

**ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**NOVEMBER 19, 2020**  
**8:30 AM**

The Allen County Council met on Thursday, November 19, 2020 at 8:30 am in the Chambers at Citizens Square. The purpose of the meeting was for additional appropriations, transfer of funds in excess of the current budget, grants and any other business to come before Council.

Attending: Robert A. Armstrong, Joel M. Benz, Sheila Curry-Campbell, Kenneth C. Fries, Tom A. Harris, Kyle A. Kerley and Chris Spurr.

Also Attending: Nick Jordan, Auditor and Jackie Scheuman, Finance and Budget Director

The meeting was called to order by President Joel Benz with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silent prayer.

**Joel Benz:** Good morning everyone. First on the agenda is the approval of the October 15, 2020 meeting minutes. Are there any additions or corrections?

**Tom Harris:** Move to approve the minutes from October 15, 2020.

**Bob Armstrong:** Second.

**Joel Benz:** All in favor signify by saying aye, opposed, same sign. The motion passes 7-0. Next is the financial report from Auditor Nick Jordan.

**Nick Jordan:** Good morning, Council. In your notebooks you see the financials through October. Everything still looks pretty healthy across the board. I will point out when you look at the General Fund, you will see the Miscellaneous Revenue is approximately four percent over 100 and that is due to the \$8 million of Cares money that we sought for reimbursement and have received back. Even if you remove that we are still around at 85% through 83% of the year. We are trending ahead as we had last year and the year before. More than likely, even absent of the Cares money, we are at about 110% of the Miscellaneous Revenue mark.

**Tom Harris:** Where is that showing up on there?

**Nick Jordan:** If you go to page 4 of 36, you can see on the right-hand side you will see the actual and then see Miscellaneous Revenue of \$45,708,708 or if you go into pages five and six, you can see the breakdown of Miscellaneous Revenue by category.

**Tom Harris:** Ok, thank you.

**Nick Jordan:** After pages five and six, you will see the Major Funds financials if you are interested in any of those.

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**Tom Harris:** I will move for approval of the financial report.

**Bob Armstrong:** Second.

**Joel Benz:** We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye, those opposed, like sign. The motion passes 7-0. This morning we have total appropriation requests in the General Fund in the amount of \$2,010,714 and in Other Funds of zero dollars. At this point, we will open it up for public comment. Seeing none, we will move on. At this point, we have the Board Appointment update and we have Councilwoman Tucker, formerly of this Board.

**Sharon Tucker:** Good morning, it is good to see all of you.

**Joel Benz:** Good to see you too.

**Sharon Tucker:** I am here to give an update for 2020 and 2019 as well. The Library continues to move forward especially during these really unusual times. At the beginning of the year, we saw the Library close based on the orders that came from the Governor in order to keep everyone safe. As the State started to open back up, the Library also found they were able to serve their patrons by implementing curbside pickup. We expanded the online services. We had Library Amnesty Day to make sure our patrons had the ability to waive some of those late fees and still return to reading and learning as the Library should be used for. Those are some of the things that we did. One of the saddest things was we had a turn of leadership for the Library. We currently have a Board and committee that are doing a search for a new Director. That should be drawing down fairly quickly with a really good person and candidate coming up. Right now, the search is still going and we have not had a candidate picked. The current Interim Director is awesome. Denise is her name and she is serving right now just wonderfully. She is doing great work and sending back great data. We get weekly updates on what the Library has done and the direction they plan to go. It has been very beneficial and a breath of fresh air as far as the flow of information. That is pretty much the update of what is going on. We do have a plan now that we have the orange and red stages and we are not looking to totally close the Library if we move back into the red stage. We are going to limit the services that will be offered. If the Governor ultimately closed things a little more stringent, then off course we would have to move in that direction as well. Right now, with the stage red, we are going to limit visitors to the Library and expand the curbside pickup even more to be able to keep things moving forward. With that I will answer any questions that you may have.

**Joel Benz:** I have a couple of questions. You said about the search for the new Director, do you have a timeline on when that is supposed to come to a close or is it just open-ended as to when you find a good candidate?

**Sharon Tucker:** There is a timeline and I believe it is at the end of the year that we wanted to have the applications submitted to us. Because I am not on that Board, I don't

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know 100% what the timeline is but I believe it is at the end of the year that they wanted to have the candidates so that we can start vetting and going through the interview processes. COVID makes the judge on that unfortunately.

**Joel Benz:** That is making the Library do a lot of things that is certainly outside of their comfort zone, I suppose.

**Sharon Tucker:** In speaking to that I should say kudos to the Library staff because with COVID, we have done things totally differently. We have taken some of our Board meetings online with Zoom and at the onset it was just the Board meeting with staff via Zoom. We have found ways to include the public like you guys did via Facebook and we also added space for public comments to be able to have those included in that meeting so that we get the opportunity to hear what those people have to say and their voices aren't squandered. It has been very different and very stressful for some of the staff because when you say we are going to open and we have a mask mandate, there are those that are very passionate and sensitive about not wearing masks. You have to answer the question about how do we approach a patron who has the right to say they won't wear it but still keep everyone safe. I would like to say kudos to the staff that has just been magnificent through all of the changes that the Library has been experiencing and have been magnificent in navigating those spaces.

**Sheila Curry-Campbell:** Have you lost any staff due to COVID?

**Sharon Tucker:** We have had staff retire. I am a realist and no one ever says I am leaving because of COVID. We know there were some that had greater concerns and fear with COVID and they were at the line where it was time to retire. Can I honestly and earnestly say oh yeah, it was because of COVID, I can't say that? There have been multiple retirements or people who have taken other opportunities for varying reasons.

**Sheila Curry-Campbell:** Have those positions been filled?

**Sharon Tucker:** Oh, yes. From my understanding, because the Board really gets involved in the Executive Director and he or she runs the Library but there has been pretty much a waiting list of people who want to be at the Library because of the reputation that it has.

**Sheila Curry-Campbell:** Thank you.

**Kenny Fries:** Councilwoman Tucker, COVID has forced us all to do things differently that I don't think any of us would have done without COVID coming along. To that end, do you think the Library and some of the stuff that they have done will continue after the pandemic is gone? Do they provide a better service now with some of the other stuff that is going on? Will some of the things they have done with COVID stay in place?

**Sharon Tucker:** It really depends because you hit the nail on the head when you said it caused us to do things differently. I think some of the IT portions will probably hang in there. It really all depends on how the funding goes. What impact will COVID have on

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our dollars and whether we will be able to utilize those services? We have a capital plan that the Library has been looking at. How do we repair, move and do our buildings and they brought that to you guys for the bonding. We are looking at spaces differently. Do we need as many spaces as we had before? Those are all conversations that the committee is exploring to be able to determine what we should do going forward as the Library. Will curbside service stay in? I am not really sure because there is a cost associated with it. When winter comes along, I probably wouldn't be one of the ones that would want to take that job up in zero degree weather. It will probably have a greater impact about how we look at the Library services in the future because we have learned that we can serve patrons differently and still be able to get materials in hands so the kids can read about Run, Jane, Run.

