

**PORTER COUNTY COUNCIL
Regular Council Meeting
May 24, 2022**

The Porter County Council met on Tuesday, May 24, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. in the County Administration Center, 155 Indiana-Suite 205, Valparaiso, Indiana.

Members present were Council Member Jeremy Rivas, Council Member Andy Bozak, Council Member Mike Brickner, Council Member Sylvia Graham, Council Member Mike Jessen, Council Member Simms, Council Member Eric Wagner and Council Attorney Harold Harper. Also present was Auditor Vicki Urbanik, and Auditor Chief Deputy Toni Downing.

Minutes

Approval of Council minutes for February 22, 2022

Mr. Rivas, All right we've got approval of council minutes for February 22nd, 2022.

Ms. Graham, Moved to approve.

Mr. Bozak, Second.

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

Motion carries on a unanimous voice vote.

First Reading

Mr. Rivas, First reading Madam Auditor.

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 May 24th, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. to consider the following appropriation adjustments to the county budgets for the year 2022 and to transact any further business which might come before the Council:

Prosecutor Pre-Trial Fund

Prosecutor Pre-Trial Fund	2503-21100-000-0009	Office Supplies	\$	10,000.00
Prosecutor Pre-Trial Fund	2503-31100-000-0009	Legal	\$	<u>20,000.00</u>
			\$	30,000.00

Animal Shelter Donation Fund

Animal Shelter Donation Fund	4101-22500-000-0626	Other Supplies	\$	15,000.00
Animal Shelter Donation Fund	4101-23500-000-0626	Building Maintenance	\$	<u>50,000.00</u>
			\$	65,000.00

Sheriff Donation Fund

Sheriff Donation Fund	4108-44500-000-0005	Patrol K-9	\$	12,000.00
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Sheriff Inmate Processing Fee Fund

Sheriff Inmate Processing Fund	4911-45400-000-0380	Other Equipment	\$	71,137.00
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Domestic Violence Grant Fund

Domestic Violence Grant Fund	8112-21100-000-0009	Office Supplies	\$	4,000.00
Domestic Violence Grant Fund	8112-21200-000-0009	Office Fixtures under \$100	\$	1,000.00
Domestic Violence Grant Fund	8112-31300-000-0009	Training & Education	\$	16,000.00
Domestic Violence Grant Fund	8112-44100-000-0009	Office Equipment over \$100	\$	<u>3,000.00</u>
			\$	24,000.00

Taxpayers appearing at such meeting shall have a right to be heard thereon. The appropriations adjustments 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. And that concludes first reading.

Vicki Urbanik
Auditor of Porter County

Publish May 12, 2022

Mr. Rivas, You guys are smiling over there, what happened?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, There's some wording that I've been wanting to change at the bottom.

Mr. Rivas, Change?

Mr. Simms, Chesterton?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, It's about the DLGF approval process. It is now automatic because it's now all done electronically, and so it's an automatic approval process. Which is a wonderful investment made by the DLGF.

Mr. Rivas, All right, so we're going to change things a little bit. I am going to introduce somebody, so apparently we have a new 911 Director.

Mr. Bozak, Oh.

Mr. Rivas, So we are going to bring her up Debbie Gunn.

Mr. Bozak, Congratulations, I'm just hearing about this.

Mr. Rivas, So...

E-911 Director Debra Gunn, Up there?

Mr. Rivas, Yes come on up, you have nothing on the agenda, so we will kind of break you in and see how this goes.

E-911 Director Debra Gunn, Okay.

Mr. Bozak, Is she asking for money already?

Mr. Rivas, No she's not.

E-911 Director Debra Gunn, Maybe I should.

(Laughter)

Mr. Bozak, Your up there.

E-911 Director Debra Gunn, Yeah I am.

Mr. Rivas, So Debbie was just promoted to the new 911 Director. When and can you tell us a little bit of what's going on?

E-911 Director Debra Gunn, Well last Thursday actually I was promoted, and so my first day was Friday, and Monday and Tuesday have been days two and three, and it feels like three years instead. But it's been exciting, I've learned a whole lot and I'm excited to leave the center. I started my career here and this is where I am, so I hope it all (inaudible)...

Mr. Bozak, What was your title previously?

E-911 Director Debra Gunn, Um...actually I started dispatching in the center in 1997, when it was just the Sheriff's department before it consolidated. And then I moved to Michigan, lived there for about thirteen years and came back in 2010. So I've gone from Dispatcher to Assistant Supervisor to Supervisor, to Training Coordinator and now I'm the Director.

Mr. Wagner, Congratulations.

E-911 Director Debra Gunn, Thank you

Mr. Brickner, Good for you.

Ms. Graham, Welcome.

Mr. Bozak, Glad to have you.

E-911 Director Debra Gunn, Thank you.

Mr. Rivas, Well good, I appreciate you coming to see how it goes I think. I'm excited so...

Mr. Bozak, Yeah, hopefully you never ask us for money we're good.

E-911 Director Debra Gunn, Don't count on it.

(Laughter)

E-911 Director Debra Gunn, That much I've learned.

Mr. Rivas, Thank you.

Mr. Jessen, Welcome.

Circuit Court – Judge Mary DeBoer & Juvenile Detention Director Alison Cox

Circuit Court General Fund - 1000-000-0232

Transfer \$3,000 from 31610 Mental Health Services/Drug Court to 44400 Furniture/Fixtures Over \$100. Reason: Need to purchase new storage cabinets for the court.

