



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF ALLEN
Citizens Square Suite 410 · 200 East Berry Street · Fort Wayne, IN 46802

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RICHARD E. BECK THERESE M. BROWN F. NELSON PETERS

MINUTES

Commissioners' Legislative Session
10:00 AM Friday, April 12, 2019
Council Chambers Courtroom – Citizens Square

Commissioners Present: Nelson Peters, Therese Brown and Rich Beck

Others Present:	Chris Cloud	Commissioners Office
	Mike Green	Commissioners Office
	Bill Fishering	County Attorney
	Beth Lock	Commissioners Office
	Vance Hernandez	Buildings & Grounds
	Bill Hartman	Highway Director

Commissioner Peters called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM. Commissioner Peters led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

- 1. Consider approval of the minutes of April 5, 2019.** Commissioner Beck made a motion to approve minutes of April 5, 2019. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.
- 2. Consider approval of agreement between the Board of Commissioners and Kone Inc for elevator replacement at the Allen County Courthouse.** Vance Hernandez, Director of Buildings and Grounds, presented this item. He stated this agreement is to upgrade our two main elevators at the courthouse. This contract work will take 30 weeks from the time of approval to completion for both elevators. The passenger elevators will not be change out except for new light curtains on the doors and new control buttons. The total cost for this project is \$415,120.04. To reason we are upgrading now is that we have lots issues with these elevators. The technology of the elevators are vintage 1960 and they are some of the oldest elevators in downtown. Commissioner Brown made a motion to approve the agreement between the Board of Commissioners and Kone, Inc. for elevator replacement at the Allen County Courthouse. Commissioner Beck seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.
- 3. Public hearing on the re-establishment of a Major Bridge Fund.**
Commissioner Beck made a motion to open the public hearing. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Beth Lock, Director of Allen County Government Affairs, gave a presentation to explain the Major Bridge Fund tax rate.

Cheryl Lyons – 4318 Buesching Dr., Fort Wayne, expressed her concerns that every year their property taxes increase.

James Geller – 9034 Butt Rd., Fort Wayne, expressed that he thought the figures he is hearing is excessive.

Brandon Seifert – 15470 Towne Gardens Ct., Huntertown, Huntertown Town Council, stated that Huntertown supports this and submitted a letter stating so.

Brian Roemke, 21721 Antwerp Rd., Harlan, member of Allen County Farm Bureau and a property stated that in the past two weeks he has been able to better understand the proposal and stated that it is not as severe as he initially had been led to believe. He stated his position is that this should be a transportation tax vs. a property tax.

Gerry Wyss – 12819 Winchester Rd., Fort Wayne, a farmer in Pleasant Twp. stated that wealth today exists in many forms and that he is in no way proposing that we tax bonds, equities, IRA's etc. but he would like everyone to be aware that farmland is just one form of investment. They carry a pretty heavy burden on that. He requested that the Commissioners look at their options for funding this bridge fund aside from a property tax.

Dorothy Gormann – 11825 Butternut Cove, Leo, stated it was her understanding that there was no bridge tax for several years because it was moved to the Juvenile Center so therefore there was no money. Several years ago the fuel tax was raised for diesel and regular gas to .10 or .15 cents. Again that was not used for roads and bridges. She questions where did it go? There was also a wheel tax for farm trucks, semis and everything else. She asked where is the money going to? They'd like to at least break even and it would be nice to make a profit. \$3.50 on corn is not going to pay the bills. She would like them to consider something different than property taxes. She also brought up all the renters that won't be paying property taxes.

John Eastes – 11428 Grabill Rd., Leo, stated that at the Commissioners meeting 2 weeks ago he provided a letter of support from the Leo-CedarvilleTown Council. Regarding the surtax wheel tax, he asked if they have been provided with the possibility of raising that rate and what the impact would be in terms of providing revenue towards this situation. He doesn't believe that rate is at its' max. If that's the case, has any data been provided that would talk about the volume of increase in vehicles? He anticipates that will increase over time which would provide additional revenue. He asked if they have been provided with the anticipated dates to begin construction on various bridges that they are aware of on the major bridge inventory based upon the classification of those bridges. He stated they have a major bridge in Leo Cedarville that they are concerned about.

Don Gerardot – 108 W. Barnhart St., Monroeville, stated he represents the Town of Monroeville and they had much discussion at their meeting on April 3 and it was voted on unanimously to support the increase even though they don't have any bridges. They understand they must be maintained and kept safe.

