel Committee meeting was held last week as this was a grant that went into effect on October first. The majority of the funds will be going to fund these two positions. If they do not use the funds at the time, they will lose the funds. At Personnel, these two positions passed 3-0.

Nancy Springer: Allen County CASA applied for the first time for the VOCA (Victims of Crime Act) Grant from the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute. We were awarded \$200,000. The majority of those funds, as you can see, will go toward two new positions with our organization. We already have two people already doing similar jobs and are also paid by grant funds through our State CASA Grant. Our desire is for you to approve these two new positions.

John McGauley: I will just add that Superior Court as a whole supports this because anything we can do in CASA to provide them with more resources makes things run faster and tends to relieve pressure downstream in our budget.

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Larry Brown: Maybe I misunderstood but I thought you said PAT 4/4.

Kara Simonoff: PAT 4/2.

Tom Harris: Maybe articulate what the Recruitment Specialist is to do what?

Nancy Springer: The two positions will be similar in some ways and different in others. The Recruitment Specialist will help us we recruit volunteers. We have a team just over 100 volunteers who are people in our community and are concerned about child abuse and neglect. They help us with those cases that we serve. Both positions will supervise other volunteers to do the same work but the Recruitment Specialist will help us with the recruitment and training of new volunteers.

Tom Harris: How many volunteers do you have?

Nancy Springer: About 110. We swear in 13 next week.

Sharon Tucker: I would like to make a motion for the consideration of a salary ordinance establishing the pay for CASA Case Management Specialist, PAT 4/2, \$51,604, 40 hours per week, non-exempt and for CASA Recruitment Specialist, PAT 4/2, \$51,604, 40 hours per week, non-exempt.

Joel Benz: Second.

Tom Harris: **We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye, those opposed, like sign. The motion passes 7-0.**

Nick Jordan: This is a heads-up for you guys. So that Nancy doesn't have to come back next month, I will handle the appropriation to pay these people for the remainder of 2019 as well as some supply service appropriations and equipment that are needed.

Tom Harris: That will be before us next month then.

John McGauley: Two quick items. We have requested an appropriation in funding that we received from the Supreme Court for our Commercial Law Clerk. We are in the third year of a pilot project exploring the value of Commercial Courts in the State of Indiana. It turns out to have been a tremendous success decluttering the Civil Division's calendar and getting complex cases through the system faster. It turns out we have the second busiest Commercial Court in the State of Indiana. The Supreme Court has made this a permanent fixture in Courts in Indiana and has decided to make this position permanent as well. They have continued to provide us with grant dollars to employ the Commercial Law Clerk. We have received those dollars and just need to get them appropriated.

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Sharon Tucker: I would like to make a motion for the appropriation in the Commercial Law Clerk Fund 859 for Consulting Services in the amount of \$73,972.

Joel Benz: Second.

Tom Harris: We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye, those opposed, like sign. The motion passes 7-0. John, you have one more item.

John McGauley: These are some start-up costs and you may have heard about this when it started. Earlier in the year, the Family Relations Division launched a Family Recovery Court to start putting some specific attention into CHINS cases that clearly have roots in addiction issues, drug abuse and so on. We received a Court Improvement Grant from the Supreme Court to provide us with some logistical support for that Court and that is what you are looking at, getting the money appropriated.

Tom Harris: You have already received the funds and so this is simply the disbursement into different lines.

John McGauley: Correct.

Sharon Tucker: Is this a one-time grant?

John McGauley: Yes, this is a one-time grant just to provide us with the start-up logistics we need to get the Court in place.

Sharon Tucker: Once we have it in place, it is up to the Court's budget?

John McGauley: It is on us but the start-up costs could only be a one-time thing.

Kenny Fries: I appreciate you doing this and I think Faith in Indiana needs to take a look at. It is one of the things that the Courts are doing to help with the problem that we all see with incarceration. I give you guys credit for taking this on and starting down this path.

John McGauley: It has been tremendously successful. There are upwards of 100 clients in it at any one time. It is serving the same role that you see in our Drug Courts in Circuit and elsewhere in Superior Court. Helping keep families together and getting people out of addictions.

Sharon Tucker: Based on what Councilman Fries just said, does this offer alternative sentencing?

John McGauley: This is the kind of program that exposes people to treatment and counseling similar to our Drug Court Program and Veterans' Court.

Sharon Tucker: I would like to make a motion for the appropriation in Family Recovery Court Fund 874 for a total combined of \$28,000.

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Bob Armstrong: Second.

Tom Harris: We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye, those opposed, like sign. The motion passes 7-0. Next up on the agenda this morning are the Board Appointments for 2020. Nothing is required today other than to be aware of these appointments. All of the ones coming up in 2019 are before us.

Nick Jordan: The full list is on here.

Tom Harris: The ones we have to deal with are the ones that expire at the end of 2019. Council, between now and the meeting next month, we try to make sure that we contact them or to see if there is any other interest in serving on these Boards. We need to have the discussion and make the appointments for the coming year. One that is new is Visit Fort Wayne. We have talked about Joel serving on that one. Did we vote on that?

Nick Jordan: No.

Tom Harris: Maybe it was a general consensus but maybe between now and the next meeting we will want to determine if Joel wants to serve on that and maybe find out the times and dates that they meet.

Nick Jordan: I sent that to you already. If you don't have it, I can send it again. It is every other month, second Tuesday at 8:00 a.m.

Larry Brown: I think there is a line missing and that is the appointment to Community Corrections.

Nick Jordan: I will check to see if that is your appointment on the Commissioners' appointment.

Tom Harris: Be aware of that and we will plan to take this up next month. Joel, make sure that fits your schedule and I say that because it becomes effective January first.

Larry Brown: There are numerous ones that expire in 2019. Mr. President, are you going to contact these folks to see if they are interested in continuing?

Tom Harris: I will plan to do that.

Sharon Tucker: I have a question on it. I know that several have been reappointed. Do we ever look at getting new? Is it hard to get new people on?

Tom Harris: In some cases, it has been hard.

Joel Benz: In some cases, people have extensive knowledge and have been on a long time. Institutional knowledge, I guess and they are really valuable for the position.

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Larry Brown: To refresh your memory, PTABOA Board has to have a level something and one Republican and one Democrat.

Sharon Tucker: Right. I don't disagree with some of those but I think other ones have room that we can open it up to new voices. We keep hearing the same voices and sometimes lose the connection to the community that they are serving.

