

PORTER COUNTY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting
June 28, 2016

The Porter County Council met on Tuesday, June 28, 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 Dan Whitten, Council Member Karen Conover, Council Member Jim Biggs, Council Member Sylvia Graham, Council Member Mike Jessen, Council Member Bob Poparad, and Council Member Jeremy Rivas. Also present was Council Attorney Harold Harper, Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Auditor Chief Deputy Toni Downing and Council Administrative Assistant Joy Blakely.

Mr. Whitten, First reading please.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik,

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS OF PROPOSED ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

Notice is hereby given the taxpayers of Porter County, Indiana that the proper legal officers of Porter County, Indiana will meet in the Porter County Government Administration Building located at 155 Indiana Avenue, Valparaiso IN 46383 on June 28, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. to consider the following additional appropriations in excess of the county budgets for the year 2016 and to transact any further business which might come before the Council:

General Fund			
Sheriff General	1000-1005-1130-05	Overtime	\$ 11,156.85
Sheriff General	1000-1005-3130-05	Training and Education	<u>\$ 2,501.94</u>
			\$ 13,658.79
Donation Fund			
Donations - Sheriff	4100-4108-3980-05	Event Expenses	\$ 3,000.00
Hospital Sale Proceeds			
Hospital Sales Proceeds	4903-0000-4210-30	Buildings	\$ 2,250,000.00
Memorial Opera House			
Memorial Opera House	4915-0000-3760-44	Royalties	\$ 40,000.00
SHF DEA Proceeds			
Sheriff DEA Proceeds	8118-0000-3950-05	Contractual Services	\$ 2,000.00
Prosecutor IV-D			
Prosecutor IV-D	8895-0000-4510-40	Data Processing Equipment	\$ 17,000.00
Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Group			
16.593 ResSubAb (RSAT)	8121-0000-1120-32	Hourly	\$ 23,200.00
16.593 ResSubAb (RSAT)	8121-0000-1210-32	FICA	\$ 1,800.00
16.593 ResSubAb (RSAT)	8121-0000-2110-32	Office Supplies	\$ 800.00
16.593 ResSubAb (RSAT)	8121-0000-2250-32	Other Supplies	\$ 5,083.00
16.593 ResSubAb (RSAT)	8121-0000-2330-32	Household and Bedding	\$ 2,560.00
16.593 ResSubAb (RSAT)	8121-0000-3950-32	Contractual Services	\$ 56,875.00
16.593 ResSubAb (RSAT)	8121-0000-4410-32	Office Equipment over \$100	\$ 4,091.00
16.593 ResSubAb (RSAT)	8121-0000-4510-32	Data Processing Equipment	<u>\$ 2,660.00</u>
			\$ 97,069.00

Taxpayers appearing at such meeting shall have a right to be heard thereon. The additional appropriations as finally made will be referred to the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance. The DLGF will make a written determination as to the sufficiency of funds to support the appropriations made within fifteen (15) days of receipt of a certified copy of the action taken.

Vicki Urbanik
Auditor of Porter County

Publish June 17, 2016

Mr. Whitten, Thank you very much and before I forget I promised my better half that the Memorial Opera House is having a Sock-hop back to the 50's fundraiser for the Memorial Opera House on July 22nd from six to ten. It ought to be a lot of fun.

Ms. Graham, Get out my old saddle shoes.

Mr. Whitten, You have to dress in the 50's, so good news Biggs you can use your old High School clothes.

Mr. Biggs, I'm relevant again

(Laughter)

Mr. Whitten, So I have done my duty there. Approval of our May 2016 minutes you have had the opportunity to review those I assume, what's your pleasure?

Ms. Graham, Move.

Mr. Whitten, We have a motion.

Mr. Poparad, Second.

Mr. Whitten, And a second any changes? multiplications, amendments or additions? Hearing none all in favor signify by saying I? Opposed? The I's have it.

Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Commissioners

Animal Shelter – 4903-0000-30

Mr. Whitten, Commissioners, Animal Shelter. Hospital Sale Proceeds additional \$2,250,000 million to 4210 buildings for new Animal Shelter. We've had quite a bit of discussion over the recent months and actually years and I think we've all had an opportunity to look at our existing Shelter, some more than others. But certainly we are all aware of the need and we've all talked about the priority of the necessity of the new Shelter and taking our services to the next level, which I think we badly need. Commissioners anything you want to add or say?

Commissioner Laura Blaney, You guys saw the presentation last time we tweaked the plan a little bit to make it more efficient...more cost effective is the right word I am looking for. Do you have any questions?

Mr. Whitten, Were there any changes to the...since the presentation were there any changes to the plans or anything we need to know about.

Commissioner Laura Blaney, Just a little rearranging things, they moved the Atrium...

Mr. Whitten, Yes

Commissioner Laura Blaney, became an outside wall cat room. That's probably the biggest one that you would notice if you came through the door, but other than that. And there is more room for cats now right?

Toni Bianchi, Yes.

Commissioner Laura Blaney, They upped the number of Cats that the Shelter can take.

Mr. Whitten, Natural lighting and all that?

Commissioner Laura Blaney, Oh yes

Commissioner Jeff Good, Actually the costs came down about another twenty-four thousand dollars (\$24,000) too.

Mr. Poparad, That's what I wanted to hear.

(Laughter)

Commissioner Jeff Good, I was talking to Bob, I knew that's what he wanted.

Mr. Biggs, You might want to lead with that next time.

(Laughter)

Commissioner Laura Blaney, We took the hot tub out.

Commissioner Jeff Good, I just wanted to hold you in suspense that all. Yeah, we took the hot tub out.

Mr. Whitten, Listen guys, we've talked ad nauseam about some exciting things that we're going to be doing at the advent of this Foundation with money coming into this County that has never been here before. And some of these Capital Projects that this County is going to really benefit from and certainly that I've said many times that the priority for me is the Animal Shelter. So this is very exciting and the first of many projects that I assume that we will be seeing in this County from the investments that we have made from the Foundation funds. I think this County is going to be very proud of the things that they have to enjoy. And at the same time being the most or one of the most solvent Counties in the State.

Mr. Biggs, Well, this is about fixing what's broke and I think that's what we all want to do here. Is first address those things that we know that are broke and fix it. And I think that we are well on our way and I think that you have done an excellent job. But, I wish it were free, but it's not going to be free.

Ms. Graham, Right

Mr. Biggs, You have done an excellent job and let's keep moving forward.

Mr. Whitten, Alright

Commissioner Laura Blaney, We got a pretty good job donation to offset it.

Mr. Whitten, Yeah, that right we do have a nice donor!

Mr. Biggs, You would think she would get a better seat.

