

**PORTER COUNTY COUNCIL
Emergency Meeting
January 29, 2019**

The Porter County Council met on Tuesday, January 29, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. in the County Administration Center, 155 Indiana-Suite 205, Valparaiso, Indiana.

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

Members present were Council Member Dan Whitten, Council Member Sylvia Graham, Council Member Mike Jessen, Council Member Jeff Larson, Council Member Bob Poparad, Council Member Jeremy Rivas and Council Member Greg Simms. Also present was, Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Auditor Chief Deputy Toni Downing Council Attorney Harold Harper and Council Administrative Assistant Joy Blakely.

First Reading

Mr. Whitten, Madam Auditor please give us first reading.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik,

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS OF PROPOSED ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

Notice is hereby given the taxpayers of Porter County, Indiana that the proper legal officers of Porter County, Indiana will meet in the Porter County Government Administration Building located at 155 Indiana Avenue, Valparaiso IN 46383 on January 29, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. to consider the following additional appropriations in excess of the county budgets for the year 2019 and to transact any further business which might come before the Council:

Rainy Day Fund			
Rainy Day Fund	1186-45400-000-0062	Other Equipment	\$ 446,011.76

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 18, 2019

Mr. Whitten, Thank you so much.

Election Board

Rainy Day Fund - 1186-000-0062

Additional \$446,011.76 to 45400 Other Equipment Reason: To appropriate monies for the purchase of election equipment.

Mr. Whitten, The first and pretty much the only thing on the agenda Election Board Rainy Day fund. An additional of \$446,011.76 to other equipment.

Mr. Larson, I make a motion.

Mr. Jessen, Second.

Mr. Whitten, We have a motion and a second to approve, let's have some discussion.

Mr. Poparad, Is this a down payment Mr. President?

Mr. Whitten, This is that yes, so I was ask Dave if you could...if David Bengs from the Election Board and Clerk also from the Board here with us. Let's talk a little bit about the costs of what you are proposing and let's talk about the financing. I know that the Commissioners have already addressed this I know that you guys have talked about it at the election board meeting. I know Dave that in conversations that we've had in the past you were checking around and Horizon seemed to be the best rate is that correct?

Election Board David Bengs, Correct Horizon.

Mr. Whitten, Is that still the case?

Election Board David Bengs, Yes it is.

Mr. Whitten, So why don't you tell us a little bit about that financing that you have been able to (inaudible) with Horizon?

Election Board David Bengs, They came in at 3.69% the financing term that was previously requested was over seven years on the remaining balance after the down payment of our funds that are being held in the Rainy Day fund so the remaining balance of the \$1.3 million dollars and sum would be financed over seven years at 3.69%. The County would have the option they could always pay it off early there is no penalty for that and you are not going to be charged any extra, but they were the ones that did come in at the best rate.

Mr. Whitten, Ok does anybody have any questions about that part?

Mr. Poparad, Did we ever get a dollar amount on how much interest we are paying? Did you ever get a amortization sheet?

Election Board David Bengs, I didn't bring the amortization with me but they could provide that if you would like to see that I can get that for you from Horizon.

Mr. Poparad, Well yeah because we have cash.

Mr. Whitten, We do have cash...we do have cash but with that kind of interest rate it seemed to me that we could budget for this and it would be manageable.

Mr. Poparad, What are would these payments be at the end of the year?

Clerk Jessica Bailey, \$227,887.61

Mr. Poparad, I can't hear you I'm sorry.

Clerk Jessica Bailey, \$227,887.61

Mr. Poparad, Vicki did you want to...

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, May I just interject that's an amortization that we ran this morning in my office so depending on the final details that the bank may have it might be up or down. We just wanted to get an idea of what the annual payment would be.

Mr. Poparad, But nobody can tell me how much interest we're paying?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Well let try to recreate it. We just wanted the annual payment.

Mr. Rivas, So Bob I know where you are going with it and I think that I agree with you but the important part is that there is no penalty to pay it off early.

Election Board David Bengs, Correct.

Mr. Rivas, When is the first payment due?

Election Board David Bengs, Are actually first installment won't be until January of 2020 because the down payment is considered our first payment. So there will be annual installments in January.

Mr. Whitten, So I guess the answer to that Bob is we can get that information but we also have the ability to pay it off if we want to without penalty. Any other questions about that Bob do you have further questions? Did you want to someone to try to run an amortization?

Mr. Poparad, I'm just...

Mr. Rivas, It would be an interesting number to know even a ballpark.

Mr. Whitten, A lot it's going to be a lot.

Mr. Poparad, Yeah.

Mr. Whitten, Next question.

Mr. Rivas, Which is why we should consider in the future for sure.

