

**ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 2005
8:30 AM**

The Allen County Council met on Thursday, January 20, 2005 at 8:30 am in the County Council Chambers/Commissioners Courtroom. The purpose of the meeting was for additional appropriations and transfer of funds in excess of the budget of the current year, Grant approval and any other business to come before County Council.

Attending: Darren E. Vogt, President; Paula S. Hughes, Vice President; Michael W. Cunegin II, Calvert S. Miller, Paul G. Moss, Roy A. Buskirk and Paulette L. Kite.

Also attending: Lisa Blosser, Auditor; Tera Klutz, Chief Deputy Auditor; Jackie Scheuman, Financial Manager; Susan Whetstone, Administrative Assistant; Lin Wilson, Grant Administrator; Linda K. Bloom, Commissioner and Bill Fishing, County Attorney.

President Darren E. Vogt called the meeting to order at 8:30 am with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 16, 2004 AND JANUARY 6, 2005.

Cal Miller made a motion to approve the December 16, 2004 and the January 6, 2005 minutes as printed. Mike Cunegin seconded it. Motion passed 7-0.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Lisa Blosser, Auditor: I am very happy with this report; I have been sitting here for 2 years and in the past we have always talked about cuts and now we are finally moving forward with this. In the County General Fund we are looking at total cash and estimated revenues of \$84.1 million we have a total budgeted appropriation of we have a total budgeted appropriation of \$76.6 million. The amount left for appropriation is \$7,558.005; before you today for your consideration are requests totaling \$45,221.

The \$7,558,005 that we have left for appropriation is due to a roll-over of unspent money from 2004 of \$3,000,000. We have \$1.5 million left from our short fall allowance from Reassessment; we had \$3,000,000 from miscellaneous revenue and part of it was from interest income that was up

130%; Bob Lee did a great job of moving our money around and getting really good interest rates for us. Riverboat wagering was \$570,000 and our payments from the Public Defender were late getting to us so they are included in our 2005 budget projections. That amount was \$700,000 that Judge Felts is bringing in for us.

Cal Miller: Was there also a component that the State returned money from a fund from Children's Psychological Counseling, how much did we get?

Lisa Blosser: That was part of House Enrolled Act 1001 and it was the Children's Psychiatric Residential Treatment Fund and it was the first year where we got to transfer the unused funds from that into the general fund and we get to use it for a payment to the Boys & Girls School. We have that amount and it is \$992,391 which is almost a million dollars that we can put toward the debt.

Paula Hughes: How is that fund generated?

Tera Klutz: It is from property taxes levied for that.

Lisa Blosser: Only the unused portion can be used for the Boys & Girls School debt.

Cal Miller: Setting aside that restriction, which I know we have to honor, and then we really have about \$8.5 million to work with assuming we are going to make some payments to the state to reduce the debt to the state for housing the boys and girls.

Darren Vogt: What is the approximate current debt?

Lisa Blosser: \$8,371,104

Paula Hughes made a motion to accept the financial report as presented. Roy Buskirk seconded it. Motion passed 7-0.

ALLEN COUNTY ORDINANCE 2005-1-20-01:

Darren Vogt: Before we have Ordinance 2005-1-20-01 for Allen County Park & Recreation. Their liaison is Patt Kite and I will turn this over to her.

Patt Kite: I will turn this over to the Park Department and let them talk.

Carrie Gutman, Park & Recreation Attorney along with a staff member, Jennifer Scherer and a member of the Board of Directors was also present.

They requested that an ordinance be approved creating a Capital Account and a Gift Account for the Allen County Parks & Recreation Board and directing the placement of interest received on funds invested be received into the nonreverting Gift Fund and the nonreverting Capital Fund.

Lisa Blosser stated that the funds were not set up correctly in 1995 so this is just a correction.

The funds that are in these accounts are from private donations they are not tax dollars.

Darren Vogt stated that it is pretty clear that this is a correction and private dollars that need to be put to use where they need to go and the interest should go there.

Roy Buskirk made a motion to approve Ordinance 2005-1-5-01. **Patt Kite** seconded it. Motion passed 7-0.

ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2005-1-20-02:

Consideration of a resolution raising the reimbursement for mileage while attending to official County business from .36 cents to .38 cents per mile.

Linda Bloom, Commissioner: Last year we raised our mileage to .36 cents; this year when we saw the new state amount of .40.5 cents Allen County decided to put it at .38 cents. The Commissioners are requesting that you approve the .38 cents.

Darren Vogt: What thought process was used in coming up with the .38 cents when the State amount is .40.5 cents? This kind of relates to the County Vehicle Policy and I would like to talk about that too.

Linda Bloom: We have never been at the state amount; we have always been a couple of cents behind and in checking with the State Board of Accounts they suggested that we increase it to .38 cents. We were trying to save you money.

Darren Vogt: I understand that but I guess when we have people using their personal cars we need to pay the correct amount.

Roy Buskirk: The .40.5 cents was established by the IRS and on the new Take Home Vehicle Policy; one question that I have is how did you come up with the 6,000 mile figure?

Linda Bloom: For various reasons some of the cars were included in the job when they were first hired for an extra incentive. Six thousand miles was what we came up with; including to and from home amount. If they didn't have more than 6,000 on their car we thought we would eliminate some of the take home cars through attrition or whatever. Commissioner Rousseau and Councilman Vogt were on this committee.

Darren Vogt: I will make a disclaimer right now that I had nothing to do with the 6,000 mile statement what so ever.

Linda Bloom: What I am saying is that I wasn't on this committee.

Roy Buskirk: We were trying to eliminate vehicles and also a saving for the County and the way I understand the wording is that if they drive more than 6,000 miles they have to use a county vehicle, they are not able to turn in mileage if they travel over 6,000 per year. Six thousand miles per year at .38 cents is \$2,280 and even if you went to 10,000 miles that would be \$3,800.

Darren Vogt: Let me correct a statement as I have the County Policy in front of me and it reads: Elected Officials may elect to take mileage but shall not be reimbursed for more than 6,000 per year. This only has to do with Elected Officials and not the folks who are non-elected officials.

Commissioner Bloom: We did an average of county cars and mileage to see actually how much the cars do cost the County; the amounts were less than the \$2,200 that you suggested. We did a 6-year study on the car because we drive them so many miles before we get rid of them and it is less than that.

Darren Vogt: Where is this 6-year study I have never seen it?

Commissioner Bloom: I think the Highway Department gave us the mileage of the vehicles until we get rid of them because we get them and then they get passed down. I don't know how it was figured but the Highway Department did figure it to see how much they were costing over the longevity of the vehicle.

Darren Vogt: Auditor Blosser you were involved in that committee, did you ever see this report?

Lisa Blosser: No

Darren Vogt: I didn't either and as a county wide group of individuals that got together I'm pretty disappointed that this was not shared with the rest of the committee. I would like to see this committee reconvene now that this

policy has been written formally and I would also like to know what has been done to implement the policy. There may be Elected Officials and Department Heads that come before us today and say they have cars that don't meet this guideline and haven't been directed on what to do. What is the process for implementing this and what do those folks need to do? What directions are the Commissioners are giving at this time?

Commissioner Bloom: We had suggested that the departments use pool cars and we have eliminated cars; I don't have any information before me I was just part of the group like you were, I was not part of the committee.

Paul Moss: I would like to get back to the original point which was mileage reimbursement. I think that I am accurate that private business follows the IRS guidelines not what the State. I personally would like to see us move to the .40 ½ cents and then follow that number whether it's up or down over time. I think it is an important component going back to the discussion about the take home car policy and I would welcome the opportunity to become involved in the on going discussion.