Transfer \$1,500 from 31610 Mental Health/Drug Court to 32200 Telephone and Internet Services. Reason: Funds needed for Mifi service plan for Juvenile Court.

Mr. Rivas, Circuit Court Judge Mary DeBoer and Juvenile Detention Director Alison Cox.

Juvenile Detention Director Alison Cox, Hi everybody.

Mr. Rivas, Circuit Court General fund transfer \$3,000 from Mental Health Services/Drug Court to Furniture/Fixtures Over \$100. Reason: Need to purchase new storage cabinets for the court. There is a second transfer in here, \$1,500 from Mental Health/Drug Court to Telephone and Internet Services. Reason: Funds needed for Mifi service plan for Juvenile Court.

Ms. Graham, Move to approve.

Mr. Jessen, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Motion and a second on the floor for the two transfers, discussion? Seeing none all in favor, signify by saying Aye? Opposed same sign?

Motion carries on a unanimous voice vote.

Juvenile Detention Director Alison Cox, Thanks gang.

Mr. Rivas, This could be an easy night, lets sit down and get it done.

ITS

ITS General Fund - 1000-000-0106

Transfer \$14,000 from 45100 Data Processing Equipment to 31300 Training and Education. Reason: Additional funds needed from Internet Security Training.

Transfer \$6,000 from 45100 Data Processing Equipment to 44400 Furniture/Fixtures Over \$100. Reason: Additional funds needed to replace broken office furniture.

Transfer \$20,000 from 45100 Data Processing Equipment to 36100 Maintenance Agreements. Reason: Additional funds needed to cover maintenance contracts.

Mr. Rivas, IT General fund, transfer \$14,000 from Data Processing Equipment to Training and Education. Reason: Additional funds needed from Internet Security Training. There's another transfer \$6,000 from Data Processing Equipment to Furniture/Fixtures Over \$100. Reason: Additional funds needed to replace broken office furniture. We have another transfer \$20,000 from Data Processing Equipment to Maintenance Agreements. Reason: Additional funds needed to cover maintenance contracts.

Mr. Jessen, I make the motion on all three transfers.

Ms. Graham, Second.

Mr. Rivas, There is a motion and a second on all three transfers, discussion?

Mr. Bozak, Are you buying this stuff in the pictures?

ITS Director Lee Childress, Yeah.

Mr. Bozak, It looks pretty fancy, they don't have drawers and stuff.

ITS Director Lee Childress, They've got drawers.

Mr. Bozak, They have drawers?

ITS Director Lee Childress, Yeah I wouldn't have (inaudible) have drawers.

Mr. Bozak, They're made out of oak?

Ms. Graham, You have furniture, they're breaking up there?

ITS Director Lee Childress, Oh yeah it's bad.

Mr. Bozak, It' looks like a resolution.

Mr. Rivas, Further discussion? No? I appreciate what you are doing, finding the money and moving it around. All in favor of the three transfers, signify by saying Aye? Opposed same sign?

Motion carries on a unanimous voice vote.

ITS Director Lee Childress, Thank you.

Portage Township Assessor -Alta Neri

Portage Township Assessor General Fund - 1000-000-0013

Transfer \$1,347 from 39500 Contractual Services to 31300 Training and Education. Reason: Transfer needed for online IAAO courses & AAS Designation.

Mr. Rivas, Portage Township Assessor General fund transfer \$1,347 from Contractual Services to Training and Education. Reason: Transfer needed for online IAAO courses & AAS Designation.

Ms. Graham, Motion to approve.

Mr. Jessen, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Motion and a second on the floor, discussion? No discussion, all in favor of the transfer, signify by saying Aye? Opposed same sign?

Motion carries on a unanimous voice vote.

Porter County Sheriff – David Reynolds

Sheriff Donation Fund - 4108-000-0005

Additional \$12,000 to 44500 Patrol K-9. Reason: To cover the cost of K-9, these monies have been donated by the Porter County Substance Abuse Council.

Sheriff's Inmate Processing Fund - 4911-000-0380

Additional \$71,137 to 45400 Other Equipment. Reason: To cover the cost of new identification bracelet system for the inmates.

Mr. Rivas, Sheriff Donation fund additional \$12,000 to Patrol K-9. Reason: To cover the cost of K-9's, these monies have been donated by the Porter County Substance Abuse Council. Sheriff's Inmate Processing fund additional \$71,137 to Other Equipment. Reason: To cover the cost of new identification bracelet system for the inmates.

Ms. Graham, Move to approve.

Mr. Jessen, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Motion and a second to approve both additional. One from the Donation fund and the other from the Processing fund. Discussion?

Mr. Simms, Are they expanding the K-9's or is this replacing one?

Porter County Sheriff Finance Administrator Kathy Grskovich, We are replacing. We have three dogs, one retired late last year and we have two more that are retiring this year, so this is replacement.

Mr. Simms, But this would just be for one right?

Porter County Sheriff Finance Administrator Kathy Grskovich, Yes.

Mr. Simms, They'll be replacing two down the road or two more?

Porter County Sheriff Finance Administrator Kathy Grskovich, Yes, we actually...already replaced one and that was paid for by HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas) and we've got this one that is coming through the Substance Abuse Council and then the Sheriff's Department actually has funds already established to pay for them.