Tom Harris: Looking at the potential of some things happening in your future. I think you are on through 2020.

Sharon Tucker: Nope.

Tom Harris: We will assume you are going to retain that and if not...

Sharon Tucker: I will serve on the Library Board as long as you are willing to appoint me. I enjoy it even with all of the fun that we have had.

Larry Brown: I don't know, in that regard, if it deserves a moment of discussion but I want to recognize and thank Sharon for her participation and taking on that assignment of representing Council on the Library Board. There are clearly two different schools of thought on the current method of operation and I don't know if that will ever change. It continues to be an ongoing challenge. We are not going to please everybody on that situation. Thank you.

Sharon Tucker: Thank you and I would like to add to that. I agree with you, Councilman. I come from the school of thought and the biblical principle that everything should be growing. If it is not growing, it is dying. Nothing stays stagnant forever. There are two schools of thought and whenever those two principles collide, you'll get what we see. The one thing we all have in common, the Library Board, the Friends of the Library and the Concerned Citizens of the Library, is that we want the Library to be the best that is can be. The approach may be different but we do have that in common. If we take that understanding and work backwards from there, we will make it a success.

Tom Harris: Thank you. Council, next on the agenda is the proposed 2020 meeting dates.

Nick Jordan: Just to clarify on Community Corrections, the Commissioners do appoint one County Fiscal Member. It is not your appointment but the Commissioners'.

Tom Harris: Next is the 2020 meeting dates. You do not need approval of those today.

Nick Jordan: The only deviation from the standard third Thursday is the Organization Meeting.

Kenny Fries: I won't be there. I am sure I will be assigned all sorts of things.

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Tom Harris: Take a look at those for next year. Do we vote on those the next meeting?

Nick Jordan: It has been a consensus over the years.

Tom Harris: Recent and upcoming meetings. Are there any updates on liaison appointments?

Bob Armstrong: You can put on your calendar if you'd like, Saturday, October 26th at the National Volunteer Shrine on O'Day Road from 11:00 to 3:00, they are going to have a First Responder/War Dog Program.

Tom Harris: Are there any other updates?

Sharon Tucker: Approval to waive the reading on any matter approved today for which it may be deemed necessary for the County Council meeting of October 17, 2019.

Larry Brown: Second.

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

Joel Benz: Move to adjourn.

Bob Armstrong: Second.

Tom Harris: All in favor please signify by saying aye. Opposed like sign. The motion carries 7-0.

BUDGET ADOPTION

Tom Harris: We are now having our meeting for the annual budget adoption. At this time I am going to turn it over to our Auditor Nick Jordan.

Nick Jordan: Good morning, Council. As long as you all have your budget adoption notebooks open, you will see that it is a pretty large document. It is almost 190 pages. The first page just details the items that you will take action on for the County, Southwest Fire District and the Airport Authority. I will jump into the second page. I do want to make note that in the body of it, the General Operating Revenue it says 2019 and should be 2020. Immediately below that you will see 2019 and they should all be 2020 references, my apologies there. In looking through this document starting at the top, you will see the 2020 General as well as the Local Income Tax budget is \$111,632,800. Those include the appeals that you approved last month as well as ARC and Mental Health payments of approximately \$3.5 million. Those are provided to Park Center and Easter Seals. To touch on the top piece that is about \$7 million greater than this year. Almost 63% of that is due to the three percent raise and the 27th pay. The 27th pay will be one time until ten years go by. The 27th pay would be 35% or about \$2.5 million. Of the \$7

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million is about \$4.5 million ongoing. In the revenue section, you will see that the total is \$113,624,607 and the largest chunk of that is our property tax at approximately \$66 million. That is increasing at the growth quotient of 3.5%. The other General Fund Revenue submits are for reimbursement of prisoners, building permits and so forth. A couple of the big ones that we bumped up there is the interest revenue, reimbursement of prisoners as well as reimbursement for Work Release. The LIT Certified Shares and Public Safety is approximately \$22 million. That does not factor in any one-time distribution because we don't know those that they may provide. As I mentioned earlier, we got \$1 million this year as a one-time lump sum and what they do is look at the trust balance at the end of this year and then they see if it exceeds a 15% threshold on the distribution. They give us the excess after that calculation. We won't know that until the spring. This \$22 million is what we are guaranteed to receive in 2020. The other fund budgets for 2020, of you look in the packet on page four, is a list of a bunch of other funds and that amounts to the \$111,218,912. The largest ones in that regard would be Highway, Board of Health and in the left-hand column towards the bottom, if you tallied up CEDIT that is overall the largest piece. The total Allen County budget is \$222,851,712. Unless there are any questions on that page, page three provides a detailed by department breakdown of the General Fund and Local Income Tax budgets for the departments. This does not include CEDIT Highway and so forth. Those are all outside of the General Fund. On page five, you will see a graph as well as some detail below of a breakdown of our expenses. This is pretty consistent. As in prior years, Law Enforcement and Judicial is the largest chunk at about 72%. You can see the remaining pieces of the pie. The revenue, again pretty consistent with prior years, I will note that we have seen with the increases in income tax that has been passed by the Income Tax Council, the Local Income Tax Shares and Public Safety grows a little bit. We are in a climate now that with assessed values the property tax bucket can keep expanding but when assessed values, when the time comes that we don't see significant increases in assessed value, Local Income Tax becomes a bigger piece of the pie. Unless there are any questions, page seven is the adoption document for the County appropriations as well as the tax rates that are estimated. In the far right column you will see Adopted Tax Rate, the middle section that says Funds and then stops at Home-Ruled Funds you will see that there are five of them are the only tax rates that we assess people for property taxes at the County level. Pages eight, nine and ten are the other Special Funds that you are adopting the budget for. I will stop there if you want to discuss there because the next piece becomes the Salary Ordinances.

Tom Harris: One of the issues that came up this morning was the Stellar Façade Program. I was going to jump in and thought I would just wait and bring it up at this point. I was thinking that the \$1.25 million number that we had passed last year included what we saw as some kind of a façade program. He indicated today that the \$1.25 million did not have that number in it. I think for clarity, I was with the understanding as we reduce the initial request of \$2 million to \$1.25 million. They have a \$500,000 request in it as part of the \$2 million? When we drop the \$2 million down as a ratio so went the \$500,000 so within the \$1.25 million is \$300,000 that is in essence identified for the Façade Program. Is that accurate or not?