(Laughter)

Mr. Rivas, I'll make a motion to approve the Two million two hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$2,250,000)

Mr. Poparad, I'll second

Mr. Whitten, Motion and second, discussion? Go ahead Jeremy.

Mr. Rivas, No I was just going to keep it going forward.

Mr. Whitten, Oh ok. Alright, any other discussion? I think we talked about this a lot, I think that we kind of...

Ms. Graham, Well, I am glad that it is being done, we've needed it. Would I like it to costs less money...of course. But those that have served on this committee have said that this is the best plan and I am putting my faith in them. I have been told that the budget will not be hardly any more for it to function. So that's good news I am in favor of it.

Mr. Whitten, Ok, any other comments?

Commissioner Jeff Good, I would just like to make a point to the Council that with this new Facility, I think the one thing that is really hard to realize for all of us is that the tremendous revenue opportunities that are going to be available to the Shelter for adopting out dogs. Doing a lot of different things that is going to generate additional revenue that we've never been able to do that. And also, I feel that our Donor and Volunteer base will probably pick up quite a bit too.

Commissioner Laura Blaney, And the Donor base for that matter.

Commissioner Jeff Good, And the Donor base as well, so I think there's a lot of things that we always tend to want to get mired down in actual. But, I think looking forward I think there is going to be a lot of tremendous opportunities too.

Mr. Whitten, We've talked about that, I mean honestly, yes you would have to be oblivious to this not to realize that a better functioning and more advanced facility that's up with the times wouldn't be attracting more interest, more adoptions, more volunteers. It really is a tremendous step forward for the County and one of many. It's exciting times and I'm excited to be part of it.

Ms. Conover, Well quite frankly I feel like we have been running a concentration camp for homeless pets. And this is like Dan said it's been on the drawing board for years and now it's a reality. I am excited to be part of this.

Mr. Rivas, Made a motion to approve the Two million two hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$2,250,000) and Mr. Poparad seconded the motion.

Mr. Whitten, Thank you Karen. Let's get a roll call please.

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Ms. Conover	-	Yes	Mr. Poparad	-	Yes
Mr. Biggs	-	Yes	Mr. Rivas	-	Yes
Ms. Graham	-	Yes	Mr. Whitten	-	Yes
Mr. Jessen	-	Yes			

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 7-0

Mr. Whitten, It is approved.

(Crowd cheers and applauds)

Commissioner Laura Blaney, I will have to go and tell the animals that.

Mr. Poparad, Now you probably just witnessed the last ten (10) to zero (0) vote

(Laughter)

Commissioner Jeff Good, Not if I have my way.

Mr. Poparad, Well, sometimes it's not all about you Jeff.

Commissioner Jeff Good, Well it's all about us.

Mr. Poparad, Us

Ms. Graham, That's right.

Donor Jacki Stutzman, Thank you

Ms. Graham, Thank you, thank you (Ms. Jacki Stutzman)

Mr. Poparad, Thank you. Why didn't she (Ms. Jacki Stutzman) get a seat up front?

Mr. Whitten, A million dollars does buy you a seat up front.

Mr. Poparad, You think, she could have my seat.

(Applause)

Mr. Whitten, Thank you Jacki.

Mr. Poparad, No, no, no now you guys got to stay....come on.

(Laughter)

Mr. Whitten, Bob likes an audience.

Mr. Poparad, Well, yeah. We all bathed today...

Mr. Whitten, Moving right along Memorial Opera House.

Memorial Opera House – 4915-0000-44

Mr. Whitten, Moving right along Memorial Opera House.

Mr. Rivas, I don't think we need to spend any more money today Dan, I move to adjourn.

(Laughter)

Mr. Whitten, I thought you had an Audition?

Director Scot MacDonald, We do at seven o'clock.

Mr. Whitten, Oh, ok.

Mr. Poparad, Should he be allow to vote on any items from the Opera House?

Ms. Graham, He should abstain

Mr. Poparad, Abstain from acting or abstain from voting?

(Laughter)

Mr. Whitten, Probably the acting.

Director Scot MacDonald, No

Mr. Whitten, Ok we got an additional Forty thousand (\$40,000) dollars to 3760 to Royalties. Reason, appropriation submitted to our Royalties to cover the current year's royalty payments to our 2016 season and the encumbrances of the purchase orders requested by the attached vendors in order to secure the rights for our 2017 season. Also there are some Transfers, \$2,000 from 3170 Director/Choreographer to 2230 Food and Groceries for restocking bars with higher quality products etcetera...etcetera...; \$2,500 from 3170 Director/Choreographer to 3930 Dues and Subscriptions need to pay midyear licenses and dues (ASCAP, BMI etc...); \$5,000 from 3310 Printing other than Office Supplies to 2250 Other Supplies need to pay expenses for remaining shows for 2016 (production expenses including costumes, props anything not set related). What's your pleasure with this?

Mr. Poparad, I'll make the motion on the additional and the transfers all at the same time.

Ms. Graham, Second.

Mr. Whitten, There's a motion on the floor and a second. So what do we have in store? We have Grease coming up.

Director Scot MacDonald, Correct, and then we are auditioning Into the Woods right now and that opens up in September. And then we have Meet me in St. Louie for our Christmas offering. And we have a very, very exciting 2017 planned we have just finished the mail merge this week to send out to our Season Ticket holders to get them back on board and get them first crack at renewing their subscriptions for next year. And we have had a sixty-two percent (62%) increase in Season ticket packages since 2014 so we are very, very excited about all the good things that are happening right now at the Opera House.

Mr. Whitten, Well if things start slumping Laura and I will contemplate getting back on the stage.

Director Scot MacDonald, Please get back on stage it really helps a lot.

Mr. Whitten, Sure

Mr. Biggs, The additional \$40,000 where is that coming out of?

Director Scot MacDonald, That would be an additional that we actually have the funds for right now in Mocha we are covered on that. Essential what we are doing is that we are making encumbrances in our PO's and when we make the encumbrances for next year it diminishes what have that we pay for this year. So we have the money in our account and we also have it in the bank currently too. We can always do a secondary report of collections for income and move funds over from revenue

Mr. Biggs, Well you seem enthused about it

Mr. Poparad, Yes seriously, it makes me want to get up there...not really.

Director Scot MacDonald, Come on out, come on out...

Natalia Klobuchar, Come audition

Director Scot MacDonald, I have plenty of rolls available of Into the Woods I love to see all of you.

Ms. Graham, You got a roll for a grumpy old guy part.

(Laughter)

Mr. Whitten, Ouch

Ms. Graham, I'm sorry Bob

Mr. Whitten, Ok let's get a roll call.

