

**PORTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2019
10:30 A.M.**

(The entire meeting is available to watch on the Porter County website.)

The Regular meeting of the Porter County Board of Commissioners convened at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 29, 2019 in the Commissioners' Chambers of the Administration Center.

Those present were: Commissioners Jeff Good, Laura Blaney, Jim Biggs, County Attorney Scott McClure; Administrative Assistant Melanie Massey and Recording Secretary Ashley Ruvalcaba.

Call to Order/Pledge

Com. Good, Good morning this is the Porter County Board of Commissioners' Special Meeting Tuesday, January 29th, 2019. We are going to move the agenda around a little bit because we have a few housekeeping items that we want to get out of the way before we get into the Clerk's presentation then the other people don't have to stay through this. I would also like to let everyone know that we will be meeting sometime today. We were finally able to get everyone together to discuss what we are going to be doing with closures or whatever we're going to be doing with the County building over the next couple of days. We will be giving everyone plenty of time so they can figure out what needs to be done, but we will have something out there and something right away. We are aware of it but we have a lot of different entities we want to weigh in with first. It takes a lot of time to talk to everyone before we make a decision so that is what we're going to do.

EXPO CENTER – LORI DALY, DIRECTOR

Videotec – A quote to install network cable in the amount of \$19,987.00.

Ms. Daly, With the project we are pulling out all of the old cable that has been there for 35 years and re-pulling all new cable, it's over 50 drops throughout the first two buildings and the link. It's for security cameras, network, data, projectors, T.V.'s, ATM.

Com. Good, And in our conversations with you we feel that since we're going to be coming out of the other end of this renovation looking pretty good this is a venue that does serve alcohol. I think having more cameras in more locations and from a liability standpoint we felt it was the right thing to do. Some people might think that there are a lot of cameras in there but coming from a hospitality business like me the more cameras you have when alcohol is served that is the best thing you can do from a deterrent standpoint so that in essence is what this is for.

Ms. Daly, The insurance company was pretty happy when we talked about it.

Com. Blaney, You've had other quotes right?

Ms. Daly, We did, Continental came in and their quote was \$40,000.00 so it was over double.

Atty. McClure, And we worked through Skillman and the Construction Manager to get all of those quotes so everyone was doing the same thing.

Com. Biggs, moved to approve Videotec, Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

Com. Good, Go get that cable in then we can spray the ceilings and keep the construction job going.

Ms. Daly, Yes they're absolutely on it. We had a big meeting this morning before this meeting so they're ready to go.

CFGGroup – A quote for chairs in the amount of \$79,797.00.

Com. Good, Give us a little information on this because this was a hard topic.

Ms. Daly, I started this project over a year ago looking at chairs that I thought would go with the remodel. Chairs are not an inexpensive item as I found out. We could have gotten a chair for \$80.00 which would have been a standard banquet chair that screws that would not be durable for that facility. So we looked at something a little bit nicer, a little more durable with the recommendation of the interior designer. They came in a \$149.00 a chair. That was still a little more than we would have liked. I reached out to I believe 6 different companies and there were a couple that wouldn't talk to me for under \$200.00 a chair. I told them I don't want to waste your time give me just a ballpark. Of course this depends on what grade you go with the fabric and the seat and the finish on the chair so there are a lot of moving parts to the specific chair. There was a second one that we liked but again it was not durable and it was \$123.00. I was able to get this company down from \$149.00 to \$129.00 a chair. This is the chair that I am recommending as far as being durable. The grades are a good grade so they will be a long lasting chair and the reason it is so expensive is we're a big a facility so we are going to be ordering 550 chairs.

Com. Good, And also keep in mind that the chairs that the County do have currently which are dated we'll be using for Expo East for trade shows and other things. We won't be pulling out the nice stuff for the weddings and everything and the nicer events we'll still have the second grade of chairs that we bought 15 years ago. We're still keeping them and they are going to be multi used. Shelby Williams is the manufacturer of the chair. Again coming from the hospitality industry they are the top of the food chain. They are the best. It also has a leisure back on this chair, which if any of you have been to a lot of conventions you can sit in a banquet chair and the back sort of goes back a little bit. It's the new thing that's coming out in ergonomics and for weddings. It's a very nice design. I think it will fit the new space. We just didn't want to have a shiny penny in the new space and put out 15/20 year old chairs it wouldn't have done the venue justice.

Ms. Daly, The thing about this company is they were willing to work with us on the price so I was pretty happy about that.

Com. Blaney, I know Laura was involved quite a bit too.

Ms. Daly, Very much so.

Com. Blaney, I had Ken my husband look at it through the restaurant angle too and he said they're just expensive and we're going to have them for 20 or 30 years.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the quote for chairs in the amount of \$79,797.00 with CFGGroup, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

Com. Good, I think the chairs have a 12 to 14 week lead time. That was the other reason why we wanted to get it in on this agenda and get it passed so we could get them ordered and get them there on time when we open. Thank you.

Com. Blaney, Thank you for all of your work. I know it was a lot of work but it was worth it. We saved some money.

CORONER'S OFFICE – DORIS AMLING

Porter Regional Hospital – An Autopsy Services Agreement with Porter Hospital.

