

**PORTER COUNTY COUNCIL
Regular Council Meeting
January 23, 2018**

The Porter County Council met on Tuesday, January 23, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in the County Administration Center, 155 Indiana-Suite 205, Valparaiso, Indiana.

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

Members present were Council Member Jeremy Rivas, Council Member Karen Conover, Council Member Sylvia Graham, Council Member Mike Jessen, Council Member Jeff Larson, and Council Member Dan Whitten. Also present was Council Attorney Harold Harper, Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Auditor Chief Deputy Toni Downing and Council Administrative Assistant Joy Blakely. Not Present Council Member Andy Bozak.

First Reading

Mr. Rivas, Alright first reading.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Yes.

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 January 23, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. to consider the following additional appropriations in excess of the county budgets for the year 2018 and to transact any further business which might come before the Council:

Local Health Maintenance Fund

Local Health Maintenance	1168-45100-000-0610	Data Processing Equipment	\$ 4,000.00
Local Health Maintenance	1168-32200-000-0610	Telephone	\$ <u>3,000.00</u>
			\$ 7,000.00

Storm Water Fund

Storm Water	1182-21100-000-0079	Office Supplies	\$ 5,000.00
Storm Water	1182-33400-000-0079	Advertising	\$ <u>1,500.00</u>
			\$ 6,500.00

Plan Commission Fund

Plan Commission	1180-32200-000-0079	Telephone	\$ 5,000.00
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Surveyor Perpetuation Fund

Surveyors Perpetuation	1202-45400-000-0006	Other Equipment	\$ 45,000.00
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Local Health Maintenance Trust (Tobacco Fund)
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Local Health Maint. Trust	1206-33400-000-0610	Advertising	\$ 3,000.00
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Sheriff Drug Task Force Fund

Sheriff Drug Task Force	4010-12100-000-0005	FICA	\$ 733.00
Sheriff Drug Task Force	4010-12400-000-0005	Per Diem	\$ 9,600.00
Sheriff Drug Task Force	4010-21100-000-0005	Office Supplies	\$ 1,500.00
Sheriff Drug Task Force	4010-22500-000-0005	Other Supplies	\$ 2,000.00
Sheriff Drug Task Force	4010-23200-000-0005	Auto, Truck & Equip Supplies	\$ 1,000.00
Sheriff Drug Task Force	4010-23500-000-0005	Building Maintenance Supplies	\$ 1,000.00
Sheriff Drug Task Force	4010-39910-000-0005	Other Services	\$ 24,000.00
Sheriff Drug Task Force	4010-44200-000-0005	Motor Vehicles	\$ <u>10,000.00</u>
			\$ 49,833.00

Inmate Processing Fund

Inmate Processing Fund	4911-36200-000-0380	Building & Structures R&M	\$	16,000.00
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Public Health Preparedness (Bioterrorism) Fund
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Public Health Preparedness	8119-39500-000-0610	Contractual Services	\$	70,765.50
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45.025 MOH IAC Arts Support Grant Fund
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45.025 MOH IAC	8300-39500-000-0175	Contractual Services	\$	240.00
45.025 MOH IAC	8300-44100-000-0175	Office Equipment over \$100	\$	<u>9,867.35</u>
			\$	10,107.35

MOH Anderson Foundation Fund

MOH Anderson	9300-45400-000-0175	Other Equipment	\$	1,898.05
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MOH U-W Power Youth Fund

MOH U-W Power Youth	9301-39910-000-0175	Other Services	\$	2,000.00
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MOH Arts Midwest Touring Fund

MOH Arts Midwest	9302-39910-000-0175	Other Services	\$	553.00
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MOH PCCD Sparking the Arts Fund

MOH PCCD Spark	9304-39500-000-0175	Contractual Services	\$	6,684.83
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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 January 12, 2018

Mr. Rivas, Alright thank you.

Mr. Whitten, Mr. Chairman can I make a quick suggestion? I know that we have under other matters some certificates at the end of the meeting because its awards can we do that early on?

Mr. Rivas, Absolutely we can get to it right now. Mr. Brickner

Mr. Larson, Do you want to move to accept minutes?

Mr. Rivas, What's that?

Mr. Whitten, There not on the agenda.

Mr. Rivas, There not on the agenda.

Mr. Whitten, Good question...why aren't they?

Executive Director Michael Bricker, First of all I'd like to thank the Council for giving me this opportunity to recognize three of our dispatchers for some outstanding work. This is kind of a new opportunity for our center but also members of the Council and members of the audience here tonight to be able to get a little idea of

some of the good work that goes on at the 911 Center. I've had the opportunity to serve in Law Enforcement prior to this job for thirty-one years and in the last fourteen years as chief and over that amount of time I really had the honor and privilege to recognize several Police Officers for a job well done. As Executive Director for Porter County Public Safety now, I have really come to appreciate more than ever the outstanding work that is performed at our 911 Center by our dispatchers on a day to day basis. It's been an eye opening experience for me and tonight maybe just be able to share a little bit of that with all of you. Without a doubt our dispatchers are the unsung heroes of public safety. They are the initial contact for citizens and our public safety partners when help is needed. They perform their duties mostly behind the scenes and our rarely recognized for their work even though it is of utmost importance. What I'd like to do is just kind of read a brief description of the award that is going to be given tonight. One of our most distinguished awards that an employee may receive is the honorable mention award. This award is to be given for exemplary work by an employee, work which shows a high degree of skill and a thorough knowledge of proper procedure. This award is presented to an employee who demonstrates outstanding work in critical and stressful situations. What I'd like to do now is please just have Cara Reeder step up here with me. Just to share with the group that there were two other dispatchers as well that were part of this incident that could not make it this evening the work schedule is pretty tight, but I appreciate Cara being here and some other employees from the center.

What I will do know is just kind of kind of read a brief synopsis of the incident that Cara is being recognized for tonight. In December of 2017 our dispatch center was advised of a burglary in progress originating in the City of Portage. A vehicle pursuit began and continued on to the Indiana toll road. Our dispatchers' maintained contact with all the officers involved which included Portage Police department and the Indiana State Police. During the pursuit, dispatchers were also handling...this was going on at the same time seven additional unrelated police calls. Five medical calls which included a full cardiac arrest and twenty-nine additional unrelated phone calls, all going on at the same time they were maintaining contact with the officers involved in the pursuit. Our dispatchers worked together as a team and conducted themselves professionally during this chaotic and dangerous situation. The pursuit was eventually terminated on the toll road and resulted in the arrest of two suspects who were charged with numerous crimes. No injuries came to the officers or injuries came to any innocent bystanders. Now if this incident...if I were to give some details on the incident we most likely would have read about the officers involved in the media, either the newspaper or social media. But like I said really the dispatchers who are the initial contact and maintained contact throughout this entire incident and also have numerous other things going on aren't mentioned. So that's why tonight for their outstanding work during this incident it is my honor to present the Porter County 911 honorable mention award to Cara Reeder. Congratulations Cara.

(Applause)

I present this to Cara, the other dispatchers that could not be with us tonight...again because of work demands are Lori Maddack and Roberta Pollock. Again I just want to thank the members of the Council for allowing me to do this. It means a lot to us and to our employees at the center, so thank you very much I appreciate it. Congratulations.

(Applause)

Mr. Whitten, If I could just say real quick you know having spent a lot of years in police work and have been in a lot of police pursuits and so far I have always have been the pursuer...so that's a good sign. But how those pursuits end in tragedy or in seamless arrest as they are supposed to in many instances depends specifically on the kind of dispatcher that you have. They are not just your life line but they are coordinating so many things going on and when I look back on my years there were certain dispatchers that were really fantastic at it and could really juggle those hand grenades that were seemingly going to go off at any moment and they just made all the difference. So I congratulate your dispatchers on handling that the way they did it was incredibly stressful and people don't really realize that until they are there. And in many instances after it's over we look back and think oh my god with what I just

went through, but in the moment you are just having to rely on your training and your good sense. So congratulations on a job well done.

Ms. Graham, Well I could also add to that because several years ago my husband collapsed on the floor and I immediately recognized that he had a stroke from my hospital experience being a nurse practitioner. I dialed 911 and I'm telling you she...the person I talked to was very sharp and on the ball and I didn't even know there was a fire truck and ambulance in my driveway and she said well they're there now. But anyway I commend your department very much for what they do and he is perfectly fine today.

Mr. Rivas, Thanks, Mike do don't have anything else do you on the agenda? I mean do you want to present....

Executive Director Michael Bricker, No, but I really like to introduce our new E-911 Director if you would like?

Mr. Rivas, Yeah, I would like that.

Executive Director Michael Bricker, Sure, well I appreciate this opportunity to introduce Robert Lanchsweerd. Rob is our new 911 Director and I've know Rob for fourteen years and he is the retired chief of detectives and logistics supervisor from South Bend police department. He was an intricate part of the St. Joe County 911 consolidation. He sat on the board in St. Joe County for 911 consolidation process and Rob is an outstanding asset to our team he sort of completes the final piece of our team that we have been working on since I took this job in September. And again just to say he is going to be an intricate part as we move forward and really make Porter County 911 a model program for the state of Indiana. So with that I would just like to introduce Rob Lanchsweerd to the Council and members of the audience.

(Applause)

Mr. Rivas, Anybody have any questions for Rob, or do you want to wait till he till he presents his first request?

(Laughter)

Mr. Jessen, Let's just let him pass tonight.

Mr. Rivas, Alright, thanks Mike, Rob and Cara for your service. Alright we will move on, Joy there is no minutes for approval?

Administrative Assistant Joy Blakely, I have the Foundation minutes because I thought you guys wanted those...

Mr. Rivas, No, alright we will move on.

Superior Court IV – Judge Chidester

General Fund Superior Court IV - 1000-000-0204

Transfer \$495.95 from 31300 Training and Education to 2220 Uniforms and Clothing. Reason: New judicial robe for Judge Chidester.

Mr. Rivas, The first request is the Superior Court Judge Chidester, they did contact me about this request of \$495.95 so it's for a new robe. I did send an email and asking the Judge what color he would be getting but he never responded.

(Laughter)

Ms. Graham, I'll move to approve.

Ms. Conover, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Motion and a second, any further discussion? All in favor signify by saying Aye? Opposed? Motion carries.

Motion carries on a unanimous voice vote

Memorial Opera House

45.025 MOH IAC Arts Support Grant - 8300-000-0175

Additional \$240 to 39500 Contractual Services. Reason: We plan to utilize this money for teacher stipends with Limelight program.

Additional \$9,867.35 to 44100 Office Equipment over \$100. Reason: Received more funds from IAC Arts Operational Support Grant than originally intended. Will be using funds for new Box Office Equipment to make patron experience more efficient.

MOH Anderson Foundation - 9300-000-0175

Additional \$1,898.05 to 45400 Other Equipment. Reason: For technical operation expenses like audio, lighting and general equipment.

MOH United Way Power of Youth - 9301-000-0175

Additional \$2,000 to 39910 Other Services. Reason: New program expenses like Limelights and Peter and the Wolf, supplies, stipends etc...

