

PORTER COUNTY COUNCIL
Regular Council Meeting
March 30, 2021

The Porter County Council met on Tuesday, March 30, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. in the County Administration Center, 155 Indiana-Suite 205, Valparaiso, Indiana.

Mr. Rivas called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present were Council Member Jeremy Rivas, Council Member Mike Brickner, Council Member Sylvia Graham, Council Member Mike Jessen, and Council Member Greg Simms. Also present was, Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Auditor Chief Deputy Toni Downing Council Attorney Harold Harper and Council Administrative Assistant Joy Blakely. Members not present Council Member Andy Bozak and Council Member Bob Poparad.

Minutes

Approval of Regular Council Meeting February 23, 2021.

Mr. Rivas, Can we have the approval of the Regular Council Meeting minutes for February 23, 2021. Did everyone receive them?

Mr. Jessen, So moved.

Ms. Graham, Second

Mr. Rivas, Motion and a second on the floor. All in favor signify by saying Aye? Opposed same sign?

Motion carries on a unanimous voice vote.

First Reading

Mr. Rivas, Ok let's have first reading.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik,

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS OF PROPOSED ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

Notice is hereby given the taxpayers of Porter County, Indiana that the proper legal officers of Porter County, Indiana will meet in the Porter County Government Administration Building located at 155 Indiana Avenue, Valparaiso Indiana 46383 on March 30th, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. to consider the following appropriation adjustments to the county budgets for the year 2021 and to transact any further business which might come before the Council:

General Fund			
Federal/DOC	1000-36100-000-9601	Maintenance Agreements	\$ 3,960.00
Federal/DOC	1000-45400-000-9601	Other Equipment	\$ <u>12,617.26</u>
			\$ 16,577.26
Local Roads and Streets Fund			
Local Roads & Streets Fund	1169-22610-000-0530	Salt	\$ 100,000.00
Highway Fund			
Highway Fund	1176-11300-000-0530	Overtime	\$ 35,000.00

Park Operating Fund

Parks Operating Fund	1179-31300-000-0803	Training and Education	\$	3,000.00
Parks Operating Fund	1179-31300-000-0803	Training and Education	\$	6,000.00
			\$	9,000.00

Public Safety Data Tech Fund

Public Safety Data Tech	4907-45400-000-0380	Other Equipment	\$	35,446.41
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Sheriff DEA Proceeds Fund

Sheriff DEA Proceeds Fund	8118-37100-000-0005	Equipment Rentals	\$	58,500.00
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EMA – SHSP Sub Grant Fund

SHSP Sub Grant Fund	8146-31200-000-0360	Consultants	\$	501.00
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Trail Fund

Trail Fund	8148-39500-000-0079	Contractual	\$	85,959.38
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Taxpayers appearing at such meeting shall have a right to be heard thereon. The additional appropriations as finally made will be referred to the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance. Where applicable, the DLGF will make a written determination as to the sufficiency of funds to support the appropriations made within fifteen (15) days of receipt of a certified copy of the action taken.

Vicki Urbanik
Auditor of Porter County

Publish March 19, 2021

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, And that concludes first reading.

Development & Storm Water Management

Trail Fund Dunes/Kankakee Grant Fund 8148-000-0079
Additional \$85,959.38 to 39500 Contractual Services. Reason: To replace safety bollards at Dunes Kankakee trail tour entrance.

Mr. Rivas, Development & Storm Water Management Trail Fund additional 85,959.38 to Contractual Services. The reason is to replace safety bollards at Dunes Kankakee trail tour entrance.

Development & Storm Water Director Bob Thompson, The reason is incorrect, that was last year’s request and that would have been under equipment or (inaudible). This is contractual and that advertisement is correct but this is actually for going out and doing work with consultants on the trail.

Mr. Jessen, The reason is for what?

Development & Storm Water Director Bob Thompson, For consulting on the trail. The contractual consulting agreements that we have.

Ms. Graham, Has it been advertised correctly?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, (Inaudible)

Mr. Rivas, She said yes.

Mr. Jessen, This is just for my benefit Bob, when you talk about consulting for the trail what do you mean?

Development & Storm Water Director Bob Thompson, There used to be the Dunes/Kankakee Trail fund and the Commissioners changed that name to the Trail fund for Dunes/Kankakee which we did a segment of this back in 2010 and it's at the US 20 and Hwy 49 Interchange. We are also currently working on Calumet Trail that the Dunes/Kankakee Trail connects into. So they changed the fund name to Trails fund so that way we can work on these two important trails within the County.

Mr. Jessen, So from a consulting standpoint...

