PORTER COUNTY FOUNDATION
Porter County Council
And
Porter County Commissioners
Foundation Meeting
April 5, 2016

The Porter County Council met on Tuesday, April 5, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. in the County Administration Center, 155 Indiana-Suite 205, Valparaiso, Indiana.

Mr. Whitten called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present were Council Member Whitten, Council Member Jessen, Councilmember Biggs, Council Member Poparad, Council Member Graham, Council Member Conover, and Council Member Rivas. Council Member Rivas was absent. Also present were Commissioner Evans, Commissioner Blaney, and Commissioner Good. Also present, Council Attorney Scott McClure, Auditor Vicki Urbanik and Council Administrative Assistant Joy Blakely.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Nine members present

Mr. Whitten, Mr. Rivas had a conflict he called a little while ago and said he had something with his family, so.

Mr. Jessen, He is conflicted

Mr. Whitten, Yes, alright so as you know we are here for our first quarterly meeting of the Foundation. A couple of things, we have non-voting members to appoint. And I did asked the Treasurer to give us a breakout of those monies left out there and dates of maturity on the loans and when we might expect that money to come down the river as well. So I suppose we can start with the non-voting Hospital Foundation advising members. As you know we have to appoint three and strangely enough we had three apply. I given a lot of thought and I'm thinking maybe we ought to go with these three.

Mr. Poparad, I will make the motion

Ms. Conover, Second

Mr. Jessen, Second

Mr. Whitten, we have a motion and a couple of seconds for First Source Bank, Peoples Bank and Horizon Bank. Any discussion? Candidly, I am surprised we got three with the restrictions placed upon them. But, I am glad we did. Let's get a roll call please.

Mr. Poparad moved to appoint the three applicants. Ms. Conover Mr. Jessen and seconded the motion.

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Councilmember Jim Biggs	-	Yes	Commissioner Blaney	-	Yes
Councilmember Mike Jessen	-	Yes	Commissioner Good	-	Yes
Councilmember Bob Poparad	-	Yes	Commissioner Evans	-	Yes
Councilmember Sylvia Graham	-	Yes			
Councilmember Karen Conover	-	Yes			
Councilmember Dan Whitten	-	Yes			

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 9-0

Mr. Whitten, Ok, let's just take a second to look at what the Treasurer gave us. I talked to the Treasurer who is here and asked about some of the monies that are still out there and when they might mature. That is the list that is in front of you. I think it is pretty self-explanatory. So we have loaned out to Portage $385,000, another $150,000, and another $150,000 and another $150,000 and another $155,000 and another $400,000 and another $405,000.

Mr. Poparad, are they going to pay us back with the wheel tax?

Mr. Whitten, that brings up an interesting point. I did want to talk to the group and get your thoughts. As you know there has been a tremendous amount of misinformation put out by the Portage Mayor and one or two of his Council Members about this Foundation, about the investment of the hospital funds, and how much we have. As a matter of fact it is all misleading. It is all wrong. And I suspect they know it is all wrong. Which leads me to believe they are just flat out lying. So what I have been doing is I have gone out and talked in front of a couple of groups. I have talked to Jeff and he is going to come out with me for the next couple of them and just inform people about what the Foundation is. How much money has been invested. What our projected return on the investment is. If you have read any of the crap that is in the paper, we are sitting on $200 Million, sitting in a bank under a rock somewhere. Whatever our party affiliation. Whatever board we sit on. We all know we put in a tremendous amount of effort. A tremendous amount of communication; bipartisan communication; inner board communication, all to get where we are at. And I am not going to apologize for government being solvent or for our tax rate going down and our services going up. And just because we don't govern under the rule of "how much debt can we incur and how much tax can we collect" mentality, that doesn't make it wrong. As a matter of fact I think we ought to be pretty proud of the fact that we serve the most solvent county in the State. And with what we have done through this Foundation, we have insured that in perpetuity we will be the most solvent county in the State. And we are taking a lot of heat from a frame of mind in governing that I think is backwards. I was contemplating doing a Press Release but I think we should stand together in that because we should be quite proud of the fact that we have accomplished a little bit of history here. So maybe I will craft something and get it out to everybody. You guys can give me your thoughts. It is election year. We all know what happens during election year. But the information that is being pumped out is so wrong and so misleading I feel we need to set the record straight.

