

PORTER COUNTY COUNCIL
Regular Council Meeting
April 27, 2021

The Porter County Council met on Tuesday, April 27, 2021 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 Mike Brickner, Council Member Sylvia Graham, Council Member Andy Bozak, Council Member Mike Jessen, and Council Member Greg Simms. Also present was, Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Auditor Chief Deputy Toni Downing Council Attorney Harold Harper and Council Administrative Assistant Joy Blakely. Members not present Council Member Andy Bozak and Council Member Bob Poparad.

Minutes

Approval of Regular Council Meeting March 30, 2021.

Mr. Rivas, Alright lets have the approval of the Regular Council Meeting minutes for March 30, 2021

Ms. Graham, Move to approve.

Mr. Jessen, Second

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

Motion carries on a unanimous voice vote.

First Reading

Mr. Rivas, Let's have first reading.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik,

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS OF PROPOSED ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

Notice is hereby given the taxpayers of Porter County, Indiana that the proper legal officers of Porter County, Indiana will meet in the Porter County Government Administration Building located at 155 Indiana Avenue, Valparaiso Indiana 46383 on April 27th, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. to consider the following appropriation adjustments to the county budgets for the year 2021 and to transact any further business which might come before the Council:

General Fund			
Council	1000-39500-000-0061	Contractual Services	\$ 50,000.00
Cumulative Bridge Fund			
Cumulative Bridge Fund	1135-11200-000-0079	Hourly	\$ 20,000.00
Cumulative Bridge Fund	1135-12100-000-0079	FICA	\$ 1,600.00
			\$ 21,600.00
Storm Water Fund			
Storm Water Fund	1182-39500-000-0079	Contractual Services	\$ 750,000.00

Park Operating Fund			
Parks Operating Fund	1179-45400-000-0803	Other Equipment	\$ 1,971.00
LOIT Special Distribution Fund			
LOIT Special Distribution	1229-61000-000-0000	Interfund Transfer	\$ 1,331,387.69
Sheriff Donations Fund			
Sheriff Donations Fund	4108-45400-000-0005	Other Equipment	\$ 13,000.00
Sheriff Overweight Vehicles Fund			
Sheriff Overweight Vehicles	4201-45400-000-0005	Other Equipment	\$ 30,570.00
Public Safety Data Tech Fund			
Public Safety Data Tech	4907-45400-000-0380	Equipment Rentals	\$ 58,500.00
15.944 – Park Natural Resource Steward Grant Fund			
Park Natural Resource Stwd.	8164-43300-000-0803	Landscape/Botanical	\$ 10,371.96
Adult Community Corrections Fund			
Adult Community Corrections	9162-12200-000-0380	Medical/Life Insurance	\$ (20,534.88)
Local Roads and Bridge Matching Grant Fund			
Local Roads & Bridge Grant	9400-23620-000-0530	Bituminous	\$ 1,331,387.69

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 April 17, 2021

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, And that concludes first reading.

Commissioners

LOIT Special Distribution Fund - 1229-000-0000

Additional \$1,331,387.69 to 61000 Interfund Transfer. Reason: To fund the Community Crossing Matching (CCM) Grant

Mr. Rivas, Commissioners, I'm not sure where they went, but this is Road funding so we might as well bring Rich up now and he can cover both. There is LOIT Special Distribution Fund additional of \$1,331,387.69 that is to Interfund Transfer. So it looks like there had to be two that had to be done here to get it where it needs to be to fund the Community Crossing Matching (CCM) Grant money. So we have to do this as an additional and then it looks like we have to another additional for the match to get to where you can spend it for some reason. So anyone want the floor?

Mr. Jessen, I'll make the motion to approve

Ms. Graham, I'll second it.

Mr. Rivas, Motion and a second to approve the additional. Discussion?

Mr. Jessen, Rich the only question that I have is did you receive word on the Community Crossing Grant awards? In this first round?

Highway Supervisor Rich Sexton, Yes we did, we received 100% percent the million dollar match. So they got the full match.

Mr. Jessen, So you just found that out?

Highway Supervisor Rich Sexton, Yes today.

Mr. Jessen, Ok that's awesome news.

Ms. Graham, That's excellent.

Highway Supervisor Rich Sexton, Yes it is.

Mr. Rivas, Alright, so this was the special distribution on the books for awhile that we received a couple of years ago...maybe two years ago Vicki? I don't remember exactly when, so I am putting this to you. Any further discussion? Can we get a roll call on the additional?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Mr. Bozak	-	Yes
Mr. Brickner	-	Yes
Ms. Graham	-	Yes
Mr. Jessen	-	Yes
Mr. Simms	-	Yes
Mr. Rivas	-	Yes

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 6 - 0

Highway

Local Roads & Bridges (LRB) Matching Grant Fund - 9400-000-0530

Additional \$1,331,387.69 to 23620 Bituminous. Reason: To fund the Community Crossing Matching (CCM) Grant

Mr. Rivas, Alright, this is the same money just moving it again right? So the next is the Highway Local Roads & Bridges (LRB) Matching Grant Fund. It's an additional of the same amount \$1,331,387.69 to Bituminous.

Mr. Bozak, I'll make the motion.

Ms. Graham, Second

Mr. Rivas, Motion and second on the floor, any discussion? Can we get a roll call?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Mr. Brickner	-	Yes
Ms. Graham	-	Yes
Mr. Jessen	-	Yes
Mr. Simms	-	Yes
Mr. Rivas	-	Yes
Mr. Bozak	-	Yes

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 6 - 0

Mr. Rivas, Anything else for us?

Highway Supervisor Rich Sexton, No.

Mr. Rivas, Alright

Highway Supervisor Rich Sexton, I'm just ready to get started. Thank you very much.

Mr. Rivas, Thank you.

Mr. Jessen, Have a good evening Rich, thank you very much

Parks and Recreation

Parks Operating Fund - 1179-000-0803

Additional \$1,971 to 45400 Other Equipment. Reason: Replacement of playground equipment that was damaged last year this amount not covered by insurance.

Mr. Rivas, Parks Operating Fund additional \$1,971 to Other Equipment. The reason is the replacement of playground equipment that was damaged last year, this amount not covered by insurance.

Mr. Bozak, Well I want to hear that story.

Ms. Graham, Is that from storm damage or...?

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Walter Lenckos, No it was damage from a user of the facility and we can't get that money from them. We got somewhere between 80% and 85% percent of the cost was covered by their insurance. So upon their lawyers recommendation the Park Board said then just pay the balance and don't fight over that.

Mr. Jessen, So Walter was that their rental renters insurance that paid a portion of it?

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Walter Lenckos, Correct.

Mr. Bozak, Are they no longer allow to rent or have we stopped them?

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Walter Lenckos, Correct.

Mr. Jessen, I'll make the motion to approve.

Ms. Graham, Second.

Mr. Rivas, There is a motion and a second for the \$1,971 dollars. I've got an old balance sheet, but there seems to be a healthy balance in there the last time that I looked it was at \$80,000 dollars.

