

**PORTER COUNTY COUNCIL
Regular Council Meeting
November 17, 2020**

The Porter County Council will meet on Tuesday, November 17, 2020 at 5:30 p.m., in the County Administration Center, located at 155 Indiana Avenue – Room 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, Council Member Greg Simms and Council Member Dan Whitten. Also present was, Council Attorney Harold Harper, Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Auditor Chief Deputy Toni Downing and Council Administrative Assistant Joy Blakely.

Minutes

Approval of Council minutes for Budget 2nd reading September 15, 2020, September 17, 2020 and Regular Council Meeting September 22, 2020.

Mr. Rivas, Alright next is the approval for Council Minutes for Budget meetings for September 15, 2020, September 17, 2020 and Regular Council meeting September 22, 2020. Have you guys all receive those?

Mr. Larson, Yes.

Mr. Jessen, Yes, I make the Motion.

Mr. Rivas, Motion on the floor to approve.

Ms. Graham, Second.

Mr. Rivas, And a second on the floor to approve all the minutes. All in favor signify by saying Aye? All Opposed same sign? Motion carries.

Motion carries on a unanimous voice vote.

First Reading

Mr. Rivas, First Reading please?

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 Indiana 46383 on November 17th, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. to consider the following appropriation adjustments to the county budgets for the year 2020 and to transact any further business which might come before the Council:

General Fund			
Recorder	1000-11100-000-0004	Salaries	\$ 62.00
Sheriff	1000-12300-000-0005	PERF	\$ 80,000.00
Federal/DOC	1000-22300-000-9601	Food and Groceries	\$ <u>(80,000.00)</u>
			\$ 62.00

Accident Report Fund

Accident Report	1101-31300-000-0005	Training and Education	\$ 4,000.00
Accident Report	1101-36300-000-0005	Equipment Other Than Vehicles	\$ 4,500.00
			\$ 8,500.00

CCD Fund

CCD Fund	1138-44200-000-0068	Motor Vehicles	\$ 28,470.80
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County Extradition Fund

County Extradition	1155-32500-000-0005	Returning Fugitives	\$ 8,000.00
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Firearms Training Fund

Firearms Training Fund	1156-36300-000-0005	Equipment Other Than Vehicles	\$ 6,000.00
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Tax Sale Fees Fund

Tax Sale Fees Fund	1203-39500-000-0003	Contractual Services	\$ 50,000.00
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Cable Franchise Fund

Cable Franchise Fund	4906-43200-000-0068	Roads & Taxiways	\$ 150,000.00
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Taxpayers appearing at such meeting shall have a right to be heard thereon. The additional appropriations as finally made will be referred to the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance. Where applicable, 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 November 6, 2020

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, And that concludes first reading.

Mr. Rivas, Alright thank you Madame Auditor. Before we go on and we have a few people we have a couple of plaque that I want to give out while a few people are here, before you guys run out of here and not get to appreciate this. First Jeff Larson for his service Councilman At-Large in appreciation of your outstanding service to the taxpayers of Porter County. Jeff here is your plaque and I really do appreciate...we all really appreciate you. I'm sure that we will see you around maybe afterwards we will get a picture too.

Mr. Larson, Ok.

Mr. Rivas, The other one is Dan Whitten for 16 years...is it 16 years?

Mr. Whitten, 16 years.

Mr. Rivas, 16 years.

Mr. Simms, Continuous years?

Mr. Rivas, 16 continuous years. I believe Poparad was four on four off, four on four off... Dan (hands Councilman Dan Whitten the plaque).

Mr. Whitten, Thank you Jeremy.

Mr. Rivas, We all appreciate you.

(Everyone starts clapping)

Jeff, I got to know you over the last four (4) years. It's been a lot of fun having you on this Council. Dan, for what almost 12 years now serving with you?

Mr. Whitten, Yes.

Mr. Rivas, It's been up and down with Dan and Dan has beat me a couple of times on some stuff but we've come back and become really good friends. It's been a great ride with Dan and what he has done for this County has just been unbelievable. All the time and work he has put in as Council President for how many of those years Dan?

Mr. Whitten, Ten (10) or eleven (11).

Mr. Rivas, Ten (10) or eleven (11) years out of sixteen (16) years as Council President is phenomenal! And this County is in great shape with Dan as president of this Council and it would be crazy if we didn't take a minute to just to thank Dan. And to recognize both Dan and Jeff for their hard work on this Council for this County. I'm not sure what happened but it is what it is and we will move forward but Dan left his mark that's for sure.

Ms. Graham, Yes.

Mr. Rivas, Both Dan and Jeff left their mark...

Ms. Graham, Look at our Foundation.

Mr. Rivas, Yes.

Ms. Graham, He wrote the entire thing.

Mr. Rivas, Yes Dan was part of putting the Foundation together. When we moved it over when the legislation was written Dan Whitten with Attorney Scott McClure really dug in and helped build that. Look at where it's at today, so there is a lot that we could look back on what these two have done and we really appreciate it. The taxpayers, they should appreciate what you guys have done and the time you guys have spent.

Mr. Whitten, Thank you very much Jeremy.

Mr. Rivas, Anybody else that would like to say a word about Dan and Jeff?

Ms. Graham, Yes, Dan took me under his wing and taught me what this whole thing was about and I appreciate that. I can appreciate on how much of a mark that you left on the County that has put us in good shape for years and years to come.