Development & Storm Water Director Bob Thompson, We have agreements going forward with the Calumet Trail going on right now, so that why we're appropriating the money into contractual, so that way we can get the design of the Calumet Trail completed.

Mr. Jessen, So it's for the engineering, the design of the trail...

Development & Storm Water Director Bob Thompson, Design of the trail. Exactly the engineering plans to go forward with that. We have construction money set ready to go for the first phase of Calumet Trail for fiscal year 2023 which starts next year on July 21, 2022 for Calumet Trail. That's just one phase of it, the second phase we have construction money sitting in place ready for fiscal year 2024. What we need is money to help us to complete the engineering.

Mr. Jessen, So the \$86,000 that's for a specific contract or multiple contracts?

Development & Storm Water Director Bob Thompson, Yes.

Mr. Jessen, With consulting?

Development & Storm Water Director Bob Thompson, Yes.

Mr. Jessen, Multiple ? Or is it one contract?

Development & Storm Water Director Bob Thompson, Two...we have two different contracts going on right now with trails.

Ms. Graham, That all in Porter County?

Development & Storm Water Director Bob Thompson, Yes, it's all in Porter County.

Mr. Rivas, Any other questions?

Mr. Brickner, I make the motion.

Ms. Graham, I just have one quick question, this doesn't have anything to do with the Kankakee/Yellow River?

Development & Storm Water Director Bob Thompson, No

Ms. Graham, Ok

Mr. Rivas, The motion to approve the \$85,959.38 is on the floor.

Mr. Brickner, I make the motion.

Ms. Graham, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Motion and a second, any further discussion? Can we get a roll call?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Mr. Brickner - Yes
Ms. Graham - Yes
Mr. Jessen - Yes
Mr. Simms - Yes
Mr. Rivas - Yes

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 5 - 0

Development & Storm Water Director Bob Thompson, Thank you very much.

Mr. Jessen, Thanks Bob.

Highway

Local Roads and Streets Fund - 1169-000-0530

Additional \$100,000 to 22610 Salt. Reason: To purchase the State minimum. Cost of one ton of road salt is \$72.19.

Highway Fund - 1176-000-0530

Additional \$35,000 to 11300 Overtime. Reason: Overtime needed because of the large amount of snowfall received over the last two months.

Mr. Rivas, Local Roads and Streets Fund additional \$100,000 to Salt. The reason is to purchase the State minimum. The cost of one ton of road salt is \$72.19.

Ms. Graham, Move to approve.

Highway Supervisor Rich Sexton, (Inaudible)

Mr. Rivas, Let's see if we have this reason right. We have a motion on the floor to approve the additional.

Mr. Jessen, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Second, any discussion? Roll call?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Ms. Graham - Yes
Mr. Jessen - Yes
Mr. Simms - Yes
Mr. Rivas - Yes
Mr. Brickner - Yes

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 5 - 0

Highway Fund - 1176-000-0530

Additional \$35,000 to 11300 Overtime. Reason: Overtime needed because of the large amount of snowfall received over the last two months.

Mr. Rivas, Highway Fund additional \$35,000 to Overtime. The reason is overtime needed because of the large amount of snowfall received over the last two months.

Mr. Jessen, I make the motion.

Mr. Rivas, Motion.

Mr. Brickner, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Second. Discussion? Roll Call.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Mr. Jessen	-	Yes
Mr. Simms	-	Yes
Mr. Rivas	-	Yes
Mr. Brickner	-	Yes
Ms. Graham	-	Yes

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 5 - 0

Highway Supervisor Rich Sexton, Thank you very much.

Mr. Simms, Great job...

Mr. Jessen, Yes heck of a season thanks Rich.

Highway Supervisor Rich Sexton, Yes it was.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Jeremy?

Mr. Rivas, Yes?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, On that last additional I just want you to know that right now this will not be approved by the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) because of the revenue projections. So what we will need to do is to revise the revenue (inaudible) and hopefully the DLGF will accept them so that the appropriation can be approved. This is one of those funds that the DLGF must approve. So I just want you to know that it is not a given.

Ms. Graham, What was that on?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, The MVH fund.

Mr. Rivas, Highway.

Ms. Graham, Is that on the salt?

Mr. Rivas, No the overtime.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, No.

Ms. Graham, Ok.

Mr. Rivas, So you say you have to revise the projections...

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, You might recall that last year they cut the budget that you adopted because of lower than expected revenue projections. Well those revenue projections are not panning out, we are actually bringing in (inaudible) pre-COVID gas tax amounts. So I am assuming the State will accept the revised revenue (inaudible).