Mr. Poparad, Why did we go out seven years? The equipment will be half dead by the time we get it paid off.

Ms. Graham, They might be all dead the way technology moves, but don't we have a lot of budget or a lot of things that we are budgeting for that are quite costly that we might need like 911?

Mr. Rivas, I think as we move forward this year closer to budgets I think it's something that we should really take serious the conversation of possible paying it off early if we don't think that there is room to budget it. We have the ability to have that conversation at any point and time moving forward.

Mr. Whitten, Vicki did you have something to say? It seems like you are wanting to jump in here.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, We just recreated an amortization schedule, this is our numbers not the banks. Ok it's just based on this piece of paper.

Mr. Whitten, Seven years 3.69%

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, We are coming up with total interest of \$211,611 dollars. So just over two hundred thousand dollars.

Mr. Poparad, That's not much to pay, that's half of the E-Poll books.

Mr. Whitten, Ok what's the life expectancy of this equipment?

Clerk Jessica Bailey, Ten to twelve years

Mr. Rivas, Say it again?

Clerk Jessica Bailey, Ten to twelve years.

Mr. Whitten, How long did we have the stuff that we have now?

Clerk Jessica Bailey, Eighteen to twenty-two years.

Election Board David Bengs, Yeah.

Mr. Whitten, So is our expectation of the new equipment is it won't last as long as the old equipment or...?

Clerk Jessica Bailey, I think the other one had about the same life expectancy but these are (inaudible) technology and technology (inaudible)

Election Board David Bengs, Yeah the original equipment is only estimated at ten years so we did quite well.

Ms. Graham, Right we used these.

Mr. Whitten, I mean Bob's point is well made that perhaps it's something that we should explore the possibility of just paying. If we're not earning on our cash which in some places we are and some places we aren't. Maybe at some point the wiser move is to pay it off.

Mr. Poparad, Well in three years we are going to have a budget issue.

Mr. Whitten, Well if we use the cash now as opposed...if we didn't use it now we would in theory have in three years. We've managed to maintain cash for years, we've not been cash poor for a while. Good news.

Mr. Rivas, I think Bob this is a conversation that we should definitely have, definitely explore. I just don't know because there has already been one of the ten, if we are thinking about one area for that money one of the ten...at one so least far has voted against it. Will that one person also hold out if we are thinking principal?

Mr. Whitten, Well we should never think principal because the odds...

Mr. Rivas, That's here in the County still.

Mr. Whitten, The odds of getting ten out of ten it's not great.

Mr. Rivas, No.

Mr. Whitten, So Vicki do you have something else to add? You look like you were getting ready to say something else?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, No.

Mr. Poparad, Will this payment go against our budget capital?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Yes if you commit to do this keep in mind that every year you will have to budget this amount...this annual payment in the Election Board budget that's where I was told it would probably come out of which is the General fund.

Ms. Graham, If we pay cash it wouldn't?

Mr. Poparad, Right but Jeremy's right we can address this in a year if we want.

Mr. Whitten, Yeah and Bob we've had this conversation you and I and others that it's a great conversation whether or not it's financially prudent for us to pay cash. Absolutely if we are not earning money on our cash then we don't want to stymie ourselves or straddle ourselves with a tough budget payment maybe paying it off would be the right move I don't disagree with you there at all actually. But I guess I would be along Jeremy's thoughts at budget time we could take a look at it the first payments not due till...

Mr. Poparad, Next year.

Mr. Whitten, Yeah so maybe we could deal with it at budget time and decide right then and there whether we want to budget this payment of just pay it off.

Mr. Poparad, How much does this all cost again annually? I thought it was \$50,000 dollars is that a realistic number? I read it but I don't remember...maintenance software?

Mr. Rivas, Who do you have with you from ES & S you have Jeremy and?

Election Board David Bengs, It's like \$50,000 dollars.

Ms. Graham, Is it \$50,000?

Election Board David Bengs, Yeah I think it is.

Mr. Poparad, That has to be added in too.

Mr. Larson, What are our current costs?

Mr. Whitten, Yeah I want to see what that's going to supplant. What kind of budget costs are we going to overlap here...or overlay?

Election Board David Bengs, Let me see we've got them all separate.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, There was some discussion this morning at the Commissioner meeting that we might not need to budget as much for ballots because of...

Clerk Jessica Bailey, Or workers because the ballots instead of buying for 100% of registered voters would be printed as the voter comes in so if we only have...

Mr. Poparad, As needed.

Ms. Graham, Would be scanned right?

