

**PORTER COUNTY COUNCIL
Regular Council Meeting
June 22, 2021**

The Porter County Council met on Tuesday, June 22, 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 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 May 25, 2021.

Mr. Rivas, Alright we have a quorum. Lets have the approval of the Regular Council Meeting minutes for May 25, 2021

Ms. Graham, Move to approve.

Mr. Jessen, 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, Can we have 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 June 22nd, 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			
Sheriff General Fund	1000-11300-000-0005	Overtime	\$ 93,178.80
County Court Fund	1000-13500-000-0226	Juror Expenses	\$ 45,000.00
Jail General Fund	1000-11300-000-0380	Overtime	<u>\$ 20,472.40</u>
			\$ 158,651.20

Accident Report Fund			
Accident Report Fund	1101-45400-000-0005	Other Equipment	\$ 6,700.00

Cumulative Bridge Fund			
Cumulative Bridge Fund	1135-22500-000-0079	Other Supplies	\$ 1,500.00
Cumulative Bridge Fund	1135-37100-000-0079	Equipment Rental	<u>\$ 10,000.00</u>
			\$ 11,500.00

Parks Operating Fund

Parks Operating Fund	1179-45400-000-0803	Other Equipment	\$	3,793.00
Parks Operating Fund	1179-61000-000-0803	Interfund Transfer	\$	<u>16,441.72</u>
			\$	20,234.72

Plan Commission Fund

Plan Commission Fund	1180-22500-000-0079	Other Supplies	\$	500.00
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Storm Water Fund

Storm Water Fund	1182-31100-000-0079	Legal	\$	10,800.00
Storm Water Fund	1182-33200-000-0079	Legal Notices	\$	1,000.00
Storm Water Fund	1182-37100-000-0079	Equipment Rental	\$	<u>2,000.00</u>
			\$	13,800.00

Hospital Liability Fund

Hospital Liability Fund	4901-61000-000-0068	Interfund Transfer	\$	710,563.83
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Hospital Interest Fund

Hospital Interest Fund	4902-12200-000-0068	Medical/Life Insurance	\$	710,563.83
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Foundation Holding Account Fund
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Foundation Holding Account	4921-61000-000-0000	Interfund Transfer	\$	3,000,000.00
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Foundation Budget Fund

Foundation Budget Fund	4922-39500-000-0000	Contractual	\$	3,000,000.00
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Coroner Fatality Review Fund

Coroner Fatality Review	4930-22500-000-0007	Other Supplies	\$	200.00
Coroner Fatality Review	4930-45400-000-0007	Other Equipment	\$	<u>3,000.00</u>
			\$	3,200.00

Soil & Water Conservation Fund

Soil & Water Conservation	4931-11100-000-0750	Salaries	\$	14,550.00
Soil & Water Conservation	4931-11200-000-0750	Hourly	\$	2,940.00
Soil & Water Conservation	4931-12100-000-0750	FICA	\$	1,340.00
Soil & Water Conservation	4931-12300-000-0750	PERF	\$	<u>1,630.00</u>
			\$	20,460.00

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 June 11, 2021

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, And that concludes first reading.

Mr. Rivas, Thank you.

Commissioners

Hospital Liability Fund - 4901-000-0068

Additional \$710,563.83 to 61000 Interfund Transfer. Reason: Interfund transfer for Medical/Life Insurance

Hospital Interest Fund - 4902-000-0068

Additional \$710,563.83 to 12200 Medical/Life Insurance. Reason: Appropriate money to Medical/Life Insurance.

Foundation Holding Account - 4921-000-0000

Additional \$3,000,000 to 61000 Interfund Transfer. Reason: Interfund transfer for Contractual Services

Foundation Budget Fund - 4922-000-0000

Additional \$3,000,000 to 39500 Contractual Services. Reason: Appropriate money to Contractual Services

Mr. Rivas, Commissioners, do you guys want to come on down and while you guys are sitting down...I was going to hand the floor over to Councilman Brickner, because he wanted to say a few words about a baseball game yesterday.

Mr. Brickner, Yes thank you, I just wanted to give a shout out and congratulate the Washington Township Boys Class 1A baseball team for winning the State Championship last night. I think it's outstanding for Porter County, you do it the right way, you know being a Washington Township resident, and knowing a lot of these boys or parents and the coach. They do it through hard work and well deserved, I just thought I'd like to give a shout out to them.

Ms. Graham, Congratulations.

Hospital Liability Fund - 4901-000-0068

Additional \$710,563.83 to 61000 Interfund Transfer. Reason: Interfund transfer for Medical/Life Insurance

Hospital Interest Fund - 4902-000-0068

Additional \$710,563.83 to 12200 Medical/Life Insurance. Reason: Appropriate money to Medical/Life Insurance.

Mr. Rivas, That's absolutely awesome! Thank you, thank you very much. Alright commissioners, we've got a couple of things, I would like to split them up at least, because I know that Vicki wanted to say a few words on the first one. But we've got a couple of items in front of you, Hospital Liability fund there's an additional \$710,563.83 to Interfund transfer. The Reason is Interfund transfer for Medical/Life Insurance and it looks like we got to move it twice. Then another additional is that right Scott?

County Attorney Scott McClure, Correct.

Mr. Rivas, It's got two moves, then we'll have to do a second additional, so maybe if we take them one at a time that'd be fine. So the first additional in front of you is the Hospital Trailing Liability fund, which we had no more liability with that. I think all lawsuits are settled, so that money was there and it was amongst ourselves we talked about moving that over to the health insurance, you know employee health insurance fund to help us shore that up. So that's what those two moves are about. So anyone? Do you guys want to take action on that first one?

Ms. Graham, Move to approve the first one.

Mr. Rivas, Motion...I suppose we could do both.

Ms. Graham, Do you want to do them both?

Mr. Jessen, Yes that's good.

Mr. Rivas, Both the two additional at the same time for the Hospital funds.

Ms. Graham, Ok I'll make that motion.

Mr. Jessen, Second.

Mr. Rivas, There is a motion and a second on the floor to pass the first two additional out of the Hospital Liability fund and Hospital Interest fund for \$710,563.83. Any further discussion? Can we get a roll call Madame Auditor?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Yes

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 5 - 0

Mr. Rivas, And Vicki wanted to say a few things, did you want to dive in?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, I just wanted to as a continuation of the budget training that you had last week, to kind of go over for all of you why what you just voted on is important and was necessary.

I wanted to give you an update of what's been happening with our Health Insurance fund. I have a few little slides to show you. Now first to give a kind of primer of how our Health Insurance fund works, if we go to the first slide (see below), let's open it up here like that. Ok, this just give you a real super simple graphic of what comes into this fund and what comes out. The boxes up at the top represent the revenue and most of the revenue coming into this fund are from the budgets that you approve at budget time. There's a line item for health insurance in the various budgets like County General fund, LIT and then various department budgets like Storm Water and Plan Commission, Health and Recycling, so all of those, we the Auditor's office pull those appropriations into this fund. And then there's other revenue sources that come into this fund as well, for anyone who's on the employee health insurance fund, you know that every paycheck, or just about every paycheck you get a payroll withholding, that money goes into this fund. There's the stop loss reimbursements, that's for the very, very high claimants, we get reimbursed once it passes the threshold. So we know how much is appropriated, we don't necessarily know what these other revenue sources are coming into the fund. Where does the money go? It just goes to pay the health care costs, we are self-insured in our county. So that's an overview.

Now I wanted to show what really has happened to this fund in the past two years. It might be hard to see (see below) but this next one is a report that we have to do for every single fund. We have to do a balance sheet and an income statement for every single fund as part of our reporting and this is taken straight from our 2019 GAAP report. I just want you to look at the bottom line we ended with a positive fund balance. We never let funds go negative, we cannot do that. Okay, so we will end the year with a positive fund balance all the time. But if you look at that line that says operating income and loss, you'll see that in 2019 this fund had an operating loss of \$983,000 dollars, and that's because the revenue that came in those boxes up at the top, where it was less how much came out and that is the difference between revenue and expenditures, if the expenditures are lower we would have an operating income, but keep in mind we still ended with a positive net balance.

Okay, now the next slide (see below) is the two year comparison of 2019 and 2020. It's not necessarily a bad thing to have an operating loss, it depends on what your fund is, and we have funds that have other operating losses, it just means that it ate into the cash reserves. But you don't want to have...you don't want operating losses to become a pattern, and you don't want them to increase. When you look at 2020 this fund had an operating loss of \$1.8 million dollars. So we are seeing signs with this fund, it's not a crisis at all but it's time to take some action, and what you just

did now helped dramatically, helping us shore up this fund. Because obviously the expenses going out are eating into that fund balance.

So the next graphic (see below) is just now a very basic look at what has been happening on a cash basis with those fund balances. The box kind of shows where I think we need to be each year, which is around that \$3 million dollar mark because we're self-insured. We don't know and when I say we, I mean all of us, the Commissioners...everyone. We don't know when you are going to get a knee surgery, we don't know when you're going to go to the dentist and we don't know when these claims are going to go that sky high. So we just have to be fiscally prudent when we're managing this fund. So I just want to thank you for what you just did, I know we worked with the County Attorney on this and Council President Jeremy Rivas on this, because we needed to find a way to kind of shore up this fund so that we don't go into a crisis mode. So I just wanted to give you that overview and we're going...we have been watching this fund closely. This has been one of the funds that we've been watching very closely ever since I took office. And we're watching it very closely every month as we go forward. Because we just want to preserve our county health insurance fund and I think all of us agree with that.

County Attorney Scott McClure, But, I think if you go back a slide...

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Yes?

County Attorney Scott McClure, I think the important thing as we're looking at as we're continuing to look at these numbers in this manner, the number on the line to really jump out to me was the stop loss line. That stop loss line is the amount of money being reimbursed for high claimants. Well, that's a significant jump from 2019 to 2020, which may or may not repeat, but that's one of the constant variables of the health insurance. But, as you know like what Vicki's put together for us tonight when you have that in front of you, you just have a much better idea how things are trending, and then also I think that's probably representative of a department or two not being able to pay, so that's part of that too. But it's also just part of that as Vicki stated that, you know, individual fund training almost so how it's pending, how it's going, all the different places that the money's coming from. I think that's a wealth of information and that was one of the reasons why we moved around to try to find a way to get us back to a more positive cushion within the health insurance plan. We've all been held...we've all been around most of us have been around for when the health insurance was, uh if we would have had a \$1.2 million dollars left over we would have done cartwheels down the hallway. So none of us want to go back to that, so I think this is a good positive step and that's extremely helpful.

Mr. Rivas, Yes and I know, I agree it's important and I appreciate that and what the Commissioners did when we got to that point in time. You guys did the heavy lifting to dive into this thing and I don't think you guys want to go back there, so this...

Commissioner Jeff Good, The claims at one point when I walked in here with fifteen million, so from where we were...

Mr. Rivas, Yes.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, How we got in that graph on the next one...

Commissioner Jeff Good, And we have a better insurance.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Yes. How did we do that? It was a combination of things, it was the Commissioners, I call it your cost containment moves. Whatever you wanted to call it.

Commissioner Jeff Good. Yes.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, You renegotiated.

Commissioner Jeff Good, Right.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, You guys did that, the Council appropriated more money and then we did some cash flow changes here and we did some other changes, now all of us kind of got that up. So once we start seeing that slide now all of us have to do something else to kind of...

Mr. Rivas, Yes we have got to look at it as a Council to make sure we're funding it properly, the employee healthcare. So that's why it's in front of us and that's why it's being brought to the attention of the Council. It's something that we're probably going to have to look at later on at the end of the year, and we definitely need to look at it during the budget session as well. So I appreciate it, was that it? I know that you have a couple of more or are you done?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, No that that was the RDC last night.

Mr. Rivas, Ok perfect, thank you very much.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Your welcome.

County Attorney Scott McClure, Thank you Vicki.

Foundation Holding Account - 4921-000-0000

Additional \$3,000,000 to 61000 Interfund Transfer. Reason: Interfund transfer for Contractual Services

Foundation Budget Fund - 4922-000-0000

Additional \$3,000,000 to 39500 Contractual Services. Reason: Appropriate money to Contractual Services

Mr. Rivas, Alright moving on. Foundation Holding Account, we have a couple additionals, it's the same thing we've got to move it twice to move it to where we need to. So there is a \$3,000,000 Interfund transfer in front of you, you know it's two, it's doing the same thing we just did so that we have to move it out of the Holding Account into the Foundation Budget Fund additional \$3,000,000 to Contractual Services.

Ms. Graham, Move to approve.

Mr. Brickner, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Motion and a second on the floor, any further discussion? Now this \$3 million dollars is going to go to paving correct? So we're diving in to something else?

County Attorney Scott McClure, Subdivision paving.

Mr. Rivas, Subdivision paving, we're getting a little deeper into the county?

County Attorney Scott McClure, Yes.

Mr. Rivas, To get to some of these roads that we've got out there.

County Attorney Scott McClure, Yes.

Mr. Rivas, There conversations we've been having, you know you guys we've been communicating and we've been trying to get this to everybody. There's been some heavy lifting that needed to be done.

Mr. Jessen, And it's no surprise, I think that the paving is at the top of the list in terms of needs throughout the county with the eight hundred and how many miles of roads...eight hundred and sixteen miles of roads. And if we're ever going to get to a point where we can get our head above water, and plan appropriately so that on an ongoing basis we can very systematically plan for improvements and get to a point where we are above water. I mean, I think the initial look at the roads and what it would cost to make them right today was north of...

Commissioner Jeff Good, \$90 million dollars.

Mr. Jessen, \$90,000 million dollars.

Commissioner Jeff Good, To get it to a good base...