Mr. Poparad, Who am I going to argue with?

(Laughter)

Mr. Whitten, Jeremy.

Mr. Poparad, (Inaudible)

Mr. Rivas, I think that you and I will be fine, there might be one or two that come on here in January that you can have plenty of fun with.

Mr. Jessen, I'd like to say that I've been on the Council since 2014...so six years. Being on the Council it's been a great experience for me, a great learning opportunity for me. I always base public service, I believe the roll that we serve in public service and we should be public servants, I believe Jeff and Dan both fill that very, very well. In terms of local politics especially, I think partisanship you can cast that aside and do what's best for the people and I think both Jeff and Dan embody

that spirit to say that we're not going to worry about the one party or the other. We're a group in this case there is 170,000 people roughly that share similar views, similar goals and expectations, hopes and dreams and it's our job to do what we can to help facilitate that. The value when I look at people in these roles it's always about the value they bring into the table, what do they contribute? What do they help move forward? What sort of opportunities do they create ...in this case the County? And both Jeff and Dan have been great examples of being willing to put themselves first, putting party and partisan politics aside to do what's best for the County and very clearly the progress that we've made throughout the county over the course of in my experience six years plus is due in large part to Dan's leadership throughout that time and Jeff's involvement as well. I can tell you that I appreciate that work and effort that he put into it and also the mentoring and so forth that you've provide to this group and certainly the leadership will be missed and I personally want to thank you for the work and effort that you've done both Dan and Jeff.

Mr. Whitten, I appreciate that Mike thank you very much.

Mr. Rivas, Greg anything?

Mr. Simms, (Inaudible)

Mr. Rivas, Jeff do you have anything to add to the floor?

Mr. Larson, Yes it's been a pleasure serving with you guys and the circumstances this year have been difficult for us to get together and kind of communicate. I think we've done a pretty remarkable job with all of our department heads and stuff with being able to keep the County open and running. There is a lot that goes into this and anybody that's interested in this should take this as fair warning that there is a lot more here than meets the eye. So be ready to spend a lot of time in the trenches getting things done. I think we have one of the best counties in the state as far as the traveling I've done in the state as far as leadership and department heads, I think we probably have and are second to none. Our Sheriff's department is outstanding. The Health Department through this COVID crisis has been amazing and it's just been a great situation for me to be involved in and Dan really gave me a hard time when I first ran and it was fun running up here. I think that's just his personality and when you get to know him I really enjoyed working with him and I think his leadership is and I would definitely echo what Mike said it's going to be missed here because the knowledge that he brings to the table is going to be sorely missed here...so thanks for all the work.

Mr. Whitten, Thank you Jeff I appreciate that very much...thank you.

Mr. Rivas, Dan...

Mr. Whitten, What more can I say, guys I've had the opportunity to work with all of you and other Council Members before you and it's been a lot of fun. I've had a lot of fun working with you guys, we've faced some challenges and overcome them and I've come to think of all of you as good friends and I'm going to miss working with you, but you know I was telling my wife that my life has been one chapter to another of public service through my time in the service through my time as a police officer and through my time up here. It's been chapters of public service and this has been a good one...this has been a really good one for me so thanks for all of your help, thanks for the kind words Jeff I feel the same way about you. I'm going to miss it but all good things must end.

Mr. Larson, Dan I don't think you are done.

Mr. Whitten, Well thanks a lot for your kind words guys I appreciate very much.

Mr. Rivas, Thank you.

Portage Township Assessor – Alta Neri

Reassessment Fund - 1188-000-0013

Transfer \$2,000 from 39500 Contractual Services to 445100 Data Processing Equipment. Reason: Transfer needed to purchase computer to work remotely during COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Rivas, Alright what are we doing here, let's get into this. Alta you said that you have somewhere to go come on up and we will run through this. So if you guys don't mine on page three (3) we have the Portage Township Assessor Reassessment Fund there is a transfer of \$2,000 dollars from Contractual Services to Data Processing Equipment needed to purchase computers to work remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Larson, Motion.

Ms. Graham, Second.

Mr. Rivas, There is a motion and second on the floor. Discussion?

Mr. Jessen, Will this all be submitted as part of the Cares Act dollars to be reimbursed?

Portage Township Assessor Alta Neri, I don't know, you would have to ask Vicki about that.

Mr. Jessen, Vicki?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, I didn't quite hear what was said?

Mr. Jessen, For the money that we're using in this case to buy the computer to work remotely due to COVID is that part of the CARES submission?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Well...

Mr. Rivas, I think we've closed that off last time Mike.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Yes.

Mr. Rivas, We were submitting to get all of that reimbursed through payroll I believe.

Mr. Jessen, Ok.

Mr. Rivas, Any other questions?

Mr. Whitten, With this \$20,000,000 million dollar supplement that they are talking about for the enforcement of COVID and all that business from the State the last I read was going to be a supplement to their last go round is that still going on? Is that anything that we can check into?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, As of this afternoon I heard through an email from the AIC (Association of Indiana Counties) they are still working on the process for filling. But we'll be working with the Health Department to file or whatever agency...we will definitely do that. They are working on radio promotion program so that each county could get a portion of the radio advertising dollars. I'll keep you informed.

Mr. Rivas, Ok. Any further discussion? All in favor signify by saying Aye? All Opposed same sign? Motion carries.

Motion carries on a unanimous voice vote.