MOH Arts Midwest Touring Fund - 9302-000-0175

Additional \$553 to 39910 Other Services. Reason: To partially pay for new acts/artists at Rock the House 5.

MOH PCCD Sparking the Arts Fund - 9304-000-0175

Additional \$6,684.83 to 39500 Contractual Services. Reason: Utilize for coordinator stipends for the Limelights as well as royalties for performances and other program expenses.

Mr. Rivas, Memorial Opera House.

Mr. Whitten, I'll make a motion on all of these additional.

Ms. Graham, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Motion and a second on all the additional. These are all...well the first one is a grant, are these all grants?

Ms. Graham, There all grants.

MOH Director Scot MacDonald, Yes.

Mr. Whitten, So what...not to jump off of the track here, what's coming up at the Opera House? What do we have on the agenda?

MOH Director Scot MacDonald, We open up the Hunchback of Norte Dame on the 16th of February. On the night before on the 15th we have our preview night of course and we have our ribbon cutting. We will be opening up the building for its 125th Anniversary to the public and we are very, very excited about all the things going on there. So again leading out with Hunchback of Notre Dame for three weeks, Blithe Spirit is our spring show and then Legally Blonde is our summer show. If anybody has any laptops that they are looking to get rid of we do need them for that show, we will take them. And then Sweeny Todd is our fall musical and It's a Wonderful Life Musical at Christmas time.

Mr. Whitten, Very cool...very cool.

MOH Director Scot MacDonald, Yes.

Mr. Whitten, And I did have the opportunity to stop in and chat for just a moment as you know...

MOH Director Scot MacDonald, Yes.

Mr. Whitten, with the Opera House Foundation Board and it seems like their putting some pretty cool things in place.

MOH Director Scot MacDonald, Yes.

Mr. Whitten, There is some movement to accent that 125th Anniversary Celebration so it sounds like some good things on the horizon.

MOH Director Scot MacDonald, Very, very exciting things happening.

Mr. Rivas, Any other discussion on the motion?

Mr. Whitten, Role call.

Mr. Rivas, Alright we will have a roll call on one, two, three, four, five and six...is that six additional?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Mr. Rivas	-	Yes
Ms. Conover	-	Yes
Ms. Graham	-	Yes
Mr. Jessen	-	Yes
Mr. Larson	-	Yes
Mr. Whitten	-	Yes

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 6-0

MOH Director Scot MacDonald, Thank you very much.

Mr. Whitten, Alright take care.

Surveyor

Surveyor's Perpetuation Fund - 1202-000-0006

Additional \$45,000 to 45400 Other Equipment. Reason: To purchase new survey equipment.

Mr. Rivas, Alright Surveyor's Perpetuation Fund additional \$45,000 dollars to other equipment to purchase new survey equipment.

Mr. Whitten, I'll make a motion on the.

Ms. Graham, Second.

Mr. Rivas, We have a motion and a second.

Mr. Whitten, Can you tell us what's in that fund Vicki just out of curiosity?

Surveyor Kevin Breitzke, \$77,856.18 dollars I think

Mr. Rivas, Thank you Vicki.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Ok.

Mr. Whitten, Could you bring it up?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Yes.

Mr. Whitten, So how much is...

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, \$77,856.18 dollars.

Mr. Whitten, So how much did we start with? Have we used any of that this year yet?

Surveyor Kevin Breitzke, No.

Mr. Whitten, Did we have anything coming out of it regularly?

Surveyor Kevin Breitzke, I did take out for a computer but that's already been taken out and that amount is right.

Mr. Whitten, So do you have anything coming up this year other things that might need to come out of this fund as you are sitting here today do you know?

Surveyor Kevin Breitzke, As this is a perpetuation fund in conjunction with the Recorder it's refreshed on a monthly basis.

Mr. Whitten, Ok.

Surveyor Kevin Breitzke, So yes I need to replace vehicles as I explained during budget I need to replace equipment...it's really outdated.

Mr. Whitten, But you are confident that this fund will be feed sufficient to do those things.

Surveyor Kevin Breitzke, Oh yes.

Mr. Whitten, Ok.

Mr. Rivas, Any other questions or further discussion? Roll call.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Ms. Conover	-	Yes
Ms. Graham	-	Yes
Mr. Jessen	-	Yes
Mr. Larson	-	Yes
Mr. Whitten	-	Yes
Mr. Rivas	-	Yes

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 6-0

Surveyor Kevin Breitzke, Thank you.

Health Department

Local Health Maintenance - 1168-000-0610

Additional \$4,000 to 45100 Data Processing Equipment. Reason: To purchase 5 tablets for Food service Inspectors utilizing the new digital Health Department software.

Additional \$3,000 to 32200 Telephone. Reason: Data plan for 5 new tablets

Local Health Maintenance Trust (Tobacco Fund) - 1206-000-0610

Additional \$3,000 to 33400 Advertising. Reason: Radio spots with Sheriff Reynolds and Dr. Spittler regarding Naloxone kits.

Public Health Preparedness (Bioterrorism) - 8119-000-0610

Additional \$70,765.50 to 39500 Contractual Services. Reason: Department of Homeland Security Grant distributed through Indiana State Department of Health.

Mr. Rivas, Health Department, Local Health Maintenance...

Mr. Whitten, I'll make a motion on all three of these...four of these additional. None of them are general fund.

Mr. Larson, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Motion and a second on...

Mr. Whitten, Oh no we are not going to vote until you guys get up here now.

(Laughter)

Mr. Jessen, Nice try.

Mr. Whitten, That almost looks to easy man.

Health Department Connie Rudd, I was walking slow....

Mr. Rivas, Motion and a second on all four additional, any discussion?

Mr. Whitten, So are you guys dealing with...I am sure this outbreak of the flu epidemic and there is a lot of concern and a lot of media about this. What are we seeing in Porter County?

Health Department Connie Rudd, There have been twenty-five (25) deaths in Indiana and we have had some in Porter County and most of them have had...not most of them but the three that we had have been older folks with other underlying conditions. We still do have flu vaccine, traditionally the influenza time peaks in February, so if you haven't had a flu shot you know there is time. It takes about two weeks to develop some antibodies. It's not like you get the immunization and the immunity switch is flipped on but you need about two weeks. So you still got some coverage if you...especially if you underlying medical conditions you really still should have a flu shot if you haven't gotten one. The match as they say is about twenty to thirty percent effective, which we of course would like to see higher but they always say if you have a flu shot even with that coverage it should help you not get a serious case. So we tell everybody to wash your hands, you know we tell everybody if you touch anything anybody else has...you touch your eyes, you touch your nose...wash your hands.

Mr. Larson, Statically the numbers really ignore...the flu is ignored mainly or you don't hear about it a lot.

Health Department Connie Rudd, Well...

Mr. Larson, Are we that much higher in the state currently than we have been in the past?

Health Department Connie Rudd, No Jeff the last three years has been really kind of a anticlimactic flu season. So people get complacent, you know if it's not in your face where your children are not dying and you're not having a early bad serious influenza problem then people are just not interested in getting a flu shot. So when you start seeing flu cases and children dying... you know you have seen young healthy twenty year old body builder that died of the flu. A forty year old just last week with three young children who was a runner died from the flu, I mean it's serious.

Mr. Larson, Right.

Health Department Connie Rudd, And it could lead to some...and it's respiratory, you know it's pneumonia, it's bronchitis, it's fever and you are really sick.

Mr. Whitten, Thank you very much for that.

Health Department Connie Rudd, Your welcome.

Mr. Whitten, That's all I have.

Mr. Rivas, Any further discussion on the additional? Roll call.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Ms. Graham	-	Yes
Mr. Jessen	-	Yes
Mr. Larson	-	Yes
Mr. Whitten	-	Yes
Mr. Rivas	-	Yes
Ms. Conover	-	Yes

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 6-0

Health Department Connie Rudd, Thank you all.

Mr. Whitten, Thank you.

Health Department Connie Rudd, And also we are diligently on the opioid problem and we've had some things and have had for a little while so if you want to know more about that we could tell you more.

Mr. Whitten, That's good thank you very much.

Mr. Jessen, Have a good evening.

Storm Water Management

Plan Commission - 1180-000-0079

Additional \$5,000 to 32200 Telephone. Reason: To pay for monthly cell phone usage and monthly GPS for department vehicles

Storm Water - 1182-000-0079

Additional \$5,000 to 21100 Office Supplies. Reason: For annual office supplies

Additional \$1,500 to 33400 Advertising. Reason: To advertise job posting advertisements

Transfer \$30 from 33200 Legal Notices to 33400 Advertising. Reason: Pay invoice for job posting of Engineer I position from 2017.

Mr. Rivas, Storm Water Management – Planning Commission....

Mr. Whitten, I make a motion on the Planning Commission additional as well as the two additional for Storm Water and the transfer.

Mr. Larson, Second.

Mr. Rivas, There is a motion and a second for the additional.

Mr. Whitten, And the transfer.

Mr. Rivas, And the transfer.

Mr. Whitten, None of this stuff is General Fund and it all seems pretty straight forward.

Mr. Rivas, Any discussion...anything further for discussion? I guess I will ask a little bit, what....

Ms. Graham, (Inaudible)

Mr. Rivas, Can I ask?

Ms. Graham, Sure.

Mr. Rivas, Thank you.

Mr. Whitten, That's no way to talk to Sylvia.

Ms. Graham, I did interrupt him.

Mr. Whitten, Oh...ok.

Mr. Rivas, I don't know what she said actually...so with the additional so for office supplies why was this...

Storm Water Director Bob Thompson, I forgot to put it into the 2018 budget when it was approved. If was pointed out when my bookkeeper asking me if I thought we didn't need any supplies and it was like oops.

Ms. Graham, I thought the Commissioners did all the office supplies?

Mr. Whitten, Well we don't do that with Storm Water

Storm Water Director Bob Thompson, I have to purchase all of my own.

Mr. Whitten, Yeah and we want it that way.

Storm Water Director Bob Thompson, I would be more than happy to let the Commissioners purchase them.

Mr. Whitten, No, no it stays right there in the Storm Water.

(Laughter)

Mr. Rivas, Alright any further discussion? Roll call.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Mr. Jessen	-	Yes
Mr. Larson	-	Yes
Mr. Whitten	-	Yes
Mr. Rivas	-	Yes
Ms. Conover	-	Yes
Ms. Graham	-	Yes

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 6-0

Storm Water Director Bob Thompson, Thank you.

Mr. Rivas, Thank you.

Mr. Larson, Thanks...nice beard.

Sheriff

Sheriff Drug Task Force Fund - 4010-000-0005

Additional \$733 to 12100 FICA

\$9,600 to 12400 Per Diem
\$1,500 to 21100 Office Supplies
\$2,000 to 22500 Other Supplies
\$1,000 to 23200 Auto, Truck and Equipment Supplies
\$1,000 to 23500 Building Maintenance Supplies
\$24,000 to 39910 Other Services
\$10,000 to 44200 Motor Vehicles

Reason: To Complete the move from PC Prosecutors PC Narcotic Unit to the Porter County Sheriff Drug Task Force (PCMeg)

Mr. Rivas, Sheriff...Sheriff Drug Task Force.

