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1 STATE OF INDIANA)
)SS:
2 COUNTY OF ALLEN)
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7 BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF ALLEN

8
9 RE: LEGISLATIVE SESSION OF
10 MAY 14, 2003
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15 DATE: May 14, 2003

16 TIME: 10:04 a.m.

17 LOCATION: Room 200
Commissioners Courtroom
City-County Building
18 1 East Main Street
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46802
19

20 REPORTER: M. Joshua Osbun
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0002

1 PRESENT:
2 Marla J. Irving Allen County Commissioner
3 Linda K. Bloom Allen County Commissioner
4 Edwin J. Rousseau Allen County Commissioner
5 Sheila Hudson Community Corrections
6 Renee Rousseau Allen County Chief Deputy
Clerk
7
8 Therese Brown Allen County Circuit and
Superior Court Clerk
9 Pat Crick Allen County Auditor's
Office
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11 Michael Fitch Director, Allen County
Highway Department
12 John McGauley Allen County Public
Information Department
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14 G. William Fishing County Counsel
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16 Paula Hughes Allen County Council
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18 Sandra Flum Legislative Liaison
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18 Tera Klutz Allen County Auditor's
Office
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20 Brian McDaughten Community Corrections
21 Susan Elser Allen County Board of
Commissioner's Office
22 Mary Hitchens Allen County Public
Information Department
23
24 Al Frisinger Allen County Surveyor
25 M. Joshua Osbun Rolf Reporting, Inc.

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1 Larry Banks Allen County Public Library
2 Dan Stockman Journal-Gazette
3 Kevin Leininger News Sentinel
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14	Paula Hughes	30
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Agenda:

1. Approval of Minutes of 05/07/03
Legislative Session 8
2. Addition to the Allen County Code
Title 12/Article 86 (Allen County
Community Corrections Weed and Seed
Initiative; Ordinance #5-14-03-19 8
3. Request from the Allen County Clerk
for approval of an amendment to the
Maximus contract 13
4. Ratification of Agreement between
Allen County with Edwin H. Steenman
to serve as the Information Technology
Services Coordinator 16
5. Hardware/Software Request 17
Allen County Recorder's Officer
Cannon DR-5060F Scanner Filmer
\$15,844.00
Installation Start-up and Calibration
\$ 1,330.00
Annual Maintenance
\$ 2,857.00
Total. . . . \$19,761.00
Canon MS800 Reader Printer/Accessories
Total. . . . \$13,387.50
6. Change Orders 20
Allen County Juvenile Justice Center
C.O. #004 CMS Roofing, Inc.
Contract Reduction
(\$5,130.00)
C.O. #008 Tag Coatings Corp.
Contract Reduction
(\$50.00)
C.O. #018 Strahm, Div. of SGI, Inc.

7		Contract Addition	
		\$3,744.00	
8			
9	C.O. #019	Strahm, Div. of SGI, Inc.	
10		Contract Reduction	
11		(\$17,573.00)	
12			
13	C.O. #019	W.A. Sheets & Sons, Inc.	
14		Contract Addition	
15		\$4,159.00	
16			
17	C.O. #020	W. A. Sheets & Sons, Inc.	
18		Contract Addition	
19		\$1,086.00	
20			
21	C.O. #013	L-A Electric, Inc.	
22		Contract Addition	
23		\$149.50	
24			
25	C.O. #014	L-A Electric, Inc.	
0007		Contract Addition	
1		\$576.00	
2			
3	C.O. #015	L-A Electric, Inc.	
4		Contract Addition	
5		\$997.00	
6			
7	7.	Approve Contract Modification #1 for	
8		improvements of 2002 Concrete Repair	
9		Package #7 (Deerfield Estates), Project	
10		#02-266 between Newell Construction and	
11		Allen County	
12		\$3,913.70 Increase	21
13			
14	8.	Other Business	22
15			
16	9.	Approval to waive the 2nd Reading on	
17		any matter approved today and for which	
18		it may be deemed necessary for the	
19		Legislative Session of May 14, 2003	32
20			
21	10.	Comments from the Public	32
22			