Commissioners

General Fund - 1000-000-0068

Transfer \$3,000 from 37100 Equipment Rentals to 33200 Legal Notices. Reason: Appropriation is depleted.

LIT Fund - 1112-000-0068

Transfer \$45,000 from 39500 Contractual Services to 61000 Interfund Transfer. Reason: Monies needed to support MOH Fund. MOH staff being assigned to fill COVID related shortages through various departments.

CCD Fund - (Cumulative Capital Development) 1138-000-0068

Additional \$28,470.80 to 44200 Motor Vehicles. Reason: Appropriation is depleted. The additional is coming from the Sheriff's Auction

Transfer \$100,000 from 42100 Buildings to 35100 Power

\$ 50,000 from 42100 Buildings to 34400 Unemployment

Reason: Appropriations are depleted.

Cable Franchise - 4906-000-0068

Additional \$150,000 to 43200 Roads & Taxiways. Reason: Appropriation is depleted. The additional will come from INDOT reimbursements.

Mr. Rivas, Alright Commissioners General fund we have a couple of transfers and a couple of additional. So there is a General fund transfer of \$3,000 dollars from Equipment Rentals to Legal Notices appropriation is depleted. LIT fund there is a transfer of \$45,000 dollars from Contractual Services to Interfund Transfer, reason monies needed to support MOH Fund, staffing being moved around. CCD there is an additional \$28,470.80 to Motor Vehicles the reason is the appropriation is depleted. There is a transfer of \$100,000 dollars form Building to Power, \$50,000 dollars from Buildings to Unemployment, reason the appropriation are depleted. Cable Franchise additional \$150,000 dollars to Road and Taxiways the appropriation is depleted the additional will come from INDOT reimbursements.

Mr. Larson, I'll make a motion for discussion.

Mr. Jessen, Second.

Mr. Rivas, There is a motion and a second on the floor, discussion?

Mr. Larson, I'll let you guys go I just wanted to open it up for discussion.

Mr. Rivas, Oh has anybody have any questions?

Mr. Whitten, Wow I thought you were loaded for bear.

Mr. Larson, I would be but you know...

Mr. Whitten, It's our last meeting.

Mr. Larson, It's our last meeting why make it difficult.

Mr. Whitten, You and I could argue.

(Laughter)

Mr. Jessen, One thing that has got me and that maybe you can talk about is the one transfer for the LIT fund which is for the Memorial Opera House? Could you just maybe touch on what we are doing with those workers? There were a couple of employees that were off on furlough that are no longer on furlough, but they are helping other departments. Do you want to explain that just a little bit?

Commissioner Attorney Scott McClure, Yes, we had...of the remaining employees that were on furloughed, we were down to two (2) full-time and a couple of what we call the essential part-time twenty-nine (29) hours per week people. Of those

we've been able to bring the two (2) full-time and the twenty-nine (29) hour part-time back. They obviously don't have enough to do at the Memorial House right now, but what they are doing is being sent to other departments that need the help. Such as the Health Department or Facilities, or wherever they may be needed. Those individual departments when they utilize them are paying for that day for the four (4) hour block or whatever it may be, and then that's getting paid back through the Memorial Opera House fund. In working with Vicki on the behind the scenes financial part, that's why the monies are at the Memorial Opera House. The employees will still be getting paid there, however if they have spent the last week in the Health Department helping answering phones or whatever it may be, the Health Department will be getting an invoice and then we have a behind the scenes making sure that's it's all being reconciled. These people are actually working somewhere else, there not just over at the Memorial Opera House, so they are filling the gaps so that they can get back to their full-time wage that they were on the salary schedule for. So basically we are trying to make sure that we're getting as much time for them somewhere else, so that their working and being productive and so far they've been willing to do basically anything they've been asked. They have been out doing mask monitoring, they've helped with the health department answering phones, the front desk...

Mr. Rivas, Are a lot of them working the Elections?

Commissioner Attorney Scott McClure, Yes we had one of them help with the Elections before and after. So between Elections, Health Department, the Front Desk, the Clerk's Office there is plenty for enough to try to find three (3) people enough to do which is not much of a hurdle so far.

Mr. Jessen, Yes I mentioned that just to say that I appreciate the creative thinking...to say that we want to bring our employees back to full employment just as quickly as we can, and in this particular case there is a need elsewhere so we want to bring them back. There is a need elsewhere and they are willing to do that, they are filling that need and it's a perfect opportunity to bring people back to work. I congratulate the Commissioner's office on that work.

Commissioner Attorney Scott McClure, Well to be clear Jeremy worked very hard trying to figure out how to make it work correctly. There were a lot of meetings and I appreciate the Council's work with helping get there and with what's proposed today. Ultimately we are hoping that this can go a long way because ultimately it shouldn't all be utilized just for paying them...other departments are ultimately are getting 80% to 90% percent of that tab.

Mr. Rivas, This is something that Dan pushed me onto being that we are going into the holiday season and we had employees out there that were at home. Let's get our family together and make sure that they are all back to work going into the holiday season. So with talking with Dan I worked with Scott and the Commissioners a little bit to make sure we get our employees back to work with the holidays coming up on us.

Mr. Jessen, Specifically with the Health Department they were in definite need of this. I think it helps on all fronts. That's good.

Commissioner Attorney Scott McClure, It makes far more sense to bring our furloughed people back instead of hiring new.