Mr. Poparad made a motion on the additional and the transfers for MOH. Ms. Graham seconded the motion.

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Mr. Biggs	-	Yes	Mr. Rivas	-	Yes
Ms. Graham	-	Yes	Mr. Whitten	-	Yes
Mr. Jessen	-	Yes	Ms. Conover	-	Yes
Mr. Poparad	-	Yes			

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 7 – 0

Director Scot MacDonald, Thank you very much

Natalia Klobuchar, Thank you

Ms. Graham, Good luck

Surveyor

General Fund – Surveyor 1000-1006-06

Mr. Whitten, General fund Surveyor transfer \$5,426.28 from 1110 Salaries to 1120 Hourly transfer unused Salary funds from a gap in personnel employment to hourly.

Ms. Conover, Moved

Ms. Graham, Second

Mr. Whitten, We have a motion and a second on the floor, any discussion?

Mr. Biggs, How come you have transfer of...I mean where is this money coming from? You say a salary.

Surveyor Kevin Breitzke, It's in the General fund one of my employees left to join another department and he wasn't replaced for about two months. As you recall a couple of meetings ago we redefined positions...

Mr. Poparad, The Party Chief remember?

Surveyor Kevin Breitzke, The Party Chief and I am trying to get caught up with it.

Mr. Biggs, Ok, alright thank you.

Mr. Whitten, Any other questions? Does that answer your question Jim?

Mr. Biggs, Yes

Mr. Whitten, All in favor signify by saying I? Opposed? The I's have it.

Surveyor Kevin Breitzke, Thank you

Mr. Whitten, Have a good evening.

Surveyor Kevin Breitzke, You too.

Storm Water

Storm Water - 1182-0000-24

Mr. Whitten, Stormwater transfer \$40,000 from 1110 Salaries to 1120 Hourly. Transfer is for hourly employees with a bunch of names (Lisa Peschel-Champagna new part time hire and Deborah Kerr-Cook for Advisory Board Minutes). Also there is a transfer for \$50,000 from 3120 Consultants to 2360 Stones New account to be created to purchase aggregate for Storm Water Projects. Moving right along there is a transfer \$200,000 from 3950 Contractual Services to 2361 Culverts/Pipes To pay for culvert expense. And a Form 144 \$110,000 to \$105,000 Engineer P.E., Engineer hired at lower Salary and increasing hourly from \$14 to up to \$15.00 per hour. What is your pleasure?

Ms. Conover, Move to approve.

Ms. Graham, Second.

Mr. Whitten, There is a motion and a second on all of the requests and the 144 I assume?

Ms. Graham, Yes.

Ms. Conover, Yep.

Mr. Whitten, Any questions or discussions?

Mr. Biggs, Are you all using the Counties pricing for the aggregate? The price that we received for the Highway Department?

Director Bob Thompson Yes, and we are probably going to join them in doing our own bids in October...

Mr. Biggs, Ok good.

Director Bob Thompson, for the next year.

Mr. Whitten, Any other questions? There is a 144 give me a roll call please.

Ms. Conover Moved to approve Stormwater transfers and From 144 and Ms. Graham seconded the motion.

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Ms. Graham	-	Yes	Mr. Whitten	-	Yes
Mr. Jessen	-	Yes	Ms. Conover	-	Yes
Mr. Poparad	-	Yes	Mr. Biggs	-	Yes
Mr. Rivas	-	Yes			

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 7 – 0

Commissioner Jeff Good, Thank you

Director Bob Thompson, Thank you very much

Mr. Poparad, Thanks Bob

Sheriff

General Fund – Sheriff 1000-1005-05; Donations – Sheriff 4100-4108-05; DEA Fort Fund 8118-0000-05 and Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Grant 8121-0000-32.

Mr. Whitten, Sheriff General Fund (1000-1005-05) we have an additional \$11,156.85 to 1130 Overtime Special Service overtime reimbursement. On top of that we have additional \$2,501.94 to 3130 training, restore to training line item the reimbursement from HIDTA training class. Donations – Sheriff (4100-4105-05) additional \$3,000 to 3980 Event Expenses to cover workplace violence preparedness seminar expenses. DEA Fort Fund (8118-0000-05) additional \$2,000 to 3950 Contractual Services for Guard 911 setup fee for Hebron High and Middle Schools network school shooting law enforcement application.

Then there are a whole series of additional under the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Grant (8121-0000-32) additional \$23,200 to 1120 Hourly; \$1,800 to 1210 FICA; \$800 to 2110 Office Supplies; \$5,083 to 2250 Other Supplies; \$2,560 to 2330 Household and Bedding; \$56,875 to 3950 Contractual Services; \$4,091 to 4410 Office Equipment over \$100; \$2,660 to 4510 Data Processing Equipment. Reason newly created grant fund 8121 and then there's the Form 144 Hourly 1 (Part-time Case Worker) up to \$28.00 per hour (\$23,200) and that's it for the Sheriff. What's your pleasure with this?

Mr. Biggs, Motion to approve

Mr. Jessen, Second

Mr. Whitten, We have a motion and a second, I assume on all?

Mr. Biggs, Yes

Mr. Jessen, Yes

Mr. Whitten, Any discussion? This all seem pretty self explanatory...

Ms. Graham, Yeah,

Mr. Whitten, Sylvia?

Ms. Graham, I have one thing, What are the qualifications for this 144 that your having a part-time case worker?

Eddie Hahn, Well, we have a job description for her and we've got a intern that's been donating her time that we are looking at she just got out of School. She has a degree, but I don't know what her degree was in, but I am sure it pertaining to this. I didn't interview her.

Ms. Graham, Oh, you did?

Eddie Hahn, No I didn't

Ms. Graham, You don't know her degree for certain?

Eddie Hahn, No, but I could get that for you. But she does have to have a degree to do the job.

Mr. Whitten, That's a good question Sylvia are there any other questions?

Mr. Poparad, Will this be...is this in the Jail then?

Eddie Hahn, Yes. The Grant is for this treatment program and the money has to go for that treatment program.

Mr. Poparad, What about Porter Starke what do they do?

Mr. Whitten, Well it wouldn't so much be a question for here since this is a Grant but it might be a question when we talk to Porter Starke.

Ms. Graham, Right

Mr. Poparad, That's what I am saying are we doubling up?

Eddie Hahn, We are going to transfer part of that Porter Starke bill over to this fund so we can get it out of that.

Ms. Graham, Oh

Mr. Whitten, Something to remember when we do the Budgets.

Ms. Graham, Yes

Mr. Whitten, Another good question actually, any other questions?

Mr. Jessen, A questions regarding the Guard 911 setup fee for Hebron High and Middle Schools?

