

PORTER COUNTY COUNCIL
Budget Meeting – Second Reading
September 19, 2019

The Porter County Council met on Thursday, September 19, 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, Auditor Deputy Tiffany Johnson and Council Administrative Assistant Joy Blakely.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Seven present.

Mr. Whitten, Ok so just as sort of a housekeeping thing I spoke with Vicki earlier today and I've spoken with all of you and I've spoken with the Commissioners about their budget. So a couple of things jump out at me and as it has to all of you that the requested increases are way in excess of our available funds. So we know that these wish lists and requested increases are not all available financially. Also in speaking with a couple of the Department Heads and Elected Officials...the Commissioners being one of them there are some errors in their proposed budgets there are some increases in there that they didn't intend to put in there. There are some things not put in there that should have been put in there...the Longevity needs to go into LIT for example. So I've ask Scott to revisit that with the Commissioners and give me a call then I will take a look at it and get it all to you guys so that we are on the same sheet of music. But what I would suggest is we know that as we go through these second readings there are some mandated increases, there are some inflationary items and there are some increase that we can't get away from. So before we start getting into the things that aren't mandatory, I think we should work our way through the second readings quickly holding tight to the 2019 budget levels. Keep having the Auditor keep track of everything. We are going to pull out all of the requested increases and I would like for the Auditor to keep a running tab of those and maybe we can break them out into categories. Things like this increase is for a one-time capital project purchase or this increase is a new payment on a contract for a purchase and things like that so we can kind of break them into different sections. Then when we get to third reading we can kind of look at what we have left for new money and we can strategize or prioritize I guess is a better term to use as to what we think is most important to us collectively and then go down that way. Because these increases are just out of the box and some of them aren't even correct so we just need to get a handle on that through second reading, I think that's are most responsible plan of attack. Any thoughts on that...any problems with that? I mean things are going to jump out at us as we go through these second readings that we are going to be able to start calling out accuracy and inaccuracy.

Mr. Poparad, Mr. President?

Mr. Whitten, Yes sir?

Mr. Poparad, This is my seventeen budget session and nobody shows up?

Ms. Graham, There is not one department...

Mr. Whitten, It's your fifteen, you had a couple of breaks in there.

Mr. Poparad, Oh did I?

(Laughter)

Mr. Poparad, It doesn't matter...nobody from the office shows up?

Mr. Whitten, So that's going to be the next exciting trick, now my suggestion is...the Prosecutor is not here because I pulled the Prosecutor's out as you know and I told him that.

Ms. Graham, Ok.

Mr. Poparad, Not the Prosecutor's but the Sheriff's Office.

Mr. Whitten, Nobody from the Sheriff's office is here. We could just vote to keep them all 2019 level on second reading and deal with at third reading?

Mr. Larson, That's what I suggest we do.

Mr. Rivas, Well, I mean...

Mr. Poparad, I heard that he was out of town which is fine but I assumed Edie was going to be here.

Mr. Rivas, Somebody should have...Bob you are right I don't why they didn't.

Mr. Whitten, I mean we might have questions but I think those questions...

Mr. Poparad, I have a couple.

Mr. Whitten, We may want to bring those up at third reading?

Ms. Graham, That will be a long meeting.

Mr. Whitten, Listen we are on our way to one heck of a third reading. But I don't think we can avoid it. I think the sheer volume of the requested increases on top of other things that we will be facing this year almost lead us there inevitably. So we are going to have a heck of a third reading I just think we need to understand that. We could do one of two things...what I don't want to do is vote on second reading for an increase and then come back at third reading and say we were just kidding.

Mr. Larson, I think we have visited almost every department and we know that there are some requests on here that we don't have the knowledge to support the request. I don't see how we can take any action on them with no one here.

Mr. Poparad, The only thing on here that jumped out at me and I'm not defending the Sheriff is he asked for returning the fugitives. That's the only thing that would be new money for lack of a better word. Because that was under the...who had that before the Prosecutor?

Mr. Whitten, Yes but I think he has asked for a \$85,000 dollar increase somewhere else...

Mr. Poparad, Well no I'm just saying about what I think is legitimate is the returning the fugitives money.