Mr. Jessen, To get us kind of a starting point quite frankly. So we're woefully behind on the roads and for those of you that have driven many of the roads, you can appreciate that. For those of you that live in I think it's maybe 11 subdivisions that we're going to...

Commissioner Jeff Good, Thirteen.

Mr. Jessen, Thirteen?

Commissioner Jeff Good, Yes.

Mr. Jessen, That we are going to attack with this specific money. You can fully understand and appreciate the importance of it and from my vantage point I view that, uh, there's probably not a better use of funds that we have today. And in my mind it's just the start, because we've got so much more work to do, so I think we're in a great position to do that, and I think this is a good first step.

Mr. Rivas, And you got a couple of guys behind you, I think we all know Rich Sexton. Who's the guy with a full head of hair to your right there Scott?

Commissioner Jeff Good, Introduce yourself Matt.

Senior Highway Engineer Matt Gavelek, My name is Matt Gavelek and I'm the Senior Highway Engineer, and I work on roads and bridges, I help plan and program these projects as well as construct them.

Ms. Graham, The subdivisions that you guys are going to attach is that are they all over the county?

Commissioner Jeff Good, Yes, they're rated from...we started at the worst and are working our way up. We have over 380 subdivisions that we take care of. So it's all data driven and I think, I think the one thing that we learned with the Stormwater, is that when you have a dedicated source of funds, that's reoccurring every year, you can plan and program better. I think we've exhausted this, last year was a new year for us to analyze the money that we get from the state, and why we get what we get from the state. And I think we've all realized now that it's not enough, and we're not going to be throwing any more stones down at the state. We have to figure this out here within these four walls, and I think we're off to a good start. And I think we have a lot more to talk to you about and a lot more data to give you, but it's a good start but I think it's the constant push from our office to try and get more dedicated funding on a reoccurring basis. Because if that money is there and you know that money is going to be there pretty close, the ability to implement a plan becomes more real. And I think that's where we're trying to get to, is working off a plan and then at that point we want to take this out four or five years. Then we can start really making more accurate decisions with the data, and with the money and with all the other things. So I just want to thank you guys for this, this is coming out of foundation money, which is, um you know a good thing, it's that backdrop that we've always looked at that money for and trying to manage that properly, and I think it couldn't come at better time. You know, last year during COVID, our road were beat up pretty bad. We had two year prior to that we had some major work on Highway 30 Highway 49, the detours when these people detour off these main roads. They're detouring off on our roads and with all the people coming over here from Illinois to golf, get their hair done, buy liquor, whatever they were doing, that was adding additional traffic to our roads in a very significant way from what we saw. So those are the kind of things that we're going to be watching out for. And this is the kind of things that we're going to try to be a little bit more reactive to, but again it gets back to that plan. We want to be more planners and we want to be able to when any one of you call up and say, what are we doing this year?

I can shoot you over a GIS map and say, here you go, go and check it out, because it's getting, we're getting it, we're getting it down to maps and visual types of things, and I think that, that's good information that lets everybody know, but it's again data driven.

Mr. Jessen, Part of our/the timing is great too in the sense of our work with Bakertilly. In terms of a five year capital spending plan, so that we're not going to look at this and say, okay this is what we're going to spend for 2021. But we will be able to come up with a plan that says this is what we are going to spend 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025. And that gives these guys opportunity to schedule and plan accordingly and decide what, you know what the fix it will be for the particular road. And the fix and it's much more complicated, I think most people understand in term of what the proper, but the proper fix is because it's all the same, and there's ways you can really stretch your dollars to make sure of that and also stretch the longevity of the road, based on how you fix it. So I think its great work.

Commissioner Jeff Good, I think Sylvia brought up earlier when we were talking about. You know when the county was growing back 30 to 40 years ago, you know Smoke Road was a 24 foot wide road, and when they went to widen it, they didn't go in and we found the other road three feet underneath it last week. But, our substrate and our sub-base of all our roads, they didn't when they widened them and they did stuff they didn't go down and dig them down, how we do it today and do it the right way they just went over it and that's why we got a lot bad ground out there. We've got a lot of bad sub bass and that's the most expensive part to fix, it's not the paving part, it's the sub base underneath it. So that's what we're trying, that's what we're up against. We have a big task here and even Sylvia said that, she goes there's a lot of it out there and I'm like you're darn right there is. But that's what we have to do, we have to figure out how we're going to plan to go about that. How can we do more for less, and we've got to be frugal and creative, and that's where we are going.

Ms. Graham, Well and all residents in the county are going to benefit from this.

Commissioner Jeff Good, Yes.

County Attorney Scott McClure, This is on and this is in for the total amount of paving, we're looking at \$3,000,000 million here. But we also have our Community Crossing for the million, so two million in all reality there's going to be \$5,000,000 dollars of paving this year completed.

Senior Highway Engineer Matt Gavelek, Which is a total of 30 miles of paving and we're putting in the very worst part of our roads. Which is 14% percent of our being treated so far which is historical (inaudible).

County Attorney Scott McClure, So this is a big first step and I think with the moves of the Foundation last night and having the money available....

Commissioner Jeff Good, Right.

County Attorney Scott McClure, In that Rainy day account for the Foundation and the things that changed and having it available and ready...I mean it's just all the decisions that allowed that money to be built up to be allowed for something like this is. Everybody should be congratulated on, so I think it's a great first start.

Mr. Jessen, Right and we will get to a point where we can be proactive about it.

Commissioner Jeff Good, Right

Mr. Jessen, Versus constantly reacting.

Commissioner Jeff Good, We may not be here.

(Laughter)

Mr. Jessen, We're going to set the stage for that I can assure you.

Commissioner Jeff Good, I would also like to mention to all of you folks up here at the Council, Matt here is a tremendous resource. And I mean, gosh what we've learned over the two and half years with him here. It's just been so...I just want you folks to know that he's a resource, pick up the phone and call him. I've been building stuff my whole life and every time I talk to him, I learn something new and that's what it's all about. How do we continue to excel and get better and it's knowledge and it's understanding (inaudible) and so I'm offering that. Please feel free to come because we've got a great department up there that's doing good things. And the only way you find out is interacting and if you have questions, give them a call we'll get you the answer. So thank you.

Mr. Rivas, Yes and this was a part of what we did yesterday. Absolutely, you know moving the Foundation to smoothing and no longer needing that holding account. But we were frugal enough that we had the holding account and you know now it's available to do some heavy lifting that was past due. So there is a lot going on, a lot of good stuff going on right now in this county. And to what you are saying about the communication they just continue everybody's communicating at a great level. So continue to do that and Rich and Matt will get \$5,000,000 dollars to go out there and get started.

(Laughter)

Commissioner Jeff Good, We were working on it in anticipation of a positive vote. We've been working on it, but we're ready to go.

Mr. Jessen, A historical year for paving, but it's truly just a start.

Commissioner Jeff Good, It is a start.

Mr. Rivas, Can we get a roll call on the two additional?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 5 - 0

Mr. Rivas, Is there any way that we could maybe pave half of these roads with brick?

Ms. Graham, No.

Commissioner Jeff Good, Talk to Mike Brickner.

(Laughter)

Mr. Rivas, I mean Valpo's got a brick road.

Mr. Jessen, Yes and it was expensive too.

Highway Supervisor Rich Sexton, This is a lot of work to make this all happen. I really appreciate this, thank you.

Mr. Jessen, Thank you two guys.

Mr. Rivas, Thank you

Ms. Graham, Thank you.

Superior Court 2 – Judge Clymer

County Court General Fund - 1000-000-0226

Additional \$45,000 to 13500 Juror Expenses. Reason: Additional needed to cover jury pay for their service until end of the year. The County User Fee Jury Fund 2506 is not bringing in enough revenue at this time.

Mr. Rivas, Alright let's keep the fun rolling. Superior Court 2 Judge Clymer, County Court General Fund request we've got an additional for \$45,000 to Juror Expenses. The reason, additional needed to cover jury pay for their service until end of the year. The County User Fee Jury Fund 2506 is not bringing in enough revenue at this time.

Mr. Jessen, I'll make the motion.

Ms. Graham, Second.

Mr. Rivas, There's a motion and a second on the floor for this. So we're trying to understand this a little bit more, why the fee? I know I was talking to Vicki and Toni, they were trying to dig into it a little bit too to understand why the fee it just doesn't seem to be generating enough, I know there's a couple more trials going on, if you want to jump in a little bit?

Judge Clymer, Sure, this is for all six courts in the commons, not just for my courts. One of the revenue streams is people getting arrested. When people get arrested, they pay tickets when people get arrested, they pay fines when people get arrested they pay court costs. When people get arrested they pay Pre-Trial Diversion Fees. People getting arrested actually generates revenue. Last year we had COVID for a number of reasons, including Police Officer safety including COVID within the Jail there weren't nearly as many people getting arrested, sort of at the front end if you will. So there were less people getting arrested last year, there are more people getting arrested now for the good news. But, that means there's less revenue stream coming in because there are less people who would plead guilty and therefore less revenue coming in, because there were less people getting arrested. So therefore there was less money coming in because there were less criminal cases and less infractions. But the good news was last year is after March there was only one trial, that trial was a murder trial. Murder trial are expensive, so although there was significantly less money, there was also less expenses generally. Right now, we're working off of people who have gotten arrested last year and they're getting arrested now and Judge Fish is in the fourth week of a murder trial right now. His case will finish sometime this week is what I had been told. Judge Bradford is sitting in this week right now trying a case for Judge DeBoer. I'm going to start a case next week, so what has happened is the cases that would have been tried last year, were put off until this year because of culture happenings. So we had less money coming in and we are now going to have more money coming up and we need to pay jurors. We need this money to get us through the end of the year. (Inaudible) she sort of explained to me, how it is, how we've gotten to where we are. We should know more towards the end of the year, how the revenue streams are going to change based on. So this in reality is an offshoot of COVID, because we stopped arresting people, and we still are having trials for those that have been arrested before. We need to pay jurors, people have a right to have to have a jury trial. So it's an expense that we need to have. The way to minimize this in the future is to arrest people the way that we did before COVID, but it's not...I'm not as a Judge going to sit here and say we need to arrest people to raise money.

Mr. Jessen, Right.

Judge Clymer, Right now but I didn't, this is an offshoot of COVID and there's less money coming in and we're going to have more money. Thank you.

Mr. Simms, So is this something where like, somebody gets arrested now they are helping pay for someone else down the road on trial or is my feat when I get arrested for my trial or my court costs.

Judge Clymer, Well...

Mr. Simms, Is it like pay forward kind of a thing?

Judge Clymer, Well, I mean you can't...the money that comes in, comes in when some people enter Pre-Trial Diversion of maintenance. So those people aren't pleading guilty, so when the Valparaiso Police department used to arrest the one hundred fifty kids at a party and then there would be a whole number of people who would enter a Pre-Trial Diversion agreements. Then that money would come in at the front end, because they're paying up front to have their case diverted or just dismissed ultimately. In other cases when someone is arrested, they may have court costs, but those court costs aren't incurred until the end because you're presumed not-guilty.

Mr. Jessen, Right.

Judge Clymer, So when you plead guilty and you pay court costs, then there's money that comes in. There are infractions, traffic tickets and that kind of...those kind of things when you pay an infraction again, that's going to be dependent (inaudible). So to answer your question, how soon do you get the money? It depends on what kind of case it is. If deferral comes in front if it's a higher level felony case it comes in at a later time. But it in no way affects anything that any Judge does to try to raise money.

Mr. Jessen, Right. And Judge are you comfortable with the \$45,000 dollars that will take care of all six courts through the end of the year?

Judge Clymer, Yes, I mean we've talked to the court administrators, I've talked to all the judges, we understand that we have a number of cases up. I don't anticipate coming back and hopefully there's more money that comes in, but that just depends on certain things.

Ms. Graham, Well if you need it we're here.

Mr. Rivas, Whoa Sylvia.

(Laughter)

Ms. Graham, We've got to take care of our Judges.

Judge Clymer, So we do need to pay jurors and Donna has done a lot of work (inaudible)

Mr. Brickner, Well Judge COVID has put a wrench into a lot of things, we have had unexpected consequences because of COVID, it sounds like COVID was a part of this. Because I do know that there were fewer arrests from what I heard, that there were fewer arrests nationwide.

Judge Clymer, Yes.

Mr. Brickner, Not to get ahead of ourselves, but I think this would be something we could explore with COVID relief money. I think that the Council will be speaking with our Auditor and talk about this possible that this could maybe fall into a category. But you know, I'm just kind of putting it out there. Not that has anything to do with today's discussion, but I think just for maybe for general purposes to explore it.

Judge Clymer, We have less revenue coming in because there were less people being arrested. And again that was for a whole number of reasons including the officers' safety. People who were dangerous were still being arrested. Law enforcement was still happening, there were less people getting stopped and less

people on the road so there was less interaction (inaudible). But it clearly is because of COVID and now we're going to have more trials because of COVID we had less money.

Mr. Rivas, So we...I was in talking to the Auditor and Toni trying to begin to look at maybe the trend of that fund and you know we need to take a look at it during the budget session to see if the trend has been down for a while. If it has maybe that's a general fund item we have to boost up a little bit, so if that fee has been trending down for years, so yes we have got to I think take a look during budget sessions.

Judge Clymer, And it has been as I have been there, it has been trending down a little bit, but last year it was a bigger wallop (inaudible).

Mr. Rivas, Sure.

Judge Clymer, But still the courts are functioning appropriately, we're not treating things any differently because we need money.

Mr. Rivas, Well thank you for the explanation. Any further discussion?

Mr. Simms, When someone gets a ticket, how much of a percentage stays here?

Judge Clymer, I don't know I don't get those (inaudible) it's all set...

Mr. Rivas, Yeah, it's a statue.