Eddie Hahn, Yes? That was a school for some reason they didn't bill them and we didn't know it. We did for every school in Porter County we signed them up for the app...for the active shooter app in the schools and for some reason they were missed and we didn't know it.

Mr. Jessen, Did the other schools pay their own or did...

Eddie Hahn, No we paid for set-up and they are responsible for paying for the maintenance. So we paid for...

Mr. Jessen, So Hebron was left off?

Eddie Hahn, Yeah, I am not sure how that happened. But they caught it and they are set-up now.

Mr. Jessen, And we paid for them just like we paid for everyone else?

Eddie Hahn, Right.

Mr. Jessen, Thank you

Mr. Poparad, Did everybody participate?

Mr. Biggs, Yes

Eddie Hahn, Yes

Mr. Poparad, In the whole County?

Mr. Biggs, Yes.

Mr. Poparad, I know there was some discussion at one time about...

Eddie Hahn, Well, we only paid for County Schools.

Ms. Conover, The City of Valparaiso paid

Eddie Hahn, They paid for there own.

Ms. Conover, And even some nursery schools.

Eddie Hahn, Yeah, there were some, yes.

Ms. Conover, So it's more than just the Public School system.

Eddie Hahn, Right.

Mr. Whitten, Right, ok. Any other questions? Hearing none roll call please.

Mr. Biggs, Moved to approve all the additional and 144 for the Sheriff. Mr. Jessen seconded the motion.

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Mr. Jessen	-	Yes	Ms. Conover	-	Yes
Mr. Poparad	-	Yes	Mr. Biggs	-	Yes
Mr. Rivas	-	Yes	Ms. Graham	-	Yes
Mr. Whitten	-	Yes			

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 7-0

Sheriff - Jail

General – House Federal Prisoner - 1000-1217-32 and General Fund – Jail 1000-1032-32.

Mr. Whitten, Ok, Sheriff Jail, House Fed Prisoner transfer \$80,000 from 2230 Food & Groceries to 3140 Medical & Hospital Services for Inmate Off-Site Medical invoices due. And then a General Fund – Jail transfer \$30,000 from 1110 Salary to 1130 Overtime. Reason the Jail unused salary to Jail Overtime to cover shortages. What is your pleasure with these two?

Mr. Poparad, I'll make the motion to get to discussion

Mr. Jessen, Second.

Ms. Conover, Second.

Mr. Whitten, There is a motion on this and a couple of seconds. Bob, discussion?

Mr. Poparad, Offsite medical?

Eddie Hahn, That's anything that our medical department can't handle.

Mr. Poparad, Right and?

Eddie Hahn, We have a guy on kidney dialysis that medical can't handle.

Mr. Poparad, Uh hmm

Eddie Hahn, We had an inmate with a broken foot, they can't handle broken bones. We had a childbirth, they can't handle childbirths.

Mr. Whitten, What are they doing at that jail? Sorry go ahead.

(Laughter)

Eddie Hahn, Anyway, and then we have...I just kind of gave you an estimate but it ends up to about \$50,000 dollars right now with all those plus we have a Medical...the Medical Company goes in and re-prices. Huge difference I could show the beginning and the ending price they give us a huge break by negotiating with these departments that send us (inaudible)

Mr. Biggs, I have a question? Is the person or individual on dialysis are they still there?

Eddie Hahn, I believe he is gone now...I'm not sure I would have to look him up. It's just, I'm only...

Mr. Biggs, Was he there for an extended period of time?

Eddie Hahn, Yes, he was with us quite awhile.

Ms. Conover, He didn't have insurance? Or Medicare or Medicaid?

Eddie Hahn, No he was indigent, but a lot of times Medicare will not cover when inmates are incarcerated. They won't cover. We had...

Mr. Poparad, Wait a minute, I got to cut you off right there, you said may not or will not?

Eddie Hahn, Well...

Mr. Poparad, I can't believe there's an either/or on this. Either they cover them or they don't?

Eddie Hahn, Well we've been going back and forth with them saying that this person is on and you should be paying and we fight it until they come back and say that they are refusing. We do sign them up now when they leave and when they go to the Hospital. I'm not sure the whole regiment that they do, but when they take someone to the Hospital and they have no insurance they do some kind of a form in order to get them on Medicare.

Mr. Poparad, The Hospital is setting right back here. No...no I want to dig into this because we are spending a million two hundred thousand on medical now and it seems like there is no bottom to that pit. And I guess I going to question they're on Medicare or they're not? I don't understand why there is a gray area in terms of will pay for Danny but we're not going to pay for Jim.

Eddie Hahn, I've been told they won't. But I've been fighting it and saying I can't find any paper that says they do or don't. And we fight back and forth with Agencies saying well this person has it but then they say we don't pay it because they are incarcerated.

Mr. Whitten, Who does the fighting?

Mr. Poparad, Yeah, who does?

Eddie Hahn, Any agency that is sending us a bill I send...

Eddie Hahn, Any agency that is sending us a bill. I send...we say they've got Medicaid and I can't see if they have Medicaid. I have no way only the providers can look into that system. So when we book them if they have any kind of an insurance card we get it. We get a copy of it we send it to whoever tries to sending us bills, especially if they have private insurance. And then we go through a regime of seeing if they will pay for it before...

Mr. Whitten, Here's what I would like to get. I'd like our Attorney to get into this and research it and give us an opinion on our standing on it. I think that, that's something that maybe we ought to get you a little help.

Eddie Hahn, I would like that

Mr. Biggs, Quite honestly, I don't know what this individual was charged with and why they were incarcerated to begin with but I can't imagine somebody on dialysis...

Ms. Graham, Yeah

Mr. Poparad, A flight risk.

Mr. Biggs, was out robbing banks. I don't know why they are not put under house arrest and taken out of our...you know

Eddie Hahn, Yeah, I don't...

Mr. Whitten, That could be... you don't get a bad kidney pass if you...

Mr. Poparad, I've got to go further with Jim's question. This guy was on dialysis before he got to us. Which means somebody was paying for it.

Eddie Hahn, I don't know the situation of what was...

Mr. Poparad, Well, you don't get dialysis over the weekend. I've got a nephew with that...so he was on dialysis before he got to us and now all of the sudden there...whoever was paying for it before now they're not going to pay?

Mr. Whitten, See here's the thing that's why I think we need to get our attorney involved and get an opinion.

Mr. Biggs, Yeah, this is very important because it's you know more and more people that are diabetic...we need to know.

Ms. Graham, What I would like our Attorney ...

Mr. Whitten, Sylvia?

Ms. Graham, Thank-you, what I'd like the attorney to check on is what are initial medical policy that we pay \$1.2 Million dollars a year for? And...