Ms. Amling, We have a year to year contract that is a renewal. It was initially just for the x-rays a set price. This year they're adding a morgue usage fee for autopsies on top of the other autopsy cost and that is worked into the current contract.

Atty. McClure, And my understanding this actually started the second quarter of last year.

Ms. Amling, Correct they started charging us.

Com. Blaney, And this is Porter?

Ms. Amling, Porter Hospital they have an autopsy suite and that is where we have them done.

Com. Biggs, Are there other hospital facilities that offer that same type of service in Porter County?

Ms. Amling, I don't think there are any other hospitals in Porter County. They're E.R.'s.

Com. Biggs, There are other hospitals in Porter County.

Ms. Amling, But they're E.R.'s and stuff like that. They don't have that. There are some that don't even have any morgues. We used to take our autopsies out to South Bend and they routinely charged us \$300.00 morgue usage fee at St. Joe's in South Bend.

Atty. McClure, And this contract has a way to be terminated early, I think it's a 60 day notice.

Ms. Amling, 30 days.

Atty. McClure, We are able to (Inaudible) something out that is able to save us some money then we have that option.

Com. Good, I would also like to say last summer we met with the one of the Coroner's deputies and we talked about this and autopsies and what the costs were because at the time we were doing the Capital plan. Space was moving around, looking at all different kinds of options and one of the things we looked at was doing autopsies and having our own facility and doing some other things. Based on the numbers it didn't seem like there was a payback for the County at this time to invest in the space and everything else. I think it is something that we will continually look at but I think right now this is just where we're at.

Ms. Amling, And actually the autopsies would be more efficiently handled by....I mean they already said it is like a \$2 million suite that the hospital put in but it's actually body storage that we're having an issue with. It's very small in the hospital and they may start charging us for that.

Com. Good, And that was the catalyst that started the discussion on storage, autopsies. We looked at all of the dollars and we just felt at this time that there wasn't a need there right now. Cyndi and I the new Coroner had talked about that briefly and she sort of felt the same way. I think will let her get in. Get her feet on the ground. Get this going and then I think that is something that we can always talk about but we're learning a lot more about the Coroner's office too now that we have a newly elected Coroner. More questions are now coming to us now than in the past. More to come on that but I think this is a good settle for now and I think we just need to get this moving. Any other questions from the Board?

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the Porter Regional Hospital contract, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

PORTER COUNTY CLERK

Election Equipment Purchase Contract.

Com. Good, This was what the main purpose of this meeting was called for. We have a presentation by the new Porter County Clerk. This is on election equipment purchase. With that we would like to give Jessica Bailey and her entourage the floor. Feel free to introduce everyone that is with you for the record. Thank you.

Ms. Bailey, Good morning everyone. Thank you for having us and thank you for the special meeting. I have Atty. David Bengs, he is also an Election Board member and my Chief Deputy Kathy Hartwig. I emailed everyone a packet and there is a lot of information in it regarding the proposal for new election equipment. It is I believe the same proposal that came before everyone last year and we are just looking to try and get the ball moving, answer questions and see what we could get accomplished with it. Does anyone have questions on the packet that I sent?

Com. Good, Where did you want to start? Did you want start with equipment, how do you want to go about it?

Atty. Bengs, I think you want to address the equipment first so if there are any questions or issues. Jessica did bring a sample ballot. That was probably the number one concern last year and this year is the paper. As you can see this is the receipt is generated from the electronic (Inaudible).

Com. Blaney, Can you please run through the process of how the new equipment will work and when you would see the receipt.

Ms. Bailey, Yes absolutely. There are two parts of it. One proposal had included the e-poll books and then one proposal did not. So if you had an e-poll book that is where the voter would go sign in and register that they were there. Much like they do the paper poll book now. We are currently using e-poll books during early voting so many voters have already seen the e-poll book and been able to use it before. That is the sign in process. From there they would get a ballot has a bar code on it and then you would scan the bar code and put it into the first machine, the one with the white around it. You insert the ballot into that machine and then it would automatically populate every race that that voter can vote for, one at a time. It meets the compliance issues for ADA and all of that. One at a time they vote. If it is a race that requires two or less votes it would only let you vote for two or less. So it would stop the over voting, but if you only wanted to vote for one person in a two person race you have the ability to do that also. Then it would go to the next race and so on. At the end there is summary screen so if you changed your mind and you didn't mean to vote for that person you can click on that race, it will take you back, you can correct your vote then it goes back to the summary screen, you click that you are ready to proceed, it lets you verify it again and then it prints out every vote that that voter made. You can see on the paper that paper selected each one of these votes. Then you take that paper and put it into the next machine. It will take a scan of the ballot and it also counts it and drops it into the tray like would normally happen. We just had the V-STOP audit that was in the (Inaudible) and part of that process was adjudicating what we thought people meant to vote. This process takes that away. It doesn't allow over votes which was something we had to document in the V-STOP audit. If a circle was half filled in or if there was an X or a check mark we had to pick what we thought that voter meant. With this process we don't have to do that anymore it automatically does it. The one part that we don't have with us today is the central count machine and again that is part of the proposal.