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Walter Lenckos, Yes there is \$86,000 as of this morning.

Mr. Rivas, \$86,000 dollars, so I just wanted to say these are the things I wonder about. First of all, why the additional? What's in that line item, is it depleted? If it isn't depleted already, why aren't you spending it down?

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Walter Lenckos, There isn't anything budgeted in other equipment.

Mr. Rivas, Alright that answers that.

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Walter Lenckos, Yes, any of our other equipment expenses currently come out of the General fund.

Mr. Rivas, Ok got it. Alright any other 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. Simms	-	Yes
Mr. Rivas	-	Yes
Mr. Bozak	-	Yes
Mr. Brickner	-	Yes

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 6 - 0

15.944 Park - Natural Resource Stewardship Grant Fund - 8164-000-0803

Additional \$10,371.96 to 43300 Landscape/Botanical Restoration. Reason: Site preparation, seed purchase and seeding for pollinator habitat restoration project.

Mr. Rivas, It looks like Natural Resource Stewardship Grant fund additional \$10,371.96 to Landscape/Botanical Restoration. The reason is for site preparation, seed purchase and seeding for pollinator habitat restoration project

Mr. Brickner, I'll make the motion to approve.

Ms. Graham, Second.

Mr. Bozak, Second.

Mr. Rivas, There is a motion and a couple of seconds on the \$10,371.96 additional. Any questions? Anything to add here Walter?

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Walter Lenckos, Just to note that this came to fruition through the partnership with Soil & Water Conservation District.

Ms. Graham, That's very good.

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Walter Lenckos, So their staff helped to facilitate this and they were just awesome to work with on the project.

Mr. Bozak, That's wonderful to hear, teamwork.

Mr. Rivas, Any other discussions, comments or questions? Can we get a roll call?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Mr. Jessen	-	Yes
Mr. Simms	-	Yes
Mr. Rivas	-	Yes
Mr. Bozak	-	Yes
Mr. Brickner	-	Yes
Ms. Graham	-	Yes

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 6 - 0

Mr. Jessen, Thanks Walter.

Development & Storm Water Management - Director Robert Thompson

Storm Water Fund - 1182-000-0079

Additional \$750,000 to 39500 Contractual Services. Reason: To Continue with storm water projects: Shorewood Forest \$200,000; Ludington Ditch \$200,000; Saddlebrooke Subdivision \$150,000; Direct payment to Kankakee River Basin & Yellow River Basin Development Commission \$200,000.

Mr. Rivas, Storm Water Fund there is a lot going on in this department. There is an additional \$750,000 to Contractual Services. Reason to Continue with storm water projects: Shorewood Forest \$200,000; Ludington Ditch \$200,000; Saddlebrooke Subdivision \$150,000; Direct payment to Kankakee River Basin & Yellow River Basin Development Commission \$200,000 and that was from the resolution that I believe we passed last month.

Ms. Graham, That's right.

Mr. Rivas, The payment, that's our first payment?

Storm Water Engineer Mike Novotney, Yes that will be for the year.

Mr. Rivas, And that will be for the year.

Mr. Jessen, I make the motion to approve.

Ms. Graham, Second.

Mr. Rivas, A motion and a second on the \$750,000 dollar additional. Any further questions? No just getting to work

Development & Storm Water Engineer Mike Novotney, We need to keep going and we have plenty of projects to do and we would like to get them done.

Mr. Jessen, Mike can you...are there some upcoming meetings or sessions to share with the group?

Development & Storm Water Engineer Mike Novotney, We will have as we come out of the pandemic and all these restrictions with social distancing...physical distancing. We are going to do some open houses, particularly in South Haven to reflect on all the work that we have done. Our plan is to have open houses in Shorewood Forest as we move forward to completion with the study that we have going on there, as well as in the greater South Haven area which is the other three subdivisions in the Twin Creeks Conservancy District. So yes, we are opening the doors back up so to speak and doing some of those public engagements and open house type events.

Mr. Jessen, Awesome, thank you.

Development & Storm Water Engineer Mike Novotney, So check our calendar on there for updates and we'll get information directly to the Council too on when those happen.

Mr. Jessen, Ok.

Mr. Rivas, Any further discussion on the additional? Can we get a roll call on the \$750,000 dollar?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Mr. Simms	-	Yes
Mr. Rivas	-	Yes
Mr. Bozak	-	Yes
Mr. Brickner	-	Yes

Ms. Graham - Yes
Mr. Jessen - Yes

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 6 - 0

Storm Water Fund - 1182-000-0079

Transfer \$50,000 from 23610 Culverts to 23600 Aggregates. Reason: To pay for general repairs for County's storm water infrastructures.

Mr. Rivas, There is a transfer of \$50,000 from Culverts to Aggregates. To pay for general repairs for County's storm water infrastructures.

Ms. Graham, Motion to approve.

Mr. Jessen, Second.

Mr. Rivas, There is a motion and a second, any discussion? I was glancing at it so you had like \$200,000 dollars in culverts in the budget and you're moving that over?

Development & Storm Water Engineer Mike Novotney, Yes we are just sliding that over. So each year we budget about \$250,000 dollars for culverts and stone. Some years we run a little hotter on culverts then stone, this year we've done quite a bit of street stabilization where we have used some of that stone money. So we've just transferring some of that over to stone or aggregate line item.

Mr. Rivas, Perfect. Any other discussion? All in favor of the transfer signify by saying Aye? Opposed same sign?

Motion carries on a unanimous voice vote.

Plan Commission Fund - 1180-000-0079

Form 144 up to \$30 per hour Part-time Inspector
Reason: Change from \$18 to \$30 per hour for Part-time Inspector

Cumulative Bridge Fund - 1135-000-0079
Additional \$20,000 to 11200 Hourly
\$1,600 to 12100 FICA
Reason: Hourly Pay and FICA for summer interns.

Form 144 up to \$15 per hour Hourly (Summer Interns)
Reason: Additional for Summer Interns \$0 to \$15 per hour

Mr. Rivas, Plan Commission.

Ms. Graham, Jeremy...I am wondering if we can take the next three all together? It's all part-time.

Mr. Rivas, So there's Plan Commission Form 144 up to \$30 per hour Part-time Inspector. Then there looks like there's a Cumulative Bridge Fund additional for \$20,000 to Hourly and \$1,600 to FICA. The reason Hourly Pay and FICA for summer interns and Form 144 up to \$15 per hour Hourly (Summer Interns). The one is under Plan Commission for the Form 144 and the other is Cumulative Bridge Form 144 up to \$15 per hourly additional for Summer Interns. So it looks like a couple of 144's and additional for Summer Interns. Do you want to make that motion?

Ms. Graham, Yes I would like to make that motion.

Mr. Rivas, For both 144's and the additional?

Ms. Graham, Yes.

Mr. Brickner, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Motion and a second for the form 144 for the Plan Commission, the additional under Cumulative Bridge and the form 144 under Cumulative Bridge for Summer Interns.