Mr. Rivas, Yes it does. Is there anything else on this? I apologize was that motion on all the transfer and additional?

Mr. Larson, Yes it was.

Mr. Jessen, Yes, second was as well.

Mr. Rivas, Ok, any further discussion? Can we get a roll call Madame Auditor?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 7 – 0

Mr. Rivas, Ok and Scott...

Commissioner Attorney Scott McClure, Yes and just to add a little bit to the earlier item, I will always owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. Whitten. When I became the Council Attorney he was the President and there was a lot of mentoring, a lot of years of learning on how the behind the scenes nitty gritty of exactly how these finances work, exactly how funds work and so a lion share of the knowledge I have come from Dan slowly over the years. Especially in those first years when obviously as you guys all know because all of you at some point were first Council representative, it's slightly overwhelming the size and the breath of what this Council actually has to deal with on a regular basis. So I know that I wouldn't be in the position I am in now if I hadn't had that kind of mentoring and tutoring then. So I want to say that you guys are losing a more experience than you can imagine, but I think it's time to celebrate some of the accomplishments, most of those where mentioned earlier, one of them being the Foundation. I know that there was a tremendous amount of push behind the scenes to get that done and when you look back at what this Council and the Commissioners did at that time to put all of that together. That was a lot more work that was done to get us from point A to point B than I think is recognized moving forward. But I just want to say publically that again that depth of gratitude for the mentoring and the tutoring along the way I will never forget and I appreciate it.

Mr. Whitten, Thank you very much Scott.

Commissioner Attorney Scott McClure, Your welcome.

Mr. Rivas, He and we trained you for the Commissioners.

(Laughter)

Commissioner Attorney Scott McClure, And I thank you for that.

(Laughter)

Public Defender – Kenneth Elwood

Public Defender Supplemental Fund - 1200-000-0271

Transfer \$5,400 from 31300 Training and Education to 13110 Legal Services. Reason: Transfer needed due to Public Defender Appeals exhausted available funds.

Mr. Rivas, Public Defender...Public Defender Supplemental we have a transfer of \$5,400 dollars from Training and Education to Legal Services.

Mr. Larson, Motion.

Mr. Rivas, There is a motion

Ms. Graham, Second.

Mr. Rivas, There is a motion and a second on the floor, discussion? All in favor signify by saying Aye? Opposed same sign? Motion carries.

Motion carries on a unanimous voice vote.

Public Defender Kenneth Elwood, Thank you. Mr. Larson and Mr. Whitten thank you for your service.

Mr. Whitten, Thank you.

Treasurer – Michelle Clancy

Tax Sale Fees Fund - 1203-000-0003

Additional \$50,000 to 39500 Contractual Services. Reason: Tax Sale – Estimated fees for redemptions made in 2020.

Mr. Rivas, Treasurer Tax Sale Fees fund additional \$50,000 dollar to Contractual Services. Reason tax sale estimated fees for redemptions made in 2020.

Mr. Larson, Motion.

Mr. Whitten, Second.

Mr. Poparad, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Motion and a couple of seconds on the floor. Discussion? Can we 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. Simms	-	Yes
Mr. Whitten	-	Yes
Mr. Rivas	-	Yes
Ms. Graham	-	Yes

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 7 – 0

Mr. Rivas, Thank you.

Treasurer Michelle Clancy, Thank you.

Recorders – Chuck Harris

Recorders General Fund - 1000-000-0004

Additional \$62 to 11100 Salaries. Reason: Additional needed for expenditure related to final payout of accrued leave to an employee that retired earlier in the year.

Mr. Rivas, Recorders General fund additional. How dare you put an additional on here for \$62 dollars.

Mr. Larson, Motion.

Mr. Jessen, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Motion and a second on the floor for a \$62 dollar additional. Discussion? Roll call.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 7 – 0

Recorder Chuck Harris, I just want to say thank you Dan, and I want to say that you will be sorely missed...

Mr. Whitten, Thanks Chuck.

Recorder Chuck Harris, I remember when I first came in as Coroner years ago I was scared to death to come in front of this Council and I remember how you (inaudible) Dan. So thank you both for all your service.

Mr. Whitten, Thank you very much.

Mr. Larson, Thank you.

Porter County Sheriff and Federal/DOC – Sheriff David Reynolds

Sheriff General Fund - 1000-000-0005

Additional \$80,000 to 12300 PERF. Reason: To cover shortage in the police pension.

Transfer \$10,000 from 11100 Salaries to 12300 PERF. Reason: To cover shortage in the Police Pension for 2020.

Accident Report Fund - 1101-000-0005

Additional \$4,000 to 31300 Training and Education. Reason: Accident Reconstruction Training

Additional \$4,500 to 36300 Equipment Other Than Vehicles. Reason: To purchase Trailer for Accident Reconstruction and CSI

County Extradition Fund - 1155-000-0005

Additional \$8,000 to 32500 Returning Fugitives. Reason: To cover cost of transporting fugitives.

Firearms Training Fund - 1156-000-0005

Additional \$6,000 to 36300 Equipment Other Than Vehicles. Reason: To purchase Trailer for Firearms Squad.

Mr. Rivas, Sheriff General fund additional \$80,000 to PERF to cover shortage in the police pension. Transfer \$10,000 from Salaries to PERF to cover shortage in the police pension. Then we get in Accident Report fund for \$4,000 to Training and Education for Accident Reconstruction Training. Reason for Accident Reconstruction Training.