Ms. Graham, Very good.

Mr. Brickner, That's nice.

Mr. Simms, Is there any thought of expanding that more than it is? Or is it a pretty good size now with the numbers.

Porter County Sheriff Finance Administrator Kathy Grskovich, We actually are working with HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas)...

Mr. Simms, Really?

Porter County Sheriff Finance Administrator Kathy Grskovich, to try and get another dog. So right now, the training is a little bit of an issue.

Mr. Simms, Expensive?

Porter County Sheriff Finance Administrator Kathy Grskovich, Expensive and it's five weeks to have a Patrolman not on the road.

Mr. Bozak, Oh they got (inaudible)

Ms. Graham, How many do you have?

Porter County Sheriff Finance Administrator Kathy Grskovich, Six

Ms. Graham, Total?

Porter County Sheriff Finance Administrator Kathy Grskovich, Six total.

Mr. Simms, So when the Patrolmen are working with the dogs they're off the streets.

Porter County Sheriff Finance Administrator Kathy Grskovich, No just during training.

Mr. Simms, Oh okay.

Porter County Sheriff Finance Administrator Kathy Grskovich, They would be...he would be there in Michigan for five weeks.

Mr. Simms, Oh I thought they trained around here, I had no idea. So it's like a special place to do all this?

Porter County Sheriff Finance Administrator Kathy Grskovich, Yeah, it's like a special canine.

Mr. Simms, Is that where the dogs come from too?

Porter County Sheriff Finance Administrator Kathy Grskovich, Yes.

Mr. Simms, Oh that's pretty cool.

Porter County Sheriff Finance Administrator Kathy Grskovich, Yes.

Mr. Simms, Okay, it's just neat to know about that stuff.

Mr. Jessen, On the bracelet system...

Porter County Sheriff Representative, Yes sir?

Mr. Jessen, Now is that part and parcel of everything? Or is that...

(Cell Phone rings)

Porter County Sheriff Representative, My apologies.

Mr. Simms, I didn't mean to call you.

Mr. Jessen, So is that the total cost of the system replacement?

Porter County Sheriff Representative, We're looking at the technology with the program itself. The devices are going to be similar to this, the bracelets that have an infrared dot inside of it, so that specific inmate and their picture will come up and then they'll send the information to the computer. What we do now for head counts, we go around with a big piece of paper and all the names, and checking them off as we look at them.

Mr. Jessen, It seems to me we talked about that recently? Because that sounds so familiar to me.

Porter County Sheriff Representative, It has just come up recently.

Mr. Jessen, This is the first time for the request for the money?

Porter County Sheriff Representative, Yes.

Porter County Sheriff Finance Administrator Kathy Grskovich, We put in for it for some of the COVID grant money we were trying to get, you might have seen it.

Mr. Jessen, Okay

Porter County Sheriff Finance Administrator Kathy Grskovich, We applied for that, and they actually denied it.

Mr. Jessen, Yeah okay, so that's probably where I remember it.

Porter County Sheriff Finance Administrator Kathy Grskovich, Yep.

Mr. Jessen, Thank you.

Ms. Graham, I would like to know, do you think they will have good compliance? I mean with the prisoners?

Porter County Sheriff Representative, I'm sorry?

Ms. Graham, It's something they're going to have to wear.

Porter County Sheriff Representative, Well they wear wristbands now.

Ms. Graham, Oh they do.

Porter County Sheriff Representative, The only difference is there is no technology within the wristband, it's just their photo with their name. So officers are looking at that photo, checking their name off a printed copy, right...and then that officer goes back to his workstation, and then the partner sits there at their computer workstation and enters all that information. Once we scan that individual right then and there while there in the chow line, their photo will come up we can identify that individual, that information is automatically sent to the computer.

Ms. Graham, It sounds really neat, but in the past, there has been a problem with compliance sometimes.

Porter County Sheriff Representative, Very little.

Mr. Bozak, What happens if a...how do they get them on and off? Can they rip them off? Can they swap them?

Porter County Sheriff Representative, Just like now, it's a hard plastic one, so it's put on so they don't, if they damage it we do get reimbursement for damaged wristbands.

Mr. Bozak, They pay for it?

Porter County Sheriff Representative, Yes.

Mr. Bozak, And those wristbands are reusable? Or they're not going to be?

Porter County Sheriff Representative, No because it's specifically for that individual.

Mr. Bozak, So will there be...

Porter County Sheriff Representative, Just like now the wristbands we have now are not reusable.

Mr. Bozak, It is a big increase in cost compared to what we are paying now for the actual wristbands.

Porter County Sheriff Representative, No

Mr. Rivas, Further discussion? Can we get a roll call on both of those additionals?

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. Wagner	-	Yes
Mr. Rivas	-	Yes

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 7 - 0

Mr. Rivas, Thank you.

Mr. Bozak, Keep up the good work, and enjoy the nice weather out there.

Prosecutor – Prosecutor Gary Germann

Prosecutors Pre-Trial Fund - 2503-000-0009

Additional \$10,000 to 21100 Office Supplies
\$20,000 to 31100 Legal

Reason: Need to appropriate line item for this fund for Office Supplies. And also the additional for Legal we have a constant flow of deposition.