Mr. Whitten, And Jeremy I'll make a motion on all these additional.

Mr. Larson, I'll second that.

Mr. Whitten, And I did have the opportunity to chat with Sheriff Reynolds who is out of town today about this and this just seems to be the final step to move things over from the Prosecutor's Office...

Mr. Larson, The leftovers.

Mr. Whitten, to the Sheriff's Department. As you know we had to make a decision last year to move that drug unit...more on that later. So this seemed to be finishing the moving of the monies.

Mr. Rivas, Later as in later in the meeting or later down the road?

Mr. Whitten, Who's to say.

Mr. Rivas, So there is a motion and second on the floor for the additional? Any other discussion...Sylvia?

Ms. Graham, No.

Mr. Rivas, Roll call.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Mr. Larson	-	Yes
Mr. Whitten	-	Yes
Mr. Rivas	-	Yes
Ms. Conover	-	Yes
Ms. Graham	-	Yes
Mr. Jessen	-	Yes

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 6-0

Jail

Inmate Processing Fund - 4911-000-0380

Additional \$16,000 to 36200 Building and Structures. Reason: Upgrading the building coaxial cable and receivers from analog to digital.

Mr. Rivas, Jail Inmate Processing Fund.

Mr. Whitten, We also spoke about this one and I'll make a motion on the additional \$16,000 to Buildings and Structures this is also non-general fund money, it's an upgrade requirement.

Ms. Graham, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Motion and a second, discussion?

Mr. Larson, Is this separate from the 911 stuff that we are doing?

Sheriff Comptroller Eddie Hahn, Yes.

Mr. Rivas, Roll call.

Mr. Larson, Nice answer.

Mr. Rivas, Was there more discussion to be had?

Mr. Larson, No.

Mr. Whitten, No it was a good answer.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Mr. Whitten	-	Yes
Mr. Rivas	-	Yes
Ms. Conover	-	Yes
Ms. Graham	-	Yes
Mr. Jessen	-	Yes
Mr. Larson	-	Yes

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 6-0

Sheriff Comptroller Eddie Hahn, Thank you.

Mr. Rivas, Thanks.

Mr. Whitten, Thanks a lot have a good one.

Adult Probation (tabled from 11-28-2017)

Admin Fees Adult Probation - 2000-000-0274

Transfer \$206.62 from 11100 Salaries to 11210 Prior Year Payroll. Reason: New Chief's salary for the final four pays of 2017 per the Porter County Judges.

Mr. Rivas, Adult Probation Admin Fees transfer.

Ms. Graham, Move to approve.

Ms. Conover, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Good evening...\$206.62 to Salaries so there is motion and second on the floor.

Mr. Whitten, A quick question...no one was here at the last time when this was up before. So this additional money it's a higher salary? When was that decision made to increase the salary?

Chief Probation Officer Melanie Golumbeck, The original appropriation was made in October. I know when the Judges originally hired our new chief it was discussed so the original appropriation was incorrectly submitted back in October.

Mr. Whitten, Ok, that's all I want to know.

Mr. Rivas, I have a motion and a second right?

Ms. Graham, Yes.

Mr. Rivas, Any more discussion? It's a transfer so all in favor? All those opposed? Motion carries.

Motion carries on a unanimous voice vote

Mr. Rivas, Thank you. Did I miss anything? Second reading, that's you Vicki.

Mr. Whitten, That's you Vicki your are on.

Second Reading

Auditor Vicki Urbanik,

Whereas it has been determined that it is now necessary to appropriate more money than what 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.

Local Health Maintenance Fund

Local Health Maintenance	1168-45100-000-0610	Data Processing Equipment	\$	4,000.00
Local Health Maintenance	1168-32200-000-0610	Telephone	\$	3,000.00
			\$	<u>7,000.00</u>

Storm Water Fund

Storm Water	1182-21100-000-0079	Office Supplies	\$	5,000.00
Storm Water	1182-33400-000-0079	Advertising	\$	1,500.00
			\$	<u>6,500.00</u>

Plan Commission Fund

Plan Commission	1180-32200-000-0079	Telephone	\$	5,000.00
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Surveyor Perpetuation Fund

Surveyors Perpetuation	1202-45400-000-0006	Other Equipment	\$	45,000.00
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Local Health Maintenance Trust (Tobacco Fund)

Local Health Maint. Trust	1206-33400-000-0610	Advertising	\$	3,000.00
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Sheriff Drug Task Force Fund

Sheriff Drug Task Force	4010-12100-000-0005	FICA	\$	733.00
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Sheriff Drug Task Force	4010-22500-000-0005	Other Supplies	\$	2,000.00
Sheriff Drug Task Force	4010-23200-000-0005	Auto, Truck & Equip Supplies	\$	1,000.00
Sheriff Drug Task Force	4010-23500-000-0005	Building Maintenance Supplies	\$	1,000.00
Sheriff Drug Task Force	4010-39910-000-0005	Other Services	\$	24,000.00
Sheriff Drug Task Force	4010-44200-000-0005	Motor Vehicles	\$	<u>10,000.00</u>
			\$	49,833.00

Inmate Processing Fund

Inmate Processing Fund	4911-36200-000-0380	Building & Structures R&M	\$	16,000.00
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Public Health Preparedness (Bioterrorism) Fund

Public Health Preparedness	8119-39500-000-0610	Contractual Services	\$	70,765.50
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45.025 MOH IAC Arts Support Grant Fund
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45.025 MOH IAC	8300-39500-000-0175	Contractual Services	\$	240.00
45.025 MOH IAC	8300-44100-000-0175	Office Equipment over \$100	\$	9,867.35
			\$	10,107.35

MOH Anderson Foundation Fund

MOH Anderson	9300-45400-000-0175	Other Equipment	\$	1,898.05
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MOH U-W Power Youth Fund

MOH U-W Power Youth	9301-39910-000-0175	Other Services	\$	2,000.00
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MOH Arts Midwest Touring Fund

MOH Arts Midwest	9302-39910-000-0175	Other Services	\$	553.00
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MOH PCCD Sparking the Arts Fund

MOH PCCD Spark	9304-39500-000-0175	Contractual Services	\$	6,684.83
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And that includes second reading.

Mr. Whitten, Move to approve second reading.

Mr. Larson, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Motion and a second, any discussion? Roll call.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Mr. Rivas	-	Yes
Ms. Conover	-	Yes
Ms. Graham	-	Yes
Mr. Jessen	-	Yes
Mr. Larson	-	Yes
Mr. Whitten	-	Yes

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 6-0

Attorney's Report

Mr. Rivas, Attorney's report.

Council Attorney Harold Harper, There is nothing report today it was a simple easy day.

Mr. Rivas, Dan you usually say what about that?

Mr. Whitten, So we've heard nothing more...I know that you gave us a report on the trailing liabilities for the hospital, nothing changed on that right?

Council Attorney Harold Harper, I think it's changed from...the last I spoke with both outside Council on that the cases were still pending, it looks like that it would...positively that it wouldn't impact the fund, at least at this stage.

Mr. Whitten, So maybe before our March meeting, maybe you could get us a little bit of a...

Council Attorney Harold Harper, Sure.

Mr. Whitten, if there has been any changes.

Council Attorney Harold Harper, Sure.

Mr. Whitten, Because I am curious because that's a little bit of money there.

Council Attorney Harold Harper, Yes.

Mr. Whitten, Thanks.

Mr. Rivas, Nothing else?

Council Attorney Harold Harper, Nothing else.

Mr. Rivas, Alright any questions for Attorney Harper?

Ms. Conover, Welcome to another year.

Council Attorney Harold Harper, Thank you.

Mr. Whitten, My condolences.

Any other matter that may properly come before the Council

- **Election Board – Presentation on the new Election Equipment**

Mr. Rivas, Alright any other matters that may properly come before the Council.

Mr. Whitten, Election Board.

Mr. Rivas, Election Board presentation.

Mr. Whitten, Now for the moment that we have all been waiting for.

Mr. Rivas, We raced through everything else to get right here.

Election Board President Dave Bengs, We appreciate it too.

Election Board Vice President J.J. Stankiewicz, And I am the sidekick Vice President.

Mr. Whitten, Right.

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Well we are back in front of you all again, we had our election board meeting today to continue on with our process of looking at new election equipment as well as looking at consolidation to make that election equipment useable to replace the current process of using a paper ballot the Election Board was...we have approved those measures. Along with that we are going to take some measures or some assistance in this transition if it's approve by the County Council and the Commissioners if it's allowed to proceed that we actually do make the purchase. Along with that we are going to also set aside funds to do an informational blitz to kind of help with that transition doing PSA's (Public Service Announcements), Mailers and that sort of thing to help assist the voters as well as websites and using the county website and so forth to try to make the transition as simple as possible. The consolidated list that was put together by Voters Registration made every effort to keep the locations close to the existing ones. So it's not going to be a matter of somebody moving a great distance or something like that so every effort that we have been...we've tried to make it as smooth efficient and as painless as possible. I think that's in evidence by as many times as we've been in front of your board just asking for requests...sometimes not even asking just doing updates and I

think that this is kind of we are in that same situation at this process...or this step in the process. The funds to start the purchase of the equipment have been encumbered by the Commissioners, but the County Council you know you have to pay for it in the future financing it's not a one time....

Mr. Whitten, Actually I think wasn't that encumbered by the Council? Isn't that the money that we set aside...

Mr. Jessen, Yes.

Election Board President Dave Bengs, No it was encumber by the Commissioners.

Mr. Rivas, No the Commissioners created the ordinance that created the Rainy Day fund we...

Mr. Larson, Yeah we encumbered it.

Mr. Rivas, We encumber the money.

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Ok so it was encumber by you...

Mr. Rivas, Just for educational purposes for you.

Election Board President Dave Bengs, But the Commissioners...I was confused as to how they request that so...

Mr. Whitten, That's ok.

Election Board President Dave Bengs, But those funds again that's what they were encumbered for was the hope that we would be able to do the equipment purchase.

Mr. Whitten, And I know Dave we had talked a couple of time in the past at least on the financing aspect of things. The original financing proposal that you come to us with was early on and it had some interest rate in there that cause me some...at least a moment of pause and made me want to go back and talk with the Commissioners about some alternate options we might have...

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Correct.

Mr. Whitten, and I know that you have meet with a financial institution and I think it's Horizon but I am not sure. So can you tell us a little bit about that?

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Yeah the financing initially that was offered was through ES & S who was the provider of the equipment. They offered the financing of five (5%) a little over five percent. We did seek other private financing to help try to reduce that interest cost and make it a little more flexible for the County. We reached out to 1st Source Bank who did provide a proposal but ultimately Horizon was the bank of choice. They are offering the financing at seven (7) years at 2.4%. So it's less than half of what the vendor was offering on the you know...for the equipment itself.

