

**PORTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22nd, 2022
10:00 A.M.**

(The entire meeting is available to watch on the Porter County website.)

The Regular meeting of the Porter County Board of Commissioners convened at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 22nd, 2022 in the Commissioners' Chambers of the Administration Center.

Those present were: Commissioners Laura Blaney, Jeff Good, Jim Biggs, County Attorney Scott McClure; Executive Administrative Asst. Melanie Massey and Recording Secretary Kathy Merle.

Com. Good, Good Morning this is the Porter County Board of Commissioners' meeting Tuesday, February 22nd, 2022.

Call to Order/Pledge

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Payroll – February 4th and February 18th, 2022.

Approval of Claims – February 3rd, February 9th, February 17th, 2022.

Approval of Minutes for February 1st, 2022.

Treasurers Monthly Report – January 31st, 2022 – Filed.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

MEMORIAL OPERA HOUSE – SCOT MACDONALD, DIRECTOR

ARTISTIC SERVICES AGREEMENT

VENUE RENTAL AGREEMENT

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW BUSINESS

COMMISSIONERS

A Consulting Agreement between Porter County Government and General Insurance Services effective April 1st, 2022.

Mr. Gibson, we've got the consulting agreement up for renewal. Obviously we've made a lot of progress over the last 12 months. We're excited to continue moving forward with you guys. We're not making any changes to it so everything's the exact same as it was.

Com. Biggs, moved to approve the GIS Consulting Agreement, Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

A Business Associate Agreement between Porter County Government and General Insurance Services effective April 1st, 2022.

Mr. Gibson, This just a sharing of information back and forth you know understanding that regulations around HIPPA and whatnot. Again no change is being made on that front it's just continuation of the prior agreement.

Com. Biggs, moved to approve the GIS Business Associate Agreement, Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

CivicPlus – The Purchase of a Block of 1,000 SMS Subscriptions at a cost of \$1,890 annually. The cost will be prorated to co-term with our current contract. Purchase will assure adequate available subscriptions to allow citizens to sign up to receive alerts for the ARPA Planning Process meetings, agendas videos.

Com. Good, This is to a purchase another block of a thousand SMS subscriptions.

Mr. Ellis, Good morning Commissioners. In January we approved adding another thousand SMS subscriptions to our website. As of right now we're down to less than 300 available. Most of those have been due to our winter road reports and travel alerts. As we roll into the ARPA process we're going to be encouraging people to sign up for notifications of the various meetings. Also with the agendas and the videos that we will be reproducing after the meetings take place I'd rather be prepared and have that extra thousand there so I don't have to rush to you at the last minute and say we need more. That's what I'm asking today is the approval for another thousand.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the CivicPlus purchase of an additional 1000 SMS Subscriptions, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

ARP – Committee and Sub Committee Structure Adoption.

Com Good, Do we just want to open that up to try to finish the discussion of how we're going to set these committees and subcommittees up?

Com. Blaney, I think based on our discussion last time the changes we're adding some rural township trustees. Do you want to let us know who those are going to be?

Com. Biggs, I'll speak with some trustees but it was my understanding that it was the largest ones, the two largest rural ones would make most sense.

Com. Blaney, Whatever you want but yes maybe.

Com Good, Would that be Porter and Union?

Com. Biggs, I think it would be definitely be Porter.

Com. Blaney, Porter is the largest. I don't know if it's the most populated but it's the largest.

Com. Biggs, I will gather that and get back to everybody.

Com Blaney, I think that was the only change there and then for the facilitator I wanted to switch gears on that and appoint Vicki Urbanik who has graciously agreed to help us out. If we should vote that way.

Com. Biggs, I think that is a good selection. Thank you.

Ms. Urbanik, No thank you.

Com. Biggs, It is going to be a lot of work.

Com. Blaney, I don't have any other changes that I picked up on. I can go through it all again if you'd like.

Atty. McClure, Why don't we just go through it?

Com. Blaney, We have the Central Committee which will be chaired by our non-voting facilitator Vicki Urbanik, one commissioner should I go through the appointments of ourselves that we discussed as well at this time or do we need to do that separately?

Atty. McClure, We can do it through this.

Com. Blaney, Myself as the one Commissioners, two Council members, who they will appoint, the County Auditor who will already be on the committee and the County Attorney is non-voting advisors and then the Behavioral Health and Social Services Committee will have Com. Jim Biggs, two council members and two citizens. The applications for citizens' appointments are currently online. We'll be taking those until March 8th hopefully.

Com. Blaney, Porter Starke.

Com. Good, On the Behavioral Committee I'm wondering if we need to add another non-voting member Porter Starke. At the end of the day they're a regional center. The county gives them over two and a half million dollars a year and this is what they do so I think we should have them as these programs and as these ideas come forward we need to have an entity there that can help us decipher a lot of this information. I would suggest we put them on as a non-voting member but that's just my take.

Atty. McClure, Like an advisor?

Com. Good, Or an advisor.

Com. Biggs, I don't think we clarified this portion of it but if you're sitting on one of the committees you are not applying. I realize that's non-voting but are we willing to...

Com. Blaney, Well we've only been talking about voting members.

Com. Biggs, I have no idea if they're if they're applying for any monies or not.

Com. Good, I don't either. I'm just looking from the standpoint of having someone on this committee that understands this realm. This is one of the biggest things going on out there with the public right now. I think we would want to have one of our partners that the County gives a lot of money to help sit in these meetings and help run them. We need to talk about the real problem. To me that is confronting it but I'm just it out there. They are a partner of the County right now and they are invested.

Com. Blaney, I don't think anyone else is going to know more about mental health services.

Com. Biggs, I'm fine with that as well.

Com. Good, I know your point. I get it.

Com. Blaney, It's non-voting.

Com. Biggs, I get it I'm just saying if they end up applying.

Com. Blaney, They are non-voting. I don't know if they will end up applying or not. So two council members who they will appoint two citizens one appointed by us one appointed by the Council. Like I was saying applications are being taken until March 8th and then hopefully we will start appointing on the 15th. The Portage and Center Township Trustees as non-voting advisors as the two most populated townships.

Com Good, You're going to add two.

Com. Blaney, Plus the two great ones right and then we've got another committee Nonprofits and Employers that's also Jim Biggs sitting on that one, two council members to be determined, two citizens to be appointed, and a nonprofit expert to be determined. Infrastructure and Facilities Jeff Good will be the Commissioner, two council people, two citizens, Mike Novotney our County Engineer and Ray Cloyd as non-voting advisors. The County Government COVID Health Response I will sit on, two Council members, two citizens, a Health Department representative and Rhonda our H.R. Director. I'm sorry Rhonda Young our H.R. Director and that rounds it out. All of these committees would have to meet at least one evening or weekend for public input. I'm not saying that's the only chance for public input but they need to meet at least once.

Com. Biggs, I would think that is pretty much left up to the committee itself. We will lay down that they have to meet at least this many times.

Com. Blaney, They can meet more. Just at least once.

Com. Biggs, Does this need a motion Scott?

Atty. McClure, Correct.

Com. Biggs, moved to approve the ARP Committee and Sub Committee Structure Adoption, Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

ARP – Proposed ARP Ordinance for Adoption.

Atty. McClure, From the Thursday meeting, a discussion meeting there is an ordinance that I have drafted that is in the Commissioners' packet that is the 2nd Proposed Investment of the American Rescue Act Funds Plan for the American Plan Act of 2021. It has a revised schedule of Exhibit A. Exhibit A contains the COVID Response would be \$25,000.00 for the Behavioral and Health Study. COVID Response responding to negative impacts of the \$500,000.00 for township governments divided by population for assistance to household and individuals and or assistance to small business and non-profit and non-profits negatively impacted by COVID. Also assistance to impacted industries including tourism or outdoor activities the \$2.5 million for the completion of the Marquette Trail and up to \$1 million or eligible employees for Premium Pay each employee would be eligible for up to \$4,000 in premium pay as determined by the Council which I believe generally speaking has been public safety and or law enforcement type individuals, but there are also a few others that were on the front line such as Juvenile Detention, things like that. The first ordinance would be repealed. This would be the new ARP Ordinance and would be the only things approved. If this Commissioners' body approves it this would be the only things approved for appropriation at the Council level.

Com. Good, we do have a couple presentations we'd like to give on a couple of these projects so the public can maybe get a little bit more up to speed as to where we're at on these things. I think the presentations we had were storm water related and the National Park Trail. What I'd like to do in the beginning here is could we have the National Park Service guys are here today. Can you come up with Bob Thompson? Bob Thompson is the head of Planning and Development. Bob is an avid biker and he's been working on this trail for how many years?

Mr. Thompson, 12.

Com. Good, Seemed like 20.

Mr. Thompson, My office started working on this back in 2009.

Com. Good, We're just going to give a real brief presentation on what is going on with the Marquette Plan which is the Trail on the north side by the lakeshore on the National Park Service grounds. I think you all ready know just about a year ago the National Park Service was designated as a true National Park. A lot of their funding and a lot of the things that they're doing now is changing. I think with the double tracking going on and the close to a billion dollars that the state and federal government is injecting into that infrastructure up there and being in the same proximity of the park and everything else big infrastructure projects like this need synergy. They need synergy from federal government, state government and local to make it all work. We have that excitement and we have all that in place right now so for the timing of this trail we feel it couldn't come at a better time. Especially after a pandemic where you have 10 miles that you could go walk run or do whatever you want to on a bike or whatever. I'm just sort of laying the groundwork for where we've been on this.

Mr. Thompson, I'm going to discuss about this within three phases of what we've actually been working on with this trail project. What you see up here is the overall trail. It starts at the western terminus which is at Mineral Springs Road. The entrance into Dune Acres and then it heads east going all the way to the County Line which is U.S 12 and terminates where Michigan City has just developed their new trail Singing Sands. Phase I is staying on the actual alignments that we have. This is on NIPSCO property and we're calling it Phase I because this phase could be starting up with actual construction either in December of this year or probably late winter. Maybe January/February into next year. We do have federal funding sitting on this. The engineering is almost complete on it. We had to go back in and dust off a few things because this is where the pipeline projects put a halt on the project we were doing. We are looking at getting this going. This one is set and ready to go.

Com. Good, I'd like to point out too real quick that right where the Chesterton station is when this project was originally designed years ago and got the federal funding it was only a single track. Well now it's a double track. Now that bridge and everything you need to add another track to get under that bridge. I think from my understanding I think NICTD is now picking that portion of that bridge work and everything into the project where now it's not part of the trail project. One of the good things by a project going on over time sometimes things changes and they work in our favor. That is being eaten up in the double track project because it is part of the rail system now.