Mr. Poparad, And maybe it's time we had a chat with those people.

Ms. Graham, Yeah.

Mr. Poparad, I understand we don't have the machines for dialysis, but a broken bone? They won't touch a broken bone?

Eddie Hahn, I don't know how they would do it without...I mean they have a medical department there but...

Mr. Whitten, Well, you get a couple of sticks and you tie it on the leg...

Eddie Hahn, That's what I'm saying, you know we don't have x-rays.

Mr. Poparad, What about duct tape? My point is what are we paying \$1.2 Million dollars a year for?

Mr. Whitten, I'm not sure it is tasking broken bones...I could be wrong.

Mr. Poparad, Then I guess the rhetorical question is what are we paying \$1.2 Million dollars for?

Ms. Graham, That's what I'd like to know.

Mr. Poparad, Because I sit on that committee

Mr. Whitten, I tell you what, for the most part these are pretty good questions. Why don't we have our attorney give us the opinion on the billing issue; the liability of Medicare and doing so we can have a discussion at our next meeting about what the medical jail is covering

Ms. Graham, Thank you

Mr. Biggs, I think it's a very legitimate question.

Mr. Whitten, Yes

Mr. Biggs, I mean we are not a Hospital.

Mr. Poparad, Well we have the Hospital...one...two...three he is in the fourth row.

Mr. Biggs, But I don't...He would laugh at us if we say, can we send everybody over there for \$1.2 Million dollars.

Mr. Whitten, We're not quite sure if they would pay...

Eddie Hahn, That's where they usually go.

Mr. Rivas, How many offices do you need over there

Mr. Poparad, Can we qualify for indigent care? You have to do x amount of indigent care, I mean...Is his tax abatement up tonight?

Ms. Graham, But we do have a contract?

Eddie Hahn, Correct, we do have a contract with Correct Care Solutions and it is up in July so it would be a good time to look at it.

Mr. Whitten, We'll have a bigger discussion next month.

Mr. Poparad, Is it automatically renewed?

Ms. Graham, Oh yeah, it is.

Eddie Hahn, I will have to look, but I don't think...I have never agreed to an automatic renew but it was done before I came in.

Mr. Biggs, No there's...

Mr. Poparad, That was on new stuff..

Ms. Graham, But there was an increase last year.

Eddie Hahn, Yeah, there was an increase.

Mr. Poparad, But my question on automatic renews are we going to get 90 days or whatever that was an old contract. That was in the heyday.

Mr. Whitten, Did Scott leave already?

Mr. Poparad, I know Scott is not here.

Joy Blakely, I saw him go out the door.

Mr. Biggs, Could you do this could you ask for a print out of everything that they have serviced up to this date?

Eddie Hahn, Of? What do you mean service?

Gary Gear, What they cover basically?

Eddie Hahn, Oh, what they cover basically?

Mr. Biggs, No not what they will cover what they have covered.

Ms. Graham, Why don't we table it?

Mr. Poparad, Because we got to pay the bill. But this is different, but I am still questioning whether...

Mr. Whitten, (Tapped Gavel) Let's do one at a time. Jim what would you like?

Mr. Biggs, Well, some kind of information from the Service Provider as to what they have provided to us at this point and what it exactly is. I would rather have our Attorney look at the contract and tell us what it covers instead of them telling us what it covers.

Eddie Hahn, Oh right, well I can get him a contract or whoever...yeah.

Mr. Whitten, Jim did you have or Bob did you have something further?

Mr. Poparad, Well the Medicare question we are going to dig into.

Ms. Conover, Medicare or Medicaid?

Mr. Poparad, That's my only question, yeah Medicaid.

Eddie Hahn, Well I...well Medicaid refuses to pay. They flat out refuse it.

Ms. Conover, If they can...

Mr. Poparad, That's Federal?

Ms. Conover, They could pay for my prescription this morning but if I have a DUI tonight and have to go in there, they are not going to cover me?

Eddie Hahn, Right, they have refused.

Ms. Conover, Wow.

Eddie Hahn, Medicaid won't give me...I fight them all the time they will not give me anything in writing they keep telling me it is but they won't give me it. So I refuse to pay it until they give me it...

Mr. Whitten, We'll have, let's just have our attorney give us the global kind of opinion on this. Do a little digging in the well as they say.

Mr. Biggs, Because you're not...at the end of the day you haven't been convicted of anything yet, right?

Ms. Graham, Right

Mr. Biggs, You been arrested.

Mr. Poparad, Yeah.

Eddie Hahn, Yes, well...

Mr. Biggs, But you haven't been convicted.

Mr. Whitten, Well not necessarily.

Mr. Rivas, You could be already incarcerated.

Eddie Hahn, We that's something that we could...I don't know if it would work but...

Mr. Whitten, Yeah, alright so anything else? Roll Call. Pardon?

Mr. Poparad, You have a motion?

Mr. Whitten, I think we had a motion for discussion, I think you made it.

Mr. Poparad, Alright.

Mr. Poparad made the motion for the Jail transfers. Seconded by Mr. Jessen and Ms. Conover.

Mr. Whitten, All in favor signify by saying I? Opposed? The I's have it.

The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Whitten, Thank you very much.

Eddie Hahn, Thank you.

Gary Gear, Thank you.

Mr. Whitten, And Harold would you kind of get in touch with them?

Attorney Harold Harper, Yes, I will

Mr. Whitten, Thanks I appreciated it.

Prosecutor - IVD

93.563 Title IVD Incentive 8895-0000-40

Mr. Whitten, Prosecutor IVD Incentive Additional \$17,000 to 4510 Data Processing Equipment reason to purchase of security equipment a bunch of stuff (card reader access, door sensors, cameras and software, 12 printers and 15 thin client computers). Existing equipment will be re-purposed to other County Offices. How's it going?

Laura Stafford, Good

Mr. Whitten, What's your pleasure?

Ms. Graham, Move

Mr. Jessen, Second

Mr. Whitten, We have a motion and a second. What other County Offices will be doing this? I am just curious?

Ms. Graham, Yes

Laura Stafford, I don't...I don't honestly know, IT came to me last month or six weeks ago and said they are already out of computers for the year.

Mr. Whitten, Wow.

Laura Stafford, So...

Mr. Whitten, Well that's good, we're still using them but I was just curious. Anything else? Roll call please.

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Mr. Poparad	-	Yes	Mr. Biggs	-	Yes
Mr. Rivas	-	Yes	Ms. Graham	-	Yes
Mr. Whitten	-	Yes	Mr. Jessen	-	Yes
Ms. Conover	-	Yes			

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 7-0

Mr. Whitten, Have a good evening.

Laura Stafford, Thank you.