Bill Fishing: For what it's worth the Council sets the mileage for a certain group of employees and the Commissioners set for the rest. A year ago you set a rate that was .2 cents lower than what the IRS was. The Commissioners got a new rate from the IRS this year and assumed; perhaps incorrectly, that you would continue to follow your policy of being .2 cents less than the IRS. They adopted for their group .2 cents less then came it to you.

Lisa Blosser: Actually I think I was the one that brought it up and took it to the Commissioners as we wanted it at the IRS rate and it was the Commissioners that lowered it. So it was actually the Commissioners who wanted it lower and not the Council.

Roy Buskirk: In defense of what Commissioner Bloom stated and that is that most of the counties in the state don't pay the IRS rate a lot of them pay less than Allen County.

Mike Cunegin: I would also like to be part of that committee. With not being familiar with the ordinance and how it was put together I am very interested in how the policy is going to be maintained; is it going to be maintained by the honesty of the individual or will it be computerized?

Bill Fishing: The Purchasing Department put out to all departments a January 1 request for the current mileage on all vehicles. They were also supposed to turn in their commuting miles so we could track on a yearly basis

how many miles were actually being put on the county cars? Then the thought was that since this hadn't been done before that you would want to see the overall use of the automobiles. We also requested that each of the Department Heads/Elected Officials indicate which one of those qualifications they thought those cars fell into. That has been put out by Bruce Little so that we have a record of use on all of the cars beginning January 1.

Cal Miller: If the new car policy is in place and we are now tracking to see what enforcement needs to happen. I would also be in favor of the IRS rate for people who are using their own vehicles. At the same time I would like to see the County use a lot less take home cars; I don't know if the policy has any teeth but if it does I think with the three of you on the committee we can certainly get to the bottom of that. If we are going to be reducing the fleet then let's at least follow the IRS recommendation.

Darren Vogt: At this time us getting together as a committee is only this Council's willingness to do that; we have to have the agreement with the Commissioners that they are willing to have the group that looked at this policy look at it again and find out from this analysis that you had done by the Highway Department. It says in the ordinance it says that the elected officials and Commissioners cars should be replaced every 50,000. It would be a good idea if you could keep them longer than 50,000 and then rotate them.

Commissioner Bloom: It is to the point that we need to replace more cars because we haven't rotated for a couple of years.

Mike Cunegin: I think this body wants to do what is right by the employees on this I hear a lot of reservations on this policy. Do you want to go with the .38 cents or the .40 ½ cents or do we just want to table this until we get some of this verbiage taken care of?

Paul Moss: My response would be to take the first step and move to .40 ½ cents and I think we should expect to hopefully reduce the fleet and it seems to me that there is sentiment here to do that. I apologize, quite frankly, that you were the one that was in the hallway but the question I have is; is it safe to assume that for new hires where the previous person in the position had a take home care there is a criteria that has to be passed before they can get a car?

Commissioner Bloom: Yes through attrition we are eliminating cars for new hires but we haven't had any of those recently in positions that have had take home cars. The Highway Department has looked into this and have several but it hasn't happened yet.

Paula Hughes: Clearly the Commissioners policy on take home county owned vehicles is not one that the Council can officially impact; it is a policy decision that the Commissioners are making. I think we should be a part of the committee as it impacts the budget. I understand the rotation and think that is a perfect way to do it however I do question why the Commissioners and Elected Officials always get the new cars and everybody else is handed down old cars it seems a little unfair. I think we should meet the IRS standards at .40 ½ cents per mile. Which segment are we setting the rate for?

Tera Klutz: The Commissioners set it for the employees and Council set it for the Elected Officials.

Paula Hughes: Can the budget withstand the increase in the amount?

Commissioner Bloom: We have already talked to the Auditor and found out that it will be ok.

Lisa Blosser: That is a very minor part of it.

Roy Buskirk: I have had a department head discuss with me the fact that they are worried about having enough in their budget to support the .38 cents as it does make a difference in some of the departments' budgets.

Mike Cunegin: **President Vogt** I am going to make a motion to table this and maybe have the Commissioners bring it back to Council next month so we can at least look at the numbers a little bit clearer and how many pool cars we have and how this will be implemented in the future.

Commissioner Bloom: Before we bring it back don't you think that if we are going to form a committee that there should be more impute than just ours. There needs to be more impute from Council especially since none of you are too excited about the Car Policy. I think it is a futile effort on my part to come back here and say this is really not what you wanted and if there can be more impute by the Council we will readily accept this.

Darren Vogt: There is a motion on the floor to table the resolution, do I have a second?

Cal Miller: I will second it.

Paula Hughes: I am not sure we should table this because we will be penalizing the people who are being reimbursed or not for their mileage. If there is a clear sense on the Council that it should be .40 ½ cents; then that is a separate issue from this Policy and Procedures of County Owned Vehicles.

Mike Cunegin: The only reason I made that motion was to move and I want to get a better view of it will affect our budget. I really don't know how many cars we have or the mileage.

Bill Fishing: Mileage would be not the pool cars, it would be the individuals own car when doing County business. The Auditor could tell you better based on history how much mileage we are paying and how much the increase would be.

Lisa Blosser: We started tracking the mileage separately when this came up last year so I can get you numbers for at least the last half of 2004. It is usually pretty minor part of everyone's budget only a few cents.

Roy Buskirk: I think that a lot of the pool cars should be eliminated and that the employees should use their own vehicles and be reimbursed.

Darren Vogt: We have a motion and a second before us. We will go ahead and take a vote on the motion to table this; all in favor say aye. Motion failed 1-6 with Mike Cunegin voting aye.

Roy Buskirk made a motion to increase the mileage for all county employees and elected officials to .38 cents a mile. Mike Cunegin seconded it.

Paula Hughes: I thought we were talking about doing what was fair and that was .40 ½ cents not .38 cents. I will not support this motion but will support a motion for .40 ½ cents.

Darren Vogt: I would concur with that statement and I would prefer to do .40 ½ cents.

Roy Buskirk: I think that .38 cents a mile is adequate at this time until we can study and see how many vehicles can be eliminated and what the cost would be to the county. I feel we could eliminate 25% of the county vehicles.

Paul Moss: My concern with that is that the .40 ½ cents will have moved by next year and I would just as soon move now to the .40 ½ cents. Roy, what you are talking about is a pretty long discussion.

Mike Cunegin: Just for my curiosity do you remember off hand how many counties are giving the IRS rate?

Lisa Blosser: All I know of for sure is that Marion County stays with the IRS guidelines.

Darren Vogt: We have a motion on the table for the Resolution to put the county rate at .38 cents.

Motion failed 1-5 with Roy Buskirk voting aye. Motion failed 1-6.

Mike Cunegin made a motion to put the mileage at .40 ½ cents. Paula Hughes seconded it. Motion passed 7-0.

Darren Vogt: Before we get on with the agenda; Commissioner Bloom I would like to have who ever is going to be your contact with the County Owned Vehicle Policy set up another meeting with the elected officials in the group who where involved in that policy. That way we can discuss it and how it is going to be implemented because I think implementation is going to be the next step of this that we left hanging out there with the elected officials.

Item 2: Commissioner Linda Bloom requested \$18,000 a year for a lobbyist to represent us in Indianapolis on the Fort to Port Project. His name is Dennis Faulkenberg we would be paying \$1,500 a month. Fort Wayne and New Haven and other governmental entities plus private contributions are also contributing to this. We have been working on this for several years and we really need this lobbyist. Several of the Council Members have been on the committee. That will be our contribution as I discussed with you at the last meeting, I didn't ask for funds at that time because I wanted to discuss it with you first. This is the pledge amount that I would like to contribute toward the lobbyist.

Paula Hughes: I am a little confused; I thought this amount was going to come out of CEDIT funds and this request is out of the General Fund.