Domestic Violence/VOCA Grant Fund - 8112-000-0009

Additional \$4,000 to 21100 Office Supplies
\$1,000 to 21200 Office Fixtures under \$100
\$16,000 to 31300 Training and Education
\$3,000 to 44100 Office Equipment over \$100

Reason: Appropriations needed for reimbursement & future anticipated expenses.

Mr. Rivas, Prosecutor

Mr. Bozak, Hello sir.

Mr. Rivas, Prosecutors Pre-Trial fund additional \$10,000 to Office Supplies and \$20,000 to Legal. Reason: Need to appropriate line item for this fund for Office Supplies, and also the additional for Legal because we have a constant flow of deposition.

Domestic Violence/VOCA Grant fund additional
\$4,000 to Office Supplies

\$1,000 to Office Fixtures under \$100
\$16,000 to Training and Education
\$3,000 to Office Equipment over \$100

Reason: Appropriations needed for reimbursement & future anticipated expenses.

Mr. Jessen, I'll make a motion on both.

Ms. Graham, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Motion and a second on both additional, discussion?

Ms. Graham, I have one question, it said your reason is for future anticipated expenses?

Prosecutor Gary Germann, The money is in the grant, we just don't have the line items set up yet. So if there is (inaudible)

Ms. Graham, Okay.

Prosecutor Gary Germann, So it's just kind of a bookkeeping matter really.

Ms. Graham, Okay.

Mr. Bozak, So what's \$10,000 dollars Office Supplies? Are you just buying things like paper and stuff, that's just normal stuff?

Prosecutor Gary Germann, And that's another new line item, and we're drawing on our Pre-Trial Diversion funds as opposed to a different fund that is always a little bit distressed.

Ms. Graham, You say it's a little bit under stress?

Prosecutor Gary Germann, Yes we have two deferral funds, Infraction Deferral that's the one that is really struggling to keep you in the black, although we're doing much better I think. But the Pre-Trial Diversion fund is one that we can use for our office supplies, deposition expenses, and to pay all our trial expenses in the last couple of months.

Mr. Rivas, Any other questions, discussion? Can we get a roll call on the two additional Madam Auditor?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Okay

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 7 - 0

Prosecutor Gary Germann, Thank you very much.

Mr. Simms, See you later Gary.

Animal Shelter – Director Toni Bianchi

Animal Shelter General Fund - 1000-000-0626

Form 144 Kennel Supervisor to Health Care Technician
Rescue/Event/Volunteer Coordinator to Health Care Technician

Reason: Job Title changes for two positions and new Job Descriptions for new title changes with no changes in salaries.

Animal Shelter – Shelter Fees - 4007-000-0626

Form 144 Kennel Supervisor to Health Care Technician
Rescue/Event/Volunteer Coordinator to Health Care Technician

Reason: Job Title changes for two positions and new Job Descriptions for new title changes with no changes in salaries.

Animal Shelter Donation Fund - 4101-000-0626

Additional \$15,000 to 22500 Other Supplies
\$50,000 to 23500 Building Maintenance

Reason: Appropriations needed for Other Supplies (cat hutches, dog kennel doors and tops) and for Building Maintenance (Need to change to heavier gauge fencing for outdoor dog runs)

Mr. Rivas, Animal Shelter General fund
Form 144 Kennel Supervisor to Health Care Technician
Rescue/Event/Volunteer Coordinator to Health Care Technician

Reason: Job Title changes for two positions and new Job Descriptions for new title changes with no changes in salaries.

And keep going there's an Animal Shelter fees fund
Form 144 Kennel Supervisor to Health Care Technician
Rescue/Event/Volunteer Coordinator to Health Care Technician

Reason: Job Title changes for two positions and new Job Descriptions for new title changes with no changes in salaries.

Mr. Jessen, I make a motion on both Form 144's and the additional.

Mr. Rivas, Animal Shelter Donation fund additional \$15,000 to Other Supplies and \$50,000 to Building Maintenance. Reason: Appropriations needed for Other Supplies and Building Maintenance. So there's a motion on the floor for the two 144's and the additional.

Mr. Bozak, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Motion and second, discussion? Seeing none can we get a vote?

Ms. Graham, Well I'd like to ask a little bit about the building maintenance? What does that pertain to specifically, the \$50,000 dollars?

Animal Shelter Director Toni Bianchi, The \$50,000 dollars will be to repair the outer kennels.

Ms. Graham, Oh.

Animal Shelter Director Toni Bianchi, They're pretty tore up right now. The dogs have done quite a number on them. So we're looking to replace all of those outer kennels with a stronger gauge wire in the chain link fencing. So they can't escape, we've had a few escapes.

Ms. Graham, Yeah?

Mr. Jessen, I'd just like to comment on the Animal Shelter Fee fund, that's the Donation fund?

Animal Shelter Director Toni Bianchi, Yeah, that's a misprint. It should be Animal Shelter Donation fund, not Shelter Fees fund.

Mr. Jessen, Okay, so the Donation fund.

Animal Shelter Director Toni Bianchi, Donation fund.

Mr. Jessen, Which we're uh...extremely appreciative of.

Animal Shelter Director Toni Bianchi, Yes.

Mr. Jessen, There's three specific donors that donated very graciously to help that fund that allows for this type of work to be done. So I don't know, but I'm sure we have recognized them, and I don't know if they are anonymous or however that works. So I don't want to be involved with that three very terrific donations to the shelter, which I think we should be very appreciative of and also recognize that I'm sure. Because the confidence in the shelter and the leadership of the shelter, the facility that we have all helps contribute to people's willingness to donate to a great cause. The fact that they know their money's going to be managed well, so congratulations Toni.