Mr. Simms, So I've heard that taking a lot more money goes downstate then stays up here but you know all the hearsay stuff and you don't know what's true and what's not.

Auditor Chief Deputy Toni Downing, The majority of it stays up here, there's a small portion of it for various things like child or state fines and certain things like that, that will go down to the state but the majority of it does stay here. It's just that it kind of allocated amongst multiple different ways.

Mr. Simms, Okay.

Judge Clymer, Then how then it is split up depends on if it's court costs or if it's pre-trial diversion. So there are all kinds of formulas but we don't set those they are set for us by statue.

Mr. Simms, Okay.

Judge Clymer, It's only the money coming in that we get to use.

Mr. Jessen, It makes sense.

Mr. Rivas, Any further questions? Can we get a roll call Madame Auditor?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 5 - 0

Judge Clymer, Thank you.

Mr. Rivas, Thank you Judge.

Mr. Jessen, Thank you and keep up the good work.

E-911 – Director Anthony Stua

E-911 Foundation Fund - 4922-000-0303

Transfer \$1,699.99 from 31300 Training & Education to 45400 to Other Equipment.
Reason: Transfer needed to purchase of Surface Pro for Deputy Director.

Mr. Rivas, E911 Director Anthony Stua. E-911 Foundation fund there is a transfer of \$1,699.99 from Training & Education to Other Equipment. The reason transfer needed to purchase of surface pro for Deputy Director.

E-911 Director Anthony Stua, Good evening.

Mr. Jessen, I'll make the motion.

Ms. Graham, Second.

Mr. Rivas, This guy needs a surface pro.

E-911 Director Anthony Stua, He make contact while he's at home and he researches stuff, he's been very good about staying abreast of everything here.

Mr. Rivas, How's he doing? Does he deserve one?

E-911 Director Anthony Stua, Very deserving so far, I can trust him. I apologize, Joe Barboza is our new Deputy Director. He comes with a wealth of knowledge and experience. He's also a previous location he came from, he was one of the administrators for our current phone system call works as well as being able to handle that on one system we use he's already taking rather large leaps to improve our current call work system where the dispatcher will have different capabilities that we didn't use before.

Mr. Rivas, So what was your name again?

E-911 Assistant Director Joe Barboza, Joe Barboza.

Mr. Rivas, Everybody here Joe, everybody know Joe? Did you guys go to the open house?

Ms. Graham, I did.

Mr. Rivas, Great thank you very much for coming out.

Mr. Simms, I was in Puerto Rico sorry so I was not able to go.

Mr. Jessen, So as we...of course the open house was great, appreciate that. Any updates on activation moving in?

E-911 Director Anthony Stua, So currently we have two issues we're trying to correct. One is the connection with the State for our radio system and the other one is a multicast issue we have internally County IT is doing a great job trying to get that fixed and we're hoping to have the move in the middle of next month right now.

Mr. Rivas, Perfect, yes I'm sorry I missed it too I was out of town. Maybe me and Greg will slide over there I was not in Puerto Rico. But I appreciate everything you guys are doing and you live in Portage?

E-911 Assistant Director Joe Barboza, Yes.

Mr. Rivas, Perfect, that's awesome, I love it. But there's a request in front of you, I don't know if I heard a motion?

Ms. Graham, You did.

Mr. Jessen, Yes.

Mr. Rivas, Then I have a motion and a second on the floor, any further discussion? All in favor signify by saying Aye? Opposed same sign?

Motion carries on a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Rivas, Tony, Joe thank you.

Mr. Jessen, Thanks guys have a good evening.

Porter County Sheriff – David Reynolds

Sheriff General Fund - 1000-000-0005

Additional \$93,178.80 to 11300 Overtime. Reason: To cover the cost of filling 2 positions at an overtime rate to provide security for 157 Franklin

Jail General Fund - 1000-000-0380

Additional \$20,472.40 to 11300 Overtime. Reason: To cover the cost of filling 2 positions at an overtime rate to provide security for 157 Franklin.

Mr. Rivas, Porter County Sheriff, we've got some requests in front of us, there's a Sheriff general fund additional of \$93,178.80 to Overtime. The reason is to cover the cost of filling 2 positions at an overtime rate to provide security for 157 Franklin. There's also a Jail general fund additional request of \$20,472.40 to Overtime. The reason is the same to cover the cost of filling 2 positions at an overtime rate to provide security for 157 Franklin. So maybe we can take those two, they're the same. This is...

Ms. Graham, I'll make a motion to approve.

Mr. Rivas, Motion on the first two for the security?

Ms. Graham, Yes.

Mr. Jessen, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Second on the floor, discussion?

Mr. Jessen, Maybe Scott is here to give us...hear the presentation or the pitch.

County Attorney Scott McClure, So as we're moving people into 157, the IV-D office is currently there and they have some access controls that are allowing them to be in within the building and as we start to move 911, the Prosecutor and especially Probation the need for security becomes basically no way around it considering we're having 40 to 50 felony probationers coming through the building a day. So in working with the Sheriff the plan is to at this point and time address this fully at budget time. On whatever that final fix is, I think right now what we're attempting to do is, you can't just give anybody a gun and have them be security. So there's a process to get people trained and to allow that to happen. So in the meantime, as we're moving these departments in if we use a sheriff's officer, if we use a jail officer they are going to be getting overtime. So that's part of the reason why it's an overtime issue. I think in the short term...I mean that's in the short term, in the long term we're going to be attempting, we're not sure what that is going to bring us as far as part-time security officers. Whether that's going to be, uh whether or not we're going to get a lot of people interested in that or not. Or whether or not what that would be like to schedule. But for now we're attempting to get people moved in, make sure it's secure. Most of the building has been the way it was

designed with the access controls and the different lobbies has reduced the need as much as possible for the amount of security out there. But this is one of those issues where we know we need security in the building. We know that we need to address it long term at budget time and whatever that may end of being and I know the Sheriff has been making some strides as far as trying to figure out the best way to financially handle this. But this is the stop gap to get us now, I believe that's projected to get us to the end of the year.

Sheriff Comptroller Edie Hahn, Yes it is.

County Attorney Scott McClure, So it gives us the clearance to then sit down and really figure out whether this is going to work as a part-time situation whether or not we need to look at a full-time situation or what those different options are. But this allows us to get in the building and make sure it's safe. We already have the metal detector, we already have the fever reader, we already have the access control, so the basic moving parts, the furniture things like that we're working on now. So this is really that last piece and that would allow probation to move in and to deal with that and as we've talked a lot with the sheriff's department, you know it's not an uncommon occurrence when you have somewhere between, you know twenty and fifty supervised probation which normally means you have a felony conviction coming through the building that you get one or two a day, or a week or more that are not coming in sober or in the right state of mind. So it becomes tantamount that the security is present to be able to be able to help them with that. And currently where they're at in the courthouse they're right by the security rotunda. So now it was pretty amazing how many people are stuffed back in that space right now, but this will take care of that they'll be in a much more easy to operate position from a building standpoint and the securities the part that we're piecing together and then it's going to be one of those budget things of sitting down with the Sheriff and really figuring out what's the best route and whether or not there are these people out there or not, and even if there are people to do the part-time, is that what we want to do? Is that really a viable option on a long term or is it not and then if it's not what does it take from a full-time perspective and it's going to be an in-depth conversation.

Mr. Jessen, So will be, uh is that the dollar amount, is that factored out for one, is it two people at all times?

County Attorney Scott McClure, Two people at all times.

Mr. Jessen, At the same station or is it a different entrance?

County Attorney Scott McClure, No, there would be one person at all times at the main door, to make sure we've done the metal detector and we've done those things. Then one person would be able to go to the probation floor to secure an arrest or make sure things are under control. Because if we just had one, then the problem is we know that there is going to be problems on that second floor at times. Then if you pull that person off the front door, now what do you do in the process that if you really had someone who shows up and let's say there intoxicated and they need to be arrested. Well that could be 45 minutes to an 1 hour or 1.5 hours before it's all said and done and that person is at the front door again, so that's why it was the need for two.

Mr. Jessen, How does that compare to the courthouse on a daily basis?

Sheriff Comptroller Edie Hahn, (Inaudible) I'm not sure between all the courts, we have (inaudible) I'm not sure what (inaudible).

County Attorney Scott McClure, It might be, there's at least five.

Sheriff Comptroller Edie Hahn, There's at least five.

County Attorney Scott McClure, There's at least five in the Valpo Courthouse.

Sheriff Comptroller Edie Hahn, Yes.

Mr. Jessen, Okay.

Mr. Brickner, Are these going to be officers working this? Would they be retired officers? What's the hourly rate going to be?

Sheriff Comptroller Edie Hahn, The hourly rate, we have estimated it to be on the high side, we don't know who we can get (inaudible) how many people we can use. So we've estimated it high and whoever works it will go down to that rate. So yes there will be paid overtime.

Mr. Brickner, What would the hourly rate be for a full-time officer that works security?

Sheriff Comptroller Edie Hahn, Um, it would be...I didn't bring that amount it's over (inaudible) per hour.

Mr. Brickner, And the hourly rate for and (inaudible) Jailer for security?

Sheriff Comptroller Edie Hahn, Jailer is much lower, but we don't have jailers that we can spare right now. We hired four new last Monday, they will not be out of training (inaudible) we had three ones that are recently on the floor now, but we can't leave them alone. We've got one empty spot (inaudible)

Mr. Brickner, So we're possible looking at \$30 to \$35 dollars an hour to work security at 157 Franklin? That's not 24/7?

Sheriff Comptroller Edie Hahn, No that's Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. I believe (inaudible)

Mr. Brickner, Or 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.?

County Attorney Scott McClure, Same kind of hours.

Mr. Rivas, I see where you are going with this, are you looking for a part-time job?

Mr. Brickner, I retired to soon.

(Laughter)

Mr. Brickner, That's the going rate for officers but I didn't know...is that what you use for the courthouse?

Sheriff Comptroller Edie Hahn, No we use court security (inaudible).

Mr. Rivas, It's going to be an in-depth conversation again come budget time were going to be looking at full-time employees when we look at this stuff.

Mr. Brickner, What's in the current overtime budget now, I mean we're going to go to the general fund regarding that. We're looking at over a \$100,000 dollars and we're in June.

Sheriff Comptroller Edie Hahn, We have \$40,000 dollars in the Sheriff's and we have \$60,000 in overtime services that are reimbursed to our drug teams and our highway teams (inaudible). So that money is reimbursed, which is also being short because we have another additional for the drug team but it's all reimbursed. We only have \$40,000 dollars for the Sheriff.

Mr. Brickner, So the \$113,000 dollars you're asking for today, are you covering any of this from your current budget?

Sheriff Comptroller Edie Hahn, No we don't have enough money for overtime.

Mr. Brickner, Overtime?

Sheriff Comptroller Edie Hahn, For both because now we're paying overtime for Jailers to cover all of the Jailers that we don't have. Plus anything that goes on in the Sheriff which there has not been too (inaudible)

County Attorney Scott McClure, Well hopefully on the overtime for the Jailers there's salary line items open, so hopefully there's going to be the ability to have some funds within the salary lines to be able to move the overtime line item.

Sheriff Comptroller Edie Hahn, Yes and that's a possibility later on. But I can't do that right now without knowing, but yes there will be because we had blank spots. And we have had a lot of people at probationary that we have as first class in the budget, that's how I'm able to move some of that money over. Because we have sort of a revolving door, most everybody's...there a lot of people in probation (inaudible).

Mr. Simms, Well, last year too when we did our budgets, we didn't really, this wasn't really a discussion about how many people to fund over at the new facility and all that stuff so.

Sheriff Comptroller Edie Hahn, No that wasn't.

Mr. Simms, This wasn't a part of the discussion, so that why it's ...it's not like we...

County Attorney Scott McClure, This is another good reason why we're doing a five-year capital plan.

Mr. Simms, Right.

County Attorney Scott McClure, Or five-year plan that would deal with big issues like this.

Mr. Simms, Right...anticipated

County Attorney Scott McClure, You can anticipate a little bit better.

Mr. Simms, Yes.

Mr. Rivas, So I mean, I think a little bit to your point and Sylvia had brought this up before about are there any openings that you could transfer money from that are unfulfilled like salary line items? I suppose it works the same if you're not spending that amount of money at the end of the year that money's going to go back into the general fund anyways, so you know we're doing this additional kind of and if there's unfilled positions that have occurred during the year that money is just going to be redirected back to the general fund to help. But some good questions Mike, because it's a lot of money, its \$113,000 dollars for overtime. You know on top of what's been budgeted.

County Attorney Scott McClure, And we...I don't want to say this and then we're back here in November. But we shot purposely high to not have to come back. So we based it upon some of those rates are as we know the people may or may not be there because every individual is going to be different where they're at in rank and pay as to what there overtime is. So we're hoping this number is large to make it all the way to the end, then again even under those circumstances if it's there it'll revert back to the general fund. But we're not that...we're weeks away basically at this point from rolling our sleeves up and trying to figure out what we're doing in 2022 with this.

Sheriff Comptroller Edie Hahn, And I'll maintain that amount of money for that. We will keep complete track of how much is going towards that, because we're running out of overtime in the Sheriff and Jail on our own, let alone adding this to it. So Yeah, I may have to come back and you see a lot because I've got that...well I can't use that for my guys. I mean I can't use that because it's not for us.

Mr. Rivas, There are your overtime numbers in front of you right now.

Sheriff Comptroller Edie Hahn, Yeah.

Mr. Rivas, Its...

Sheriff Comptroller Edie Hahn, You can't you know, you've got to keep things segregated. I rather have different line items (inaudible) and the only way to do this and have us maintain the schedule and maintain them being paid properly. And the Auditor is not having to do extra work, me not have to do extra work trying to keep track of who's who. It just had to go this way.

