

**PORTER COUNTY COUNCIL
Budget Meeting – First Reading
September 10, 2020**

The Porter County Council met on Tuesday, September 10, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. in the County Administration Center, 155 Indiana-Suite 205, Valparaiso, Indiana.

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

Members present were Council Member Jeremy Rivas, Council Member Sylvia Graham, Council Member Mike Jessen, Council Member Bob Poparad and Council Member Greg Simms. Also present was Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Auditor Chief Deputy Toni Downing, Auditor Deputy Tiffany Johnson and Council Administrative Assistant Joy Blakely. Not present Council Member Jeff Larson and Council Member Dan Whitten.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, We have five present.

Mr. Rivas, Alright I am going to read a few things here for the public hearing and first reading for the proposed 2021 budgets for Porter County Government, Porter County Recycling and Waste Reduction District, Porter County Airport Authority and West Porter Township Fire District. I will read off the rules of conduct real fast, but as I am told that nobody signed in but I am going to read them off anyways. The purpose of this meeting is to receive input regarding the 2021 budget. Every person appearing before the Council shall abide by the order of the direction of the President of the Council. Those who would like to speak will be allowed a maximum of three minutes. Can we do that for department heads too? Discourteous conduct shall be regarded as a breach of privilege and shall be dealt with at the discretion of myself the presiding officer. I just wanted to read that but nobody's here to speak so we will get right into first reading Madame Auditor.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik,

<u>Fund Name</u>	<u>Budget Estimate</u>
0061-RAINY DAY	\$0
0101-GENERAL	\$48,020,197
0113-NONREVERTING	\$342,526
0124-2015 REASSESSMENT	\$660,000
0182-BOND #2	\$2,070,518
0183-BOND #3	\$1,343,425
0254-LOCAL INCOME TAX	\$7,690,559
0342-POLICE PENSION	\$300,000
0615-ANIMAL SHELTER	\$134,712
0616-CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU	\$2,456,027
0702-HIGHWAY	\$6,939,516
0706-LOCAL ROAD & STREET	\$1,950,000
0720-MAJOR MOVES - TOLLROAD COUNTIES	\$0
0790-CUMULATIVE BRIDGE	\$5,200,000
0801-HEALTH	\$2,468,754
1001-CIVIC CENTER	\$722,093
1151-CONTINUING EDUCATION	\$36,000
1156-EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SYSTEM	\$2,994,463
1185-JAIL LEASE RENTAL	\$2,957,000
1303-PARK	\$271,901

<u>Fund Name</u>	<u>Budget Estimate</u>
2142-PARKING GARAGE	\$18,000
2243-PLAN COMMISSION	\$1,041,136
2391-CUMULATIVE CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT	\$2,688,971
9500-COUNTY CORRECTIONS	\$178,800
9501-PROSECUTOR COUNTY USER FEE	\$400,000
9502-HEALTH MAINTENANCE	\$111,252
9503-FOUNDATION BUDGET FUND	\$5,803,785
9504-LEPC	\$21,600
9505-RECORDER PERPETUATION	\$400,000
9506-ANTABUSE	\$127,326
9507-GIS	\$38,400
9508-PROSECUTOR PRETRIAL DIVERSION	\$125,000
9509-JUVENILE PROBATION USER FEES	\$145,000
9510-ADULT PROBATION USER FEES	\$710,000
9511-SURVEYOR PERPETUATION	\$241,617
9512-FIREARMS	\$102,000
9513-EXTRADITION	\$6,000
9514-HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE	\$48,000
9515-VEHICLE INSPECTION	\$6,000
9516-ACCIDENTS	\$6,000
9517-DOMESTIC VIOLENCE GRANT	\$216,000
9518-CABLE TV FRANCHISE	\$1,320,000
9519-COUNTY IV-D INCENTIVE	\$140,000
9520-PROSECUTOR STOP GRANT	\$47,000
9521-MEMORIAL OPERA HOUSE	\$620,286
9522-PUBLIC SAFETY DATA TECH	\$315,840
9523-JURY FEES	\$84,000
9524-ADULT PROBATION PRETRIAL SERVICES	\$170,000
9525-CLERK IV-D	\$112,654
9526-PROSECUTOR IV-D INCENTIVE FUND	\$250,000
9527-WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT DONATION FUND	\$29,040
9528-PHOTO DUPLICATES	\$14,000
9529-EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES	\$90,000
9530-CLERK PERPETUATION	\$150,000
9531-STATE CRIMINAL ALIEN ASSIST	\$10,000
9532-HEALTH DEPARTMENT TRUST ACCT(TOBACCO)	\$83,292
9533-CIRCUIT COURT-FAMILY COURT	\$13,000
9534-STORM WATER MANAGEMENT	\$4,700,000
9535-INMATE PROCESSING	\$165,000
9536-ADULT PROBATION ADMIN FEES	\$72,000
9537-JUVENILE PROBATION ADMIN FEES	\$25,000
9538-CIRCUIT COURT-DCS	\$20,000
9539-HOSPITAL TRAILING LIABILITY	\$60,000
9540-RIVERBOAT FUND	\$488,688
9541-CIRCUIT COURT-ADR	\$9,300