Mr. Whitten, So my concern obviously, because of what we talked about was if we're depending on where we're pulling money from to do this if the road leads us to using investment funds then obviously the question is how are we doing on our...you know earnings compared to what does the financing look like, the 2.4% financing...that's pretty good.

Election Board President Dave Bengs, That's pretty good, we couldn't get anything closer than that...or lower than that I should say.

Mr. Whitten, Ok, I'm sorry I didn't mean to interrupt go ahead...

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Ok, what that would do based on to set aside for the informational campaign out of the original encumbered funds. That's what we're going to...the remaining funds for that encumbered amount will be basically the down payment on the equipment and then the rest is what actually gets financed. If we do it over seven (7) years at the 2.4% percent we are looking at an estimated payment of about \$221,789 to \$224,927 depending on the costs. So that's what the financed amount would be, that first payment would be a year from when we actually closed...which would be approximately February of 2019 somewhere in that range.

Mr. Larson, Is that the seven years the estimated life of those usable...

Election Board President Dave Bengs, The estimated life is 10 to 15 years.

Mr. Larson, Ok.

Mr. Whitten, Where is the plan to store it...to store the equipment?

Election Board President Dave Bengs, They'll be stored here in this building. It's not going to be in the outside storage. If you are familiar in the parking garage, it's not going to be there.

Mr. Whitten, Alright.

Ms. Graham, So it's going to be in a climate controlled...

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Yes, that's the intent, we're hopefully...because we are trading in a lot of the older equipment so we are going to use that space that that was occupying to store the new equipment.

Ms. Conover, And the Commissioners are aware of that? As they're planning their assessment of the building and building needs...

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Correct.

Mr. Whitten, Ok.

Ms. Graham, Now I have some concerns that there has been things posted on today on the Facebook which is not totally reliable as we all know. There was comments saying that they're has been errors with our previous equipment and I took...I'd like to have Kathy is she here? Can you clarify exactly what you where talking about? The State of Indiana, have they have said that our races have been good?

Voters Registration Kathy Kozusek, I didn't see the posting Sylvia. Every year that we use that equipment fails us. On Election morning we have normally about ten machines go down. So if you are out voting we are on thermal printers right now like a cash registered receipt. They operate on batteries like that would go into hearing aid. Those batteries go down...David do you have that email that you sent on what that would cost? Just to kind of keep us going with the old equipment?

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Yes the new service costs would be a \$191,000 dollars to service our current inventory of you current M-100 scanners right now.

Voters Registration Kathy Kozusek, That's an estimate, we won't know until we start working on the equipment. We might new printers and we might need new batteries, being down in the room that they have been kept in certainly hasn't been good. I don't know if any of you went to a precinct and when you got there the machine is not working it's missing its timing mark and so forth. You have an auxiliary bin that you can put that ballot in until I can get a representative out there to get the machine up and going. Often times he can't so we have learned from in the past to put two or three in a squad car and swap them out.

Mr. Larson, I think that Sylvia's concern was and we've mentioned before at other Council meetings where we thought it was upwards to 1% to 1 ½% percent error in the overall system is that accurate?

Election Board President Dave Bengs, I don't believe so I don't think it's been that high.

Mr. Larson, Ok.

Election Board President Dave Bengs, If there has been any type of error.

Mr. Larson, Well that's where the numbers have been coming from and I think the numbers seem a little drastic.

Ms. Graham, I did too and that's why I wanted that mentioned tonight because I want the people to know that our Elections have been certified by the State...

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Absolutely.

Ms. Graham, and we've not had...we have had some minor problems from what you are talking about but they have been handled and handled in a correct manor.

Mr. Whitten, And it wasn't so big that we would need to change the elections.

Election Board President Dave Bengs, No.

Mr. Whitten, I mean, so Sylvia Graham really, really did beat me.

(Laughter)

Mr. Rivas, Which time are we talking about Dan?

Mr. Whitten, Everytime.

(Laughter)

Election Board President Dave Bengs, And one thing too about the new equipment and I don't know if everybody has looked at the demo model that's down in Voter's Registration office but it is a touch screen electronic choice system, but it does print out a paper ballot.

Ms. Graham, Paper ballot.

Election Board President Dave Bengs, So there is still going to be a paper audit similar and we use a scanning device similar to the M-100 that we currently have that they actually gets fed. So that's where there is the audit feature of the electronic machine plus the scanner of the actual paper receipt are going to balance. So you go to have...I think it's going to be more efficient and it's much quicker for them, they are handicap accessible compared to the coloring in the circles which has its limitations. So I mean you do have some advantages from the new equipment just from that standpoint. But there is also the efficiency of in case of an audit the counting process is obviously going to be much more quicker than we have been doing before. But also you still have that manual feature of an audit where you can actually take the paper ballots and do a manual count...

Mr. Whitten, Does this eliminate the...we have heard countless times actually in this and other venues that there is a degree of human error from workers at the polls. That ballots weren't carried over, that they were put in drawers or that they were in somebody's briefcase and all that kind of crap. So does this eliminate that potential?

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Yes, I mean you are not going to be carrying around the manual ballots. We also have a central tabulation...

Mr. Whitten, Unless all of that I just said is not true?

Election Board President Dave Bengs, That's not true.

Mr. Whitten, If all of that, that's been said is untrue then the question is rhetorical.

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Well, when you come to...when your manually penciling in counting signatures and you are literally counting by your finger count I mean there is going to be human error, so I can't say 100% that everything is perfect.

Mr. Larson, Well how will this affect our early voting and also I wanted to make sure because there was a question about the amount of polling places that we have reduced those. I know that it holds cost down on the amount of books....

Election Board President Dave Bengs, For the consolidation yes.

Mr. Larson, Right, so everyone in the voting office is in agreement that, that was something that you guys all sought and everyone there and now we're not going to get this stuff taken care of and then find out later that half of us didn't agree that the polling locations shouldn't have been changed.

Election Board President Dave Bengs, No

Election Board Vice President JJ Stankiewicz, What you have I think appended to the presentation on the last three to four pages, is a list of the current working approximately forty-six proposed and approved by the Election Board downsized voting sites.

Mr. Larson, Right.

Election Board Vice President JJ Stankiewicz, Nothing is written in gold, we no sooner got to that stage to answer your question that we found out the Portage Adult Center decided that they are not going to be open on Election Day.

Mr. Larson, Well you can see where I'm going with this...

Election Board Vice President JJ Stankiewicz, Sure I can.

Mr. Larson, Because we are going to fund this and the Commissioners are going to vote on it and it's going to look like we reduced the polling locations.

Election Board Vice President JJ Stankiewicz, I think....

Mr. Larson, I just want to make sure that, that's clearly stated that we had nothing to do with reducing the amount of polling locations on either side of the bench and I also want to make sure that the Commissioners understood that when they were getting sent this document they had nothing to do with reducing the amount of polling locations it was strictly a decision made on the locations themselves and the amount of use that they were getting.

Mr. Whitten, What roll did the Commissioners play in the voting locations? Because it seems like you guys have gone to them and I am just going off of memory...hey this new...we are going to have a polling location here and not here, have they had to vote on those locations?

Election Board President Dave Bengs, They have to approve the final list.

Mr. Whitten, Alright, so they do...

Election Board President Dave Bengs, But the Election Board we decide the locations.

Mr. Whitten, Well we don't have to approve the final list.

Election Board President Dave Bengs, You do not.

Mr. Whitten, Ok.

Election Board President Dave Bengs, But you do have to fund us so that's what is important here.

Mr. Larson, Well you have done a tremendous job shopping for financing, that's an incredible rate.

Ms. Graham, I would like to also ask a question about the new counter that you have, it's phenomenal. I mean what does it count three thousand (3,000) in a minute or it's an unbelievable amount.

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Yes the central tabulator?

Ms. Graham, Yes and I've been told that you weren't going to start the counting until 3:00p.m. o'clock or something on the Election Day?

Ms. Conover, Are they absentees?

Ms. Graham, Are they absentees, is that what they are counting?

Election Board Vice President JJ Stankiewicz, We haven't decided the exact time that we will decide to start counting. What it does for us is to move up the time and allow us some accuracy because prior to this we used lunch bags to put the absentee votes in a lunch bag and drive them around with County Sheriff's to the location.

Ms. Graham, Right.

Election Board Vice President JJ Stankiewicz, That was ripe for error there was too much handling and cross handling so that busy poll workers might not know what to do with a ballot that was in the wrong precinct at the wrong time that got delivered as an absentee. I think we will move up the time we're trying to figure you now as a board what is fair to both parties overall.

Election Board President Dave Bengs, And it's going to be determined on the volume too of how many they're are.

Mr. Whitten, So quick question...so I know that right now how many machines do we have? How many machines do we have right now? Old machines.

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Old ones?

Mr. Whitten, It's a real simple question.

Election Board Vice President JJ Stankiewicz, We have a hundred and ?

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Oh yeah One hundred....

Election Board Vice President JJ Stankiewicz, One hundred and twenty-two I think.

Voters Registration Kathy Kozusek, One hundred and forty.

Mr. Whitten, So we are proposing to purchase one hundred and forty as well (140). So we are not going down on any machines is that correct?

Voters Registration Sundae Schoon, We are getting more.

Voters Registration Kathy Kozusek, The amount of equipment that we put in for...everybody is under the misconception that it's because of consolidation...

Mr. Larson, Right.

Voters Registration Kathy Kozusek, it's not. We have a thousand (1000) people voting in this group and I'm proposing to put two thousand (2000)? I still need it for the two thousand.

Mr. Larson, Right.

Election Board Vice President JJ Stankiewicz, It's geared to the proposed population that's going to vote it's not geared to the voting site.

Mr. Whitten, So we are actually going to have a few more machines, because I see on this quantity of 140 refurbished...that's my second question, machines \$735,000 dollars. I'm just going through this and honestly I haven't had time to digest this, I haven't had time to review it, I haven't had time to consider all the numbers, I haven't had time to look at the consolidation because even though we don't vote on this I have a great deal of interest in how it effects our voters. And ease and access to the polls so I am very interested in all that stuff. I have not had time to review it, but as I am looking at this now a couple of things are jumping out. So when we say refurbished is that saying that we are not buying new stuff?

Election Board Vice President JJ Stankiewicz, No, I think the part that you are reading is the refurbished and what would be the situation that they are buying those back from us.

Mr. Rivas, No it says 140 refurbished model DS-200 for \$735,000 dollars. It's showing that these precinct scanners that the ballots go in are refurbished.

Voters Registration Sundae Schoon, They were used in one election.

Election Board Vice President JJ Stankiewicz, There you go...sorry.

Mr. Whitten, Do we know why...so why aren't they...so somebody had them and used them in an election and doesn't want them anymore?

Voters Registration Sundae Schoon, (Inaudible it was like a mock election)

Election Board President Dave Bengs, And remember these are papers scanners they're not it's not the (inaudible)

Mr. Rivas, I understand.

Ms. Conover, So it's not the trial run?

Voters Registration Sundae Schoon, It's already been tested.

Ms. Conover, Ok.

Mr. Whitten, So why are they refurbished?