**Joel Benz:** Thank you for that update. We appreciate it.

**Sharon Tucker:** I do want to add that it has been a pleasure to serve and I took over Bill Brown's seat and it has been a pleasure. I should let you know that I do think it is a spot that when we look at the taxes and the budget and everything that goes in there, I make sure I use the wisdom and knowledge that I learned at this Council so that we are making the right decision for all of those people. However you move forward is fine with me and I want to say thank you for giving me the opportunity.

**Joel Benz:** Next is the Capital Improvement Board.

**Doug Johnston:** You are probably now getting the drill as to why I am here. My name is Doug Johnston and I am Legal Counsel for the Capital Improvement Board, technically the Allen County-Fort Wayne Capital Improvement Board of Managers. Pursuant to our statute, we are required to appear annually before County Council for review and approval of our budget. Under our statute, we are also tied with Visit Fort Wayne and so their budget is likewise is before you for that approval process today. With me, on behalf of the CIB/Grand Wayne Center are Board Member Don Steininger and our Executive Director Bart Shaw who can address any questions you may have. Also present is Visit Fort Wayne with its Treasurer Mike Mushett and Executive Director Dan O'Connell. As you have questions about Visit Fort Wayne, they are certainly here and step up to answer those questions. With that I will turn it over to Mr. Shaw for a brief presentation and response to your questions.

**Bart Shaw:** Thank you for seeing us today. Just a couple of things, obviously we are very much impacted by COVID as everyone else. To give you an idea of how we proceeded earlier, a subcommittee of the Board and I met and we developed guidelines to help us move through this process. Those guidelines were fairly simple and very important and that is to take care of the safety of our staff and guests and whatever way we can impact the community. Number two, we want to make sure we are monitoring and managing the financial health of the Center. Number three is to try to leverage the Center physical and human resources to help aid the community in response and recovery. Finally, just preparing the recovery processes as it relates to our business and how it looks moving forward. That is how we guided ourselves over the last nine months. To give you a

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couple of highlights, we gave you all of the policies and procedures in place to make sure we keep our workforce safe. We have done some work from home, some virtual stuff. We have had our mask policy in place and are doing all of the sanitation. From the financial standpoint for this end year, we immediately took a look at it and went very conservative and assumed we were going to have a 60% reduction in revenue. We are going to be very close to that. Likewise, we initiated a number of cost-saving measures. Our initial target was to save \$7 million off of the budget this year and we are probably going to be closer to \$1.3 million. I give all of the credit to the staff for being very creative in how we have done business over the last few years. From the standpoint of leveraging our assets to help the community, we made the building available early on for the Health Department to use for some meetings that they needed to do. We were also an early voting site for primary voting. We are currently working through that plan of what we are going to look like when we start to recover and come out of this. Our AV Department was very forward thinking and in the beginning of this came forward with a plan of equipment and processes to put us in the position to do hybrid meetings because we think that is going to be the immediate future. We have acquired some equipment and have put in a plan that has worked out very well. As we look to next year, we are budgeting a 30% revenue reduction off of our 2019 number. That is based on what we are seeing and reading about and it changes daily. As of October, when we put this budget together, we expected to start seeing a recovery after the first quarter. That is probably going to be pushed a little bit. The Board and its forward thinking, we are going to do a subcommittee that meets with me monthly at the very least if not more so. We are going to manage next year's budget and while we have asked for approval for what would be a semi-normal year, we are going to manage that in-year.

**Tom Harris:** In taking a look at the first document, it looks like you projected 2020 to 2021 going up in room tax but the second document shows that it is coming down. Am I looking at this right? It was budgeted for 2020 Room Tax revenue at \$4.4 and then it is going to \$3.2 for 2021.

**Bart Shaw:** Yes. The 2020 projection looks is a 60% reduction from the 2019 number but for 2021 it is a 30% reduction from the 2019 number. We are using 2019 as the baseline number.

**Tom Harris:** Okay but the first document, proposed budget for but it is also stating 2020 at \$2.6 and 2021 as \$3.2. Help me understand this.

**Nick Jordan:** That is the same as the CIB one and the second one is the Grand Wayne breakdown. Originally when the 2020 budget, obviously before COVID, they had anticipated \$4.4 and with COVID in place, they have revised that to \$2.2.

**Tom Harris:** That is what I was trying to understand. You said that but I wanted to make sure I was looking at the right document. Thank you. Is there any reading of the tea leaves at this point? Are you getting any sense that you are going to see something different? I think we were thinking it was going to rebound a little bit and now things are

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up in the air a little bit but are you seeing any increased behavior or activity going on at this time?

**Bart Shaw:** Fortunately, as of everything we had on the books, not everything but a good number of what we had on the books have postponed as much as possible into the calendar of next year. In the books, next year looks great. It all depends on really when people feel comfortable again. I think that is going to drive so much of everything. Fortunately for us a lot of our market is for driving and we do a lot of leisure activities for religious or collectors groups and those sorts of things and they are not going to be as governed by corporate policies. We can see that rebound a little quicker. I think we are in a better position to rebound in hospitality and tourism because of the types of visitors that we have.

**Kenny Fries:** I am looking at the first document that you sent us under Personnel for Disbursements and I see in 2020 the budget was set at \$1.9 for salaries and wages and in 2021 it is \$1.7. There is a reduction there. Have you lost personnel? Why is it less?

**Bart Shaw:** A couple of things. We had budgeted to add a person this year, an Assistant Business Manager. We never filled that position. We have taken that position out for next year. Likewise for our event-related staff, the ones that do the set up and cleanup which is about 28 part-timers and I did not build them into coming back into the building until second quarter. That is the other part of the reduction.

**Kenny Fries:** Okay. I noticed the fringe benefits increased. The salaries decreased but the fringe benefits went up by \$5,000.

**Bart Shaw:** I always build in for our health care. Our renewal meeting is today and I didn't have those numbers and so I assume a 12% increase. It is usually less than that.

**Kenny Fries:** So that increase is basically for the healthcare increase.

**Bart Shaw:** Yes.

**Don Steininger:** I would like to make a couple of comments. On the Hotel-Motel Tax, it goes to the Grand Wayne. Food and Beverage goes to the CIB for funding development projects. It is amazing how our revenue that we got in October was the highest we had gotten in several years. The Food and Beverage Tax is really, this year, amazingly high. Especially in the last few months, the minute the restaurants opened and all of the alcohol sales that side of the CIB is not affected nearly like the Grand Wayne. I just want to make a couple of comments about the last two pages in the booklet that is in front of you. One of them has always been a pet peeve of mine, if you look at the very last page it shows information about all of the projects that we have funded and those that are pending. One of the things that you need to realize, the best example is Electric Works at \$45 million. Understand that is a bond that is issued and at that point the \$45 million will be paid over 25 years and the real cost of that is \$82 million. By the same token, Barrett and Stokely

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shows at \$27 million payable over 25 years. I really wish we could somehow educate the press on the time value of money because it is not apples and oranges to say we are putting out \$43 million for Riverfront and \$27 million for Barrett and Stokely. It is just not a fair comparison. Everybody needs to understand that cash is cash.