Mr. Rivas, So I mean that's looking at the Jail overtime right now in June, you've almost expended your appropriation.

County Attorney Scott McClure, But don't forget

Sheriff Comptroller Edie Hahn, I'm in 9601 now, I'm not in (inaudible) I've moved (inaudible). This pay period (inaudible), because we're short (inaudible)

Mr. Rivas, So it's going to be...I mean?

Sheriff Comptroller Edie Hahn, So it's going to happen, it's going to be coming. I've got the line item in 9601 that we can use until and then I'll be (inaudible).

County Attorney Scott McClure, Oh it's okay, but I think it's again we have several Jail open spots that means every couple of weeks that goes by there's money building in that salary line that can be transferred over for overtime. It's a little early for now we're sitting in June, but we're not again we're not that many weeks away from being able to start looking at that calculation to see what could be brought over.

Mr. Rivas, I think we need to look at that.

Sheriff Comptroller Edie Hahn, (Inaudible) we figured out the money that they're going to need so that's this money and that this money will not be going for our overtime. It will just be going for to cover the 157 Franklin.

Mr. Rivas, Yes.

Sheriff Comptroller Edie Hahn, That amount we're getting today, so anything if we have all lower people, anything of that would be left in the fund. I will not use that for any of our others or for any of our overtime, the specialty services or our share.

Mr. Rivas, I understand that, but just the conversation like Mike asked, you know are you using any of other, your Jail or your Sheriff general fund for overtime?

Sheriff Comptroller Edie Hahn, (Inaudible)

Mr. Rivas, No to do...to cover the 157 Franklin, that was his question earlier. Are you using your funds because you're asking for a straight additional? But just moving, building upon that conversation, you know like you're...like you said you've already moved to a another fund with overtime in the Jail and you're using, what you said 9601, so to what Scott was saying though, I mean if you are going to come at the end of the year...later on towards the end of the year because you are out of overtime, I would just ask you to look at what was not spent in salaries to vacancies for transfers.

Sheriff Comptroller Edie Hahn, (Inaudible)

County Attorney Scott McClure, (Inaudible)

Sheriff Comptroller Edie Hahn, Yes, oh I will do that, I've done that every year, we've had to come because I'll calculate it even this early I can calculate it

estimating how much I could have. I've never messed up taking too much and going out by the end of the year. I've always...I've got spreadsheets that I calculated to make sure at the worst scenario, I would be able to give this up.

Mr. Rivas, Yeah, that's Sylvia's point. Yes.

Ms. Graham, Thank you.

County Attorney Scott McClure, Right, oh yeah. I've done that every year

Auditor Chief Deputy Toni Downing, Edie's a pro.

Mr. Rivas, She's a pro.

Auditor Chief Deputy Toni Downing, She's a pro.

Sheriff Comptroller Edie Hahn, I have to be, I have to answer to my boss.

Mr. Rivas, Alright, yes there's a motion and a second, is there any further discussion? Ah can we get a roll call on the two additional?

Mr. Brickner, Thank you.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 5 - 0

Accident Report Fund - 1101-000-0005

Additional \$6,700 to 45400 Other Equipment. Reason: To cover the cost of trailer purchased in 2020. Vendor advised a 30% increase with unknown availability. We plan to purchase from another new vendor.

Mr. Rivas, Accident Report fund there is an additional \$6,700 to Other Equipment. To cover the cost of trailer purchased in 2020. Vendor advised a 30% increase with unknown availability. We plan to purchase from another new vendor. There is a request in front of you.

Sheriff Comptroller Edie Hahn, We had this approved a month or two ago and then they came back and told us they were going to charge us 30% percent more and then maybe more so we found another company. This is a lot less than they were trying (inaudible)

Ms. Graham, Your company came in less than what your first one was?

Sheriff Comptroller Edie Hahn, Less than what they were going to charge us and we still didn't know when we could get it and it could have been more than 30% percent. It was just ridiculous and then we requested our money back.

Ms. Graham, And the availability is going to be soon?

Sheriff Comptroller Edie Hahn, Yes that one is soon.

Ms. Graham, I'll make the motion to approve this.

Mr. Simms, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Motion and a second on the additional, any further discussion?
Roll call?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 5 - 0

Mr. Rivas, Thank you, thank you.

County Attorney Scott McClure, Thank you.

Development & Storm Water Management - Director Robert Thompson

Cumulative Bridge Fund - 1135-000-0079

Additional \$1,500 to 22500 Other Supplies
\$10,000 to 37100 Equipment Rentals

Reason: To pay for rental of concrete pump for Bridge Projects and miscellaneous office supplies and department logo safety yellow T-Shirts for bridge crew/interns for South Haven Substation.

Plan Commission - 1180-000-0079

Additional \$500 to 22500 Other Supplies. Reason: Department logo safety yellow T-Shirts for field staff and interns.

Storm Water Fund - 1182-000-0079

Additional \$10,800 to 31100 Legal. Reason: For legal services for SWMB tax sale properties

Additional \$1,000 to 33200 Legal Notices. Reason: For invitation to Bid legal notices for Storm Water Improvement Projects

Additional \$2,000 to 37100 Equipment Rentals. Reason: Appropriation needed to replenish account for storm water needs after rental of a trash pump for 400 N.

Mr. Rivas, Alright Development & Storm Water Management . Looks like there's all kinds of additional, Bob he's a regular here. Cumulative Bridge Fund so there's additional \$1,500 to Other Supplies and \$10,000 to Equipment Rentals. The reason to pay for rental of concrete pump for Bridge Projects and miscellaneous office supplies and department logo safety yellow T-Shirts for bridge crew interns for South Haven Substation. I can keep going if you want to hit them all at once? Plan Commission there's an additional \$500 to Other Supplies. Reason: Department logo safety yellow T-Shirts for field staff and interns. Lots of additional Storm Water Fund \$10,800 to Legal. Reason: For legal services for Stormwater MB? What's MB?

Development & Storm Water Director Robert Thompson, Stormwater Management Board.

Mr. Rivas, Stormwater Management Board, I think I should know that right. For tax sale and properties. Ok I am going to keep going there's an additional \$1,000 to Legal Notices. For invitation to Bid legal notices for Storm Water Improvement Projects. There's another additional \$2,000 to Equipment Rentals. Appropriation needed to replenish account for storm water needs after rental of a trash pump for 400 North.

Mr. Jessen, I'll make the motion for all six additional.

Ms. Graham, I'll second that.

Mr. Rivas, There's a motion and second on the floor for all six additional.
Discussion?

Ms. Graham, I'd like to know about the Tax Sale properties. Where does that money go?

Development & Storm Water Director Robert Thompson, A lot of that went up to South Haven Parcels, if I remember correctly. There were a number of parcels especially up towards U.S. Hwy 6 and where Squirrel Creek exits the South Haven area and there's a bridge there under U.S. Hwy 6. A lot of those were in the tax sales they went to purchase it mainly because of the fact that we have a project that's going to be cleaning up the Squirrel Creek area, it's...they're working on that now with a consultant, so it's going to be cleaning it up and trying to expand the holding capacity of Squirrel Creek through there.

Ms. Graham, And who's your t-shirt vendor? They're making good money...I mean that's just a joke.

Mr. Rivas, Don't even think about it Greg.

Mr. Simms, I didn't say anything.

(Laughter)

Mr. Rivas, So you know the additional the question is always right, I mean there's a lot additional, is it just that you didn't budget so you're asking for more money? Or just as the workload is increasing throughout the year?

Development & Storm Water Director Robert Thompson, It's taken out of the reserve funds because basically with Stormwater I will tell you that it's tight with that so we do take it out of the reserves, because the other line items we have with Stormwater, I mean we really don't have too much play. Plan Commission same thing, a lot of money is in personal services with Planning Commission or I mean I guess we could take it out of attorney fees for a transfer there on Plan Commission. So, no there's not really too many line items in Plan Commission to where we can actually do a transfer from, we try to keep that tight.

Mr. Rivas, I'm talking like the Bridge Fund, you know an additional \$10,000 dollars is it unexpected, I mean in that line item why...?

Development & Storm Water Director Robert Thompson, Bridge Fund we do have quite a bit in reserves in that situation if I remember correctly.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Yeah.

Development & Storm Water Director Robert Thompson, So we do need to use that and we do have a lot of contractual business that's going to be coming up with the bridges. We've got a number of INDOT lettings that are going to be coming up and also...um we have some overruns I know for with Bridge 62 that we're going to be paying INDOT on.

Mr. Rivas, So I guess my point as we get into budgeting session, I mean if we're going to be doing more work it's budgeting, so maybe budget higher.

Development & Storm Water Director Robert Thompson, That's true, but I mean we could if you want to see it that way, but I mean with the reserves and everything like that the reason why we have large reserves in Bridge and we also have in Storm Water, if we have a bridge fail that's probably \$2.5 million dollars like that gone just to take care of that bridge. To get through consulting services, construction, construction observation, it's expensive to do a bridge. I mean the same thing with the storm sewer, if we have...I mean there's a few places that we know that we've got bad system in there and I think one of those storm systems collapses or emergency comes up it becomes extremely costly. So I mean that's the

reason why we have reserves and we do go at it, but I mean the budgeting on that, basically what we do with the bridges and with the storm water is we usually ask Vicki what our intake is probably going to be projected and we try to keep our budget written up at that projection for the year.

Mr. Jessen, Hey Bob, a real basic question and I'm sure there's a simple answer to it the rental of a concrete pump for bridge projects.

Development & Storm Water Director Robert Thompson, Correct

Mr. Jessen, Is that something that should we consider buying one or do we have one or...?

Development & Storm Water Director Robert Thompson, Um, that's one of those large trucks that you see going down the road with folding up pipe that, that would be a costly piece of equipment purchase and it's something...yeah we're going to use it but probably not enough to warrant purchasing it.

Mr. Jessen, Ok.

Mr. Rivas, Scott?

County Attorney Scott McClure, I think what Bob, I think is if we look at the bridge forecast for 2022, we're going to spend more...

Development & Storm Water Director Robert Thompson, Right.

County Attorney Scott McClure, I think what they're saying is that at this budget session they would rather look at it at the budget session and build the budget 2022 based upon the workload. Same thing with Storm Water in an attempt to reduce the amount of additional in June. Which would be a slightly different way than we've been budgeting, I understand, I think that's what Jeremy was kind of saying.

Mr. Rivas, Yes.

County Attorney Scott McClure, We can do that, because I mean I have already kind of projected out for the Commissioners, a five-year spending for the bridge and I do know that there are going to be a few years where we are going to be spending more than what we're taking in with the taxes, not much we're going to be spending more because we've got a number of bridges that are going to be coming up and hitting us in one year. For example we just sent INDOT \$1.6 million dollars to get bridge 62 going this year and I think that was in January that we sent that out or was that in December that we were trying to close that up? It might have been December, because we let it in November, so I mean we're going to have a number of projects coming up. Beginning of next year I know one bridge that's going to be coming up, it's probably going to be \$1.5 million dollars we're going to be firing over to INDOT.

Mr. Rivas, It's just planning like Scott said, it's just planning. We know you know you're going to get into some heavy lifting and we understand revenue and expenditures so if you're going to be spending and you know budgeting into the surplus a little bit, but that's what you got to do that's why you build a surplus up.

Development & Storm Water Director Robert Thompson, Right, I mean for the bridge fund and the Stormwater fund, yes we can do that. I mean that I can sit down with Mike and we can work that out, and what he sees as far as projections with the Stormwater and Bridge I've that pretty much.

Mr. Rivas, Planning out a little bit.

Development & Storm Water Director Robert Thompson, Sure.

Mr. Rivas, We'll ask you during budget session why you increase your budget by \$100,000 dollars...

Development & Storm Water Director Robert Thompson, Sure.

Mr. Rivas, You'll say because you told us to and this is what we're doing with that.

Development & Storm Water Director Robert Thompson, I can't remember the exact amount that we get per year but I'm just going to throw a number out, I'll say it's \$4 million dollars. I might come in with the budget then that shows that we're going to be spending close to \$5 million dollars in this particular year and we're going to have to dip into reserves to help pay for getting some of those done.

Mr. Rivas, Alright further discussion? All in favor of the five additional...well no we've got to do a roll call on the five additional Madame Auditor.

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

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 5 - 0

Mr. Rivas, Scott while I've got you up here you mentioned we just can't give a gun to anybody earlier, do you remember a guy named Dan Whitten?

County Attorney Scott McClure, Yes.

Mr. Rivas, I believe they gave him a gun in Lake Station.

(Laughter)

County Attorney Scott McClure, Times have change.

Parks and Recreation – Park Board President Craig Kenworthy

Parks Operating Fund - 1179-000-0803

Additional \$16,441.72 to 61000 Interfund Transfer. Reason: Need to rectify negative balance of reimbursable grant.

Additional \$3,793 to 45400 Other Equipment. Reason: New tents for Summer Camp and Rentals

Mr. Rivas, Parks and Recreation, Park Board President Craig Kenworthy. The reason why we wanted you to come up last meeting...

Parks and Recreation Park Board President Craig Kenworthy, So I can get use to this.

Mr. Rivas, So you can get used to it there's nobody left with you man.

Parks and Recreation Park Board President Craig Kenworthy, I know.

Mr. Rivas, Parks Operating fund there's an additional \$16,441.72 to Interfund Transfer. Reason: Need to rectify negative balance of reimbursable grant. There's a second additional \$3,793 to Other Equipment. Reason: New tents for Summer Camp and Rentals.

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

Ms. Graham, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Motion and a second on the floor. Discussion?

Mr. Jessen, Tell us about it?

Parks and Recreation Park Board President Craig Kenworthy, Pardon me?

Mr. Jessen, Tell us about it, please?