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0008

1 IRVING: Good morning, and welcome to the
2 Commissioner's Legislative Session of May 14th. Mr.
3 Rousseau, would you like to stand and lead us into
4 the pledge and a moment of silence?
5 ROUSSEAU: I certainly would.
6 (At this time the Pledge of Allegiance is
7 recited, followed by a moment of silence.)
8 ROUSSEAU: Thank you.
9 BLOOM: Amen.
10 IRVING: Thank you. I want to congratulate my two
11 partners here. If I had known you were going to be
12 in navy and you were in red, I would have worn white,
13 and we could have been red, white, and blue for
14 today. First item on the agenda is approval of the
15 minutes of the May 7th meeting.
16 BLOOM: So moved.
17 ROUSSEAU: Second.
18 IRVING: All in favor say "aye."
19 BLOOM: Aye.
20 ROUSSEAU: Aye.
21 IRVING: Aye. Motion passes. Addition to the Allen
22 County Code Title 12/Article 86. I think we have
23 Mrs. Hudson here to do a presentation.
24 (Ordinance #5-14-03-19).
25 BLOOM: Hi, Sheila.

0009

1 HUDSON: Good morning, Commissioners.
2 BLOOM: Good morning.
3 HUDSON: Excuse me. I'm switching gears. I ran
4 over--ran over here because I know how Mr. Rousseau--
5 about me being on time. I'm asking--
6 IRVING: She's scared of you.
7 HUDSON: --for acceptance--
8 BLOOM: Identify yourself, please.
9 HUDSON: Oh, I'm sorry, ma'am. I am Sheila Hudson.
10 I am the Executive Director of Allen County Community
11 Corrections.
12 BLOOM: Thanks.
13 HUDSON: And I'm requesting acceptance of a--a newly
14 formed resolution for the first year of a Weed and
15 Seed Initiative. The Weed and Seed grant and
16 recognition for a recognized site happened a year
17 ago, and we have received funding over the last two
18 or three months--two months, maybe--and I'm taking it
19 to council tomorrow night, so we needed the
20 resolution in place today.
21 ROUSSEAU: Well, from that--from the vantage point of
22 an onlooker, and we're on television, I don't believe
23 this has anything to do with--with landscaping. Is
24 it a landscaping program you have here?
25 HUDSON: Oh, I--I didn't--

0010

1 ROUSSEAU: Weed and Seed?
2 HUDSON: The--the concept is weeding out of crime in
3 a specific region--neighborhood--
4 ROUSSEAU: Now there will be people who aren't--
5 HUDSON: --region or area.

6 ROUSSEAU: --probably as tuned in as--

7 HUDSON: I'm sorry, yes.

8 ROUSSEAU: So, if you might--

9 HUDSON: And the weeding--

10 ROUSSEAU: --describe that a little bit is what I--

11 HUDSON: Yes, the weeding--it's--the--the first part
12 of it is the weeding out of crime in a designated
13 community area, which is the southeast quadrant of
14 Fort Wayne is what they--the designated neighborhood
15 area, and then--the subsequent seeding of new
16 programs--and one of the focuses of the Weed and Seed
17 Initiative, it's called a Safe-Haven, and
18 Commissioner Irving and I talked about that last year
19 a little bit, where the first Safe-Haven will be--
20 will be the Old Fort Y, which is directly--or
21 diagonally across from the police station, and Brenda
22 Robinson, who's the director of the Old Fort Y, has
23 graciously offered her facility as the meeting place
24 for neighborhood residents and police officers and
25 community corrections people and whatever we're going

0011

1 to be doing down the way as far as family
2 strengthening programs. What--a lot of the meetings
3 will be held there.

4 BLOOM: And the grant is coming from?

5 HUDSON: The federal government. The executive
6 office of Weed and Seed is a program under the Office
7 of Justice programs.

8 BLOOM: And it's a one-year program, or--

9 HUDSON: It's--it's a one-year, but there's a--you
10 fill out an application again, and you have an
11 automatic reap--automatic reapplication for five, and
12 then there's a re--reapp of another five, so it's a
13 decade-long program.