**Dan O'Connell:** We sent you this packet both digitally and in paper and our budget is the second or third page in the document.

**Mike Mushett:** Thank you Dan and Council. Needless to say 2020 was a very difficult and in some ways a very devastating year for Tourism and Hospitality industry. Financially, Visit Fort Wayne will be down about \$1 million in revenue for the year. Dan did an analysis from STR in Rockport Economic to estimate Allen County lost about \$275 million in tourism sales from April through September. For revenue, next year's Room Tax will still be depressed estimated to be down 30% from 2019 as the baseline. It is really an estimate. Visit Fort Wayne personnel expenses have been reduced. We are down to twelve employees from sixteen. We have budgeted to hire an open Sales Director at mid-year. Direct promotion expenses are still at reduced levels. We are beginning to increase website and digital advertising because it seems to be the most effective method to reach our audiences. Other expenses are about the same. We will be doing our bi-annual audit this year. All-in-all, we are budgeting to spend about \$2 million in 2021 which incurs a \$276,000 deficit but we will be able to cover the deficit with reserve funds which currently stands at about a \$900,000 balance. Dan, do you have anything to add?

**Dan O'Connell:** No, we are available for questions. We appreciate the new representative to our Board, Joel Benz. We meet every other month and share information on how the industry is doing. As our Treasurer said, it has been a very difficult year for our attractions. Many had to close for the summer which is high season for tourism. Some had to restrict attendance. As Bart said, there were so many cancellations of events, festivals, fairs, conventions and tournaments. The only thing that really survived was outdoor sport tournaments. Our buildings had protocols in place and the Health Department has been wonderful to work with. Only the outdoor events were really taking off. In fact, we attracted some tournaments from Michigan when Indiana began its road to recovery and opened up in late August. We were able to attract the largest tournament that we have ever had and that is the Inline Roller Skating Tournament. It was held at the Ice House for ten days. There is a silver lining in everything but it is a small success story for a very difficult year.

**Tom Harris:** I just wanted to understand the surplus. You said you had approximately \$900,000 in there. How long did it take to build that surplus?

**Dan O'Connell:** Twenty years. We have been putting away \$5,000 to \$10,000 to \$15,000 a year because we have had good results from sales. We put that away for a Rainy Day and it rained pretty hard this year.

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**Tom Harris:** It took twenty years to get to the surplus on \$900,000 and you are going to use \$250,000 and so you will still have some going into the following year.

**Dan O'Connell:** It could happen.

**Tom Harris:** I should have asked that of the Grand Wayne as well. Nick, do you happen to know that in terms of their surplus? They are also in a deficit situation next year as well.

**Nick Jordan:** I believe their reserve is \$5.1 but I don't know if that includes the CIB. The first page there is a Grand Wayne Center Reserve Fund balance of \$5.87 for 2020 and 2021 is \$5.1. I am not sure if that is just the Grand Wayne or the CIB combined.

**Dan O'Connell:** Our Board looks at the budget every month and as Bart indicated, we have adjusted our budget three times this year, down. We will operate within our revenues or very close to it this year. We might have a very small deficit of \$8,000 or \$10,000. We are four people down. We have cancelled programs and we don't run programs if they are going to cost us money and the revenue isn't there.

**Joel Benz:** I appreciate it. You have done some hard things this year. Watching you go through that while on the Board has been tough and I appreciate you being consistent with what is going on. You have been making the best of a rough year especially for you.

**Tom Harris:** Hopefully, with the vaccine maybe coming we can watch this rebound somewhere in the middle of next year. Are you anticipating getting any vibes from the industry?

**Dan O'Connell:** Yes. Industry forecasters are saying with the vaccine readily available, travel should actually rebound very strongly. There is a lot of pent up demand for people to do things and see things. Drive-in market, we have been very active in promoting what is available for outdoor experiences, our website hits are up. People are looking for outdoor experiences. I think the meetings and conventions and trade shows have to remake themselves. People are not going to rebound as fast as leisure travel. They will have to figure out how to do things. The Coliseum and Grand Wayne Center has hybrid abilities to pull off meetings that are online and streamed as well as live. That is even between rooms in their building. That technology is being available and being used. Meetings will take longer to come back. We always book things, two, three or four years in advance. The NCAA tournament that we booked was five years in advance. It will take time and a whole bunch of new procedures and ways to start meeting again face-to-face.

**Joel Benz:** Council, do you have any other questions for Visit Fort Wayne? Mr. Shaw, I think Councilman Harris had a question for you.

**Tom Harris:** Are you going to use the Rainy Day Fund? How much is there?

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**Bart Shaw:** We had a little over \$6.2 million. We expect to use about \$1.3 million this year.

**Tom Harris:** How long did it take to get to the \$6 million?

**Bart Shaw:** It was building up before I got here and that was eight years ago. We have been able to add to it a little bit every year. We added about \$500,000 last year. Let me qualify that by saying also that we were able to take care of some major capital needs. We have been paying off our bigger capital needs over the last couple of years. We are in a good position from a capital program that we can absorb a few years.

**Tom Harris:** That is why I am asking that question. If we aren't able to rebound as quickly as we want in 202, do you have enough for the following year?

**Bart Shaw:** Yes. We feel that we are very confident we can manage through this crisis and we are managing for the next one.

**Joel Benz:** Council, is there any further discussion on those items?

**Nick Jordan:** We need a motion to approve these.

**Tom Harris:** I will move for the CIB/Grand Wayne Center budget and the Visit Fort Wayne budget.

**Sheila Curry-Campbell:** Second.

**Joel Benz:** We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye, those opposed, like sign. The motion passes 7-0. Now we have ACJC.

**Shane Armstrong:** Good morning, Council. I am Shane Armstrong, Allen County Juvenile Center. I am here to request a series of transfers from our 300 Series to our 400 Series to address some physical plant needs as well as some equipment needs throughout the center. The physical plant needs that we will use is to replace three rooftop units and the equipment will be used to take care of the purchase of a new floor scrubber and a new medical cart used for the center.

**Joel Benz:** It looks like you have gone to a number of places to find this within your own budget and we appreciate that.

**Tom Harris:** I do have a question in terms of the \$40,733 maintenance agreement. That means that you had money left over in that line?

**Shane Armstrong:** That is accurate. We switched some of our monitoring.

**Tom Harris:** So that would be reflected in your 2021 budget as a reduction?

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**Shane Armstrong:** Correct. Part of that big reduction is from the use of our monitoring devices for our kids on probation. We have moved to a full GPS model and a lot of that was used with the landlines and the different monitoring system which was much more expensive.

**Sheila Curry-Campbell:** I would like to make a motion that we transfer within the ACJC General Fund from one through fifteen to sixteen and seventeen in the amount of \$148,797.