Commissioner Bloom: You are right; I didn't even look to see what fund it was coming from. However it is a county project.

Darren Vogt: This Council would rather have it come out of CEDIT funds and not General Fund dollars.

Paula Hughes: Can we figure out a way to do this and adjust the CEDIT?

Tera Klutz: Can you pay for it in another line in CEDIT and then transfer the funds?

Commissioner Bloom: Needless to say the CEDIT fund, in January, looked substantial enough to pay this so when you see the transfer in there hopefully you will remember that this was done this month.

Paula Hughes: We have an unappropriation request today in the CEDIT fund of; maybe we could just subtract the \$18,000 from that amount of \$758,346.

Judy Heck: Actually it would be better if you took it from the line that is requesting to unappropriate \$107,000 because that is the Economic Development line.

Paula Hughes: I move to not approve the \$18,000 in the general fund for the Fort to Port lobbyist. Paul Moss seconded it. Motion passed 7-0.

Paula Hughes: I would like to make a second motion; move that we strongly encourage the Commissioners to use \$18,000 out of the Economic Development line in the CEDIT Fund to fund the Fort to Port contractual lobbyist contribution. Paul Moss seconded it. Motion passed 7-0.

Jerry Zuber introduced Bob Stellhorn as the new Wayne Township Assessor taking over for Jerry who retired.

Item 1: **Jerry Zuber** stated that they had a company from California that requested copies of all of our Plat Maps in Wayne Township which totaled 640 maps. We sold them for \$898.80 however Wayne Township had to pay Digital Reprographics \$221.20. He asked to have the \$221.20 put back into the Stationery & Printing line in the Wayne Township 2005 budget. The money has already been deposited into the County General Fund.

Paula Hughes: Do you mainly do maps in that Stationery & Printing account?

Jerry Zuber: We have done this quite a few times before.

Paula Hughes: Are you concerned that you are going to run out of Stationery & Printing?

Jerry Zuber stated that he felt that this was a very tight budget this year in fact he brought it in last year but there was not enough money to get it reimbursed at that time.

Paula Hughes: Your budget for that line in 2005 is \$2,296 and in 2004 it was \$1,970 and you only spent \$1,641 of that so you had \$330 left over.

Jackie Scheuman: He transferred out of that line by coming to Council to money into his 100 series to pay off an employee who left.

Darren Vogt: My concern is that we are making an additional appropriation at the beginning of the year in a line that is in the general fund and has money in it. If this was November or December it would make more sense to me to appropriate these dollars.

Cal Miller: I understand what you are saying but on the flip side the Wayne Township Assessor made the County some money and we don't want to discourage that; he has netted us \$600 in this transaction. We give them a budget and ask them to live within for the year and be creative. I would hate to discourage that creativity.

Paula Hughes: It is a common practice in that office to do this, isn't this a part of miscellaneous income?

Lisa Blosser: Yes, we all make maps.

Paula Hughes: We have a line that has \$2,296 in it and only \$1,600 was spent last year; it is only January and we have a general fund appropriation in front of us for something that could have been anticipated. One of the underlying premise or the foundation, if you will, of our budget process is that we will not entertain appropriations requests out of the general fund that could have been foreseen and this map making is an on going activity.

This is not an instance where you are short in this account. If in the later part of the year you come to us and say you are out of money in this account and I need to do some things and don't have the money because I had to make these maps in January; that would make sense.

Darren Vogt: What I am hearing is that if it's October and you need \$200 out of the general fund, because you paid a 2004 bill in 2005, then you will have my support.

Paula Hughes: While we are talking about the map making; I didn't realize that was what this was, I think as a County we need to talk about the fact that we have our GIS system in place iMAP, which can produce these maps as well and is also selling these maps. We are going to start to have a conflict and I certainly don't want County departments to be competing against each other in generation of products. I will bring this up at the iMAP Board meeting because we really need to talk about that. I thought the reason we spent the \$2,000,000 that we put into the improved GIS System was to eliminate the need for this.

Mike Cunegin: Are you willing to withdraw this request today?

Jerry Zuber: Is the money going to get back in there eventually?

Cal Miller: If there is a need for it.

Jerry Zuber, at this time, withdrew his request.

Roy Buskirk: Jerry the Council would like to thank you for all of the good work you have done for the County and Wayne Township.

Item 3 - **Mike Cunegin, liaison for the Sheriff:** This is a request for an additional appropriation in the amount of \$27,000 to pay 6 ladies part time. These funds have already been received into the County General Fund from the Commissary Fund.

Sheriff Herman: As Councilman Cunegin the money has been receipted into the General Fund, however I have cut it back each year because there seems like there is always an overage there and I never get it back. This should cover the year and just needs to be appropriated into the Commissary-Part Time line item.

Cal Miller made a motion to approve \$27,000 for Part Time Commissary employees. Mike Cunegin seconded it. Motion passed 7-0.

Items 8 & 9: This is a request to appropriate funds in the E-911 Fund to pay Fort Wayne - \$745,680 and New Haven - \$48,400. These are their annual payments.

Sheriff Herman: The City of Fort Wayne's amount has doubled from last year due to annexation.

Cal Miller: Has their number of employees doubled or just their take based on the population?

Sheriff Herman: Basically the argument was that they were taking somewhere in the neighborhood of 70% of the E-911 calls. It is still not a 70-30 split but we did increase, for one year, the amount that they get. This is actually not something I should be speaking to because the Commissioners handle this.

Cal Miller: Is this an agreement between the City and the Commissioners?

Sheriff Herman: Yes, this is the annual appropriation between the Commissioners; the City of Fort Wayne and the City of New Haven.

Paula Hughes: As a Council Member I was not satisfied with the explanation of the changes in these funds when we had the joint session with the City Council Members. I am still bothered by the fact that we hit a brick wall in this consolidation discussion. I think that this is the time that we have any influence the only real influence we have in the appropriation of these funds and the setting of these budgets. I would consider with holding some of these funds to encourage a re-opening of the conversation.

Cal Miller: Sheriff Herman along with the City presented their analysis at the Joint meeting that at this snap shot in time there was no significant savings to be had through consolidation efforts. The city indicated that just because of the annexation effective January 2006 they intended to hire 10 more people after the Deputy Mayor conceded that the current staffing was adequate to cover the E-911 needs of the County. However 10 people were being added just because of the geographic change in the city boundaries. To me I find it puzzling when the concession was made that the current levels were adequate. Now it looks like this money that is being requested in the amount of \$745,680 is a doubling their take from last year which will held them fund the additional employees that it doesn't make sense that we need based on the Deputy Mayor's statement.

Paula Hughes: The explanation was that we haven't added staff to that department in a few years so let's do it now. I believe that was the official explanation from their Controller.

Cal Miller: Even though the conclusion reached by the Sheriff and the City was that at that snap shot in time there were no incentives to look into the consolidation effort because the savings weren't great enough. That conclusion appears to fall apart if you advance into 2005 when you start adding the 10 people. Sheriff I believe you stated that you didn't want to loose staff even though they were taking over more responsibility that you had other areas where you could devote those resources.

Sheriff Herman: And quite frankly as annexations happen we have reduced the level of our staff in communications. We are down about as low as we can go right now. I don't know if I should be speaking to this as it is basically an agreement that was reached between the City and the Commissioners. They allow me impute but in reality the Commissioners control the E-911 fund.

Cal Miller: Do you intend to, with the annexation, reorganize your resources with E-911 will you have people doing other things?

Sheriff Herman: We don't know because we don't know what the impact is going to be. And quite frankly the annexation is not going to be until next year.

Cal Miller: But the presentation that the City gave us intends to add 10 more people in 2005.

Mike Cunegin: The Controller stated that this is the first time that the City Council heard that number too.