Mr. Bozak, Can I ask a question?

Mr. Rivas, Discussion?

Mr. Bozak, Why are we taking the part-time inspector from \$18 to \$30 dollars? Is that a raise? Is that someone that is not hired yet? Can you kind of explain that because that's a pretty large jump...that's all I'm saying?

Development & Storm Water Engineer Mike Novotney, Great question Kristy do you want to take that?

Development & Storm Water Assistant Director Kristy Marasco, Well, we don't have anyone right now as part-time. So it's going to be a new hire and we're trying to hire someone that maybe has retired from the trades or someone with the knowledge. There is no-one to back up Mike Haller when he is not here, so we do need someone. We want someone with some kind of knowledge that's going to be done properly and efficiently so we just don't want to hire anyone, and it's hard to hire someone at \$15.00 per hour that wants to go in and be responsible for this.

Development & Storm Water Engineer Mike Novotney, Yes think about it like this, how much do you guys pay for a service call from an HVAC Technician, Electrician or a Plumber, so you are paying \$100 dollars for the service call...so it's an hour. When people come in and Mike tells them we want you to go...we want you to be an electrical expert or plumbing expert go check the building permits to make sure that they are in compliance with those codes. They ask what are you paying and its \$15 or \$18 dollars an hour, there isn't anyone going to come that we really want to hire. So that's what it is, trying to fill that gap and get somebody with experience that can help Mike's workload out. Because he has seen a big uptake in building permits this year, so that's the effort and the reason here.

Mr. Bozak, Thank you that answers my question.

Mr. Jessen, When is the last time that we had a part-time inspector?

Development & Storm Water Building Commissioner Mike Haller, Well we actually currently have one but he's...

Development & Storm Water Assistant Director Kristy Marasco, I thought he's out of commission right now. We have no-one to fill your spot when you are not here.

Ms. Graham, Is he on the payroll yet?

Development & Storm Water Assistant Director Kristy Marasco, He's part-time.

Development & Storm Water Building Commissioner Mike Haller, He got hired away by Habitat for Humanity as a full-time person so he wasn't available. (inaudible) so he would have be doing that part-time.

Development & Storm Water Engineer Mike Novotney, So Mike, but effectively you haven't had anyone available to you for quite some time?

Development & Storm Water Building Commissioner Mike Haller, Yes, correct (inaudible).

Development & Storm Water Engineer Mike Novotney, So there you go.

Mr. Jessen, So last time you had a part-time person was a couple of years ago, is that what you were saying?

Development & Storm Water Engineer Mike Novotney, Yes

Mr. Jessen, And at that time did we pay them at the maximum of \$18 dollars per hour?

Development & Storm Water Engineer Mike Novotney, You were paying himat that right?

Development & Storm Water Building Commissioner Mike Haller, Yes (inaudible).

Development & Storm Water Engineer Mike Novotney, Yes \$18 dollars.

Mr. Jessen, So do you think that you'll need it or are you just wanting the latitude to go to \$30 dollars if necessary? Or do you think the next person will be at \$30 dollars per hour?

Development & Storm Water Building Commissioner Mike Haller, Well I was in Menards the other day and they had a table set up with all kinds of boards and information and they were advertising for part-time positions at \$18 dollars per hour.

Development & Storm Water Assistant Director Kristy Marasco, What we want to do is start at...we want it to be that max at \$30 dollars per hour. So we want some room to negotiate...we want some room for negotiation.

Mr. Bozak, We'll start at \$18 dollars and get to \$20 dollars per hour.

Development & Storm Water Engineer Mike Novotney, It's not necessarily automatic.

Mr. Bozak, No, I'm joking.

Ms. Graham, It's say up to \$30 dollars per hour.

Development & Storm Water Assistant Director Kristy Marasco, Yes up to...right.

Mr. Bozak, Finding employees right now is hard, we are having that problem at my job too.

Mr. Rivas, So with that, I am trying to find what the hourly support? I'm mean what do you have in hourly if you are going to jump somebody?

Development & Storm Water Engineer Mike Novotney, It's good.

Mr. Rivas, \$40,000 in hourly and you've spent \$1,200 dollars? Is that what I'm looking at here?

Mr. Bozak, We charge for inspections too? So the more inspections that you do the more money you bring in?

Development & Storm Water Assistant Director Kristy Marasco, It's in the permit fee.

Mr. Rivas, So moving on...just hire the guy and give him a bunch of red tape and get him out there.

(Laughter)

Mr. Rivas, The summer interns down here out of the Cumulative Bridge Fund...

Development & Storm Water Engineer Mike Novotney, Yes?

Mr. Rivas, It's up to \$15 dollars per hour, I was trying to find an hourly line item on that? There isn't one, so you are wanting to create one?

Development & Storm Water Engineer Mike Novotney, Well, part of the ask was an additional \$20,000 dollars to go to hourly to pay for that for that...the summer interns.

Mr. Rivas, So you are doing this under the Cumulative Bridge fund?

Development & Storm Water Engineer Mike Novotney, That's correct.

Development & Storm Water Engineer Mike Novotney, And the concept is simply...we've got a bunch of infrastructure in the right-of-ways, for example guard rails, striping, various structures that aren't accounted for right now. So the interns are going to collect data on that, just like they did a few years ago for Storm Water when we went out and surveyed all the storm sewer structures and culverts and did an overall assessment of that infrastructure. So that's the object here and part of this too is the GIS (Geographic Information System) intern to help Chuck Miller who is a very integral part of many departments around this county. Making our GIS infrastructure run, providing mapping, so we'll have a GIS intern and I know that Chuck is very excited about to help him out with his workload.

Mr. Rivas, Perfect.

Mr. Bozak, Can I ask if you are going to be able to find people for \$15 dollars per hour? Is that enough?

Development & Storm Water Engineer Mike Novotney, Yes, we we've already got folks in mind and they have accepted our offer pending these actions tonight.

Mr. Jessen, So Mike, just so that I have an understanding on the interns.

Development & Storm Water Engineer Mike Novotney, Yes sir?

Mr. Jessen, The Plan Commission do you have part-time interns for them? Or do you plan on having them?

Development & Storm Water Engineer Mike Novotney, No, this is all out of the Cumulative Bridge fund.

Mr. Jessen, So on the Cumulative Bridge then, how many interns are we talking about?

Development & Storm Water Engineer Mike Novotney, There's three (3) interns out of the Cumulative Bridge fund. Two (2) will be working in the field under Highway Engineering as I mentioned, inventorying and assessing the county's infrastructure within the right-of-ways and then one (1) will be working with Chuck Miller in GIS (Geographic Information System), so primarily in the office.

Mr. Jessen, And the part-time intern for the Plan Commission up to \$13 dollars per hour, that's not a utilized position?

Development & Storm Water Engineer Mike Novotney, That's the part-time inspector to assist Mr. Haller with building inspections.

Mr. Jessen, So there is a part-time intern for Planning Commission?

Development & Storm Water Assistant Director Kristy Marasco, Yes.