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Nick Jordan: Just up on the screen, what I have here, this is what was passed by Council. The scratch out is \$250,000 as pledged each year because it was reduced to \$1.25 million. Nothing in here pinpoints, the second page is what was presented and was at the \$2 million threshold. We can go back to the minutes and see the discussion. That bottom piece, Leadership, was chopped off by Kent and Christy last year. That left these three pieces. This morning, Kent noted this façade piece sounded like was also chopped off leaving \$1 million for trails and \$250,000...

Sharon Tucker: Yes, when they did their presentation and we lowered it, one of the things that he was pained about was that we won't have the funding to do the façade grant. We came back saying that we really would like you to do that grant but we understood the money that we gave. We were hoping that they would find another way. That is the one thing that he said that meant he wouldn't be able to do the façade grant.

Joel Benz: Part of that discussion was that he said a mechanism in there and most of the money was going to East Allen. That was part of the discussion at that time. Since that time, we have had discussion with Elissa McGauley about moving forward in setting up something. That has kind of stalled out because we never really made an appropriation or as Council had consensus to really do some work here because we are going to put funds in there. If we had consensus, I think she would probably work on that.

Tom Harris: Yes and one other piece, Councilman Armstrong, you had mentioned about a year ago during that discussion, why not consider this County-wide and in the last month before you had indicated that you would be okay with a pilot program in East Allen or New Allen to try for a year and see how it goes. Right now there are no funds allocated to a façade program.

Nick Jordan: If you want to appease Kent and Christy's request and use the \$1.25 million for the trails in Harlan and Hoagland, then yes there is nothing in there for the façade.

Tom Harris: Otherwise you are saying that we could take some of the \$1.25 million for the façade?

Nick Jordan: Yes that is a discussion because even with this the Cedar Creek Parks Trail, \$1 million is the bottom dollar here. If it is \$1.25 million, do they want all of that for that? If today was concrete in the \$1 million for that and \$250,000 for Harlan and Hoagland, if one of these were not to be used fully then you have some money for the façade. I don't know the timeframe when that happens. Right now there doesn't sound like there is anything for the façade.

Tom Harris: The reason for mentioning that is we would need to add into the budget additional funds or identify some funds for a façade program. I guess I would throw out the idea that should we do that we would turn to DPS to help us with the initiation and management of that program. What that would mean is that individuals in the community would come forward in New Allen Alliance communities would come forward and

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request a grant but for someone to manage that and then organize it and communicate it and then bring something to us to vote, we would need a department and that is probably the Department of Planning Services.

Nick Jordan: As Joel kind of alluded to I think you need to have the discussion with Elissa. This is East Allen and what if someone from Arcola wanted a façade grant?

Tom Harris: I think year one the thought is to keep it to New Allen Alliance. It was a pilot. There are a lot of systems and processes that have to go into this including how they apply. One of the questions is if you are on a main street, you can apply but what about if you are on a secondary street? Do you get to apply or not? Who puts the forms together and who keeps track of all of the requests?

Kenny Fries: But if we get that system in place for East Allen, it is also in place for the rest of the County. Before the pilot program even gets started, there has to be the process in place and once it is in place, it is good for all of them. I think a pilot program is a good idea but I don't know if it is fair to the taxpayers and the rest of the County to say it is a pilot program but only for the east side. They have just as much right on the west side as they do on the east side.

Nick Jordan: That is what I talked with Christy, even the constituents that you have north or southwest unincorporated Allen County, it begs the question why you just choose the east side.

Kenny Fries: Right because once we establish, you are right that we have to get a process in place of who can apply and when they can apply.

Tom Harris: And then who votes? The idea that they would come back to Council was an example and we would vote on it. Twenty-five people apply and they can only give out four, we have to decide who and how and where and what.

Joel Benz: We can set up a committee that handles that. It cuts it down to this many and then we vote on it.

Kyle Kerley: I was going to say along with Ken that if we are going to have DPS do this, it should be open to the entire County. The direction that we are going, we are not having this managed by East Allen Alliance or New Allen Alliance. This is being managed by DPS so by default it has to be County-wide.

Sharon Tucker: Can I throw in a different way of looking at it? It doesn't have to be either/or but can also be and. New Allen Alliance already has programs set up where they do grants and are asking for additional funds to continue those programs. They have some steps already in place so that we can support their program and we can create the County-wide initiative for the remaining part of the County and have DPS handle those. We can decide that this is the amount that we are going to give. We will give New Allen this amount and the rest will go to DPS and allow them to do it and we have created the

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program for everyone. They can keep moving forward and then we can create the program for the remaining portion of the County,

Larry Brown: I am all in favor of a pilot program but my hang-up is DPS. This is more of a Building Department thing than it is DPS. Even beyond that maybe it should be under the Commissioners.

Tom Harris: That is where some of the discussion last time was if it falls under the Commissioners, is it their program or is it our program? Are we funding it and who's program is it and I think that is where we started to get bogged down a little bit. There lies out challenge, Council. At this point in time, what could happen is that we establish some funds and then work out the details in a secondary meeting but at least the funds are set aside? Otherwise we can spend the rest of this morning working out the details.

Larry Brown: I think I heard Christy and Kent say that they would be happy to take it on and make it County-wide.

Sharon Tucker: I think so too.

Tom Harris: But they wouldn't be managing it. They are just saying that they are open with the idea that this is a broader program than just their program. We surely wouldn't want to yield to have them making determinations on who gets awards throughout the County.

Larry Brown: If funds were made available for façade improvements under the East Allen concept, who would manage that?

Tom Harris: Again, it would be the same whether we would decide DPS or whomever, it will go to them. We are setting the shell of a process.

Sharon Tucker: Don't they already manage a portion where they do grants for New Allen, don't they?

Larry Brown: Yes that's what I thought.

Tom Harris: They're managing the Stellar Grants specifically.

Sharon Tucker: Right and doesn't the Stellar Grant...I don't believe this is the first time that they have given this type of grant and they have managed those before. They included that to the Stellar because they outspent what they had. I wish I could have faster recall on that one. We have seen them do this before. I am all in favor of every taxpayer in the community being able to get those funds. I do think that we don't want to delay the process that they have in play. I also think the best place for it to be managed is the Department of Planning because they are in constant contact with all of the businesses throughout the community.

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Kyle Kerley: Something that I would kind of add to this is we are doing a lot of talking and I think the best place to start would be in working with the City of Fort Wayne because they already have a program.

Sharon Tucker: You mean for implementation?