Clerk Jessica Bailey, Correct and those little pieces of paper we can store the overage for up to five years. So if we buy them in packages of 1000 or something and we don't use them all no harm no foul. Where now we're printing ballots for 100% of registered voters and we're not having that type of turn out and then they just go in the garbage because they have already been printed. So we will save money with that and with the central count machine we will save some money on employees because we won't be using the (inaudible) as much.

Ms. Graham, Just to mention tonight we saw where we are not using the same E-Poll book and the same printer there is no printing involved. So we won't run into that problem of having a delay of long line of people, it shouldn't be that long of a delay...

Clerk Jessica Bailey, Right.

Ms. Graham, because these new E-Poll books and that they work very rapidly.

Clerk Jessica Bailey, Yes and it's thermo-print so you don't have to worry about jamming of the paper and you don't have to worry about ink for the printer.

Ms. Graham, That was one of my big concerns was the long lines of waiting to vote.

Mr. Whitten, So Vicki a quick question as we look at our Election Board budget now what would change? So we have maintenance agreements \$140,000 dollars is that still going to be...

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, I wonder if we could knock that down, I mean ultimately that would be up to the Election Board and the Clerk.

Mr. Whitten, I want to see what's changing? Because we are talking like this is all new money that we have to come up with and I am wondering how much of the old budget we can carve off.

Mr. Larson, You said that we are going to save on ballots and coding right? There is \$110,000 dollars in that.

Mr. Whitten, Right.

Clerk Jessica Bailey, Yeah we would save a portion of that.

Mr. Rivas, And what about maintenance and agreements like Dan was saying that's a large number.

Election Board David Bengs, Just going to the contract you've got your...see it's broken down.

Clerk Jessica Bailey, Right.

Election Board David Bengs, You've got \$21,000 dollars...

Clerk Jessica Bailey, Over four years.

Election Board David Bengs, over four years, you've got \$5,000 for the software that's our central point software which controls everything.

Mr. Whitten, Right.

Election Board David Bengs, So that's \$5,000 plus you've got \$32,000 which are all of your scanners back there, that's the feeding scanner that runs through the big ballot box so you are up to \$37,000. The poll books are about \$25,000 if you round up so you are at \$52,000 and then the last is the...well that was on the other one. So it should be about \$52,000 dollars and that's your maintenance and your firmware updating the software on the devices.

Mr. Whitten, So that will take the place of the \$140,000 dollars that we have now?

Election Board David Bengs, Yeah...Jeremy can you confirm that because the \$140,000 figure is our old maintenance figure for the current existing inventory right?

ES & S Jeremy Burton, Yes and the new one is \$89,950 per year.

Election Board David Bengs, Ok.

Mr. Rivas, That's what our maintenance and agreements is?

Mr. Whitten, So we are going to pick up about \$50,000.

Clerk Jessica Bailey, What about the Ballots and coding.

ES & S Jeremy Burton, The ballots will fluctuate each election so right now you are paying around .30 cents a ballot. You will now pay .10 cents a ballot and each election you will now pay .10 cents a ballot. Each election the Election Board will decide how many to order, but since they are blank they can be used if they are not used in that election.

Mr. Whitten, So we might pick up \$100,000 or so...maybe slightly north of that.

Mr. Poparad, So if I am reading this correctly we budgeted \$140,000 for maintenance on the present system.

Election Board David Bengs, Right.

Mr. Poparad, And we budgeted \$140,000 in Polling Place Boards, is that the Poll Workers I'm assuming?

Election Board David Bengs, Yes.

Mr. Poparad, Ok

Mr. Larson, So you believe that we are going to save a little bit on...

Mr. Poparad, Ballots and coding.

Mr. Larson, Right.

Clerk Jessica Bailey, We'll save some.

Election Board David Bengs, Yeah we are going to save on that.

Mr. Whitten, So I think that honestly guys, I think that when we get into...I think you hit it on the head Jeremy when we get into our budget session let's take a look. I mean the Election Board is going to come to us with a new budget so we can take a look at what this payment does to it if we want to knock it out of the box and go to a pot of money and pay it off fine. If it doesn't torpedo our budget then we can work it into the Election Board budget and deal with it.

Mr. Poparad, I guess my bigger concern and I've said this before but I want to repeat myself ad-nauseam. What is your plan for Poll Workers, training, etcetera...etcetera?

Clerk Jessica Bailey, Poll Worker training we have already planned on having a completely new process.

Mr. Poparad, I read your email but I want to hear it.

Election Board David Bengs, Did you get the power point?

Clerk Jessica Bailey, So with the specifics of it we need to know which way we are training because it with the current equipment or is it toward the new equipment because as soon as we know that...

Mr. Whitten, Let's just assume it's with the new equipment tell us how it's going to go?