Com. Good, Why don't you explain a little bit about central processing and what that means to the whole election process before we had sheriff's delivering things to the precincts and a lot of moving parts right. What does that central processing....because I believe that mirrors the bill that is being bounced around down State right now and that will be an integral component to that if that bill passes correct?

Ms. Bailey, This system actually is in compliance with both bills. There is one bill in the House that we're watching that you just referenced and that mandates a central count machine. What happens with central count is when the absentee ballots come in they are stored and then they would be separated into each precinct and then on election day the sheriff's deputies would take them to the precinct that they should have been voting at and then it is up to them to process it and mark in the books that they received it manually. There is a lot of human interaction with that. With central count machine what it does it allows you to take the ballots as they come put them through the machine and it counts them and puts them where they should have been. There are actually 3 sorters on that machine.

Atty. McClure, So we would lose the traffic.

Ms. Bailey, Correct.

Atty. McClure, We would lose the pre-sorting.

Ms. Bailey, Correct and we would also lose the cost to have them couriered out.

Com. Blaney, How does it handle the receipts when you central count? Do they end up in the precinct they are supposed to end up in or.....?

Ms. Bailey, With a bar code.

Atty. Bengs, You mean the actual physical?

Com. Blaney, Yes.

Atty. Bengs, With the use of e-poll (Inaudible) receipts you're not required to separate them. That is part of using the electronic process, they're just kept together. If you ever had to go to a manual (Inaudible) recount that's when they would actually sort it and distribute it that way. By having that central tabulation like she said the biggest thing is you're not pre-bundling everything, separating them, sending them out to the 70 some locations at the risk of getting lost or damaged.

Atty. McClure, And then they have to be processed once they are there.

Ms. Bailey,

Atty. Bengs, Then they get processed by the individual poll workers at all of those precincts. Now everything stays here, they're going to be secure and then on election day they start that feed.

Com. Blaney, And that was one of our biggest problems in this past election.

Atty. Bengs, Absolutely it's a labor intensive process.

Com. Biggs, What was one of the biggest problems?

Com. Blaney, The absentee ballot situation.

Atty. McClure, There is a term of art here; early votes are absentee votes correct?

Atty. Bengs, Correct.

Atty. McClure, So to put it in context we're talking somewhere between in this last election 15 to 20,000.

Atty. Bengs, Absolutely.

Atty. McClure, So we're talking about sorting, pre-sorting 15 to 20,000 votes in the precincts, boxing them up on election day, shipping them out to the 70 polls. Each poll pulling them out processing them through the machine, bundling them back up and bringing them back to this building.

Ms. Bailey, Correct.

Atty. McClure, So this in our last election numbers this would take out the process of sorting and sending out 15 to 20,000 votes, they would just be here and counted.

Atty. Bengs, Because remember those are additional sorting beyond the election day duties of those people. So they were doing that in between time. Some worked it throughout the day. Some did it first thing in the morning before the polls opened or they did in the evening if they didn't get it done. So now you've eliminated that extra task for them.

Atty. McClure, And to answer Com. Biggs' question in this last general election one of our failures was getting these sorted, boxed up, sent out to the precincts and frankly that was one of the issues why we had the.....

Com. Blaney, It took until Friday.

Atty. McClure, That just hadn't been completed.

Com. Blaney, Do you know anything about the projections of the growth of early voting. Is that supposed to continue to increase? You're new.

Atty. Bengs, Ever since we started early voting every year it has gotten bigger. That is why we added the locations at the last election.

Com. Blaney, So it hasn't shown any signs of leveling off yet?

Atty. Bengs, Oh no not at all. I mean if anything it has shown that there is a bigger interest in the early voting just because of the convenience of being able to go to any of the 5 locations not worrying about having to go to a certain building or on a certain day. It gives them that flexibility (Inaudible).

Com. Biggs, Jessica you're sitting in on the training seminars what problems are you hearing that do exist with this equipment or have existed?

Ms. Bailey, There were some updates that weren't completed in the past and that has happened in Porter County. It is important to make sure you do that last update at 12:01 a.m. on election day and that is what pushes through all of the last minute absentee votes to make sure that they can't attempt to vote twice because if so it will have a red line that you already were counted. That is what I would say is the biggest one. They didn't (Inaudible) the update.

Com. Biggs, Is the training that we'll have to provide to the poll workers?

Ms. Bailey, It was already in the plan to do a completely new training program. Part of the other issue that happened in the last election is that poll workers weren't trained completely and when they were trained it wasn't always the same training method so some people were getting some information and other people were getting other information. It just wasn't a complete process. We had already put it in the plans to completely revisit the training process.

Com. Biggs, One of the other problems is that we didn't have enough poll workers.

Ms. Bailey, Correct.

Com. Biggs, And you're confident that we're going to be able to hire enough poll workers early enough to learn the process.

Ms. Bailey, We're starting early. Again I think that was part of the problem they didn't start early enough or they didn't have enough staff working on it. There are a lot of different ideas as to how that went wrong. I don't think any of us will for sure why that happened the way that it did but it is something that we have made a concentrated effort to make sure that it is corrected. That and putting out positive news and real news to the voters about what is happening along with process trying to be transparent as possible. We're trying to get everybody back on board.