Mr. Thompson, Yes Phase I does go from Mineral Springs Road up to the S.R. 49 interchange. NICTD is going to be doing a section of the trail underneath the 49 and connecting into where their trail goes into the station itself and also up to the State Park. They're also going to be adding pedestrian safety facilities to separate the trains there from pedestrians using the trail. Phase II this is the exciting part in my opinion. We really worked with National Park Service here Paul and Rafi and figured out a way that we can get off of the NIPSCO right-of-way and actually give the pedestrians and the users a National Park feel for the trail. All of this is going through National Park property on this particular phase right here. We do have an application into the Indiana Dunes or excuse me into the Department of Natural Resources for the next level trails. We should find out the fate of this application come March or April. We're keeping our fingers crossed on that. I think things are looking rather good. We worked rather hard on this part. It took us a while but this is the last phase. What we're using here is actual trails that are through the National Parks and some existing infrastructure of vacated roads that are through that. So we're actually going to be rebuilding the trail on some vacated roads in this location. This is Phase III this is the very last phase that we do have federal highway funding for this particular phase. This is scheduled for construction in 2024. Engineering is proceeding on this particular phase right now. This will stay on the NIPSCO corridor and on the existing trail. This one I spent a lot of time up there walking through trying to find some old right-of-way and old road beds to see if I can get it up off of the NIPSCO right-of-way but wasn't able to and we had to get moving on this because of the timeline we have for the federal funding. That's an overview I should point on this Paul, Rafi, myself and others with the County National Park really worked with NICTD hard on this and we're able to get with all of these phases pedestrian crossings constructed at Mineral Springs Rd. and also Kemil Rd. where we do cross the NICTD tracks for these trails. These are going to be separated trails from the roads. They're going to have separate warning systems for the trains and safety features going and also another new feature since it's a double track is also pay attention to the other line second train is coming safety type features. We really worked hard with NICTD on that. NICTD you know I have to be thankful working with the railroad. They were fairly quick to respond on this. With that I asked Paul Labovitz the Superintendent of the Dunes National Park to speak on what this trail means for the National Park.

Mr. Labovitz, Thanks Bob. I wanted to say thanks to the Commissioners in Porter County for the great partnership we have with Bob and Mike and the team of folks that are really working hard to make this an even better place to live and work. Thank you and I say that in the context of this trail because this the Calumet Trail is a piece of this larger Marquette Greenway that will connect Michigan and Illinois. We look at the completion of this project as a major change for the next century of how people will use the Indiana Dunes National Park and how it will transform the park from what is perceived as a beach destination to a year-round destination. To be a little selfish for those of us who live and work here it's kind of a cool thing to have in your neighborhood and then the economic impact of the folks who will come here as visitors to enjoy it and maybe leave a little money behind. We just got some news last week that we are in the top 25 most visited national parks in the country and if you do the math and you add in the State Park visitation which we did not we're the top ten. When you think about what that means for us again we can enjoy the park every day but we have people who are coming here from all over the world to experience what we have come to take for granted as neighbors. The value of the completion of the Marquette Greenway vision that's been decades in the making you probably undersold your involvement this has been it's been you know 100 years, a century of progress right? These things take a long time but we're on the verge of actually seeing it happen and then when we when we go out there and enjoy it and see people enjoying it we will realize that this was something really wonderful that this is what we're put here to do with being entrusted with public resources so the quality of life impacts for us the environmental conservation preservation impacts for the wildflowers and the things that live along this corridor but even almost as important as the economic impact of this trail on all of us and all we do I think will be fabulous. Porter County leads the way. Thank you for your investment and your diligence in working with us because sometimes we're not that easy to work with your Uncle Sam but we're with you and we're piecing this together. I look forward to the ribbon cuttings and riding our bikes and walking along this and watching kids learn how to ride their bikes on this trail for the next 100 years. Thank you.

Com. Good, I would just like to thank you for our meetings that we've had about...when we decided to move off of the Calumet easement that was a big discussion. I'm particularly proud of the fact that in an area that you want to environmentally protect for the rest of its life that we went in and figured out a way to build a trail by using the existing roads where it didn't open us up to the environmental impact which would have taken another 3 years to get the trail done. I think we are going about it the right way for the environment to get the trail up and get it going. I think this a trail that we can add to and build on to for years. I think the future is bright for that area. I'm excited about it. I'm excited to play a small part in it. I think this Board is too, not speaking for the others but thank you for your work and your help and also for coming out today.

Mr. Labovitz, Again, Rafi my colleague who has done a lot of the leg work along with Bob and his team to your point if we could have done it in 3 years I would have lost a lunch bet on that one. You are exactly right. We are going to be on this trail on our bikes in pieces of it in a year.

Com. Good, That is what we're trying to get to. Thank you for all of your help and thank you for coming in today. Up next we have Mike Novotney. Mike is our County Engineer. Mike has been our County Engineer since its inception, the department's inception for 6 years now. Mike is going to talk about the drainage projects that we had in the original plan that we are taking out. We want to give a little bit more shine on these projects to allow people to understand that they haven't been following County government in the last 3 or 4 years. These have been projects that have been bubbling and coming forward ever since then. We're going to have Mike some engineering explanations.

Mr. Novotney, I appreciate the opportunity so yeah I'm glad to have the chance to speak this morning about the work that we've been doing in Stormwater Management since the department opened in 2016. When we opened our doors we relied on previous studies particularly the 2010 county-wide Comprehensive Drainage Plan which had identified 2200 storm water and drainage problems across the County. Some of significant importance some not. You know some rear yard I have standing water I can't mow my grass type problems but we had our work cut out for us from day one and since we've opened our doors we've been exploring assessing and evaluating our existing infrastructure as well as collecting 300 to 400 additional concerns or complaints some of which are repeats per year. So that universe of problems out there with regards to our storm water infrastructure it's a significant undertaking. We have about 600 miles of storm water infrastructure that we're responsible for. That includes if you start in South County our large regulated drains are open ditches down there but with that also includes drain tiles that originally served agricultural areas. Now they've been tasked with draining residential areas as well for minor subdivisions and individual lots that have been developed over the years and then we have lots of storm sewer and detention basins so urban storm water infrastructure as well some of which we've come to find has not been built designed that well-built that well or necessarily maintained that well or at all since it was put in. As we as we started to wrap our heads around all the issues that we had in the county to tackle mind you we do yes we this is all paid for by the County Storm Water user fee. A typical single-family residential home pays \$120 a year. Collectively everybody that pays into that fund generates about \$3.8 million of revenue a year. I'm proud to say 75% of that plus or minus goes directly back into work on our storm water infrastructure. That includes about a \$1 million a year for operations, maintenance and construction, but also over a \$1 million a year for debt service for the improvements we've already made in our top priority area of old South Haven. I wanted to talk a little bit about prioritization of projects because this is where Jeff mentioned the projects that it were originally named in the ordinance. Those were named in there as an outgrowth of the ongoing conversations that we have with the Board of Commissioners, the Stormwater Management Board as well as the County Council. As we've got some significant studies that are wrapping up and we know we have a significant liability out there well beyond what our one \$1 million a year of construction and maintenance budget can accommodate. We've got to prioritize right? Just up in front of you is what we typically use to evaluate in prioritized projects. There's 12 criteria. I won't go into detail on any of them but essentially it's applying what you might call common sense to diagnosing the problems that exist out there which are the worst? Where are they, what are they affecting? Are they affecting structures? Are they affecting roadways or are they just affecting somebody's backyard? How severe are they? Do they cause significant property damage? Do they wash roadways out? Does that then incur feed you know expenses on the fee payers? How often do they occur, how long do they occur, what's the size of the area effect, is it just one house or an entire subdivision? Then some of the other ones listed there obligation is it public or private infrastructure to begin with? Is it a long-standing problem that's been around for 20 years that maybe promises were made in the past that we'd get something done and nothing's been done to this point? All those play a role into how staff evaluates these potential projects these problems out there and then that information is fed directly to our boards and then decisions are made on which projects get moved forward to construction. I wanted to just talk about three projects briefly this morning that because of the prioritization process that we had targeted for ARP funds. As I mentioned earlier old South Haven was identified really as our top priority using those criteria that I just discussed. An old subdivision started being developed in the early 1960's. The storm sewers were beyond their life expectancy. We had major flooding and drainage issues. Property damage occurring there. We've already taken that on head-on and accomplished a lot of work out there. The next sort of big problem areas that we identified were Shorewood Forest and greater South Haven subdivisions which include three other subdivisions in the old South Haven area New South Haven, Salt Creek Valley Commons and Coventry which are a little newer than old South Haven but have similar problems. We undertook studies to identify where those problems existed. How severe they were again to inform those criteria and pick particular projects within these locations that need to be addressed to address drainage issues Stormwater Management flooding issues that exist out there. There's Shorewood Forest on your screen I'm going to talk