Clerk Jessica Bailey, Then ES & S is going to provide us new training as well on the new equipment and each and every poll worker will be mandated to go to training it's not going to be grandfathered in. It's not going to be I know that you have been a poll worker for twenty years, everybody has to go. We will be asking that we pay the poll workers to attend training their time is worth money. It's a very hot commodity item.

Mr. Poparad, Are you going to have it like one in Portage, one in Valpo, one in Chesterton, One in south county?

Clerk Jessica Bailey, Yes are going to go around the County instead of saying that you have to come to the Commissioners Chambers at 10:30 a.m. which is unrealistic for most people we are going to have it at a variety of times and a variety of locations. The training will be done by PowerPoint so it's the same information shared at every training session.

Mr. Whitten, When would that occur Jessica when would you do the training?

Clerk Jessica Bailey, As soon as we are done training for the staff we are going to start rolling it out to the poll workers.

Mr. Poparad, How...do we have enough poll workers?

Mr. Whitten, That's where I am heading...

Mr. Poparad, How are we organizing this? Who's doing what?

Mr. Rivas, We are looking at her.

Mr. Poparad, I know but I mean is she on the phone talking to every Senior Citizen and every High School kid?

Clerk Jessica Bailey, Yes we are reaching out to the High School students again in the government classes. We're are reaching out to every person who at been a poll worker the last few years instead of just D's and R's so many of each we're are reaching out to everyone.

Mr. Rivas, Have you been given some kind of database of previous poll workers?

Clerk Jessica Bailey, Yes.

Mr. Whitten, So I guess what I would as is that at our meeting between now and the Election coming up...at each of our meetings if you or somebody from your office is here that can kind of give us a quick update. You know this is how many poll workers that we need, this is how many poll workers we have, this is how many have been trained so that we go into that election all on the same sheet of music.

Clerk Jessica Bailey, Yes absolutely.

Mr. Whitten, Then maybe there is some way that we can help you with that.

Mr. Rivas, I think that maybe I read it somewhere...and you're going to be working with Curt on social media?

Clerk Jessica Bailey, Yes.

Mr. Rivas, With social media on all kinds of media...

Clerk Jessica Bailey, Social media and updating the website making it more user friendly so that...

Election Board David Bengs, Media.

Clerk Jessica Bailey, All media.

Mr. Whitten, Twitter.

Mr. Rivas, We can tweet it out.

Ms. Graham, So the training is that a concern? You know that you are going to be doing it on screens and that but there also going to have hands on training?

Clerk Jessica Bailey, Absolutely, they'll actually get to touch the machines, see what they are doing...

Ms. Graham, Ok.

Clerk Jessica Bailey, All that good stuff, everything that they would need to do on election day.

Mr. Rivas, And I saw a follow-up video that you guys will put together that they can have access to after they do the in person training.

Clerk Jessica Bailey, Yeah there is a really cool video software.

Mr. Poparad, YouTube.

Mr. Rivas, YouTube that's the place to go

Mr. Poparad, YouTube, I-Tube we all tube.

Mr. Whitten, We can put a little music on there.

Mr. Poparad, Yeah.

Mr. Whitten, Ok what other questions do we have about this request?

Mr. Rivas, I guess delivery if and when we approve this...

Mr. Whitten, Hold on a second. Can we get...guys? Jeremy?

Mr. Poparad, No second conversations.

Ms. Graham, No sidebar.

Mr. Poparad, No sidebar.

Mr. Whitten, I don't care if he talks but this question is probably for him.

Mr. Rivas, Jeremy when is delivery of this equipment?

ES & S Jeremy Burton, We are ready to deliver right now.

Mr. Rivas, Are you going to go home and get it and bring it back?

ES & S Jeremy Burton, We have \$90,000,000 dollars sitting in our warehouse right now so we are ready to ship as soon as you approve...

Ms. Graham, Not tomorrow it's cold.

ES & S Jeremy Burton, Yeah so we recognize your inclement weather.

Mr. Rivas, So you'll get it...

ES & S Jeremy Burton, Just as soon as the Clerk is ready we are going to remove the old and bring in the new.

Mr. Rivas, So with that too, remove the old where is all of this equipment going it's not going to be in some...

Mr. Whitten, Dungeon

Mr. Rivas, Garage...yeah dungeon outside?

Clerk Jessica Bailey, Yeah downstairs there is two rooms one that currently houses all the suitcases and then the other is from the hanging chad era machines that are...have not been in use for a very long time so we are going to utilize those two rooms.

Mr. Poparad, Is that climate controlled down there?

Clerk Jessica Bailey, Down in the basement yes, in the garage not so much.

Election Board David Bengs, Down by the Health Department do you know where the IT is back behind them.

Clerk Jessica Bailey, By the stairs.

Mr. Rivas, With security?