Kyle Kerley: Just their guidelines and applications. They have an application process and deadline and already have a system in place that we could use as a template.

Larry Brown: That is a great idea but keep in mind they are a mayoral system.

Kyle Kerley: Right. The application process and requirements and guidelines, I think that is a great place for us to start.

Tom Harris: And by the way, DPS works with both arenas and that might be an opportunity. I will say that the little I know they are trying to curtail this. City Council is having some concerns with how this program is being run in City government. Just be wise that there are some concerns there.

Kenny Fries: We have spoken before about that. I personally don't like giving up our responsibility to say yes or no. None of us what to sit through 25 applicants coming in trying to get a façade grant. But then again, we owe it to the public.

Bob Armstrong: It is our job.

Kenny Fries: That is what we are supposed to do. We have the guidelines established. You have seven people to decide do they get this or not. If you give it to the Commissioners, you have three people. The Mayor is one.

Sharon Tucker: Let me correct that though. It is not the Mayor that makes the decision on those applications. There is a department that handles all of the funding and they come in. As far as the Council funding, instead of funding one line item they gave it to the neighborhood quadrants. I disagree with that theory because there was more money available to everyone instead of having it broken out in the quadrants. Is there room for favoritism? Could be in any department that is handling it, but I doubt that any one of them is looking at it like that because it is not one individual that is making that decision. It is the departments going through the applications. Just like with our giving tax abatements, there are requirements that you have to meet. When you meet those, then the application moves onto the next step. If we decide that this is the matrix that we are going to set forth for them to be able to qualify, they can come to us and we can determine yea or nay on the amount if we still want to have a say. Before it gets to this table, I think what Kyle was saying is that we can have them go through these qualifications and then we make the final determination.

Tom Harris: One thought, Council, could be that we establish some funds or earmark some funds for this program and we probably need some consensus in terms of who we

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turn to in beginning to establish a process. We won't work that out today but rather we just set the funds aside for that program.

Sharon Tucker: I agree with that but going right back to are we going to move New Allen's request or delay their request and add it into this or are we going to separate a little pot of money out for them and then also have this request for further?

Tom Harris: Nick, correct me if I am wrong, Council has allotted the \$1.25 million to them. They have decided to use those funds for two areas. They have funds to do additional things if they choose to do additional things. Is that fair? You said they may not spend all of the money on those items. Would they be able to use that money for that program? If Council were to say they would put some money in this but we will do it County-wide it would then allow New Allen Alliance and all aspects of the County to be in that program.

Sharon Tucker: Keep in mind they have restrictions because of the Federal funds. There is some money that they cannot do because of the Federal regulations.

Nick Jordan: Yes, there is \$1.25 million of which only about \$17,000 has been spent for an invoice from Hoagland for lawn mowing and things like that. IT is \$250,000 for Harlan and Hoagland that I believe they want to keep in there. The other two pieces, if it as \$1 million in 2019, I can't imagine it is going to get cheaper by 2022 or 2023 for trails. If you spent a million on trails, there is nothing left. You can't add anything to the budget today. We have already advertised the budgets for what they are. You can say you are going to earmark and appropriate it at a later date but you can't take a vote and say you want to increase the budget. You could take it from someone else's budget if you wanted to but we can't increase it.

Larry Brown: Might I suggest that we form a little subcommittee and investigate processes and procedures and policies and all of that stuff and then when we find out what the rollover amount is in February we consider whether or not to provide additional funding after we have our act together, so to speak.

Tom Harris: I don't know if we need a motion, per se, and that would be a good way to do it to give us a better understanding of rollover and available funds next year.

Sharon Tucker: But then I won't get to play in the sandbox.

Kyle Kerley: You can still change your mind.

Tom Harris: Council, we would be maxed at three members but two or three members who would be interested in serving on that committee. Kyle and Joel, are there any other takers? I will also serve. The three of us will meet between now and yearend.

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Sharon Tucker: Hold on, between now and yearend? I know somebody would have to step down but New Allen is in my area and so I would like to be involved if I could and someone wants to step off. If not, my feelings will not be hurt.

Tom Harris: I will yield and allow you to serve for the next couple of months. We will move forward and not allocate or earmark any funds at this point. Nick, what is next on the agenda?

Kyle Kerley: I have a question since it is up on the screen. What was our adopted tax rate last year?

Nick Jordan: It was .5087. Keep in mind that this is just an estimate. The .5087 is official but this is an estimate that will more than likely be high. You have to advertise high in order to ensure that you get as much rate.

Kenny Fries: When will we know what the actual tax rate is?

Nick Jordan: Not until December.

Kyle Kerley: What was our advertise last year?

Nick Jordan: It was .5777.

Kyle Kerley: So our advertised rate is considerably lower.

Nick Jordan: And it should be because the assessed value is almost seven percent higher and we could only increase our levy by 3.5%. The only other trade-off was between the bond amount with the bond tax rate was .0095. This year we have bonds rolling off. We have moved that amount, almost net zero, down to Major Bridge line to increase the tax levy in hopes we can fix more bridges or fund the ones that need fixed. We won't know that until December.

Kyle Kerley: Are we still waiting on...?

Nick Jordan: The DLGF, yes. They are also the body that approves the final tax rate. This Adopted Tax Rate is an estimate. You adopt the budget and you adopt the levy and the Tax Rate is what comes out of it. In this big packer here, it talks about Form 4-B. Those are starting on page 73 of your PDF if you wanted to look at them or walk through them. There is one of those for each fund you are adopting. It is 17 lines and walks through the calculations that are done to get to the tax rate as an example, Kyle was just talking about. The General one is on page 75. That is the calculation that walks through anticipated expenditures, revenue and cash and then how we get to the tax rate. This is why the packet is so big because of all of the Form 4-B's that are in it. If you just make a motion to approve Ordinance/Resolution Number for the Expenses of Allen County.

Sharon Tucker: So this is our last opportunity to make any changes to...

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Nick Jordan: You can modify a change but you cannot go up. You can go down or sideways.

Bob Armstrong: For anything.

Nick Jordan: For any of these funds that require appropriation. After this meeting you will make additional appropriations almost every month to increase budgets.

Bob Armstrong: The only thing I've got in all of that or any of that is that after reading the article that we have a new DID Director, every year we give \$50,000 to the DID. The comment in the article is that it brings more people into the downtown area. I don't mind giving them some money but why are we not giving some money to the rural communities for what they need? The people that are in Hoagland, Woodburn, Huntertown or whatever could use some money to improve their downtown districts than us or the Commissioners giving the DID \$50,000 for Downtown Fort Wayne.