Mr. Jessen, At \$13 dollar per hour?

Development & Storm Water Assistant Director Kristy Marasco, I know that Bob said that we wanted to hire someone to help with the code enforcement, so I'm thinking that what that's for.

Mr. Jessen, Ok.

Development & Storm Water Assistant Director Kristy Marasco, He couldn't be here, but I know that we've had a lot of complaints and we're getting ready to start with...we've had unsafe building meetings last year and we're doing our first one this year tomorrow night...or tomorrow during the day and there will be another one in May. So we are getting back on track with all of that too.

Mr. Jessen, So there probably is one, and I only asked because it's say \$13 per hour if that is going to be sufficient for intern.

Development & Storm Water Assistant Director Kristy Marasco, You're right. Is that what he gets?

Development & Storm Water Engineer Mike Novotney, (Inaudible)

Development & Storm Water Assistant Director Kristy Marasco, He didn't discuss that with me, I'm sorry Councilman Jessen, I could get some information from him and get back with you.

Ms. Graham, It sounds like he has people already lined up for this.

Development & Storm Water Assistant Director Kristy Marasco, Well that's for...

Development & Storm Water Engineer Mike Novotney, For these positions that we are discussing tonight. But I think what Mr. Jessen was bringing up was already hourly dedicated to the Plan Commission intern correct Mike?

Mr. Jessen, Right.

Development & Storm Water Assistant Director Kristy Marasco, Yes.

Mr. Bozak, You don't see that as a problem having the same positions at two different pays?

Development & Storm Water Assistant Director Kristy Marasco, It's really not the same position, one is code enforcement where you are going out and responding to complaints and one is checking houses...

Mr. Bozak, Ok I was just curious.

Development & Storm Water Engineer Mike Novotney, They have different skillsets Andy, that's kind of what it comes down to.

Mr. Jessen, I appreciate the fact that we're spending time with code enforcement, property maintenance and such, kind of resurrecting that program and I am curious to know if it would be possible that maybe at the next Council meeting to have the department give a presentation on what that means? What it looks like? How that process works?

Development & Storm Water Assistant Director Kristy Marasco, Sure.

Mr. Jessen, It might be helpful for everybody to have.

Development & Storm Water Engineer Mike Novotney, How many presentation can you guys handle? Because I think we have...

Development & Storm Water Assistant Director Kristy Marasco, We have one for Calumet Trail too from Bob.

Development & Storm Water Engineer Mike Novotney, I think he was asked to give one. Bob was asked to give one on the Calumet Trail.

Mr. Bozak, Oh only one presentation at a time. I'm joking...I'm joking it's whatever they want.

Development & Storm Water Engineer Mike Novotney, It's up to you guys, I was just reminding you guys about that.

Mr. Jessen, Well depending on the length of the presentations.

Development & Storm Water Engineer Mike Novotney, Just keep them short and then we could do a couple of topics.

Mr. Bozak, Depending on the weather outside too.

Mr. Jessen, My ask would be just to say over the next two meetings we cover that specific topic.

Development & Storm Water Assistant Director Kristy Marasco, Sure.

Development & Storm Water Engineer Mike Novotney, Sounds perfectly reasonable.

Mr. Rivas, Anymore discussion on the two form 144s and the additional? If not can we get a roll call on all of the above Madame Auditor?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Mr. Rivas	-	Yes
Mr. Bozak	-	Yes
Mr. Brickner	-	Yes
Ms. Graham	-	Yes
Mr. Jessen	-	Yes
Mr. Simms	-	Yes

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 6 - 0

Development & Storm Water Engineer Mike Novotney, Thank you very much.

Mr. Jessen, Have a good night.

Porter County Sheriff, Jail & Federal DOC Prisoners – Sheriff David Reynolds

Sheriff

Sheriff Donations Fund - 4108-000-0005

Additional \$13,000 to 45400 Other Equipment. Reason: To cover the cost of the 2 smart boards for the Therapeutic Communities program for educational tools. This is a donation from the Porter County Substance Abuse Council.

Mr. Rivas, Sheriff Donations Fund additional \$13,000 to Other Equipment. The reason to cover the cost of the 2 smart boards for the Therapeutic Communities program for educational tools. This is a donation from the Porter County Substance Abuse Council.

Ms. Graham, Move to approve.

Mr. Jessen, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Motion and a second, discussion on the additional? Roll Call?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Mr. Bozak	-	Yes
Mr. Brickner	-	Yes

Ms. Graham - Yes
Mr. Jessen - Yes
Mr. Simms - Yes
Mr. Rivas - Yes

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 6 - 0

Sheriff Overweight Vehicles Fund - 4201-000-0005

Additional \$30,570 to 45400 Other Equipment. Reason: To cover the cost of new Wheel Load Weighing Devices for the patrol officer's vehicles.

Mr. Rivas, Sheriff Overweight Vehicles Fund additional \$30,570 to Other Equipment, to cover the cost of new Wheel Load Weighing Devices for the patrol officer's vehicles.

Ms. Graham, You have some now don't you?

Sheriff David Reynolds, We've got two more officers doing it.

Mr. Bozak, Is that for commercial traffic or just for the roads that are overweight specific?

Sheriff David Reynolds, Over weight trucks.

Mr. Rivas, There is an additional for you, is there a motion?

Ms. Graham, Move to approve.

Mr. Jessen, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Motion and a second, I don't think they want to give you any money on this one. I'm not sure but I will see if I can find out why. Discussion? Can we get a roll call?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Mr. Brickner - Yes
Ms. Graham - Yes
Mr. Jessen - Yes
Mr. Simms - Yes
Mr. Rivas - Yes
Mr. Bozak - Yes

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 6 - 0

Jail

Public Safety Data Tech Fund - 4907-000-0380

Additional \$58,500 to 37100 Equipment Rentals. Reason: To cover the cost of the 4th installment for the body cameras for patrol officers.

Mr. Rivas, Public Safety Data Tech Fund additional \$58,500 to Equipment Rentals. To cover the cost of the 4th installment for the body cameras for patrol officers.

Mr. Jessen, I'll make the motion.

Mr. Brickner, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Motion and a second, discussion?

Mr. Bozak, How many installments are there in total? Is that it?

Sheriff Assistant Comptroller Kathy Grskovich, Five (5) installments.

Mr. Bozak, So there one more?

Sheriff Assistant Comptroller Kathy Grskovich, There's one more.

Mr. Bozak, Ok thank you.

Mr. Rivas, Further discussion? Was there a motion and a second?

Mr. Jessen, Yes.

Mr. Rivas, Roll call?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Ms. Graham	-	Yes
Mr. Jessen	-	Yes
Mr. Simms	-	Yes
Mr. Rivas	-	Yes
Mr. Bozak	-	Yes
Mr. Brickner	-	Yes

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 6 - 0

Adult Community Corrections Fund - 9162-000-0380

Reduction (-\$20,534.88) to 12200 Medical/Life Insurance. Reason: Reduction due to grant fund not providing the full amount that was requested.