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Because they have been used, they used them one time so that you can't say that they are brand new coming out of the box. And one thing also to add on when you mentioned the consolidation.

Mr. Whitten, I would use the word used.

Election Board President Dave Bengs, You don't want to say used, used sounds terrible you should know that you are an attorney. But in regards to the consolidations...well because we are consolidating a number of the locations on Election Day, early vote sites we've actually expanded. So we've gone from three (3) and now we are going to offer five (5).

Mr. Whitten, One in Hebron, one in Chesterton, one in Portage and one in Valpo. Where is the other one?

Election Board President Dave Bengs, In Union Township.

Mr. Whitten, Union Township.

Election Board President Dave Bengs, So we will have five (5) early vote locations and the early votes sites are the ones that the turnout is actually going up every election. That's where you are getting your...

Mr. Larson, Along that train of thought are we going to have more poll workers in those locations? Are we eliminating some positions? Is this going to make the operation of those remote locations easier so we are not going to need as much personnel? Because that's what...

Voters Registration Kathy Kozusek, (Inaudible)

Mr. Larson, I'm just asking because that's another \$150 per person or whatever it is for that day right?

Voters Registration Kathy Kozusek, It is our hope that we will inaudible.

Mr. Larson, Ok.

Voters Registration Kathy Kozusek, But in these first couple (inaudible)

Election Board President Dave Bengs, In the first one we wanted to make sure...

Mr. Whitten, There is no way you are going to have to educate voters....

Mr. Larson, No I'm just saying in the long haul we are looking at probably reducing some of those numbers.

Voters Registration Kathy Kozusek, Well on Election year I hired twelve (12) Sheriffs to deliver...

Mr. Larson, Right.

Voters Registration Kathy Kozusek, We can cut that back to six

Mr. Larson, Right, that's kind of where I was going with it. You guys are...

Voters Registration Kathy Kozusek, So one thing will offset the other.

Mr. Larson, Right, right.

Mr. Whitten, And honestly the fact of the matter is we are probably not cutting anyone but we just need to make sure that the people are there and at \$150 bucks a pop is probably not a huge price to pay to make sure that people have access and a explanation...

Ms. Graham, To vote.

Election Board President Dave Bengs, To make sure everyone....exactly.

Ms. Conover, Did you not say that to service our current machines for this year would be about a \$191,000 dollars?

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Right that's the estimate.

Ms. Conover, Now we've put away...we squirreled away and encumbered this money for a down payment and the subsequent payments are going to be \$225,000 dollars.

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Correct.

Ms. Conover, And it costs us a little under \$200,000 dollars a year to bring our current machinery...

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Service yes.

Ms. Conover, well it's a no brainer.

Mr. Rivas, But along those lines though what is our annual fees with this new stuff? I mean I'm just glancing through here so I know I go to this next page and it looks like...well it says post warranty and maintenance support fees \$120,000?

Mr. Larson, Right.

Mr. Rivas, And then it's like I keep going down and it doesn't stop there is ballot and coding for \$17,000 dollars, poll book data conversion \$6,000, additional pricing \$1,450 dollars, \$4,350 dollars.

Clerk Karen Martin, Some of those things you have to take into consideration that we already do.

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Yeah, we are paying licensing now.

Mr. Whitten, That's \$120,000

Mr. Rivas, Yeah there is other ones like election services.

Clerk Karen Martin, Those are still services that we use currently.

Mr. Rivas, And we are going to have to pay that?

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Every year we have a service contract.

Mr. Rivas, Ok so what's our cost annually outside of the \$221,000 dollars for this new equipment?

Election Board President Dave Bengs, For the service of the contract?

Mr. Rivas, And their support? That would be my concern now that we are going to go to these touch screens, are they going to have available people? Are we going to have IT people that are going to be roving around if one of these things lock up or freeze on us?

Election Board President Dave Bengs, We had the same with our current machines. They will have their personnel available to service it. If there is something wrong they also do the maintenance and repair keep it ready to go. So they basically do the same process...

Mr. Whitten, So a little bit of concern from the folks that have been on the Council for a while is that if you may we can take a virtual trip back in time to the E-Poll Books we got first the E-Poll Books after that we were getting comments made that the wifi wasn't working and that the E-Poll Books weren't functioning and that people were being turned away at the polls. Again maybe that's not true, but at least it cause us some concern or at least the reason to ask the question that if we had that kind of just in an E-Poll Book implementation with the interpolation in the process what's this going to do?

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Well and that's where the consolidation came in is reducing the number of locations so that we could hardwire as many as

those locations that we possible can. Putting them in Schools, Public Building so that we were not doing...or going through that same situation that we do with E-Poll Books where we're trying to grab a wifi signal that maybe in a Park or a remote location where they are not getting a good reception. This is going to be a hardwire situation where it's a direct line, so the internet is going to be available. That's what those locations are being vetted for.

Mr. Whitten, So the purchase of the new equipment is that tethered to the consolidation?

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Correct.

Mr. Whitten, Meaning if we don't purchase the new equipment, there is no consolidation?

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Correct.

Mr. Whitten, Or if there is no consolidation the request for new equipment is no longer on the table...

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Correct, they are tied together.

Mr. Whitten, Is that correct?

Election Board President Dave Bengs, They are.

Mr. Whitten, Ok, my only concern is and we've talked a lot...and I think in spirit we agree that it's probably not a bad idea to move into new equipment. We would all like to have new technology to keep up with the time and the changing needs of the requirements of our constituencies but I don't think any of us have had any time to consider the consolidated of the voting spots. And I want to and I think we need new equipment, but I think I need to be comfortable with the consolidation.

Mr. Jessen, To that point if I could Dan?

Mr. Whitten, Yeah.

Mr. Jessen, Just for my clarification currently there are how many voting locations?

Clerk Karen Martin, Eighty (80)

Mr. Jessen, And is the almost...

Clerk Karen Martin, Forty-Six (46)

Mr. Jessen, Almost final number Forty-Six (46)?

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Forty-Six (46)

Clerk Karen Martin, A difference of 34.

Mr. Jessen, And as we look at those based on the list, it looks like there is a significant reliance on the schools and if that's the case have we had discussions with the schools and are they in agreement to...I look at Union Township to...very selfishly and it's taking it to Wheeler High School and it appears based on this list that it's all precincts would go to Wheeler High School which would be a significant number of people. Are they going to be closed that day or have we had those discussions?

Election Board President Dave Bengs, We have spoke with all the Superintendants for the schools. Portage for example for the first time they are actually going to close for us. So that's going to...they are going to make it E Learning Day out of that. So that's actually going to and I think that was the biggest issue with the Portage Auditorium at the High School was trying to get the voting equipment set-

up there. So since they're going to do a E Learning Day they are actually going to make it better for us no matter what equipment we use.

Mr. Jessen, And Valpo is already in agreement?

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Valpo is already going to close because they still have ongoing construction.

Mr. Jessen, What about the others?

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Chesterton they don't see it as an issue so they're not going to close and they are still separated enough...I think we only have two of their locations. But Union Township and to go back to your point Union Township was one that they said no it's not an issue, they keep it separated from the general school population so they did not feel it was necessary to close the school.

Mr. Jessen, Even if school was in session?

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Even if they are going to have school in session.

Mr. Larson, That was a question I think that Mike and I discussed earlier when we were talking about these and there has always been a question of school safety.

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Correct.

Mr. Larson, I know that has to be address by the Superintendants but I've always felt coming from schools as my background, it's kind of dangerous to bring the general population into those schools. And there really isn't anyway in a lot of those buildings to isolate the general population from the school students. And even though the schools don't seem to think that's an issue it really is, we've got a rope there that barricades people from going into the rest of the building.

Election Board President Dave Bengs, And that's what we have presented to them before this all came up last year as we were kind of coming to this proposal. We told them hey, if we are going to do something like this where we are consolidating using the school as your location where you have a larger volume of voters we were hoping that they would just close and some did, like I said Portage did and Valpo but the other schools felt that there is no issue.

Mr. Rivas, I'd like to go back to answer my question...the annual cost?

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Yes, the annual cost is in the agreement...

Mr. Rivas, And going through this little small (inaudible) do we know? Do we have an estimate of what this is going to cost annually to maintain?

Ms. Graham, Total.

Mr. Rivas, I mean I know there's that \$120,000 dollars but there is other little things in here. I get that we pay it now, but what's this going to be?

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Well we have the maintenance fees laid out in the agreement and it's got the \$50,000 dollars on the hardware on the scanners and the terminals that's what their looking at. And then you have their service box which is way down on the second page is where you get to the license and the maintenance. So that's where they got it separated out per year and I think its pages 6, 8 and 9.

Mr. Jessen, Based on the review our analysis of that we're saying that's very similar to what we've been paying after the purchase of the equipment.

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Yeah, because we already been paying the service costs and as you can tell on the older equipment it's going up because we are replacing the batteries on those older scanners. And that seems to be what we are replacing the most of is the battery packs and the data cards.

Ms. Graham, Basically something I really like about it and I did go down and review the equipment. I like the idea that there is a photo that matches with the person that's voting. Plus when you slide your card...you know to register as well as a card, so you are still getting a tremendous background.

Mr. Larson, Along where Jeremy is at, I mean I am looking at that maintenance agreement and it says once every twenty-four (24) months but we are paying \$58,000 plus \$49,000...over a \$100,000 dollars to maintain those basically because it look like they are going on maintenance every twenty-four (24) months we are paying annually for those maintenance fees but they are accruing to well over a \$100,000 dollars before they maintain the machinery.

Voters Registration Kathy Kozuszek, Jeff they them maintenance fees but that's your ballot and coding (inaudible)

Mr. Larson, Well they got it firmware and everything else separate on those fees, I mean there's another \$30,000 dollars annually for all of that so what we are looking at...I'm sure this is pure maintenance of the equipment it's \$100,000 dollars every two years that we are going to pay on just maintaining the equipment.

Voters Registration Kathy Kozusek, But we are getting more equipment, I've questioned them on that we getting more equipment.

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Yeah to maintain software and...

Mr. Larson, That just seems like a extremely high fee.

Mr. Whitten, I don't know that we can...listen guys I mean we've heard this is going to be a cost savings, I have my doubts. I think that probably we shouldn't look at that way because it probably isn't. I think the stronger thought for us is to consider whether we need new stuff and if the stuff we have now is worth trying to duck tape together or do we need to move to something a little more state of the art. And on the back end of that I heard a lot that we've had some difficulty getting some folks to work the polls that are and I don't want to paraphrase that are difficult to train and so my question is this new equipment going to be easier for those folks? Are we hoping to find new folks? Are we hoping to do a better job training or what's going on with that?

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Well your polling workers, that pool changes over time.

Mr. Whitten, Right.

Election Board President Dave Bengs, But the...

Mr. Whitten, But the message we hear never does.