Ms. Graham, Yes but I thought we were supposed to save money by them taking it?

Mr. Poparad, Yes it's a lot less than they were.

Mr. Whitten, So what do you all want to do? We can revisit this second reading some other night or we can just vote to keep it at 2019? My suggestion is to keep it at 2019 numbers and we will get back to it later.

Mr. Rivas, Dan does everybody know there night Joy?

Administrative Assistant Joy Blakely, Yes.

Mr. Rivas, So we absolutely know that everybody knows...

Mr. Jessen, Was there any notification what's-so ever saying that? They have been represented at every meeting that we have ever had.

Ms. Graham, Right.

Mr. Rivas, That's why I asked because it's odd for them not to be here.

Mr. Whitten, The Sheriff is in Spain but I don't know where anyone else is.

Mr. Poparad, I don't know but I assumed Edie was going to be here.

Mr. Rivas, Right.

Mr. Poparad, And the Chief Deputy.

Ms. Graham, My question on this and I tend to agree with you that we do not have the money to address all of the requests. But should we move it up if they know that we are going to fly through these? Do they need know that this thing is going to be inevitable that the third reading is going to be longer? If so do they need to go through the second reading?

Mr. Poparad, Well yes, there are some changes that I thought that we are going to make as we go forward...

Mr. Whitten, Yes do you want to set this for another night?

Ms. Graham, No...tonight? No.

Mr. Whitten, Or do you want to deal with second reading right now?

Mr. Rivas, Well we here and it's in front of us lets...

Ms. Graham, We could move up the third reading if we could?

Mr. Whitten, Oh yes...I get you.

Ms. Graham, Ok that's what I was proposing.

Mr. Whitten, Are you here for the Prosecutor's stuff?

Audience Member, Yeah, except it's moved.

Mr. Rivas, Sorry.

Ms. Graham, Thank you for coming.

Mr. Larson, It's nice that you showed up though.

Mr. Whitten, Do you want to represent the Sheriff's department?

(Laughter)

Mr. Rivas, It could be fun right?

Mr. Whitten, I think we've moved it to October...

Audience member, October 7th?

Mr. Whitten, Yes.

Mr. Poparad, Was there a breakdown in communication?

Mr. Whitten, No Gary knows.

Mr. Poparad, No, no I'm talking about the Sheriff's?

Ms. Graham, The whole thing...

Mr. Poparad, This is very odd.

Audience Member, You see he told me not to come, he didn't tell me that the date was changed.

Mr. Whitten, Oh, Gary didn't?

Ms. Graham, What?

Mr. Whitten, Oh Gary...

Mr. Larson, It does seem unusual that we don't have any representation.

Mr. Poparad, I mean Edie wouldn't...

Mr. Jessen, Does somebody have a number that they can text them and ask him what happened?

Mr. Poparad, He's in Spain.

Mr. Whitten, He's in Spain and I am going to tell you something...let me just be clear I'm not chasing people.

Mr. Larson, No.

Mr. Whitten, They know when their night is no offense...I mean we have a great Sheriff, I mean anybody we'll just stick to 2019 budget.

Mr. Larson, I think we should just approve them all.

Ms. Graham, I agree.

Mr. Larson, 2019 Budget.

Mr. Rivas, Well let's go through them.

Ms. Graham, What we'll do is we know that we have mandated raises that are pretty healthy raises that we are going to be facing.

Mr. Whitten, Yes and we can revisit this...I mean if the Sheriff

Mr. Poparad, That's right none of this is set in stone.

Mr. Whitten, And we can revisit this when we get to third reading.

Mr. Poparad, And he will be back by then.

Mr. Whitten, Yes so let's just get to it. What do you want to do? So do you want to go line by line budget by budget? Or do you want to blanket roll them back to 2019?

Mr. Rivas, I don't know how we can go line by line when there is nobody here to answer questions.

Mr. Whitten, Roll them back 2019.

Mr. Rivas, Roll the General Fund back to 2019. Motion to approve the General Fund at 2019 amount.

Mr. Larson, Second.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Just for the Sheriff or for everybody?

Mr. Larson, Everyone.