Com. Good, I think in your email that you sent us there was one power point that had a lot of the training documents on there because I know I read through them all. It was pretty extensive. That was the power point that we're probably talking about the new training packages.

Ms. Bailey, Correct.

Atty. McClure, Lets' go back to I think Com. Blaney's original question. I just want to get right down to the nitty gritty. I walk into vote and assume we have e-poll books and I'm at a general. I walk in; I check in, I check in on the e-poll book. Is this being printed then?

Ms. Bailey, Yes as far as the bar code.

Atty. McClure, Correct.

Ms. Bailey, Yes.

Atty. McClure, So that is determining what ballot I'm getting when I get to the computer.

Ms. Bailey, Yes.

Atty. McClure, So I check in it, poll book says Scott lives in Westchester 7; this is the ballot he should see. The e-poll book has a printer or a printer is attached to it.

Ms. Bailey, Yes.

Atty. McClure, This gets printed off, I walk over to the machine, the machine reads the bar code that's what it tell is to what ballot to choose for me correct.

Ms. Bailey, Correct.

Atty. McClure, What happens if we don't have e-poll books at generals? I don't want to confuse everybody but e-poll books enough would be required to do early voting because all of these are different.

Ms. Bailey, Right.

Atty. McClure, In a general what happens if we don't have e-poll books?

Ms. Bailey, Currently we would be set up for precinct only so it's not going to sort different ballots only one ballot would be available to you. Only one ballot would be available at that.

Com. Blaney, Would you print those then?

Atty. McClure, Where do these come from then?

Com. Blaney, If they're not getting printed out of the e-poll book?

Atty. Bengs, (Inaudible) plain paper.

Ms. Bailey, Right so you wouldn't need the bar code then because you just sent it into the.....

Atty. Bengs, Which goes back to the old way of pre-printing all of the ballots, you're only going to use what you use. The blank ballots will just be stored for the next election so we're not wasting stock like we did before. That is why they're not pre-printed.

Atty. McClure, There is nothing unique about this to make this piece of paper more expensive or not or anything like that. It looks pretty plain and just gets printed on just a little heavier stock.

Ms. Bailey, Yes.

Com. Good, In your email that you sent us I know I keep referring to that but that was where the information was can you for the record just let everybody know what the current age of our voting equipment is right now.

Ms. Bailey, 18 to 22 years.

Com. Good, I go back to 4 years when I came here. I think my first two months on the job the jail security system went down that was 30 some years old and never had any updates and the patches wouldn't take patches anymore. After that we righted that ship then we worked with the Auditor bringing in new accounting software because our accounting software couldn't find patches of patches. I'm just trying to make a point that since I've been up here in the last 4 years we have been very behind in our technology that the County has had to be able to do their jobs. I would like to thank this Board and the Council in helping us start moving in that direction of getting the ship righted here on the technology. We are also going through a huge investment right now in our 911 which is the same equipment that is life safety, first responders and its end of useful life as well too. Folks this stuff is expensive, it's expensive and there is no Genie in the bottle here that is going to pull us out from this. I think the world in technology is moving forward. I think we need to continue to try to be relevant in that space and I look at this situation just like I look at some of the other situations that we've had to deal with up here with other offices we're dealing with equipment here that is just too old. I just wanted to make a point about that because it sort of falls with the theme that we've been doing up here the last 3 years. I think it's something that needs to be brought into the record.

Atty. Bengs, I just want to say one thing I'd like to add since you brought that up. Jessica said she just talked to (Inaudible) Secretary of State as they're going forward they're gearing a lot of their updates and changes and trends on how to do it for the electron poll books and the electronic equipment that is what they're gearing these changes toward.

Com. Blaney, How many other counties did you say were using e-poll books? I know you said that in the email.

Ms. Bailey, Two thirds.

Atty. Bengs, (Inaudible). So that is why the Secretary of State is doing the same. In case changes or modifications are gearing towards that electronic data base instead of doing it manually.

Com. Good, And that will be the form that they communicate everyone through.

Atty. Bengs, Correct.

Com. Good, So if we're not that format and we're not in that space then we're going to be sitting there looking for our own patches and fixes and all of those other things that I think unfortunately we're all too aware of up here.

Com. Blaney, And productivity really takes a hit when you do that.

Ms. Hartwig, (Inaudible) paper that can be reused again for the next election as we were doing the V-STOP audit the last couple of days there were 100's of preprinted ballots because you don't know how many of your registered voters will appear that are of no use now, stacks of them that cannot be used again that were paid for. That can be used again.

Com. Biggs, Our last election the one that failed so terribly was any of that due to equipment failure?

Ms. Bailey, There were some cards and battery issues. Things like that.

Com. Biggs, Did it play any primary?

Ms. Bailey, No primarily it was people.

Atty. Bengs, That was a normal issue (Inaudible) we had that in previous elections where a board or a battery had failed and they had to go out and send a tech out to fix it. That is just due to the (Inaudible).