Animal Shelter Director Toni Bianchi, We appreciate that, thank you very much.

Mr. Rivas, You've come a long, long way.

Animal Shelter Director Toni Bianchi, Yes we have.

Mr. Rivas, For sure.

Mr. Bozak, Yeah, thank you guys.

Mr. Rivas, Further discussion?

Mr. Bozak, What happens when a dog escapes?

Animal Shelter Assistant Director Darrin Biggs, We panic.

Animal Shelter Director Toni Bianchi, We panic

(Laughter)

Mr. Rivas, I love the honesty.

Animal Shelter Director Toni Bianchi, We have gotten both of them back.

Mr. Bozak, Oh okay. I call Simms (inaudible)

Mr. Simms, Oh my god, like I need a another job.

(Laughter)

Mr. Brickner, I have one question, you have a Director at \$71,000 dollars and Assistant Director that's your number two I take it?

Animal Shelter Director Toni Bianchi, Yes.

Mr. Brickner, The disparity in these salaries, it that something that is...

Animal Shelter Director Toni Bianchi, It has been addressed.

Mr. Brickner, It has been addressed?

Animal Shelter Director Toni Bianchi, Not formally yet, but yeah.

Mr. Brickner, Because that's a wide range between number one and number two.

Animal Shelter Director Toni Bianchi, I agree.

Mr. Brickner, Two...you're the number two?

Animal Shelter Assistant Director Darrin Biggs, I am

Mr. Brickner, Yeah...and it's been addressed with the Commissioners?

Animal Shelter Director Toni Bianchi, Not officially, but it has been brought up, yes.

Ms. Graham, Discussed?

Animal Shelter Director Toni Bianchi, Discussed.

Mr. Bozak, Is he only part-time is that why?

Animal Shelter Director Toni Bianchi, No.

Mr. Brickner, Full-time?

Mr. Bozak, Sorry that was not meant to be offensive. I am sorry (inaudible)

Animal Shelter Director Toni Bianchi, That's ok.

Ms. Graham, Surely you jest.

Mr. Brickner, So you are just trying to bridge that gap?

Animal Shelter Director Toni Bianchi, I am.

Mr. Brickner, Good...okay.

Animal Shelter Director Toni Bianchi, Yes.

Mr. Brickner, Okay thank-you

Mr. Rivas, Further discussion? Can we get a roll call on the two 144's and the additionals?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 7 - 0

Animal Shelter Director Toni Bianchi, Thank you very much.

Mr. Jessen, Thank you both.

Mr. Bozak, Have a good night.

Second Reading

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 additionals sums of money are hereby appropriated out of the funds named and for the purposes specified subject to the laws governing the same

Prosecutor Pre-Trial Fund

Prosecutor Pre-Trial Fund	2503-21100-000-0009	Office Supplies	\$	10,000.00
Prosecutor Pre-Trial Fund	2503-31100-000-0009	Legal	\$	20,000.00
			\$	30,000.00

Animal Shelter Donation Fund

Animal Shelter Donation Fund	4101-22500-000-0626	Other Supplies	\$	15,000.00
Animal Shelter Donation Fund	4101-23500-000-0626	Building Maintenance	\$	50,000.00
			\$	65,000.00

Sheriff Donation Fund

Sheriff Donation Fund	4108-44500-000-0005	Patrol K-9	\$	12,000.00
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Sheriff Inmate Processing Fee Fund

Sheriff Inmate Processing Fund	4911-45400-000-0380	Other Equipment	\$	71,137.00
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Domestic Violence Grant Fund

Domestic Violence Grant Fund	8112-21100-000-0009	Office Supplies	\$	4,000.00
Domestic Violence Grant Fund	8112-21200-000-0009	Office Fixtures under \$100	\$	1,000.00
Domestic Violence Grant Fund	8112-31300-000-0009	Training & Education	\$	16,000.00
Domestic Violence Grant Fund	8112-44100-000-0009	Office Equipment over \$100	\$	3,000.00
			\$	24,000.00

And that concludes second reading.

Mr. Rivas, There you have it second reading, I'll entertain a motion?

Mr. Bozak, Mr. President, I'm just curious are we getting any more feedback from the people doing the payroll study? Have we heard anything more when they will be done, is it still on schedule to be done next month or the month after?

Mr. Rivas, You got the same email, I think everything is on schedule.

Mr. Bozak, I was just wondering, I wasn't putting you on the spot, I just wasn't sure.

Mr. Rivas, Yes.

Mr. Bozak, Thank you.

Mr. Rivas, We were on second reading?

Ms. Graham, Motion.

Mr. Bozak, Oh that's what you are looking for a motion.

Ms. Graham, Oh did you make a motion?

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

Mr. Bozak, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Second.

Mr. Bozak, For second reading.

Mr. Rivas, We're gone for a month and everybody forgets how to do it. Can we get a Roll Call Madame Auditor?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Yes.

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, And second reading is approved.

Attorney's Report

Mr. Rivas, Attorney's report?

Council Attorney Harold Harper, No news is good news, nothing to report so that's good.

Any other matter that may come properly before the Council

Mr. Rivas, Any other matter that may come properly before the Council?