Mr. Poparad, Is that an issue Jeremy? This stuff has to be kept in climate control humidity and temperature... etcetera, etcetera.

ES & S Jeremy Burton, We have provided those requirements to the Clerk and the Election Board.

ES & S Mac Beeson, (Inaudible)

Mr. Rivas, Is there anyway that you two can both come up front so...

ES & S Mac Beeson, Yes as long as the temperature doesn't go above 100 degrees or below...say below freezing.

Ms. Graham, Thirty-two.

ES & S Mac Beeson, 32 degrees to 100 degrees.

Mr. Poparad, So the highway garage we can't use that.

Mr. Whitten, And you're comfortable where the location that you have to store this equipment will fall in that criteria.

Clerk Jessica Bailey, Yes.

Mr. Poparad, Humidity will probably not be an issue down there. Is it air conditioning down there?

Clerk Jessica Bailey, It's in this building.

Election Board David Bengs, It's in this building.

Mr. Poparad, Ok air conditioned and humidity controls in the basement?

Clerk Jessica Bailey, Yes.

Mr. Poparad, Ok because electronics and humidity don't get along.

Mr. Rivas, Yeah. Plus security we ask about security, locks, hammers I don't want people going in there and putting my name on every race.

(Laughter)

Mr. Whitten, They don't have to put your name on your race you are always unopposed.

(Inaudible)

Mr. Whitten, Jeff do you have any other questions?

Mr. Larson, We were just having some conversations with Jeremy I was asking about additional maintenance on the old equipment that was the conversation that I was having so there is some cost savings in that also. That was the side bar that was going on over there.

Mr. Whitten, Greg do you have anything?

Mr. Simms, Earlier today I was in here too and a lot of stuff was done then so I'm good.

Mr. Whitten, Ok. Jeremy anything else?

Mr. Rivas, I'm not saying anything.

Mr. Whitten, Ok. Mike?

Mr. Jessen, I like Greg had the opportunity to sit in on the Commissioners meeting and the presentation that Jessica gave. I think that we've talked about election equipment for years now long before the fiasco of the most recent election. It's clear the equipment is out of its lifecycle. I mean its 18 to 22 years and the expected lifecycle was 10 years. So it's clear to me that we need new equipment now to some of the questions talking about the people component of the election itself obviously we've got work to do and I trust that the Clerk will take care of that and that's having enough people making sure that they are trained properly and all that. That will be definitely the Clerk's responsibility and I have confidence that she will do it. The new equipment is needed and I think it's clear from the Commissioners standpoint that was overwhelming support...overwhelming majority support from them today. The Election Board as I understand was unanimous for purchasing the equipment and that's this Election Board and the previous Election Board was also unanimous support for the purchase of the equipment. So I think it's time, it's time we move forward there is some questions and issues to consider going forward in terms of financing in the future and all that sort of thing but I think for the purpose of getting this started now to get the equipment here in time to get the people trained all in anticipation of the municipal election its obviously the right thing to do so I'm in full support of it.

Mr. Whitten, Sylvia did you have questions or thoughts?

Ms. Graham, I feel much better about it because Jeremy showed me the new E-Poll books that we will be getting along with instead of printers there will be scanners so it will save a lot of time. I think that was the reason for the long lines especially with early voting, we were using different equipment. I will not...I think that all of our problems will not be solved just by getting new equipment because with anything there will be bugs as with everything. And I don't feel as if our old equipment really failed it worked but it is at end of life, it really is. What you said that we had it how many years 18?

Clerk Jessica Bailey, 18 years to 22 years.

Ms. Graham, It has served us well.

Mr. Rivas, It elected me three times.

(Laughter)

Mr. Whitten, Unopposed.

(Laughter)

Ms. Graham, This is a lot of money and it has been given a lot of thought. We do have the money in reserve and I think that we're moving ahead being very cautious about it and we are going to talk about it at budget. A lot of the problems I had with it primarily have been resolved and I'm going to vote in favor of it.

Mr. Whitten, Thank you Sylvia. Bob?

Mr. Poparad, The E-poll books am I missing it here on the quote? I must be missing it. I'm looking at \$149,000 on the front page.

Clerk Jessica Bailey, You were given a the agreement with the E-Poll books and without E-Poll books. You might be looking at the non E-Poll books proposal.

Mr. Poparad, So without the E-poll books it's \$1,490,000 with is \$1,970,000

Mr. Whitten, \$1,829,613 if I looking at this right.

Clerk Jessica Bailey, \$1.8

Mr. Poparad, Am I missing something? Oh I have two of them orders here, why do I have two orders?

Ms. Graham, The first one...

Clerk Jessica Bailey, One is with the other is without.