Com. Biggs, I haven't made a secret of my opinion of it, but I would like to say this I'm impressed with you. I think you're exactly what that office needed at the right time. I think there is reason to hold a lot of promise in you. I think that turning this next election over to you we probably will not regret that. From everything I hear and seen you're very bright and you certainly had no role in our last election. As we know we have the Secretary of State's office who I spent 45 minutes on the phone with yesterday, conducted an investigation on the causes of our last election. As a Commissioner I have not received since November that evening which I walked out and got home at roughly around 1:00 in the morning. I got a front row seat as to what was going on that evening, but I never received anything from the Election Board as to what they felt failed and what corrective actions that they are recommending be put into place for this next election. I think the buck stops with the Election Board. You coming in and turning it over to you I think is an intelligent move and I wish you luck. I personally would like to see us go through an election cycle not only with these changes made after we hear from the Secretary of State's office and these bills that have not yet past see how you do and see if those problems existed in November of that day are gone and if they have been corrected. I think that's not only fair to the voters. I think it's fair to you. I don't think investing \$1 million into the process down there is going to fix what is really wrong with it. I don't because it was human error that caused the catastrophic failure of that evening. As I touched on I think bringing you in is addressing that to some extent. I think it would be healthy for the entire process if we went through one election cycle with what we have today and then if everything is fine you're certainly going to be more familiar with what is going on than we (Inaudible) it but that is just my opinion.

Com. Good, I couldn't disagree more and I think to roll this out in a municipal election is much easier then rolling it out in a 2020 main election. I think those are two entirely different things and I think with the age of this equipment I think we're just setting ourselves up for equipment failure that will happen. I think we can look in the rear view mirror all day long and I think a lot of that has been done up here. I think what we're trying to do is look forward and I think this is the direction that it is all going to. None of this stuff is cheap. I think we went out and got a pretty good lease payment for this. I think we can fit it into our budget. I know Scott and I and Laura have looked at that and I just don't think that there is any other better time to do this. You want to keep going back and beating the dead horse. You can go back and beat the dead horse but I think it's time to look forward and I want to work and be part of the solution to help even though the buck does stop with the Election Board we're here to help. I think from this office we want to reach out and let you know that we're here to help and to be part of the solution rather than try to be part of the problem. I think that is where we all of to come together on this and start moving in the right direction. This is critical to democracy and I think voting is very personal and I think it's up to us to make sure that we get this thing going in the right direction. I think this equipment is a big start to that. That is sort of where I'm at. Laura I don't know if you have anything to add.

Com. Blaney, Yes I actually received a lot of feedback from the Election Board through Jessica who is sitting on the Election Board. You're email expressed a lot of what you want to do moving forward and I appreciate that a lot. I agree that there is human error really at the bottom of all of this, but I think the human error is going to be decreased with this new equipment. It cuts out a lot of steps; it cuts out a lot of human activity that can cause error. I also think it would be tough to learn on the old equipment, not tough you can do it, but then next year learn it all over again during a presidential election. That doesn't make sense to me. Elections are the cornerstone of everything we do here and I think this makes sense in moving us forward. Its part of a bigger solution but it's a really important part and yes it's expensive but this to me is money well spent.

Com. Good, I would also like to point out in your email too since this equipment is end of life that's easy to say but there are a lot of things that go along with that. For us to be able to get additional poll books if these go bad. We're going to have to start buying second hand equipment from other counties that are all pre-programmed and have a lot of other things on them. So now

you become more into the IT business of trying to chase patches, chase old e-poll books. I just don't think that is where want to be as a county, the 7th largest county in the State of Indiana. I think we need to lead on this. I think we've all been embarrassed enough as a county, all of us whether you were on the ballot or not we were all embarrassed. Bold movements take bold actions and I think that is where we're at here today. This is a big step but I'm ready. I'm tired of the finger pointing, I'm tired of the fighting and if we can all start working together on this stuff this is where we need to go and I'm ready for that. I have been ready for that for a long time. I just want to point that out about the older poll books too.

Com. Blaney, I don't have my computer on with me. Do we have numbers here that we need to include in motions? Scott do you have of that?

Com. Good, One of the questions is we move into the proposal now. Scott and I were talking the other day. I noticed in the proposal there were a lot of add on services that this company can perform during the elections. Because of this investment that we're looking to are they going to be there and covering us on this first election to make sure that everything does go well and if they are is that included in that bid price so we're not going to get add on in our first election because to me this puts this company in the same boat we are in. I can understand Com. Biggs' concerns but if that is a concern what my feeling is are we going to be able to have all hands on deck when we roll this first one out they should be there. I think this is part of this program. It shouldn't be an add on, it shouldn't be an extra; it should be part of getting this contract and doing it. I wanted to ask you that question, but I guess I made a statement I should have let you answer first.

Ms. Bailey, I don't want to miss speak I know that we will have somebody on site for I believe the 30 days or so but....

Mr. Geason, My name is Matt Geason. I'm Vice President of sales with Election and Systems Software and we're looking forward to continuing our partnership with Porter County. You can rest assured in this agreement we've included that we will be here to install the new system, help with the training, help support this all the way through and we will be here with you on election day to make sure it is a successful election. Like you said we're in this with you.