Mr. Larson, I will make a motion on the four funds up to Federal/DOC fund.

Mr. Rivas, There is a motion of the first four...

Sheriff Comptroller Edie Hahn, Jeremy I'd like to add something before you do that.

Ms. Graham, Your adding something?

Sheriff Comptroller Edie Hahn, Well I'd like to ask you about it?

Mr. Rivas, Ok.

Sheriff Comptroller Edie Hahn, The \$10,000 transfer from unused salaries to the pension I want to change that to \$20,000 dollars it is a transfer, I didn't know if we could do that or not? This would be for the worst case scenario if we got no money from the paper servers, if we got absolutely no money at all I would need this.

Mr. Larson, Can we do this without advertising Vicki?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Yes.

Mr. Whitten, We can do a transfer.

Mr. Rivas, Is that ok?

Ms. Graham, Yes.

Mr. Larson, I will amend my motion to include the extra \$10,000 dollars.

Mr. Jessen, Second.

Mr. Rivas, So the transfer goes from \$10,000 dollars to \$20,000 dollars from Salaries to PERF. So then there is the one (1) transfer and five (5) additional, is that what you guys are speaking of on the motion?

Mr. Jessen, Yes, that's correct.

Mr. Larson, Yes.

Mr. Rivas, So on the five (5) additional and one (1) transfer we have a motion and a second. Can we get a roll call?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 7 – 0

Federal/DOC

Federal/DOC - Jail 1217 General Fund – (REDUCTION) - 1000-000-9601

Reduction \$80,000 to 22300 Food and Groceries. Reason: To cover Sheriff's Pension Shortage in 2020

Transfer \$40,000 from 31400 Medical and Hospital Services to 11300 Overtime. Reason: To cover costs of overtime due to COVID Emergency Sick Leave in the Jail

Mr. Rivas, Alright here is the other side of the coin Federal/DOC Jail 1217 General fund reduction of \$80,000 dollars to Food and Groceries to cover Sheriff's Pension Shortage in 2020. There is a transfer of \$40,000 dollars from Medical and Hospital Services to Overtime.

Mr. Larson, Motion.

Mr. Rivas, There is a motion on the reduction and the transfer correct?

Mr. Larson, Yes.

Mr. Poparad, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Second...discussion? Hearing no discussion can we have a roll call.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 7 – 0

Mr. Rivas, Is that it?

Sheriff David Reynolds, Can I say something?

Mr. Rivas, Yes you can absolutely have the floor.

Sheriff David Reynolds, I would like to explain to you what's going on in the Jail, I think it's important that you know that we haven't had a positive since the middle of April but what's going on in the State and really in the County...we've worked with for the last two days with the Probation and Prosecutor and basically we go back to the way we were from a law enforcement standpoint. That's kind of affecting on what you guys just voted on because our civil process our warrants are probably going to go down. Our arrests will go down on non-violent violation of probation offenders, so we are trying to kind of stay ahead of the curve, we don't want to balloon and then do something. I can't say enough about the Probation Department and the Prosecutors Office, obviously the Judges go along with it but who really controls it is the Probation Department. So we have really been working with them the last two days, so I just want to let you know that and as Jeff Larson said in our county there is a lot of moving parts and when you have something like this you have to all be working together. I'm telling you it was like talking to you guys, they understood and they didn't argue and we...there was some major decisions made which will effect...it won't affect the public safety at all, but it will affect how we operate our Jail and we didn't want to lose that part. So I just want to let you know this is my fourteenth (14) year...I'm finishing up my fourteenth year as Sheriff and I've gone through a lot of Council's and I could probably write a book on some of the things and I understand our Jail and what we do...we do a lot of stuff, we ask for a lot, we are always asking. Because that's just how we operate and we won't get anything unless we try to move things around. We added up this year that we saved \$800,000 dollars in grants that we got this year and that's just not me it's a lot of people writing grants from Homeland Security to DOC and how we operate our Jail, it really impacts how you guys do your work because that's \$800,000 dollars that I'm not asking for. But I'm telling you right now we wouldn't have been able to pull any of this off is it wasn't for the County Council and this is one of the best County Council's that I've worked with and I really can't say enough about you Dan, you have been a very good friend and supporter of the Sheriff's office and Jeff too. Anytime I would call any of you guys you always number one and you know how I am...you call me back it's pretty cool.

(Laughter)

But I am probably always asking for something, but I am trying...the way I operate I am trying to explain what we are doing and not that I get everything that I ask for but I know and I think we all agree and you said it best too it's a very non-political...it's not like I am sitting here as a Democrat or Republican, I am sitting here as a Sheriff and I think...and you know how much I think of every one of you guys and I know that you are going to be missed.

Mr. Whitten, Thank you.

Sheriff David Reynolds, And you are going to be miss too Jeff. Thank you.

Mr. Larson, Thank you.

Mr. Rivas, I just want to say something as you walk away Sheriff there is a lot of stupid rhetoric out there, but I can tell you over the time that I've been here with the leadership of Councilman Whitten we funded the police.

Ms. Graham, Yes we have.

Sheriff David Reynolds, That should be published...did you get that?

(Laughter)

Mr. Larson, I think that there is something else that goes with that and that's leadership in that department. When you have confidence in people that are doing those jobs...

Ms. Graham, That's right.