Tom Harris: I guess I can address a little bit of that. The fact that the Stellar is basically \$1.25 million is headed to East Allen County. We just got done talking about creating a façade program that would be broader than just East Allen. That is something that we would take up with the rollover money. Fort Wayne is one community and the second largest City in the State. The fact that they are getting some money is appropriate, I guess. Is it being used effectively? That would be a question or challenge for us. I didn't have a problem with the amount.

Bob Armstrong: I guess my question is if you think Huntertown would go to the Mayor and ask for DID money for Huntertown, would the Mayor give Huntertown any money?

Sharon Tucker: I guess Bob makes a good point here. I don't want to get myself fired off my new job but it is no different than what we were just saying, right? We were just talking about why should New Allen be the only ones that get grant money for building repairs and not the whole? It would beg to differ why not each one of those individual communities instead of just DID.

Tom Harris: I understand but that is the process because it is a grant that they went for from the State.

Kenny Fries: I agree with Bob but I also have to look at it from the other standpoint of how many County residents live inside the city limits of Fort Wayne and pay taxes. That money should go towards Fort Wayne because they live there. But I also believe that Arcola should get money and Huntertown...

Bob Armstrong: All of them.

Kenny Fries: Yes.

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Larry Brown: Don't you think they need to have a process in place?

Kenny Fries: Yes. This whole façade thing, I think is a really good path to start going down.

Larry Brown: Maybe it is the Town Manager or a Trustee or whatever.

Tom Harris: I will throw out the other side of that equation. I don't like that when the State does it to us when we have to go and ask for money from the State. That drives me a little crazy. How would communities also feel about that? We have to go to Council to ask for money that we should be getting anyway through taxes or whatever.

Bob Armstrong: The only reason I really bring it up is because it has been a pet peeve of mine. I like to know what we are getting for our \$50,000. I like to know what we are getting out of the GFW for whatever that amount of money is.

Tom Harris: That is something that you might check into. I think the Commissioners are on that Board but maybe they could use a Council person on it.

Larry Brown: It is hard to quantify but I sincerely believe what's good for Fort Wayne is good for Grabill, for Hometown and for Arcola. Yes, we have our rural areas and communities in Allen County but all you have to do is sit patiently at any crossroads and see how many of those people come into Fort Wayne to work and to eat. Fort Wayne goes there to do the same thing. We are all one.

Bob Armstrong: Right but when I am out talking to neighborhoods, people are asking why we are giving those organizations money when we could use that in Woodburn or Monroeville.

Larry Brown: Tell them to come ask.

Nick Jordan: Just to add on, there is \$5.5 million given to the New Allen Stellar piece. That would be 110 years of the \$50,000 that we are giving to the DID. That \$5.5 million over the next four years if you related it to the \$50,000 given to the DID each year, you are giving a quantifiable sum to New Allen in the next four years. Additionally to Ken's point, Downtown Fort Wayne increased four percent in net assessed value and that helps the County and boosts our tax base up. Whether you correlate that directly to the DID or not...

Tom Harris: Council, Bob, I don't know if you want to move anything at this point but...

Bob Armstrong: I have brought it up in years past.

Tom Harris: It would be worth exploring their Board and seeing if they would be open to another member.

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Bob Armstrong: Who's Board?

Tom Harris: The DID Board.

Bob Armstrong: Would you sit on it?

Tom Harris: No, I am asking if you would.

Bob Armstrong: Only if I was asked to sit on it. At this point, I don't think so.

Sharon Tucker: I would like to make a motion for the approval of the 2020 Ordinance of Appropriations for expenses of Allen County government, Ordinance/Resolution Number 2019-10-17-02.

Kenny Fries: I will second it.

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

Nick Jordan: If you want to look at the next thing it is the Salary Ordinance for Elected Officials that starts on page 11 until page 14. It reflects the three percent raise. It also mentions the Surveyor and Coroner, licensed and unlicensed as well as the Sheriff's compensation is tied to the Prosecutor.

Sharon Tucker: I would like to make a motion for the salary ordinance for 2020 Elected Officials,

Kenny Fries: Second.

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

Bob Armstrong: I have a question. I saw this Superior Court, the \$5,000 thing. On behalf of Roy Buskirk, I want him to know that I am still looking at that.

Sharon Tucker: Council, I would like to make a motion for a salary ordinance for 2020 Non-Classified Employees.

Joel Benz: Second.

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

Nick Jordan: The next one is for the Classified Employees which are the bulk of the employees and are paid from the grids. That goes from page 21 to 68. That reflects the three percent raise and 27th pay.

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Sharon Tucker: I would like to make a motion for the Classified Employees for the 2020 salary ordinance as presented in the budget.

Joel Benz: Second.

Tom Harris: **We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye, those opposed, like sign. The motion passes 7-0.**

Nick Jordan: The last one is the Part-Time salary ordinance and starts on page 69.

Sharon Tucker: Lastly, Council, I would like to make a motion for the 2020 Part-time Hire salary ordinance that was presented in the 2020 budget.

Joel Benz: Second.

Tom Harris: **We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye, those opposed, like sign. The motion passes 7-0.**

Nick Jordan: We are now onto Southwest Fire and the adoption of their budget.

Sharon Tucker: I would like to make a motion for the adoption of the Southwest Fire District's 2020 budget, Ordinance/Resolution Number 2019-10-17-03.

Larry Brown: Second.

Tom Harris: **We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye, those opposed, like sign. The motion passes 7-0.**

Nick Jordan: Lastly is the Airport Authority which is starting on page 185.

Sharon Tucker: I would like to make a motion for the approval of the Airport Authority's 2020 budget with Ordinance/Resolution Number 2019-10-17-04.

Larry Brown: Second.

Tom Harris: **We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye, those opposed, like sign. The motion passes 7-0.** I should mention thank you to Nick for shortening the amount of reading that is done during this process. I have read these over the years and Sharon, we have shortened them considerably.

Joel Benz: I would like to second Tom's but you guys put a lot of work and effort into preparing this for us and Jackie and other members of your staff also. I know there is a lot of behind the scenes work and thank you.

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Tom Harris: Council, one budget that we have not yet approved, and Nick correct me if I am wrong, is the Community Corrections budget. They are awaiting information from the State. As an update, in terms of an issue that just happened this week, Larry you are a member of the Board and might update as to what took place on Tuesday.