about shored forest because we targeted this one at least the high priority projects within the subdivision for ARP funding. We are wrapping up a study a detailed study of the storm water infrastructure serving the subdivision. There's a snapshot of reports across the subdivision from 2010 forward. Many of these folks have repeatedly suffer from drainage issues, storm water management issues. Four categories on there. Everything from failing pipes to ravine erosion type issues to street and yard or structure flooding. I guess the red kind of indicates where you've got significant property damage occurring and the rest of them are I guess lesser damages in nature but all a significant enough nature where they need some attention. Shorewood is an interesting blend of gray infrastructure we call it in the in the storm water world which is basically pipes, storm sewer structures take the water away put it in a detention basin before it moves further downstream. They also have a lot of green infrastructure which we consider natural or built storm water features that sort of mimic the hydrologic processes in the environment. That's mostly the ravines because of the terrain out there. The ravines were used to convey storm water management. The split is listed on the screen there's about 28,000 feet of pipe and about 26,000 feet of ravines that really make up the Shorewood Forest storm water management system. What you see at the top is a general assessment of the condition of the pipes we sent storm sewers televising cameras through all of the storm sewers well about 85% of them. You've got about 30% of those pipes in poor condition those are generally in the older parts of the subdivision started being developed in the early 1970's to about 25% in moderate condition that need attention sooner rather than later. Poor condition I would I would say needs attention immediately and then good condition you've got less than half is in good condition at this point. That's part of our job is keeping those pipes in good condition through proper operation and maintenance as well. We've got about more than 50% a majority of the storm sewers out there that need attention sooner rather than later and some need immediate attention those in poor condition. The other point I wanted to make on this slide is that nearly every single ravine has been significantly impacted by down cutting, widening and erosion and occurred on the next screen have a couple of shots of that in the lower right hand corner that storm sewer used to be buried. That would have been the original outfall there and then down below that if you continue downstream there's significant erosion a canyon forming down below that. In the upper left is an example some of the ones that are more significant the pictures don't do them justice because you don't have anything for scale but that's a 12" pipe there there's about 6' of erosion that have occurred directly below that outfall. Erosions a natural process but when we discharge concentrated storm water runoff at the top of an erosional feature like ravine it accelerates that process so the sediment load from these ravines is substantial, significant impacts Lake Louise within the subdivision and the HOA there is undertaking a significant project and process to address that issue within the subdivision but the sediment also translates downstream and impacts this is tributary to Salt Creek impacts Salt Creek as well. I feel like we the County, the property owners, Shorewood Forest have a responsibility to address this erosion issue not just address the gray infrastructure but address the green infrastructure as well because of the impacts it has on the natural environment. The study has identified 15 high priority projects. Again ranked and evaluated according to those criteria that we discussed earlier with between these discrete projects and the more programmatic recommendations like fixing the ravine erosion my estimate of our project need out there our money need to address these issues is about \$30 million. I want to talk a little bit there's those a lot of those discrete projects are more pipe the grey infrastructure I wanted to talk about our green infrastructure approach. This is what's known as a regenerative conveyance system. It was a technique developed in the coastal plain of Maryland where you have storm water rolling off the piedmont and dropping down to the coastal plain. Very similar to our more rains here in Porter County. The way we're going to go about fixing these ravines is to apply this technology. It uses again mimics the natural environment infiltration, storage, evapotranspiration to safely convey but allow that storm water to infiltrate in the ground and head back it up into the atmosphere as it makes its way down these ravines. It's a combination of large boulder type material, sand material, and smaller cobble and then a lot of vegetation in order to when you get small storm events everything everything's going to go in the ground during large storm events everything's going to pass over the top. So that's Shorewood. I brought that one up because there's significant needs but it's a nice blend of gray and green infrastructure needs being sensitive to our role as a steward in the environment for protecting water quality and trying to address water quality issues. This is a long-standing priority project that was targeted for ARP funding. This is the north Simpson Drain. There's not roads labeled here but that's the fairgrounds right in the middle of the shot. 49 runs from north to south along the bottom of your screen and then Division Rd. kind of runs right through the middle of this exhibit. That's the watershed for the North Simpson Drain. It's a drain tile that drains the fairgrounds portions of the City of Valparaiso including the Pratt Paper plant and then agricultural land and this was all agricultural that's why the drain was originally built it's been tasked with now managing all these rooftops and impervious surfaces and for many years now we've known that this drain....so right in the middle of that screen it's hard to make out but that red dashed and solid line that's the alignment of the drain for many years now we've known that this drain has been in need of reconstruction. It's inadequate. It was built to handle agricultural land use. Now it's been tasked with again handling urbanized development, lots of rooftops and parking lots and it's in poor condition. Concerns about the condition of this drain tile were brought up as early as 1999

and perhaps before as this area was being targeted for industrial development. This is a headwater area of Parker Ditch which is a sensitive environmental corridor. We try to keep it that way it does have a regulated drain moving but a lot of wetlands that are well connected to that regulated drain so a lot of floodplain storage, a lot of nice impacted wetlands in terms of ecological health but the wetlands the backbone is still there so those could be enhanced and that's tributary to Salt Creek. This is all headwater sensitive environmental area. A 2004 study recommended reconstruction of the drain along with implementation of green infrastructure practices within the watershed we talked about that in Shorewood right infiltration, evapotranspiration. Nothing ever came of that. No one acted on that recommendation. 2017 study also recommended reconstruction of the drain. Time has come to reconstruct the strain the agricultural lands there have suffered for many years but this is leading to standing water for long periods of time in the (Inaudible) a very high water table standing water in the in the fairgrounds area, Pratt Paper it needs to be reconstructed and the project we're envisioning would not only include reconstruction of the drain tile the gray infrastructure but enhancement to the Parker Ditch Corridor, the wetland area working with the property owner so making this a gray but also green infrastructure type project. The last one that I want to and this is what I've been dealing with for the last few days. This is Carriage Hills Subdivision so this is another possible priority project that perhaps went unnamed in the original thought process behind the original proposal but funding was set aside for issues just like this because we have those hundreds of miles of infrastructure out there that things can go wrong that we don't know could go wrong because we haven't we haven't looked at the storm sewer yet perhaps. This is Carriage Hills Jackson Township 500 East is on the east boundary of that shaded polygon it's just north of 900 North. The subdivision was constructed in the early well late 90's, 99, and 2000. It's not old we expect to get 50 years to 75 years out of our storm sewer systems. We're only about 20 years old here a little more than that. The construction plans indicate storm sewer serving the subdivision was constructed in the wrong location with incorrect material and incorrectly sized pipe. This is not a commentary not pointing fingers but it's a commentary on the foresight that the Board of Commissioners, the Council in terms of creating our Stormwater Management Board our department not only are we going back into the environment the County to address problems like this but we're reviewing subdivisions carefully when they come in for approval and throughout construction to make sure that we don't have issues like this pop up where pipe is where shouldn't be is the wrong size in some cases in the wrong location and is poorly constructed. Based on what we've seen we got involved in Carriage Hills in mid-2019 we've done some point repairs of storm sewer that has caused sinkholes. We videoed the entire storm sewer at that time in August / September 2019. Certainly the condition was poor and needed to be reconstructed but its only 20 years old so we were stretching the life doing point repairs expected we could get more life out of it. However, on Friday the condition of the pipe led to a sudden catastrophic pipe collapse. These are some drum roll pleats. These are photos from what occurred on Friday afternoon. The pipe runs it under the homeowner's driveway here. The pipe collapse caused a sudden rush of sediment into the pipe, sucked all that from down below the driveway and the driveway collapse. You have one car all the way in one car kind of the way in. Fortunately no one was injured. We have our work cut out for you here so first step was to get the cars out of the way. Crane those out of the way. We over the weekend figured out what materials we would need started acquiring those and as of Monday as of yesterday we had dropped off 40' of pipe bands ready to put this thing back together but that's just going to be a Band-Aid. Again this whole storm sewer structure system needs to be reconstructed because of the condition that it's in and it's unfortunate that there was only 20 years of life that we got out of it but that's the job of the engineering division in our Stormwater group of the County in terms of taking care of all the public infrastructure that's out there. When something goes wrong we have to have the funding to be able to address it.

Com. Good, When we started this board our first project was South Haven because we studied it and the things we found out there I mean sinkholes were a very common problem up there. When I first arrived here it was some of the first calls I started getting we got a sinkhole well these sinkholes are 25' from the front door where do these kids play. I mean what I'm trying to say is that you know sometimes we get criticized up here for being too infrastructure oriented and Porter County. County government is infrastructure. That's what we do but this is not this is not something that we decided that we're just going to go do. This this was necessitated. We were at the end of the line, we were at the end of the road here. Obviously we know how to handle sinkholes. We know how to mitigate them but we want to get out of that business real quick. We're trying to show everybody from a County's perspective the impact in how far behind this County is on trying to get their water infrastructure back up to speed and it's a very hard infrastructure to assess because it's all buried. It's all underground so out of sight out of mind right but now our department is up there we're popping lids we're getting into manholes we're getting down in there. There's a lot of work that needs to happen before that. I just wanted to point that out real quick. The other thing is this Board....we don't handle Stormwater meetings in this Board. This is an entirely different board that meets for storm water. The County Surveyor is on that board. That is where a lot of the projects are discussed, funded and mitigated. If you never see that and you come to the Commissioners' meetings looking for that information that whole activity is happening with a separate board. Separate meeting, separate funds. They

cannot be co-mingled. It all has to be towards storm water infrastructure. I just wanted to give a little history.

Atty. McClure, And Mike before you go on if can you just take one step back and explain why currently what processes and things we have in place that at this point in time a subdivision wouldn't be allowed to progress. In other words a subdivision cones in here in 2022....what is different now than 20 years ago?

Mr. Novotney, Let's talk a little about the life cycle of a project public or private. In this case it would be a private development. It starts with sound design and engineering. From the County's perspective we have solid storm water standards in place including a design manual as well as design and construction standards that apply to the construction of roads and storm sewer. Any utilities within the subdivision. That process begins when the developer's site design professionals putting together the construction plans for their development. Those plans come to the engineering division. We review those plans. Sometimes exhaustively and I get accused of being an obstructionist and slow but look the reason that I am is because my job is to protect the public's health and safety. We can't have things like this happen. We do our due diligence during that review of the construction plans to make sure that all of those construction standards which are in line with good and accepted construction practices are included on those construction plans. It doesn't stop there because you can have all of the plans and standards in the world that you want and they could be the best but if those do not get implemented during construction you're falling short. Usually at that point the developer site design professional bows out. The developer is not paying them any more to look at the site or do much unless they have to. The developer's contractor and subcontractor then take over. From the start of construction we do a pre-construction conference with the developer and their contractor for every project. We review the construction plans in terms of what's going in. When it's going in. How it is going to go in and we set the expectation. We're going to be out here not all day everyday but to check on progress. Then throughout construction we have inspectors and could use a few more that get out on site and observe the construction to make sure it's taking place in accordance with what is showing on the plans and in those construction documents. We don't let them backfill until we say it's okay. So we have eyes on it at least. Then that process continues. Underground infrastructure goes in first. Grading occurs, storm water ponds, all of that. Then the roads get built, same process for roads. We observe construction. We proof roll, we'll test density if we need to. We observe the paving process. We'll test the density on the paving process if we need to. That is all part of the QAQC through construction. Then once all of those public improvements get substantially complete so the roads can be used, the storm sewers can be used. We require the storm sewers to be video inspected so we have not only an idea from what they look like on the surface but from in the pipe as well. We have as built plans that come in. Then the developer has to provide us with at least a 3 year maintenance guarantee on everything that we're going to take care of any defects in the workmanship. Anything that might pop up for 3 years. We carefully look at it throughout that period before the Commissioners finally accept that public infrastructure where then the responsibility is going to be on the County and then the fee payers or taxpayers to take care of it from then on. Throughout that entire life cycle we have to be involved and we are involved to making sure that things are designed right. That they are constructed right and then at least initially that they're operating and maintained correctly before we actually say everything's good and we'll take it from here. That's the process.

Com Blaney, We've had that process since the Stormwater Board.