<u>Fund Name</u>	<u>Budget Estimate</u>
9542-HOSPITAL INTEREST	\$111,000
9543-JUVENILE DETENTION-CODES	\$101,511
9544-PROSECUTOR CHECK DEFERRAL	\$6,000
9545-45.025 MOH IAC GRANT	\$18,000
9546-COUNTY USER FEES	\$333,689
9547-SEX & VIOLENT OFFENDER ADMIN	\$27,798
9548-HOSPITAL SALES PROCEEDS	\$800,000
9549-DRUG TASK FORCE	\$275,000
9550-PUBLIC DEFENDER SUPPLEMENTAL	\$124,800
9551-PROSECUTOR IV-D PCA FUND	\$12,000
9552-MEDICAL CARE FOR INMATES	\$27,720
9553-PROSECUTOR STATE & LOCAL GRANT	\$6,000
9554-DEA PROCEEDS	\$222,000
9555-PTG SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS	\$245,237
9556-VIRTUAL PATHWAYS AGREEMENT	\$29,400
9557-PC-SHERIFF HWY INTERDICTION	\$148,000
9558-BIOTERRORISM RESPONSE GRANT	\$216,000
9559-SHERIFF-OVERWEIGHT VEHICLE	\$33,204
9560-HIGHWAY-OVERWEIGHT VEHICLE	\$60,000
9561-SHERIFF-DONATIONS	\$65,000
9562-SHERIFF-ADULT COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS	\$335,000
9563-PUBLIC DEFENDER-COURT COMM CORRECTION	\$100,000
9564-ADULT PROBATION-COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS	\$250,000
9565-93.268 HEALTH IIC GRANT	\$146,545
9566-SHERIFF-VIDEO TAPE FEES	\$12,000
9567-PROSECUTOR FORFEITURE	\$12,000
9568-UNSAFE BUILDING	\$126,000
9569-HIGHWAY ENGINEERING	\$120,000
9570-DITCH FUND	\$1,080,000
9571-ANIMAL CONTROL FEES-CONTROL	\$80,000
9572-ANIMAL SHELTER FEES-SHELTER	\$119,243
9573-HIGHWAY-COMMUNITY CROSSINGS	\$1,200,000
9574-COURT INTERPRETER GRANT	\$11,000
9575- EMA DISTRICT 1 TASK FORCE FUND	\$37,200
9576-COUNTY REVENUE BOND PROJECT FUND	\$1,500,000
9577-STORMWATER BOND CONSTRUCTION FUND	<u>\$6,000,000</u>
Totals	\$121,973,025
<u>Airport</u>	<u>Budget Estimate</u>
8101-SPECIAL AIRPORT GENERAL	\$1,438,133
8190-SPECIAL AIRPORT CUMULATIVE BUILDING	<u>\$338,555</u>
Totals	\$1,776,688
<u>Recycling and Waste Reduction District</u>	<u>Budget Estimate</u>
8210-SPECIAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT	\$1,503,679
9500-NON REVERTING CAPITAL FUND-SOLID WASTE	<u>\$73,500</u>
Totals	\$1,577,179

West Porter Township Fire Protection District
 8601-SPECIAL FIRE SERVICE GENERAL
 8691-SPECIAL CUMULATIVE FIRE
Totals

Budget Estimate
 \$135,400
\$82,900
\$218,300

And that concludes first reading of the advertised budget funds.