Cal Miller: What continues to hit me over the head is when the City concedes that it works fine now; why should we add another person? If I understand Councilman Hughes' comments we are now funding that in-efficiency by doubling what they got last year. We are enabling them to go forward despite the fact that the population hasn't increased to justify an additional 10 people.

Paula Hughes: We keep saying that the consolidation wasn't important because it didn't save much money; but I'll quote Commissioner Peters' from this morning "The number it would save was \$70-100,000 dollars and there are many times where that amount is a significant amount of funding."

Cal Miller: I am not quarreling with the final analysis that the Sheriff and the City reach although \$70-100,000 is a significant amount of money. All you need to do is press fast forward with the contemplated addition of 10 people another \$700,000 we are talking about a savings of \$5-700,000 and the analysis correct at that point in time falls apart when the City starts to hire the people when the boundaries change. What is this Council proposing to do?

Paula Hughes: I think we should maintain the funding levels at what they had been historically and I think we continue to keep this issue on the table by doing that.

Cal Miller: I want to talk this through because I don't want to get sideways with the Commissioners.

Paula Hughes: The Commissioners had a discussion and did not include Council in the discussion and the fact of the matter is that Council is the one that approves this appropriation.

Judy Heck: I think there is an agreement that our County Attorney Mr. Feighner reached with the City of Fort Wayne and this is what it is derived from.

Paula Hughes: Council was not a part of that agreement.

Cal Miller: Certainly we have to appropriate the funds but, what is the plan of action if we decide that, because we are concerned that the City is going to add people when they have already conceded that the existing staffing level serves the community adequately. What is our plan of action if we decide that we are not going to appropriate these funds to continue the debate? What is step 2?

Paula Hughes: Step 2 is evaluating whether or not we consider that increase in the rate. I know that after we approved the increase the rate there were more conversations with Verizon and the expenses that were anticipated and that we based our decision to increase on and that was a County Council decision. We based our decision on information that later proved to be not accurate. It was not done knowingly I am just saying that the circumstances changed after we approved the rate change. If we can increase it I believe we could decrease it as well.

Cal Miller: To keep this debate alive and force it to go into the City's anticipated hiring of 10 people and that wisdom based on the concession they have already made; do we appropriate half the money based on last years standard? Do we have the amount that we paid last year?

Roy Buskirk: I believe it is half of what they are requesting at this time or \$373,359.

Darren Vogt: Sheriff Herman do you know if the City is continuing on their path to hire 10 additional employees?

Sheriff Herman: I don't know what their plans are. I felt the same way that Councilman Miller did that that was thrown into the mix it changed the whole formula. They came at us with a proposal that we give them 70% of the money we negotiated back and forth and this is what we agreed on.

Mike Cunegin: The overall effect was as the Sheriff just said and it was calls for service. Based on the meeting when 70% was agreed upon, when we sat down and began talking the City had no idea about the towers and things that have always fallen under this County Council. They thought that we were making all of this money off of the E-911 funds and after seeing what the real numbers were there was a change and they said that they didn't know any of the information that we gave them.

Let's look at the over all effects of that; the number 10 was just thrown together and we had never seen the number until that night.

Sheriff Herman: That was the figure that came out that night.

Mike Cunegin: Ms. Roller sat there and said that her City Council had not heard those numbers until that night. We need to work together on this as we don't want to penalize New Haven in this situation.

Darren Vogt: We may have a legal issue that we should have our Attorney look at. If there is a contractual between the Commissioners and the City we may be obligated to pay it.

Cal Miller: It may leave the Commissioners exposed but I think that just because they enter into a contractual agreement to say that it requires us to appropriate the money undermines our position of one of the governing bodies of Allen County and we would have liked to have been in the rationale.

Roy Buskirk: As far as your current staff for E-911; you are saying that you would not be able to eliminate 1 or 2 positions.

Sheriff Herman: We are not able to do that as we speak; the major part of the annexation you are talking about will not take place until 2006.

Roy Buskirk: When the annexation takes place what will you do then?

Sheriff Herman: We will have to then talk about it and see what happens, because basically when one of these major annexations hit our activity drops a little bit and then goes back when people decide they want to move further out. I am uncomfortable with the Commissioners not being here to speak to this because basically this is their thing and rather than make a decision without them here to speak to it, I think it would be a good idea to have them here to discuss the 911 Fund because I didn't even have it highlighted on my agenda.

Roy Buskirk: The 911 fund budget for the county is going to be reduced by \$375,000 so how are you going to recoup that money?

Sheriff Herman: I am not following you.

Roy Buskirk: We are increasing the amount to the city by \$375,000.

Sheriff Herman: But our amount stays the same as it was last year because of the increase in the levy.

Roy Buskirk: The fee increased and Verizon fee went up a little but not what was anticipated.

Paula Hughes: I would suggest rather than table it we should appropriate what was done last year and last year it was approved in two installments. After a time if it is determined that we are obligated however, on that front I will say that I don't believe the Commissioners can obligate funds without approval of Council. Part of the step has to be approval of Council for the appropriation of funds and they don't have the authority to do that. It has to be subject to Council approval and if they did not make their agreement subject to that then it was an error on their part. I do think we should fully fund New Haven.

Cal Miller made a motion to approve New Haven's amount at \$48,400, which is the amount requested. Mike Cunegin seconded it. Motion passed 7-0.

Cal Miller made a motion to approve \$375,359 to the City of Fort Wayne item 8 leaving the remainder for further discussion that figure being last years payment of the 911 Fund to the City of Fort Wayne. Roy Buskirk seconded it.

Darren Vogt: As Councilwoman Hughes alluded, last year we only appropriated half of that money last year in two installments and the way the economy is turning around the longer we can hold on to our dollars the money we make.

Cal Miller withdrew his motion and Roy Buskirk withdrew his second.

Cal Miller made a motion to approve half of \$375,359 or \$187,679.50 to the City of Fort Wayne. Paula Hughes seconded it. Motion passed 7-0.

Darren Vogt: Councilman Buskirk as liaison to the Commissioners will you please have a conversation with them?

Roy Buskirk: Yes I will get with them.

Item 4 is an appropriation in LEPC Contractual Services in the amount of \$29,187.

Ed LaRocque, Emergency Management/Homeland Security Director for Allen County and the Chairperson for LEPC: This is a request for the balance of the LEPC is a request for the roll over of the non-reverting amount in the LEPC fund in the amount of \$29,187.

Cal Miller made a motion to approve item 4 in the amount of \$29,187. Mike Cunegin seconded it. Motion passed 7-0.

Scott Harrold: Just a brief overview on the next three items they are all very similar in that these were funds that are being reimbursed or re-paid for money that was spent out of other funds to do the improvements for local companies or development. We take CEDIT money to do a water line and as we generate TIF money which is under control of the Redevelopment Commission and as we generate the income we repay the other funds. It is a way to recycle so it is available for future projects.

Item 5: Request approval for an additional appropriation in the Lincoln TIF Fund in the amount of \$180,000 for professional service that the Allen County Highway Department did for them at Lincoln Industrial Park for improvements to Sumter Drive for Fort Wayne Plastics and Fort Wayne Pools; the project is almost complete we haven't seen the final figures.

Item 6: A request for an additional appropriation in the Huguenard Road EDA Fund in the amount of \$35,000 for sewer main work that went out to an Industrial Park on Huguenard Road called Edgewood North this \$35,000 will be enough to repay the loan in full and was loaned out of CEDIT and will go back to Highway.

Item 7: A request for an additional appropriation in CASAD TIF Fund in the amount of \$250,000 for water main extension that was constructed out of Commissioners Economic Development Funds. He believes the \$205,000 will be enough to repay the loan in full.