Mr. Larson, There is not a question as to how we fund it because we'll find a way and that shows a lot on your leadership Dave.

Mr. Rivas, Yes that's been easy decisions you're exactly right.

Mr. Whitten, Thank Sheriff.

Sheriff Dave Reynolds, Good evening.

Mr. Larson, Thanks Dave it's been a pleasure.

Parks and Recreation – Superintendent Walter Lenckos

Wildlife Management Donation Fund - 4106-000-0803

Transfer \$10,000 from 39800 Event Expenses to 36200 Building and Structures.
Reason: Tree removal at Zona Wildlife Sanctuary.

Mr. Rivas, Alright Parks and Recreation Wildlife Management Donation fund there is a transfer of \$10,000 dollars from Event Expenses to Building and Structures for tree removal at Zona Wildlife Sanctuary.

Mr. Larson, I will make the motion.

Ms. Graham, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Motion and a second, discussion?

Mr. Simms, Where do we begin...

Mr. Rivas, Do you have something?

Mr. Simms, No.

Mr. Rivas, Ok great.

(Laughter)

Mr. Jessen, Walter why don't you explain that we had some progress made today at the Commissioners meeting I believe?

Ms. Graham, Yes.

Park Superintendent Walter Lenckos, Yes absolutely, the Commissioners passed a current Resolution with the Parks Board that authorizes them to convey title property to the Parks Board as planned so that's a successful...very successful step, so thank you guys for supporting that. To date we were able to hire a local contractor, who brought a crew and some specialized equipment in to clear all of the deadfall and all of the widow makers. One of my staff members made a comment that it is now the safest trail in Porter County. There is always deadfall and widow makers on trails everywhere except that one right now. That has been completed based on the balance of the fund we will now look at the next step in deferred maintenance which the big issue is the bridge. We believe that with the funds remaining in the Zona Donation fund that we will be able to completely rebuild the bridge. So unfortunately the debris had completely moved the pilings off of their support and the cost of repair was nearly the exact same as replace so the Park Board instructed us to replace the bridge. So I hoping that could actually be done by the end of the year.

Mr. Larson, Do you have a vision for that park Walter? Do you guys and the Park Board...have you discussed where they would like to see that park go? I know that's a big question to ask since we are now just funding it, but I know that there is going to be some peak elements that you are going to be in charge of out there so I didn't know if you guys had a different direction for that or...?

Park Superintendent Walter Lenckos, The only change in direction in my mind and the Park Board has addressed it nothing official yet. I've urged them to leverage the Master Plan process which will begin in earnest next year to incorporate that as a special area of focus. But I will imagine that we'll be augmenting the plan so that includes marketing the property more so that folks know it's accessible. Naturalist programs on site once in a while, things of that nature just to attract attention.

Mr. Larson, Cool good to hear that you guys are going to utilize that.

Park Superintendent Walter Lenckos, Yes absolutely.

Mr. Jessen, So in the meantime the park remains closed...or Sanctuary remains closed?

Park Superintendent Walter Lenckos, Correct. Yes the gates are still locked. The Park Board has said that once we get that bridge fixed we can look at then opening it up. We also have deferred maintenance such as picnic benches and signs and things of that nature, not...

Mr. Larson, Probably through the winter you will probably keep that thing closed do you think?

Park Superintendent Walter Lenckos, I'm interested in opening it up as soon as possible quite frankly.

Mr. Larson, Good.

Park Superintendent Walter Lenckos, We are working with NIRPC to get a bunch of new trail counters for really cheap, so I'm dying to open it up and throw a trail counter up and see what traction we get.

Ms. Graham, Good.

Mr. Jessen, We have some progress very good.

Mr. Rivas, Alright all in favor of the \$10,000 dollar transfer signify by saying Aye? All Opposed same sign? Motion carries thank you.

Motion carries on a unanimous voice vote.

Park Superintendent Walter Lenckos, Dan and Jeff thank you so much you guys have been stalwarts. Jeff prior to the Council serving on our Foundation Board.

Mr. Larson, Yes I might be back you never know.

(Laughter)

Park Superintendent Walter Lenckos, (Inaudible) couple of open spots on the Foundation Board. Thank you both very much for your service we appreciate it.

Mr. Whitten, Thank you Walter.

Mr. Jessen, Have a good night.

Mr. Simms, Take care.

EMA – Director Lance Bella

EMA General Fund - 1000-000-0360

Transfer \$2,000 from 31300 Training & Education to 22500 Other Supplies. Reason: To purchase additional PPE and supplies.

Mr. Rivas, Alright EMA there is a \$2,000 dollar transfer from Training and Education to Other Supplies.

Mr. Larson, Motion.

Mr. Rivas, There is a motion and a...

Mr. Jessen, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Lance did call me and said that they are all quarantined right now so I told him to not worry about it. So it's to purchase additional PPE and supplies, I told him there wouldn't be a problem so he did call me. So there is a motion and a second on the floor to approve the transfer. All in favor signify by saying Aye? All Opposed same sign? Motion carries.

Motion carries on a unanimous voice vote.

Porter County Extension – Director Annetta Jones

Extension General Fund - 1000-000-0011

Transfer \$4,000 from 32100 Travel to 44400 Furniture/Fixtures Over \$100. Reason: To purchase ergonomic equipment and conference room technology.

Mr. Rivas, Alright next we have the Extension General fund transfer \$4,000 dollars from Travel...