Mr. Poparad, Ok.

Mr. Whitten, Do you have a question about that Bob?

Mr. Poparad, Are they tied together the E-poll books and the other equipment?

Clerk Jessica Bailey, No that's why you were given the options.

Mr. Poparad, But if they don't have the E-poll books how do you print the ballot?

Clerk Jessica Bailey, You would just...

Ms. Graham, You don't print you scan.

Mr. Poparad, No wait, Harold signs in you print the ballot for Harold through the E-poll books right?

Clerk Jessica Bailey, Correct.

Mr. Poparad, But if you don't have the E-poll books then the whole system doesn't work.

Clerk Jessica Bailey, No it does work you don't have to have the E-Poll book.

Mr. Whitten, Yeah why don't one of you give us a quick run down.

ES & S Mac Beeson, What the E-poll book does is you put the voter in and there is a little printer hooked to it looks like a little punch card...

Mr. Poparad, Right.

ES & S Mac Beeson, and you put that barcode with their ballot...

Mr. Poparad, Right.

ES & S Mac Beeson, Without E-poll book then a poll worker would go to the machine with them and put the blank part in the machine it would bring up how many different ballots styles for that election and you pull up that selected ballot style for that voter and step away and the voter would go through that and...

Clerk Jessica Bailey, But we don't have a vote center.

Ms. Graham, So we are going to need one more poll worker?

Mr. Whitten, Without E-poll books.

Clerk Jessica Bailey, Without E-poll books.

Mr. Jessen, That's why the E-poll books are necessary.

Ms. Graham, Oh ok.

Mr. Whitten, Does that answer that question Bob?

Mr. Poparad, Yeah.

Mr. Whitten, Any others? So my thoughts are and I did have an opportunity and I know several of you attended the Commissioners meeting and I had the opportunity to talk to a couple of the Commissioners about it and from my perspective we've had lots of conversations with the Clerk, I think we all acknowledged tonight that this has been a long talked about purchase because it's not something new. This is not a purchase that is born of a bad election it certainly did bring it to the forefront for conversation. But certainly we have been talking about the need to update our election equipment for quite some time and initially my questions were how much of the election failure this last year was attributable to the equipment versus manpower issues and in the end it didn't really...I mean for me this really isn't necessarily let's just address or try to address the election failure with buying new equipment. We have other things to do to address the election failure and that's manpower and that's training and that's getting people where they are supposed to be and that's getting polls open when they are supposed to be open and all those sorts of things that caused the election to fail last year. This purchase to me is moving forward with something that's certainly overdue we don't want to be behind the times in Porter County. It's one thing for us to say that we are the most solvent county in the State of Indiana which we are but we are woefully behind the times in technology, those two statements don't mesh well right? So we want to be able to provide people the kind of lifestyle the kind of amenities in Porter County that they deserve living in the most solvent County in the State of Indiana. So this purchase to me is just part of that vision that part of moving things forward, moving our elections into the next phase for the next era so I'm certainly in support of it.

Mr. Poparad, I want to circle back to the training the poll workers, are you going to have people under you deputies handling this I am assuming? Whatever phrase that you want to use, are you going to have multiples and I am sorry I don't know your name I am assuming you're associated with the clerk?

Clerk Deputy Kathy Hartwig, Yes Kathy Hartwig.

Mr. Poparad, Ok she is going to be in Portage is she in charge of Portage? Is somebody else in charge of Chesterton?

Mr. Whitten, You know Bob not to...there is a little bit of that answer that's going to be answered by the law if it gets changed...

Mr. Poparad, No I'm talking about the training. Is that young lady going to be in charge of training of all the poll workers?

Mr. Whitten, Well she is going to have an election director and an assistant election director by statue.

Mr. Poparad, Ok.

Mr. Whitten, So I would assume that person and assistant would be in charge of the election.

Mr. Poparad, Ok now I'm talking about the training for the poll workers etcetera...etcetera.

Mr. Whitten, We are not there yet, we have to get past the law. The primary is a different animal.

Election Board David Bengs, The primary still...

Clerk Jessica Bailey, I wouldn't say that one person would be in charge of the Portage because just because the training is held in Portage it doesn't mean that it's not convenient for someone to be working at a Chesterton poll or a Boone poll if you can attend that training...

Mr. Poparad, No I'm not talking about that...I'm talking about your staff that is doing the training. Are you going to delegate or coordinate control whatever word that you want to use that she does Portage, then Dan does Chesterton...

Mr. Rivas, A head trainer with some staff underneath them who's got...

Mr. Poparad, Yes.

Clerk Jessica Bailey, Ok some people with be doing the training but it will be the same training. Yeah more than one person...