Paula Hughes: Basically these are Economic Development Projects that were done in a manner that was the timeliest for that project. These funds were established originally to fund these types of projects but there were not enough revenues in those funds so we funded them out of CEDIT and these requests are just repaying CEDIT.

Paul Moss made a motion to approve item 5 in the amount of \$180,000. Paula Hughes seconded it. Motion passed 7-0.

Roy Buskirk made a motion to approve items 6 & 7. Cal Miller seconded it. Motion passed 7-0.

Item 10: Mike Cunegin as liaison to Youth Services Center: The Commissioners will be paying for the new carpet for YSC and so the \$16,433 is being withdrawn. However they are requesting \$4,092.26 for items for the class rooms.

Chris Dunn, Executive Director of YSC: We are looking at replacing the carpet on grounds and the Commissioners have agreed to take that out of the

Cumulative Capital Development fund for the main building. Therefore we will only be requesting \$4,092 for the school classrooms. This carpet is original to the building having been built in 1982 and we have enough money in our placement fund to pay for this carpet.

Cal Miller: What historically have the replacement fund funds been used for?

Chris Dunn: There is not a long history as it is a relatively new fund. We are taking \$20,000 out this year to replace funds that were cut out of our budget for Food and Recreation for the residents. We have also used it to purchase a car. We are going to come back, if there is enough money in the account to purchase another vehicle.

Cal Miller made a motion to approve item 10. Mike Cunegin seconded it. Motion passed 7-0.

Items 11-18 were tabled on a motion by Cal Miller and seconded by Paula Hughes there was no one here to explain these requests. Motion passed 7-0

Item 19 & 20: Mike Cunegin as liaison to the Coroner stated that this is a request for a transfer of funds in the amount of \$3,365 in the Coroners budget.

Dick Alfeld, Chief Investigator for the Coroner: The reason for the request is that Council granted me \$20,000 for a new vehicle; when I went to order it I couldn't buy it because they no longer offer what was originally bid on. The vehicle that was available was too small so we had to go up to another vehicle that was more expensive.

Paula Hughes made a motion to approve the request for a transfer in the amount of \$3,365 from Autopsy Fees to Vehicle. Patt Kite seconded it. Motion passed 7-0.

Items 21-33: Roy Buskirk as liaison to Highway stated that due to a shift in funds there needs to be an unappropriation of funds in the Highway Department.

Mike Fitch, Executive Director of Allen County Highway stated that the request is to unappropriate funds in the Highway Budget of \$160,000; Local Road & Street of \$62,000 and CEDIT Fund of \$1,427,346. In July or August we started communicating with the Auditor's office and tried to get a handle on some of the changes due to the annexations for 2003. The result of those communications information was given to us that some of the revenue we would be receiving would be reduced. Since our budget had already been

approved we were asked to come to the January meeting to adjust the budget due to a reduction in funds. We went through our lines and reduced where we were able.

Cal Miller stated that the information that Mr. Fitch provided to us is self explanatory and I am prepared to make a motion.

Roy Buskirk: The Highway Department has gone through and reduced several lines and not only have they done that but they have increased some fees to replace some of the revenue that was lost. The property owners are now paying for their road dust control and that has generated a couple of hundred thousand dollars. They have done several things to replace some of this revenue.

Mike Fitch: We are still making slight adjustments to improve your revenue picture; it will not replace the \$1.4 million in CEDIT as this was one of the funds that we used for resurfacing and new construction type projects.

Cal Miller made a motion to accept the unappropriation in items 21-33 in the total amount of \$1,649,346 which was amended from \$1,667,346 with the reduction of line 32 from \$107,000 to \$89,000. This amount of \$18,000 will pay for the lobbyist for the Fort to Port project. Paula Hughes seconded it. Motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Bloom said that it is a huge amount that has been taken out of the CEDIT Fund and when and if there is additional to take DPS out of the CEDIT budget it would certainly help and be easier for Highway to operate and do their projects.

Paula Hughes stated that this is on the list to address at budget time.

Commissioner Bloom stated that Mr. Fitch has done a wonderful job and she is very proud of him.

SALARY ORDINANCE:

Bob Lee, Treasurer requested a salary ordinance to reestablish the position of the Administrative Secretary II classified at a COMOT 3/4 at an hourly rate of \$14.0245 and an annual salary of \$27,348. The Treasurer will transfer the money from another 100 series in his budget to fund this position. This has been before the Personnel Committee.

Cal Miller made a motion to approve the salary ordinance for the Treasurer. Mike Cunegin seconded it. Motion passed 7-0.

GRANTS:

Lin Wilson, Grant Administrator stated that the grants to come before Council today are all Federal grants and pass through the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute and are all due February 1 except the Drug Task Force grant that is due February 7. The ones that require a match are either paid out of project income or fees. Some of them that require no match what so every will be implemented using their own computers, vehicles and that sort of things. There is one new grant that will be presented by Jonathon Ray of Family and Children Services.

1. **Sheriff Herman** requests permission to apply for a Performance Award Grant in the amount of \$4,000. This is an up front grant and requires no match.

Cal Miller made a motion to grant the Sheriff permission to apply for the Performance Award Grant. Paula Hughes seconded it. Motion passed 7-0.

2. Sheriff Herman requests permission to apply for the renewal of a Federal Drug Task Force Grant in the amount of \$83,044. This is an upfront grant and requires no match.

Cal Miller made a motion to grant the Sheriff permission to apply for the Drug Task Force Grant. Paula Hughes seconded it. Motion passed 7-0.

3. **Prosecuting Attorney, Karen Richards** requests permission to apply for renewal of the Child Advocacy Center Grant with the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute. They are requesting \$40,000. The period of this grant is July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006. It is a pass through grant, a reimbursement grant and requires a 25% match.

4. **Prosecuting Attorney, Karen Richards** also requests permission to apply for the renewal of the Domestic Violence Coordinator Investigator grant position. The current grant period expires on June 30, 2005 and the deadline for renewal is February 1, 2005. The grant period is July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006; it is a direct grant, a reimbursement grant and requires a 25% match.

Cal Miller made a motion to grant permission for to the Prosecutor to apply for the renewal of the Child Advocacy Grant in the amount of \$40,000 and

the Domestic Violence Coordinator Investigator grant position. Paula Hughes seconded it. Motion passed 7-0.

Roy Buskirk: In the space study you have requested 5,000 square feet because of additional staff; do either of these grants need extra space etc.

Karen Richards: The Child Advocacy Grant is not housed within our facility. The grant for the Domestic Violence Coordinator is not the problem that has led us to our space shortage.

5. **Chris Dunn, Executive Director of Youth Services Center** requests approval to apply for renewal of the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute Grant in the amount of \$9,000 for Kryder House for Independent Living JJDP through ICJI. This is a direct grant, an up front grant and no match is required. Julia Brita is the Program Coordinator for the grant.

Paul Moss made a motion to permission for **Chris Dunn** to apply for the renewal of the ICJI Grant for Kryder House in the amount of \$9,000. **Paula Hughes** seconded it. Motion passed 7-0.

6. **Jonathon Ray, Executive Director of Department of Child Services and Department of Family Resources** request approval to apply for a renewal of a Boys 2 Men Independent Living Program Grant in the amount of \$8,000. It is a pass through grant, an up front grant and no match is required. The home is licensed for 13 young men at a time in the home.

Mark Mohammad stated that at one time we had room for 6 children but over the period since 1997 we have taken in 50 youth and have been successful of returning 47 children. We have our first two guys that are in college and are very proud of that success.

Mike Cunegin asked that Mr. Mohammad sees that the Council gets the outcome of the program.

Cal Miller made a motion to grant permission for **Jonathon Ray** to apply for the renewal of the Boys 2 Men grant in the amount of \$8,000. **Mike Cunegin** seconded it. Motion passed 7-0.