Mr. Novotney, I joke sometimes that it was a little bit of you know sleight of hand. That I got played when I took this job. I was going to be the Storm Water Program Director. I became the County Engineer and then I the Plan Commission needed help with this process. From late 2016 to really early 2018 we sort of developed the staff, the resources, the framework and the program to allow that review inspection process and it's still developing. We still have improvements we can make but that's basically over the last 3 years we've been developing that and implementing that process in full. Really since the first major subdivision in many years came to be in early 2018. At the time the development interest really started picking back up and economics allowed it to pick back up we've had our processes in place.

Com. Good, One of the other things you might want to add is that we actually have 3 or 4 engineers on staff now in our County Stormwater Dept. and we're actually now doing our own drawings. We can mitigate and do our own engineering drawings in house, which saves the County a tremendous amount of money. A lot of these are a lot of rural type projects in rural subdivisions that we can do them ourselves. So we're trying to add value and bring more work back. We're constantly looking at the amount of work versus the overhead to make sure that....our goal is to put as much money in the ground rather than the overhead. That is something that we are constantly talking about.

Mr. Novotney, Thanks for bringing that up Jeff because I wouldn't be able to do what I do if I didn't have a very talented small group of staff around me. I take a lot of pride in the fact that we do do the majority of our design work in-house. We do all of our plan work and inspection work in-house. The folks that work in the department are Porter County residents. We consider it to be ours. We're looking out for what's ours and we treat it that way. Not to say that consultants couldn't do the technical aspects of it but I think there is something that gets lost in translation when you hire an outside gun to come in and help you. They don't have that investment. That vested interest in taking care of what's ours.

Com. Good, Thanks Mike.

Mr. Novotney, Thank you very much.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED

Mr. Breitinger, Hi my names is Walt Breitinger. My address is 608 Academy St. I feel that it's more important to recognize that I live on Mother Earth. These things that you brought up today show a major level of respect for what's needed to try to make a lot of changes today. I wanted to thank you and congratulate you and especially I think your choice of Vicki Urbanik to lead the team or whatever her title is going to be in charge of the steering committee. I think that's going to be and I have watched, I've searched throughout the country for others that have put on presentations and done videos on how to follow the laws. I think that we have someone that's going to make sure that we do recognize the importance of what the government has already instructed us to do. I'd also like to thank you so much for bringing Bob Thompson up. I know there are probably people here that wonder how can we justify spending over \$2 million on the Marquette Trail which may not seem initially to fit into the program. I think some people here know but maybe the majority don't know that there's a huge amount of federal matching that if we don't grasp and the opportunity to build that Marquette Trail. Now with our \$2 million or \$2.2 that we would lose twice as much that the federal government is going to contribute. So for those that don't recognize or appreciate the importance of bike trails I'll mention that that is a rare opportunity for us to get that federal money.

The National Lakeshore I don't know if Paul Labovitz is still here I think that the opportunity to include input from the National Park is incredible and I just love that you've involved him. Then of course I think some of you know what I think of Mike Novotney and his work. I'm just delighted that you're able to hear a thorough presentation from him. I know there have been a lot of debates that have gone on here and I assume there will be more as this whole procedure proceeds. I just want to say I'm not here representing any particular.....I've never been appointed or elected from any of the environmental groups or conservation groups but just on behalf. I know I'm often considered a tree hugger. Now when you add the lakes, the ponds, the rivers and streams to the extent that I represent them I feel this is a major improvement that's been made. Thank you.

Atty. McClure, So to be clear the new ARP ordinance the four items that would be potentially passed by the Commissioners would be the \$25,000.00 to the behavioral health study. The \$500,000.00 available to township government or the trustees for assistance to households and individuals or the small business. Also, the \$2.5 million to the Marquette Trail and up to \$1 million for the premium pay for the public safety employees. Those are the four items that would be for today's ordinance. The original ordinance would be void and this would be the new ordinance with the new request subject to the Council's appropriation.

Mr. Schreiner, My name Paul Schreiner. I live at 1755 Lawndale Dr. which is in the County. Was your engineer's name Mike Novotney? I was real impressed. You guys are lucky to have him. I learned a lot more about Stormwater Management than I ever knew or probably wanted to know.

Com. Good, People say that all the time about us up here all of the time Paul.

Mr. Schreiner, I don't want to come across as critical because I'm not. Everything he said is worth doing and has been worth doing for a long time. I mean it seems like we were talking about things that came up in the 90's. We're at a real unique place right now because of this federal legislation. Porter County is not a poor county. We need to take care of what we've got and that means I support everything that Mike talked about. The question is what should these funds be used for? Certainly some of them can go for that. I think that's reasonable and fair but the design of the legislation was to address those most harmed by the pandemic. None of those folks are sitting here. They're all the poor people in the County and I just want without...you probably know that I have a request in. I'm not going to speak to that at all. I think we need to remember let's not rebuild the County. We can rebuild the county all the time. This is a special

allocation of funds that need to be used for those people most harmed. By the way I thoroughly enjoyed and was educated by your presentation the other day. Thank you.

Mr. Brown, My name is Gary Brown. I live at 203 Harrison. We hope to petition later in one of your committees for water quality and drainage and its affect wildlife but it also affects roads on the north end of the county. I won't address that today but I want to agree with what the first two gentlemen said because helping fix old infrastructure is part of the process. It's in there but it should be benefiting the public when you have the parks here and the trail that is immeasurable. In terms of encouraging the public to understand the larger issues of that whole corridor. If Standard Oil and U.S Steel had the qualities of what we look at now that park would be ten times bigger. The 50-year anniversary of the Port of Indiana tore up Howling Hills. They just brought in the bulldozers got rid of the sand and who knows made mason jars out in Muncie. You're looking at it with different eyes. Even Mike Novotney who has helped us. Even our own chapter at Izaak Walton many times. We consider him a friend and a hard worker. He gets back to you even if you're just a little group. I encourage you to keep looking at beyond these little 25,000 things for \$25,000.00 to help people with mental problems. You don't have a mental hospital that there's things of the past they've thrown more and more people on the street. There's plenty of infrastructure in other cities in the County that should be taken care of as well. I don't see that in any of the things you're talking about today. At a certain point when is a county bailing out private developments (Inaudible) healed. I mean, South Haven that's a different story. Blue collar. Built horrible from day one. Why was that ever approved? Because it was but some of these other subdivisions are twice, three times, ten times the assessed valuation of the typical householder in South Haven. Maybe you need to rethink that and put some money helping the general public. It's not easy for the general public to even be at this meeting 10:00 in the morning on a Tuesday. Now you have a nightly meeting with the County Council you better hurry your ass over if you're in Chicago. I worked in Chicago for 40 years. It was a rare day where I could come to one of these meetings. I said the same thing when they were working with the South Shore. They put their meetings at 8:00 in the morning. They didn't want the public at the South Shore meetings that's for sure. So if you're opening this up with these committees I think maybe this larger look should also go back to some of the committees because you decided these things with yourselves. With the select group of people that know all the different boards and everything but the public really is not looking at all of this. We're re-looking at it today. It's a good advertisement for the good work of the Drainage Board but I think you need to open that up too so that the public feels that they're fully informed. Not just repeating what is known by the workers to get the County government done because the vast majority of the public doesn't have the slightest idea what we're talking about today. I think it needs to be open more for everyone and these committees are a first step of an excellent first step. You're not doing it sleepily or sloppily that's to be commended but let's keep everything out in the open. Yes it's hard to work with the public. That's a given and as public officials you knew the job was dangerous when you took it. This is generational this money. It may never happen again in our lifetime and we want it for our children and grandchildren and other people that may be moving to the county that we have no idea who they will be. It is a unique situation that Porter County has this affluence but where is our (Inaudible) to help those at the bottom. Where is our (Inaudible) to the public to keep them totally informed of what we as knowledgeable people that make good decisions we hope on their behalf? Thank you.

Mr. Stone, I am Red Stone. I live at 1711 Seed Ave. I just want to thank you for actually putting the money towards the mental health study. I know I've been advocating for that and I applaud you guys for approving this in this section of the ARP money. I think with the study once we get it done God willing we will see what areas we need to work on. Maybe the second tranche or the money will be used for things that the committee can give you guys' recommendations to use. I just want to tell you thank you very much for doing that. Thank you.

Ms. Reiner, My name is Rebecca Reiner 408 Lafayette. I know that this is a discussion about the first phase. I think that these projects are valuable but to echo what Paul was saying about keeping in mind our workforce and the people that are needing to skill up to be part of these new jobs that are going with the infrastructure that you've been addressing today. I think that there is room for both in part two and part one to look at what is needed for people who need to get training and education so that they can fill some of these better paying jobs that are coming this way as a result of this money. We'll talk more about the second one later but this is for the first one so. Thank you.

Ms. Miller, I'm Dawn Miller a couple questions all right. So I know the opera house is still a big thing on my head do you feel that the opera house is more important than these other programs? The \$25,000.00 that's going towards the study well I guess I don't know what that study is but I feel you get a lot more for the mental health aspect. It's a lot of money that could be allotted. There's also a homelessness that needs to be addressed I don't think that's ever really been brought up I mean maybe I missed it.

Com. Good, We're going to the committees and that's where (Interrupted by Ms. Miller)

Ms. Miller, No I'm just bringing up just some certain things that I'm just kind of wondering if you guys have ever thought of. I don't think its funny like just honestly I think these are things that you know.

Atty. McClure, To be clear the \$500,000 to township government is exactly for the assistance to households and individuals in the first batch here. This \$500,000 is available to township government. Assuming this gets passed today and the Council appropriates it this would be this would be available for the township trustees to utilize for poor relief. Whether that's for food or whether that's for housing and that's what this \$500,000 for the trustees by population is designated for. That is why it's for assistance to households and individuals.

Ms. Miller, That's helpful. That's I mean. Then the trail. How far does the trail go from?

Com. Good, Chesterton to the Michigan City line. About 9 miles.

Ms. Miller, Now I live here in Valpo so basically the only way to get there is to drive correct? Okay so there's no connection. How much is the trail being used at this point? Is it active? Do you see a lot of people on it?

Com. Good, There are parts of the existing trail that are under water right now. That was where we go to the point of do we go in and re-do it or do we and then there was a gas line that was built underneath it. There's power lines over above. When NIPSCO came in and put the gas line in about four years ago they came back to us and said in order to build a trail on top of this gas line you basically have to build a trail now that is like built like an interstate. Then cost went through the roof. That is when we started looking at different options to move it off the trail to make it more economical. To make it move in and out of the National Park as well. We wanted to have that interaction.

Ms. Miller, How long is that part of the trail been underwater?

Com. Good, Probably been a couple of years. We've been studying this since then. Years.