**Bob Armstrong:** Second.

**Joel Benz:** I have a question before we vote on this. Typically this is CUM CAPITAL. Is this something that was unforeseen? I guess, why are you pulling out of your General Fund for this?

**Shane Armstrong:** It was unforeseen. This building we are slowly trying to address the physical plant needs so that we don't have to come to you. If we can grab it from some other lines, we would like to take care of that. We do have some security needs that will need to be updated and addressed and so I will be coming to all of you to have a deep discussion on that and will not have in our budget to take care of.

**Tom Harris:** What is the percent of beds filled and not filled at this time?

**Shane Armstrong:** The population is low because of the current climate. I don't have an exact number to tell you what it is but we have been hovering between 30's and 40's.

**Tom Harris:** So approximately 30 to 40 youth are in the facility.

**Shane Armstrong:** Correct.

**Tom Harris:** The total beds that you have.

**Shane Armstrong:** It is 142 and that is with 20% double occupancy. I think we discussed this before when that building built the philosophy of juvenile detention was much different. I would never want to put 142 kids again because I would be coming to you asking for an additional 50 staff because of the ratio we are required by Federal mandate.

**Sheila Curry-Campbell:** Can you talk about COVID and how it has affected you at ACJC?

**Shane Armstrong:** Sure. We have all become expert cleaning agents and janitors and mask wearers and sanitizers. We are on high alert all of the time and one of the pieces of equipment that will be used to assist us with this would be a new floor scrubber. We run that floor scrubber two to three times a day with a cleaning agent down on the floor and use it in the living units as well as the public areas to maintain cleanliness. We have gotten PPE and educated our staff as well as the kids.

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**Sheila Curry-Campbell:** Thank you.

**Joel Benz:** We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye, those opposed, like sign. The motion passes 7-0. You also have a transfer in Juvenile Detention Alternatives.

**Shane Armstrong:** Correct. We are kind of going backwards. We have Equipment Purchases to Promotional Expense We have exhausted any equipment purchases and would like to purchase some promotional items for our kids who are currently on probation. It is a winter survival pack that will have a backpack and a journal, some writing utensils and snacks. We will hopefully provide that to all of our kids that need formal level probation.

**Sheila Curry-Campbell:** I would like to motion that we transfer in the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Fund 223 from Equipment Purchases to Promotional Expense in the amount of \$1,410.

**Kenny Fries:** Second. I have a question before he leaves. I think it is interesting that you have 142 beds but we only have 30 to 40 kids and don't ever anticipate filling that up again.

**Shane Armstrong:** I hope not.

**Kenny Fries:** That is based on the programs that we have available which I agree with. That brings me to a question. When we talk about COVID and government and shutting down buildings and not having to have so much space, has the time come where we need to start looking at ACJC as oversized and the Jail has its issues. Has the time come where we need to have a discussion about building a new Jail that includes a smaller Juvenile Detention facility?

**Shane Armstrong:** I think there is a lot of discussion to go with that. As you are aware from your previous position, dealing with folks in criminal justice and the population we deal with is a moving target with the numbers. How we are designed currently, it keeps us safe with us being able to separate the kids and no more so than ever with the pandemic going on. If we identify someone that could be ill, we are able to isolate those and it doesn't affect the rest of the operation. It is hard to say. There is some new legislation going into effect next year that could change some things for us in the juvenile detention sector where any and all kids under the age of 18, no matter what their charge could be could be housed in a secured juvenile detention versus those that are facing adult level felonies and are currently housed at the Jail. I think we are going to get a spike in population. We are housing for other Counties that have those same needs now.

**Kenny Fries:** How many do we have from surrounding Counties right now where other facilities don't exist?

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**Shane Armstrong:** We currently have about seven or eight kids. I can give you an example. I had a call from Marshall County yesterday about 3:45 and have never housed Marshall County before. They are asking to house a 12-year-old young lady with multiple offenses and we had to go through the breakdown. There are always needs for secure beds in juvenile detention especially for the smaller towns and Counties that don't have a juvenile detention facility.

**Kenny Fries:** Thank you.

**Chris Spurr:** I have a question real quick. Are you aware of a study, an empirical study where you had mentioned about the numbers being all over the board and being difficult to forecast. Are you aware of an empirical study that would help you forecast those numbers? Would it be based on population, square miles of the County to help establish that?

**Shane Armstrong:** I am not aware of that. I think those are very difficult to gauge and it is very community oriented. I think sometimes you can put some numbers to some things but it doesn't always add up. Based upon what happens in our community, we get spikes and falls in our population.

**Chris Spurr:** Thank you.

**Joel Benz:** We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye, those opposed, like sign. The motion passes 7-0. Next we have a capital request from Superior Court.

**John McGauley:** John McGauley, Court Executive for Allen Superior Court. Our request is fairly straightforward. This is for repair and replacement of equipment that we have for Misdemeanor and Traffic Division that allows people to check in, register that they are there for their cases that are appearing that day and also some repair and replacement of controller units and monitors that allows folks that are coming into the building to take a look at when their case is being called and what courtroom they are in and what time. That is about half of the request in front of you this morning. The other half is for replacement of E-filing laptops. It makes an annual appearance on our capital spreadsheet that we submit as part of our budget. Approximately four years ago, we were able to get the State of Indiana to pay for a rather large technology infrastructure that we had to put into place for E-filing in our County. It is on us, however, going forward to repair and replace that. The laptops, in particular, are those that are assigned to the Judges and they take them from the courtroom to their chambers and back and forth. During COVID, it was back and forth to home a lot. Those laptops are getting old and we have about 20 of them. We are asking to replace three.

**Tom Harris:** I will move to approve the appropriation reduction in Council General Fund Other Capital in the amount of \$10,714 and the appropriation in Superior Court General Fund in the amount of \$10,714.

**Sheila Curry-Campbell:** Second.

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**Joel Benz:** We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye, those opposed, like sign. The motion passes 7-0. The next item on the agenda is Community Corrections.

**Judge Felts:** I am Tom Felts, Judge of the Allen Circuit Court. I am Chair of the Allen County Community Corrections Board.

**Judge Gull:** I am Fran Gull, Judge of Allen Superior Court in the Criminal Division and am Vice Chair of the Advisory Committee.