7. **Lin Wilson** stated that there is one other grant being submitted and is a pass through by the Department of Child Services and Department of Family Resources.

Jonathon Ray stated that his department has changed names formerly it was called the Department of Public Welfare and is now called Department of Child Services and our public assistance area is called the Department of Family Resources.

Lin Wilson: This is a new grant called Project Success and is a federal grant. There is no match required for this grant. I would like to have Mr. Mohammad come up and explain what he is going to do with the grant if it is funded.

Mark Mohammad: This grant is a collaborative effort between Boys 2 Men and the Division of Family & Children. This is a program that we have always done but now we have had to seek grant funds or different resources for financial literacy, computer literacy, and drug & alcohol abuse. Actually we were invited by Nicky Kincaid of the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute to pursue this grant. This will allow us to pursue all of these programs from one resource. In the past our relationship with ICJI has been very positive and the outcome has been very positive. The one thing different compared to the last grant; it only provides a service to the group home service in our care; this will allow us to help outside the group home but inside the community and the young ladies in the community also.

Jonathon Ray: This grant is not as limited as the last one was this will allow more Allen County children to benefit from case management, tutoring services etc. It is a win, win situation for all of us because as we all know the kids that have problems in school are the same ones that are on probation; and kids that graduate from the probation system are the same ones that are in the prison system as adults. This still needs to be approved by the feds and if it is it will certainly be a benefit to the children.

Lin Wilson: This will be collaborative effort with the Fort Wayne Urban League; they have a brand new building and 40 computers in their computer lab. They have agreed to a contractual agreement where Project Success will be able to use the space and that would save any redundancy of having to buy equipment. He will be able to use his money for trainers and tutors who will be able to implement programs that is in an area that is challenged. The Urban League is right next to Eden Green and next to Chapel Oaks and centrally located for children who want to come on the bus. It is right next to the Library and then can come over to the Urban League for a program. I think this is a very good opportunity as nothing like this is being done and it would give the Urban League some great use for their space.

Mark Mohammad: The information you are looking at is the same grant we did last year and a lot of these kids are behind their age group so there is a

need for this. Last year there were 24 guys in this program and 23 completed the program successfully. Last year it was a collaborative effort with Youth Life Skills.

Lin Wilson: This program was previously funded by the Work Force Investment Board and that funding has dried up so he has to look for funding else where.

Mark Mohammad stated that there are tests given for employability to see if they are marketable in the work force. They also go through 8 weeks of class which are on Saturdays from 8-12. We have a pre and post survey for each person. We will also work collaborative with the Urban League as far as job placement is concerned. For this grant we have to show measurable in at least one or two grade levels.

Roy Buskirk: Thank you for all of the information that you have provided it really shows that you are making progress.

Mike Cunegin: Mark runs a wonderful program and takes no messing around from these kids. If you don't get this grant do you have another plan?

Mark Mohammad: I really don't have another plan but I guess I will have to seek other resources.

Cal Miller made a motion to approve application of the grant for Project Success. Paula Hughes seconded it. Motion passed 7-0.

Mark Mohammad then thanked Council for approving the grants; even though we were them implementing agency the credit goes to all of you and Lin Wilson.

8. **The Center for Non-Violence and Superior Court** requested approval to apply for the renewal of the Solutions for Families in Crisis Grant in the amount of \$27,000. The grant application deadline is February 1, 2005; it is a pass through grant, an up front grant and a 25% match is required. The match will be paid for by funds raised by the Center for Non-Violence.

The Center for Non-Violence is both a men's and women's program. This grant is for a women's program. It is done in both English and Spanish for those who have been victimized and need help in the areas of their understanding of what has happen. We also have programs for women who have used violence. It is both education and support and a Court mandated program so we have women there ordered by the court. There is a sliding fee

for the court mandated program and we try to be very generous in that fee the Support for Women and Children is a free service that we offer.

Paula Hughes made a motion to grant permission to apply for the Solutions for Families in Crisis Grant in the amount of \$27,000. Mike Cunegin seconded it. Motion passed 7-0.

Paul Moss: Loren Robertson and I have talked about WEB Chart and the desire of the Department of Health to essentially move to a medical records basis in some of their clinics. I will let Mr. Robertson explain the rest of that but there are a couple of issues we want to discuss regarding the on going costs associated with this.

Loren Robertson, Department of Health Administrator: First of all; I am not sure if you are aware of the increase in the uninsured population of Allen County. Studies now show that approximately 25% of the community is uninsured; projections are that it will continue to increase. As we look at the safety care of the community, the Health Department is a small part of those operating clinics that provide services to the indigent population of the community. What I call the patron saint of indigent services; the St Joe Community Health Foundation has been looking within the community for the providers of the uninsured and the indigent; these are Matthew 25, Neighborhood Health Center other neighborhood clinics etc. They would like to provide a more efficient way of keeping track of the medical records of the clients of those clinics. They have created through a local company a med chart system so that an individual that receives indigent care at Matthew 25 and may go to an emergency room for service of some sort without a primary care physician there is a medical chart available. The value of that is that it can eliminate duplication of tests etc. We are a piece of that pie, through the TB Clinic, STD Clinic, HIV Services, Immunization and the refugee population. We are a part of that so the St. Joe Community Foundation has offered us a gift of bringing us into that WEB Chart Network and they will underwrite the \$35,000 software/hardware initial cost in the first year of operation. The string attached and it's not really a string but after that beginning in 2006 there will be an approximate \$8-10,000 annual cost that the Department of Health will have to cover that will be part of our continuation into this project.

The challenges that I am looking at in the department is that we are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel in the TB outbreak but we still have to maintain an increased presence there; we are looking at services within the department that we can eliminate. The bottom line is that I will make every effort to try to build this into the existing budget; I still have to

make every effort to try to build additional TB services within our existing budget.

My process with Council has always been very up front as I don't enter into anything without your approval; so before I accept a gift as generous as St Joe Community Foundation is offering I wanted to bring it before Council.

Paul Moss: I think this is an important project for them as the medical providers throughout the community are going in this directions and it provides for better care and is more efficient. I think it important that we do this. I did communicate to Mr. Robertson that I didn't think Council would be too excited to increase the budget so I encouraged him to try as hard as he could to work within the budget and try to find money for the on going operation and hope that he will be able to do that.

I would hope that we will be able to give him a positive reaction today because he needs to move forward with this pretty quickly as far as notifying the St. Joe Foundation that we are going to move forward.

Darren Vogt: One of the other things is that this could possibly be a grant funded type on going expense and maybe there will be some local grant opportunities for this program.

Loren Robertson: Yes, Councilman Moss and I did discuss that possibility. Dr. McMahan and I have appeared before the boards of a few other foundations. If we are unable to fund the on going costs I will pull the plug on the project as I wouldn't want to mislead the foundation when they are putting their precious dollars into this project. I have to make some other decisions to support additional needs within the community. I am looking within the department at services that are provided and there may be a service that we don't provide to be able to handle other needed services.

Paul Moss made a motion to approve the Department of Health going forward with St Joe Foundation paying for the implementation costs of \$35,522 and however the operational costs will be. Mike Cunegin seconded it. Motion passed 7-0.

Darren Vogt: We are at the end our agenda but there is one other thing we need to address and that is an appointment to the Allen County Child Care Facilities Board. At a meeting on the 25th we interviewed Jesse Rios for the Library Board and I asked him if this would be a board appointment that he would be happy to serve in and he is a qualified individual. At this time I will entertain a motion to appoint Jesse Rios to the Allen County Child Care Facilities Board.

Mike Cunegin made a motion to appoint Jesse Rios to the Allen County Child Care Facilities Board. Paula Hughes seconded it. Motion passed 7-0.