Election Board President Dave Bengs, But the difference you are going to see is...remember what we did two years ago with the paper? You know the registration books and the hand signing and so forth we had people sign on the wrong line and so forth, that's not going to happen with the electronic poll book. Just like we did when we ran that for the municipal year, there was an improvement poll workers liked it for that fact is was easy they showed and you could scan and boom you're not going through the pages and pointing to a spot and then somebody may not be able to see it or they can't reach it because they may be in a wheelchair or something like that and they may sign the wrong line. So I mean it does prevent a lot the human error the things just to sign on this signature line may not sound like a big deal to you and me. But to somebody who is way over there and trying to get to this table that is a big deal. And so being able to just hold their license up to a scanner and now it's done and we

have the right person and they get the right ballot. That's a lot easier than trying to have them reach over and trying to sign this.

Clerk Karen Martin, Plus you know that you have the right ballot for the precinct that you are in.

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Exactly.

Clerk Karen Martin, That's where the human error comes in.

Election Board President Dave Bengs, That's where there is going to be some savings because before with the paper issue you had to preprint those ballots so we don't run short.

Mr. Whitten, Right and then yet still you did sometime.

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Correct and this is a blank ballot...I mean these are just paper stock.

Mr. Whitten, Right.

Election Board President Dave Bengs, We can keep using them even if we have a 100,000 extra ballots this election we could just use them the next one. It's not like they're going to get tossed or recycled and we have to repurchase those. So we will save some funds just on the purchasing of those paper ballots.

Mr. Larson, Along that savings and I was on the other side of the table but on this side are we looking at the current machines if we don't trade those in this year? Is there another depreciation loss that we are going to suffer? I mean the current value on those machines as trading now so is there going to be an additional loss?

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Right that trade-in is based on that they have buyers for our existing equipment that they are taking in on trade. So that would...

Mr. Larson, So do you guys know what the depreciation is yearly? Is it a huge number?

Election Board President Dave Bengs, We bought this in 2005 correct? So I mean that's the age of our current scanners that we have. So they have already met their life at this point.

Mr. Jessen, So Dave as we look at the consolidation of the voting locations, I've always struggle with locations and where they were put and I've asked that question in the past in Porter Township for instance on 500 West there is a Church, then you go a half of a mile down it's the Boone Grove High school and then on the corner of that property is the Administration Center and those are three different voting locations, which to me never made any sense. And I had asked that question previously not of you folks but I have asked the question how in the world is that possible does that make sense to anyone when it literally on the same property but two separate voting sites. And the point that I've heard or the answer of that question historically has been it's a legal issue, there is requirements in terms of how many people can vote at certain locations and that's why you would have a voting location right across the street from another voting location.

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Correct.

Mr. Jessen, And it appears with this we are obviously not following that same premise so has the law changed or was our interpretation of it previously wrong?

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Well we are not changing that, we still have a machine per precinct. We're consolidating the location, so the precincts are still there.

Mr. Jessen, And that's still within the scope and...

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Yes

Mr. Jessen, Is it something that quite frankly could have been done.

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Correct, what you're talking about if we wanted to get rid of...like where I vote at the high school you could go across the street to the Church to vote and there is another one you could go up the street to Cooks Corner there is another one there...

Mr. Jessen, That seems ridiculous to me.

Election Board President Dave Bengs, You can go down to the funeral home there is another one there at the Church, so within four blocks you have seven locations. So in that case if we wanted to put those all into a single voting center where you can reduce the number of equipment and so forth now you are talking about vote centers.

Mr. Jessen, Got you.

Mr. Whitten, So it's really based when we look at this...

Mr. Jessen, That's based on equipment that's needed at a particular location.

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Well, but this equipment could do that.

Mr. Jessen, Right.

Election Board President Dave Bengs, That's why we are using the same equipment for early voting, which early voting is basically a vote center because you can go to any early site and you can place your vote. So that's why we increased it to five because that's where we are seeing the increase in turnout it's in the early voting.

Mr. Jessen, Which is a tremendous component of this program frankly...five versus three.

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Yes.

Mr. Whitten, So on this, as I look at these later I want to make sure that I understand this, what are these numbers? Are these...

Clerk Karen Martin, Those are voters.

Mr. Whitten, In what election?

Clerk Karen Martin, That's current voters.

Mr. Whitten, That's Registered voters?

Clerk Karen Martin, Correct.

Mr. Whitten, So I would like to know just out of curiosity what is the percentage of voters turnout in those precincts are by election?

Clerk Karen Martin, Mostly it's thirty some percent that we have in elections.

Mr. Whitten, Yeah that's great but I'd like to go back a few elections and kind of know as we're consolidating...because I am going to...

Mr. Whitten, Yeah, because I want to know...

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Like on average?

Mr. Whitten, Yeah...because you could even get me precinct by precinct.

Voters Registration Kathy Kozuszek, Dan you could go back and but the voters have increased.

Mr. Whitten, Ok, I'd like to look at last few elections. I'd like to stick with my thought pattern here and then I'm...because I want to kind of overlap that on where they are currently voting and where we are putting them. And again I know that the Commissioners are kind of taking a hands off on this and I appreciate that because they don't really want to get involved in the minutia of the consolidation and candidly it's probably because their thinking if it goes bad they don't want to be part of it...I've got to be honest with you. I mean I don't know that for a fact but that is my guess. They are not typically the hands-off type.

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Well we know we are putting Dan Whitten endorsed right on there.

Mr. Whitten, Yes...yes...yes so I just kind of want to do a little due diligence on that and not that I have a vote on this not that you guys have to do what I ask you to do and not that I have any oversight of you other than your budget. But I just want to make sure in my mind that it makes sense and that's all. So as we are looking at or pulling some...I mean really carving some down. And I've said, I mean years ago when voter consolation, I was getting the calls from folks downstate. Oh my gosh you can't let them do voter consolation it's going to be terrible for the Republican Party and then the next year I get a call saying oh my gosh it's going to kill the Democrat Party and now you just don't care quite frankly it's a question of what make sense to our voters. What makes sense in Porter County and does our consolidation is it reasonable?

Clerk Karen Martin, I think that you have them confuse though, vote center are different than...

Mr. Whitten, I'm not talking about vote centers I'm talking about consolidated voting and if you don't think that is hot ticket topic downstate have a shot down I-65 and ask around Indy because it is a hot ticket item. So I don't care about any of the stuff, the fact of the matter is and I've said from the very beginning if what we're doing makes sense I'm all for it. If it is good for our voters and it doesn't harm our voters and it doesn't cost us a ton more to do it I am fine with that. I just want to make sure that it makes sense.

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Yeah, I wouldn't compare us to Marion County.

(Laughter)

Mr. Whitten, No I wouldn't compare us to Marion County but I'm saying that seems to be an issue at the State House.

Election Board President Dave Bengs, I mean for them just as an example they have one early vote site for a county that size. And they have lines around the corner and that's why they have lawsuits against their County Council.

Mr. Whitten, Right, I mean I love the early voting sites, I think it's a great idea.

Election Board President Dave Bengs, So, I mean we are taking kind of the opposite view...

Mr. Whitten, Anything to make it more accessible to folks.

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Exactly we are adding more early vote sites knowing that, that's where we are getting out turnout.

Mr. Rivas, So I think from what I am hearing maybe from a few Council Members is looking at this and again this isn't our job but looking at some of the

Precincts where you have...you propose to put almost five thousand (5,000) voters at Adult Education in Portage. But you have in Portage 1 you have six hundred and twenty (620) voters. I mean what is your methodology of how you guys doing this consolidation? Is it a number of voters in a certain area and you are trying to find a central location? Or are we kind of getting in a room and throwing darts around and seeing how we can consolidate, I mean is there a true methodology of how you guys are consolidating these? And are the numbers going to be consistent, because what you have right now isn't consistent just what I'm glancing. Four Thousand; One Thousand; Four Thousand; Seven Hundred and Ninety-Eight; One Thousand; Two Thousand; Nine Hundred...you know is there a consistent process that you guys are...

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Yeah, we had this question too, one of the problems with consolidation or if you want to take it a step further and if we ever went to vote centers is that you have to have a building that is...

Mr. Rivas, Let's quit talking about vote centers.

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Ok, but I mean it's very similar because if you were going to increase voters to one location, you have to have parking, you got to have your ADA compliance to get them in the door as well as you got to look at it on our standpoint you've got to have a willing participant as a polling location. So what we did look at is your looking at your public buildings so that we are not paying rent. You are looking at your schools with larger parking lots, their ADA compliant. The Fire Department is the same thing because again they are offering everything we need. So that's where you when you are seeing your consolidation it is availability of a building. It's not necessarily we just picked it...that's not what happened.

Mr. Whitten, So here is the thing the question in my mind that I can't get past that and I know that Karen you said it's about thirty percent across the board, that's not necessarily accurate. There are certain precincts

Clerk Karen Martin, Oh you want by precinct that's not...

Mr. Whitten, That's what I was trying to say because some are just really not great and I get it.

Clerk Karen Martin, Ok

Mr. Whitten, Maybe its transients, maybe it apartment complexes and people aren't staying and all those thing that sort of happen in life. I just want to make sure that the numbers...we might have some high registered voters there but you know how that goes. I just kind of want to look at the last by precincts because I kind of want to see how we are doing.

Clerk Karen Martin, I will get that to you.

Mr. Whitten, Alright.

Mr. Jessen, Just so that I'm clear on just the procedure of this...the Election Board would fine tune or finalize this consolidated list and confirm the voting locations are good and the schools are fine and then that presentation or that recommendation would then go before the Commissioners and the Commissioners would make the final stamp of approval of the new consolidated locations, just procedurally is that the way it works?

Clerk Karen Martin, They approve all locations...yes.

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Yes they have to approve all the locations. And we have to get the Commissioners approval of course to even be able to sign the contract.

Mr. Whitten, That's right.

Mr. Jessen, Right.

Election Board President Dave Bengs, And then we would have to come back to you to release the funds.

Mr. Whitten, Right.

Clerk Karen Martin, How many years Dan did you want that report?

Mr. Whitten, Just back a few Elections.

Clerk Karen Martin, So 2016 and 2014?

Mr. Whitten, Yeah, that would be good because that kind of gives us one off year and one...

Clerk Karen Martin, So that would be (inaudible)

Mr. Whitten, Yeah, and I mean the years I am on the ballot you don't want to skew it

(Laughter)

Mr. Rivas, I guess the question would be Dan is that going to be this year?

Election Board President Dave Bengs, That's true I didn't see his name on there.

Mr. Whitten, You haven't...

Mr. Rivas, You guys were talking about two hundred...

Mr. Whitten, I moving to Portage and running for Council.

Mr. Rivas, Mayor? I am pretty sure that will be open soon. I mean Two Hundred and Twenty-One Thousand dollars (\$221,000) annually we're going to have to find if this is the way we are going we are going to have to find that in the budget somewhere starting next year?

Mr. Whitten, Yes.

Mr. Rivas, I mean the maintenance?

Ms. Conover, We are going to have to address it at budget time.

Mr. Whitten, I mean we've always had...yeah that's right and we are going to have to if we go in this direction it's a budget issue. Which is what brought me to my question with Dave before with the interest rate that we might be paying on the financing agreement and how it compares to what we are doing in our investments etcetera, etcetera, see whichever process...whichever path. Because if we had the money to pay it all out of money that we have invested we are going to lose money if we are doing that because we are making more on that money than it would cost us to do this financing, that was kind of my thought pattern with that.