Mr. Rivas, Well, I mean do you want to make a motion on every single one?

Ms. Graham, No.

Mr. Larson, No every single one that is coming out tonight.

Ms. Graham, There will some of those coming up that will have no increases. Maybe Weights and Measures...

Mr. Poparad, No tonight we are dealing with the Sheriff.

Mr. Whitten, Sheriff only.

Mr. Rivas, Correct.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, And also Non-General Funds?

Mr. Rivas, Everything in front of us we are going to vote on.

Mr. Larson, Yes.

Mr. Rivas, Are we going to do budget by budget or the whole thing?

Mr. Whitten, Let's blanket the whole thing.

Mr. Larson, Why don't we blanket the whole thing it's quicker.

Mr. Rivas, I'll make the motion to move every single budget in front of us from the Sheriff all the way down to DOC Prisoners to the 2019 amount.

Mr. Larson, I second that, I amend my second to include that.

Mr. Whitten, Alright Vicki do you have something to add to that?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, There are the Sheriff's mandatory raise so we keep the mandatory raises in there...

Ms. Graham, No.

Mr. Poparad, Why does he get a...

Mr. Rivas, No.

Mr. Larson, We will still be able to review that.

Mr. Whitten, We'll deal with that later I have questions about that.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Ok.

Ms. Graham, What are the mandatory raises with the Sheriff?

Mr. Poparad, Wait a minute I didn't hear what she said about that?

Mr. Rivas, She said there is a Sheriff mandatory raise in that now I don't know if it was the Sheriff but the Sheriff's...

Ms. Graham, What would be mandatory?

Mr. Whitten, I think he was indicating...did he indicate that it was mandated by the State?

Mr. Larson, Yes I think he did.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Yes that's what he is saying.

Mr. Jessen, Is that factual or what's the...?

Ms. Graham, Which line item are you speaking of?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, The Salary line item.

Mr. Poparad, For the Sheriff?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik? Yes.

Ms. Graham, The Sheriff got a mandatory raise from the State?

Mr. Larson, Not him personally.

Ms. Graham, By State Legislation?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, No I'm not going to speak for him.

Mr. Whitten, No you are not so just leave it alone.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Yes exactly.

Mr. Whitten, We're done he can explain that at third reading

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Exactly.

Mr. Whitten, When we talk about raises we can bring that up.

Mr. Larson, Right.

Mr. Poparad, I assume there is documentation too.

Mr. Whitten, So have a motion and a second to hold all these budgets in front of us to 2019 numbers. Any further discussion?

Mr. Rivas, As we do this it appears that we may follow this path all the way through second reading, Vicki are there things that made additional on adjustments through the year?

Mr. Whitten, See that was the thing that I was concerned...thank you because I knew that I was forgetting something. So when you are doing your little spreadsheet of increases and stuff I would like for there to be a section that talks about and you don't have to do it now...

Mr. Poparad, You got it.

Mr. Whitten, Any...I want them all laid out so if there are any increases that we already approved throughout the year we need to know that.

Mr. Larson, So you are talking additional like...

Mr. Whitten, Yes like we added somebody.

Mr. Rivas, Right.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Oh for new people

Mr. Whitten, Yes.

Mr. Rivas, For adjustments.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Yes that needs to be on there for the most part.

Mr. Whitten, Or because somebody's line item wasn't enough because the lease went up so we added more to that line item.

Mr. Larson, Overtime hours and all those things like that.

Mr. Poparad, Mr. Whitten?

Mr. Whitten, Yes sir?

Mr. Poparad, Vicki how hard would it be for you to include transfers as well? Because that's what is really important.

Mr. Larson, That's a good question.

Mr. Rivas, To make the right adjustments, yes I think I see where you are going.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Well we can see it.

Ms. Graham, That's like redoing the whole book.

Mr. Whitten, That's a good question.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, But you see sometimes what you approve in the additionals and transfers is for a one time things.

Mr. Larson, Single purchases you mean so it may not want it to be in the budget?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Yes

Mr. Larson, Yeah but if we are...

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, But we can do the field changer for the changes.

Mr. Larson, But that reflects on the budget anyway right?