**Kim Churchward:** I am Kim Churchward, Executive Director of Allen County Community Corrections.

**Judge Felts:** We are here today to discuss four basic personnel requests that Director Churchward is going to talk about later. I am going to talk about an additional request for funding to complete the job you tasked us with some months ago. At the Council meeting in May, you Council members made a courageous decision to help establish and initially fund a new venture, the Allen County Community Corrections Residential Program and Facility. Community Corrections laid out an ambitious program for you then and based on educated estimates for necessary funding, noting this has never been done before and you made an additional \$2 million appropriation to get this started. Thank you again for that vote of confidence and huge first step. At least speaking for myself, I saw that appropriation as somewhat of a challenge. Did the need for the facility exist and if so, could Community Corrections do the job? Now we are six months since that meeting and I think there is no question that the answer to both questions is a resounding yes. It hasn't been easy. Director Churchward and her staff have worked hundreds and hundreds of hours since then to get this facility up and running. A group of leaders in the Criminal Justice system headed by Judge Gull and are joined by three other members of that group, Judge Wendy Davis of Allen Superior Court, Chief Deputy Prosecutor Mike McAlexander and Chief Adult Probation Officer Eric Zimmerman. They also worked countless hours to establish protocols and procedures that would permit this facility to function at all. As I said earlier, the funding request we made was based on educated estimates and now looking back, they were pretty darn close. We couldn't take into account everything and some of the obstacles that we encountered. With all of that the facility was opened August 25<sup>th</sup> and is now doing everything it was asked to do and more. So, did the need exist, absolutely. The larger male pod of 69 residents is now full and currently has a waiting list of five. The female pod is open with 15 residents as well. As a sentencing Judges have been wonderful to have a facility locally where individuals can be strictly supervised, receive treatment, go to work, pay taxes and support their families and on and on. Obviously Community Corrections has done its job as outlined to you months ago. The question now is what happens next? Do we stop at these two pods and keep the waiting list growing? Do we open one more pod and see what happens? Do we continue to plan as was originally outlined to fund this program in its capacity? I have already discussed some of the benefits that this program has offered. Another big benefit is to reduce the Jail population. As a number of facility residents has gone up, the numbers at the Jail have decreased somewhat. There were 802 inmates at the Jail on the date the facility opened. A couple of weeks ago it was down to 740. It has crept up a little

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bit since then but obviously there are a lot of other factors going on and especially COVID. Certainly, the existence of this facility has diverted those folks from being into the Jail. Now, we can't go forward without your help and that is why we are here today. I am going to let Judge Gull talk about some of the things that happen at the facility and all of the work her group has done to get us where we are.

**Judge Gull:** Thank you Judge Felts. Thank you for entertaining our request. As Judge Felts says, I am the Chair of the work group that was formed at his request after you approved the initial funding for the facility. The work group consists of me, Judge Davis, Judge Zent who is currently presiding over a horrendous calendar, Chief Deputy Prosecutor Mike McAlexander, Chief Public Defender Bill Lebrato and Clyde Nix who is the CEO of Park Center. We have had dozens and dozens and dozens of meetings in person, telephonically and in email to discuss and establish multiple policies and procedures to get this facility up and going. August 25<sup>th</sup>, when the facility opened, the work group work did not end. We have continued to meet because we have discovered that the policies and procedures that you talk about kind of in abstract as we are working through things to get things going, now you get humans involved and you get people there and flow of people through the facility. We have continued to meet and will continue to meet as we tweak those policies and procedures and tweak the implementation of things that we are doing out there. The actual live hands-on experience continues to guide our process. As Judge Felts said, we have a waiting list now. There are fifteen females and should have eighteen by tomorrow in the female pod. We have five, as of today, men still sitting in the Allen County Confinement facility awaiting bed space because we are full. Eighty-four of our participants are currently active at Community Corrections in the facility. There are 69 men, 41 African American, 37 Caucasian, four mixed race and two Hispanic. The average age of our participants is 35 years of age. Eighty-eight percent of our participants are employed. Fifty-four of our participants are serving sentences on Level 6 Felony and the remainders are Level 5 and Level 4 Felonies. The average length of stay there is about 251 days. Since the opening of the facility, we have launched an onsite marketplace that provides mental health and substance abuse screening, class placement and access to treatment through Park Center as indicated by those assessments. As of today, we have sixteen available class sessions onsite. We have a couple of clients that are doing Thinking for a Change. We are doing MRT Alternatives to Violence and Fundamentals of Change. These are all programs that are designed to interfere with that criminal thinking process and to target thinking modification so when they leave the facility we hope they don't intersect with our system again. This week we got two small classrooms set up to accommodate our participants with private Telehealth sessions with their treatment providers. COVID and transportation issues made us move this process up much more quickly. We have collaborated with many entities in the community. Press Seal is coming to the facility to conduct onsite job interviews. Orion Staffing is providing transportation to and from the facility for our folks. Neighboring businesses like All Connect Magnet Wire are working with us to employ some of our individuals. We are still working hard to get a bus line out there and until that happens hopefully it will happen soon, we have been very concerned with the weather. We have purchased some wash and wear coats and hats and gloves to help our participants that don't have those things and walk to the nearest bus stop which I

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think is on Cook Road and is a 15-minute walk. We want to make sure these folks are safe. We have established a connection with Purdue University and they have a long-standing employment readiness program that is geared towards manufacturing and engineering line staff skills and were very proud to have that facility come into the building and offer sessions at no cost. Lastly, Indiana Office of Court Services gave us a little bit of grant money to provide a wonderful Thanksgiving meal for our participants. We have talked to some of the members of our work group to include the staff so that we can provide Thanksgiving meals from Classic Café to our current participants. As a referring Judge to this program, I can tell you it filled up a lot quicker than we thought it would. I, Judge Davis, Judge Zent, Magistrate Kerns and Judge Felts are now facing real tough decisions when we are looking at offenders and knowing that this man or woman would be a perfect addition to this facility and then I have to look at them and say I am ordering you into that placement. They reply back thank you and when do I start? I don't know. That is a hard thing to say to somebody that is waiting to get out of Jail and get started on a treatment program, a treatment program that again, interfere with that criminal thinking and prevent them from coming back into our community through the Criminal Justice System. From my perspective and I can speak on behalf of Judge Davis and Judge Zent that we desperately need to open the facility completely so that we can get these folks out of Jail and more importantly get them the services that they need so desperately. Kim is going to explain to you the actual request that we are asking.

**Kim Churchward:** What we have before you this morning is five actual business items. I know we have provided you with voluminous information. Most all of us have had lengthy conversations about this submission. I am not going to read all of that to you but I would like to recap the business items that we have this morning. I always make notes and rarely use them but I will try to stay on track. The first item of business is the consideration of a 2020 salary ordinance reclassifying the pay for Intake Case Manager to a Residential Services Officer. The reason for that is as an agency we have discovered in the last two and a half months of operation that we need to move some additional resources out to that division. You tasked us and challenged us to be very fiscally conservative in this process and we have tried to meet that challenge by first looking internally at what we can do to try to move resources in that direction. This Intake Case Manager was approved in our 2021 budget and is not yet filled and so it was a natural place for us to try to reallocate some resources. That is the first item. The second is consideration of both 2020 and 2021 salary ordinance establishing three additional Residential Services Officers again in an attempt to meet the staffing needs that we were discovering that we have there. We have a third item which is a request to transfer within our Community Corrections General Fund for \$35,000 from Equipment Leases to the 100 Series to support these three new Residential Services Officers. Why is that 300 Series money available? Our census in the program of the clients we are serving have been down in 2020 obviously as a result of the pandemic and some of the slower services happening in the courts. Because of that our EM equipment lease account had a little bit of surplus that we could rededicate in this way. The fourth is the additional appropriations needed in January to keep us moving forward with full capacity and full staffing level at the program in 2021. That item, Judges Felts and Gull has addressed that this morning. Lastly is a very small item regarding an ordinance for petty cash. We put it

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on the agenda today because it was discovered recently that it was long overdue. Those are the five business items that we have before you today. I would ask that you favorably consider these things and would be happy to answer any questions you have.