14 BLOOM: And then--it comes in monthly, you said.

15 HUDSON: Yes.

16 BLOOM: And the amount?

17 HUDSON: The--this year is larger than the years it
18 will be that follow. It's a \$225,000.00 grant this
19 year, with a one-time \$50,000.00 allotment for--it's
20 a--it's a mapping system for the Fort Wayne Housing
21 Authority, Fort Wayne Police Department, and the
22 Allen County Sheriff's Department to--to be placed
23 into the neighborhood area for public housing to
24 identify pictorially persons that should not be in
25 public housing sites. So that money is a one-time

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1 \$50,000.00--

2 BLOOM: Okay, the initial--

3 HUDSON: --request, so it's 175,000 [\$175,000.00] a
4 year for the next five years.

5 BLOOM: Terrific. I'll make a motion that we accept
6 the Title 12/Article 85--

7 ROUSSEAU: Eighty-six [86]. I second it.

8 BLOOM: I apologize. Eighty-six [86].

9 IRVING: Do I have a second?

10 ROUSSEAU: I did that. I said--

11 IRVING: Oh, you did?

12 ROUSSEAU: I thought I did, anyhow.

13 IRVING: I'm sorry.

14 ROUSSEAU: I was thinking--
15 IRVING: All in favor--
16 ROUSSEAU: --I was thinking about doing it. If I
17 didn't do it, I apologize.
18 IRVING: Verbalization--
19 ROUSSEAU: But I'll second that--
20 IRVING: --is good.
21 ROUSSEAU: --wonderful motion.
22 IRVING: All in favor say "aye."
23 BLOOM: Aye.
24 ROUSSEAU: Aye.
25 IRVING: Aye. Motion carried. Sheila, I would like

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1 to also congratulate you on the nice article that was
2 in the paper on the re-entry court.
3 HUDSON: Thank you, very much.
4 IRVING: And when--
5 BLOOM: Very nice.
6 IRVING: --Judge Matthias on Monday, he congratulated
7 both you and Judge Surbeck on your nationally
8 renowned program, and that's very exciting because I
9 know you've put your heart and soul into it.
10 HUDSON: Yes. Thank you very much, Commissioner.
11 IRVING: Congratulations.
12 HUDSON: I appreciate it. Thank you.
13 IRVING: I think we have a request from our Allen
14 County Clerk for the amendment to the Maximus
15 Contract. Good morning.
16 BROWN: Good morning. Therese--
17 IRVING: How are you ladies?
18 BLOOM: Good morning.
19 BROWN: I'm fine. Therese Brown, Clerk of the Court.
20 RENEE ROUSSEAU: Renee Rousseau. Chief Deputy Clerk.
21 IRVING: Good morning, ladies.
22 BROWN: What I'm asking for today is for an amendment
23 to your existing contract that--which for some of us
24 old-timers, D.M. Griffith and Associates, now known
25 as Maximus, has been doing for Allen County on the

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1 federal level of reimbursements and maximizing--I
2 suppose that's why they changed their name--their
3 return on investment for the federal reimbursements
4 that we do get from the federal and state
5 governments. What this addendum is is an allowance
6 for us as the Clerk's Office and the Child Support
7 Division to have an opportunity to be able to
8 increase our percentage of incentive dollars coming
9 back, and making sure also that we are capturing all
10 of the expenses that we need to be capturing in our
11 process on a monthly basis to receive back those
12 incentive dollars that can be used to, obviously,
13 enhance things with the Child Support Division. So
14 at this point, I believe the contract itself is a
15 little over 12,000 [\$12,000.00]. I am going to be
16 paying for that out of incentive monies, not out of
17 the general fund in any way, shape, or form, but also
18 will be able to get 66 and two-thirds reimbursement
19 back from the state on that as well, so the net cost
20 ultimately is going to be roughly around \$4,000.00
21 out of the incentive money that we have. So this is
22 an opportunity for us to increase incentive payments,

23 obviously, to make sure that we are operating as
24 efficiently as possible within the Clerk's Office in
25 the Child Support Division, and obviously to maximize
0015

1 whatever we can do to increase our efficiency in all
2 areas within the Child Support Division.