Mr. Rivas, Adult Community Corrections Fund reduction (-\$20,534.88) to Medical/Life Insurance. Reason is the reduction due to grant fund not providing the full amount that was requested.

Ms. Graham, Did they say why the grant didn't come through?

Sheriff David Reynolds, Well we applied for it, they just didn't give it to us.

Ms. Graham, Was this the third year of the grant?

Sheriff Assistant Comptroller Kathy Grskovich, We had also applied for it last year and they didn't give it to us, so we're just cleaning this line item up.

Ms. Graham, Ok.

Sheriff Assistant Comptroller Kathy Grskovich, I spoke to Toni and we were going to zero it out since they didn't award us this so we're paying for it out of one of the other funds.

Ms. Graham, That was the question that I had.

Mr. Rivas, So we didn't get it last year either? I looked backed at the budget and it looks like you doubled that line item from 2020 to 2021.

Sheriff Assistant Comptroller Kathy Grskovich, Because they didn't give it to us so we had requested that when we did budgets last year. The DOC (Department of Corrections) hadn't said what they were going to give us yet, so we just requested the full amount.

Mr. Rivas, So this is the amount of somebody's insurance that you are taking out of a line item out of somewhere else.

Sheriff David Reynolds,

Mr. Jessen, I'll make the motion.

Mr. Brickner, Second.

Mr. Rivas, So there is a motion and a second on the (-\$20,534.88) reduction to Medical/Life Insurance. Can we get a roll call on the reduction?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Mr. Jessen	-	Yes
Mr. Simms	-	Yes
Mr. Rivas	-	Yes
Mr. Bozak	-	Yes
Mr. Brickner	-	Yes
Ms. Graham	-	Yes

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 6 - 0

Sheriff Dave Reynolds, We good? Thank you.

Mr. Jessen, Have a good evening.

Mr. Rivas, Is there something else? Nothing?

Sheriff Dave Reynolds, Well we are getting that award from the Indiana Department (inaudible)

Mr. Bozak, Well we want to hear it.

ITS – Director Eric Serrano

ITS General Fund - 1000-000-0106

Transfer \$320 from 45400 Other Equipment to 39400 County Memberships

Reason: Indiana Government Technology Leaders Association (IGTLA) moved to Government Management Information Services (GMIS) which caused the membership fees to increase.

Mr. Rivas, ITS General Fund transfer \$320 from Other Equipment to County Memberships. The reason Indiana Government Technology Leaders Association moved to Government Management Information Services which caused the membership fees to increase.

Ms. Graham, Move to approve.

Mr. Jessen, Second.

Mr. Bozak, Does he have to come in front of us for \$320 dollars?

Mr. Rivas, Well we haven't set any kind of bar, but Eric did ask me. For something like that...

ITS Director Eric Serrano, That's alright.

Mr. Rivas, We don't have an amount

ITS Director Eric Serrano, Sure

Mr. Rivas, We ask that everybody come in front of us, but we certainly don't want you to miss one of your children's track meet for \$320 dollars next time. Please just let us know.

ITS Director Eric Serrano, There will be more track meets.

Mr. Rivas, You can call for something that small, this is simple.

ITS Director Eric Serrano, Sure.

Mr. Rivas, So just let us know, we like everyone to come in front of us but please just communicate with us.

ITS Director Eric Serrano, Yes absolutely.

Mr. Rivas, So now we are going to keep you here for a while and you missed your track meet.

Mr. Jessen, So let's drag it out then.

(Laughter)

Mr. Bozak, We put you last on the agenda.

Mr. Rivas, We put you last for a \$320 transfer

Mr. Rivas, So there is a motion and a second. Any discussion for poor Eric showing up here? All in favor of the transfer signify by saying Aye? Opposed same sign?

Motion carries on a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Rivas, Sorry Eric.

Council

Council General Fund - 1000-000-0061

Additional \$50,000 to 39500 Contractual Services. Reason: Consulting Services for Baker Tilly (Municipal Advisory Firm).

Bakertilly Scope of Services Contracts:

- Proposed Financial Advisory and Accounting Services – Annual Budget Assistance and Other Accounting Support Services
- Financial Advisory and Accounting Services – Comprehensive Financial Plan and Capital Plan
- Engagement Letter Agreement Related to Services

Mr. Rivas, Council General Fund Additional \$50,000 to Contractual Services. Reason: Consulting Services for Baker Tilly (Municipal Advisory Firm). We've had some discussion about this a little bit I sent it to you guys. The Commissioners passed the contracts in their meeting this morning. So to get us going, there are two scopes like the Annual Budgeting Assistance one...a lot of that stuff is redundant and is what Vicki does. But there is some good stuff that we can get from Bakertilly on budgeting, but the second part is the Comprehensive Financial Plan, which is huge and something that is much needed with everything that is going on with the money that we are going to get the \$33,000,000 dollars of Federal money, we have already received over \$4,000,000 dollars, you know if the smoothing goes through. I think we are in a good position now, the timing is right to put a financial plan in place.

Ms. Graham, I think quite truthfully, we have had a good record of having a financial plan for projects in the past, and we've got a lot of money coming down the

pipe and I think the people of the county would appreciate having a good solid plan on where it's going to be spent. I think that would be great.

Mr. Bozak, Can I ask how the billing works? It's hourly billing correct?

Mr. Rivas, It's hourly billing, so yes we are just going to pay for...

Mr. Bozak, Are we going to get a monthly recap type of thing on what they've done?

Mr. Rivas, Yes, I'll have to get with Vicki right away and I imagine that monthly. I imagine that we'll get something monthly Vicki? Or is it bi-weekly when they bill us? I'll have to figure that out.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, We don't know how they are going to bill us.

Mr. Rivas, Yes.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, We should probably tell them how we would like it done.

Mr. Rivas, Yes.

Ms. Graham, Well here is something else Andy, they're going to give us a plan, we don't have to approve it just only as much as we would like.

Mr. Bozak, I understand it could get really expensive and not a lot of results right away. So I just want to know when we are getting up close to that \$50,000. Harold had said something...

Mr. Rivas, Harold was it in there?

Council Attorney Harold Harper, No, the question that I was going to ask, maybe not ask but point out, this was for the financial plan contract and then the budgeting one was separate I think? Is that right? One was \$35,000 dollars and one was...

Mr. Rivas, There was two and I believe they approved both. I just figure we would start with \$50,000 dollars additional and put it in that. Because it's up to, there is so much in the budgeting that we are not going to need them to do, but there is some good stuff, budget training, the best practices to find out if there a better way do this? You know we get for two months we come in here, there's ten to twelve meetings and fly through stuff. There is ninety-one other counties, ninety-two total, let's find out the best practices from a statewide company like this and see if there is some stuff to do. As new members come in too with the budget training too a little bit. Do I think we need all of that? Absolutely not on that portion of the contract.

Mr. Bozak, Have you scaled it back yet with them and tell them we don't want that?