Coroner

General Fund – Coroner 1000-1007-07

Mr. Whitten, Coroner transfer \$2,000 dollars for 3140 Med & Hospital to 2220 Uniforms and Clothing.

Mr. Biggs, Motion to approve

Ms. Graham, Second

Mr. Whitten, We have a motion and a second. Discussion? All in favor signify by saying I? Opposed? The I's have it.

The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Chuck Harris, Thank you everybody.

Mr. Whitten, Take care.

Chuck Harris, Have a good night.

Mr. Whitten, You too, see you at the Sock-Hop.

Porter Hospital Tax Abatement

Mr. Whitten, Porter Hospital Tax Abatement.

Mr. Poparad, That's Tax Abatement/Jail Medical wasn't it?

Hospital CEO Steve Lunn, Thank you for your business.

Mr. Whitten, Has everybody had the opportunity to look at the compliance statement?

Mr. Poparad, We don't take any action just accept it?

Mr. Whitten, If we are ok with it we accept it.

Mr. Poparad, But I mean we don't have to...

Ms. Graham, I have...

Mr. Poparad, Go ahead.

Mr. Whitten, Has everybody had the opportunity to look at the Compliance Statement?

Mr. Biggs, No

Ms. Conover, I didn't get it.

Ms. Graham, It was emailed to us.

Mr. Whitten, I think it was sent out.

Mr. Poparad, It was emailed.

Ms. Conover, It was emailed.

Attorney Harold Harper, I believe I forwarded it to...

Ms. Conover, Yes, you did

Attorney Harold Harper, everyone via email, but I certainly can...

Mr. Whitten, If you have questions about it know, I would...

Ms. Graham, I think what I had you've have already answered.

Mr. Rivas, Is Porter Hospital in compliance.

Attorney Harold Harper, Yes they are. They are in compliance, I have reviewed the abatement forms and they are in substantial compliance.

Mr. Rivas, Do we need a motion of some sort?

Mr. Whitten, Yeah, I motion to accept their Statement of Compliance.

Mr. Rivas, Moved to accept the order of Statement of Compliance.

Mr. Poparad, Second

Mr. Whitten, We have a motion and a second on the floor, any discussion?

Mr. Biggs, What year are we in? This abatement?

Mr. Whitten, This is 2016

Hospital CEO Steve Lunn, This is the third year.

Mr. Whitten, That's not true...yeah, no way.

Ms. Graham, Like five (5)

Mr. Poparad, More like 5th or 6th.

Hospital CEO Steve Lunn, I sorry third (3rd) year at the New Hospital, so I think it would be the fifth (5th) for that.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, We are in the forth (4th) year of abatement next year will be the fifth (5th).

Mr. Poparad, I thought that.

Hospital CEO Steve Lunn, I was close

Mr. Whitten, Ok...

Mr. Rivas, Are you sure all the paperwork is right?

Mr. Whitten, Yeah, it's right.

Attorney Harold Harper, It's right.

(Laughter)

Hospital CEO Steve Lunn, I have checked it myself a few times.

Mr. Whitten, Scott, myself and Harold met and looked through this stuff...there in there.

Attorney Harold Harper, That's correct, They're in substantial compliance, in fact more so you know on several accounts.

Mr. Biggs, Anything new coming up next year to address this year as far as the Hospital is concerned?

Hospital CEO Steve Lunn, As far as the compliance is concerned?

Mr. Biggs, As far as new programs, new hiring?

Hospital CEO Steve Lunn, Sure we've been hiring a lot of folks the report here is the year end so we are already up to somewhere in the ballpark of eight hundred and eighty (880) FTE's. We've been hiring a lot of Clinical Staff just because of the growth at the Hospital so we are already planning the next Construction Project to build on another wing to the Hospital. So we have a lot going on.

Mr. Biggs, so you are planning on building on building another wing

Hospital CEO Steve Lunn, That's correct.

Ms. Graham, I have a couple of questions?

Mr. Whitten, Sure, Sylvia.

Ms. Graham, I was down talking to a couple of people in Hebron and they said that the Ambulance you had down there in the Fire Department.

Hospital CEO Steve Lunn, Yes

Ms. Graham, Are you aware of any of that? That is was taken out?

Hospital CEO Steve Lunn, I'm sorry?

Ms. Graham, That it's been removed.

Hospital CEO Steve Lunn, Permanently, I don't know that.

Ms. Graham, I don't know

Hospital CEO Steve Lunn, But, I can find out I don't believe that we remove an ambulance from there but I can check.

Ms. Graham, Ok, that's what the Fire Chief told me.

Hospital CEO Steve Lunn, I'm sure he would know better than I.

Mr. Whitten, Any other questions? Yeah, and I guess that I would be curious to know an answer to what Sylvia was asking, so if you could let us know.

Hospital CEO Steve Lunn, Sure.

Mr. Whitten, I would appreciate that. Any other questions or concerns?

Mr. Biggs, I just want to say that in the past that I have not voted for the Abatement. But that was before you were brought on. And that was before some other changes have occurred that are very encouraging. And I think those sort of things need to be rewarded and I'm going to support it.

Hospital CEO Steve Lunn, Thank you

Mr. Whitten, And things are coming together. We talked about this before but when the original tax abatement came down the river, we saw this as an investment...

Ms. Graham, That's right.

Mr. Whitten, With a long term return and it seems like those things are coming together.

Mr. Biggs, I just like it when I ask a question you are very clear and very articulate about answering it. And I appreciate it.

Hospital CEO Steve Lunn, It's very hard for a southerner.

(Laughter)

Mr. Poparad, On the Plan Commission we just approved a long term what would you call that a long term care facility right beside you? Which we think based on what we were told is some more going right beside them.

Ms. Graham, Wonderful

Mr. Poparad, Memory care.

Hospital CEO Steve Lunn, There is a Memory Care facility at the property adjacent to us and I don't know if you saw the news earlier this week there is a lot of projects going on around us so that's...

Mr. Rivas, Moved to accept the Tax Abatement Statement for Porter Hospital. Seconded by Mr. Poparad.

Mr. Whitten, That's great, roll call please.

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Mr. Whitten	-	Yes	Mr. Jessen	-	Yes
Ms. Conover	-	Yes	Mr. Poparad	-	Yes
Mr. Biggs	-	Yes	Mr. Rivas	-	Yes
Ms. Graham	-	Yes			

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 7-0

Mr. Whitten, Thank you very much.

Hospital CEO Steve Lunn, Thank you

Mr. Whitten, Second reading please.