Com. Good, From beginning to end.

Mr. Geason, From beginning to end.

Com. Biggs, What role did you play in our last election (Inaudible not near the mike.)

Mr. Burton, I'm Jeremy Burton the Indiana Manager for Election Systems and Software. We have a project manager and two others here on Election Day for the last election. (Inaudible) batteries and aging failure issues.

Com. Biggs, Your role was to address any failures that may have occurred.

Mr. Burton, Yes sir and we also helped tabulate the results (Inaudible) a few days.

Com. Biggs, You were participating in our last election.

Mr. Burton, Yes sir every election for the last 20 years.

Com. Good, Thank you. Any other questions for them? Thank you.

Atty. McClure, The grand total would be \$1,829,613.72. I'm going to ask Vicki for the Rainy Day number in a second, but the total amount financed so we have roughly \$465,000.00 in the Rainy Day Fund to make down payment. I'm sure Vicki will correct me and she wants to now so go ahead.

Ms. Urbanik, You were very close \$446,011.76.

Atty. McClure, That would be the down payment on this purchase if it's approved throughout today. Then then the Election Board has gone out through Mr. Bengs and got the Horizon Bank proposal. Horizon Bank also had a relationship with us when we did the Jail Security Project 3 or 4 years ago. They came back with an amount financed of \$1,383,601.96. That interest rate would be at 3.69% that is a 7 year loan. I think some of the discussions that were had about the length of the loan were related to how long the equipment would last. I believe we're looking at somewhere around a projection of 10 to 12 years that this equipment

would last. That is why the financing is pushed out for 7 years. It is still shorter than the life of the equipment but it's not condensed. This morning Vicki ran the numbers with her staff. That would put a yearly payment with that first payment due in 2020 of \$227,887.64. If this again progresses through the meetings today and gets approved that would allow the Council to have the ability to budget for this in this year's budget session for 2020 and be able to deal with that at that time from the very beginning of the budget session. It wouldn't be a surprise for this year, an additional for this year so it's not like we would have to find that money. That is the total and that would include the entire proposal at this point in time. I guess the one last question I have and maybe David you're the one that has enough experience with it to know the numbers. It sounds like to me we would be at least losing some of that inherent cost, employee cost of sorting. As I'm looking kind of rough numbers in my head we're at least at 20/25% of voting is now happening in early voting. We are roughly 60,000 votes and roughly 18,000 or so early voting. That process behind the scenes of sorting that goes away. That is either employees or part-time people coming in. It probably would reduce a little bit of the need for either some of those part-time employees or moving those employees off of other jobs. Then we would also lose the guessing game that we have been playing for 20 years of how many ballots to buy and how many ballots get thrown away or how close we cut it. We've done everything from throw a lot of away to have some helicoptered in the day of. We've gone both sides of that gamut. It sounds to me we lose that guessing game. There is some potential some money within these budgets to help towards this \$227 payment because we are losing at least potentially some labor on the sorting. We're losing some labor on the Sheriff's Dept. shipping them out to precincts. We're losing the guessing game on the ballots themselves and the purchase of those and then ultimately they are not worth anything the 5 minutes after the election is over so we lose some of those. There may be some ways when the Council can dig into those numbers during budget session to potentially even lighten this load a bit without new money because there is potentially some money within those budgets themselves that may be able to be moved over to help make this payment.

Com. Biggs, Scott do you think there is going to be as much as \$200 plus thousand within that budget by moving some stuff over to pay for this equipment?

Atty. McClure, I've seen ballots go as high as \$80 to \$90,000 for a year.

Com. Biggs, What is your projection David minus the cost of the equipment? What is your projection decrease percentile of your operating budget because we're purchasing this equipment?

Atty. Bengs, Well the labor cost will go down because I don't think we're going to have that risk of the overtime we had previously. That is one issue. I don't know if the numbers are going to go down especially being new equipment. As you saw at the last election that is one thing I don't think you want to short staff yourself and put that risk of relying on the machinery to do that and then if there is something....

Com. Biggs, So we are going to hire the same amount of people?

Atty. Bengs, I think that the labor is virtually going to be the same. I don't think that is going to go down until we have a sufficient handle.....

Com. Biggs, And wouldn't you say that the cost of labor personnel is about 90/95% of your total cost?

Atty. Bengs, I don't think it is that high.

Com. Biggs, I'm just concerned about finding \$200,000.00.

Atty. Bengs, Sure I don't know if we could find that much if that is what you're really asking, but you are going to have some significant savings especially on the paper alone.

Atty. McClure, In a municipal how much would spend \$30,000.00 on ballots or \$70,000.00?

Atty. Bengs, Municipal was almost half so you are looking at about \$45,000.00 is typically (Inaudible).

Atty. McClure, In just ballot purchase.

Atty. Bengs, That's just the in stock.

Atty. McClure, Then what would be a presidential?

Atty. Bengs, (Inaudible) back to your 90, because remember like you had mentioned we had the issue where we ran out of ballots and then we would rush to get them printed and get them sorted. So after that fact we just bought based on the number of registered voters that is how many in stock ballots we had being printed. It (Inaudible) for a 100% turn out.