Mr. Simms, We're we going to have the Mental Health come? Didn't they go in front of the Commissioners, and weren't they going to come in front of us and give that? Or was I mistaken on that?

Mr. Bozak, We got the recap, I don't know that they were coming in front of us, but I think they should.

Mr. Simms, For some reason I thought they were, but I don't know, that's why I asked.

Mr. Rivas, Nobody's presented that.

Mr. Simms, No?

Mr. Rivas, I mean, if you guys want we could surely reach out and Mike had them send everything over. If that is your guys wishes?

Mr. Simms, I guess...what are we going to do with their...what are we going? Okay we got the information, now where do we go from here?

Mr. Rivas, I don't know, I haven't talked to the Commissioners. I don't know if Mike have you talked to the Commissioners, has anybody?

Mr. Jessen, No I just went through the PowerPoint and the study itself.

Mr. Rivas, Well we can reach out to them and ask and see.

Mr. Simms, Okay.

Mr. Rivas, And if you would like them?

Mr. Simms, Yeah, I mean it sounds like we've got this, so let's move forward with this and see where we need to go. You know with the appropriation, a lot of these funds and stuff and we're all...I don't know it seems like we are all getting engaged in what the community is doing, so this seemed to be a perfect opportunity to jump on there, and say hey listen, here's something that this group has figured out and let's see if we're addressing it. I don't know if we talked about this, but because the last meeting I wasn't there. But, when we allocate the funds, if there is money left over,

has there been any discussion what to do with what's left? Or is everyone anticipation that we're going to blow through that whole amount right off the get-go?

Mr. Bozak, The requests are there for more than we have.

Mr. Simms, I'm talking about the ARPA money. Yeah, you know what I mean, because with our group we did allocate...we did not recommend the full amount that was requested. So, if the other groups are doing similar things, then we may find that we have about \$29,000,000 million dollars. So what if we only allocate \$27,000,000 million dollars, now we have a couple of million leftover. Has there been a discussion about what to do with that extra? That's what I'm saying.

Mr. Jessen, Vicki, can you speak to this?

Auditor Vicki Urbanki, There hasn't been a discussion about that particular issue, but again it will come before the County Commissioners and then you would have to appropriate the money, so the ball is back in your ball...back in your court excuse me. But the...your ball court is what I meant to say. But there was a discussion about groups that are not able to obligate the funds by July 1st of 2024. At that point if there's any money left on the table, then it comes back to the Commissioners and the Council, and you have about six months to figure out what to do with it at that point.

Mr. Bozak, Okay.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, And some of the projects might come in under budget.

Mr. Simms, Right.

Mr. Bozak, A lot of wishful thinking.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Just because you appropriate it, doesn't mean that it's all going to be spent. So at some point, you will have to address that, but we're not even at that stage yet.

Mr. Simms, But again with this Mental Health study coming in if we figure that we need some more help in a certain direction, then I would like to seriously consider some leftover money, if available to be considered for that. I guess it's all, I just want to put it on the table now and so we don't forget and say well they blew that. You know or...

Mr. Rivas, Well good thing there's, I mean there's a lot of steps left in this whole process.

Ms. Graham, Exactly.

Mr. Rivas, It's just going to the Sub-Committees and it'll go in front of the Steering Committee, which then ultimately go to the Commissioners for them to really, technically, legally they could throw out everything we hand them. Or they could amend it, they can add to it and then they write the plan. You know amend the plan, add everything with whatever the Sub-Committee's, the Steering Committee's feed to them. They are going to take that information and decide what they want to put in the plan. Then when they take that plan, they're going to hand that plan back to us for final funding.

Ms. Graham, Right.

Mr. Rivas, It doesn't mean...we could fund a quarter or that plan, half of the plan or all of the plan. I mean there's a lot of steps left to...you know for us to be involved in.

Mr. Simms, Yes.

Mr. Rivas, Definitely...ultimately we're the last stop to fund it.

Mr. Simms, Yes.

Mr. Jessen, Yeah, I think it would be worthwhile to have them present whatever it was they came up with for the \$25,000 dollars consulting fee.

Mr. Simms, Right.

Mr. Jessen, And looking at the recommendations that they have, I mean there seems to be five recommendations, and some of them are what I would view as fairly....

Mr. Bozak, Wrong.

Mr. Jessen, General or not unexpected frankly, and also not a huge cost associated with it, and that's with the exception of one of the recommendations where it talks about developing a crisis center of some sort developed 24/7 365 days of the year behavioral health crisis center. I sure would like to hear them expound on that, what does that mean, and what does that look like? Or, what is the potential cost of that? To shed some light on the recommendations that they have presented certainly...

Mr. Simms, Well it sounds like it'd be nice if Porter Stark was somehow involved. Because I know when they came in front of us they were talking about some really cool things that they're...you know they want to implement and some of that stuff might actually crossover into this.

Mr. Jessen, My thought on that would be, that if anything that we do related to Mental Health issues, Porter Stark has to at the table and I don't think that's how this process started frankly, and so I think as we listen to the group to find out what they're suggesting. Porter Stark I think should be at the table, because they are our in county experts who have taken care of it. Of course, they have a funding source and to do anything in silos of course would just create further divide and we wouldn't accomplish anything.

Mr. Simms, Yeah.

Mr. Jessen, I agree.

Mr. Simms, Sounds wonderful. We are moving in the right direction I hope.