Mr. Jessen, Well one way or another it has to be paid so if that's not the avenue then they can advise us what to do next right?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, We are paying the (inaudible)

Mr. Jessen, Right.

Ms. Graham, I agree.

Mr. Rivas, So when do you have to have to submit the revised projections?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, We'll do it tomorrow.

Mr. Rivas, So you will submit them at the same time?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Otherwise it will be rejected.

Mr. Rivas, Is there a reason why they would reject it with the revised projections?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, I can't speak for the State but they know what revenue is coming in.

Mr. Rivas, Right.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, We were advised by the DLGF (inaudible) that we should keep an and in order to approve any additional out of this fund we would have to (inaudible) the request.

Mr. Rivas, Ok.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, I will let everyone know.

Mr. Rivas, Alright perfect.

EMA

SHSP Sub Grant Fund - 8146-000-0360

Additional \$501 to 31200 Consultants. Reason: Payment due to Christopher Burke Engineering for professional services in relation to our Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Mr. Rivas, EMA SHSP Sub Grant Fund additional \$501 to 31200 Consultants. Reason the payment due to Christopher Burke Engineering for professional services in relation to our Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Mr. Rivas, Sorry Harold had to run out of here. EMA SHSP Sub Grant Fund additional \$501 to Consultants. Reason the payment due to Christopher Burke Engineering for professional services in relation to our Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Mr. Jessen, I make the motion.

Mr. Brickner, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Motion and a second on the additional. Any discussion? Let's get a roll call?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Mr. Simms	-	Yes
Mr. Rivas	-	Yes
Mr. Brickner	-	Yes
Ms. Graham	-	Yes
Mr. Jessen	-	Yes

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 5 - 0

EMA Director Lance Bella, Thank you sir.

Mr. Rivas, Thank you.

EMA Director Lance Bella, Have a good day.

Parks and Recreation

Parks Operating Fund - 1179-000-0803

Additional \$3,000 to 31300 Training and Education. Reason: First Aid & CPR training and conference registration.

Additional \$6,000 to 33400 Advertising. Reason: Advertising and marketing for spring/summer events.

Mr. Rivas, Parks and Recreation, Parks Operating Fund additional \$3,000 to Training and Education. Reason is for First Aid & CPR training and conference registration. There is another additional, do you want to take them together? Or separately?

Ms. Graham, Take them together.

Mr. Rivas, There is an additional \$6,000 to Advertising. Reason: Advertising and marketing for spring/summer events. You have the additional in front of you?

Mr. Jessen, I make the motion for both.

Mr. Rivas, There is a motion for both.

Ms. Graham, Second.

Mr. Rivas, And a second. Discussion?

Mr. Simms, Everything looks like it's going to go right?

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Walter Lenckos, Tentatively that's true we are cautiously optimistic.

Ms. Graham, That's a good way to put it.

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Walter Lenckos, The Health Department has been great, working with our plans so we are keeping our fingers cross.

Mr. Rivas, Any further discussion? Walter, I know that you and I discussed this a little bit and I saw an email about having the Board President attend our meetings with you moving forward. So it's something that I really like to do.

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Walter Lenckos, I will communicate that and we meet this Thursday night so I will make sure that I communicate that.

Mr. Rivas, We do that with visitors and the Board President always shows up.

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Walter Lenckos, Ok.

Mr. Rivas, I think that would be something that I would like to see moving forward.

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Walter Lenckos, Yes.

Mr. Rivas, Can we get a Roll Call?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Mr. Rivas	-	Yes
Mr. Brickner	-	Yes
Ms. Graham	-	Yes

Mr. Jessen - Yes
Mr. Simms - Yes

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 5 - 0

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Walter Lenckos, Thank you.

Mr. Jessen, Have a goodnight Walter.

Mr. Rivas, Thanks Walter.

Porter County Sheriff, Jail & Federal DOC Prisoners – Sheriff David Reynolds

Jail

Public Safety Data Tech Fund - 4907-000-0380

Additional \$35,446.41 to 45400 Other Equipment. Reason: To cover the cost of the poll camera at the intersection of Route 6 and Meridian (\$20,607.77). And to cover the cost of the security camera at the garage (\$14,838.64)

Mr. Rivas, Sheriff Jail Public Safety Data Tech Fund additional \$35,446.41 to Other Equipment. Reason: To cover the cost of the poll camera at the intersection of Route 6 and Meridian (\$20,607.77). And to cover the cost of the security camera at the garage (\$14,838.64). There is another one...do you want me to keep going or do you just want to tackle the first one?

Mr. Jessen, Let's just cover the first one and I will make the motion.