Mr. Rivas, No, my plan is the Commissioners approved the contract this morning, we'll approve the funding if you guys feel this is what you want to do. I would get with Mike immediately and get with Vicki the Commissioners and Bakertilly and let's layout the guidelines with what we need and what we don't need. You know kind of layout some expectations and get them rolling on this.

Council Attorney Harold Harper, Andy I was going to...Jeremy if I may? It's essentially time and materials, although it's not materials it's time and expenses capped at \$35,000 dollars on one and \$50,000 dollars on the other. So I think and I've read through both contracts and there Scopes and their appropriate and from my perspective I think it's a good idea, a good plan.

Mr. Bozak, As long as we narrow it down as Jeremy was saying, we're doing...Vicki is already doing the job.

Ms. Graham, Yes she is.

Mr. Bozak, And there is no reason to pay Bakertilly for that or there is no reason that I know of.

Mr. Rivas, Nope.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, (Inaudible)

Mr. Bozak, Yes, that's my thought to make sure that they have that scope, because right now it states that approved it and we're moving the money, they could start doing here job.

Mr. Rivas, No.

Mr. Bozak, Not her job direct, but doing things she does already.

Mr. Rivas, It will be fine, they work for us, it will be fine. We'll lay it out, there is...I'm sure that's a boilerplate contract, they're not doing that stuff that Vicki continues to do and we'll get with Bakertilly quick and get them going. We'll lay out the guidelines.

Mr. Jessen, And rest assured too that the entire Council will be involved in those discussions in terms of what they want them to do.

Ms. Graham, Exactly.

Mr. Jessen, So everybody will be in on the same plan.

Mr. Rivas, Yes absolutely and part of that Financial Plan is a Capital Plan too and we've done a lot in this county over the last couple years but I think there is still a lot more to do in terms of finishing Facility upgrades. Whether it's the center garage and the Bond is up and I think our last payment for the Jail is 2023 sometime. Are we going to re-up that Bond and look at work release? Retrofitting that whole Jail over there? We have also talked about the Calumet Trail, finally putting the funding in place for that. We talked about Willowcreek Road extension, I think the 100 South is still there. The Redevelopment Commission is looking at Highway 6 and Highway 49...so there is a lot. There is a lot in front of us and I think the timing is good, we've got an influx of some Federal money here with the smoothing. Potentially we've had some discussions with the Commissioners about Highway and you guys all listened to their restructuring. How do we fund it making sure all of our roads are up to the right ratings? So I think it's a good time to, you know we've got a lot of work to do still, fixing our facilities and continue to upgrade the infrastructure in this county. Let's make sure that we're doing it responsible. I think with a plan, I think that does that for us.

Mr. Jessen, We have a significant amount of funding to also help with the framework of the budgeting overall would be helpful for the group. But when you talk about the funding sources that we have through the Hospital Proceeds and the Smoothing that has passed, we will need to develop a plan to and always be good stewards of the resources that we have. But we need to come up with a plan to talk about how to appropriately spend part of the Hospital Interest and so forth, the money that's been held back, you've got \$33,000,000 dollars that is set to come from the American Rescue Plan that needs to have a plan attached to it. And I think it's important to have some guidance on this, it's significant. I especially appreciate the Commissioners involvement in this, it's going to take a collaborative effort between the Council and the Commissioners to get this done and their unanimous support of these contracts this morning is a great sign or signal to say that they support us in this effort. They are going to work together with us in this effort and as result of it we're...the ten members of the Commissioner's Office and Council will feel confident with the plan that we move forward with. So I think it's a tremendous this and in that vein I'll make a motion for the \$50,000 dollars to Contractual Services.

Ms. Graham, Second.

Mr. Rivas, There is a motion and a second, is there any further discussion?
Can we get a roll call on the additional Madame Auditor?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Mr. Simms	-	Yes
Mr. Rivas	-	Yes
Mr. Bozak	-	Yes
Mr. Brickner	-	Yes
Ms. Graham	-	Yes
Mr. Jessen	-	Yes

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 6 - 0

Second Reading

Mr. Rivas, Let's have second reading Madame Auditor.

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			
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Council	1000-39500-000-0061	Contractual Services	\$	50,000.00
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Cumulative Bridge Fund			
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Cumulative Bridge Fund	1135-11200-000-0079	Hourly	\$	20,000.00
Cumulative Bridge Fund	1135-12100-000-0079	FICA	\$	<u>1,600.00</u>
			\$	21,600.00

Storm Water Fund			
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Storm Water Fund	1182-39500-000-0079	Contractual Services	\$	750,000.00
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Park Operating Fund			
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Parks Operating Fund	1179-45400-000-0803	Other Equipment	\$	1,971.00
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LOIT Special Distribution Fund			
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LOIT Special Distribution	1229-61000-000-0000	Interfund Transfer	\$	1,331,387.69
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Sheriff Donations Fund			
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Sheriff Donations Fund	4108-45400-000-0005	Other Equipment	\$	13,000.00
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Sheriff Overweight Vehicles Fund			
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Sheriff Overweight Vehicles	4201-45400-000-0005	Other Equipment	\$	30,570.00
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Public Safety Data Tech Fund			
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Public Safety Data Tech	4907-45400-000-0380	Equipment Rentals	\$	58,500.00
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15.944 – Park Natural Resource Steward Grant Fund			
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Park Natural Resource Stwd.	8164-43300-000-0803	Landscape/Botanical	\$	10,371.96
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Adult Community Corrections Fund

Adult Community Corrections 9162-12200-000-0380 Medical/Life Insurance \$ (20,534.88)

Local Roads and Bridge Matching Grant Fund
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Local Roads & Bridge Grant 9400-23620-000-0530 Bituminous \$ 1,331,387.69

That conclude second reading.

Mr. Rivas, I will entertain a motion to approve second reading.

Ms. Graham, Motion to approve.

Mr. Rivas, Motion

Mr. Jessen, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Second. Can I get a Roll Call?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Mr. Rivas	-	Yes
Mr. Bozak	-	Yes
Mr. Brickner	-	Yes
Ms. Graham	-	Yes
Mr. Jessen	-	Yes
Mr. Simms	-	Yes

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 6 - 0

Attorney's Report

Mr. Rivas, Alright, Attorney's report.

Council Attorney Harold Harper, The only additional matter for the Council to consider tonight is John Evans request for reimbursement, which I detailed in the email to the Council earlier this month, spelling out what the statue states the request and the basis for...consideration I should say for the Council to make for that vote.

Mr. Rivas, So, I believe that we are at the position where it said we shall, I look for a motion to move forward with that. We talked to Scott and they'll have the line item to pay that out of.

Mr. Brickner, I make the motion.

Mr. Jessen, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Motion and a second, any further discussion?

Mr. Simms, Yes, ok so the retainers were done, so what work was actually performed?

Council Attorney Harold Harper, The statue specifically requires reimbursement for fees and costs. Essentially attorney's fees is one of those reimbursement considerations, so it was attorney's fees incurred by Mr. Evans during that particular investigation.