Mr. Rivas, I think over the next couple of years, it's going to be important, and it's going to be a topic that sets forefront. You saw the article with coming out of the Sheriff's Memorial...

Ms. Graham, Right.

Mr. Rivas, I believe the State Legislators are going to allocate some money in their budget session next year to mental health and apparently it would appear we may be a pilot county. I have no clue, just talking to Mr. Brickner...I mean I don't know what that means.

Mr. Simms, Mm hm.

Mr. Rivas, But I think the State's looking at us, in hopes that maybe we'll deliver this along.

Ms. Graham, To be a leader.

Mr. Rivas, Yes, to be a leader in it, so again, I have no clue what that means and I'm not sure they do yet. But who know, so I think the conversation is going to continue down the path for quite some time with us, if we want to.

Mr. Simms, So I think it's a necessity...it's necessary. And when I was in DC this week, I talked to some other people about it and there's some mental health issues everywhere. And now it's starting to become a relatively normal conversation,

you know the COVID thing and the isolation and the concerns and you know, what do we do, and now you know that Valpo has hired a Social Worker to kind of help out with some mental health issue things. You know, I mean this is...it's moving in a different direction than it's ever been and so yeah let's go for this ride and let's help some people. And we've got the money to do something about it.

Mr. Bozak, To make an impact.

Mr. Simms, Yeah absolutely, the impact. Absolutely.

Ms. Graham, I truthfully think that believe that a lot of good things are going to be coming out of this ARPA money, and we've had some good proposals. It's just going to take time for it to be brought into...you know reality. I mean the two sub-committees that I've sat on, we've had some very good proposals. I think the quality of life is just going to be really improved when these projects go through.

Mr. Bozak, As long as gas prices go down.

Mr. Bozak, What's that Andy?

Mr. Bozak, If gas prices go down for the quality of life. Well that was just a joke.

(Laughter)

Mr. Bozak, Sylvia you have (inaudible)...

Mr. Rivas, Mike?

Mr. Jessen, Yeah, one thing that I'd like to run past the Council to see if there's an appetite for furthering the discussion on the conditions of our roads, and the paving. And I know the Department of Development has talked about that to a pretty great extent at the Commissioner's level. I know that last year in 2021, we contributed an additional \$3.5 million dollars out of the Foundation Holding Account, to provide for some additional roadway and paving. That has allowed us to get, I believe was seventeen (17) neighborhoods touched with road that hadn't been touched for over twenty (20) years and that you know is just a fly speck in terms of the work that needs to be done throughout the county. And as it's been identified by the Department of Development...I mean they have a whole list of priorities in terms of roads that need to be done, and throughout the county we have 781 miles of roads that the county is responsible for. We were woefully behind before, and we had our best year yet last year, because we were willing to take a step, and take some of the money that we had available to dedicate to additional roads, to catch up ever so slightly. This past winter has been incredibly tough on the roads throughout the county, throughout everywhere, and so the problem still, the problem still exists. The program as we have it today, you know is kind of back to a normal type year, which does not even keep us even, we just keep getting further behind. So, my suggestion would be if the council is willing to do it, is to have the Department of Development come forward and present a plan in the sense that if we were willing to spend \$4,000,000 dollars additional to commit to road paving for 2022. What would that look like? What would that get us? And that is not a new suggestion, I mean this came the Department of Development back in March and I think in a presentation they had to the Commissioner's office, suggesting that adding the \$4,000,000 dollars of additional funding to the current strategy, which is \$5,000,000 from the Commissioners. So a total of \$9,000,000 dollars which by far would be the best year yet. Second or first...last year was our best year to date. Now this would be surpassing that, and I think that wouldn't solve all of our problems throughout the county on roads, but it certainly would help get us closer to where we need to be. So my ask would be, if the Council has the appetite for it, to have the Department of Development come forward and say if you guys would like to do this, this is what it would cost, or this is what it would look like and then make a determination at that point if we're willing to take that step.

Ms. Graham, My thoughts on that is, that I don't think there's anybody on this Council that is not in favor of roads and safety, that's basically what it boils down to. But it's...if we have the money in that, that would be something to talk about.

Mr. Brickner, Is that something to talk about our next meeting?

Mr. Jessen, Yeah, and I know they're prepared, because they have been analyzing our roads for the last several years. So they know what need to be done, but I would have them present at the next meeting.

Mr. Brickner, So do we need to make a motion to have them or not?

Mr. Bozak, Oh Jeremy controls the agenda, he could put him on it.

Mr. Brickner, Okay, I think it's a great idea.

Mr. Bozak, I'd be interested in listening Mr. Jessen, I think that makes sense.

Ms. Graham, Definitely.

Mr. Bozak, Is that Bob Thompson? Is that the Department?

Mr. Jessen, Yes.

Mr. Bozak, Okay that's Bob, okay that's fine.

Mr. Rivas, Yeah.

Mr. Bozak, We're hearing it, that's a good idea.

Mr. Rivas, Joy are you building that agenda already?

Council Administrator Joy Blakely, I've got you covered.

Mr. Jessen, And then I'm going to put out another suggestion I'd like to throw out.

Mr. Rivas, Another one?

Mr. Jessen, We can't, we can't handle short meetings, so we want to have longer meetings.

Mr. Rivas, I don't know what you thing?

Mr. Simms, I second that motion.