Parks and Recreation Park Board President Craig Kenworthy, Um...the additional area, the transfer is to put money back in for our habit restoration at Hawk Ridge Wildlife Sanctuary were going in and putting prairie and cultivator, pollinators and all that, trying to make it back to where it was originally. That's the money that's for that and the other one is so we can house kids a little farther apart because of Covid for Camp Fun set we wanted to have more tents so we can spread them out in case we had some inclement weather and plus for programing to get them out of the sun. Not all days are as cool and nice as this.

Mr. Rivas, Right on, so any further discussion? Can we get a roll call on the two additional?

Mr. Simms, I just asked since you mentioned about the Covid, I just asked if that's possible if we can use our Covid funds down the road for reimbursed for that? If it's possible.

Parks and Recreation Park Board President Craig Kenworthy, you get really creative with the Covid money.

Mr. Simms, Well, but you just said the reason why you're putting it up is because of the Covid, so if we can do it...I'm just saying.

Parks and Recreation Park Board President Craig Kenworthy, It would be nice, it would be much appreciated.

Mr. Rivas, Can we get a roll call on the two additional

Auditor Vicki Urbanik,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 5 – 0

Mr. Jessen, Craig while we have you any updates on the search for the new superintendent or where do you stand with that?

Parks and Recreation Park Board President Craig Kenworthy, We have hired, we have not hired, we appointed Jackie Nadeau who was our head of our administrative...basically Walter's right-hand person up there to be our intern Superintendent now and we have sent the job description and everything the HR Department here in the building and actively are searching for a new Superintendent.

Mr. Jessen, And when is Walter done?

Parks and Recreation Park Board President Craig Kenworthy, He is done.

Mr. Jessen, He's officially done?

Parks and Recreation Park Board President Craig Kenworthy, Yes, he's officially done Friday. He is still just so you know, no surprises he's still in the house, we made a deal with him that he would be available for consulting for the next month to month and a half that he lives in the house. So, if we have any problems he will make himself available to us that he'll answer questions...if there's any questions that's why he's still in the house.

Mr. Jessen, What would be the intention after he's gone and moved out of the house...?

Parks and Recreation Park Board President Craig Kenworthy, (Inaudible)

Mr. Jessen, Yes.

Parks and Recreation Park Board President Craig Kenworthy, In a perfect world I would like to get more money and pay the superintendent more money out of the General Fund and take that house and put it up for rent as a revenue. I want to get...as Park Board President, I kind of want to get out of the housing our employee business. I think those houses have the ability to create revenue and we can create revenue and our employees can go back to buying homes and being productive parts of our taxpaying community. We actually have three homes that could be rented out. This is the easiest way, we've got one at Sunset and we love to put a first responder in it at a reduced rate so we have someone in that building all the time, you know and it's a three bedroom house.

Mr. Jessen, Who lives there now?

Parks and Recreation Park Board President Craig Kenworthy, Nobody it's empty.

Mr. Jessen, So two of the three there's nobody in it and hasn't been.

Parks and Recreation Park Board President Craig Kenworthy, Actually we have three, there's two people in them. We've got one of our program directors is in the one on 700 which is on the south side of the park. Then Walter is then currently in the at Brookdale and we have...it's crazy we keep buying this land and we keep coming up with houses and part of the house we can't rent because of the grant. Because we just can't have revenue, but there's a couple of other ones we're looking into trying...the fellow park board members are trying to we're looking into trying to figure out, okay how do we put people into these houses? Because an empty house is going to rot, so one of our, one of my theories and I've talked to the other board members about it is we have one in Brincka Cross that possible we maybe talk to someone from the National Lakeshore who's in on an internship in the summer. Say okay here's a house, maybe this helps you guys out, maybe they can help us out. It's going to be a...I want to be more symbiotic with all of this you know, if we can help people and they can help us and we can put someone in that house. We've got to pay utilities on it anyway, so...

Mr. Jessen, So we currently have, just so I know, so we have three and two of them are occupied with county employees?

Parks and Recreation Park Board President Craig Kenworthy, Yes.

Mr. Jessen, One past and one current.

Parks and Recreation Park Board President Craig Kenworthy, Actually, we have three...I misspoke we have two more at Brincka Cross, so we have five homes.

Mr. Jessen, Two of them are occupied?

Parks and Recreation Park Board President Craig Kenworthy, Two of them are occupied at this point.

Mr. Jessen, And it has...has those two that have been occupied has that been viewed or considered as part of the compensation for those employees?

Parks and Recreation Park Board President Craig Kenworthy, It is part of the compensation package for those employees.

Mr. Jessen, For both of them?

Parks and Recreation Park Board President Craig Kenworthy, When Walter was hired and before Walter the compensation package include the home. It was part of what we paid.

Mr. Jessen, For his contract?

Parks and Recreation Park Board President Craig Kenworthy, For his contract yes, our goal is to get away from that.

Mr. Jessen, It seems messy.

Ms. Graham, Do any of them need a lot of renovation or anything?

Parks and Recreation Park Board President Craig Kenworthy, We...this is kind of a sore subject, but I've asked for an independent survey on the houses. We've had the ones that Brincka Cross looked at, one of them is kind of in a little disrepair, and the other one is in much better shape it might need a furnace. The ones that are currently occupied I haven't been able to get in. I want to hire a home inspector and put them in those houses and find out where we're at. It was something that I tried to get done last year before the budget because I wanted to know where we were at. So if I came to you guys for more money to fix these houses here's the reason, unfortunately that did not happen, but that will happen.

Ms. Graham, Thank you.

Parks and Recreation Park Board President Craig Kenworthy, That will happen in the next month one way or another. So I'd like to get these homes and find out where we're at with them and move forward to get them occupied by people that help us.

Mr. Simms, So if the house is sold the foundation would get that money? Or would that go into our General Fund?

Parks and Recreation Park Board President Craig Kenworthy, If we sold the home?

Mr. Simms, Correct.

Parks and Recreation Park Board President Craig Kenworthy, It would go in our General Fund.

Mr. Simms, So you were going to come in front of us and ask for us to use General Fund money to help fix a house that if it sold it would go into your fund?

Parks and Recreation Park Board President Craig Kenworthy, Yeah.

Mr. Simms, Okay.

Parks and Recreation Park Board President Craig Kenworthy, Much like...

Mr. Simms, It sounds kind of ludicrous right?

Parks and Recreation Park Board President Craig Kenworthy, Well you guys (inaudible) all the...

Mr. Simms, Okay, alright I just want to make sure I was understanding that.

Parks and Recreation Park Board President Craig Kenworthy, If they fall down it's the county property, I mean it's...

Mr. Simms, It's foundation property though.

Parks and Recreation Park Board President Craig Kenworthy, No it's not. The foundation does not own any of those homes. The homes and property...

Mr. Simms, Ok then if it's sold then it would be our county money then wouldn't it?

Parks and Recreation Park Board President Craig Kenworthy, No, we are our own landlords, we own our own property.

Mr. Rivas, Vicki?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, I'm not sure Craig I think we might have to have a legal discussion about that one.

Parks and Recreation Park Board President Craig Kenworthy, I have been told that if we sold any of our property by our attorney that money goes back into our funds.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, The Operating Fund 1179?

Parks and Recreation Park Board President Craig Kenworthy, Yes. We hold deed to all these properties. The Porter County Parks Department holds the deeds to all these properties.

Mr. Simms, Again, so if you hold the deed, why would the county...why would you expect the county to use our money to help. It doesn't...it's not fiscally responsible.

Parks and Recreation Park Board President Craig Kenworthy, Well if we did do that we would use that money to improve the parks, which would keep us from coming to you for money to help improve our parks.

Council Attorney Harold Harper, (Inaudible) conversation...

Parks and Recreation Park Board President Craig Kenworthy, You may not agree with it, maybe disagree with it I don't know, but that's...

Mr. Jessen, And that's something we can figure out.

Ms. Graham, Right.

Parks and Recreation Park Board President Craig Kenworthy, I don't know what we are going to do with that money when we sell a piece of property. I mean we're not going to put it in our pockets, it'll go to help with...

Mr. Simms, But to go with to what you said...

Parks and Recreation Park Board President Craig Kenworthy, It's our property.

Mr. Simms, Okay but we probably need to have a discussion, like when you were talking about taking the house allotment away from a possible next superintendent...

Parks and Recreation Park Board President Craig Kenworthy, Yes.

Mr. Simms, and then that would be our money paying that. Then you would sell the house and you wouldn't...

Parks and Recreation Park Board President Craig Kenworthy, I didn't say I was going to sell a house.

Mr. Simms, You said you wanted to sell...

Parks and Recreation Park Board President Craig Kenworthy, I said I was going to rent the home, I never said I was going to sell a house. That never came out of my mouth.

Mr. Simms, Okay.

Mr. Jessen, Kind of a more specific question that I have Craig is, so for as the most important thing is to get a new superintendent.

Parks and Recreation Park Board President Craig Kenworthy, Yes, that's what we're worried about.

Mr. Jessen, So as you were advertising for that position are we advertising a certain salary I assume? Is it the salary plus the house or is it part of that?

Parks and Recreation Park Board President Craig Kenworthy, The house is not included. We did not include the house in what we advertised.

Mr. Jessen, What is that salary?

Parks and Recreation Park Board President Craig Kenworthy, \$57,400 dollars I believe off the top of my head. That's close I know that.

Mr. Jessen, Alright thank you.

Mr. Simms, Is that what Walter was getting?

Parks and Recreation Park Board President Craig Kenworthy, That is what Walter was getting plus the home.

Mr. Simms, Ok so now you're asking someone to replace Walter's position without the benefit of the home?

Parks and Recreation Park Board President Craig Kenworthy, Correct.

Mr. Simms, Okay. Is there qualified...I mean is that something that it seems like the house would be a nice extra feature.

Parks and Recreation Park Board President Craig Kenworthy, It would be.

Mr. Simms, Is it going to be hard to find a candidate that would you know...

Mr. Jessen, Well they'll find out.

Parks and Recreation Park Board President Craig Kenworthy, I guess we are going to find out.

Mr. Simms, Okay

Parks and Recreation Park Board President Craig Kenworthy, I don't know.

Mr. Rivas, What did you increase too?

Ms. Graham, Well like he said, they'll find out.

Mr. Rivas, What did they advertise?

Parks and Recreation Park Board President Craig Kenworthy, What do I think?

Mr. Rivas, What have you advertise the salary for?

Parks and Recreation Park Board President Craig Kenworthy, We have advertised that salary at \$57,400 dollars.

Mr. Rivas, But...

Mr. Simms, Same as what Walter was getting.

Mr. Brickner, Is that comparable to other Park Superintendents for a county our size? What is the going rate for it? I wouldn't know...

Parks and Recreation Park Board President Craig Kenworthy, Quite frankly I don't know. I don't know I to be honest with you.

Mr. Brickner, Is that competitive? I mean...

Parks and Recreation Park Board President Craig Kenworthy, I would say it's close competitively, it was really competitive when we threw a house on it.

Mr. Brickner, Right.

Parks and Recreation Park Board President Craig Kenworthy, I mean you throw a house and utilities on top of that it's a very...that's a \$70,000 to \$75,000 dollar a year job at that point.

Mr. Brickner, I just wondered what other Park Superintendents of counties similar to Porter County is.

Parks and Recreation Park Board President Craig Kenworthy, I haven't done the research sir.

Mr. Rivas, You might want to jump into that a little bit, especially if you don't get the responses you're looking for.

Parks and Recreation Park Board President Craig Kenworthy, Well we might have to do that.

Mr. Rivas, Yeah, so alright...

Parks and Recreation Park Board President Craig Kenworthy, We'll see what happens.

Mr. Rivas, Any other questions?

Parks and Recreation Park Board President Craig Kenworthy, (Inaudible)

Mr. Rivas, No thank you, I know sometimes we ask some questions.

Parks and Recreation Park Board President Craig Kenworthy, Okay, I don't mind.

Mr. Rivas, I appreciate it, I appreciate you coming seriously.

Parks and Recreation Park Board President Craig Kenworthy, Thank you.

Mr. Rivas, Thank you.

Ms. Graham, Thank you.

Mr. Jessen, Thank you Craig.

Coroner – Cyndi Dykes

Coroner Fatality Review Grant Fund - 4930-000-0007

Additional \$200 to 22500 Other Supplies. Reason: Additional needed for 2 Walking Tape measures and 2 Fingerprint kits

Additional \$3,000 to 45400 Other Equipment. Reason: Additional needed for a Single deck cot tray for the 2012 transport van

Mr. Rivas, Coroner. We have Coroner Fatality Review Grant Fund additional \$200 to Other Supplies. Reason: Additional needed for 2 Walking Tape measures and 2 Fingerprint kits. There's also a second additional \$3,000 to Other Equipment. Additional needed for a Single deck cot tray for the 2012 transport van. So we have a couple of additional...

Ms. Graham, Motion to approve.

Mr. Jessen, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Motion and a second for the two additional. Discussion?

Mr. Simms, What's a fingerprint kit?

Coroner Cyndi Dykes, It's a little...it's kind of like a make-up compact with powder except there's ink and then you have paper with it and then you can

Mr. Simms, So you...

Coroner Cyndi Dykes, It's like it's the police station except it's...

Mr. Jessen, A mobile compact.

Coroner Cyndi Dykes, Yes.

Mr. Sims, And this would be for, I would imagine for people you can't identify?

Coroner Cyndi Dykes, Yes, it'll help sometimes and they're not very expensive. And then the walking tape measures, those are primarily used for motor vehicle accidents. Sometimes the crash scene investigators do their investigation and then we do ours. Sometimes we have to measure if the person is thrown from a motorcycle or a vehicle then we have to measure the distance between there and sometimes tape measures aren't quite long enough so these are much easier to have.