Com. Biggs, Since we're on the subject matter what kind of cost are developed when you have this type of system? Maybe the question is better asked to these gentlemen in the back. What are the costs incurred by the County form having this equipment?

Unknown, (Inaudible, not sitting near the mike.)

Com. Bengs, Other than the electric bill.

Mr. Burton, Today when you have the pre-print paper ballots and they are \$.30 per ballot and you may have an election where you get 40% / 20% turnout (Inaudible).

Atty. McClure, 100%.

Mr. Burton, You're talking many thousands of dollars that just go to waste and then you have to get rid of that paper, you have to store and shred all of that stuff. Now we're talking about paper ballot that literally only goes to every voter that comes in and votes that ballot. There is no wasted papers you're only giving a piece of paper out to the voter who actually voted. If only 20% show up.....

Com. Biggs, But what is the cost of that paper for the machines.

Mr. Burton, \$.10 (Inaudible). If it's \$.10 per voter that votes.

Com. Biggs, Jeff I hope I'm not upsetting because I'm asking these questions.

Com. Good, Not at all. I think most of this.....

Com. Biggs, I would appreciate....

Com. Good, I think most of this lies within the Council's peruse when we talk about budgets and things like that. Coming from your background on the Council I could see why you would want to ask those questions.

Com. Biggs, Thank you I appreciate that.

Com. Good, You bet.

Com. Biggs, Thank you.

Com. Good, Before we vote I want to talk to the Clerk because you are on the Election Board I think that has been missed here in the discussion. One of the things I know that we've talked about a lot in our office and I want to preface this with the press and make sure that they write this correctly. I am not for voting centers because that is sort of the trigger word for everybody to go crazy and I know the papers like that but I do feel that with 73 locations that we have currently I would just ask before this vote of the Election Board that you really take into consideration a lot of the duplicating of areas of voting that we have in this County. That too will help streamline the election process and that too will make better use of our poll workers, security, ADA all of these other things. I'm not asking for voting centers but what I would like to ask the Election Board to consider some of these areas where we have precincts across the street from each other. I'm not looking for whole sale change I just think that over time I think we can work on this so we can find a sweet spot for both sides where they can work and be happy and we have again a process that is more efficient and more relevant to the voters. I'm just asking you as a representative of the Election Board to please carry that message to the Election Board. We will be more than happy to work with you on that because we have some say so when the time comes to make those things happen. It is more of a request and I'm just asking publicly that's all.

Ms. Bailey, I've stated before that I do believe in responsible poll consolidation again not saying the word Vote Center, but responsible poll consolidation when they are directly across the street or 20 feet down the road. We have briefly discussed it and we haven't had our meeting yet that is at 3:00 but I don't see any changes until after the presidential. It's important the people know where they are supposed to go vote.

Com. Good, Thank you. Anyone else?

Com. Blaney, We have a few members of the Council here I just wondered if there is anything you wanted to add to this discussion before we vote?

Ms. Graham, I had one quick question. I'm Sylvia Graham I'm on the County Council. We talked about the bar code. Once that is read in then the official ballot goes (Inaudible) what happens to the ballot that the voters vote on? Is that kept until the election is certified?

Ms. Bailey, Then it goes right inside the next machine.

Ms. Graham, I just wanted (Inaudible) to talk about how the bar code goes into the (Inaudible, not near the microphone.)

Ms. Bailey, So the white machine....

Ms. Graham, I've seen it.

Ms. Bailey, The next machine over is where you would put that ballot, it's going to take a scan of it and it's going to drop it down.

Ms. Graham, If the voter initially on that will be kept.

Ms. Bailey, Yes it will be saved.

Atty. McClure, I think I might understand what Sylvia is asking. Sylvia the voters under this system won't be on paper. There are going to be on a touch screen voting correct?

Ms. Bailey, Correct.

Atty. McClure, You walk into vote in the general. You check in with the e-poll book. They hand you this. It has the bar code at the top. There is nothing below it. You put it in the machine and the machine pulls up what you should be voting for and you are touch screen voting and choosing. When you're done you get to confirm this is who I wanted to vote for and yes I did confirm. Then it prints this, this then says who you voted for again. You can make sure who you wanted to vote for, than this goes to that machine to be counted. This is then kept.

Mr. Jessen, Just a comment Mike Jessen on the County Council. First of all I would like to express my appreciation to the new County Clerk Ms. Bailey and the work that she has done in terms of trying to sort through issues that have been problems in the past, but more importantly looking to how we can fix this in the future. That should be at the heart of what we're trying to accomplish here. To try and not talk about the most recent election because that was a fiasco by anyone's standards something completely unacceptable and we're all in agreement that that has to change. As we look at this equipment and I appreciate the work that has been done on behalf of the Election Board as well because it has been thoroughly vetted multiple times and for as much as we had a struggle in this most recent election the point is the equipment was a topic for discussion long before this most recent fiasco of an election. There has been an ongoing need for quite some time to address this equipment issue when you're dealing with equipment that is 18 to 22 years old and you never know quite when it is going to fail or become obsolete. I think the idea of addressing this equipment part is especially important. I appreciate the work that has been done. It is also very clear that we have a people component problem and I'm very encouraged by what you are doing Ms. Bailey and I am confident that you are going to get this straightened out as well. In agreement with Mr. Good we have to move forward to say let's get this fixed once and for all for the people of Porter County.