Larry Brown: There has been approval given by the Community Corrections Advisory Board to put together an exploratory process creating residential based work release program under Title 35 of Indiana Code. To be clear, the Sheriff currently runs a program under Title 11. Title 35 is a different approach. A couple of things in Title 35 that aren't in Title 11 are mandatory rehabilitative services. That can be mental health, GED related, training and mentoring and a pretty broad gamut of possibilities. There is the hope that there will be additional funding coming from Department of Corrections. Department of Corrections with the full support of all of the Judges are in favor of pursuing this and I guess the bottom line that I want to convey to you is everybody involved, all 16 that were at the table, said if we can make it financially feasible, let's do it the right way. Give treatment where treatment is necessary. Try behavior reform.

Tom Harris: With that the passing was 14 to 2, I think. Several of these community organizations are formulating letters of request to the DOC for additional funds for Allen County. I have been asked by Kim Churchward if Council would also submit a letter of support asking the State to give us additional funds. I bring that to the Council table this morning. It would be a simple request letter that states we would be interested in receiving additional funds from DOC in that pursuit.

Bob Armstrong: When you say that what does that letter mean? Does that mean we are going to ask for funds and they are going to fund this program? Or are they going to fund it for twelve months and then like the State or Feds usually do, say thank you and here you go. What does all of that mean?

Tom Harris: While we are at it, I received word from Kim remember as they came before us during the budget season they stated that they did not have funding for the 27th pay. She has received word from DOC that they are funding the 27th pay. To your point, it is basically stating Title 35 would be pursued on the basis of a certain budget and they are putting that together to see what it would look like and she will submit that as part of her budget request before DOC in the coming weeks. Today, she is gathering letters from these different organizations including the Courts, Commissioners, the Prosecutor and community organizations all in support asking the DOC to send more money.

Bob Armstrong: So, when you started talking about 11 and 35, when you say 11 and they start talking about 35 and adding programs, are those added programs for Community Corrections or are those added programs not supplied by Work Release or whatever? Are we talking about Work Release that is run from the Sheriff's Department?

Larry Brown: I don't know that I can answer all technical aspects of your questions but Title 11 is run by the Sheriff.

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Sharon Tucker: For Work Release.

Larry Brown: Indiana Code is referred to as Title 11 and is under direction of the Department of Corrections. There are certain legislative elements within that. It is my understanding that DOC will not allow a community or a County to have both Title 11 and Title 35. It is my understanding that you want one or the other if you want DOC funding. Nothing says that we can't fund out of General Fund, a Work Release program for the Sheriff but it would be out of General Fund dollars. It would not be reimbursed by DOC. There are several current rehabilitative programs that Community Corrections now offers that can be broadened to include residential Work Release. Around the table on Tuesday, were mental health people, Judges, all aspects of the Criminal Justice System. By a vote of 14 to 2, everybody supported the effort of at least investigating and seeing if we can make this a viable program.

Tom Harris: Bob, the request would be if we are willing to submit a letter to the State requesting more funds. That's it.

Bob Armstrong: But my question or concern is we are going to sign a letter requesting funds for something that we really don't know anything about. Are we in a timeline that we have to get a letter and commitment from all of us to the DOC?

Tom Harris: Yes.

Bob Armstrong: And once they know that we are all onboard, what does that mean? Does that mean it is going to happen or it ain't going to happen? Do we have a plan? Everything seems to me to be open-ended.

Larry Brown: It is not at the point in the process where the Advisory Board approves proceeding with the program. What has been approved is the effort to investigate, compile a budget and a list of programs. I think Community Corrections, under Kim's direction, is trying to hit DOC with as much local support as possible.

Tom Harris: That there is interest.

Larry Brown: There is interest and we are unified and we want to pursue this.

Sharon Tucker: I worry about penning a letter. I understand the theory of pursuit but we also understand government and we understand how things appear. We write a letter and they say yep you'll get this amount of money and that letter is never perceived as this was just exploratory. The letter will be perceived as this is supported and we are moving in that direction. Once we find out that X dollars could be granted that makes the ball even shinier and we start moving down the line towards that. My concern with this whole process is, as Councilman Armstrong alluded to, all what-ifs. It's our responsibility to be financially astute as to what is going on. No one builds a house without knowing what it is going to cost them. Larry doesn't lay a job without knowing what the job is going to cost and how long you are going to have and how many employees you will need. To ask

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Council to pen a letter in support of giving us money and not knowing if this is a permanent program that DOC is putting in place like they have done to us in the past. The pumped down 1006 on us and now we are funding 1006. That was all off of promises that they said. I am worried about where this big windfall of money came from. If you are concerned about making better programs, fund the ones we already have. They are not even fully funding us with what we have for the gentlemen and women that we are keeping now. I am not in favor of because we don't have enough answers. Larry gave more information and a really good explanation of some of the why's than I have gotten throughout this whole conversation but there are still too many unknowns.

Tom Harris: I will just share to your analogy that you probably won't want to build a house unless you have some kind of money to even consider the plans. In this case I think the intent is to say would we get funds from the State. Would they consider giving us funds?

Larry Brown: Pre-approval of a loan.

Tom Harris: Yes and then we will move forward and discuss how, what, who, when and where.

Sharon Tucker: It is good that you said that because I am in the middle of building a house. I went and got pre-approval. Once I got the pre-approval letter is was on and popping and I was okay. Nothing was stopping me from rolling full forward to get this done because I am approved. That is the exact same thing that will happen if we get the pre-approval letter. It is in essence saying that we are moving full forward. That is the way that I am feeling it.

Kenny Fries: A couple of things, one is I don't like the process as it has occurred in the last couple of weeks and how this has come about. I have a lot of respect for the Judges but when it comes to Work Release and the fact that they don't like to not be able to sentence someone to Work Release, there were always guidelines established as to who we would take into Work Release. We are basically a society betting on the fact that this inmate will do what he is supposed to do. That is done through a process of interviews and their history and everything instead of just having an attorney come in front of a Judge and saying please put my guy in Work Release. There should be some standards set before they get into Work Release. I believe if we are going to send a letter to DOC requesting funds, we need to send a letter to DOC saying pay us the \$53 a day that it costs to house your felons under House Bill 1006 in our Jail. We are overcrowded and I told them when House Bill 1006 came in place that once it was fully implemented it was going to cost the taxpayers more money. It is costing the taxpayers more money and the DOC won't even pay the \$53 a day to house their inmates. And yet we are going to rely on them to pay us money for the Work Release program.