Mr. Evans, the other thing that kind of irritates me is that they are now going after a function the Commissioners we have wanted to do for a number of years and that is the Commissioners' Ball. To say that we are doing it and neglecting other objectives and we have all the money in the bank and we just want the municipalities and the people to pay for everything and we want to take the money away from charity is ludicrous. There are politics and there is name calling. But to knowingly put out misinformation is just wrong. It is being done to bait us into an argument. I think we stand firm and both sides of the aisle just say this really childish.

Mr. Whitten, I would agree. To think that somehow we have not benefited all of the municipalities is ludicrous.

Ms. Graham, just by reading this.

Mr. Whitten, we provide funding for the County Task Force to fight drugs. We provide funding for family oriented organizations, for 911, the jail, the assessor's office, the recorder's office. All of these different offices and everything that benefits every single person in this County. Everybody in this County has benefited by the services this County provides.

Mr. Evans, and will continue to benefit because of what we are doing here tonight.

Mr. Whitten, all these things that are happening, and to make it an "us and them analysis" is childish. Quite frankly it is misleading and an outright lie.

Mr. Biggs, we haven't even bonded in Porter County in nearly 20 years.

Mr. Evans, Portage is bonded to their max just to pave their roads.

Ms. Conover, well that was another bone of contention with the Mayor; that we have bonding authority and that we have not passed extra taxes.

Mr. Poparad, $2.98 Million and we are the bad guys?

Mr. Whitten, I would like to put together a very positive and informative press release. I will get it out to everybody. You can add, delete or change as much as you think is appropriate. I think good information needs to be put out.

Ms. Graham, I agree.

Ms. Conover, and as our Foundation takes off, there is no reason why we can't do worthy projects. The money is for everybody. But we are not talking taxes, we are not bonding. We have lived through some pretty tough times and we have done it without raising people's taxes. We did impose a storm water fee. I guess that is a form of a tax. But that is to take care of $30 Million worth of drainage problems.

Mr. Whitten, I think we are all on the same sheet music here. At our next Foundation meeting I would expect to have a little more report on how our investments are doing.

Attorney Scott McClure, and we will have Capital Cities here.

Mr. Whitten, right we will have Capital Cities here. I did not think it was important to have them here now. They really could not report much to us. In correspondence they had sent they really just wanted us to get these non-voting members appointed. So we should set our next meeting.

Mr. Evans, why don't you do it on a night that you have a regular scheduled Council meeting? Start it at 5:00 o'clock or so and then we can get out of your hair.

Mr. Jessen, will Capital Cities take more than that.

Mr. Whitten, if they do, our Council meeting will start a bit late.

Mr. Evans, are we talking June?

Attorney Scott McClure, to have them every quarter you are talking July.

Mr. Whitten, so July 26th a 5:00 p.m. Scott is there anything you need to report tonight?

Attorney Scott McClure, no.

Mr. Whitten, does anybody have anything else they want to bring up?

Mr. Poparad, I think we need to get the word out. We should be congratulated. We have changed the landscape of this County for my grandkids. We will be pushing up daisies. They will still be talking about us. Maybe not in glowing terms, but they will be talking about us.

Mr. Biggs, in all seriousness, like John and Karen and you Bob and Dan. The ones that have been in our County Government over the last 15-20 years. This is the single most positive thing County Government has done in a very long time, if not ever. I didn't think we would ever have to be sitting here defending it.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned.

PORTER COUNTY COUNCIL
PORTER COUNTY, INDIANA

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Jim Biggs

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Karen Conover

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Sylvia Graham

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Mike Jessen

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Bob Poparad

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Jeremy Rivas

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Dan Whitten

PORTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PORTER COUNTY, INDIANA

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John A. Evans

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Laura M. Blaney

_____
Jeffrey J. Good

Attest:_____