Mike Gross – 10826 Valentine Rd., Churubusco, stated that he believes that all users should have to pay the same amount whether they have a farm or not.

Alan Kuehnert – 6532 Cook Rd., Fort Wayne, stated he represents Kuehnert Dairy Farm on Cook Road. He stated the taxes on his buildings have almost tripled the last 3 years. He stated dairy farmers have been trying to make a profit with marginal milk prices the last 3 years. He stated dairy farming takes many, many buildings and every time they come out to assess he cringes because his tax bill has almost tripled. He said farmers are paying way more than their fair share.

Dr. John Crawford – 2805 Chichester Lane, Fort Wayne – City Councilman, applauded the Commissioners for trying to come up with a countywide solution to a countywide problem. He stated city council had no input into the City's decision to separate from countywide program. He stated it is regrettable that the City administration did not work harder to collaborate with the County.

Roger Hadley – 5505 Bull Rapids Rd., stated it's pretty clear that farmers and landowners are against having it added to property taxes.

Beth Lock clarified some of the numbers she used in her presentation after hearing some of the comments just made by constituents. She also went over the timelines, procedures and processes required in terms of the Commissioners adopting any rate.

Jon H. Smith – 13806 Hand Rd., Fort Wayne, wanted clarification on how the rate is set and what options the Commissioners have in setting a rate.

Commissioner Brown made a motion to close the Public Hearing. Commissioner Beck seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

- 4. Consider approval of Memorandum of Understanding between the Board of Commissioners and New Haven City Utilities for use of a Community Corrections work crew.** Chris Cloud, Chief of Staff, stated that from time to time various non-profits have the opportunity to use Community Correction work crews. These are individuals who are on work assignments from the courts. This is on the standard Community Corrections work crew format. Commissioner Brown made a motion to approve Memorandum of Understanding between the Board of Commissioners and New Haven City Utilities for use of a Community Corrections work crew. Commissioner Beck seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.
- 5. Consider approval of addition to the Allen County Code – Title 12 (Financial) – Article 234 (Adult Probation Alternate State Grant Fund).** Chris Cloud, Chief of Staff, stated that about a month ago a fund ordinance for Community Corrections was established. When the Department of Corrections gives them their annual grant fund they are now requiring alternate year funds to track that a county is using all the previous year funds before it moves on to the next years. Commissioner Brown made a motion to approve addition to the Allen County Code – Title 12 (Financial) – Article 234 (Adult Probation Alternate State Grant Fund). Commissioner Beck seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.
- 6. Consider approval of claims for payment.** Commissioner Beck made a motion to approve the claims as submitted in the amount of \$714,541.27. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.
- 7. Other Business**
 - Consider approval of Change Orders #1 and # 2 for Sheriff's K-9 Training Facility.** Chris Cloud, Chief of Staff, stated that all of these change order costs will be incurred by the Sheriff. Commissioner Brown made a motion to approve these two change orders. Commissioner Beck seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.
 - Consider approval of Bond issuance for entrance improvements at the Parkview campus off of Dupont Road.** Attorney Fishing explained that the Redevelopment Commission on Tuesday approved a bond not to exceed \$1.4 million to be used to improve the entrances of the Parkview campus off of Dupont Road. The bond will be purchased by Parkview and repaid out of Tax Incremental Fund with no interest. As the legislative body, the statute requires that the Commissioners approve that bond issue. Commissioner Beck made a motion to approve Bond issuance for entrance improvements at the Parkview campus off of Dupont Road. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.
- 8. Approval to waive the 2nd Reading on any matter approved today and for which it may be deemed necessary for the Legislative Session of April 12, 2019.** Commissioner Brown made a motion to approve the waiving of the 2nd Reading on any matter approved today and for which it may be deemed necessary for the Legislative Session of April 12, 2019. Commissioner Beck seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.
- 9. Comments from the Public**
- 10. Motion to Adjourn.** Meeting adjourned at 10:59 a.m.

Allen County does not discriminate because of disability in the admission to, or treatment or employment in, its programs or activities. The Human Resources Director has been designated to coordinate compliance with nondiscrimination requirements contained in Section 35.107 of the Department of Justice regulations. Information concerning the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the rights provided therein, and Allen County's ADA policy is available from the ADA Coordinator. Suggestions on how the County can better meet

the needs of persons with disabilities may be submitted to the ADA coordinator at: Human Resources Department, 200 East Berry Street, Suite 380, Fort Wayne, IN 46802, or by phone at (260) 449-7217.