3 BLOOM: Who--who decides what the increase is? I
4 mean, can you do this yourself? You're talking about
5 the incentive program, but are you increasing costs
6 also you're saying?

7 BROWN: Well, ultimately what this project is meant
8 to do is to allow for an overview of how we do
9 business in Allen County, and if we are receiving all
10 the dollars back that we should be, also claiming all
11 the dollars that we should be.

12 BLOOM: And I thought that's what they did anyway.

13 BROWN: They don't do that on the Child Support under
14 the current process. They're doing Welfare, Aid to
15 Dependent Children, that type of thing to the county,
16 but this is a separate--that we have never approached
17 in Allen County.

18 BLOOM: This is good.

19 BROWN: So, I mean, this is an opportunity, and I do
20 want to make sure that the Commissioners are aware as
21 well. I mean, we are doing a lot strides in the
22 Child Support Division at this point. Starting June
23 1st we will be activating direct deposit for all
24 welfare rec--welfare--excuse me--child support
25 recipients, the custodial parents, and then shortly
0016

1 after that within a couple of months we will be
2 having automatic withdrawal offered to the payers of
3 child support, so we're trying to couple all of these
4 things together to try to reduce the cost to the
5 county. Obviously we all know the budget constraints
6 that we're under, and anything that we can do--this
7 is one of those little pieces to the pie that's going
8 to help kind of meet that obligation.

9 BLOOM: Terrific. I'll make a motion that we approve
10 an amendment to the Maximus contract.

11 ROUSSEAU: Second.

12 IRVING: All in favor say, "aye."

13 BLOOM: Aye.

14 ROUSSEAU: Aye.

15 BROWN: Thank you very much.

16 IRVING: Aye. Motion carries. Thank you very much.

17 BLOOM: Thank you.

18 IRVING: Agenda item number four, we'd like to have a
19 ratification of an agreement between Allen County
20 with Edwin--I know that's your favorite name--Edwin
21 H. Steenman to serve as our IT Service Coordinator.
22 Mr. Steenman is not here. He is with Selma at AC--
23 with ACS right now at a meeting. We've been trying
24 to get him involved in meeting everyone, so he is
25 going to come at a later date to be introduced on TV,
0017

1 and I'd like to have a motion to ratify the contract.

2 BLOOM: So moved.

3 ROUSSEAU: Second it.

4 IRVING: All in favor say, "aye."

5 BLOOM: Aye.

6 ROUSSEAU: Aye.

7 IRVING: Aye. Thank you very much. I think we have
8 a hardware/software request from our Recorder, and we
9 notice that our Recorder has a cane today. Is she
10 okay?

11 CRICK: She has arthritis in her hip right now.

12 BLOOM: Oh, no.

13 CRICK: It's going to get better, I hope.

14 IRVING: Is that from skiing at the lake?

15 CRICK: Yeah, right.

16 IRVING: Okay. On the ice?

17 CRICK: No--on the ice, yeah. I'm Pat Crick, Allen
18 County Recorder. I have two requests today. One is
19 to purchase a scanner/microfilmer machine, and this
20 machine, we've used it for about a month. It scans
21 our documents, plus it microfilms at the same time,
22 so we are saving \$1200.00 a month once the machine is
23 paid for, so we're really pleased, and it's--

24 IRVING: I think a total of--

25 CRICK: --\$19,761.00, and this includes a maintenance

0018

1 agreement, and it is coming out of my perpetuation
2 fund.

3 IRVING: Okay. We'll vote on that first. Is there
4 any discussion?

5 BLOOM: I'll make a motion that we accept the
6 scanner/filmer for the Recorder.

7 ROUSSEAU: Second.

8 IRVING: All in favor say, "aye."

9 BLOOM: Aye.

10 ROUSSEAU: Aye.

11 IRVING: Aye. Motion carried.

12 CRICK: The second request, this is kind of--I like
13 telling this story. Jerry Zuber had asked if I would
14 purchase him a reader/printer for his office. And I
15 said, "yeah," I didn't see any problem with it, and
16 the more I got to thinking about it I thought, "Well,
17 now wait a minute. I need the new machine. He can
18 get the old one." Well then I was down in the
19 Auditor's Office, and the Auditor's Office, their
20 machine is older than mine, so the Auditor's Office
21 is getting my machine, Auditor's Office machine is
22 going to Jerry Zuber, and I'm getting a new one.