Mr. Jessen, Another...another topic that we talked about, but we haven't made enough strides in my opinion is in the area of code enforcement and property maintenance. We've had side discussions before, about we have a code enforcement officer who responds to complaints, and I think we've all seen pictures not too long ago or most of us have of a situation out in Union Township. One specifically that I can recall, and we've known...

Mr. Rivas, We've been dealing with that for years.

Mr. Jessen, We've been dealing with it and I know it's in bankruptcy court, I know we've got attorneys engaged in that process to try to help put some teeth into the codes, the county codes that we have. So, that's one that's been pending for quite some time, I know there's...my guess is there's and if there's not there should be a list of properties that are on the watch list, for lack of a better term. But on the watch list, to say that these are properties where people have been complaining, neighbors have been complaining. I got a call last week from a resident in Porter Township who lives out at Lake Eliza and there's a property near his home where he's invested a lot of money, he wants to make it a great place to be. He's got a property down the street from him that he looks at as he drives by each and every day which is just in

deplorable, deplorable condition, where if wanted to sell his house he couldn't sell his house. So I think people are making calls, and I think they're getting some of response, but I know in order to really put teeth into the code enforcement. It takes resources, and it takes a willingness to dedicate resources to code enforcement. It takes a willingness to step up and put pressure on homeowners to do what they're supposed to do in terms of taking care of the property and being good neighbors and that sort of thing. So it takes...I think you have to be very intentional about it and so I think the focus on that should in my view, the focus on that should increase. So having said all that, what I'd like to do, I'd like to have Bob Thompson and the department present where we're at relative to code enforcement, and is there a watch list of sorts based on complaints that have been called in. And what is the process, what if anything that we've been doing to make sure that we don't deal with these things for years, and I think that's the right thing to do for the neighboring property owner. So the second request for the next meeting is that Bob Thompson explain exactly where we are at relative to code enforcement.

Mr. Bozak, Two Bob Thompson presentations? That's a long meeting...I think it's a good idea.

Mr. Simms, Now is there...I imagine the city, the municipalities have a different approach to code enforcement. Is there any talk about, like if Valpo does it well, or Portage does it well, that we would try to copy what they're doing? Or inventing our own?

Mr. Jessen, They...and I have some experience in this, the county has wanted to make a move in that direction. To put more teeth into it, I think the county code as it's written, and it may need to be revised. But I think as it's written, if we enforce what's written and hold people accountable, I think we'd see some positive, positive change. But I just don't think we've been as intentional as we could or should, and that may mean additional resources to it.

Mr. Rivas, Right.

Mr. Jessen, Because I know in certain municipalities it takes time, it takes effort, it takes legal fees. It's a process, but it's an important one.

Mr. Simms, Yes.

Mr. Jessen, So I think and then Bob...I think it would be a great opportunity for Bob Thompson to explain all that, and if for instance the code need to change, then let's talk about potentially changing the code. And I've got some pictures that I'll share with you on this call that I got last week, just to give you an example of a property that clearly no one would want to live next door to.

Mr. Simms, Yes.

Mr. Bozak, Sounds good.

Ms. Graham, There are a few properties out there that are almost beyond deplorable, that you don't know how they got into that situation. And I have had people call me, neighbors complaining, people complaining and it seems as if I don't know what the answer is, so maybe that is great that we do it, we have Bob come forward and tell us what is the problem, why can't these...why can't something be addressed?

Mr. Rivas, Does anybody have anything else? No nothing?

Mr. Simms, You know I'll say our subcommittee and our applicants, that I saw it as an awesome situation. We had our Community People who were outstanding, our Trustee's in my group were outstanding. It was...we had a couple little exciting...uh what do you want to call it, some members on our group got a little excited at times. But it was all, it was all good, but it was nice having people come and asking for things, explaining things and we learned an awful lot about people in our community that a lot of people in our community had no idea even existed. So I think every group can easily say that we've got a lot of awesome Non-Profits in our

community doing outstanding things that people just aren't aware that they are there. And I just want to say that it's been a really cool experience and I appreciate it. Oh you threw that to me and I wanted to say that.

Mr. Rivas, Vicki do you have anything to add to the process?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, No, other than we're busy working on our next GAP report and we just finished a very, very good audit. It's one of the best audit reports that we've had and we had a clean audit finding in terms of federal compliance, which is very important for our federal grants. Especially since we're going into...

Mr. Rivas, When do we get that GAP report, I loved it?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, The one that was just audited? Whenever you want to see it.

Mr. Rivas, Is that the same one you sent out last year? Is that the one that...

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Yes, It was very, very thick, we're not going to make copies of it.

Mr. Rivas, No I don't want the entire thing. All right is there anything from the general public wants to add? Any comments? Questions? Good luck.

E-911 Director Debra Gunn, Thank you.

Mr. Rivas, Glad to have you.

Meeting Adjourned

Mr. Rivas, All right, I will entertain a motion to adjourn?

Ms. Graham, Motion to adjourn.

Mr. Jessen, So moved.

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

Motion carries on a majority voice vote.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned.

**PORTER COUNTY COUNCIL
PORTER COUNTY, INDIANA**

Jeremy Rivas

Mike Jessen

Sylvia Graham

Erik Wagner

Greg Simms

Andy Bozak

Mike Brickner

Attest: _____
Vicki Urbanik, Auditor