Mr. Simms, I understand that but what actually did the attorney do for \$5,000 dollars? No charges were ever filed, so if no charges were filed what work did the attorney's do for \$5,000 dollars?

Council Attorney Harold Harper, Well I would have to...good question.

Mr. Simms, I would love a job getting money for doing nothing.

Mr. Bozak, You would have to be a lawyer.

Council Attorney Harold Harper, Without seeing the actual bill, which I'm sure would be attorney client privilege. It's a good question, but what I can tell you generally what would happen in a situation like that, there would be possible an appearance...maybe multiple appearances at a deposition or a grand jury convention. I'm sure there's multiple phone calls and letters that would take place between the attorney and the Department of Justice. So those are the typical kinds of things, the only thing that I could say is that's a great question. I don't think \$5,000 dollars is out of the ordinary for representation in a matter like this. In fact I think I would be...it's very reasonable request, again it's not my decision, and it's up to the Council to decide whether or not that's a reasonable request. But in terms of general practice and in terms of a Grand Jury investigation that would be not an unreasonable amount.

Mr. Simms, Well?

Council Attorney Harold Harper, I mean, certainly we could request the bill.

Mr. Simms, I'd be more comfortable, otherwise I'll vote no without a bill. I mean...because I can't rightly vote for this. I can't take the people's money and vote for something without knowing what we are voting for. I think it's irresponsible. Now I can't speak for the others, but I would like to see an attorney's bill. To me that would justify, ok its \$5,000 dollars, because again maybe it's not required, or shall be not required.

Council Attorney Harold Harper, The may in the statue is the officer, in this case it's Mr. Evans may make the request for reimbursement to the Council. And the shall is the Council shall reimburse if it's determined that the fees are reasonable and that the work done by the attorney was for defense for the officers' actions in the scope of his employment.

Mr. Simms, But without a bill we wouldn't know that answer.

Ms. Graham, I have question.

Council Attorney Harold Harper, Yes, did you want...I wouldn't disagree, there was a letter that I think I copied to everybody in the Council from his attorney stating that this a retainer that he charged. I have no reason to doubt that the fees were reasonable and conform to the work that he did was for that \$5,000 dollars. I get it, I'm just saying for what's that is worth.

Mr. Rivas, Sylvia?

Ms. Graham, I just want to say...

Mr. Brickner, Harold? I'm sorry...Harold we're obligated pretty much by to reimburse this? In your definition of the reasonableness, the shall, reimburse, regardless of what the itemized bill is going to be I think...

Council Attorney Harold Harper, The threshold issue, there is basically three. Shall if the fees were reasonable, if the (inaudible) was at issue with the course and scope of that officers duties as a county employee or officer, and if the grand jury fails to indict. We're seven years now, post the start of that and most of the statues of limitations, if not all of them have expired. We've gotten assurance from the attorney representing Mr. Evans, that the investigation was closed without any finding of wrongdoing.

Mr. Brickner, I think that's pretty much what we are voting on. Not so much with the bill...what the itemized bill said, that's kind of what we are voting on then.

County Attorney Harold Harper, Yes.

Mr. Rivas, Sylvia?

Ms. Graham, Well my question was, he did retain the lawyer is that right?

County Attorney Harold Harper, He did.

Ms. Graham, Ok.

County Attorney Harold Harper, And he paid for the retainer.

Ms. Graham, As sitting elected officials, he did have that right, he obtained the lawyer and I do not like it that much, but you know, we do have an obligation to pay the bill.

Mr. Simms, But we also have the right for transparency as well.

Ms. Graham, Well, but it says right here that he retained the lawyer.

Mr. Bozak, Yes, and I think Harold mentioned too that bill might be attorney client privilege correct?

County Attorney Harold Harper, I certainly...if someone had asked for a bill that I had provided in a situation like this, my first response would be that's attorney client privilege. Now certainly you could request that certain parts be redacted, but that's a whole other process.

Mr. Rivas, So Harold, you've talked to Scott, and I talked to you briefly about this, is it your recommendation that we are falling within that shall, that we need to do this?

County Attorney Harold Harper, Yes.

Mr. Rivas, Alright, any further discussion? All in favor of approving this payment signify by saying Aye? Opposed? Greg Simms.

Motion carries on a majority voice vote.

Mr. Rivas, So moving on, you guys with everything go on, and this is going to fall within that financial plan, is the Commissioners are moving with Calumet Trail and we did I believe an additional last month and there were a few questions, so I asked Bob to come in front of us next month and give us a presentation on the Calumet Trail. So he will be in front of us next month on that. Then Mike, we'll take a peek at the agenda as it grows and see if we can through the unsafe discussion in there if you want. So you can take a look at it and let me know.

Mr. Jessen, Or we can have them at the next two meetings.

Mr. Rivas, Ok it sounds good.

Ms. Graham, Are we talking about a presentation on the unsafe buildings?

Mr. Rivas, Yes.

Ms. Graham, On the County Buildings what's left to do?

Mr. Bozak, No the...

Mr. Rivas, You know it's the process that...

Mr. Bozak, Property maintenance.

Ms. Graham, Ok.

Mr. Bozak, To many cars in the driveway type of thing...

Mr. Rivas, Yes, as we're getting back into that as a county I think Mike is just asking for a little bit about explaining the process to us a little bit.

Ms. Graham, Ok.

Mr. Rivas, Alright, Harold did you have anything else?

Council Attorney Harold Harper, I do not.

Any other matter that may come properly before the Council

Mr. Rivas, Alright, so we have a couple of things, Greg did you want to go first? Could you let us know real fast how the taskforce is doing, is there anything new?

Mr. Simms, Nothing to report at this time we are on focus with the taskforce.

Mr. Rivas, That's ok, you are doing a great thing, I just want to let you have the floor just in case things have changed. We appreciate what you are doing one hundred percent. So then Vicki?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Yes?

Mr. Rivas, Can you and Toni come up here? You are being called to the principal's office. I only have a little bit of time left, but Greg gave you guys more time so...he was gracious enough to yield the floor.

So last month some time, I was getting yelled at by Vicki in her office...that happens monthly and she told me she was engaged in some work with the Cares Act. I was pretty impressed and I said wow! And I wanted her to come and explain it in front of us. I thought it was pretty impressive so Vicki can you tell us?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Are you talking about the Stimulus Payments?

Mr. Rivas, Yes.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Ok yes, because we did a lot of work last year with the Cares Act reimbursements that we received and this year we are gearing up for the ARP (the American Rescue Plan). But yes, as you know Congress passed several bills last year that gave direct payments to Americans Economic Impact payments, also known as stimulus payments. The first one amounted to about \$1,200 dollars per person and the second one in December was \$600 dollars and then the one that was just recently approved was about \$1,400 dollars. All Americans are eligible for that, but there is a problem. Many Americans who don't make a lot of money and they don't have to file taxes. We are talking about the working poor, the poverty level people, and the homeless people.