23 IRVING: And so you're the queen of recycling today?

24 CRICK: Yes.

25 IRVING: Okay, that's great.

0019

1 BLOOM: At the tune of 13,387.50 [\$13,387.50].

2 CRICK: Correct.

3 BLOOM: I'll make a motion we accept and commend your
4 efforts on this recycling.

5 CRICK: Thank you.

6 ROUSSEAU: Before I second, I just--I haven't been
7 able to figure out why everybody's been sucking up to
8 you.

9 CRICK: Yeah, you know why.

10 ROUSSEAU: And I--

11 CRICK: You know why.

12 ROUSSEAU: --now realize that while you're nice-
13 looking and you do a great job, it's the fact that

14 you have money over--
15 BLOOM: Lots of money.
16 ROUSSEAU: --there at your department.
17 CRICK: Well I don't--after tomorrow night I won't
18 have much.
19 ROUSSEAU: All right, I'll second this, and we'll get
20 what you've got left.
21 CRICK: Thank you.
22 IRVING: All in favor say "aye."
23 BLOOM: Aye.
24 ROUSSEAU: Aye.
25 IRVING: Aye. Motion carried. Thank you very much.

0020
1 Next order of business is the change order for the
2 Allen County Juvenile Justice Center, and what I
3 would like to do--we have quite a few of them. It is
4 concerning change order number four, change order
5 number eight, change order number 18, 19, 19, 20, 13,
6 14, 15. These consist of CMS Roofing, Tag Coating,
7 Strahm Division of SGI, W.A. Sheets, and L-A
8 Electric, Incorporated. What the total of all this
9 is is that we've had a \$12,753.00 of a reduction--
10 BLOOM: Twelve [12,000]? I think it's 22 [22,000].
11 IRVING: I'm sorry, \$22,753.00 reduction with an
12 addition of \$6,967.50, so I am asking for a reduction
13 and approval for \$15,785.50.
14 BLOOM: So moved.
15 ROUSSEAU: Second it.
16 IRVING: All in favor say "aye."
17 BLOOM: Aye.
18 ROUSSEAU: Aye.
19 IRVING: Aye. Thank you very much.
20 BLOOM: Go girl.
21 ROUSSEAU: Get that before they change their mind.
22 IRVING: I know it. I know it. Isn't that exciting?
23 BLOOM: You have reviewed these?
24 IRVING: Oh, I have reviewed every single one of
25 them, and have fought. We have an approval of a

0021
1 contract modification number one for an improvement
2 of the 2002 concrete repair package number seven for
3 Deerfield Estates, project 02-266 between Newell
4 Construction and Allen County for an increase of
5 \$3,913.70. Good morning.
6 BLOOM: Good morning.
7 FITCH: Good morning. Mike Fitch, Allen County
8 Highway Department. This was a addition to the
9 contract. There was a--an area around the inlet--
10 inlet where the pavement had sunk, and we found out
11 there was undermining of the inlet, so we had to
12 remove the pavement and fix the pavement, so--
13 BLOOM: And so the increase is 3,913.70 [\$3,913.70],
14 and I'll move that we approve this modification.
15 ROUSSEAU: Second.
16 IRVING: All in favor say "aye."
17 BLOOM: Aye.
18 ROUSSEAU: Aye.
19 IRVING: Aye. Motion carried.
20 FITCH: That's all I have. Short--
21 IRVING: It's short today.

22 FITCH: --short agenda today. Thank you.
23 IRVING: Well great.
24 BLOOM: Thanks.
25 IRVING: We look forward to seeing you next week.