Mr. Poparad, Well it reflects the line item wasn't adequate one way or the other. But what bothers me about transfers is that means the other line item had to much.

Mr. Rivas, Right that's a good point.

Ms. Graham, That's exactly right.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Yes.

Mr. Rivas, The bottom line might be the same but the line items aren't.

Mr. Poparad, Same pair of pants just different pockets.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, So we just added the field chooser with the topic additionals and adjustments that doesn't breakdown between the additionals and transfers but we can give you the list of the transfers.

Mr. Poparad, I don't want to make too hard on her that's all.

Mr. Larson, Well it can't be that much.

Mr. Poparad, Well it can't be that many.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, More transfers than additionals. But there is not many additionals thankfully.

Mr. Rivas, And I think we need to bring up...

Mr. Poparad, Well transfers imply it was in the wrong category.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Or they didn't budget enough.

Mr. Simms, Right.

Mr. Poparad, Or they padded one line item and moved it to the other later in the year and we forgot about it.

Mr. Whitten, So this is a great start.

Mr. Rivas, I think capital Dan if you address any kind of expenditures that you may think are one time that would have been bumped up...

Mr. Whitten, That's important. That is important the Capital expenditures that are proposed in the budgets we are going to want to talk about those.

Mr. Poparad, One time purchases.

Mr. Rivas, Right.

Mr. Whitten, Yes we are really going to want to strategize on those a little bit.

Mr. Rivas, I know that IT had mentioned furniture and stuff like that, that are one-time.

Mr. Poparad, Well you know that we bought the Sheriff the ATV last meeting didn't we?

Mr. Larson, We just did yes.

Mr. Poparad, Well that is a one timer.

Mr. Whitten, Yes so alright...

Mr. Jessen, Vicki do we have a way to look at and maybe it's in this book and I just don't see it where we look at it from the perspective year to date so far in 2019 as compared to what's it is? Is that in here somewhere?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Yes.

Mr. Jessen, Do we also have the capability of looking at 2018 what the budget was versus what the actual spend was?

Mr. Whitten, Yes.

Mr. Jessen, Ok where is that?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Wait till Monday night.

Mr. Rivas, Why do you have it all for us?

Mr. Poparad, She has it all ready for us.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Actually...

Mr. Poparad, Look how excited she is. The accountant is showing up in you Vicki.

Mr. Rivas, She is excited.

Mr. Poparad, The accountant is showing up in her.

Mr. Rivas, Spreadsheets and numbers.

Mr. Poparad, Oh look at that as long as there is a zero at the end that's all that matters.

Mr. Larson, She has got a half hour thing planned for us.

Mr. Rivas, Oh my

(Laughter)

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, No, no, no three minutes...

Mr. Larson, When she said five I said shorten it.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, What did you just do? Ok so we can do 2019 year to date expended.

Mr. Jessen, I mean that helps to a certain degree...

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, And we can do 2018 as well.

Mr. Jessen, The 2018 I think is really telling...

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Right

Mr. Jessen, Because it tells you what the budget was and what the actually year to date was.

Mr. Whitten, Your right, we ask that a lot, so yes that will be there because we bring that up quite a bit.

Mr. Jessen, So Monday we are going to see that is that the deal?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Oh yes but we have the ability to do that on each of these budgets.

Mr. Whitten, So as you may recall when we go through these budgets we will ask her why they spent so much? And what did they do in 2018 and what did we budget we do that.

Mr. Jessen, I'm saying rather than ask every single one if we had that in advance it would be helpful.

Mr. Whitten, So your...

Mr. Poparad, Well it's on the screen in front of you.

Mr. Whitten, He wants to study it.

Mr. Jessen, So 2018 is on the screen in front of me?

Ms. Graham, Why isn't it in the book?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Yes 2018 and we can organize the columns any way that you want it.

Mr. Larson, It's not the adopted budget though is it?

Mr. Jessen, Where's the budget where's the...

Mr. Poparad, There you go.

Mr. Jessen, Ok now it's happening before my eyes.

Mr. Poparad, Yes modern technology buddy.

Mr. Whitten, First you don't read the minutes...