Mr. Poparad, Yeah because I'm going to be real disappointed if we buy all this stuff for \$2 million dollars and we fall apart on the people issue.

Clerk Jessica Bailey, Oh absolutely.

Mr. Poparad, Real disappointed.

Mr. Whitten, And I agree with that Bob which is why I have asked the Clerk to have her or somebody from her office come with information at each and every one of our meetings moving up to the election so that we know, so that we don't have this eleventh hour...

Mr. Poparad, Scramble.

Mr. Whitten, Yeah that's just not acceptable so...

Mr. Larson, Dan didn't we discuss that with Jessica and you can let me know if this is right or wrong but we talked about a pyramid of some type of order...

Mr. Whitten, Yes.

Mr. Larson, some type of order that you were going to flow chart or put together for us so that all of us could see that?

Clerk Jessica Bailey, Yes.

Mr. Larson, At what point do we have that in line and when do you expect to know where those people are going to fit in? I guess that's Bob's question because then we can have the hierarchy of knowing who is responsible for what.

Clerk Jessica Bailey, When is your next meeting?

Mr. Whitten, February.

Clerk Jessica Bailey, End of February? I feel comfortable saying by the end of February we would have that.

Mr. Whitten, And understand that we have concerns because again the manpower problem last year was the failure of the Clerk to delegate properly. So I think Bob's...part of Bob's is to delegate training properly.

Clerk Jessica Bailey, Ok.

Mr. Whitten, So I think that concerns are...

Mr. Poparad, Well I got to be honest with you and I got to be blunt that process should have already been started.

Clerk Jessica Bailey, And it has been started.

Mr. Whitten, It has been started.

Mr. Poparad, Ok.

Clerk Jessica Bailey, It has not been defined enough to give you a plan because it's very fluid at this moment because we have been dealing with the potential things in the law and...

Mr. Poparad, But none of those things have...the law and this equipment has nothing to do with you training poll workers adequately that is a totally separate issue.

Clerk Jessica Bailey, Correct but it's a time thing and the majority of this month has been spent learning the office and the current staff that I have for the entire office.

Mr. Whitten, I am just going to cut you off real quick so here's the thing we have two worlds that we are dealing with if that law passes. We have how you are going to do the Primary because the law won't have any impact on the primary and then we have how you are going to do the General. So why don't you instead of trying to go through it all here tonight, why don't you be available like you've just indicated you can for February and give us kind of little more detail break out of how things are going. Give us some sort of visual maybe a flow chart of how you are going to get through the Primary. How you are going to do training who's going to responsible for what that kind of thing. Is that good Bob will that do it for you?

Mr. Poparad, Yes because one is not tied together these are separate issues.

Mr. Whitten, Jeff are you ok with that?

Mr. Larson, Yeah I can kind of empathize with Jessica though because she is waiting to find out what equipment that we are going to have...

Mr. Whitten, That's right.

Mr. Larson, And that training will be somewhat specific to that equipment...

Mr. Whitten, Exactly.

Mr. Larson, And there is a little bit of a tie here and that's why we have moved so quickly to try and get this approved so I think that's going to be helpful in itself.

Mr. Whitten, Thank you I thought we were being attacked by bees.

Mr. Rivas, I think that the one follow-up is the training issue.

Clerk Jessica Bailey, Thanks.

Mr. Rivas, The person that was the head trainer last year are they still going to be part this?

Clerk Jessica Bailey, No necessarily no.

Mr. Whitten, But you will have a better idea of that in February as well correct?

Clerk Jessica Bailey, Yes.

Mr. Whitten, I know your concerns.

Mr. Larson, Are we going to vote?

Mr. Whitten, Yes any other questions or concerns or comments? Hearing none lets...

Mr. Rivas, I guess is that vote is to approve that to buy the whole...all the equipment.

Mr. Whitten, The motion that's on the table right now is the movement of the payment.

Mr. Poparad, Who made the motion?

Mr. Larson, I did

Mr. Jessen, And Jeff I second it.

Mr. Whitten, I was on the additional the payment.

Mr. Larson, It was on the \$1,829,000

Mr. Rivas, E-poll books everything.

Mr. Larson, It was on the full order.

Mr. Rivas, Ok.

Mr. Whitten, So the motion is to approve the additional \$446,011.96 dollars to other equipment and to move forward with the purchase with E-poll books. Is that correct Jeff?

Mr. Larson, That's correct.

Mr. Whitten, Does the second concur with that?

Mr. Jessen, Yes.

Mr. Whitten, Does everybody understand that motion and second that's on the floor?

Mr. Poparad, The poll books are tied together with the equipment.

Mr. Jessen, Yes.