Mr. Rivas, Alright do we do the public hearing before we vote on that? I'm trying to make sure of that...so is there anyone from the public that would like to speak on the proposed budget first reading? Is there any here wishing to speak on the budgets? No-one? Anyone from the public that wants to speak on the public hearing for first reading? Alright we now close the public hearing. (gavel banging) No-one wanted to speak, no-one showed up so at this point and time we will take a vote on first reading if I'm correct.

Ms. Graham, Do you want a motion to approve?

Mr. Rivas, That would be great.

Ms. Graham, Motion, there you go.

Mr. Rivas, There is a motion on the floor.

Mr. Jessen, Second.

Mr. Rivas, There is a second to approve first reading, we can do discussion afterwards. Roll call Madame Auditor?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Ms. Graham	-	Yes
Mr. Jessen	-	Yes
Mr. Poparad	-	Yes
Mr. Sims	-	Yes
Mr. Rivas	-	Yes

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 5-0

Mr. Rivas, Alright so the Auditor passed some things out for you guys General Fund requests it looks like 5 pages of information there and it kind of summarizes things on the first page and then gets into what was adopted in 2020, proposed 2021. Non-General increases and goes through some good information there. Then there is a single page of Special Raise Requests and I asked her to get us Across the Board Raise Scenarios here at the start so that we could look at this also. So you've got this information in front of you to digest and you've got the weekend and we meet back here Tuesday. We have adjusted the order this year, I figured we would go ahead and try to put all the Criminal Justice together to start off with. So we get into the Sheriff right away, then the Prosecutor and Public Defender. I think the Courts should be in there one of those days too. So we are going to be running the Criminal Justice gauntlet for the first three meetings and then everything should be downhill from there right.

Ms. Graham, We will have nothing left.

Mr. Rivas, Well...so we had asked everybody to turn in the same budgets and if you wanted an increase give us a side letter and you guys have received that also. The books are in there and the side letters are in there, so does anybody have anything on where we are headed?

Mr. Poparad, Will we even entertain special raises or just do across the board?

Mr. Rivas, That would be for the entire body to say, I think everybody knows that we are in uncertain times and we have positioned ourselves to be pretty good right now. Nobody knows what the next couple of years are going to bring so we've got to just continue to be somewhat fiscally conservative and not get crazy. But I don't think we need to be cutting Government or anything right now, I think we are in a good position. Bob, I don't know...I don't think we have a lot of money to be throwing around in spending I think we need to be safe because we are not certain of what might be. Vicki what do you think in terms of where we might be able to head with new money next year. I hate to use that word but...

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Well (inaudible) to the General fund because that the main property tax supported fund. The state's growth quotient for next year is 4.2 percent and so that is higher than what was anticipated but that is the state's growth quotient and estimates for next year is going to be lower, we're going to be tightening up next year. So what you do at budget hearings this year will affect you next year. But to answer your question how much can we grow the general fund budget based on the growth quotient, based on our revenue projections, based on the tax cap impact we feel comfortable that we can grow the General fund up to \$1,000,000 dollars for next year but no more than that. Now you don't have to appropriate \$1,000,000 dollars but we think that's the cushion that you could.

Mr. Poparad, Is that...are you figured in all those additional into that number?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Well the year is not over with yet...

Mr. Poparad, I know.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, So we don't know what's in store for us.

Mr. Poparad, But the additional this year will effect that number?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Yes.

Mr. Rivas, So if somebody comes up with a half a million dollars (\$500,000) additional and we approve it...

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Then we would have to adjust that number.

Mr. Poparad, I mean you have the Clerk wanting \$175,000 dollars next meeting and that's going to affect that number next year.

Mr. Rivas, So you have already calculated that in and you've lowered that expectation?

Mr. Poparad, So you have figured that one in?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, I did revised those numbers with the request that Jessica sent in...so we don't know what's coming in for the remainder or the year or what you will approve.

Mr. Poparad, Did we get a number on health care?

Mr. Jessen, That is a good question. Do we know what the anticipated increase is on Healthcare next year?

Mr. Poparad, That's always a big one.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, I believe that the Commissioners budgeted for the same amount.

Mr. Rivas, Yes the same amount.

Mr. Poparad, Oh ok.