Ms. Miller, That's all I have. Thank you.

Com Good, Just to let everyone know she brought up a very good point about the study. We're hoping to get that study soon. What we would like to do is disseminate it to the committee so we have a working document that will guide that committee. That was one of the other reasons why that was put forward in the beginning so we had a document that we could work off of.

Mr. Burns, I'm Jim Burns. I'm the Executive Director of Family Focus. We bought the Focus Building by Binders Jewelers. I can tell you how much flooding problems we've had because the tiles were old and we put thousands of dollars in our parking lot with drainage problems. It's just been a nightmare. You know we had some work done. There were a lot of roots.

Com. Good, That's a high water table.

Mr. Burns, And that creek runs right by us. My second point is we're a non-profit. We've been around 32 years. We serve 11 Indiana counties but what we do is home-based family preservation so we work with our families in the home to build child abuse and neglect. We do home-based case work. We do supervised visitations. We do parent education, father engagement, a lot of services but most of our referrals come from child protective services where there has been allegations of abuse or neglect. What is lacking is prevention funds to keep the families from going into the DCS system. I'm speaking for myself and our organization but other nonprofits that want to help those in the community that need it most. We're getting involved with domestic violence problems which are soaring because of the pandemic. During the pandemic we have to do a lot of virtual visits with our families. Thank God we have that. We needed to monitor those families. There was a lot of expenses built into that to go virtual for a while. We applied for the PPP money. We did get PPP money because we hired during the pandemic. We brought on eight more people but now we're having a retention issue. It's really hard to find master level people and people to do this work. I just want to have your understanding of what we go through as non-profits in this county and to our other counties too. Thank you.

Unknown Woman, (Did not give her name.) I do appreciate the four aspects that are being approved. I do think those are all very important. I do have a friend that lives right close to the trail and she was saying about the foot traffic that happens in the summer. I do understand that concept and about um what they're dealing with because I know on the 149 when it does go into that area. It gets very crowded during the summer time so having another option is very much appreciated. With the funds I will say like I said I do agree with the guy earlier and just reiterate that those funds being used for basic needs. I mean there's a lot of people that don't have enough you know food, water, even paying their NIPSCO go bill right now is a struggle. Most of the elderly people in this community and I don't I'm not a social worker. I work in the healthcare field but if you're over the age of 65 most people are living on Medicare, on a fixed income. If you get COVID a lot of times the recovery time just and this is young people too it takes like a good month just to get your energy back. Most people don't even have energy to you know cook their own dinner or you know take baths or showers if they're elderly people. I mean finding a way to use these funds to help the... and again if you've worked your whole life they pretty much punish you. You can't get people to come and help take care of you or even get a caretaker unless you pay out of pocket unless you're a Medicaid patient actually do they actually pay for any kind of caregiver to come assist with any kind of home needs. A lot of people end up getting discharged from the hospital and they're pretty much getting dropped off at home. They don't even have a way to cook their meals. They don't have a way to take a shower or even get their meds. Like I said these are some of the things and like I said these are elderly people that have worked their whole lives and then you know end up going through something like COVID or you know some other different things because of other co-existing issues and then COVID on top of it. They're actually being sent home because there's nowhere for them to go. They don't have family that's available locally to help take care of them. Like I said I know these funds are going to be used for a lot of different projects but breaking it down to a lower level and making sure that these people are getting taken care of is I do believe the main purpose of the COVID Relief funds. In addition I do encourage everyone to get involved with this process so our voices can be heard. If we are able to make the meetings please be informing other people in your community of what's going on here because it is hard to look at the video afterwards and sometimes always hear all the different things that are happening. Other than that I do appreciate you guys revisiting this and moving forward in a more structured manner. Thank you.

Mr. Davison, Good morning, Duane Davison. I will like to first start off with I appreciate kind of a mulligan on this process where we just start over. Pretend some of the things didn't happen and then do it the right way. The right being engaging the community, getting some committees of stakeholders, some people with institutional knowledge but some new folks in as well. That much is appreciated. I'd like to speak to the two presentations and then after just kind of a more general on the process. Anything that protects or enhances the environment I'm certainly in favor of so I appreciate the two areas that were spoken about today. Marquette Trail and storm water enhancements with the County Engineer that was very informative presentation. Appreciate that. It seems to me a lot of this money is being spent though to correct previous wrongs. I would love to see more money put up front to prevent that activity in the future. Some land is more valuable than others. If we have to riparian corridor or wetland, bogs, fence which this whole region used to be filled with that is where we start. That is going to do the work for free versus trying to wrap our hands around engineering and conquering nature as it were. I certainly would like to have more protection and stringent rules and regulations. I was heartened to hear that the County's engineer spoke to those issues. As far as the process just in general you know I'm speaking independently on this. I'm not part of any group and haven't spoken on this issue at all to date but sometimes we entrust the day-to-day activities of government to you folks with little or no oversight. Sometimes a situation occurs like this where people become more engaged in the process. I think it was correct for the public to speak out and say hey this money is a little different this time. It's not just average tax payers' money that's going to predetermined projects. This has got kind of a wide latitude of potential. Again I do appreciate the taking a step back and starting over. I'm sure it wasn't easy for folks to do. You know democracy really can be messy. It's much easier for your guys to just decide on a project right or wrong and move forward. This part is a lot tougher to hear comments and suggestions on some of which support what you were hoping for, some against but it's needed and especially with this money. If the goal is to foster confidence you've done the right thing here. Now this is a lot of money \$33 million. It's something that we're not going to see for some time. We've got to get it right. The optics are critical here. You don't have to marry us but you know we would like to get engaged.

Ms. Baxter, My name is Sue Baxter. I live in downtown Valparaiso. I'd like to ditto what everyone else has said here today. We do appreciate everything you've done and what you've done so far. I just wanted to point out having published a newsletter in Shorewood Forest I do know that they have their own property managed association. Each resident pays money into this fund. They also have their own utilities board and I don't know if no one's brought that up. I do know they have a lot of money. So I kind of suggest that the public is aware of this fact and that you work with that board and maybe have them put in some matching funds for what you're doing there. It only makes sense. That's what the property owners association is supposed to be doing

and part of what you're doing now is actually their job. I think a lot of people don't know about that. They really need to be aware of it. Thank you.

Atty. McClure, Well to address that directly the homeowners association does exist. They do have a committee. They do have quite a bit of funds and they are in fact dealing with the actual lake restoration portion all on their own without any County participation.

Com. Good, \$8 million plus.

Atty. McClure, Mr. Novotney correct me if I am incorrect but I believe the presentation that you gave today was only in the portion of the storm water system. That is County's responsibility.

Mr. Novotney, That's correct. The Utility Board serves portable water and sanitary sewer are not...has nothing to do with the Stormwater Management.

Atty. McClure, And the lake restoration project. I know they were at Plan Commission I believe. I am going to misquote the number but I want to say may \$4 million or \$8 million.

Mr. Novotney, Yes, between the construction of their settling pond where they have to pump all the dredged spoils to give all of that sediment time to settle out. Then the dredging operation itself. I think it's upward of \$5 million in checkmate plus.

Atty. McClure, Of which we haven't even gotten a request to participate.

Mr. Novotney, So the property owners association is in existence to care for the properties. They have a number of outlets and trails and things but also the lake. Anything below the normal water level. Lake Louise is their responsibility. That's correct they have not even as far as I'm talking to the County about....

Com. Good, And we've had conversations with the POA. We've been meeting with them but what this project is doing is they are pumping out the entire lake. It's filled in.

Com. Blaney, It is our failing system that's putting sediment in their lake.

Com. Good, We've divvied up the responsibilities with Shorewood and we've come to terms with who is doing what. What they're doing is going to be...they have to buy a piece of line.

Atty. McClure, Dredging the lake.

Com. Good, They are dredging the lake and then all of that sediment is being pumped. Then the water will come back in. Now you will have a whole new clean lake. If you saw those ravines you were talking about that Mike was talking about that is the water that comes off of the subdivision and feeds that lake. When it is eroding it's putting the sediment back into the lake that they just spent \$5 million cleaning it. What our goal was that \$2.5 was targeted in the first ARPA plan was to give them money that if they started dredging we could come in and do the restoration to the ravines immediately so they don't have any more sediment going into the lake. We're trying to stop it right when it gets fixed which we think is the highest impact that we can do there. That was why that came up. We have been meeting with the POA. We've been very engaged in discussions. It's sort of a joint project that we're working with them on. We have our responsibilities which Mike showed you on the plan ravines and gray infrastructure and they have the lake.

Mr. Novotney, In the past there may have been blurred lines or questions about who is responsible for what part of our partnership is clarifying roles and responsibilities. There are no longer blurred lines. It's a joint effort.

Com. Good, This was a subdivision that was taken over the County 30 years ago. There wasn't even a discussion or anything it just happened. A lot of the easements, a lot of the documents doesn't exist because the baby was thrown out with the bath water. What we've been doing is putting all of these lines of who does what and we've been working through that and putting it all together painstakingly with the POA. It benefits the County and it benefits those property holders out there too.

Com. Blaney, I think it's also important to note that they pay the storm water fee to the County important to note that they pay the storm water fee to the County.

Com. Good, They pay like everyone else does. They are a subscriber to that district.

Ms. Sweeney, Hi my name is Sheila Sweeney of Valpo. 1606 Carriage Dr. I just have a quick question and forgive my ignorance. I've only lived here six years. When I moved here I remember there was some talk about the sale of the hospital and then the money from the sale of the hospital. What goes on with that? Talk to me like I'm a five year old. Thanks.

Com. Blaney, We have a foundation set up through legislation. We have quarterly meetings. We started off with about \$150 million. We use the interest we're only allowed to use up to 5%. We have a spending policy that we use 3.25%. The rest goes into principles for future generations. We have quarterly meetings and they're always on our website so and they're usually 5:00 p.m. So maybe a little easier to get to. I don't want to get into the weeds too much at this meeting. I'm happy to talk to you later too.

Com. Good, I can say from when we got the bill passed and the money has been invested in the last 5 years the corpus is now what?

Com. Blaney, \$195 million.