Com. Good, Greg do you want to say anything?

Com. Biggs, I just want to make clear it wasn't the lack of having this equipment at the last election the reason for the failure of the last election. I just want to make that clear.

Mr. Simms, I'm good.

Com. Good, Any other questions from the Board, Madame Clerk or the Election Board David or anyone? This is a big step to start off in the New Year. Is there anyone here in the Chambers that would like to stand up and say anything? We're trying to be as inclusive as we can. Mike Simpson why don't you come forward and give your name and address, what you do. Love to hear your input.

Mr. Simpson, I'm Michael Simpson and I live at 751 Mill Crossing in Valparaiso. Besides a local business owner and resident I'm the Republican Party County Chairman. I've been watching and studying this and following this including the debacle. One item I would like to point out and make really clear so there is a clear understanding. If we don't move forward and if we try Com. Biggs' idea of doing it the old way because it was human error and there is no question you are correct Com. Biggs it was human error that caused the fiasco of last year. The legislation that is currently in play down State changing our Election Board and adjusting how we conduct our elections requires central count. Should you not do this equipment you make central count virtually impossible. Now I say virtually because yes you could do it but you now just added a layer of human error that you don't want to have where mistakes can be made, actual fraud can be committed because what you're depending on is the last day we vote is the Saturday before the Tuesday election. So then you would have to take all of those final votes and make sure that every paper poll book has marked in it the person who voted in absentee. You're right Scott we use that word for early and everything it's the same thing. You have to make sure every one of those is marked and you still have absentee ballots that are being mailed in that can come in all of the way until noon on Election Day. That wouldn't preclude a person from showing up at the polls on Election Day and casting a ballot again because there will be no record of it. With the e-poll books everything will be stand-in that will block that person, it won't block them it will create a provisional ballot thus the Election Board with the Clerk will be able try to figure out what this voter intended to do by voting twice. If you do it the manual old fashioned way you're back to the same human errors that I watched happen where you are sorting ballots, moving ballots across the County in Sheriff's cars. I walked in the presidential at 16 to my mother's and father's polling place because I took them to the polls so they could vote and there were absentee ballots scattered all over the tables in grocery bags because they were busy trying to feed them into the machine. Of course we all remember the turn out for that was just a little bit more than this last one. People were asking why are there ballots the people were freaked out seeing ballots lay on the tables in front of everyone. Somebody's ballot was laying there. Again, central count the security, the efficiency, the effectiveness is critical. E-poll books guarantees some quality check and making sure we never get double voting or mistakes aren't made and we don't have any fraud. Going backwards and living in the past is a fool's errand. I respect Com. Biggs' wanting to look at different things and vet everything possible and I understand the money part, I agree with the money part. We always have to figure out the money part, but to go backwards with 20 year old plus equipment and do the same thing again we're inviting a second disaster. I believe Clerk Bailey and the Election Board will do a great job and they will be able to mitigate any of those errors but again we're inviting ourselves for error. All I can do is implore the Commissioners as well as the Council members who are here and the Election Board members that are here please please I beg of you please purchase the new equipment. Move forward and yes if there is any way we can consolidate the key word is consolidate polling locations. Consolidate use our big high schools as mega centers that have all of the parking and ADA accessible needed to handle thousands of voters on Election Day. Please do that but please purchase the equipment. As a citizen and taxpayer I would also appreciate it. Thank you for your time.

Com. Good, Thank you Mike. Anyone else wishing to...Hi Sylvia.

Ms. Graham, With using the e-poll book we do early voting or absentee voting whatever you want to call it and then within a matter of whatever 3 weeks you decide I want to...and you were point that out with thee-poll books because right now with the poll books that we are using you can't go in and change your mind and vote on Election Day and that last vote is (Inaudible) count is that correct?

Ms. Bailey, Are you saying if you voted twice?

Atty. McClure, No what she is say is this right now if you go to early voting and you vote on the first day of early voting. You vote two weeks later, you don't like your vote anymore. There is a process to come spoil the old and vote again. She wants to make sure that process is still available with this equipment.

Ms. Graham, Would we be losing that?

Ms. Bailey, No.

Ms. Graham, That is all I wanted to know.

Com. Good, Thank you Sylvia. Anyone else?

Com Blaney, moved to approve the purchase of the ES&S Election Equipment and E-poll books contingent on approval by both the Election Board and the County Council for \$1,829,613.72, Com. Good, second, motion carried.

Com. Biggs, Opposed the vote to approve.

Com. Good, The next Commissioners' meeting will be next Tuesday, February 5th and we will be getting some announcements out on potential closures of the County buildings to give everyone plenty of time to plan for the next day or two.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PORTER COUNTY, INDIANA

Jeffrey J. Good

Laura M. Blaney

Jim Biggs

Attest: _____
Vicki Urbanik, Auditor