(Laughter)

Mr. Larson, You think you have an excuse because you ride (inaudible)

Mr. Poparad, He won't read the minutes but he will study 2018 budgets.

Mr. Jessen, Truth be told.

(Laughter)

Mr. Whitten, I'm impressed with your self-restraint.

Mr. Poparad, Could you call the roll please?

Mr. Whitten, Could I what?

Mr. Poparad, Did you call the roll?

Mr. Whitten, Can I have a roll call on that motion please.

Mr. Larson, Before it dies on the floor here.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Ok

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 7-0

Mr. Rivas, If you start getting loopy now it's never going to stop.

Mr. Whitten, So listen guys the Sheriff can put together or get your questions ready because I have a feeling we are going to be asking them at third reading and we are just going to keep on trucking.

Mr. Rivas, The fifteen minute first reading...

Mr. Poparad, Second reading.

Mr. Rivas, Second reading...I'm sorry.

Mr. Poparad, We didn't have a breakdown in communication did we?

Mr. Whitten, If we did and they come and say we didn't get notice or something like that...I mean it's second reading we can still address it.

Mr. Rivas, It's alright.

Mr. Larson, I can't imagine they wouldn't have gotten anything.

Mr. Jessen, If we could just follow-up with in terms of what's you've done on the screen Vicki?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Yes?

Mr. Jessen, When will we have actual copies that we can review?

Mr. Rivas, What are you presenting Monday? What's that all about?

Mr. Larson, No, no she has a new program.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, First for Mike you want this all printed out?

Mr. Whitten, Can she email it to you?

Mr. Jessen, Yes that is fine. I would like that as we have these columns...

Mr. Larson, Stop burning up trees down there.

Ms. Graham, One more.

(Laughter)

Mr. Jessen, It helps me in my review of the budget let me say that.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Mike in your budget books it's exactly the same format as last year.

Mr. Larson, We are trying to breath down here and you're taking all the oxygen.

Mr. Whitten, So Vicki would it be a lot of work for you to email to us what we budgeted for 2018 and what was expended in 2018? Would that be a lot of work for you?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, No we can do that. We'll just export this into an Excel format.

Mr. Whitten, Can you get that to all of us? Mike won't forget and then he will accuse you of not sending it.

(Laughter)

Mr. Jessen, Apparently you don't want it and that's fine too.

Mr. Whitten, I already saw it. I already read it.

Ms. Graham, I would appreciate it.

Mr. Jessen, There you go someone...a voice of reason.

Mr. Whitten, I have a motion to prove it.

(Laughter)

Ms. Graham, Do you want a motion?

Mr. Rivas, Vicki is really...

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, So you want 2018 adopted and expended?

Mr. Whitten, Yes.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, And just that?

Mr. Whitten, And year to date 2019.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, And year to date 2019. So basically you want what's up there?

Mr. Rivas, Yes.

Mr. Whitten, So we are looking at last year what we thought would happened, what happened and what happened so far this year.

Mr. Rivas, Mike that's what you want right there on the screen?

Mr. Larson, I mean it's right in front of you.

Ms. Graham, I don't know why it isn't in the books?

Mr. Whitten, What's on the screen is what you want?

Mr. Rivas, Well this our budget this isn't...

Mr. Whitten, The reason it's not in the book is because this is the 2019 budget.

Mr. Larson, Right.

Mr. Whitten, And what we are asking for is a little retroactive look which is not really necessarily part of the budget process for approval but it's certainly is a key part of our decision on each budget.

Mr. Larson, Well it aligns itself with what Bob was asking a question on is how we moved some of this money around...

Ms. Graham, That's right.

Mr. Larson, So it's nice to know that stuff.

Mr. Whitten, Yes I agree.

Mr. Jessen, Well I am glad you agree.

Mr. Whitten, So I have never heard such enthusiasm.

(Laughter)

Mr. Whitten, So I guess that is it for the night.

Mr. Rivas, So next Monday, September 23rd 5:30 p.m. Motion to adjourn.

Mr. Larson, Second.

Mr. Whitten, All in favor? Opposed?

Motion to adjourn approved by unanimous 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