0022
1 Under other business--well, it's kind of a--I'm
2 trying to decide. Would you like to come up and
3 explain this?
4 McGAULEY: I didn't know we are at other business
5 right now.
6 IRVING: Yeah, we are.
7 McGAULEY: Well, here we are. Just--just real
8 quickly. In the "Where Did Your Money Go?"
9 Department, I thought you'd enjoy hearing a little
10 bit about what we did with the \$5600.00 we asked your
11 permission to spend a few months ago to put a
12 resource out on the web site that our voters and
13 citizens could use to find out where they need to go
14 on election day--the 12-point-something percent that
15 went out on election day. That resource, in the
16 month prior to election day, was used 2600 times for
17 people to go and find out where their polling places
18 were, who they would be voting for, what districts,
19 and so on, and also draw a map right to their polling
20 place. In the week prior to election day, 1100 of
21 those 2600 people hit the site, and I'm not--this
22 isn't my--these aren't my words. These are words
23 from Pam Finlayson, the Director of Elections. She
24 said it was "freaky quiet" on election day because of
25 this. The phones were dead.

0023
1 BLOOM: Oh, that's wonderful.
2 McGAULEY: And she said even considering the low
3 turnout, that--
4 ROUSSEAU: The people were not calling--
5 McGAULEY: The people were not calling.
6 ROUSSEAU: --for where--to find out where their--
7 McGAULEY: Exactly.
8 ROUSSEAU: --polling stations were because you had it
9 on our website.
10 IRVING: We had it on our website.
11 McGAULEY: Exactly.
12 ROUSSEAU: We had it. Oh yeah. Yeah, I was working
13 night and day on getting that--
14 IRVING: Well, yes. We--we have worked very hard on
15 this.
16 McGAULEY: But that's exactly what we intended to do,
17 was to try to recover some time--
18 BLOOM: Oh, that's great.
19 McGAULEY: --for those points on the Election Board,
20 and it worked, and I can't wait to see what happens
21 when we get up toward 13, 14 percent turnout, and see
22 what--
23 IRVING: Is there any correlation between we had more
24 hits on our website to find out where to poll than we
25 had people vote?

0024
1 McGAULEY: I think that--
2 IRVING: I'm kidding.
3 McGAULEY: --I think the total number of people was
4 somewhere around 17,000, so fortunately, no.

5 BLOOM: I have the total here. It's 17,787.

6 McGAULEY: Yeah.

7 BLOOM: And 2607 individuals hit that web site.

8 McGAULEY: In the four weeks prior to election day.

9 IRVING: That's great.

10 McGAULEY: So, I just thought you would enjoy knowing
11 that.

12 BLOOM: Absolutely.

13 IRVING: Thank you very much.

14 BLOOM: Thanks.

15 IRVING: And you can come in under any other business
16 you want, John. Thank you very much. Your timing
17 was great. The Commissioners under Other Business
18 also would like to discuss the Major Bridge Fund, and
19 I'd like to read a statement here. "We need to
20 discuss the proposed increase to our Major Bridge
21 Fund. While the need hasn't gone away, the situation
22 has changed with the passage of the Indiana State
23 budget. Last month the Commissioners proposed
24 increasing the Major Bridge Fund by two cents on
25 property tax. This increase would have raised the

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1 Major Bridge Fund to its maximum allowed levy, and
2 provide funding for us to perform much needed
3 maintenance and repair projects on our 336 bridges.
4 As many of you know, the State Legislator that passed
5 language that will allow Allen County to request an
6 excess levy to pay for the operation of our two
7 court-mandated detention facilities. While this
8 process isn't complete, it offers the best hope of
9 allowing us to operate these facilities within the
10 order of the mandates. We propose that we set aside
11 our plans to repair those bridges for a year or two,
12 and focus our attention and tax dollars on opening
13 the facilities that will help keep our citizens safe
14 from criminal activities. Of course, we will need to
15 address the public safety of traveling our roads and
16 highways in the near future, but we might be able to
17 do this by reducing weight limits, and adjusting our
18 uses of bridges for now." I'd like to discuss this
19 with my two partners.