Election Board President Dave Bengs, 2.4% percent I don't think we're going to get...that's excellent.

Mr. Whitten, Yeah when you told me that, that changed the direction a little bit.

Ms. Conover, Well, I just wanted to add I know a tremendous amount of work and study has been gone into it in the Voter's Department with our County Chairs and with our Election Board...a tremendous amount and this is not a fly by your seat and I don't care what's trolling out on social media I know our numbers weren't what was being reported today.

Mr. Rivas, You mean Facebook isn't the best source of information and news?

Ms. Conover, Yeah Facebook...tolling yes.

Mr. Rivas, Because I quit watching the news and just go to Facebook for all my information.

Ms. Conover, It's got to be the truth right?

Mr. Rivas, It's got to be...

Ms. Conover, Not.

Mr. Rivas, So is there any further discussion?

Ms. Conover, Do you need a straw poll vote? Or is this just the presentation...now you go to the Commissioners and then you come back?

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Well we got to go to the Commissioners, everything again is going to be subject to...you've got to release the funds. I mean eventually you are going to have to allow us to do that.

Ms. Conover, Yes.

Mr. Rivas, So what is that you said not for a year?

Election Board President Dave Bengs, No, no, no you have to the funds are encumbered.

Ms. Graham, No.

Mr. Whitten, No...

Mr. Rivas, That the first payment, you need that first Five-Hundred Thousand dollars (\$500,000)?

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Yeah.

Mr. Whitten, Yeah we've encumbered...as you may recall our Ordinance made it subject to the appropriation process.

Election Board President Dave Bengs, So the Commissioners...yeah it will be all subject to the releasing of the funds so we still have to come back.

Ms. Graham, When will these machines be used this coming Primary?

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Yeah, absolutely that or service the other one.

Attorney Harold Harper, I think the Commissioners were looking for if the Council is going to go in that direction a straw poll or a vote in support or in opposition one way or another.

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Right.

Mr. Whitten, Well I'm...no I don't want to take away...

Mr. Jessen, I think it's a...correct me if I am wrong, but a general consensus is one we need new equipment and the equipment we had is old and problematic and also going to be costly if in fact we are only going to use again for this particular year. Now there is now doubt that there is some details that have to be worked out and some things that need to be finalized to get to the point of actually securing the deal or purchasing the new equipment that ties into the consolidation and ties into the voting

centers and all those things. But I am not hearing anybody clamoring to say we should hang on to the old equipment and use them in this election.

Mr. Whitten, Listen if we were just talking about upgrading our equipment and buying new equipment that would be one thing and I think that you are correct Mike. I think that at least in conversations past we all kind of recognized that we need to move to new equipment. My question is how many voting locations are we going to have? How much equipment are we going to need? How are those numbers going to look that sort of thing? But when it got tied specifically to the consolidation of the voting spots that took the thought process a little bit wider for us if in fact the...I'm ok with purchasing new equipment but what I don't want to have happen is we purchase new equipment or we give this weird nod straw poll which I'm not even sure what you call that in municipal law and somehow that triggers a magic vote or contract signing at the Commissioners. That's fine I mean what do we care but the problem then becomes what if the net result of that then is that the revised precinct consolidated voting centers falls apart, it doesn't make sense to us or I don't know...I mean they are tying them so closely together I guess I want to be clear on both issues. Unless you untie them, unless you're telling us we don't care if there is vote centers or not...I sorry consolidated voting locations or not? We want the equipment and we want you to do and we are all on board no matter what happens with the consolidated voting centers then that is a different discussion.

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Well now the consolidation is already been voted on. Our Board has approved that...

Mr. Whitten, So is this the list?

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Yes.

Mr. Whitten, The final list?

Election Board President Dave Bengs, That's the list other than Portage Education.

Clerk Karen Martin, Right.

Voters Registration Kathy Kozuszek, When you took the vote earlier tonight it was not tied to the consolidation. Sundae and I need to go out and look at these places. We just heard them last night, I did about the Adult Ed, you know we don't that there are problems at these polling locations till the poll workers tell us. Sundae and I, we have not started the process because we didn't know if we were getting new equipment. But when they took their vote it was not a vote based on that we consolidated everything, it's what Sundae and I would work out.

Mr. Whitten, So my question, why are the tied together? Is there some reason? Or is it just that there are parties involved and things get done this way and I get it that really want both so that we either get both or we get neither? Or is there some desirable reason why they have to be tied together?

Election Board President Dave Bengs, The hope is after we get past the first election year and get some experience under the belt, that's going to give us our opportunity to reduce possible labor, the number of workers because the number of locations have shrunk. But again its part of the learning curve, I'm not going to commit to that in the first year. But that's the hope is as we get better trained with the equipment that it's going to allow us to that. Because that is one of our challenges each election is getting enough poll workers.

Mr. Jessen, I think it's clear and I want to make sure that I understand it completely because we talked about the consolidated voting locations and we said that the Election Board has voted on it?

Voters Registration Kathy Kozuszek, Earlier they voted on...

Mr. Jessen, Ok, but that's not final...

Election Board President Dave Bengs, That's contingent upon...

Mr. Jessen, And that's all contingent upon the Commissioners approval.

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Correct that everything gets approved and...

Voters Registration Kathy Kozuszek, Oh and that Sundae and I are able to secure those voting locations.

Mr. Jessen, Gotcha and so I think to answer some of the questions is that the Commissioners obviously are going to have to I would assume that they would want answers to the questions that they might have...

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Right.

Mr. Jessen, before they sign the contract. Before we talk about future financing for the big purchase, we're obviously going to have questions that are going to have to be satisfied and answered and so there will be a time to get those questions answered in preparation for a final vote or final direction on it.

Mr. Whitten, So you still have to come back in front of us.

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Correct.

Mr. Whitten, So let's assume that happened in February, if that's the direction that we all followed, is that enough time to get the consolidated voting locations in place and the voters educated? Is that enough time?

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Well we're not going to get the voters educated until we know we're...

Clerk Karen Martin, That we are getting the equipment.

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Yeah we're going to...

Mr. Whitten, Forget about the equipment, Joe your voting over here and you're not voting over here where you voted for twenty-five years....

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Well but again that consolidation isn't going to happen....

Mr. Whitten, is that enough time to get it done?

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Yes we will have enough time to...

Mr. Whitten, I don't care what kind of equipment you are using, I want to know if you have enough time to educated the voters on their different voting locations? That's what I want to know.

Election Board President Dave Bengs, There will be enough time.

Mr. Whitten, So what I am saying is if the timeline I just laying this out is correct...so we get this approved if that the direction that we go in February. Kathy and Sundae have to go out and vet this list of locations...

Election Board President Dave Bengs, But we are not waiting until February to do that.

Mr. Whitten, Yeah and so what's the timeline on that? And then if we get the funding approved or the appropriation approved in February have you already ordered the equipment by then? So if you have all that stuff in place what if...or will there be enough time to educate the voters on their new voting locations prior to May? Are we confident about that?

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Yes.

Mr. Whitten, Because that seems like a real tight timeline to me.

Election Board Vice President J.J. Stankiewicz, No I don't think that's a correct answer from the Democratic standpoint. I think what they've done is to set aside in their budget \$30,000 dollars to hopefully find a way to educate the voters.

Mr. Whitten, Right.

Ms. Graham, Radio...

Election Board Vice President J.J. Stankiewicz, But the burden is going to rest on the precinct committee people. The burden is going to rest on people who live in that block. The burden is going to rest on politicians. This will not be easy it's change and there are no guarantees, we're just doing the best we can to...unfortunately we have two parties who are at odds. The Democrats would be for buying the machines the Republicans would like to come close to reduction of precincts. It's coming before you with sort of a as best as we can get it a compromise on those two issues and we've work long and hard to get to this stage. But you have to know there tethered, there is no doubt about it.

Mr. Whitten, Now I'm just...I don't want to be critical...

Election Board Vice President J.J. Stankiewicz, Yeah.

Mr. Whitten, But historically when there has been a change of a voting location we do our best effort to educate people. But then there is that inevitable group of people that still go to their old precinct or their old voting location...you told us the wrong one or god forbid it's no longer a voting location and they get upset and they don't vote or they scream and holler and we get the emails and the letters to the Council Office. You know as much as we've tried to educate people and I don't even know what the best method of doing that is anymore but I mean we are talking about a pretty drastic shift and I just want to make sure that we are all confident that we're going to be able to educate them in that amount of time.

Election Board President Dave Bengs, At least we are going to have advanced notice to do it. At the last election 2016...it was the last election and you can correct me if I am wrong, but the Nazarene Church said no more right? We didn't know ahead of time that they were going to say that they weren't going to host the election site. We had no notice at all, so then we had to scramble to consolidate that with Immanuel...

Voters Registration Kathy Kozuszek, (Inaudible) you are always going to have it new equipment, old equipment. When there is an election in Illinois our phones don't stop. I'm at my polling location and nobody is here. Well what do you mean nobody is here? No I want to vote and nobody is here. I seen it on the news, you are watching Illinois news we don't have elections in Indiana. We will never be 100% percent...

Mr. Whitten, Ok but we are talking about a major shift here. We are not talking about that, we are talking about a major shift in the voting locations. I just want to make sure that...we're not talking about changing one voting location.

Voters Registration Kathy Kozuszek, And Danny we always have, we send out letters and we have always done everything that we can.

Mr. Whitten, But this is a major...this is probably the most major voting shift that we have done you can't deny that. And I am asking and I don't care about...

Voters Registration Kathy Kozuszek, And that is not in stone that might go down to ten (10).

Ms. Graham, You mean the list?

Voters Registration Kathy Kozuszek, Yeah, that's not in stone until Sundae and I get out there.

Mr. Whitten, So it might go down to ten (10)?

Voters Registration Kathy Kozuszek, I don't know that Danny until...

County Chairman Jeff Chidester, There is legislation in the House that says that they could go to Vote Centers. A Vote Center is one (1) for every ten thousand (10,000) voters, we have a one hundred and ten thousand (110,000) voters in Porter County.

Mr. Whitten, Yeah, but she just said when her and Sundae are done going out there...

County Chairman Jeff Chidester, That is her saying if they go in there and they can't find any Wi-Fi or anything like this it might go down and if it does we're not going to do it. I tell you guys right now forty-six (46) is where we are at. I am asking you to look at this realistically and logically.

Mr. Whitten, Right.

County Chairman Jeff Chidester, And we as politicians, it's our job to notify these voters as precinct people. Are you running for precinct committeeman Dan? You should and let your people know...when they closed Seven Dollars Shrine...

Mr. Whitten, Well I have a precinct committeeman that supports me so (inaudible).

County Chairman Jeff Chidester, When they let Seven Dollars Shrine close when I was a precinct committeeman and I went out there and notified my voters.

Mr. Whitten, But the fact of the matter...

Mr. Rivas, Alright, alright...hello let's take a minute.