Second Reading

Auditor Vicki Urbanik,

Whereas it has been determined that it is now necessary to appropriate more money than was appropriated in the annual budget. Therefore be it ordained resolved by the Porter County Council of Porter County Indiana that for the expenses of the taxing unit the following additional sums of money are hereby appropriated out of the funds named and for the purposes specified subject to the laws governing the same.

General Fund

Sheriff General	1000-1005-1130-05	Overtime	\$	11,156.85
Sheriff General	1000-1005-3130-05	Training and Education	\$	<u>2,501.94</u>
			\$	13,658.79

Donation Fund

Donations - Sheriff	4100-4108-3980-05	Event Expenses	\$	3,000.00
---------------------	-------------------	----------------	----	----------

Hospital Sale Proceeds

Hospital Sales Proceeds	4903-0000-4210-30	Buildings	\$	2,250,000.00
-------------------------	-------------------	-----------	----	--------------

Memorial Opera House

Memorial Opera House	4915-0000-3760-44	Royalties	\$	40,000.00
----------------------	-------------------	-----------	----	-----------

SHF DEA Proceeds

Sheriff DEA Proceeds	8118-0000-3950-05	Contractual Services	\$	2,000.00
----------------------	-------------------	----------------------	----	----------

Prosecutor IV-D

Prosecutor IV-D	8895-0000-4510-40	Data Processing Equipment	\$	17,000.00
-----------------	-------------------	---------------------------	----	-----------

Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Group

16.593 ResSubAb (RSAT)	8121-0000-1120-32	Hourly	\$	23,200.00
16.593 ResSubAb (RSAT)	8121-0000-1210-32	FICA	\$	1,800.00
16.593 ResSubAb (RSAT)	8121-0000-2110-32	Office Supplies	\$	800.00
16.593 ResSubAb (RSAT)	8121-0000-2250-32	Other Supplies	\$	5,083.00
16.593 ResSubAb (RSAT)	8121-0000-2330-32	Household and Bedding	\$	2,560.00
16.593 ResSubAb (RSAT)	8121-0000-3950-32	Contractual Services	\$	56,875.00
16.593 ResSubAb (RSAT)	8121-0000-4410-32	Office Equipment over \$100	\$	4,091.00
16.593 ResSubAb (RSAT)	8121-0000-4510-32	Data Processing Equipment	\$	<u>2,660.00</u>
			\$	97,069.00

And that concludes second reading.

Mr. Poparad, I'll make the motion on second reading

Mr. Rivas, Second.

Mr. Whitten, Motion and a second, discussion? Roll Call please?

Mr. Poparad moved to approve second reading. Mr. Rivas seconded the motion.

Motion passed on the following roll call vote:

Ms. Conover	-	Yes	Mr. Poparad	-	Yes
Mr. Biggs	-	Yes	Mr. Rivas	-	Yes
Ms. Graham	-	Yes	Mr. Whitten	-	Yes
Mr. Jessen	-	Yes			

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 7 – 0

Housekeeping

Mr. Whitten, Thank you very much. Now we have a house keeping matter of...

Mr. Rivas, Dan I've got a question real fast?

Mr. Whitten, Yeah, go ahead.

Mr. Poparad, Quickly.

Mr. Rivas, Quickly are we in a hurry?

Mr. Poparad, No

Mr. Whitten, We are going to do our minutes. Do you want to do this under other matters? Or does this have to do with our next agenda item?

Mr. Rivas, Ahh

Mr. Whitten, I don't mean to hold you close to the vest you tend to get off track, we're quite not there

Mr. Rivas, Is there any other matter that may properly come before the Council is that my turn at that point?

Mr. Whitten, Every once in a while you kind of get off track, I am just trying to keep us focused.

Mr. Rivas, Is that like new business?

Mr. Whitten, We have a housekeeping matter, as you know I've had our secretary pull together books of all our minutes to have those formally approved here so I've asked her to put it on the agenda here as housekeeping approval of some past minutes. Mr. Rivas?

Mr. Rivas, Yeah, I make a motion to approve the minutes September 18th, 2014 through and including December 15th, 2014. Ah, there's a few more here and all of 2015 except 9-22, 9-24, 10-22 and 10-26.

Mr. Whitten, Those are all budget meetings and those are (inaudible) but we will have those for the next meeting.

Mr. Rivas, And then 2016 January through and including January 4th through April 26th, 2016.

Mr. Whitten, There's a motion is there a second?

Ms. Graham, Second

Mr. Whitten, There's a second. All in favor signify by saying I? Opposed? The I's have it.

The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Attorney's Report

Mr. Whitten, Anything Harold tonight under our attorney's report?

Attorney Harold Harper, There is not, I will do the research on the issue that was raised and provide that to the Council for the next meeting.

Any Other Matter That Comes Before the Council

Mr. Whitten, Very good and anything that might come before the Council Jeremy?

Mr. Rivas, Any other matter?

Mr. Whitten, Any other matter?

Mr. Rivas, The Hospital or the ambulance thing brought to my attention the ambulance contract when is that up? Do we know?

Mr. Biggs, It is up at the end of the year.

Mr. Whitten, I don't think so.

Mr. Biggs, I think so.

Mr. Rivas, Can we find out when the ambulance contract is up?

Mr. Whitten, I don't think so, I think your wrong. Let me just tell you what I have been advised. I thought the same as Jim, that it up at the end of this year. Until recently I was advised that in fact it has been extended for a number of years albeit with a ninety (90) day cancelation clause. I think that, but don't hold me to this part, because I want to see it, but it's a five (5) year contract with a ninety (90) day cancelation clause. So, technically it not up at the end of this year and that was something that I...

Mr. Biggs, Well when was it extended?

Ms. Conover, Possible September or October of 2014.

Mr. Whitten, There was a meeting, and I don't know because it was a Commissioner's meeting where they did extend it apparently.

Mr. Biggs, So there was formal action taken by the Board of Commissioners?

Mr. Whitten, It was...at least that's what I am being advised.

Mr. Rivas, Is there a price tag on this?

Mr. Whitten, Yes, and I don't know all the particulars because I think it goes up...

Ms. Graham, We need to have our lawyer look at that one too.

Mr. Whitten, because I think it goes up. But, yes they did approve it. Yes they did extend it. And no it doesn't expire on its face at the end of this year.

Mr. Biggs, Well, I don't know how they could of extended it, when they didn't have the funds to extend it.

Mr. Whitten, I mean that's just something that we can...

Mr. Biggs, The funds are being taken out of and as everybody knows that the funds are being taken out of Hospital principal and that takes a 10-0 vote.

Ms. Graham, Right.

Ms. Conover, Yes.

Mr. Rivas, As I remember I think we annually voted on that though.

Mr. Poparad, No, that's all done by ordinance.