20 ROUSSEAU: Well, I think it's a valid consideration.
21 We don't have any judgments to make as far as that
22 the Federal Court mandated the adult facility and the
23 Superior Court mandated the juvenile facility. In
24 both cases we're going to have to staff that. It
25 takes roughly, if my recollection is--somewhere about

0026
1 80 additional staff people--

2 IRVING: Yes, sir.

3 ROUSSEAU: --to fund the two jails, and there's
4 already no money--less than no money, if that's
5 possible--in the budget, so we suspect that someone
6 will want to raise the--now that that law has been
7 passed for us down at the legislature, it will allow
8 us the money in order to operate those jails. It
9 will not--it will not solve the financial problems of
10 the county, but it will allow us to follow the
11 mandate. In other words, we will have to manage
12 those jails, and if we don't we're opening ourselves

13 up to being forced to do. So it will be--it will
14 done, and this is one way of furnishing the money to
15 do that, and so holding off on the bridge fund--
16 funding will just be something we'll have to do. So
17 I make a motion that we--well, we haven't passed it
18 anyhow, have we?
19 IRVING: No, it--we were--
20 ROUSSEAU: Considering it.
21 IRVING: --supposed to do that today. Is that--
22 ROUSSEAU: Yeah, uh-huh (affirmative).
23 IRVING: --correct? May I ask our attorney?
24 FISHERING: You've passed the Major Bridge Fund. You
25 may now just direct me to not submit it to the state.

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1 IRVING: Could you come up and explain that to us?
2 BLOOM: And I'd like to say something.
3 IRVING: Well, you can say anything you want,
4 Commissioner Bloom. Let him explain it, and then--
5 FISHERING: Hi, I'm Bill Fishering. I'm the County
6 Attorney. You have approved the preliminary phases
7 of increasing the Major Bridge Fund. We are at the
8 position where we would be submitting that to the
9 State Board for their approval, and possible
10 subsequent hearing. In essence, you're directing me
11 not to make that submission to the State Board. That
12 means that when you decide--if you do decide in the
13 future to move forward, we'll have to start the
14 process over.
15 BLOOM: Okay, so we're withdrawing that at this
16 point?
17 FISHERING: That's my understanding of this
18 discussion.
19 BLOOM: Seeing as how that is my responsibility as
20 Commissioner of the Roads and the Bridges, this fund,
21 if you remember, partners, I know you know the need
22 for it. We would not have gone forward with this had
23 we not, and it is money that could be generated
24 outside the county general fund. The money that's
25 coming from Indianapolis for the jail and the

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1 juvenile center is one year outside the levy, as I
2 understand it?
3 ROUSSEAU: No.
4 FISHERING: No, it'll be an increase--
5 BLOOM: It'll be a permanent increase?
6 ROUSSEAU: Oh yeah.
7 FISHERING: There's a process where we have to go
8 back down to State--
9 BLOOM: Every year?
10 FISHERING: No, no. Same board that we would go for
11 for this.
12 BLOOM: Tax Commissioners.
13 FISHERING: Tax Commissioners, local government
14 Control Board. Once it's approved it will, in
15 essence, be added to the levy, and then we would not
16 go back for it year after year.
17 IRVING: It's increasing our tax levy. We're--
18 BLOOM: Where as--
19 FISHERING: Yeah, it increases the maximum amount.
20 BLOOM: --where as the Major Bridge Fund was a
21 totally separate amount of money--

22 FISHERING: Outside the levy.
23 BLOOM: --and it's own--outside the levy--
24 FISHERING: That's correct.
25 BLOOM: --inside--outside the levy, but to be used

0029
1 only for major bridges?
2 FISHERING: Yes.
3 BLOOM: We have our bridges inspected every two
4 years. Like Marla suggested, there could be a point
5 --or Ed did--that we may have to lower weight limits
6 and so forth on them. It is strictly a safety issue.
7 I've recently talked with other commissioners in
8 other counties. Because of the amount of bridges we
9 have, our bridges are in need of maintenance and
10 repair. Our roads are in pretty good conditions.
11 Their's were the opposite. Their bridges were in
12 really good shape because the Cum [cumulative] Bridge
13 could accommodate it, plus the seated money. We no
14 longer have the Cum Bridge account, and that's why we
15 were wanting to increase this. I understand the
16 necessity of the jail opening and the juvenile
17 opening. I just don't want the repairs and the
18 maintenance on these bridges and roads to go astray.
19 We are going to have to address this again next year.
20 IRVING: Is there anything--
21 ROUSSEAU: Therefore I would move that we instruct
22 the county attorney to withdraw our application to
23 raise the bridge fund.
24 BLOOM: And I'll second that.
25 IRVING: All in favor say "aye."