Mr. Larson, Motion.

Mr. Whitten, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Motion and a second on the floor. Discussion? All in favor signify by saying Aye? All Opposed same sign? Motion carries.

Motion carries on a unanimous voice vote.

Extension Director Annetta Jones, I want to thank you and really appreciate what you've done.

Mr. Jessen, Have a good night.

Council

Council General Fund - 1000-000-0061

Transfer \$5,000 from 11200 Hourly to 61000 Interfund Transfer. Reason: Monies needed to support MOH Fund. MOH staff being assigned to fill COVID related shortages through various departments.

Mr. Rivas, Next we have Council General fund \$5,000 dollars from Hourly to Interfund Transfer. This goes along with what we talked about earlier with us showing support of putting our employees back to work.

Mr. Larson, Motion

Ms. Graham, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Motion and a second. Discussion? All in favor signify by saying Aye? All Opposed same sign? Motion carries.

Motion carries on a unanimous voice vote.

Superior Court – Judge Bradford

Superior Court General Fund - 1000-000-0201

Transfer \$150 from 31300 Training and Education to 21200 Office Fixtures under \$100. Reason: Additional needed to replace file stampers and signature stamps for the new Judge.

Mr. Rivas, Superior Court Judge Bradford, this is a transfer of \$150. They contacted me and asked if they needed to come? I said is there anything going on? They said no it's only a \$150 dollar transfer and I said you're fine.

Mr. Larson, Motion

Ms. Graham, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Motion and a second on a \$150 dollar transfer from Training and Ed to Office Fixtures. Discussion? All in favor signify by saying Aye? All Opposed same sign? Motion carries.

Motion carries on a unanimous voice vote.

Auditor General Fund – Vicki Urbanik

Auditor General Fund - 1000-000-0002

Transfer \$40,000 from 11100 Salaries to 39500 Contractual Services. Reason: Software maintenance payment for Property Tax and Payroll/Financial programs.

Mr. Rivas, Auditor General fund transfer...

Mr. Larson, Motion for Vicki.

Mr. Jessen, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Motion and a second for Vicki. Discussion? I just want to say that Vicki...

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Yes?

Mr. Rivas, You win the best face covering today.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Thank you.

Mr. Larson, You also have for the most improvement for the Office as well.

Ms. Graham, Absolutely.

Mr. Rivas, All in favor signify by saying Aye? All Opposed same sign? Motion carries.

Motion carries on a unanimous voice vote.

Second Reading

Mr. Rivas, I believe that is it let's have second reading.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik,

Whereas it has been determined that it is now necessary to appropriate more money than what was appropriated in the annual budget. Therefore be it 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

General Fund

Recorder	1000-11100-000-0004	Salaries	\$	62.00
Sheriff	1000-12300-000-0005	PERF	\$	80,000.00
Federal/DOC	1000-22300-000-9601	Food and Groceries	\$	<u>(80,000.00)</u>
			\$	62.00

Accident Report Fund

Accident Report	1101-31300-000-0005	Training and Education	\$	4,000.00
Accident Report	1101-36300-000-0005	Equipment Other Than Vehicles	\$	<u>4,500.00</u>
			\$	8,500.00

CCD Fund

CCD Fund	1138-44200-000-0068	Motor Vehicles	\$	28,470.80
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County Extradition Fund

County Extradition	1155-32500-000-0005	Returning Fugitives	\$	8,000.00
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Firearms Training Fund

Firearms Training Fund	1156-36300-000-0005	Equipment Other Than Vehicles	\$	6,000.00
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Tax Sale Fees Fund

Tax Sale Fees Fund	1203-39500-000-0003	Contractual Services	\$	50,000.00
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Cable Franchise Fund

Cable Franchise Fund	4906-43200-000-0068	Roads & Taxiways	\$	150,000.00
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That conclude second reading.

Mr. Larson, Motion.

Mr. Rivas, Motion on the floor for second reading.

Mr. Whitten, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Second. Can we get a roll call?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 7 – 0

Attorney's Report

Mr. Rivas, Attorney's report.

Council Attorney Harold Harper, There is nothing to report tonight. I just wanted to let you know without beating a dead horse. I don't want to go over ground that's been covered but I am going miss you guys and you are both friends and I am going to miss you guys.

Mr. Rivas, I am going to use these famous lines from Dan Whitten we had asked for an attorney's report and our attorney would say I have nothing and Dan would say well that's money well spent.

(Laughter)

Any other matter that may come properly before the Council

2021 Porter County Salary Ordinance – Auditor Vicki Urbanik

- Adoption of 2021 Porter County Salary Ordinance

Mr. Rivas, Alright we have the 2021 Porter County Salary Ordinance?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, You might recall at the last meeting we gave you copies of the Ordinance and to the extent that we could we reviewed everything and it's all as you approved. There were no changes so all we need to do is to formalize the approval of it and get your signatures.

Mr. Whitten, So do you need another vote from us? Since there are no changes...

Mr. Poparad, I think we have to make a motion and vote on it don't we?

Mr. Whitten, Are you saying we already did that or not?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Last month at your October meeting we gave you the draft of it.

Mr. Poparad, Did we vote on it?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Pardon me?

Mr. Poparad, Did we vote on it?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Not at the last meeting.

Ms. Graham, Do you want to vote just to be sure

Council Attorney Harold Harper, I think we should.

Mr. Whitten, I make a motion to approve.