Mr. Rivas, I do think that we are doing good there. I do think in conversations that maybe we're slightly tapping into our reserves in that, but nothing alarming.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, The fund is stable. The Health Insurance fund is stable.

Mr. Rivas, The Health Insurance fund is stable. Longevity, so thinking about things that we may have to still budget for the rest of the year to find an additional. The Riverboat money, Longevity comes out of Riverboat normally and where are we at with that?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Ok with Longevity we had our draw that we always get in August and we usually get...the County's share usually is about \$405,000 dollars but we have considerably lower this year. The state is planning on doing is trying to recover that amount on a monthly basis. So we anticipate getting our next draw in a matter of days, so that we'll have a better idea of how long it's going to take us to get to that normal draw. Right now we don't know.

Mr. Rivas, So we will get our normal draw eventually?

Mr. Poparad, This year?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Eventually...

Mr. Poparad, Are they saying anything about next year?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, No they are not.

Mr. Poparad, Well they have been closed for six months.

Mr. Rivas, Even with our normal draw is Vicki is that enough to fulfill our obligation? I mean is that enough to fulfill the obligation of the Undercover Drug Unit and Longevity?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, No

Mr. Rivas, What are we usually short? Do you remember off of the top of your head?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, We are usually short and we budgeted in LIT for the balance and that amount that we are budgeting is off of the top of my head...I have to look at it, ok \$210,000 dollars is what we're short.

Mr. Rivas, And you are saying that's going to come out of LIT?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Yes the first draw came from LIT for the 1st Longevity payment. Right now we don't have enough to pay the 2nd Longevity payment until we get more of a draw from the State.

Mr. Poparad, Should we basically ignore Riverboat money for next year? Not even budget for it because whatever we budget is probably not coming.

Mr. Rivas, What did you say that budget is \$600,000 dollars?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, \$400,000 dollars.

Mr. Rivas, \$400,000 dollars that would take away half of what we think we have coming if we took that approach Bob.

Ms. Graham, I think we should try to be conservative.

Mr. Poparad, And if it does come I don't think that we are going to get the same amount as this year, I mean we almost can't can we?

Ms. Graham, They have already cautioned us to think of this as a three year span.

Mr. Rivas, Vicki in terms of LIT...are you ok?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Yes...

Mr. Rivas, Are you missing something?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Yes but that does not apply to this.

Mr. Rivas, In terms of 2020 the people paying their income tax right now the people who are paying when do we see that come in? What is the delay is that 2022? Is there a two year lag on this?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, You would think that the decline would affect you here in 2022 but the States estimate that they have released so far is showing a \$579,000 dollar reduction for next year.

Mr. Rivas, For next year?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Yes

Mr. Poparad, So they are running quicker that 18 months? Wasn't it always 18 months to two years behind?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Yes. So that the estimated numbers that they released and those number are not going to be certified till after October 1st, 2020. So this year in LIT we're getting \$5.8 million rounded up and the States projection for next year...the estimate that they released is \$5.2 million.

Mr. Poparad, Did you factor that into your growth quotient?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, That's not effected by the growth quotient because that is income taxes...

Mr. Poparad, Right but we still spend it.

Mr. Rivas, It's our second largest budget right?

Mr. Poparad, Yes.

Mr. Rivas, Probably after the General Fund...LIT fund?

Mr. Poparad, So there goes half of that \$1,000,000 dollars

Mr. Rivas, Or you eat into unallocated reserves they have.

Mr. Poparad, Yes.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, I'm checking.

Mr. Rivas, We are just talking here.

Mr. Poparad, It isn't going to be pretty.

Ms. Graham, Do you know what the unallocated reserve is Vicki?

Mr. Rivas, From LIT?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, From LIT from this year?

Ms. Graham, Yes.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Last I looked it was around \$2 million dollars.

Ms. Graham, I thought it was \$2.9 million.

Mr. Rivas, So we definitely have our work cut out for us. The request that we have that were in the budget, increases included in the budget requests so I think if you look at the multiple pages of reports that the Auditor Office handed out I think there is about \$420,000 dollars of budget requests in there and special raises and move from non-general fund to general fund. So if you honored these that's \$420,000 dollars we would be basically down to \$600,000 dollars if you wanted to do any raises. Even the smallest 2% raise is \$500,000 dollars. We could probably just walk away right now if you guys wanted to make the motion,

(Laughter)

Mr. Poparad, Yes but if we are going to lose \$500,000 dollars out of LIT we have to account for that somewhere.