Com. Good, So we've grown from \$150 to \$195. It was a startup foundation and we wanted to protect the money first of all. We now have it in a form that we can act on. It's there making money. Last year the County did a \$3 million paving program where we have 816 miles of roads. There's no way we can keep up with the paving and what we have with the way we're funded by the state and local. Last year we did our worst 20 subdivisions, paved them and that came out of the Hospital Foundation money. We're trying to use some of that money to sort of pickup where we're really behind on our infrastructure just to try and get it back up to speed. Now all of our infrastructure is data driven. All of our roads have been assessed. We're not this isn't the good old boy where you call up somebody and you get your road done. This is all done quantitatively through data. We have engineers involved. There are a lot of good things going on there with the foundation but I think that is something that we will set the stage for the County in future years to start using that a little more proactively. Now that it is set up and it's running and it has history which usually you need for endowments to be able to go out and do things. You have to have a history of where your investment strategies are. That is what we have been slowly doing is building that foundation up. Protecting it and getting it ready for the next phase.

Atty. McClure, Not that we want to go into a long foundation discussion but just so everyone is not misled. There is \$185 / \$195 million of principle but there are legislative handcuffs on what can be utilized. How much can be utilized. There is not a \$100 million pot of money that could just be spent. There would be a process to do that and frankly it would take a unanimous vote of the Commissioners and the Council 10-0 to be able to invade that principle. In reality the foundation is set up. It generates roughly \$5.1/\$5.3 million a year. It has and it will continue. It is set up through the smoothing part of the legislation so that the amount of money that we are taking off on a yearly basis is also and this obviously before our inflation spiked but it was targeted with the inflation at its normal rate so that 20 years from now 30 years from now the money that the foundation is producing on a yearly basis has the same impact to those people at that time that it does now. Before that turns into a completely different conversation there are much more things that impact that money. It's not just a pot of \$100 million sitting there and ultimately what it's probably doing the easiest way to understand at this point our local income tax portion of the Porter County portion of that local income tax is almost the same or with a couple hundred thousand dollars of the same amount of money that that Foundation is producing. In all reality it's probably saving us from us.....at this point it is being utilized from us from this government having to contemplate doubling the local income tax rate here locally. That money is being utilized in the way it is set up it should be there for generations if not forever. So there are more parts of that. I just wanted to throw out there before it got misconstrued that there was another pot of money that's being divvied up. There isn't at this point but that does exist and it is relieving probably a living increase.

Com. Good, And that \$5.1 million that we get out of the Foundation goes towards funding government. What is that we're funding there?

Atty. McClure, Jail medical, Porter Starke, not for profits, OE, E911, The Council on Aging and the Youth Services Bureau. The Youth Services Bureau has been getting money from the County forever.

Com. Good, We are taking those 3 not for profits out of that Foundation money.

Com. Blaney, Porter Starke is not out of there.

Atty. McClure, Porter Starke is a different tax rate.

Com. Blaney, The not for profits are OE, Council on Aging and the Family and Youth Services Bureau for a total of \$1.2 million a year?

Ms. Urbanik, Roughly and if we did not have that budget we would probably either have to make budget cuts someplace else or move those projects into the General Fund or increase the local income tax which we have the lowest County income tax in the State of Indiana tied with one other county which is in southern Indiana. I have been asked about it. How do we do this with such a low income tax and it's because of the Foundation. We're getting that money every year that we are able to budget for these other programs without having to put it in our General Fund budget. That will be in perpetuity, hopefully.

Mr. Burns, I just meant to ask you who is doing the mental health study?

Com. Biggs, Price Health Care Group out of Illinois. Yes they are independent.

Mr. Burns, It would be helpful if you could do a survey (Inaudible, not at a microphone.) give you a lot of input.

Com. Biggs, They are going around and talking to organizations like yourself. That doesn't mean that your particular organization will be.....

Mr. Burns, No I know. I just want to know how it's being done. If there was a survey or something.

Com. Biggs, This is really just trying to get the Board of Commissioners or County government an understanding of the situation as it applies to behavioral health needs in this County because we really don't know.

Mr. Burns, Do you know when that will be completed?

Com. Biggs, It will be soon. I actually have a meeting with her tomorrow.

Ms. Talevski, Hi Susie Talevski, Porter County. I have a quick question for the County Engineer. I'm just wondering out of all the problems we have with storm water drainage in this County how did you end up....like what are the top like 5 worst storm water drainage problems in the County Number one. Number two how did you end up picking these particular ones to avail yourself of federal taxpayer dollars?

Mr. Novotney, I reviewed as part of my presentation our prioritization criteria with everybody those were presented. That is how we weigh and evaluate all problems. The top problems include Shorewood Forest. I talked about greater South Haven based on those criteria. I talked about North Simpson Drain as well. Then your question about federal taxpayer dollars all of our programs and these projects are made for by the local funds and storm water users. So I don't understand the last part of your question.

Ms. Talevski, The last part of the question goes to the fact that ARPA funds would be used for addressing the issues right?

Mr. Novotney, Part of the process was we've been working these projects and these priorities for many years now. This request is now a continuation of the work we've been doing since our office open its doors.

Ms. Talevski, So typically the money comes from the County taxpayer?

Mr. Novotney, No it's a user fee.

Ms. Talevski, I'm sorry it's a user fee. Is there enough money out of the Stormwater user fee to pay for the two projects that you discussed as well?

Mr. Novotney, No I reviewed that as well in my presentation. Our annual budget generated by the Stormwater user fee is about \$3.8 million. We're left with about \$1 million / \$1.25 million for construction and maintenance and operation on our 600 miles of storm water infrastructure. We have over 100 detention basins that we're that we're responsible for. Another \$1.25 or so goes towards debt service to pay for the improvement that we've already performed in old South Haven which was the top priority when we opened our department back in 2016. So no we don't have enough to pay. Shorewood Forest by estimate by the study that's getting wrapped up now probably about \$30 million worth of liabilities. Greater South Haven and (Inaudible, not near a microphone.) they are probably about the same amount. North Simpson Drain it's over \$1 million project. Carriage Hills which I also spoke about in my presentation probably on the order

of \$1.4 to \$1.5 million with the final estimates will depend on the final design and engineering on that project.

Ms. Talevski, And there's additional other projects out there too right?

Mr. Novotney, Correct.

Ms. Talevski, Gosh we could use the entire round of ARPA funds for all these storm water drainage projects.

Mr. Novotney, That's the point of our prioritization process. It's to spend the money on the most immediate needs. On highest priority projects. That is the projects that we've requested money for from the Commissioners and Council are at the top of that list. Yes we have 600 miles of infrastructure and 100 plus detention basins. We have hundreds of millions of liability and value of infrastructure in the ground. So to keep up with that is a tall order financial aid, the same with roads, the same with bridges. That is the job of County government (Inaudible) come to managing our whole infrastructure is to manage and prioritize (Inaudible).

Ms. Talevski, Okay well my concern about all of this is that you know out of the four people that were included in that original group the two Commissioners and the two Councilmen one of the Councilmen lives in Shorewood Forest. My concern was that he was trying to perhaps to pull some money into Shorewood. Jeff I see the faces there I'm asking, I'm just saying that's a concern? Is that a fair concern and not a fair concern?

Com. Good, No.

Ms. Talevski, Okay well I'm voicing. Well I think a lot of people don't know that Right? That Counselor Mike Jessen lives in Shorewood. So he was part of that originally really well it does have something to do with it because it does well I'm just saying there's many other projects out there and this is obviously a special round of money coming from the federal taxpayer that's really intended for pandemic recovery and relief. I mean I understand that there is a section in there for obviously some infrastructure, for broadband and also for some storm water drainage. I'm just saying that when you analyze all of the County projects and you only included four people in your original group you and Com. Blaney and then Councilmember Revas, Councilmember Jessen that for that amount of money out of the first tranche of the \$16 million that amount of money to go directly basically you know to his neighborhood is you know a little worrisome because I mean it was not opened up to full public comment. And really in my book it should be coming from the taxpayers or the county taxpayer. You know this special storm water drainage fee that's assessed. You know obviously if there's not enough money maybe we need to think about addressing that.

Com. Good, You live there too, don't you?

Ms. Talevski, I do too yes yes. So I'm just bringing that so yes.

Com. Good, Did you come to any of the public meetings we had out there?

Ms. Talevski, I did go to one actually yes. Yes it was packed. It was I think in September. In one in the club houses.

Com. Good, It was packed.

Ms. Talevski, I was kind of off to the side I was not even in that main room. I was off to the side so I could if there was actual some presentation like this. I was not able to see it. You should have stuck around for the lake committee presentation. Actually I do want to speak with you about some things you should have stuck around afterwards because you would have seen how some of the presenters there were treating one of the female board members which was very concerning to me. I think that there are some issues in Shorewood that maybe I should tell you about that are concerning so before this amount of federal taxpayer dollars gets funneled to Shorewood. So that's just one of my concerns you know. I don't know if there was any sort of self-dealing there or self-interest there or not. You know I mean I trust the County Engineer. Obviously I just think that these are special round of money. It should really the primary purpose of the money should be obviously to help people who were affected most by the pandemic. So my other question has to do with if you can name who's going to be on the main ARP committee? Who are the members of that main ARP committee?

Com. Blaney, I don't know who the Council members are going to be because they will appoint them and they have a meeting tonight. Hopefully they'll appoint them tonight. I will be the

Commissioners. Vicki will be the facilitator and we will also have the County Attorney as a non-voting member.

Ms. Talevski, It'll be Vicki, you and the County Attorney and two council members. Okay and then for the subcommittees maybe you talked about this but how will you be selecting?

Com. Blaney, Well once again we went through all this already but I'm happy to do it again. Each committee will have one Commissioner who we appointed today. Two Council members who they will appoint. Two citizens. We have an application online that will be open until March 8th we're hoping to start appointing them on March 15th. The Commissioners will appoint one and the Council will appoint the other.

Ms. Talevski, Okay I guess I'm sorry I should clarify a question in terms of the criteria for the citizens that will be sitting on these subcommittees I guess that's what I was wondering if you developed what criteria.

Com. Blaney, We have an application and just fill out why you would be helpful to the board and what your qualifications are. Then we will choose.

Ms. Talevski, I know I know okay maybe I'm not making myself clear. I guess what criteria will the members of these the Commissioners whoever are you going to sit on one of the Subcommittees then? Also okay so I guess what I'm wondering is how are the citizen committee members what is the criteria that you will be using to select those members? Like let's say there's there's a hundred people that apply and you're only going to choose two. I'm saying what are the criteria how are you going to choose those two people let's say because.

Com. Blaney, Go through the applications and pick the best ones. There's three of us here.

Ms. Talevski, Three Commissioners.

Com. Blaney, So to clarify then the three Commissioners will be selecting the citizens that will be on each of the subcommittees.

Com. Blaney, We will be selecting one and the Council will be selecting the other.

Ms. Talevski, Okay so I looked at the application.

Com. Blaney, There will be a total of 8 citizen members.

Ms. Talevski, It just seems like a very small amount of citizen members.