Mr. Whitten, Well if this motion is approved. Everything is all in there everybody understands that? Let's have a roll call please?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Ms. Graham	-	Yes
Mr. Jessen	-	Yes
Mr. Larson	-	Yes
Mr. Poparad	-	Yes
Mr. Rivas	-	Yes
Mr. Simms	-	Yes
Mr. Whitten	-	Yes

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 7 - 0

Mr. Whitten, So that takes care of that so we know our homework now. We know that you've been talking to the Commissioners you know what they expect. You know what expect we want updates, we want to know what's going on through the election we want to know if there is any glitches in this equipment.

Clerk Jessica Bailey, Yes.

Mr. Whitten, If you hit any stumbling blocks we want to know what those stumbling blocks are the minute you hit them. If you need something from us reach out to us immediately let us know both from the Election Board and you Jessica if you have those things we want to help you through this. We are all stakeholders.

Clerk Jessica Bailey, Yes.

Mr. Whitten, Lets....

Mr. Poparad, Dan I know that I wasn't here last year did you guys address the pay of the poll workers?

Mr. Whitten, We did.

Mr. Poparad, Do we need to adjust that? Address that somehow?

Mr. Whitten, Did we? We upped it we double it almost right?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Just for the November election.

Election Board David Bengs, Just that one year.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, That was a one time deal.

Mr. Larson, We haven't address it Bob currently for the new election.

Mr. Rivas, Are you working with the Commissioners?

Mr. Whitten, Alright hold on, hold on the Commissioners are the ones that statutorily set the poll worker pay.

Mr. Larson, Right.

Clerk Jessica Bailey, Yes and I have been talking with the Commissioners.

Mr. Whitten, Alright.

Mr. Rivas, Ok.

Mr. Whitten, And we will address the appropriation of that money alright.

Clerk Jessica Bailey, Yes.

Mr. Poparad, Training we are talking about training too correct?

Clerk Jessica Bailey, Correct.

Mr. Larson, You are asking them for both right Jessica?

Clerk Jessica Bailey, Yes.

Mr. Larson, Adjustment in their pay and also for training?

Clerk Jessica Bailey, Absolutely.

Mr. Rivas, Just one last thing the new equipment it's going to be a big change to the general public is there a way that maybe leading up to the election that we could just have some out here and invite the general public to come and mess with it?

Clerk Jessica Bailey, That's part of what I am working with Curt on is...

Mr. Rivas, Ok.

Mr. Poparad, What about a video or something?

Clerk Jessica Bailey, Yep we're going to make a video and....

Mr. Poparad, They could go online and...

Mr. Rivas, Voters too.

Election Board David Bengs, It going to go on the website.

Clerk Jessica Bailey, Yep it's going to be on the website and it's will be on Facebook in addition to letting them come and actually physically touch it.

Mr. Poparad, Facebook...

Mr. Rivas, What about MySpace Bob?

(Laughter)

Mr. Larson, I would just like to say Jessica that you did a standup job on all this thanks for hustling this through I know that it's been a lot of extra work for you. I know that the training has been additional. I think all of us respect what you doing here and we want to give you with this equipment it really gives you a clean slate to move forward and I think that was one of the reasons we wanted to do that currently.

Mr. Poparad, The problem is we are going to hold you responsible.

Mr. Whitten, Alright so as we move forward looking into our budget session our conversation with the Auditor and we will kind of regroup before the budget session and decide which financing that we want to embark upon as we move through this.

Second Reading

Mr. Whitten, Second reading please?

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

Rainy Day Fund			
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Rainy Day Fund	1186-45400-000-0062	Other Equipment	\$	446,011.76
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And that concludes second reading.

Mr. Whitten, Let's get motion on the second reading?

Mr. Rivas, Motion.

Mr. Whitten, Second anywhere?

Mr. Jessen, Second.

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

Auditor Vicki Urbanik,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

- Mr. Jessen - Yes
- Mr. Larson - Yes
- Mr. Poparad - Yes
- Mr. Rivas - Yes
- Mr. Simms - Yes
- Mr. Whitten - Yes
- Ms. Graham - Yes

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 7 - 0

Attorney's Report

Mr. Whitten, Harold do we have anything under Attorney's report?

Council Attorney Harold Harper, Not for tonight.

Any other matter that may come properly before the Council

Mr. Whitten, Any other matter that may come properly before the Council from this board?

Meeting Adjourned

Mr. Whitten, Hearing none this meeting is adjourned.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned.

**PORTER COUNTY COUNCIL
PORTER COUNTY, INDIANA**

Dan Whitten

Jeff Larson

Sylvia Graham

Mike Jessen

Bob Poparad

Jeremy Rivas

Greg Simms

Attest: _____
Vicki Urbanik, Auditor