Bob Armstrong: I guess it is just kind of interesting to me and I will reach out to Justin Busch and see what he knows of any of this or what is going on in the horizon. It just seems kind of funny, to me and I might be totally wrong, that it sounds like there is a

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catch somewhere between Work Release, Community Corrections and now the Judges. Are the Judges having problems sentencing people to Work Release? Are they having problems sentencing people to Community Corrections? It just seems funny whenever you start talking to DOJ and DOC, I start thinking we have lawyers and judges involved in this now. Is the problem on the front end or the back end? Is it a Sheriff and Kim problem or is it a Judges' problem.

Joel Benz: My only thought to that Councilman Armstrong would be I think maybe there is somewhat of a problem but maybe it is a change in philosophy and that is why some of the impetus has come.

Larry Brown: The bottom line, I believe, of everybody that was around the table on Tuesday was a better outcome for the community. I am not sure, under Title 11 that's being accomplished.

Bob Armstrong: I appreciate that but at the same time for what you said, outcome always comes with one thing and that is money. I hate to say this but until I know for a fact that we have a signed document from the DOC that says that this is what we are going to pay and like Kenny said 1006 did not do us any favors. It is not doing us any favors today. There is an article in the paper this morning that talks about funding from the State by Rich Beck. Home Rule and 1006 and it just scares me would have, could have and should have. If there is a problem, why haven't we addressed the problem and now all of a sudden it has become a big problem and we want to reinvent the wheel.

Tom Harris: Let me add a couple of comments. We are going to watch how much time we spend because we could be in a circular mode. The thought of your point in wanting to know how much we are going to get, I think that is what Community Corrections is trying to ask. Tell us how much you are going to give us. That is what they are asking in a simple letter that we support the request for additional funds for Allen County.

Sharon Tucker: Right but they could do that without a letter from us, right?

Tom Harris: They could.

Sharon Tucker: With what you started off with was looking for people to say we support you giving this. Bob can get his question answered without us penning a letter.

Tom Harris: Just as we had an impact on Stellar when we submitted our support to Stellar, I believe it had some impact on how we received a lot of money from the State coming into this County. I think this is the same situation that if we put a request to it, we as fiscal agents, have the ability to bring maybe a million dollars back from the State government to local government.

Larry Brown: If I could, let me read an excerpt from the letter that has been prepared and signed by Judge Felts and will be mailed to Julie Lanham, Deputy Commissioner of Re-Entry, Indiana Department of Corrections. In the first part of the letter, he describes

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what transpired in the meeting Tuesday and by a 14 to 2 vote of support. “The Board ultimately voted 14 to 2 in support of moving forward by fully investigating and pursuing a Title 35 Residential Work Release Program operated by Allen County Community Corrections. Attached, you will see for your reference the rollcall vote results. In response to the Boards’ directives and the local Courts’ needs, I am writing today to formally seek collaborative funding from the Indiana Department of Corrections, Community Corrections Division of this new level of supervision and care for Allen County in 2020 and beyond. Please accept this correspondence as the Allen County Community Corrections Advisory Boards request for \$1 million in Indiana DOC funding for calendar year 2020. These requested funds are intended to enable collaboration with Allen County Officials and would be used in combination with Allen County General Fund dollars to support the personal and rehabilitative programming needed to effectively operate a Community Corrections Residential Work Release Program for the local Courts.”

Sharon Tucker: So based on what I heard, the intent from his letter was not exploratory. The intent was request and pursuit. The very first thing you read said to request and pursue the funding of and it was not exploratory. It was actually request for those dollars.

Larry Brown: It is a request for those dollars but those dollars won’t actually be provided or spent unless we develop.

Sharon Tucker: His thing was saying that these dollars, my interpretation, that they give us we are moving forward. We are not exploring but we are pursuing and putting in place based on what I heard you read. What I heard is that they are asking for the money to move forward on.

Kenny Fries: My question would be if we are going to pursue this money for these programs, why aren’t we pursuing the money for the programs under Title 11? We have a brand new Work Release facility that is much larger than the old one was and if we want these programs to help the inmates, why aren’t we pursuing it under Title 11? Why does it all have to go now to Community Corrections? That would be a totally different monster we would be dealing with.

Larry Brown: It is a different discussion because Title 11 doesn’t require rehabilitative services.

Kenny Fries: It doesn’t have to require it though for them to fund it.

Tom Harris: DOC is interested in rehabilitative services and the funds are going to those kinds of programs rather than punitive services.

Kenny Fries: Which could be established under Title 11 for the rehabilitation programs in our current Work Release.

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Tom Harris: And as for ten years, as you know as you were Sheriff, they haven't given Allen County those funds for those reasons.

Kenny Fries: But under 1006, we have taken all of their inmates and they still are taking all of this money in. That is why they have this extra money that they could pay us with, the \$53 per day to house their inmate. They are going to go up to \$40 and it still shorts us \$13 a day per inmate.

Bob Armstrong: This might be way offline, in these meetings were all three of the Commissioners involved in this meeting?

Larry Brown: Two of them.

Bob Armstrong: So, this is just me thinking way outside of the box, if this thing shakes down and it works or they attempt to make it work, what happens to, like Kenny says, the Work Release building that we have an has been remodeled and everything else? What happens with that?

Larry Brown: Personal opinion, I think the facility will be assigned to Community Corrections for this residential program under Title 35.

Bob Armstrong: I understand that the Commissioners put some money into the building.

Tom Harris: We did. We put \$5 million in, remember the vote we took? That \$5 million was on the basis that Community Corrections would have beds in that facility. At this point it time they haven't.

Larry Brown: The DOC has not funded it.

Bob Armstrong: I am just trying to figure out what is going to happen to that building out there.

Larry Brown: It will be used.

Sharon Tucker: Also, what would happen to those employees? There is more than just the building and the funding. There is a whole lot to think about.

Tom Harris: There are a lot of things and that is assuming we would be receiving funding. Then we could say if we are moving forward or not.

Larry Brown: That is why it says in this second paragraph that the Board discussed and ultimately voted in support of moving forward by fully investigating and pursuing. It doesn't say implementing. That Board made it very clear that they are not implementing. They want more information.

Bob Armstrong: What you are reading there is not Felts' letter.

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Larry Brown: Yes it is.