Mr. Rivas, Further discussion?

Mr. Jessen, I think if we need a deck cot tray and tape measures and fingerprint kits I think that seems like a pretty reasonable request.

Mr. Rivas, Can we get a roll call on the two additional?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Yes

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 5 – 0

Mr. Rivas, Thank you.

Coroner Cyndi Dykes, Thank you.

Mr. Jessen, Thank you.

Soil & Water Conservation Fund - Administrator/Educator Michelle Benson

Soil & Water Conservation Fund - 4931-000-0750

Additional \$14,550 to 11100 Salaries
\$2,940 to 11200 Hourly
\$1,340 to 12100 FICA
\$1,630 to 12300 PERF

Reason: To supplement salaries with monies received through the various Federal/State agreements for services and establish a meeting stipend for board members.

Form 144 \$0 to \$7,100 District Engineering Technician
\$0 to \$7,450 Program Coordinator
Up to \$35 per meeting (6 Board Members)

Reason: To supplement salaries with monies received through the various Federal/State agreements for services and establish a meeting stipend for board members.

Mr. Rivas, Soil & Water Conservation fund additional \$14,550 to Salaries, \$2,940 to Hourly, \$1,340 to FICA and \$1,630 to PERF. The reason to supplement salaries with monies received through the various Federal/State agreements for services and establish a meeting stipend for board members. Greg Simms what happened here?

Form 144 which would go with this
\$0 to \$7,100 District Engineering Technician
\$0 to \$7,450 Program Coordinator
Up to \$35 per meeting (6 Board Members)

Reason: To supplement salaries with monies received through the various Federal/State agreements for services and establish a meeting stipend for board members.

Mr. Jessen, I'll make the motion on the additional as well as the Form 144.

Ms. Graham, I'll second that.

Mr. Rivas, Motion and a second on the floor.

Ms. Graham, Do you want to tell us about this?

Mr. Rivas, Yes.

Soil & Water Conservation Administrator/Educator Michelle Benson, Sure in 2014 we started having agreements with the Federal government and the State government to take on additional tasks. Prior to that time it was just part of the conservation partnership, we just did the work as part of our daily routine. At that time in 2014 Federal government and the State government came up with funds to pay the district, so for five years every penny that was brought in went into our district bank account. In 2019 our Board Members, this is our chairman Brad Hunter decided that they would like to take some of that money and add it to our salaries because they felt like we were doing all this extra work and we should be compensated for it. This is something that several Soil & Water Conservation Districts do across Indiana. It's not something that we just came up with on our own, they've been doing it for several years and so what we're asking for tonight is to take the monies earned in 2019 and 2020 and then apply them as a supplement to our salaries.

Ms. Graham, And as you told Mike and myself that this is a federal grant.

Soil & Water Conservation Administrator/Educator Michelle Benson, Yes some of the money comes from a federal agreement with the Natural Resources Conservation Service which is a department of the USDA. Another part comes from the Indiana State Department of Agriculture through a Clean Water Indiana Grant. So we're asking for zero from the general fund, this is money we have in our bank account. We're basically asking for your permission to take the money we have in our

bank account and put it over into this newly established fund that we established with the Commissioners earlier this year. So we need your permission to spend the money we have.

Mr. Rivas, So the Form 144 you've got two positions here that equal the amount of salaries and additional but then you say up to \$35 dollars per meeting for six (6) board members?

Soil & Water Conservation Administrator/Educator Michelle Benson, We estimated for the rest of the year and you've been singing the Auditor's offices praises all night and I can't say enough about how they've helped me understand what needs to be done. So I went over and met with Toni and I sent her a lot of emails, we estimated for the entire year and then of course retroactive back to January of 2020. Again because of Covid and all of the delays getting to meetings and things like that, we had hoped to establish this last year, but those delays prevented us from doing that. So we're estimating from let's say January 1, 2020 until December 2021, two years for the per diem.

Mr. Rivas, So maybe I'm missing it, it's quite possible...

Soil & Water Conservation Administrator/Educator Michelle Benson, Ok...

Ms. Graham, You're actually not hiring anyone.

Soil & Water Conservation Administrator/Educator Michelle Benson, Oh gosh no.

Mr. Rivas, No, no but I'm saying to me it looks like you're giving a raise to two people.

Mr. Jessen, That's right.

Mr. Rivas, But then underneath it says up to \$35 per meeting for six board members, but the additional...?

Soil & Water Conservation Administrator/Educator Michelle Benson, That would be for Brad for example.

Mr. Rivas, But the additional only adds up to two raises for two people but you're saying six board members like you're giving also additional stipends out, is that coming out of another fund or something?

Mr. Jessen, Is that the \$2,940 dollars for hourly, is the stipend Michelle?

Soil & Water Conservation Administrator/Educator Michelle Benson, Correct, yes that's the amount for the stipend.

Mr. Jessen, That's \$35 dollars times six board members from the beginning of 2020?

Soil & Water Conservation Administrator/Educator Michelle Benson, Correct, yes because we have to have kind of a catch up there. We changed one board member so he would get compensated for one year and then our new board member from March and through December. So it's \$35 dollars basically a meeting, that's what it comes down to.

Mr. Rivas, Gotcha.

Mr. Jessen, What might be helpful Michelle too, is to know the federal government's giving you the money that's allowing for these increases and that's because you and Jared are doing work on their behalf.

Soil & Water Conservation Administrator/Educator Michelle Benson, Yes.

Mr. Jessen, That if it wasn't for you folks they'd have to do it and they don't want to do it.

Soil & Water Conservation Administrator/Educator Michelle Benson, Exactly, they don't want to hire anybody else.

Mr. Jessen, You do it and we'll give you extra money.

Soil & Water Conservation Administrator/Educator Michelle Benson, Correct.

Mr. Jessen, And therefore should be compensated fairly for it.

Soil & Water Conservation Administrator/Educator Michelle Benson, And we're qualified to do it, there's a lot of hoops to jump through in order to for example handle the contracts for the federal government, you can't just hand them to anybody. You know we're fingerprinted and everything else, we have a login card and there's a lot to go through, so they can't just hire somebody off the street to come in and do it.

Mr. Jessen, And I appreciate that Brad...the board recognizing the work that the team does because it is important and to reward that I think is important.

Soil & Water Conservation Administrator/Educator Michelle Benson, We're really very fortunate to have such terrific support and Brad as Chairman has done an awesome job. And as a farmer, you couldn't ask for anybody that's more conservation minded.

Ms. Graham, Exactly.

Soil & Water Conservation Administrator/Educator Michelle Benson, He walks the walk as they say.

Mr. Rivas, Any further discussion? Alright was there a motion on both the additional and the form 144?

Mr. Jessen, Yep.

Mr. Rivas, Can we get a roll call on both additional and the Form 144?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Yes

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 5 - 0

Soil & Water Conservation Administrator/Educator Michelle Benson, Thank you very much.

Mr. Jessen, You both have a good night

Soil & Water Conservation Chairman Brad Hunter, Take care.

Mr. Rivas, Alright that it we're done.

Ms. Graham, What about Vicki?

Auditor – Vicki Urbanik

Auditor General Fund - 1000-000-0002

Transfer \$2,000 from 11100 Salaries to 11200 Hourly. Reason: To continue to utilize part-time help with money saved from unfilled salaried position

Transfer \$6,000 from 11100 Salaries to 39500 Contractual Services. Reason: To cover the cost of the annually required indirect Cost Allocation Plan for IV-D with Federal reimbursement to the General Fund

Mr. Rivas, Vicki come on up here, you've got to sit in the seat up here.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Ok I'll be right here.

Mr. Rivas, Toni's got to call the roll, oh they're transfers she doesn't have to do a roll call.

Auditor Chief Deputy Toni Downing, I need to of practice.

Mr. Rivas, You've got to practice? Well you have to take the sheet home (laughter) who knows you might need it one day.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Basically what this is that ever since last year we've had a vacant full-time position and this year we...

Mr. Rivas, There's not even a motion on the floor yet.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, I'm sorry.

Ms. Graham, Oh..

Mr. Rivas, Sorry go ahead.

Mr. Simms, You couldn't fill it?

Mr. Rivas, So there's a transfer in front of you \$2,000 from Salaries to Hourly. To continue to utilize part-time help with money saved from unfilled salaried position. There's also a transfer \$6,000 from Salaries to Contractual Services. To cover the cost of the annually required indirect Cost Allocation Plan for IV-D with Federal reimbursement to the General Fund

Ms. Graham, I'll make that motion.

Mr. Jessen, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Motion and a second, discussion? Vicki could you continue on?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Okay so the first one deals with the fact that we want to transfer from a vacant full-time position into hourly. I came before you earlier this year with the same request and I thought that transfer would be enough to get us through, but we have continued with this hourly person and I think that this will be the last of it. We were one of the departments that hired one of those furloughed individuals from the Memorial Opera House and so she has been helping us out on an hourly basis and so it's saving on the salary amount and by saving on the salary amount we also want to transfer to pay for the Dossett indirect cost program. I was looking at using a different fund for this particular grant...I mean this particular contract. But that didn't turn out to be feasible, so it needs to come from the General fund and it makes sense to use it to take it out of the General fund because that's what gets reimbursed through the Federal Government for two-thirds of this cost through the indirect costing program.

Mr. Rivas, Discussion?

Mr. Simms, So did your person then go back to the Memorial Opera House now that it's up and running again?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Not yet she's only part-time at the Memorial Opera House anyway, but she hasn't gone back quite yet. We are about to begin a big project and it's my hope that she'll stay on with us to help us with that big project and then after that ...

Mr. Simms, But you...so you still need another full-time person right?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, We absolutely do.

Mr. Simms, What...how come, what's going on that they can't fill it? Do people just not want jobs or...?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, No, I respected your policy last year not to fill vacancies.

Mr. Simms, But that was lifted.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, And it has now been lifted.

Mr. Simms, Okay.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, So we were going to but as long as I have the hourly, someone who's already been trained...

Mr. Simms, Then why?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, And we're about to begin this big project that we're under a real tight timetable to get it done and I might as well keep using someone who's familiar.

Mr. Simms, Oh I'm just...I've got no problem with that. I'm just like...

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Absolutely, I'm going to be advertising this position.

Mr. Simms, I'm just think it would be sad if we can't find people to fill a job that's all.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, No we definitely need to fill this.

Mr. Simms, Because we hear that for the jail and all the other stuff, it's like...

Ms. Graham, You're probably waiting till budget time.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, No.

Mr. Simms, Okay.

Ms. Graham, Oh you are going to hire them right away?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, We're going to be advertising this position.

Ms. Graham, Oh great.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, I mean it's a vacant position, we're just saving money right now by not paying it out.

Ms. Graham, Thank you, but we like it.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, I love saving the taxpayers money and helping your budget situation.

Ms. Graham, You do.

Mr. Rivas, There is a motion and a second on the floor, any further discussion. All in favor signify by saying Aye? Opposed same sign? You are the best Vicki.

Motion carries on a unanimous voice vote.

Second Reading

Mr. Rivas, Second reading.

Mr. Simms, You don't want to have Toni roll call (inaudible)?

Mr. Rivas, No it's a transfer so we're good.

Auditor Chief Deputy Toni Downing, (Inaudible)

Mr. Rivas, So do you want to do something? Say it let's talk.

Auditor Chief Deputy Toni Downing, (Inaudible)

Mr. Rivas, What's on your mind?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Toni just reminded me of something, one of our full-time...you know what let's just wait...because we're going to wait, hold on this should take us through for a little bit.

Auditor Chief Deputy Toni Downing, Yes.

Mr. Rivas, Okay.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, I may be back for more hourly. We'll cross that bridge when we come to it.

Okay, 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

Sheriff General Fund	1000-11300-000-0005	Overtime	\$	93,178.80
County Court Fund	1000-13500-000-0226	Juror Expenses	\$	45,000.00
Jail General Fund	1000-11300-000-0380	Overtime	\$	<u>20,472.40</u>
			\$	158,651.20

Accident Report Fund

Accident Report Fund	1101-45400-000-0005	Other Equipment	\$	6,700.00
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Cumulative Bridge Fund

Cumulative Bridge Fund	1135-22500-000-0079	Other Supplies	\$	1,500.00
Cumulative Bridge Fund	1135-37100-000-0079	Equipment Rental	\$	<u>10,000.00</u>
			\$	11,500.00

Parks Operating Fund

Parks Operating Fund	1179-45400-000-0803	Other Equipment	\$	3,793.00
Parks Operating Fund	1179-61000-000-0803	Interfund Transfer	\$	<u>16,441.72</u>
			\$	20,234.72

Plan Commission Fund

Plan Commission Fund	1180-22500-000-0079	Other Supplies	\$	500.00
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Storm Water Fund

Storm Water Fund	1182-31100-000-0079	Legal	\$	10,800.00
Storm Water Fund	1182-33200-000-0079	Legal Notices	\$	1,000.00
Storm Water Fund	1182-37100-000-0079	Equipment Rental	\$	<u>2,000.00</u>
			\$	13,800.00

Hospital Liability Fund

Hospital Liability Fund	4901-61000-000-0068	Interfund Transfer	\$	710,563.83
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Hospital Interest Fund

Hospital Interest Fund	4902-12200-000-0068	Medical/Life Insurance	\$	710,563.83
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Foundation Holding Account Fund

Foundation Holding Account	4921-61000-000-0000	Interfund Transfer	\$	3,000,000.00
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Foundation Budget Fund

Foundation Budget Fund	4922-39500-000-0000	Contractual	\$	3,000,000.00
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Coroner Fatality Review Fund

Coroner Fatality Review	4930-22500-000-0007	Other Supplies	\$	200.00
Coroner Fatality Review	4930-45400-000-0007	Other Equipment	\$	<u>3,000.00</u>
			\$	3,200.00

Soil & Water Conservation Fund

Soil & Water Conservation	4931-11100-000-0750	Salaries	\$	14,550.00
Soil & Water Conservation	4931-11200-000-0750	Hourly	\$	2,940.00
Soil & Water Conservation	4931-12100-000-0750	FICA	\$	1,340.00
Soil & Water Conservation	4931-12300-000-0750	PERF	\$	<u>1,630.00</u>
			\$	20,460.00

And that conclude second reading.