**Tom Harris:** Congratulations on everything up to this point. Please pass that onto the staff too. They probably don't hear from us as much as they should. The piece that worries me a little bit is how fast you grow and you grow too quick and something bad happens. That crosses my mind. Judges, I understand the world you must be in knowing that you have people that can be in that program and you can't be there yet. By growing it at this speed how many additional beds are you thinking of opening to get to full capacity?

**Kim Churchward:** We would like to incrementally opening as the referrals continue. Our male pod is at its intended capacity and we need to open another male pod.

**Tom Harris:** How many is that?

**Kim Churchward:** There are 61 in each of the other two male pods.

**Tom Harris:** While everyone is learning everyone is getting a new norm and trying to figure out what works or doesn't work and every day that you are managing that you are getting better and better at it. The only piece I worry about is growing too quickly and then one bad thing happens and sends everyone into a shock wave out there.

**Kim Churchward:** I think those are very intuitive thoughts. I think we were very fortunate in our initial recruiting and hiring process. We didn't hire anyone who didn't have any previous experience in this area. That has helped and certainly we have all had lengthy conversations about our learning curve. We have enjoyed support from all of the local Law Enforcement.

**Tom Harris:** The biggest challenge in operations to date, what might that be?

**Kim Churchward:** It is hard to pick one but staffing level. I underestimated our staffing needs. It is absolutely my responsibility. We are working everyone and they are working hard until the moment that they leave. I am very cognizant of the stress that it puts on our staff and demands that we have of them. To date, everyone is rising to that challenge very, very impressively. I, as a manager, am aware of that. The second challenge that is the most time consuming challenge is our medication room. Our work group and the Judges challenged us to be very open to the medication needs of those that we were serving particularly medically assisted treatment that is paired with their outpatient treatment. We have very strict policy and procedure running that room and are trying to do it with our existing staff. As we continue to grow, I see that becoming a full-time job just to keep that level of accountability. We are doing twice a day audits of the medications at shift change and things like that. It has been a time consuming, labor intensive process for us to maintain that level of accountability.

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**Tom Harris:** The last question is have you had any COVID exposure? As people are leaving and coming back your odds are pretty darn high.

**Kim Churchward:** Knock on some wood but as of this moment and this date, we have only had one participant who we thought had an exposure. We isolated them immediately and got them tested and they were negative. We are certainly cognizant of that issue. We are following all of the ACA recommendations and CDC recommendations for a residential facility. We are mandating mask wearing within the facility and certainly that is not very popular. We have our staff in full PPE. We have the participants that are on work detail doing environmental sanitizing every two hours. We are doing screening as folks are coming back into the facility. We are doing temp checks and screening at every bed count. We found the manual and are following it.

**Tom Harris:** Congratulations on that. What happens when someone is positive? Does it go back to the Judges to make that determination as to what happens with them?

**Kim Churchward:** Again, we have strict protocols in place for immediate isolation and evaluation but then we would look at that individual and consult with the court to determine are they appropriate and have a stable home to get them into isolation in their home. If not we would have to utilize isolation and continue to care for them onsite.

**Tom Harris:** Thank you.

**Kenny Fries:** Where do I start? I would expect there to be a learning process. I have no issue with the additional personnel because I would expect that to happen as this process that has been pretty daunting continues. I have no issue with the additional employees. To Councilman Harris' point that something bad could happen, something bad will happen. As we continue to have more and more inmates in the programs, somebody is going to act up. I used to tell the previous Director to be prepared for when it does because it will. You can put many protocols in place to prevent that from happening. The public should feel safe in the fact that something is going to happen but you have done everything to make sure it is limited. The numbers at the Jail are down. I know the Sheriff closed the Jail for a while to anybody with limited felonies and domestic batteries so that would explain some of it. I think the biggest issue I have is in knowing that the State is not going to give us the money that they said they were going to give us. I thought from the start that they weren't going to do it and is the one reason I voted against it. That said, I think we have to be cognizant as a Council that is going to have limited funds in the future what are all of the programs going to cost us? I love the fact that if we can get people in these programs and the recidivism rate is reduced then the Jail is always going to be less full. I think we need to get as many participants in the program and see how it goes and work from there. We just have to be cognizant of what it is going to cost us.

**Kim Churchward:** I appreciate your comments, thank you.

**Joel Benz:** To that point, I think that I did the back of some envelope math and you are running about \$150 a day per inmate currently. If you open another wing and as you

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approach filling that it drops to about \$100 a day. When you open a third wing it drops even further because your incremental cost is just the additional personnel to be able to handle that. I think, from our standpoint, lowering the cost per individual is a good thing especially if you have the capacity to handle it and it provides a long-term outcome for those individuals than just sitting in a Jail every day. Based on what you presented, I think it is a pretty significant change in outcomes for the individual being in your program compared to sitting in the Jail. We haven't seen the fruit of that yet but my hope is we will start to see some of that. I am going to be supporting your request here. I hope the rest of Council will join me in that.

**Sheila Curry-Campbell:** Thank you so much and we appreciate you coming here today making this request. We knew back when we made the initial partial commitment that this could possibly happen. That was our question as to how we were going to pay for it moving forward. Can you share with the listeners as to what happened with the State not fulfilling the commitment that Ken spoke about?

**Kim Churchward:** Sure. If I may, I will share the conversation that you and I had and that is kind of a recap. We received this challenge in February 2020. We immediately contacted the Department of Correction which is the majority of our funding source. They came and visited and indicated support. We followed the instructions and in fact it was about a 72 page submission of written request, data, performance measures and analysis. COVID hit in March. We were in front of you in May. In June, we requested the status and we were informed that in light of the pandemic that no additional outlay would occur. We were invited to apply again as a part of the 2021 budget process. Again in July we submitted the voluminous request. We met the challenges and we learned in October that the department had made the decision not to fund any new programs in 2021 in light of the pandemic concerns. I am not aware of anything other than the written documentation that I have received. I can assure you that like we do every year we will continue to make the request and meet the challenges that come with those requests by providing the data and performance measures. We will continue to meet our obligations in making those requests.

**Sheila Curry-Campbell:** Thank you. I know we didn't plan on being here again having this conversation but we are. I hope your requests today fulfill your 2021 budget. I would hate to see you come back again in six months saying that you need and got to have. I feel that we are all of one accord here today to support your endeavor but I am hoping you are not back in six months. Thank you.

**Bob Armstrong:** Of the 84 people that you have, what has our revenue been for them paying for the programs and services?

**Kim Churchward:** We are only at about 40% collection. The total number that has been collected, I apologize because I don't know that number this morning but I can certainly get it to you. It was a very slow start with collections. Getting folks out of Jail and getting them connected but I can say seeing those collections each week incrementally increase. That is the direction we want to see them going.