Kenny Fries: I agree with Sharon. The problem I have is the pursuing.

Kyle Kerley: To kind of step back, when I look at this from the 10,000 foot view is ultimately we are responsible to taxpayers. If we can all find a way to get better results for those that have been convicted of crimes and we can do it with less County dollars, I am for that. What concerns me, as someone in sales you never put a number on what you ask for. We already know that Work Release costs the Sheriff's Department over \$1.5 million a year for about 40 to 50 people that are in it. Why are we only asking for \$1 million? If we know that there are 110 beds or whatever, you extrapolate that out and it might cost us \$4 million. You always ask for the moon and they are always going to come back with a lower amount.

Tom Harris: Not necessarily. They don't always come back with a lower amount.

Kyle Kerley: My concern is that we put a number out there and in that letter Judge Felts put a number out there. We should have had a number that says that the facility is going to cost us X to run if Community Corrections runs it and here is the number we need. We maybe throw out \$1 million because we think that is what the State is going to give us but we should have said for us to implement this program we need to know what the number is whether it is \$3.8, \$3.2, \$2.7 or who knows what it is. That is the number that should have been in that request if we are going to go down this road. I understand we are up against some time constraints but I don't think those numbers would have been that hard to put together. I am not saying that I am for one way or the other. I am just saying that we are doing a lot in a really short period of time. In some cases it may seem that we are putting the cart before the horse to try to force an answer. I totally support investigating this. I am just not sure that we are putting all of our cards on the table in the right way to get the maximum benefit. How can we show our support that we are willing to move forward with this being investigated? What I am concerned of is the number comes back and it is going to cost us \$3 million to run this program and the State comes back and are going to give us \$250,000 and then it is full speed ahead. I am not sure that is the best thing for the County because now we are on the hook for \$2.75 million.

Sharon Tucker: Larry, did you have any data on, I have heard several times better programming. Is there any data on Title 11 programming is not working? Did you guys have that data?

Larry Brown: No that data is not and was not available yet. Let me quote you the second on the motion of the Advisory Board and it came from Karen Richards. This is the unofficial transcript. Karen made her second of the motion contingent on the full investigation first and to ensure that it would and could be fully and correctly funded to do it right. The request from us is a letter of support and not a letter of operational approval. I am not sure of what term to use. There was another point I wanted to make. Currently there are General Fund dollars going into Work Release. It is not going to get

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cheaper but unofficially, you know how things come from the State, there is \$1 million hanging out there that they are waiting to give Allen County.

Kenny Fries: Then pay for our inmates.

Larry Brown: Kenny that is a different subject. As I said this morning, file for State Rep.

Kenny Fries: Larry, I ran for State Senate if you remember.

Larry Brown: I do remember.

Kenny Fries: I will tell you that the issue you have is that this process has been in the wind for some time. We denied the five Work Release employees last month. There had been something going on that we didn't know anything about. That is the issue I have with it. This should be all above board and I think they should look into this. Is this a good thing? They should also be looking into can they fund more programs for Title 11. Work Release currently has programs. It is not just show up there and go to work. They have programs that they have to follow and if they don't complete those, they don't stay in Work Release. I am not interested in signing a letter that says we are all for this. If it comes to a vote, I am telling you right now that I am voting against it.

Tom Harris: And that is your prerogative. I will say for the Council's clarity that there have been more than enough attempts to keep this above board. The Sheriff walked out of the meeting that I had with a Judge and a Commissioner. He chose to walk out of that meeting.

Kenny Fries: A week ago.

Tom Harris: That meeting and those processes started because the Sheriff chose to be out of town on a personal matter and I spoke to him before he left to keep him up to date. He said he couldn't get back and we held the meeting off until he returned.

Sharon Tucker: Let's be fair for the Sheriff. When you schedule a meeting, we all work around our calendar.

Tom Harris: Which we did.

Sharon Tucker: I understand that but I want to make sure that our listening audience realizes that there is no stop, drop and roll when it comes to saying that we want to meet, right? If the Sheriff was out of town on personal business or professional business...

Tom Harris: We held the meeting when he returned.

Sharon Tucker: Okay.

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Tom Harris: We waited until he returned and that was an agreement that I had with him and he was fine with that. When we met with him, he did not stay for the whole meeting.

Kyle Kerley: To kind of move this discussion along, I think both sides have valid points. I think our best foot forward at this point may be for those Council members that are in support of it that they pen their own letters of support and those that are not in support of it would not. At this point it is probably going to be four to three one way or the other. It doesn't look like it is going to be a unanimous decision. Either way that we go, I don't want to make someone on this Council's name to be tied to a viewpoint that they don't necessarily fully agree with in either direction.

Tom Harris: Council, are there any further comments on this issue? Hearing none, I think we have had enough discussion on that.

Bob Armstrong: So we are not going to do anything.

Tom Harris: Unless there is a motion to move forward on a letter of support, we are done.

Kyle Kerley: I will say that as a member of this body, I don't have a problem with any member writing a personal letter of support. I just don't want to have a vote of 4 to 3 either way tie someone into a viewpoint that they don't agree on.

Larry Brown: To follow up on that I wouldn't even want a 6 to 1. I personally will not sign a letter that says we are going to institute a program contingent on \$1 million. We are trying to find out what their financial participation will be so that we can then evaluate the whole program.

Joel Benz: I think it would be prudent to bring in some of the players and talk about this or have some individual meetings because there are a lot of things that have not been discussed. I think there are some people that may know some things that some people don't. I am getting a lot of information not directly from people that are involved. Secondly, if we don't take the opportunity to pursue this and at least look at what it could look like, I think we are foolish. If there is money out there we owe it to the taxpayers who elect us to visit that. This is a weighty thing and we need to look at it, compare it side by side and then move forward.

Tom Harris: I will say one final thing. As Council members, I ask you to make sure you listen to all sides of an issue. Don't get boondoggled into one side of this equation.

Sharon Tucker: I think Joel's point is valid. We didn't hear from the others.

Tom Harris: You haven't heard from both sides. I tried to inform all Council members of all of the details. You chose to either see me and talk to me or not.

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Sharon Tucker: I think since we have talked about this we should have it at the table instead of in private meetings. I will move for the approval to waive the reading on any matter approved today for which it may be deemed necessary for the County Council meeting of October 17, 2019.

Kenny Fries: Second.

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

Kyle Kerley: Move to adjourn.

Larry Brown: Second.

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