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

Ms. Graham, Motion to approve second reading.

Mr. Rivas, Motion

Mr. Jessen, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Second. Roll Call?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Yes

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, 5 – 0

Mr. Rivas, Thank you.

Attorney's Report

Mr. Rivas, Attorney's report.

Council Attorney Harold Harper, I have nothing substantive really to report tonight except that there was an executive that we had scheduled yesterday, some wires go crossed. We do need to get that scheduled here within the next month or so. So if everyone just kind of keep an eye out for an email from either Scott or me with the proposed set of dates so that we can make sure that we get that on the calendar.

Mr. Rivas, That's all?

Council Attorney Harold Harper, Yes

Mr. Rivas, Thank you Harold.

Any other matter that may come properly before the Council

- **Northwest - Porter Hospital** – Tax Abatement - Form CF-1 for Real and Personal Property
 - Ms. Ashley Dickinson - CEO
 - Ms. Sarah Keene - Assistant CFO

Mr. Rivas, Alright we still have a few more items, we're going to skip over to Northwest Porter Hospital tax abatement annual CF-1 form that was turned in for Real and Personal Property. There are a couple of people from Northwest here?

Northwest CEO Ashley Dickinson, (Inaudible)

Mr. Rivas, You were like oh no I just sat through all of that...

Northwest CEO Ashley Dickinson, All of that!

Mr. Rivas, No way.

Mr. Jessen, You're saying we're not leaving until were heard.

Northwest CEO Ashley Dickinson, I'm Ashley, I'm the CEO of Northwest Health and this is Sarah Keene our Assistant CFO. I think before you we submitted the compliance with statement of benefits from the abatement that was approved I think in 2009 or 2010. And so as you can see we committed to 1500 number of employees for the last year that we are reporting 1743 FTEE (Full-Time Equivalent Employee). We actually have over 2100 from a head count perspective employees at Porter. You can see on the document in front of you the salaries and wages and then also the additional employees that we committed to was 126 at the time. As of right now we have over 240 or we have 243 additional employees and there's appropriate salaries based off of that. So I am happy to answer any questions regarding the abatement and the compliance of the statement of benefits that you have.

Mr. Rivas, Yes, I think it's fairly simple straightforward, looks like you continue to be in compliance. What do we have left Vicki?

Ms. Graham, What year is this up?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Okay 2022 will be the last.

Mr. Rivas, So one more?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Yes.

Mr. Rivas, So one more year on the abatement, okay and there's been no problem since you guys have been coming up here. I know you're new and welcome.

Northwest CEO Ashley Dickinson, I'm new...I'm back.

Mr. Rivas, Your back?

Northwest CEO Ashley Dickinson, So I was the COO before and so...

Ms. Graham, You were the CFO?

Northwest CEO Ashley Dickinson, I was the COO Chief Operating Officer...

Ms. Graham, Okay.

Northwest CEO Ashley Dickinson, until about 2017. I went next door to LaPorte and Stark Counties and then came back a couple of months ago.

Mr. Jessen, All through Northwest Health Organization?

Northwest CEO Ashley Dickinson, Yes.

Mr. Rivas, Okay, does anybody have any questions? Harold let me just maybe make a motion to pass?

Council Attorney Harold Harper, I think it would fine, but I don't think it's necessary to vote on it but I don't think it would hurt either. So it's probably not a bad idea.

Mr. Jessen, Just to make it official.

Mr. Rivas, Making a motion to recognize their compliance. If somebody want to make a motion to recognize their compliance of the CF-1 forms.

Ms. Graham, I'll make that motion.

Mr. Rivas, Motion.

Mr. Jessen, Second

Mr. Rivas, Second. All in favor of Northwest/Porter Hospital being in compliance signify by saying Aye? Opposed same sign?

Motion carries on a unanimous voice vote.

Northwest CEO Ashley Dickinson, Thank you.

Mr. Rivas, Thank you, did you guys enjoy the meeting? I know you had to wait.

(Laughter)

Northwest CEO Ashley Dickinson, (Inaudible)

Mr. Jessen, I'm sure they'll be back for the next one.

Ms. Graham, Isn't this exciting

Mr. Jessen, Take care.

Mr. Rivas, Thank you. We good? Are you guys good? Okay.

- **Planning Commission – Director Bob Thompson**

- Code Enforcement, Unsafe Building & Property Maintenance Report

Mr. Rivas, I know Mike had asked Bob about maybe briefly going over code enforcement, unsafe building and property maintenance report. So it's 7:00 p.m. I think the college world series game is on right now so...

Planning Commission Director Bob Thompson, I will be as brief as you want me to be.

(Laughter)

Mr. Jessen, Not to speak in behalf of the board, but I'm guessing that most people aren't at all familiar with what the process is, so I think a good overview would be beneficial and to let everybody know how the county is handling these blighted or unsafe properties would be helpful for us all.

Mr. Rivas, I have no problem with us having people in front of us explaining things.

Planning Commission Director Bob Thompson, Alright maybe I will try to briefly explain things on this.

Mr. Rivas, Hold on Sylvia?

Ms. Graham, No go ahead.

Mr. Rivas, Are we good? Okay be my guest Bob.

Planning Commission Director Bob Thompson, What I handed you is our ordinance that deals with unsafe buildings and I also handed to you our ordinance, it's the property maintenance ordinance on that.

Unsafe building, as you would see on that particular ordinance it refers to IC Code 36-7-9 that is a thirty (30) page document that just I gave you, it's at the back of that. Basically that four to five page ordinance that we have does nothing but reference the State Code. So that is exactly what we have to follow if we want to do unsafe building in that. So I just want to go over a few things. We do have one person that covers the entire unincorporated area of the county for code enforcement on that. We are complaint driven and one of the things I know there was a question on this, we do insist on names when the complaint comes in and the reason is if we ever have to go in front of a court of law and we may need additional testimony. So we need that person there, so that's why we do ask for it. It's not something we disclose readily, saying so and so complained. No it's something we do not do.

Mr. Simms, Do you have people that call in and don't give their name and then it just...

Planning Commission Director Bob Thompson, We do and I guess I'm going to tell you that we don't really put it on a high priority list. If we're in the area we'll go look at it and we'll start investigating it, but we do really press to get the name of the people that do complain and here again it is kept...I mean if somebody came in and asked to see the file, we're not going to give them that name. We're going to insist that they take us to court if they want to really know who it is.

Mr. Jessen, Bob, is it purely complaint driven?

Planning Commission Director Bob Thompson, Yes.

Mr. Jessen, So if there's no complaint, no matter what...

Planning Commission Director Bob Thompson, Well I the complaint could come from me, I'll give you an example, we did have one house, I was out riding my bike I stopped on it to get a drink of water and I turned around and looked and it's

like wow...so I just went back to the office and said check this out. So I mean is that progressive? Yeah we are in certain situations, but for the most part I'm going to tell you probably 80% percent is going to be complaint driven.

Mr. Simms, Do you have other departments like Highway Department or someone driving down do that too?

Planning Commission Director Bob Thompson, Oh yeah the Highway Department's giving us a list.

Mr. Simms, Okay. So they all know if they see something...

Planning Commission Director Bob Thompson, Right.

Mr. Simms, They have the ability to tell you guys?

Planning Commission Director Bob Thompson, Yes the Health Department has called us and contacted us about certain things. The Animal Shelter has contacted us about certain things so I mean yeah.

Mr. Jessen, The Sheriff's Department could for that matter?

Planning Commission Director Bob Thompson, For that matter yes. Councilman I'm going to tell you we use the Sheriff's Department too. Because if there is an unlicensed unplatd vehicle sitting in somebody's driveway and everything like that it's real easy for the Sheriff's Department to take care of that versus us. So we will ask, I mean if the Sheriff's Department is willing to cooperate and everything like that we do use that.

Mr. Jessen, So that's how the complaints are...that's how they come up. How many can you say...you mentioned on your ride you saw wow, how many wows properties do we have out there? Is there a list of some sort?

Planning Commission Director Bob Thompson, I'd say buildings we're starting to get down pretty good amount...a fair amount. Now I want to go back and give you a little history, the unsafe building ordinance was signed in 2005. In 2006 we were given money and it was out of CEDIT at the time, they gave us about...I think it was around the number of \$50,000 dollars a year as far as the project line item. We gave that and I think it was around 2010 they took that away, so we had no funding. So we did everything we could bluff and everything saying we're going to come at you and take care of this and you know we're going to take you to court and everything. Well we had no funding. The Plan Commission fund could not handle attorney fees or any kind of fee to be able to do that. I mean we were very tight at that time, we were coming out of a recession.

There was one time with the Planning Commission we were living paycheck to paycheck, basically just hoping we can make it through, I was about ready to lay off people because of the recession. So I mean the Plan Commission budget can't handle that and everything so...

Mr. Jessen, Has the funding changed since then?

Planning Commission Director Bob Thompson, We have created the Unsafe Building fund and with the permits and everything like that a certain amount of permit fees that we get for a single family home or an accessory structure does go into the Unsafe Building fund on that. So we are building that fund up Toni's got it up right there (see below).

Financial Report by Fund								Porter County
Date Span: 01/01/2021 thru 11/30/2021								
Note: Report will include transactions after the last posted date of 05/31/2021.								
Fund	Beginning Balance	Date Span Receipts	Date Span Expenditure	Date Span Transfer In	Date Span Transfer Out	Ending Balance	YTD Receipts	YTD Expenditure
1207 Unsafe Building	174,527.60	51,736.16	21,009.36	0.00	0.00	205,254.40	226,263.76	21,009.36
Grand Totals	174,527.60	51,736.16	21,009.36	0.00	0.00	205,254.40	226,263.76	21,009.36

Planning Commission Director Bob Thompson, So I mean as you can see we have a fair...

Mr. Jessen, It looks pretty healthy.

Planning Commission Director Bob Thompson, Yes we do have a pretty healthy amount. Now with that and I'll go through the process if you want to know. We receive a complaint we go investigate it by the code officer. The code officer also could do some research to see who owns the property before they go out there or look at the tax records and everything like that on that. He goes out, use the structure, does the structure meet the definitions that's within here. Now if the roof isn't collapsed and stuff and it's a few broken out windows and broken out doors the person can go up and nail up some plywood there, keep it shuttered up and sealed off and all of the sudden you need to stay to code. It's a little bit different if it's the roof is collapsed in or our walls collapsed in, now it's a hazard and everything. Now we can order it to be torn down and all of this we can go through the hearing officer. We can also go through the hearing officer to ask for it to be sealed up on that. Now we do try to work with the people as much as possible on this. Usually when, I hate saying this but I am, usually when you're doing them with unsafe structure and also especially with property maintenance I would say a lot of the people can't afford to clean it up. Okay, they really can't so how do we go about doing that? So in this situation we will...it's all handled through our attorney's office, everything like that there's notice given out, we've developed a rapport that goes to the attorney on this and we give them everything, they'll review it, they'll start lining up meeting the hearing officer, notice will go out on that, we set a hearing meeting, they come in and they talk about it. Generally the hearing officer is probably going to give them some time to do this and give them the opportunity to that themselves. Okay, if they don't within this timeline get to it then we'll schedule a second hearing and that's when it's usually ordered that we're going to come in and tear it down. Now another thing with the state law, we can do it with our own forces if it doesn't cost more than \$10,000 dollars to tear it down. So far what's helped that fund and everything build up and everything like that is Rich Sexton that the highway has agreed to do a number of these and everything like that and we can get it done for under \$10,000 dollars.

Mr. Simms, No kidding.

Planning Commission Director Bob Thompson, The property maintenance one is the that's really going to scare me now we're doing that is under the hearing officer now as an unsafe premises, because we can get that moving along quicker prior with property maintenance, if there was a lot of junk on the property we would have to go in front of the courts. We were dealing in front of the courts, I can make cases two...better than two years, because the court will hear it, I mean it's trying to get it scheduled into the court and they would set the hearing, the judge would almost definitely say how long you need. I mean the first thing they're going to look at is to make sure we didn't...we didn't...we gave them ample amount of time, we didn't violate like any of their rights and everything like that. And then they're going to ask them how much time do you need? Sixty (60) days that's pretty common or ninety (90) days. They'll say okay boom, here's your order go and clean it up. They didn't do it, we have to go back re-file everything through the clerk, go back through the courts and set another hearing, so I mean it just takes a lot of time everything like that.

Mr. Simms, This might be a silly question, but when someone's got a property you got to clean it up?

Planning Commission Director Bob Thompson, Right.

Mr. Simms, What exactly...I mean let's say I've got tons of stuff everywhere but I move a couple of things...do you know what I mean?

Planning Commission Director Bob Thompson, Yeah, we will try to work with the person as much as possible because we don't want...number one we don't want to go in front of the courts. If we do it's because number one our personal opinion

and everything through the people we all work with is a Judge doesn't want to deal with this. Okay they've got a lot of other things to deal with other than...

Mr. Simms, Perhaps more important kind of thing?

Planning Commission Director Bob Thompson, Yeah

Mr. Simms, Gotcha.

Planning Commission Director Bob Thompson, So hence why we're trying to and Scott McClure our attorney for this has moved these in front of the hearing officer now to help expedite these. They can still appeal over the courts.

Mr. Simms, Okay.