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**Bob Armstrong:** Also, I still have this in the back of my head that before we move forward on this program our numbers going to Work Release were steadily dropping. Every day was down, down, down. We have a new program on the books and it is growing so fast I can't wrap my head around what has actually changed that numbers for one program dropped so quickly and now all of a sudden the numbers are going up so quickly.

**Judge Gull:** I think I can address your concern, Councilman Armstrong. I believe the reason is that Work Release offered no rehabilitative services whatsoever. It was a place for people to live, go to work, come back, live, go to work and come back. This facility offers outstanding rehabilitative services to offenders. I am far more comfortable making referrals to Allen County Community Corrections Residential Services and much less concerned with their services than I was with the Work Release facility. The Work Release facility had no rehabilitative evidence based practices to offer. There was no treatment to offer. There was nothing. With all due respect to the Sheriff, I didn't feel that the offenders that I would be sentencing would benefit at all from being at Work Release. I have started making many more referrals to the Residential Services facility than I did to Work Release. That is based on the rehabilitative evidence based practices at that facility.

**Bob Armstrong:** All right and the other question I have is how many beds are at that facility?

**Kim Churchward:** 230.

**Bob Armstrong:** That 230, Kim you and I have had this conversation about finding you a new building at Harrison and where you are downtown. I don't know where that is at this time but anyway my question is just looking outside the box, what is your plan of attack because if you look at the numbers of putting people out there as of now when that facility is full then what do we do? Do we add onto the building on Cook Road? Do we stop the program? What is the plan?

**Kim Churchward:** That is a great challenge question and one that I will be candid with you that we have been working so hard at the task at hand right now that I haven't even begun any thinking past that frankly. Again, we have had our noses to the grindstone with what we have in front of us.

**Judge Gull:** I think what we have seen so far is the average length of sentence for that facility is 251 days. It is not like people are staying there for years and years and years. They are there for less than a year for their sentence. I think you are going to see turnover. People are going to be in there and serve their sentence and get released. It is not like a prison where somebody is being housed for 40 years.

**Kim Churchward:** I would add as well, one of the things we talked about in May is the fact that this residential facility gives us an incremental level of supervision and as our

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Board continues to embrace this there is certainly a model now available starting at a very high level of supervision pairing residential with GPS supervision. Then there would be lessening that level of supervision out of residential, still on GPS perhaps in a home environment and from there to active Adult Probation. Then the ability to bring that level up as needed. I think those factors, pairing with what Judge Gull said hopefully will mitigate some of your concern.

**Judge Gull:** Over half of the offenders currently there are serving a Level 6 Felony. The maximum sentence for a Level 6 Felony is two year and 183 days.

**Chris Spurr:** I would like to say real quickly I second Councilman Armstrong's thought on that. Simple mathematics would dictate that if there is already a waiting list and we have only been open two or three months, we are going to fill that straightaway. It is not going to take two years or 251 days. I definitely think it is going to be full. The question is will we come under the same scrutiny of this fictitious 80% rule on capacity and then what do we do from there? I do think it is the way of the future and I think all communities are going to have to consider this. Rehabilitation is more expensive. It is just a fact.

**Kim Churchward:** Thank you because yes it is.

**Chris Spurr:** I think we have been thrown the perfect storm. It is a grand experiment and on top of that we have this COVID outbreak. I am very supportive of the program. I just don't want to see, from a taxpayer perspective, the graph going down. I want to see it level. I know it is not a money making venture but as a representative and a servant of the taxpayer it is taxpayer dollars and I would like to see that get as close to zero as possible.

**Judge Gull:** I appreciate your comments about rehabilitation being expensive. I preside over our Drug Court program and when I came to Council, not this Council, to seek funding for that many, many years ago there was criticism about the cost of rehabilitation. My comment to that Council member was that I can't put a dollar price or amount on somebody getting their GED and what that means to that person five, ten, twenty or fifty years down the line and what that means to the community to have that individual have a GED and maybe get a better job. I can't put a price tag on the rehabilitative services to the pregnant woman who is now carrying a baby that is going to be born drug free versus a baby that is born under the influence of methamphetamine or heroin. It is expensive and I wish it wasn't so expensive. We have to look at the long-term cost benefit to helping somebody get their problems under control and in check and then we don't have to deal with that individual in the Criminal Justice system any more. Hopefully they are productive citizens paying taxes and child support.

**Tom Harris:** I was going to point out that when we passed this and went with the discussion, it wasn't just about providing alternative sentencing before the Judges but also how do we manage the population in the Jail. The very fact that we are doing alternative sentencing and helping folks is a beautiful thing but we will also have a backup and that is they go to the Jail. We win from that perspective, I think. It doesn't

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mean that we need to build more and more and more beds for these programs. It is also a possibility of managing the facilities and making sure that we have a place for those folks. I was prepared to make a motion but I think Mr. Kerley wants to make a comment or two.

**Kyle Kerley:** I want to thank you for the long call we had yesterday. As we are all aware, we can't actually make the appropriation today. We have to wait until 2021. One of the concerns that I expressed was that we have the Residential Services portion but we are also waiting to hear back on what the amount for the second six months for the existing programs are going to be. As Councilwoman Curry-Campbell pointed out, I don't want to see you coming back multiple times asking for more and more money. My napkin math shows with the grant that we have given you that you should be good for five or five and a half months based on the current funding levels. I am hopeful that by March or early April that we have a really good indication of what we are going to get totally from the State for the second six months. I know there are two parts, the existing services and the new residential program but to the taxpayers it is all one pot. Personally we are all supportive of the program. I think everybody here is committed to funding whatever you need. I hope we are going to approve the other three positions so that you can get the other wing open as soon as possible. The question I have for you is instead of at the January meeting rushing in and approving the \$2.4 million, would you be okay waiting until March or April for us to make that appropriation? We might have a better indication of what that number is going to be and what indication we might be getting from the State?

**Kim Churchward:** Sure. Thank you for the long conversation. I appreciate all of your time and interest. For us, for the agency, for our staff and for our Board, it is imperative for us to understand what your thoughts and needs are so that we know how to move forward. I believe that I am hearing that there is support for us continuing the plan which is move to full capacity and full staff and move forward. With that commitment we can certainly in that direction and we can continue to work together openly and honestly as we go month to month. I will come back whenever you ask me to.

**Sheila Curry-Campbell:** We had a long conversation about a lot of things. Things that people are concerned about and probably don't need to be discussed today because you are going to work them out. I think that stretching this out, I think we are all of one accord and support the program but it is the ask and coming back again. If there is some way, stretch it out a little bit so we can a good hard number for 2021. We've got your back. I can say that and personally I think as a Council we also feel that way.

**Tom Harris:** With that I will move for consideration of a 2020 salary ordinance reclassifying the pay for Intake Case Manager, PAT 3/2, \$48,000, 40 hours per week to Residential Services Officer, POLE 3/2, \$45,701, 40 hours per week, non-exempt.