Mr. Rivas, There is a motion.

Mr. Larson, Second.

Mr. Rivas, And a second on the floor to approve the 2021 Salary Ordinance.
Let's get a roll call

Auditor Vicki Urbanik,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Mr. Rivas	-	Yes
Ms. Graham	-	Yes
Mr. Jessen	-	No
Mr. Larson	-	Yes
Mr. Poparad	-	Yes
Mr. Simms	-	Yes
Mr. Whitten	-	Yes

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 6 – 1

Mr. Rivas, Just one real quick thing before we get out of here. My idea was to not have a meeting in December, but Laura said there might be something coming up. So if we have to do I'll figure it out with you guys, if we might have to do a Zoom meeting real fast. It's something with the Health Department that's COVID related and it might be something that we may absolutely have to do. But I will make it as painless as possible with everything that is going on and I will keep all you guys informed.

At the last meeting we had the Coroner in front of us and there was some discussion about suicide in the county and I just want to say that Greg Simms took that football and ran with it. He had a meeting and he put together some people, they sat around a table. I was under quarantine at the time but Greg real quick do you want to briefly describe what you are doing for the rest of the Council?

Mr. Simms, Sure, it's the Porter County Suicide Awareness Taskforce we are calling it. We took ten (10) people from various entities in the county. We basically had a discussion about what going on with suicides? Why is it happening? What can we do to try and curtail it if possible? And we started compiling a bunch of information and some of it really hit me...I don't know white males seem to be the biggest group that is committing suicide in the 40 to 55 years old range. And we're trying to find out why?

What was really interesting is with the group of people that were there they started putting stuff out there and the others are going I didn't know that was available ...and I didn't know that was available. So by that discussion we realized that we've got a lot of resources within our group already that people just need to be aware of, to kind of try and move forward. We have got a couple of communities that want to donate some money if possible, so if we want to get some brochures or something going it won't cost the county any money.

But people are really enthused about getting on board to try and curtail this and if we can stop one person from hurting themselves then it's been well worth it. One of the most encouraging things is the meeting was about an hour and a half, and about half

way into it and I already had people saying when are we going to meet again. And that really encouraged me to say wow, these people are really want to try and help out and they know it's important and it's important for our community...Yes it was very good.

And I will briefly say that some of the things...well a couple of things really quick. I found out that one of the reasons that people commit suicide is they are lonely. And our Porter County Animal Shelter has a program that if someone is lonely we could get an animal to them and that could curtail it because now they've got something to live for and someone to care for. That's takes some of the loneliness away, I'm like ok these are things that we don't normally think about. And one the other things was kids paying attention to people in the work place. For example I had someone in one of my senior classes we were talking about this and the next day he said he was working at White Castle and he was listening to this one guy in the back room kind of talking about some things and it sounded a little weird. I asked him what exactly did he say? He said well life maybe is not worth it and so forth. I said oh my gosh, you had better call a manager and have a discussion there because he might be reaching out for some help. So he got taken care of and then the very next day I had a kid that he had to go to the bathroom and I told him as kind of a joke you have thirty seconds and he came back forty seconds later and I kind of said ha, ha you are late. And he said he thought he saw something weird going on there was a kid in the bathroom kind of doing a little circle thing and it looked odd and he had marks on his arm. I said oh my gosh, so we got a resource officer down there and sure enough the kid was hurting himself and reaching out. I really believe...and this kid is a really good kid that if we didn't have that conversation, he might have just ignored it and who knows whatever might have been.

So they were two really strong things that already have made a bit of a difference in someone's life...it was like holy cow and I was extremely encouraged and our next meeting is December 10th, 2020 so you guys are all welcome to come by if you like and again it's discussion based and we are just trying to get some things out there. One of things that I wanted say as I am looking at the report for this just to give you an idea in 2016 we had 26 suicides, 2017 we had 35 suicides, 2018 we had 27 suicides and 2019 we had 24 suicides, and in 2020 so far we have had 26 suicides. So we are kind of on pace to be the second highest in the last five years. What I'd like to do is to get the Coroner a little bit more information about who these people are because maybe there is a workplace out there that...or who know what company but maybe with a company we get four or five out of there, so let's get a program together where maybe we go there and talk to these people by reaching out and saying we have these resources and we'll get some pamphlets or whatever it is. Oh and the other thing too that I found out is that Porter Starke had some money allocated from a Federal program to reach out to Veterans and he goes I don't know who to contact. I told him to talk to our guy Jim Atkinson. So the next day I called Jim and said hey we got some money available are you interested? He said yes...so know because of that meeting we have connected some dots.

Mr. Whitten, That's awesome.

Mr. Simms, So that's in a quick nutshell, that's what going on. So again if anyone wants to help out or have some incites, we are more than happy to accommodate. There are no egos in the room just people trying to help our Community.

Mr. Rivas, Thank you Greg and again that just shows what this Council been doing over the year. So well guys I'm not sure about next month but Jeff and Dan thank you.

Mr. Whitten, Thanks a lot Jeremy I appreciate it.

Meeting Adjourned

Mr. Rivas, Happy Holidays before I forget and I will entertain a motion to adjourn?

Mr. Jessen, So moved.

Mr. Rivas, Motion

Ms. Graham, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Second to adjourn. All in favor signify by saying Aye? All Opposed? Greg Simms.

Motion carries on a majority voice vote.

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