Mr. Rivas, It's a conversation that we should definitely have with the Commissioners in terms if they are going to continue to spend at that level that would be eating into that reserve at the tune of \$500,000 dollars.

Mr. Poparad, In round numbers if we are allow to go \$1,000,000 dollars and we are losing \$500,000 dollars in LIT we are only allow \$500,000 then. If I am wrong tell me Vicki?

Mr. Rivas, It's a way to look at it they are two different funds.

Mr. Poparad, Yes but we are still spending it.

Mr. Rivas, Yes it's for general operations of County Government we operate out of both.

Mr. Jessen, I think it's clear that this budget is going to be one of the toughest budgets that we've experienced.

Mr. Poparad, It should be fun.

Mr. Jessen, And part of it is because we don't have the certainty as to what's going to happen with the revenue going forward.

Ms. Graham, That's right.

Mr. Jessen, We can talk about the 4.2% increase anticipated in the general fund for 2021 which is about \$1,000,000 dollars is what I'm saying? Am I right on that?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Yes.

Mr. Jessen, And that gives us a \$1,000,000 dollars extra to spend and that's assuming that everything comes in as anticipated and the 4.2% remains solid. I mean it's clear as we look at the requests that \$1,000,000 dollars, if in fact that was available, that gets eaten up pretty quick. Especially if you talk about percent raises or dollar amount raises and then special raise requests. So I think we are going to have to scrutinize it more closely than before and have a very conservative or cautious approach to it. Because we're not certain what's going to happen to future revenue streams and we know that it takes a certain amount of money to run county government. We know that there is going to be inherent increase in certain categories that we have no control over in terms of many accounts that are going to go up and there is nothing that we can do about it or the departments can do about it. And as much as we are talking about 2021 what my fear is more than anything whatever we

do now for 2021 is going to have a significant effect on 2022 and 2023, where if you had a crystal ball to better understand that we would be in a good position but we don't. The one thing from my perspective and the one thing that I am confident in is that 2021 is likely to be much better than 2022 and 2023 and that would be the fallout from the ultimate decrease in revenue streams and the difficulty that could occur in the economy due to the current climate that we're at. We don't know and no one can say with certainty what's that going to look like and so whatever we do today or in this budget season can have a detrimental effect on 2021 yes and on 2022 and 2023 even more so because of the revenue component.

So as we talk about raises and so forth and I think that's why the initial suggestion/recommendation was that if there was ever a year to hold the line on wages, from my perspective I think this would be a year due to the uncertainty of what's to come and whatever we do theoretically has to be upheld for next year and the following years. And we may or may not be able to do that and I think overall we've been fortunate in a sense that we haven't had to have significant layoffs and we have furloughed some employees in a couple of small departments. But beyond that we have been very fortunate that we haven't had to that in this particular...this specific budget year. But that's not to say that's not something we won't have to experience or at least consider going forward and I think that's a strong, strong potential reality. So I would say as we look at this in terms of any increases to specific budgets do so very cautiously as we talk about raises, as difficult as it is to understand or accept whatever increases or changes we make we have to do so very carefully all to protect ourselves in the years to come. We're in a good position, which is terrific and we are fortunate to be in that position and we don't want to do anything in this budget session that's going to negatively impact that position and that's my feeling on it.

Mr. Poparad, Ok I've got to circle back...are we losing a \$500,000 dollars in LIT? The States projection is \$500,000 dollars less right?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Yes

Mr. Poparad, Ok so we can only grow \$500,000 dollars. I don't want to get smoothed in the fact that we can grow \$1,000,000 dollars. I mean we can grow a \$1,000,000 dollars here but we are going to lose \$500,000 dollars over here. Same pair of pants different pockets. If I am wrong tell me Vicki you are the Auditor, I'm just the guy down here at the end.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Well part of that LIT estimate that's the revenue coming in so if the Commissioners hold the line on spending their LIT budget then they would have a cushion to offset that loss.

Mr. Poparad, Ok.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, If they spend their whole budget then yes we have a problem.

Mr. Poparad, In theory?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, But yes you are right according to the latest estimate we are going to get a reduction of about \$500,000 dollars in LIT for next year.