Planning Commission Director Bob Thompson, If it does then it will drag on, but we've moved in front of these hearing officers for this and everything like that but I mean we really do try to work with these people, but it get to the point where it's just like, okay you're not moving fast enough that's like we're done and that's something I guess probably we could be maybe a little bit better at. And drawing that line a little bit quicker before we go. I mean to be honest with you, yes I mean here again the property is one going to be the one that scares me the most as far as if the order has been given to clean it up and we're going to clean it up. Because some of those properties, it's going to cost more than \$10,000 dollars to clean them up.

Mr. Simms, No kidding.

Planning Commission Director Bob Thompson, Which means to be able to do that we're gonna to have to write up bid specifications, go out and request sealed bids to be issued into the Commissioners and opened up at the Commissioner meeting and then select a contractor to be able to clean the property up. We've had some properties come in at over \$50,000 dollars.

Mr. Simms, How come we can use our own people to tear down a house but we can't use our own people to clean up?

Planning Commission Director Bob Thompson, It's a lot cheaper to tear down because the only thing we really get charged for is dumpster costs to put it away.

Mr. Simms, But wouldn't that be dumpster costs too to clean a rental?

Planning Commission Director Bob Thompson, Yes but you can pack a house into a couple of dumpsters pretty quick compared to some of these junk yards.

Mr. Simms, Gosh, there's that much out there. That much junk and stuff huh? Wow.

Planning Commission Director Bob Thompson, Let me take you out on a drive someday.

Mr. Simms, I'm going to hold you to that. I'm having a hard time understanding that.

Mr. Jessen, And I think that's really the point is to say as we look at these properties what can be done or what if anything have we done? And Bob you bring up a good point, let's say hypothetically there's a property that has boats and cars and campers and garbage dumped in a yard. You know one tool that you have in the toolbox is the sheriff, you said if it's unplated whatever the sheriff would come up with. What have we done with those types of things?

Planning Commission Director Bob Thompson, Yes, I mean when we were looking at South Haven and trying to do the work with Stormwater and South Haven the Commissioners asked us to really hit up South Haven hard. So we did talk to

the Sheriff and they helped us out up there on that with the vehicles that were specially unplatd and unlicensed and driveways.

Mr. Jessen, Because there's things you can do to hopefully put some pressure on the homeowner to at least take some sort of action preferably to clean up their own mess.

Planning Commission Director Bob Thompson, Yes and in some areas with the overgrowth of the yard and the vegetation and everything like that the Township Trustee in a few places have been, um...it's really been helpful I'll point out Jeremy's wife when she was working with the Township Trustee she was...Nina was great. Joey would go around and give a list of everything and they'd you know, tag it and boom done. Here again they had the funds available to be able to do the vegetation. We are starting to look at the vegetation in a few situations we did it with our maintenance and reimbursed them.

Auditor Chief Deputy Toni Downing, There's actually special legislation for Townships or other Municipalities to remove weeds and things like that from properties.

Planning Commission Director Bob Thompson, Right.

Auditor Chief Deputy Toni Downing, They don't have to go to court they can as long as they've got a local Resolution or Ordinance they can actually put it right on the property taxes. They don't have to file a lien...

Mr. Simms, No kidding.

Auditor Chief Deputy Toni Downing, On the (inaudible)

Planning Commission Director Bob Thompson, Yeah you don't have to.

Auditor Chief Deputy Toni Downing, You have to file a lien for sewer but not for the weeds.

Planning Commission Director Bob Thompson, Exactly.

Mr. Simms, Wow.

Planning Commission Director Bob Thompson, It is for vegetation. Toni is absolutely correct and hence those Township Trustees that are willing to work with us on that, great we use them. Portage has been great to work with on that so other situations...

Mr. Simms, Not so much.

Planning Commission Director Bob Thompson, No we have to go through a hearing officer so it takes time.

Mr. Jessen, Now who's the hearing officer?

Planning Commission Director Bob Thompson, A local attorney here (inaudible) he's right down here in Valparaiso.

Mr. Jessen, How many properties have we brought before him lately? I mean is it a lengthy list or?

Planning Commission Director Bob Thompson, Wow, one time I think we had a hearing that Andrew probably went through eight if not ten parcels?

Mr. Simms, Was that a lot?

Planning Commission Director Bob Thompson, I didn't get those numbers but I can probably get you something.

Mr. Jessen, I'd be curious to know what the outcome was? Do they end up taking care of their problem or do we have to step in and take care of the problems?

Planning Commission Director Bob Thompson, Some have been great and they have a great you know yeah okay we know we gotta do it and they've taken it down. There are those who made the agreement that oh okay, can you take it down and we'll pay you and reimburse you. You have that agreement on that and we've also had it where we've taken it down and we've had to put a lean on the taxes.

Mr. Brickner, How long have we had one Code Enforcement Officer for the entire county.

Planning Commission Director Bob Thompson, As long as I have been there.

Mr. Brickner, Listening...

Planning Commission Director Bob Thompson, Well I should go back and when I originally started up at the Plan Commission in about 1997.

Mr. Brickner, Is it time to...

Planning Commission Director Bob Thompson, I was both the Director of the Planning Commission and Code Enforcement Officer.

Mr. Brickner, You did both.

Planning Commission Director Bob Thompson, Yes.

Mr. Brickner, So is it...is it something that we should look at or consider that you should be doing? Do we need Porter County, are we at a point where because I know the city of Valpo has one Code Enforcement Officer for the city and we have one for the entire county and uh, except I guess what I would say is that I think you know not to speak...just personally to be as aggressive as we can with some of these properties which would be the goal. I think the aesthetics of our county is uh...it's a quality of life issue.

Planning Commission Director Bob Thompson, Sure.

Mr. Brickner, And anything that you know would help with this process, it seems like it's you know it could be lengthy, you know there's a lot of things going on, a lot of moving parts with a process but whatever we could do to assist. Because I think that again, I think that you know that getting people to take care of their properties and you mentioned some people that you know are financially challenged to be able to do that but you know what we might be able to do as a Council to help if that were a need in their opinion. Maybe do we need to look at possibly a second person to help with our one officer...maybe not.

Planning Commission Director Bob Thompson, I think it's a great idea, because one of the things we've also talked about is to have code enforcement also look at the all aspects of everything within our department, which includes engineering and there's a number of items with that that's going along. Mike Novotney and I talked about that and kicked that around and everything like that and help him out with investigations into soil erosion measures up and everything like that. We have an MS4 person but she does a little bit of that but it would also be nice to have a code enforcement officer going around doing that and being proactive on that. So I mean we have talked about it but it's all trying to figure out on that and right now our code enforcement officer comes out of the Plan Commission fund and I am just concerned as adding another salary into that Plan Commission fund it's so economy based. I just can't afford it really.

Mr. Jessen, Yeah, you know from my perspective and I'll speak for myself here you know I think we've all seen too many of these properties that are completely either unsafe or blighted or kind of you said wow...wow houses and I think to take a current...a more current look at it. I mean the ordinance, the unsafe building ordinance was 2005 maybe to refresh that or maybe there's thing that we could or

should put in there to give you more teeth to what you want to accomplish the property maintenance. It looks like it was last revised in 2012, that was a long time ago, maybe that could or should be updated to kind of reflect today's environment. But I think as we look around the county there's plenty of those properties where there ought to be a list, there ought to be absolute attention and focus and if we need to change the ordinance or the code. If we need to fund it in a different way. If we need to not make it so much complaint based but be much more proactive in our approach to identify these homes. I know personally if I lived next door to some of these homes that are blighted as they are and I think if any of us did we'd probably have a different attitude or approach to the enforcement of it. And so I think, I think that we should address that and figure out a way to get them...I remember we celebrated which was a victory at the time South Haven, we had a house...

Planning Commission Director Bob Thompson, Burned out house.

Mr. Jessen, Burned down house that had literally a big tree going through it.

Planning Commission Director Bob Thompson, Right.

Mr. Jessen, And it was not quite an act of congress to get it torn down but it was a big step.

Planning Commission Director Bob Thompson, That one fell into the period when we had no funding and I couldn't use Plan Commission funding to tear it down, we just didn't have the money in it. Then finally when we got the Unsafe Building Fund going and everything like that, it's like oh we got money we can go do this. The problem with that one is we couldn't find that person, so we're trying to go through state law and trying to figure out exactly how we do it. We tried to do certified mail by basically what was in the Auditor's files and everything like that with the (inaudible) of the plat maps and everything like that. Everything returned, we tried to locate this person, so what do we end up having to do, we had to go out to the property, actually nail up a notice saying we're tearing it down. Yeah, you're a hearing officer and that has to be out there so many days and you have to go through so many steps and everything like that and finally Scott, everything said do it. I mean...

Mr. Jessen, So imagine living next door to that.

Mr. Simms, Yeah.

Mr. Jessen, Or across the street from it, it just brings down the entire property value of the neighborhood and the quality of life for the folks.

Mr. Rivas, I have, all the neighbors go over there and cut it. I think that's why Nina got so involved with it. I have lived next to an abandoned house, we have gone over there and had neighbors cut the grass it's not a good thing. But I think Scott, I think the Commissioners have been proactive with you guys when they went hearing officer I think that was something they picked up from other counties. That there is a better process except the court system.

Planning Commission Director Bob Thompson, Yeah, when we originally started and we had the funding from the seat of the project file our original hearing was retired Judge Tom Weber, so he did it and then we just...the funding ran out and we just had this.

Mr. Jessen, Our role is to help fund it and I can tell you from my perspective I'm prepared to do that. I think what might be helpful Bob, I assume there is a list of properties that are questionable or that are on the radar?

Planning Commission Director Bob Thompson, Yes

Mr. Jessen, Can we...can you send that to the Council Members?

Planning Commission Director Bob Thompson, Sure.

Mr. Jessen, Have an idea of what we're looking at and what we're focused on?

Planning Commission Director Bob Thompson, Yeah.

Mr. Rivas, Probably something not to share out.

Planning Commission Director Bob Thompson, Yeah

Mr. Jessen, That makes sense.

Planning Commission Director Bob Thompson, One thing I would ask that if it doesn't get shared. I'll...

Mr. Simms, It's confidential.

Planning Commission Director Bob Thompson, I'll compile up a list.

Mr. Jessen, Yeah for our for our benefit only.

Planning Commission Director Bob Thompson, Yeah.

Mr. Rivas, And I'm sure like you said you and Mike are looking at possibly...I mean to me it's not something I would say let's jump and spend more money out of the General Fund as you heard today we probably have to figure out how to pay for four new security guards out of there. So as you know you found how to fund this through permits. So if that's something you guys seriously think you need you know further, then I'm sure there's, there's creative ways to come up with how to pay for it right?

Planning Commission Director Bob Thompson, Yeah and that's one of the things I was thinking about is maybe I could sit down with Scott and we can come up with a creative way. I don't know if it can be for next year's budget. Uh well see what we can do.

Mr. Rivas, Perfect. I do appreciate you know Mike asked us because you know there's been a property...well a couple of properties that we've been kind of pulled in on and so it makes sense taking the time to come and explain a few things to us, I appreciate you doing that.

Mr. Jessen, Can you generally explain where we're at with the one particular property we talked about?

Mr. Rivas, I know there was a hearing that...wasn't there a hearing recently right?

Planning Commission Director Bob Thompson, Okay, I don't want to name names.

Mr. Jessen, No, no names.

Planning Commission Director Bob Thompson, What I'm going to tell you what happens in bankruptcy and the way that was explained to me it's basically a steel wall drops a lot of parcel there is nothing we're going to be able to do. So we're in a waiting game. We are in an absolute waiting game so they get through bankruptcy in court and everything is done. There's not a thing we can do, we can't go in front of the hearing officer and do a hearing. We found that out when the person came in and told Scott.

Mr. Jessen, And if that's the case...

Council Attorney Harold Harper, There's a bankruptcy stay that's issued by the Bankruptcy Court Judge and it's almost absolute, it's not but it's damn close.

Mr. Jessen, And if that's the case then we can say that we're doing everything we can to help that property owner and that's all you can do.

Planning Commission Director Bob Thompson, I'll give an example on another one so I don't know, we have an unsafe building out there we approached the people and everything, we talked to them and they sat there and said yeah we know we need to get it down and everything like that. It's like get us a schedule, so they're getting us a schedule and everything we'll work with them on that and then all of a sudden we see that they came up and say we've hired a contractor to do it.

Mr. Simms, Oh

Planning Commission Director Bob Thompson, Okay show us the contract and so it's like alright come in and get your demolition permit and you know you've got time then to do it. Now the demolition permit is good for a year and you try to push it on sooner but I was just say we're probably (inaudible).

Mr. Jessen, Okay

Mr. Rivas, Anything else for Bob?

Mr. Simms, Are any of these building where...do they live in these building too? Or are these... I mean then what do you do?

Planning Commission Director Bob Thompson, Um...pray that they are not in it. Basically it comes down to that because I mean it really comes down to being so unsafe that they shouldn't be living in it. Number one we probably will call in the Health Department to help us with that determination and also with our determination. There it's going to get messy because then we're going to have to file evictions.

Mr. Simms, Evictions out of their own property, yeah that's got to be crazy. I hope it doesn't happen that often at all, like very rare?

Planning Commission Director Bob Thompson, Um...your close.

Mr. Simms, Wow, wow...wow that's wow.

Mr. Rivas, Thank you.

Mr. Jessen, Thanks Bob.

Ms. Graham, Thank you.

Mr. Rivas, Anything else that may properly come before the Council?

Mr. Simms, Bob I'm going to take you up on that ride along. Or are you joking

Planning Commission Director Bob Thompson, No

Meeting Adjourned

Mr. Rivas, I'll entertain a motion to go home?

Ms. Graham, Motion to adjourn.

Mr. Rivas, There's a 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