Com. Blaney, 8?

Ms. Talevski, There are 2 on each subcommittee right? That's not that many people. I mean like if there were five or something or ten or something that'd be like more reasonable. I mean two on each one it seems uh very restrictive you know. I still don't understand what the criteria is that you're going to use to select them. I mean how are you going to select which one is the best one. You know because I mean I looked at the application briefly. It just looked...maybe you changed this. I don't know but I looked at the application and it just basically asked for basic information you know. Name, number, address and I think there's a section there asking you know occupation. I didn't see anything further on there.

Com. Blaney, It lists which committee would you like. You choose the committee and when you click on which one you want to be on a box opens up where you can fill in your qualifications and any relevant experience that would lead you to be a good committee member.

Ms. Talevski, Okay but there's no other....I mean you don't know how you're going to pick people basically look at their applications. I know but once you know I guess I'm wondering what is the criteria that you're looking for?

Com. Blaney, It depends on the committee and it depends on the people who have experience. People who have education. Perhaps people who have a particular interest in this area.

Ms. Talevski, Okay well that's all I'm asking. I'm just kind of asking what you know are the

Criteria. You're going to be looking for I mean that's it you know because I didn't see anything numerated on there but I would ask that you maybe expand it. I mean two citizens each is...it just doesn't seem.

Com. Blaney, Well we already voted on this.

Ms. Talevski, Okay well oh I didn't realize that sorry. The agenda did you vote on the \$500,000 for the County Trustees? Yeah I would hope that. I mean honestly I feel like that should be a larger amount but I was hoping that maybe you guys could hold off on that and then perhaps open it up to a hearing with the subcommittee for Social Services and we can add to that now. Okay you can add to it okay. Hearing that the mental health we're only giving \$25,000 right. That's just a study right now. I understand that I have four trustees instead of two. So now we have four trustees. We added two trustees to that committee. To which committee, to the Social Service.... for Health and Social Services committee. So that committee will have four trustees plus two Council member, one Commissioner, plus citizens.

Com. Blaney, One Commissioner, two citizens.

Ms. Talevski, That's why I'm asking if you...well you know if you guys already voted on this I would have expanded the citizen input. Obviously, only two that's not that many citizens honestly right? And the other thing is what I would ask for is you guys should consider is in my view is that no offense but instead of Com. Blaney being on that main committee maybe switch it out and have

Com. Biggs be on that main committee. I feel that way. Let me explain you know is because you two were involved in that first um sort of you know. Um do you have any comment Com. Good?

Com. Good, Comment we've already been through this before.

Ms. Talevski, So been through what comment when you're telling me no comment or yes I should not have a comment or you don't have a comment.

Com. Good, You're going to start your question and answer now and I'm saying no. I'm just beating you to the punch. That's all I'm doing. No comment.

Ms. Talevski, I'm just asking some questions. Sometimes you make these facial expressions and I feel like you're going to say something. So I just want to leave it open to you to make a comment if you'd like. You know I'm just concerned. You know she was involved in that first four you know group of four that had decided the allocations without obviously uh public comment and likely a violation of the Open Door Law. So I would have preferred to see I guess Com. Biggs be at the helm of that main committee um instead of um Com. Blaney. Maybe that could be switched. No?

Com. Good, It's already been voted on.

Ms. Talevski, Well maybe you can vote on it again right? Maybe you can revert and vote on it again because we're kind of redoing things aren't we which we've had to you know pretty much do. You've been sort of forced into it but I am appreciative though very much appreciative that you guys have reverted. I'm just saying maybe you guys should consider open things up a bit because it's....what I'm concerned about is again I'm going to mention your cronies you now. Getting your cronies on these as the citizens and then basically we're going to wind up with the same basic allocations that's what I'm concerned about. Also do you know how many uh public hearings each subcommittee will have?

Com. Good, Well it's going to be fluid. It could be...you know we've given some basic guidelines. A weekend meeting, an evening meeting but there probably could be more. It really depends on how each committee what they take on the discussions. So they might need to meet quite a few times.

Ms. Talevski, So are you saying that each committee has a certain amount of latitude basically kind of to figure out you know how many uh public meetings they might need?

Com. Good, Yes I think it's going to depend on how the conversations are going. They're working groups right.

Com. Blaney, All of the committee meetings will be public.

Ms. Talevski, Each subcommittee meeting will be public.

Com. Good, Correct.

Ms. Talevski, Okay no but what I'm saying is like I was wondering how many will each subcommittee have but you're explaining that they could kind of choose right? So it's kind of fluid. So maybe one will have....

Com. Good, It is fluid.

Ms. Talevski, That's a good idea. So that's good. So I appreciate that. Also I'm glad to see that um our County Auditor will be heading everything up because she's always an excellent resource and we're very lucky to have her. So I'm glad that you uh all came to agreement on that. That's an excellent choice. Com. Good appreciate that so thank you to all of you. My favorite Commissioner over there thank you so much and thank you very much for uh you know recognizing the stake and coming backwards. You know redoing the entire process and that's thanks to uh Com. Biggs I think in the end if you do it properly you know. Uh and we actually openly okay with um you know a fair selection of citizens you're going to come up with some really great projects that are going to address the most crucial needs that are related to the pandemic. You know hopefully other counties will maybe learn from Porter County and you know the great work we've done here. So thank you so much Commissioners.

Com. Good, I don't see anybody else getting up. With that we're going to close the public hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED

Com. Biggs, The only thing I have to say there's one of the residents that came up and spoke said something about private developments. We don't work and Mike can elaborate on this if he cares too but none of these communities that we've spoke about today are a private development. Every one of these systems that needs our attention and repair we own. We are responsible for according to state law. We wouldn't be in there if we didn't have to be in there. I just want to make that clear.

Com. Biggs, moved to approve the Proposed ARP Ordinance for Adoption, Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

SHERIFF DAVE REYNOLDS

Proposed Change to Employee Handbook – Per Diem.

Atty. McClure, This is a proposed change in the employee handbook. It has to do with modifying Section 8.06. It would be retitled Travel and Expense Claim. The employees' reimbursement for travel would be pursuant to the GSA website which is the U.S. General Services Administration website that has all of the per diems, mileage, food cost per diem done by zip code so they are actually related to where the travel is occurring. That is the change here. Instead of from a maximum predetermined amount the employees' reimbursement would be according to the GSA.gov website to determine the amount of the per diem for meals based on the location of the travel. If you go to the website and you put the zip code in it gives you the numbers according to the government that's dealing with the cost of the travel in that location. This has run through Human Resources. She is not with us this week. I know she emailed that she had reviewed this and didn't have any suggested changes beyond what had been submitted and requested by the Sheriff's Dept.

Com. Biggs, I would like to ask Vicki if you are okay with this. It is going to be a little more work on your end.

Ms. Urbanik, Because as I understand the departments will be submitting their per diem and we will have to check what that GSA is and obviously we verify where you are all going.

Ms. Grskovich, We also submit copies of that website with the claims.

Ms. Urbanik, Does this apply to all departments or just the Sheriff's?

Com. Good, I think it's just the Sheriff's.

Ms. Urbanik, And is it just mileage reimbursement or food or both?

Ms. Grskovich, Both.

Com. Good, Probably lodging too, right?

Ms. Grskovich, Yes.

Atty. McClure, This is not just the Sheriff's. This is a handbook change for all of the departments.

Com. Good, This is for everyone.

Atty. McClure, That is why it's Section 8 of the handbook. 8.06.

Com. Biggs, Which is smart. We're all doing the same thing.

Com. Good, Especially in that world doing those reports. You have to have consistency otherwise you are going to drive her office crazy.

Com. Biggs, moved to approve the Proposed Change to the Employee Handbook regarding Per Diems, Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

An Ordinance for a New Fund to Receipt Monies from Various Agencies pertaining to the Work of Special Units - 1st Reading.

Ms. Grskovich, This is our Special Services. They are different units that officers work on and we are reimbursed for all of their overtime.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED

Com. Good, First call anyone wishing to speak against this ordinance? Second call anyone wishing to speak against this ordinance? Third and final call anyone wishing to speak against this ordinance? First call anyone wishing to speak in favor of this ordinance? Second anyone wishing to speak in favor of this ordinance? Third and final call anyone wishing to speak in favor of this ordinance?

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the Ordinance, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

JESSICA BAILEY – CLERK

A Resolution Approving the Designation of Porter County as a Vote Center County.

Ms. Bailey, Would you like to see the PowerPoint?

Com. Biggs, You don't have to do it on my behalf. I'm clear on what a vote center is.

Com. Good, I just wanted to ask everyone to see if they would like to hear about it. Thank you for bringing it.

Ms. Bailey, Earlier this month I emailed you the link for the Porter County Vote Center Plan. It is quite detailed and lengthy so we could only send the link. The Election Board has already acted on it. The Election Board had to have a unanimous approval in order to get this ball rolling so we have done that. Last Friday it has been opened to the public for the 30 day comment period for public. We've had three information sessions in addition to our Election Board meetings where it was discussed. Now we come to you so you can say yes we are aware of this and move forward with the Plan per the State Code that we created in 2019. It is kind of just a stamp that you are aware of what is happening. The Election Board has already taken the action on it.

Com. Good, Madam Clerk how were the listening sessions? How did they go? Did you hear things that may be concerning?

Ms. Bailey, There wasn't so many negative comments as there was misunderstanding. Typically vote centers have a negative connotation. The good thing about vote centers in Indiana is that each county gets to make it their own. By code all we need to have is about 10 ½ Vote Centers. Our Election Board thought that we definitely needed more representation in Porter County so we are proposing 44 Vote Centers. What that would do is the 28 period before the actual Election Day Porter County Voters can go to any of our early vote sites whichever one is most convenient to them. On Election Day they were pigeon hold into going to the polling location we told them that we had to go to. This will make it more uniform and a standard approach just like early voting on Election Day you will be able to pick whatever polling location fits into your schedule best.

Com. Good, And our equipment will allow that.

Ms. Bailey, Correct.

Com. Good, Which that was a limitation before.

Ms. Bailey, Correct and our equipment during the 2020 Election while we had the maximum amount of equipment out at early voting that we could have that was because all of the rest of our equipment was coded per polling location. With this equipment that we have we can utilize it to the full extent just like we do during early vote. You can go to any of those. They are programed for every ballot. Now if we need another machine because we are having heavy volume we will be able to take any machine because they will all be coded for all county and elevate the volume during early voting as well.

Com. Blaney, Some of that might not even be a problem if you can go anywhere. If there is a long line at yours you can go somewhere else.

Ms. Bailey, Absolutely.