The IRS has recently made a big outreach. They are trying to reach these people because they don't file tax returns so the IRS can't get them these stimulus payments. So the IRS has been working with businesses and other community partners and so we've been trying to do our job in trying to help get the word out. We have prepared a flyer (see next page) that says how to get your Economic Impact Payment even if you don't file tax returns. Most of this information comes straight from the IRS, and what people can do to get their payment is to basically file a tax return, even though they don't have to. They can file it for free on the IRS website, and they can get their payments that way. We have kind of tried to get the word out to the extent that we can. We've given out these flyers. We have sent it out twice to all of the Township Trustees and to the two library systems. We're sort of in a partnership with Center Township Trustee Jesse Harper, where he has offered his computers and internet to any of his township residents who may not have access. We would be going to his

office, if anyone needs some guidance, because if you haven't or you are not used to filing tax returns you probably are a little bit shall we say intimidated by setting up this account. It is relatively easy to do, so if any of you know of anyone who doesn't make as much money, to the point where they have to file tax returns, please let us know. We'll get them the flyer, we'll help them, and we'll walk them through the process. Because this is a way not just to help people get what their eligible for and entitled for, but it is a way to get federal monies back into our county. Especially to this population that I think is very much in need of a shot in the arm financially.

How to get your Economic Impact Payment even if you do not file taxes

If you normally do not file tax returns, you might still be eligible for an Economic Impact Payment ("stimulus payment").

What to Do

If you did not receive the first or second Economic Impact Payment, or received a partial payment, you can still claim your full amount. According to the IRS, you should file a 2020 tax return to claim the Recovery Rebate Credit.

How to File

Here are three ways for you to file a tax return and claim the credit:

- Visit the IRS website at www.irs.gov and file your tax return for free.
- Make an appointment at an IRS-approved Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site or a Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) site and file your tax return for free.
- Contact a tax professional.

See the reverse side for more details.

When to File

The deadline to file a 2020 tax return this year is May 17, 2021.

What You Need

When filing your tax return, you will need to provide information, including your name, address, filing status, Social Security number, an email address if you have one, and banking information if you have a bank account. If you have any dependents, you will need to provide their information as well.

If you earned any income in 2020, your employer issued you a W-2. Have your W-2(s) handy when filing.

Double Check

Double check that you did not already receive an Economic Impact Payment. If you received a partial payment, check the amount. You will need to know this amount when filing.

If you receive Social Security or other federal benefits, you may have already received the payments even if you did not file a tax return.

To be eligible, you 1) must be a U.S. citizen or U.S. resident alien in 2020, 2) have a Social Security number valid for employment, and 3) not be claimed as a dependent by another taxpayer.

Flier prepared by the Porter County Auditor's Office. Questions? Call 219-465-3350

Porter County Non-filers:

Claim your Economic Impact Payment by May 17!

Here is more information on how to claim your Economic Impact Payment if you normally do not file income tax returns:

1. Visit the IRS website and file your tax return on your own for free.

Go to www.irs.gov.

Click on "File Your Taxes for Free." Then click on "Choose an IRS Free File Offer." Follow the prompts to enter your information. Taxpayers whose incomes are \$72,000 or less can electronically file for free through the IRS website.

More details on what to expect when filing your tax return can be found on the IRS website at: www.irs.gov/newsroom/recovery-rebate-credit-topic-a-claiming-the-recovery-rebate-credit-if-you-arent-required-to-file-a-tax-return

2. Visit a VITA or TCE site.

Trained, IRS-certified volunteers will prepare and file taxes for taxpayers who have incomes of \$57,000 or less.

VITA and TCE sites are located throughout the country. Check the IRS website for available sites. In Porter County, contact the United Way of Porter County. Email vita@unitedwaypc.org or call 219-464-3583, ext. 108.

3. Contact a tax professional.

The IRS website has a listing of tax professionals who hold the credentials to prepare tax returns. You can find the list at the following address:

www.irs.gov/tax-professionals/choosing-a-tax-professional

Remember: The deadline to file a federal income tax return this year is May 17, 2021!

Flier prepared by the Porter County Auditor's office. Questions? Call 219-465-3350.

Mr. Bozak, Awesome thank you.

Mr. Jessen, So Vicki you are saying that getting the federal money back into the community is simply the payment that they would receive would be spent here.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Yes.

Mr. Jessen, It's not like additional dollars for more people that sign up or something like that?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, No this is just to get these people there economic payments that all of us probably received without any problem.

Mr. Jessen, Ok

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, But people who aren't on the IRS radar, they may not have received their payments, and those are the people that we are trying to reach out to.

Mr. Jessen, Now are there other entities also trying too? I mean it sounds like it would make perfect sense for the Trustees office to be shepherding the process?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Yes.

Mr. Jessen, Are their other organizations or groups in additions to the Auditors Office?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Yes, United Way every year has a program called VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) it's a wonderful program it you make less than I believe \$57,000 dollars, you can get your taxes filed completely for free. It's a great program and I'm not just saying that because I was once a volunteer there, but it is really wonderful. They did work on this endeavor as well, because they can help file taxes for free... now I believe that program is over with. But the Federal program has been extended to May 17th, 2021 to file for your tax returns, so there is still time for people to file tax returns. I am aware of community groups across the country who were trying to do this too. I just read an article in the Detroit Free Press about a local group, that they are trying to reach out to the population.

Mr. Jessen, Yes, it seemed like they would be organizations that would be well suited for a community service types of environments and so forth...

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Yes.

Mr. Jessen, and as much as I appreciate office tackling it and walking people through the process, I think it's wonderful but I'd like to think that there is other service organizations out there providing these things too.

Auditor Chief Deputy Toni Downing, Yes. I mean taxes are confusing for a lot of people.

Ms. Graham, I would think that your Township Trustees' are a good source.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, That's why we reached out to them and of course to the Libraries.

Mr. Rivas, I just thought when I heard them both talking about it, I thought it was great. That office is superb in what they do!

Ms. Graham, Absolutely.

Mr. Rivas, Then for them to take on a little side job to help the less fortunate people in our community and that don't have access to things. I thought it was worth letting them tell us what they are doing. I just wanted to share the good word of the Auditor's office. Thank you.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Thank you.

Mr. Bozak, Thank you.

Mr. Jessen, Thank you.

Mr. Rivas, Anything else?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Well...

Mr. Rivas, Oh no...I'm not even going to go there. Thank you, thank you very much. So anything else to properly come before the council? No, alright we will try and do it again next month.

Meeting Adjourned

Mr. Rivas, Is there a motion to adjourn?

Ms. Graham, Motion to adjourn.

Mr. Rivas, Motion.

Mr. Jessen, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Second. All in favor of adjourning signify by saying Aye? Opposed?

Motion carries on a unanimous voice vote.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned.

**PORTER COUNTY COUNCIL
PORTER COUNTY, INDIANA**

Jeremy Rivas

Mike Jessen

Sylvia Graham

Bob Poparad

Greg Simms

Andy Bozak

Mike Brickner

Attest: _____
Vicki Urbanik, Auditor