**Bob Armstrong:** Second.

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**Chris Spurr:** I wanted to go on public record for commending you for the timeframe that I know you poured and I have spoken to all of you individually about the amount of effort and I thank you very much. I think the taxpayer would also thank you. I also want to go on record and say that in the military we called it scuttlebutt and I don't know if that is appropriate here but conversations about the funds aren't there for the program and this that and the other. I would like to inform the public that we are well capitalized as a County to take care of this venture. I wanted to go on public record by making that statement.

**Joel Benz: We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye, those opposed, like sign. The motion passes 7-0.**

**Tom Harris:** I will move for consideration of a 2020 salary ordinance establishing the pay for three Residential Services Officers, POLE 3/2, \$45,701, 40 hours per week, non-exempt. And consideration of a 2021 salary ordinance establishing the pay for three Residential Services Officers, POLE 3/2, \$45,681, 40 hours per week, non-exempt.

**Kyle Kerley:** Second.

**Joel Benz: We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye, those opposed, like sign. The motion passes 7-0.**

**Tom Harris:** I will move for the transfer within Community Corrections General Fund from Equipment Leases in the amount of \$35,000 to items two through eight in the amount of \$35,000.

**Kyle Kerley:** Second.

**Joel Benz: We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye, those opposed, like sign. The motion passes 7-0.**

**Tom Harris:** Finally, although we didn't discuss it, Resolution 2020-11-19-01 for Petty Cash.

**Sheila Curry-Campbell:** Second.

**Joel Benz: We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye, those opposed, like sign. The motion passes 7-0.** Thank you for coming this morning. You see that you have some unanimous support from Council here and I think you will see the same moving forward.

**Judge Felts:** If I can have a personal moment, this will be my last Council meeting after 31 years with the court and 18 as a Judge. Thank you all for all you do.

**Joel Benz:** The next item on the agenda is the Auditor who has an appropriation in Countywide General Fund.

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**Nick Jordan:** On the agenda is an appropriation request for \$2 million split between Supplies, Services and Capital. This is related to COVID reimbursement. Up until October 23<sup>rd</sup>, we were spending monies unappropriated to pay for COVID related items. The State Board of Accounts changed their opinion on October 23<sup>rd</sup> and now we have to have the money appropriated before we spend to buy COVID related items. I have asked for this in the Countywide General so that multiple departments can buy the items that they would need for COVID related purposes. I do not anticipate spending \$2 million dollars in the next month. It is just large enough that if something significant were to come about, we would have it appropriated and wouldn't have to come back in December.

**Tom Harris:** I will move for approval of the appropriation in the Countywide General Fund in the amount of \$2 million.

**Sheila Curry-Campbell:** Second.

**Joel Benz:** I will just say, Nick, you have earned my trust over time here by being very conservative in how you allot and spend funds. I am very supportive of you having the control here. **We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye, those opposed, like sign. The motion passes 7-0.** We have a number of items here and I think Councilman Kerley has spent time on Board Appointments and contacting a number of individuals. I will turn it over to him for this portion of the meeting.

**Kyle Kerley:** We will take nominations and December we will vote on the Board Appointments. Everybody who is not a Council member, I have contacted or had somebody contact them on my behalf except for the Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals. Everybody has expressed an interest in continuing to serve. On that for the non-Council positions, if we want to discuss any of the positions and then we would have the Council positions appointments. Are there any questions? Is everybody that is on Council still willing to serve in the same roles?

**Kenny Fries:** I have a nomination on one of them when we get to Council members.

**Kyle Kerley:** For what?

**Kenny Fries:** Redevelopment Commission.

**Kyle Kerley:** Okay. I guess the easiest way is to go line by line. We will do nominations line by line. I am going to start off with nominating Ozzie Mitson for another term on the Alcohol Beverage Commission.

**Kenny Fries:** Second.

**Kyle Kerley:** I nominate Roger Brugh for Child Care Facilities Board.

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**Kenny Fries:** Second.

**Kyle Kerley:** I nominate Mike Clough and Patty Tritch for PTABOA.

**Tom Harris:** Second.

**Kyle Kerley:** I nominate Tom Harris and Darren Vogt for Redevelopment Commission.

**Tom Harris:** Second.

**Kenny Fries:** I nominate Bob Armstrong for Redevelopment Commission.

**Chris Spurr:** Second.

**Kyle Kerley:** We will decide those at the next meeting then. I nominate Tom Harris for Woodburn Economic Development Commission.

**Tom Harris:** Second.

**Kyle Kerley:** I nominate Joel Benz for another term on Visit Fort Wayne.

**Sheila Curry-Campbell:** Second.

**Kyle Kerley:** I nominate City Councilwoman Sharon Tucker for an additional four-year term on the Library Board.

**Sheila Curry-Campbell:** Second.

**Joel Benz:** Historically, has that not been a County Council member?

**Tom Harris:** I would like to discuss that next time. That has been a Council member because we oversee their budget and such.

**Kyle Kerley:** I will say that I spoke to her at length and she said she is willing to continue to serve. One thing about any of these Boards is that you always want someone on it that is willing to do the job. I appreciate that she shows up and gives us thorough input. That said if we want to take it back to a Council member that is a discussion we will have.

**Tom Harris:** I may have some ideas on that so let's plan to talk through that the next time.

**Kyle Kerley:** I nominate Mark Hagar for Allen County Economic Development Commission.

**Bob Armstrong:** Second.

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**Kyle Kerley:** I nominate Thomas Black to Board of Zoning Appeals.

**Kenny Fries:** Second.

**Kyle Kerley:** I nominate Mitch Sheppard and Stephanie Veit to Park and Recreation.

**Bob Armstrong:** Second.

**Kyle Kerley:** I nominate Joel Benz to City Economic Development Commission.

**Joel Benz:** If someone else wants to be on that it is fine with me. It is a difficult meeting to make because typically they immediately meet following this meeting and a lot of times there is overlap.

**Tom Harris:** That might be another one that we talk through.

**Kyle Kerley:** That concludes the nominations.

**Tom Harris:** Do you need a vote at this point?

**Kyle Kerley:** No. We will vote at next meeting.

**Joel Benz:** Anything else along those lines?

**Kyle Kerley:** I appreciate that everyone I reached out to was quick in responding and telling me that they would like to continue to serve.

**Joel Benz:** Are there any upcoming meetings or liaison reports that we need to talk about?

**Tom Harris:** Approval to waive the reading on any matter approved today for which it may be deemed necessary for the County Council meeting of January 17, 2019.

**Chris Spurr:** Second.

**Joel Benz:** All in favor please signify by saying aye. The motion passes 7-0.

**Tom Harris:** Move to adjourn.

**Kyle Kerley:** Second.

**Joel Benz:** All in favor please signify by saying aye. Opposed like sign. The motion carries 7-0. The December 17, 2020 meeting will be held at the Memorial Coliseum in Conference Rooms B and C.