Mr. Poparad, Yes.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Now will that number change, the State hasn't certified it and they won't until later on in the year.

Mr. Poparad, Well by October 1st you said?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Yes.

Mr. Poparad, Well we'll still be in budgets then right? So we'll have a better feel come October 1st, 2020. That means the Commissioners are going to have to rein in their spending a little bit it appears...I don't know it's just math.

Mr. Jessen, Vicki do you have specifically the Insurance...what was budgeted for the Insurance this year and where we are at today in terms of will we be in line with that budget? And when we said that next year's Insurance budget is the same as this years is it the same as the budget or the same as what we anticipate spending?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Well we don't know what we will be spending in Health Insurance this year because it's a self-insured program.

Mr. Jessen, Do we have I assume, some sort of projection?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, We started the year with about \$3,000,000 dollars and so right now we are eating into that. But again it all depends on how the claims are running.

Mr. Jessen, Ok

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Well get those (inaudible)

Mr. Jessen, I think that would be important component of it because my guess would be if we're anticipating spending the same dollars in 2021 as we are spending in 2020 I think we're in for a potential rude awakening. In the sense...

Mr. Poparad, This is all as plain as German, they can't project that.

Mr. Rivas, The employees are healthy.

Mr. Jessen, I would also say that this year in terms of elective type surgeries and people going to the hospital and so forth that is dramatically down from previous years, based on peoples apprehensions of going to the hospital doing those elective surgeries and so forth and as time goes on into next year I would plan for those expenses to go up. Because more people will be getting...and it's started already to a certain degree. But as time goes on it will be increasing even more so.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, We can get what we know has happened with the fund and some projections and scenarios. But in terms of the appropriations we would not recommend that there be any cuts to those appropriations because we need to make sure that we have the same amount of dollars coming in that fund so that it can be sustained.

Mr. Rivas, I don't think anybody is advocating cutting that.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, That's good.

Mr. Rivas, Coming back to LIT Vicki?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Yes?

Mr. Rivas, How much did you say that we will anticipate that we will receive in 2020 in LIT for this year?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, We have receive a total rounding up about \$5.8 million dollars.

Mr. Rivas, What did we budget this year?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, This year?

Mr. Rivas, Did we budget the full amount? Did we budget a little more? Did we budget less? I'm just wondering if they budgeted the whole amount or if there was a little room.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, They budgeted \$6.6 million dollars.

Mr. Rivas, So we were budgeting into our reserves already?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Yes.

Mr. Rivas, Yes Bob that could highlight what you are saying. I mean we are already budgeting into the reserves in LIT.

Ms. Graham, Well not only that I have been looking at the special raises that have been requested and we want to make sure that we have enough to give raises.

Mr. Rivas, Well that's definitely going to be a debate yet. I mean special raises...there are some things that we have to tackle this budget session. I think Mike that you are absolutely right and you guys are right it's not going to be easy and I am sure you guys have all looked through the purple packet where there is \$200,000 dollars of raise requests roughly in here maybe a little bit less, but there is also over the next five years there is basically a request and my quick guess is \$1.25 million dollars that the Prosecutor wants over the next five years to increase his budget that is sitting here that we are going to have that in front of us this year. We have already had it last year, this year. So...

Ms. Graham, And the problem is we don't know what is going to happen in the future. We've already been told it's not looking good for the next three years...well two years anyway.

Mr. Rivas, So we have our homework cutout for us. I think we will be fine we have been fine in the past that's why we are in good shape right now. That's why we are not laying people off.

Ms. Graham, That right.

Mr. Poparad, Yes.

Mr. Rivas, We have been able to give some great raises over the last couple of years. I would always like to give raises, that would be my goal to give raises but it's a goal and it doesn't mean we can reach it. So Vicki anything else? Here is one thing we always talk about an 18 month budget and it has to do with additional's Vicki, but also carryover money from the draw, how are we with that? Say when we start 2021 with our carryover cash, do we have enough in there to carry us over? Do we run in the red at any point and time? What are we short?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, We do run in the red prior receiving our cash draw.

Mr. Poparad, But you have enough cash?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, And this year we ran into the red prior to receiving the tax draw. Then one we get the tax draw the cash flow is back up and then we tend to run close to the red if not in the red until the second draw.