Lisa Blosser: The Public Defender is requesting a liaison, before they were part of Circuit Court and they are there own department now. They have requested that Mike Cunegin be their liaison.

Mike Cunegin: I will be very happy to serve as their liaison. I may ask another Council member to take my place with another department.

Paul Moss: I have a couple of issues that generated conversation today and one is a legal opinion of the Commissioners being able to enter into an agreement that essentially obligates the County from a financial standpoint. This needs to be addressed as quickly as possible and I am wondering how we are going to pursue that. We may get differing legal opinions depending on who you use.

Darren Vogt: I would have to agree that we have a basis of understanding and we do have our own Counsel and I will contact Mr. Okeson to give us an opinion regarding that situation.

Cal Miller: In reading the documents that were handed us today are carefully worded and are not contracts in the true sense signed by dully representatives of the City of New Haven and the County setting up terms. The Commissioners used in their letter to the Mayor of New Haven that Allen County is pleased to support the appropriate funding so I am not sure that they have legally committed themselves to this by virtue of the documents that were handed to us today. I think it is still a good question to have answered and once we get the opinion see if the Commissioners share that view with us so there is an understanding going forward so that this fiscal body will not be put in a shall pay position as we are a separate branch of government that is one of the natural checks and balances of County Government and cannot be undone or undermined by the execution of executive power to enter into contracts. I think the Commissioners are well aware of that and will be willing to work with us on this. But I would like to have an opinion.

Paula Hughes: This may be a topic of conversation at our joint meeting with the Commissioners on February 4th.

Paul Moss: I am concerned as well with the on going communication between these two entities so that these types of things, even if just in principle, aren't really done in a vacuum that is the overriding concern that I have.

Darren Vogt: Did you have something else that you wanted to have addressed?

Paul Moss: I just wondered when that joint meeting was going to take place.

Darren Vogt: I will be held on February 4th. The other thing we need to discuss is the \$7.5 million that we have unappropriated for this year. Let me give you my brief thoughts on this and then I will open it up for discussion.

I think it important that we lay down the ground work for this early, although I don't think we need to rush into any decision. We have to set the priorities and goals and what we think needs to be done whether it's countywide, safety issues or whatever we agree as a Council needs to be done. I think those are the things we need to look at. As far as appropriating funds I don't think that is something we need to rush to do. It is important that we go through and analyze all of the departments as we have done in the past in the same type of process that we do with the budget.

Paula Hughes: I think we should revisit the priorities we had when we were establishing the budget for 2005. My recollection is that major topics of conversations included repaying the Boys and Girls School debt and we know that just under \$1,000,000 has to be spent on that bill it wouldn't have to be on the debt it could be paid on current expenses. We also have talked about the need to establish a Rainy Day Fund and I know it has been established but I don't know if there is any money in it.

Lisa Blosser: Yes there is some money in there were about \$600,000 of CEDIT funds deposited into the Rainy Day fund.

Paula Hughes: So there is minimal funding but it would not cover a county wide emergency. We have been short changing technology needs in this county for years and I think we should consider that. We can ask Ed Steenman and the Data Board to come up with a list of priorities for us that might need to be funded. Commissioner Bloom mentioned the Planning Department and I know some other councilmen brought that up and I think we should move DPS out of CEDIT and fund it out of County General Fund. I think we need to leave a certain amount, if not appropriated, and then we need to earmark a certain amount for Storm Water Retention and the issues that we are facing with that. We also need to leave a little bit for appropriations for this coming year.

Cal Miller: All of those are on my list as well. In approaching this issue we are faced with on thinking about what our needs are. I think we need a frame work and looking at where the money came from will dictate a great

deal on how we should spend it. We are not going to be seeing this every year and that would impact how we should spend some of this money. When we talk about moving DPS back into the general fund and some of the other positions we forced out into other funds that may not support it over time. If this is not going to be a reoccurring situation we find ourselves in every year we need to identify what it is we can expect from year to year before we make the long time decisions to move things around. We look at the roll over; as this council continues to hone the budget process we may end up in a situation as we continue to analyze what rolled over and why it rolled over and if that department or Elected Official really needs it we should be reducing our roll over every single year if we keep going about the budget the way we have because the idea is to give them just what they need. If we see year after year they continue to roll things over we are going to be giving them less because they didn't need it then we can get to a real honest budget.

I am concerned that before we decide what the best way to use this is that we need to break down where this money came from, what we can expect to see going forward and once we have that firm understanding decide how we want to use this money.

I would add that I would be in favor of earmarking some of the money for feasibility studies that could be guided by Council. One of the things that Councilman Moss brought up that I think deserves a great deal of discussion is that the Sheriff wants a new building and the City apparently wants a new building for their Police Department. Should this be one building, maybe we could partner with the City and look into a feasibility study where we meet both the needs of the Sheriff and the City Police in one building where it just screams law enforcement for the entire community. A feasibility on whether the Township Assessors can work more efficiently if they aren't so focused on the four corners of their township. We have not had the luxury to engage in that to give us answers. If we are going to be revisiting the take home car policy perhaps this is an opportunity to get an outside consultant, who can say this policy, although a good effort, falls short in a number of ways and if you really want to get tough and want to be business like on this car policy you need to make the following changes. Then we will have something to support those decisions even though people will be upset by losing their vehicles. I would like to throw into the mix some feasibility studies on some fairly heavy issues that we have.

Darren Vogt: One of those issues that you left out is a feasibility study for the Communications Department as well.

Lisa Blosser: We have prepared for your review the Appropriation Purchase Order Analysis Report so if you need any other information we can get it for you.

Cal Miller: One more thing, as I think the state debt is a topic that I think deserves a great deal of consideration and that we should at least come up with a plan that shows a fairly swift elimination of this debt. We need a plan whether it is a 5-year plan or less than that. The State is in dire need of money; Governor Daniels outlined his economic plan which is very aggressive and I think we ought to do our part and finally once and for all get this issue off of our backs. I would like to have a concrete plan, as part of our discussions, on how we are going to retire that debt. One of the things we can consider is the surplus we have and also this Child Psychology Fund that turned \$900,000 back to us this year; how realistic is it to continue to have that return and if it is a return that we can anticipate with some degree of certainty then we can include that in our plan for eliminating this debt.

I would like to walk away after we get through with the Commissioners and talk about our priorities that we are going to retire this plan 'come heck or high water' under the following time table.

Darren Vogt: I talked to the State Auditor's office and they finally received the letter we sent back in July and they were pleased that we are going to give them the \$1.4 million this year. They were going to review the information and get back to be at some point in time in the near future.

Mike Cunegin: There are a lot of things we would love to see some of this money used for. This body, the Elected Officials and Department Heads have worked extremely hard. There will be some of the money that will continue to come i.e. Public Defender Fund and the gambling dollars and unless something drastic happened we will be able to count on these dollars. I agree with Councilman Miller that we need to do something on the state debt. I want to move cautiously on that primarily because I am meeting with Judge Sims and he has some ideas on how we can attack this. I will also address the problems with YSC and their need for an additional employee. We will begin to slow down sending kids to Indianapolis as we will keep them here and then we won't have the increase in that debt.

We keep asking the Surveyor for a plan regarding the Storm Water situation and the federal mandate and I don't think we have seen a plan yet. We set some money aside for 2005 but we need to see a plan.

Roy Buskirk: I have talked to the Surveyor and actually this week he is at a conference on that. I will be getting with him the first part of next week

concerning that situation. He has had some staff leave the office when an assistant's husband got transferred and he had to replace her. He has been trying to find a Storm Water Manager type individual and has had some problems doing that. I tried to assure him that if he finds an individual with wages that we are talking about to come to the Personnel Committee with it and we will discuss it at that time. He indicated that the wages have been a little low to get some one. I agree with you Mike that we need to get him moving on the Storm Water situation.