Mr. Whitten, That's right, that was excluded from the 10-0 vote.

Ms. Conover, Oh...

Mr. Rivas, I don't know because I still think we voted for it every year. We still have to vote for it every year.

Mr. Poparad, We vote for the Budget, we do not vote for the funding it's automatically done by the ordinance itself when we set-up the Hospital...when we sold the Hospital. It's written in the ordinance.

Mr. Whitten, It's correct, he's right about that.

Mr. Biggs, But there had to been a...

Mr. Rivas, That ordinance exist anymore?

Mr. Biggs, There had to have been a formal action taken by the Board of Commissioners to extent it.

Mr. Poparad, I can't...

Mr. Whitten, Ok let me just...I don't speak for the Commissioners, but I was as surprised to hear about this as you are quite frankly. But, I am being told that they did take some official action and that they did vote on it. I think that it was at the end of last year beginning of this year, I am not certain as to what day. But I also was thinking that it was coming up because I was interested in a couple of other routes that we might go, perhaps some fire/ambulance districts or something like that. We could talk to some of the local fire districts to see what they might be able to cover and extend some of their coverage districts. And get some pricing from their perspective stakeholders at route and at that time I was advised that the contract had in fact been extended by the Commissioners and I didn't get that from a Commissioner I asked that question from our County Attorney and upon researching that he got back to me about that last week.

Mr. Biggs, Yes because I know that there was in 2012 when the first contract came up...

Mr. Whitten, Yes

Mr. Biggs, under the new providers which is Community Health

Mr. Biggs, Yes

Mr. Biggs, There was extensive discussion by this Board to the Board of Commissioners that we would like to see this bid out.

Mr. Whitten, Yes

Mr. Biggs, And we were, because they had waited to the last minute if you all remember...

Mr. Whitten, Yes

Mr. Biggs, We all said, well our backs are against the wall we don't have time to bid it out we have to renew it. We did with the promise that was made to us that it will be bid out at the end of that three (3) year term.

Mr. Rivas, That's right.

Mr. Whitten, And I agree with that Jim, you are absolutely accurate. I think that what... I don't think that that necessarily...again the fact that they extended it that does surprise me. Let's just say that comes as a surprise; however I have been assured now that there is a cancelation clause within there. So we could still proceed into the bid process and I think that might be something that we should discuss as we moved forward with the budgets because...

Mr. Biggs, I mean we're not, everybody understands without saying. We're not doing ourselves any favors by taking a multi-million dollar service contract and not bidding it out at least once every three years or so.

Mr. Whitten, Well and I think that and I could be way off base here but, I know that when we talked about this before there was some conversation that you don't want some Mom and Pop ambulance shop being your emergency transportation provider and you know that you are not going to find anybody like in kind. Well in talking to some of these Fire Chiefs...

Mr. Rivas, Yes.

Mr. Whitten, I mean the discussion we started having was well we could provide and we would even be willing to provide in a greater area. And I mean, Mike and I live close to Four Seasons...I mean if you are living a little bit south of Four Seasons you need an ambulance the Four Seasons Fire Department could be there in a minute and maybe Porter gets there in twenty (20). So from a public safety aspect that makes sense to me. You know and I don't know what the cost of all that would be and we would have to talk to all the respective providers that might be...you know we could set grids set-up districts those are the things we need to talk about.

Mr. Biggs, Yeah, it's really without saying, I mean there are several options that are out there. You know at the end of the day Porter Hospital may very well be our best option.

Mr. Whitten, Right

Mr. Biggs, But, when we're talking several million dollars of a contract like that you know we owe it to everyone...the people paying for this contract that we are at least every three years are looking for the best price and the best deal.

Mr. Whitten, Right, I mean and again south county and Sylvia raised the question...

Ms. Conover, Right.

Ms. Graham, Yeah.

Mr. Whitten, Over Hebron ambulance, I mean...

Mr. Rivas, That's why I brought it up.

Mr. Biggs, And I...and the other thing is that I have been following this thing pretty closely...

Mr. Rivas, Obviously not close enough.

Mr. Biggs, Well no...

Mr. Whitten, Way to keep your eye on the ball Jim.

Mr. Biggs, No, I do not remember a formal action being taken by the Board of Commissioners to extend that contract.

Mr. Whitten, I was not aware of that and I was advised again to an absolute 100% certainty last week by the County Attorney.

Mr. Biggs, And I also...

Mr. Whitten, That's Harold.

Mr. Biggs, Harold, sorry...I would also be interested in how many signatures are on that contract.

Mr. Whitten, Here what we want to do...

Mr. Jessen, Let's do some research....

Mr. Whitten, Yeah.

Mr. Jessen, and find out what they are talking about and then have a discussion about this.

Mr. Whitten, Yeah, here's what I like you to do Harold, why don't you get us a copy of the contract that was...because I think there might be some...I don't want to say that the Commissioner's did something wrong because I don't know that it may be that they negotiated a slightly better rate to do it in the contract extension, but also negotiated in there the cancelation clause that we could move directions. It might of made perfect sense of what they did, so I don't want this to be someone feeling like they did some sleight of hand. But Harold, why don't you get us a copy of that contract and we can start the discussion from there.

Ms. Conover, And I have a question too. Was the contract in 2014 extended for five years or just up to the five years? Because we had the three year...there's so many moving parts to this.

Mr. Whitten, Yeah, and that will give us an idea and I think it's valid and we would have to be willing to and ready to discuss this at our budget meetings this time, so we will. So Harold if you could get that together for us will kind of move forward with that discussion. Ok, anything else?

Mr. Rivas, No, Dan just to finish up I do agree that I think the conversation should have extended out to the municipalities who do provide the services and had them and there has been some discussion on fire and ambulance territories districts as you can see right now you have Portage, Chesterton and Valparaiso who are moving to jointly work on hiring people to go through the hiring process.

Mr. Biggs, But Jeremy the conversation should have started first...should have started with this Board first. We sat here and berated the Voters Registration Board for go out and buying the computers and signing the contract before they had the money in front of them.

Mr. Whitten, Here's what I think Jim. What I think we should do is get a copy of the contract and when the Commissioners are setting in front of us let's ask the questions.

Mr. Biggs, Yeah, that's fine I'm just really caught off guard by this.

Mr. Whitten, As was I, so anything else?

Ms. Conover, Nope

Mr. Rivas, Motion to adjourn

Mr. Whitten, Second, all in favor, goodnight.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned.

**PORTER COUNTY COUNCIL
PORTER COUNTY, INDIANA**

Jim Biggs

Karen Conover

Sylvia Graham

Mike Jessen

Bob Poparad

Jeremy Rivas

Dan Whitten

Attest: _____