Mr. Whitten, No, no, no

Mr. Rivas, Dan...

Mr. Whitten, The question isn't just new equipment, that's not just the question guys

Mr. Rivas, They're tied together that was made clear.

Mr. Whitten, They are tied together. And I get it, maybe it all makes perfect sense. All I'm asking for is for information to see if it makes sense to me. I mean I am not asking for the world here. We have an election in three months and I want to know if this makes sense to me. Is that so crazy, is that so crazy to want to know if this makes sense to us? I get it and I understand that there is differing bodies here that want things we all agree that we need new equipment, I get all that. I just got handed something that is cutting our voting locations nearly in half and I'm asking do we have the time? Do we have the things in place realistically to educate our voters? I get that we as politicians have some responsibility to educate our voters but come on we can't even get them to the polls on Election Day and we're are going to somehow educate all of them on where to go if we can get them there. I want to make sure that we have things in place and that it's realistic for us to do this, not for me, not because I'm going to be on ballot, none of that stuff. Are voters have a right to have access to polls, they have a right to be informed where they are going and I want to make sure that it makes sense to them. I want to make sure that they have adequate knowledge of where to go that's all. I'm not asking for the world...come on.

Ms. Graham, I agree.

Mr. Rivas, So...

Ms. Graham, What bothers me is you just told us there is forty-eight (48) here?

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Forty-six (46)

Ms. Graham, Forty-six (46) but you said it could go down to ten (10).

Election Board President Dave Bengs, No, no...

Voters Registration Kathy Kozuszek, Sylvia I just through that out there.

Election Board President Dave Bengs, No, no.

Ms. Graham, Well that was a very scary remark because I agree with you we need to get out to people to let them know. Is this going to change that much?

Mr. Rivas, Why do...hold on Dan

Mr. Whitten, Your telling us that you feel comfortable that you...no I'm not done...that you feel comfortable that with this major shift in the voting location, you've got some ideas or plans in place, understanding Jeff that we have our obligation to fulfill but from your perspective the Election Board that you have some plans in place that you think realistically will give us our best shot of educating our voters on the most major voting shift in the history of this county probably?

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Like you said we are going to give it our best shot. We are going to set aside the funds to do mailers, you know the radio, advertise in the newspaper, Facebook websites, we are going to do everything that we can to put it out there to make it as available as possible. That's all we can do, I can't do it anymore than that.

Mr. Whitten, Right, yeah you can't guarantee it I get that.

Election Board President Dave Bengs, I mean we hit every media outlet that we can to let everybody know.

Mr. Whitten, It's a tight timeline, that's all I am saying is it's a tight timeline but maybe this is the election to do it.

Mr. Rivas, Why did it have to go to forty-six (46)?

Ms. Graham, That's exactly what I...

Mr. Rivas, Why couldn't it be incremental? Why were the Republicans so...

Clerk Karen Martin, What do you mean Republicans, Sundae and Kathy worked on the list.

Mr. Rivas, On the consolidation?

Voters Registration Sundae Schoon, We mapped out all of the locations on precinct maps, ok...

Mr. Rivas, Well I'm just going off of JJ...

Voters Registration Sundae Schoon, That's not...

Election Board President Dave Bengs, That's not entirely true

Voters Registration Sundae Schoon, Portage 1 Bethel Church only has six hundred (600) voters. Yes that only has six hundred (600) voters but there is no central because there is no central location with other voting locations (inaudible)...

Voters Registration Kathy Kozuszek, And then County Line Road, we made them travel further to try to combine them.

Voters Registration Sundae Schoon, Right.

Voters Registration Kathy Kozuszek, Sundae and I tried to keep within a five miles radius?

Voters Registration Sundae Schoon, I think it was something like that, so we tried to consolidate the locations like you said you drive four blocks and there is seven locations, there is no reason for that. So we are trying to consolidate locations, we are losing Churches they don't have time for us.

Mr. Whitten, Sundae what's your timeline? Can you just tell me and I mean this in the best possible way, your timeline on getting...so you're going back out you are going to look at these locations.

Voters Registration Sundae Schoon, We are starting

Mr. Whitten, When do you think that you'll be done?

Voters Registration Sundae Schoon, We're hoping...

Mr. Whitten, She doesn't need the mic I hear her.

Voters Registration Sundae Schoon, We are hoping within two weeks we can get the majority of them at least seen.

Mr. Rivas, When is the Commissioners meeting next?

Voters Registration Sundae Schoon, The 30th.

Clerk Karen Martin, 30th.

Voters Registration Sundae Schoon, Almost all of the locations, our locations that we have used before they're Schools and Fire Stations so we know that they are in ADA compliance.

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Yeah these aren't new locations they are existing ones.

Voters Registration Sundae Schoon, So we're just going out to make sure that they have enough room to accommodate all of voters that we are putting there. All of the schools told us that they can accommodate those voters...they have already been reached out to so it's just mostly the Churches, Fire Stations such like that, that we haven't had much contact with. We didn't just grab five of them and say ok we like these five let's put them together.

Mr. Whitten, Listen you are not getting pushback from this board you understand that is doesn't sound like the notion on buying new equipment. You are not getting that from us, I don't want to read on Facebook or hear at meetings that we are against new equipment because that's not what we are saying. We're saying that we were handed a ball that was tethered to another ball and we have to make sure that they both make sense, that's it, that's all I am saying. So I don't want you to leave here with my long winded speech that I'm against equipment because I don't think anybody here is. But you handed to us tethered together and by golly we are going to look at both the end.

Voters Registration Sundae Schoon, Out of the 100,000 of the what was it 225,000 voters that we have we moved 38,000. So there is still a good majority of the voters that have not even been moved or touched and out of that 38,000 like you said the turnout on that is...

Mr. Whitten, Yeah...that's a big

Voters Registration Sundae Schoon, Thirty-Eight percent (38%) so what do you got?

Mr. Whitten, Yeah, I mean that's a good question. Yeah so maybe that will be...I'd like to get that information, I'd like to look it over just for me I'm not speaking for anybody else. I'd like to take some time and I know Jeremy you have already started looking at your district a little bit. I'd like to get a better handle on this and make sure that it makes sense to me personally and then go from there.

Mr. Jessen, Ok then we'll all have that opportunity prior to...

Ms. Graham, Yes

Mr. Jessen, actually voting on it.

Mr. Whitten, Right.

Mr. Larson, There isn't one of us that doesn't actually think that you don't need the equipment.

Audience, Pardon me?

Mr. Larson, I said that there is not one us that doesn't think that you guys doesn't need the equipment.

Voters Registration Sundae Schoon, We've spent a year putting all of this together...

Mr. Larson, There is just no knowledge on the other side of that and that's the problem.

Ms. Graham, That's right.

Mr. Whitten, Ok, thanks.

Mr. Rivas, So are you guys going in front of the Commissioners on the 30th? Is that your plan?

Election Board President Dave Bengs, That's the hope yes.

Mr. Whitten, That doesn't require a unanimous vote of the Commissioners does it? I know it requires a unanimous vote of...I mean it not even the contract forget about the contracts, I'm talking about the consolidated voting locations.

Election Board Vice President J.J. Stankiewicz, Majority.

Mr. Whitten, Majority because it takes a unanimous of the Election Board right now but not the unanimous of the Commissioners?

Election Board Vice President J.J. Stankiewicz, To go to centralized it still requires...the State Law still requires a unanimous, so I'm the bad guy.

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Well that's for the vote centers.

Election Board Vice President J.J. Stankiewicz, For the vote centers...

Mr. Whitten, Somebody always has to play the villain.

Clerk Karen Martin, And he does it so well.

Mr. Whitten, Yeah, he does.

Ms. Graham, Well you know how we feel about it.

Mr. Whitten, So I intend to for my own stead I intend to have a little further conversation with the Commissioners on this to make sure that there is no questions with respect to financing and look forward to getting the information on the precincts so that I can take a little bit of time to look those over to make sure that makes sense to me and then move from there.

Voters Registration Kathy Kozuszek, The drop dead date for getting the equipment in house and start training is February 20th.

Mr. Larson, So we can look at a second date right Jeremy?

Mr. Whitten, Well our next meeting isn't until the 27th of February, so I suppose...wow...yeah, what if the Commissioners sign the contracts or approve the contracts if that's what they decide to do we are not coming back till the 27th of February and you are saying the drop dead is February 20th.

Voters Registration Kathy Kozuszek, To get the old stuff moved out and the new stuff in and start training...

Mr. Larson, Yeah that's a problem.

Mr. Jessen, Was that discussed in the timeline? I mean going to the Commissioners obviously but then coming back to the Council?

Election Board President Dave Bengs, We'll still have to come back.

Mr. Jessen, But that was not...

Election Board President Dave Bengs, We are going to try to work with the vendor and see if they can give us options.

Ms. Graham, He is shrinking the precincts (inaudible) but we're all in favor of the new equipment. It's the cutting it to forty-six (46).

Mr. Whitten, Well it sounds like we have a plan here and candidly I look forward to seeing it all come together famously and I think we will all be quite proud of the results.

Mr. Larson, What?

(Laughter)

Mr. Whitten, I just want to leave on a high note.

Election Board President Dave Bengs, So quote Dan Whitten he said famously...

Mr. Rivas, So go to the Commissioners, I think you guys see that it seems like the Board is in favor of this equipment but the fact that it's tied together there is still a few questions left...

Ms. Graham, That's right.

Mr. Rivas, on that. So that the quicker you guys can get us information the quicker we could probably communicate with the Commissioners and if they pass it you will obviously have the additional on the agenda for next month. I mean you said

that you could work with the vendor if the Commissioners sign it and you could work with the vendor to see...you know...

Mr. Larson, Are we legally going to need to approve that before they go and actually purchase the equipment?

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Yeah we can't, we aren't going to purchase till we get back to you.

Mr. Jessen, You will have to work that out with the vendor.

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Yeah

Mr. Jessen, To finalized it after our next meeting.

Mr. Rivas, Right.

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Yeah.

Mr. Whitten, Alright guys thanks so much for this

Election Board Vice President J.J. Stankiewicz, Thank you.

Election Board President Dave Bengs, Can't do it with the cash...thank you.

Mr. Jessen, A lot of work and a lot of effort in the collaborative effort in a bi-partisan way is almost a miracle. I applaud you for that.

Mr. Whitten, What are you talking about Jessen you and I work together all the time.

Mr. Larson, Yeah, yeah.

Any Other Matter that may properly come before this Council

Mr. Rivas, Anything else that comes before this Council?

Meeting adjourned

Mr. Rivas, Motion to adjourn?

Mr. Whitten, Motion to adjourn.

Mr. Rivas, Second?

Ms. Graham, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Motion and a second to adjourn all those in favor say Aye? All those Opposed? Meeting adjourned

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned.

**PORTER COUNTY COUNCIL
PORTER COUNTY, INDIANA**

Mike Jessen

Dan Whitten

Karen Conover

Sylvia Graham

Jeff Larson

Andy Bozak

Jeremy Rivas

Attest: _____
Vicki Urbanik, Auditor