I consider the carryover being a victory for the taxpayers of Allen County; that now we shouldn't have to go for a bonding issue for bridges. We ought to be able to put in our budget a cumulating fund to be able to cover bridges in the future. Maybe even paying down as much as possible on that bond so it is not an outside of the levy situation that we are doing. I would like to know more on the Family Services with Mr. Ray as far as the \$990,000, did we increase the levy too much?

Tera Klutz: The reason he came to speak to you was because the state took the \$1,000,000 out of his budget to establish the Child Psychology Fund and so he had no choice so it took \$1,000,000 out of his budget. We think it is kind of a backdoor way for the State to allow Marion County to pay down their Boys and Girls School debt. That is why he came to you, he only uses \$185,000 for Child Physiology Residential Treatment but they made the levy \$1.1 million and they said at the end of they year you take ½ of the next years budget and leave it in there and everything else gets transferred into county general and can only be used to pay Plainfield and Indianapolis juvenile expenses. Basically it was a way to raise taxes because Jonathon still had to operate as he was using the \$1,000,000 for Family & Children Services and they would not let him do that any longer.

Cal Miller: As you will recall he was not maxing out his levy and then they froze his levy by Senate Bill 1 and said he couldn't increase the levy and it left him short.

Tera Klutz: Besides freezing it they took \$1,000,000 out to establish this new fund and now they have two funds when before they only had Family & Children Services.

Cal Miller: So is that something we can expect on a yearly basis to have generating to help us to retire this debt.

Tera Klutz: Yes but I don't anticipate using Jonathon Ray every year; that was just a one time thing.

Cal Miller: Is there any reason to hold on to that \$990,000 besides interest income? Is that a good reason to hold on to it though given that we have to pay it at some point?

Darren Vogt: Given my conversation with the State Auditor's Office that they were happy about our \$1.4 million we are going to pay we should hang on to that money as long as we can. Why not take advantage of the money if we can pay in the third or fourth quarter.

Paula Hughes: I think that Allen County is very fortunately in a position to make a huge statement about our conservative values and as a County for us to make a statement by sending more than the \$1,000,000 I would make it \$2 or \$3,000,000. I would take a significant chunk off of that because it is us making a strong stance that we don't encourage that type of fiscal irresponsibility in this County and this Council doesn't work that way.

Cal Miller: I'm speechless and I share your sentiment whole heartedly and wildly. I have said in the past that every year the budget is supposed to be passed based on the amount that is coming in. We have sidelined and ignored this debt as it accumulates; we haven't ignored it for the past couple of years we have gotten ourselves in a position to pay it. I agree that we should pay more than the \$1,000,000 that the state created this payment plan for us. I'd like to see us be more aggressive with that as well to me it's just a matter of how much we pay and when do we pay it. I don't want to take the lead from Marion County in anything I think we should take the lead in showing how responsible we are as a fiscal body and coming up with a doable plan that makes us hurt a little bit but gets it off our back so that we can pass a budget the way we are supposed to do it. That will then enable us to look forward and not backward at that debt as a potential liability to the County.

Paul Moss: I agree that the responsible thing to do would be to send as much as we possibly can toward that debt whatever that number is. I think the impact in terms of the perception out there will be minimal but I think it is the appropriate thing to do. I also agree with Councilman Miller when he talks about earmarking some of that money for potential studies for a variety of issues and I'm not big on spending a lot of money on consultants. Even during my short tenure here I convinced that a lot of the key players that can influence change in the County and the City have essentially become so institutionalized that they are incapable of change from within and from developing opinions about potential change from within. I think it would be money well spent if we can get some objective opinions about potential change in a variety of areas the long term impact of that is so significant that

it is absolutely worth every penny. I would hope that there is some agreement in that regard as well.

Darren Vogt: That is one of the topics; I just left a phone message with Councilman Smith yesterday, to have a topic for the next joint County City Council joint meeting.

Paul Moss: I would also like to see the county move to a more consistent and business like approach to Human Resources in terms of the things that we have been struggling with for quite some time.

Mike Cunegin: I have no problem on doing a feasibility study; but as we sit here and talk let's not forget about the City lets bring them into the loop for discussion on that. I think the Rainy Day fund is a good idea and we need to be aware of the fact that technology changes daily it is hard to keep up to date with it. We have deprived our County and some entities with some of the things that are needed. Also I think it is a good idea to put some away in case of an emergency. I have no problem with sending a state toward our debt but I would move cautiously until after I meet with Judge Sims and will report back to this body. As we struggle with our budget and try to send money down to the state by bringing Marion County up it is to say that they never budget a penny for their debt ever.

Darren Vogt: One of the things that we didn't discuss but I will bring it us and that is the employees of this County we need to continue to make sure we are supporting them in any way that we can. After the discussion today I sense that we need to lay out a frame work and build some knowledge and foundation. I will get with Councilwoman Hughes to have some initial discussion on how that will look and bring it up at the next meeting. We may even set up a special meeting to just discuss these things. As always I will welcome any questions or comments from any of you.

Cal Miller: Two quick points; the Auditor has handed us some information to see who didn't spend their money. I think in our questionnaire to the Elected Officials and Department Heads we ought to include a question that asks did you use your entire budget and if not why not? And also why can't you do without the portion you didn't use? The second point is that I think it is tough for elected officials that are so ingrained in overseeing their departments; the feasibility study can assist in supporting tough decisions. If we do have an outside consultant and a feasibility study then those conclusion can be the bad guy and the Commissioners don't have to go up to somebody and say we need your keys. I need to look closely at that to see if we actually should be loosing cars based on that policy.

Darren Vogt: I look at it as leadership you need to take the heat in the leadership roll as setting the policy and being able to implement it. This policy has only been out a short time so I will give them some slack on that but if you are going to put a policy in force you need to be able to stand behind it as a leader as someone who is responsible for county tax dollars. We shouldn't have to horse around with a consultant to determine if it should be implemented or whether we should loose cars, no disrespect Councilman Miller, but I think the Commissioners should be able to implement it on their own. If we have to as a fiscal body do our fiscal constraints in order to do that then we should do that if it is not being implemented.

Roy Buskirk: The problem is Darren wasn't involved in this before and the best decision is not necessarily the most popular decision.

Paul Moss: I think the sad reality is that for years it has been amply demonstrated that we, collectively, are incapable of instituting any type of real change. I find it appalling that the County has a fleet as large as it has. I would be willing to participate in any committee that you want me to and going through department by department as opposed to having department heads say here is who I think needs a car.

Cal Miller: Based on our roll in this local government find out how we can impose the will of the Council to enforce that policy and perhaps even improve on it. We need to find out how to use our position in government to make that happen.

Mike Cunegin: Maybe when we have our joint meeting with the Commissioners this will be an item for discussion.

Cal Miller: Where do we go from here?

Darren Vogt: The agenda has not been set for that meeting and as soon as I have something I will get back with you. The meeting will be held in this space at 8:30 am on February 4th.

Paula Hughes: I suggest that we reconsider the space; the problem with this space is that it is not conducive to conversation.

Darren Vogt: I would like to have it in a different setting too and I will check on that with Mr. McCauley on this.

Mike Cunegin: Council members you have all received your information from the AIC and there was a misprint the County Government Day at the Legislature is February 22nd not February 23rd.

Roy Buskirk made a motion to approve waiving the second reading on any matter approved today for which it may be deemed necessary for the County Council meeting of January 20, 2005. Paula Hughes seconded it. Motion passed 7-0.

The next meeting will be February 17, 2005 at 8:30 am in the County Council Chambers/Commissioners Courtroom.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am on a motion by Paula Hughes and seconded by Mike Cunegin.