Mr. Poparad, But you have enough cash to pay the bills is what Mr. Rivas wants to know?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Oh yes.

Mr. Poparad, You are going to carry-over \$5 million dollars to \$6 million dollars?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Hopefully more.

Mr. Poparad, Right, so you have enough cash to pay the bills till we get the tax draw.

Mr. Rivas, Not in the General fund though.

Mr. Poparad, Right.

Mr. Rivas, The General fund does run into the negative a little bit prior to.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Right.

Mr. Rivas, I think we just have to keep those things in mind. I think we have a \$1 million dollar that we can grow the General fund that we are going to receive. I don't think it necessarily means that we have to budget the \$1 million dollars either. To be cautious, I don't know if we have to run out and say oh we have \$1 million dollars let's spend it either. I think we are going to have to continue to build those cash reserves up over the next couple of years. That's my thoughts, Greg do you have anything before we go?

Mr. Simms, No I'm good.

Mr. Rivas, The White Sox are not playing tonight so I'm not in a hurry.

(Laughter)

Mr. Poparad, The Cubs are on at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Rivas, Who?

Mr. Poparad, The other team, the good ones.

Mr. Rivas, Bob do you have anything else as we begin our general discussion moving into next Tuesday?

Mr. Poparad, No. I can't wait.

Mr. Rivas, You can't wait. Go ahead Greg.

Mr. Simms, Well the one thing that I see is it might be a good idea to talk to your groups and get some more information and see things and express to them the possibility of only a \$500,000 dollar increase and if people want raises, do you remember how last year we had we are all in this together kind of thing? Well it looks like it's going to be part two. So if some people can shrink their budgets a little bit to help this as well that would help us all out. Maybe they need a little contact from us to kind of say hey this is what's up and throw it out there so there are no surprises. I think we are all aware that if we...and I don't know if you are like me but more people are becoming unemployed now than they were a month ago, but now all of the sudden things are trickling and everyone is getting a bit nervous I think. And maybe some people know that a job without a raise is better than no job at all, you know that kind of a thing so I just think the more we get out there the more these people will understand our situation. The better off we will be when we cut things or get nitpicky when someone is sitting here and trying to explain why they need more money and maybe they will recognize that maybe I don't need more money and kind of just be in a smoother position, that's just my thoughts.

Mr. Rivas, Well Greg, I mean not only have we been investing in our employees just with raises Vicki maybe you can run that for us with what we have done over the last three years in terms of raises and incentives for employees but we've also as a county been investing in our buildings in our workplace.

Ms. Graham, Exactly.

Mr. Rivas, We've been upgrading them as much as we can and I know we a little more work to do. The Jail is aging and that Sheriff garage is definitely in need. The Opera House and I know that's not general government but we still have a little bit of work and we have been upgrading our work spaces for employees also. Bob and Sylvia? Mike?

Ms. Graham, I think it's all been said. I've said the special raises is something that we need to contemplate and like you mentioned in that folder there, they are wanting raises with something next year and the following year. I just think that we don't know...we just don't know.

Mr. Rivas, It's going to be hard to forecast what we are heading into. So we have a meeting Tuesday the 15th, we have the Sheriff and all of his funds for second reading. Then that Thursday the 17th we will get into the Prosecutor, so we will really hit it next Thursday too.

Mr. Poparad, We'll be having fun next week.

Mr. Rivas, Then that following Tuesday the 22nd, we will get into the Courts...

Mr. Poparad, I can't wait.

Mr. Rivas, Public Defender, Juvenile Detention, Juvenile Probation, Adult Probation and the Clerk, some fun stuff for the next couple of weeks.

Mr. Poparad, You need a motion to adjourn?

Mr. Rivas, We do unless you want to stay here and hang out.

Mr. Poparad, I make the motion.

Mr. Rivas, Motion on the floor to adjourn.

Mr. Jessen, Second

Mr. Rivas, All in favor signify by saying Aye? All Opposed? Greg wants to stay.

Motion to adjourn approved by voice vote.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned.

**PORTER COUNTY COUNCIL
PORTER COUNTY, INDIANA**

Dan Whitten

Jeff Larson

Jeremy Rivas

Mike Jessen

Bob Poparad

Sylvia Graham

Greg Simms

Attest: _____
Vicki Urbanik, Auditor