Ms. Schoon, The process isn't changing. You are still voting in the same way with the same equipment. It is literally just the ease of access to the locations that is changing. That was also one of the questions about the voting process. It's exactly the same.

Com. Good, Well I can tell you from the equipment standpoint there are a lot of people that I knew going into the election with new equipment that had a lot of concern obviously. I don't think I heard one bad comment from anyone. A lot of the seniors that I know were very happy because they had that piece of paper. There were very comfortable. They were surprised how easy it was. I think that from where we were a few years ago we're moving forward.

Com. Biggs, moved to approve the Resolution for the Designation of Porter County as a Vote Center County, Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

Com. Good, Thank you, good plan.

ALISON COX – JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER, DIRECTOR

An Ordinance Renaming the Porter County Truancy Court Fund (Non-Reverting Fund 4927) to the Porter Circuit Court Problem Solving Court Fund for the Receipt of Fees Associated with any Problem Solving Court Administered by the Porter Circuit Court – 1st Reading.

Ms. Cox, This streamlines our process for collection of the fees for our Problem Solving Courts that the Juvenile Courts run. We have a Juvenile Drug Court, we have the Juvenile Truancy Court and we are currently working on doing a Juvenile Mental Health Court. We will be real excited to come back and talk to you about what that is going to look like eventually. We're actually working with State right now to move forward with that. It just streamlines the whole process of collecting all of the fees into one fund instead of 3 separate funds.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED

Com. Good, First call anyone wishing to speak in favor of this ordinance? Second anyone wishing to speak in favor of this ordinance? Third and final call anyone wishing to speak in favor of this ordinance? First call anyone wishing to speak against this ordinance? Second call anyone wishing to speak against this ordinance? Third and final call anyone wishing to speak against this ordinance?

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the Ordinance at 1st Reading, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

ITS – LEE CHILDRESS, DIRECTOR

Adams Remco - A Copy Machine Lease Agreement for 11 copiers at \$1,563.61 per month for the following departments:

- 911 - New Install**
- Parks - Replacement**
- Commissioners – Replacement (2)**

**Voter Registration - Replacement
 Portage Clerk - Replacement (2)
 D02 - Replacement
 Juvenile Court - Replacement
 D06 - Replacement
 Voter Registration - Envelope Printer - New Install**

Com. Good, I know this may seem like a lot but I can tell you from our perspective up here the last 2 years we've had a lot of departments that wanted to switch out a little early. We sort of dragged our feet a little and made sure that this equipment worked and got our money out of it. We are now picking out those replacements.

Mr. Childress, Historically we have always paid for our copiers outright over a 3 year term. The problem with doing that is after that we end up with a dinosaur that nobody wants to trade in again. Our maintenance agreements go up. We end up with things that we can't buy parts for anymore and then we have to spend this huge expense again. I've worked with Adams Remco for about 5 months to get a lease agreement that makes sense. The plan is to have a 5 year rotation where every 5 years we would replace a fifth of our copiers with new copiers at lease price. In this instance I believe we're replacing 11 copiers. We're actually replacing 9 and installing 2 new ones that were needed. The price will be \$1563.00 per month. If we were to purchase these like we normally did the monthly cost would have been \$3300.00. So it's a no brainer.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the Adams Remco Lease Agreement, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

EXPO CENTER – LORI DALY, DIRECTOR

A Request to approve Catering and Concessions contracts for the following:

<u>Caterers</u>	<u>Concessions</u>
Aberdeen Manor Birky's Martini's Master Nelsons Pikk's	B&J Specialties Suzie's Café Tate's Place

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the Catering and Concession Contracts for 2022, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

FACILITIES – RAY CLOYD, DIRECTOR

3 Service Agreements with Total Disposal for the following Porter County Government buildings for a 36 month term:

Admin. Center	\$129.60 Weekly
Valpo Courthouse	\$ 75.60 Weekly
Sheriff's Garage	\$ 65.00 Weekly

Mr. Cloyd, How are you doing? I have the Admin. Center and the Valpo Courthouse that's from Total because they are the only ones that gave a bid. They are the only ones that do the containers. Then Total is the only we received for the Jail. That is the reason why we only have one estimate.

Com. Good, moved to approve the Total Disposal Services Agreements, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

Com. Blaney, Thanks for all of your work on the snow last week.

DEVELOPMENT & STORM WATER MNGMNT. – BOB THOMPSON, DIRECTOR

Lochmueller Group – An Agreement for Engineering Design Services for Bridge #1.

Mr. Thompson, Bridge #1 is Division Rd. over Huden Ditch or I like to call it Crooked Creek. This is for \$387,240.00.

Com. Good, What kind of bridge is that? Is it just a regular....

Mr. Thompson, It's one of our annually expected bridges. It is concrete box beams.

Com. Good, It's a box beam.

Mr. Thompson, Correct and it is deteriorating badly. The abutment walls are at the creek edge. There are some problems there.

Com. Good, Engineering guesstimate.

Mr. Thompson, For the actual construction this is 2027 Fiscal Year so we are probably looking at \$1.4 to \$1.5 million to replace this bridge.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve Lochmueller Group for Bridge #1, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

Com. Good, Just so everyone knows that bridge is going to be done in 2025. That is a long way out but you have to start planning and get in production now.

Lochmueller Group – An Agreement for Engineering Design Services for Bridge #66.

Mr. Thompson, Bridge 66 this is 250 West over Phillips Ditch. It is full replacement. Again it's on the list of annually inspected. INDOT sent us the letter saying to give consideration to these bridges. It is taking that off of that list.

Com. Good, What type of bridge is it again?

Mr. Thompson, Concrete box beam.

Com. Good, Same type of issues you think?

Mr. Thompson, Same issues. We're finding with the concrete box beams asphalt over lay if they do not have membrane over it we're lucky if we get 30 to 35 years out of these bridges.

Com. Good, We need to get 50.

Mr. Thompson, We're trying to shoot for 75 if possible.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the Lochmueller Group Agreement for Bridge #66, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

Lochmueller Group – A Master Services Agreement to provide Professional Engineering, Surveying, Planning and/or Environmental Services on an as-needed basis.

Mr. Thompson, We have a handful of engineering firms that we have annual services agreements and this one is for Lochmueller. To give you an idea one of the bridges that they are working on for us the annual services agreement is what I call the U.S. Steel Bridge that goes across 12 and the railroad tracks which goes into the Portage Park and also into U.S. Steel. This has some major maintenance work that we have to get into. It will probably be over \$1 million for us to fix.

Com. Good, Is that with the buttresses.

Mr. Thompson, Yes the buttresses. There is some settling with the approaches. The approaches are separating from the actual bridge.

Com. Good, It's not good ground up there I don't think.

Mr. Thompson, No. It's real close to the 25 years so we're probably also looking at a deck overlay as well.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the Lochmueller Group Master Service Agreement, Com. Good, second, motion carried.

A Request to Vacate the Right-of-Way at Biscayne Dr. in Lake Eliza. Petitioner – Kim Marie Korellis – 1st Reading.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED

Com. Good, First call anyone wishing to speak against this vacate of right-of-way? Second call anyone wishing to speak against this vacate of right-of-way? Third and final call anyone wishing to speak against this vacate of right-of-way? First call anyone wishing to speak in favor of this vacate of right-of-way? Second anyone wishing to speak in favor of this vacate of right-of-way? Third and final call anyone wishing to speak in favor of this vacate of right-of-way?

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED

Com Biggs, moved to approve 1st Reading, Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

VALPO EVENTS – KATIE ABEL

A Request to use the Courthouse grounds on Saturday, May 7th, 2022 from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. for the 2022 Chocolate Walk. There will be tables, chairs, signs and tents with no more than 20 stations for distributing chocolate.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the 2022 Chocolate Walk, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

Com. Biggs, Mike had talked about and the Commissioners talked about it. We have an emergency situation that has developed out at Carriage Hills. We are adding that issue out there to the projects that this ARP money, I believe it was \$4 million to address. Given the level of emergency out there I asked the Commissioners to throw that back on an ordinance. Get it in front of us at our very next meeting so we can get this thing fixed and out of the way. I will vote on it.

Com. Good, We would need to open up the whole deal again.

Com. Biggs, What is the protocol Scott?

Atty. McClure, You brought it up so we've had the discussion. If we wanted to have a public hearing now on that request we could do that. Just to be clear we passed the second ARP ordinance today subject to appropriation by the County Council. I guess your request would be the third ARP ordinance or the third revision and that would be to add back Stormwater money. I believe it is at that same level \$4 million. After discussion today and some public input we could bring that back up at our next meeting which would be March 15th. Then we would have the ordinance available to again review, discuss and then pass.

Com. Good, I think from my perspective we talked about this this morning in the Stormwater Board meeting and I know that the Storm Water Dept. is out fixing the problem right now. I know there are also assessing the existing infrastructure out there. I don't know if it qualifies to me as an emergency. I would like to see more information coming back from Mike and find out what we really have out there. I think from what we've been hearing here today that there is some concern that we are going to do too much storm water. As long as we fix it...I think we can direct that project to the committees and get them talking about it. I think for me right now after what I heard today I would like to pause and get a little more information before we make a big move like that. That is my take. You asked.

Com. Biggs, I could appreciation that but I'm just concerned that we have a situation that it's literally swallowing cars up there. Is this something we can band-aid until....

Mr. Novotney, In reality we have a preliminary design done (Inaudible, not near a microphone.) We are going to have to coordinate with some land owners which I've started doing because they have rear yard drainage infrastructure that they don't know where it connects to. We have some final details to flush out. So in reality we wouldn't be able to construction until May this year anyway. I would suggest this. We move forward with that final design engineering process. In the interim I've done visual assessments on various driveways (Inaudible). We're also going to get the storm sewer televising camera in the storm sewer in the coming weeks. By the time of your next meeting I should have a report on what it looks like form the (Inaudible) what it looks like (Inaudible). I can advise the Stormwater Board and this Board on the urgency so we can go through the design process properly.

Com. Biggs, Perfect.

Mr. Novotney, But I appreciate the conversation about the urgency of that project and bringing it to the forefront.

Com. Biggs, That is fine I will wait until his assessment.

Com. Good, Let him do his televising so we can figure out what to deal with. It may be in an area or it may be expansive.

Mr. Novotney, (Inaudible) Commissioners' meeting if there is a separate ordinance (Inaudible) just to address that project. (Inaudible).

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PORTER COUNTY, INDIANA

Jeffrey J. Good

Laura M. Blaney

Jim Biggs

Attest: _____
Vicki Urbanik, Auditor