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1 BLOOM: Aye.
2 ROUSSEAU: Aye.
3 IRVING: Aye. Motion carried. I might add, since
4 Councilwoman Hughes has come in, that this is
5 definitely something that I think County Council
6 could have been somewhat rash in their decision last
7 year, and it might be something that you might want
8 to look at again, because it is--as we say, we have
9 336 bridges that need to be repaired, and, obviously,
10 financially we need to figure something out.
11 HUGHES: Are you--are you saying that you think
12 County Council was rash in eliminating the Cum Bridge
13 Fund? Rash in--I didn't follow. I'm sorry.
14 IRVING: Yeah, I--and if you'd like to come up,
15 Paula, you can. What--now, what I am saying is that
16 I think that by taking the complete fund away as they
17 did last year, without--
18 HUGHES: The Cum Bridge Fund?
19 IRVING: --yes--without any other means to be able to
20 finance this with a large amount of bridges. The
21 Major Bridge Fund is only--and Commissioner Bloom
22 help me out here--it's only for bridges that are more
23 than 200 foot, which we only have--
24 BLOOM: Correct.
25 IRVING: --six or eight.

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1 BLOOM: Well, 13.
2 IRVING: Or 13. Whatever. We have such a minimum
3 amount, you know, that if we could get, you know, the

4 length changed on that would help, or if you could
5 see within yourself to help us figure out different
6 ways that we're going to be able to maintain these
7 bridges, we'd appreciate it.

8 HUGHES: Sure. Well, and obviously it's an ongoing
9 concern maintaining the level of the streets and the
10 bridges as a part of that transportation network--

11 BLOOM: Exactly.

12 HUGHES: --and an ongoing struggle that Council faces
13 as we evaluate the--we have talked over and over
14 again about the growing needs of the justice system
15 and how it is eroding our ability to properly fund
16 other departments of government operation, and it's
17 an issue we continue to struggle with, and we will
18 very much be facing that in the 2004 budget hearings
19 this year, and appreciate the gesture that you are
20 making in taking--

21 BLOOM: Withdrawing--

22 HUGHES: --withdrawing the Major Bridge increase.
23 Certainly, the--I know the tax payers appreciate that
24 with all of the uncertainty and what rates actually
25 will be this year since we don't have the

0032

1 reassessment figures in place yet. I think it's a
2 smart move to give the tax payers a chance to adjust
3 to the new rates before we look at all those
4 increases, so thank you.

5 IRVING: Thank you very much. We appreciate it very
6 much, Councilwoman. Can I have approval to waive the
7 second reading?

8 BLOOM: So moved.

9 ROUSSEAU: Second.

10 IRVING: All in favor say "aye."

11 BLOOM: Aye.

12 ROUSSEAU: Aye.

13 IRVING: Aye. Motion carried. Comments from the
14 public. Do we have anyone here today that would like
15 to say something to us? Seeing none, I'd like to
16 tell everyone to have a wonderful week, and we'll see
17 you next Wednesday.

18
19 (Adjourned 10:32 a.m.)

20 * * *

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1 STATE OF INDIANA)
) SS:
2 COUNTY OF ALLEN)

3 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

4 I, M. Joshua Osbun, a Notary Public in and
5 for the State of Indiana, County of Allen, do hereby
6 certify that the above and foregoing is a true and
7 accurate transcript of the Board of Commissioners of
8 the County of Allen, Legislative Session, held before
9 me on May 14, 2003 in the Allen County Commissioners
10 Courtroom, Room 200, City-County Building, 1 East
11 Main Street, Fort Wayne, Allen County, Indiana; that

12 I am not related to, employed by or interested in any
13 of the parties to this cause of action.

14 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereto affixed my
15 hand and seal this 16th day of May, 2003.

16
17

M. Joshua Osbun, Notary Public
Residing in Allen County, Indiana

18
19

My Commission Expires:

20 May 14, 2010