Ms. Graham, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Motion and a second on the floor for the additional. Discussion?

Mr. Jessen, Haven't we already approved this Sheriff?

Sheriff Comptroller Edie Hahn, Yes

Sheriff David Reynolds, We didn't do it and now we are doing it. Since I didn't do it last year I have to redo it...does that make sense?

Mr. Jessen, I am glad you are doing it...let's move forward with this.

(Laughter)

Mr. Rivas, Have we ever had a camera at the Garage? I mean why do you need this?

Sheriff David Reynolds, We have had cameras.

Sheriff Comptroller Edie Hahn, Yes, they are bad.

Sheriff Representative, (Inaudible) and we also want to put them inside (inaudible).

Mr. Simms, There is a lot of stuff in there.

Mr. Rivas, Any other questions or discussion? Let's get a Roll Call on the first additional?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Mr. Brickner - Yes
Ms. Graham - Yes

Mr. Jessen - Yes
Mr. Simms - Yes
Mr. Rivas - Yes

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 5 - 0

Jail 1217

Federal/DOC Prisoners General Fund - 1000-000-9601

Additional \$3,960 to 36100 Maintenance Agreements. Reason: To cover the cost of the warranty and maintenance on the two finger print scanners for Valparaiso Court House and North County Annex.

Additional \$12,617.26 to 45400 Other Equipment. Reason: To cover the cost of three additional Tasers for Jail Officers (\$5,579.26). And to cover the cost of the final installment of initial payment not billed out in 2020 (\$7,038).

Mr. Rivas, Jail Federal/DOC Prisoners General fund additional \$3,960 to Maintenance Agreements. Reason: To cover the cost of the warranty and maintenance on the two finger print scanners for Valparaiso Court House and North County Annex.

Mr. Jessen, I make the motion.

Mr. Brickner, Second.

Mr. Rivas, We have a motion and a second, any discussion? Could we get a Roll Call?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Ms. Graham - Yes
Mr. Jessen - Yes
Mr. Simms - Yes
Mr. Rivas - Yes
Mr. Brickner - Yes

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 5 - 0

Federal/DOC Prisoners General Fund - 1000-000-9601

Additional \$12,617.26 to 45400 Other Equipment. Reason: To cover the cost of three additional Tasers for Jail Officers (\$5,579.26). And to cover the cost of the final installment of initial payment not billed out in 2020 (\$7,038).

Mr. Rivas, We have another additional for \$12,617.26 to Other Equipment. Reason: To cover the cost of three additional Tasers for Jail Officers (\$5,579.26). And to cover the cost of the final installment of initial payment not billed out in 2020 (\$7,038).

Mr. Brickner, I make the motion.

Mr. Jessen, Second.

Ms. Graham, Are these new jailers?

Sheriff Comptroller Edie Hahn, Most of our Tasers have been expiring, so they are new ones.

Sheriff David Reynolds, And replacements.

Sheriff Comptroller Edie Hahn, Yes and replacements.

Mr. Rivas, Maybe you can bring one in and test it.

(Laughter)

Sheriff David Reynolds, You don't want to get tased.

(Laughter)

Sheriff Comptroller Edie Hahn, All our officers have to be tased.

Mr. Rivas, Do they...maybe the County Council should be tased.

Mr. Simms, I've been tased.

Mr. Rivas, That was just recreationally though.

(Laughter)

Mr. Simms, It's an experience.

Mr. Rivas, Alright any further discussion? Can we get a Roll Call?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Mr. Jessen	-	Yes
Mr. Simms	-	Yes
Mr. Rivas	-	Yes
Mr. Brickner	-	Yes
Ms. Graham	-	Yes

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 5 - 0

Mr. Rivas, Did we miss something?

Sheriff Comptroller Edie Hahn, Oh no that's the Tasers, I was looking at the wrong thing so we are done.

Mr. Rivas, Ok thank you.

Sheriff David Reynolds, Thank you.

ITS - Director Eric Serrano

ITS General Fund - 1000-000-0106

Transfer \$7,500 from 45400 Other Equipment to 36100 Maintenance Agreements.

Reason: Additional funds needed for maintenance renewals.

Mr. Rivas, IT General Fund transfer \$7,500 from Other Equipment to Maintenance Agreements. Reason: Additional funds needed for maintenance renewals.

Ms. Graham, Motion to approve.

Mr. Rivas, Motion.

Mr. Jessen, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Second. Discussion? No discussion? All in favor of the transfer signify by saying Aye? Opposed same sign?

Motion carries on a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Rivas, That's it you are good.

ITS Director Eric Serrano, Thank you.

Mr. Rivas, Thank you.

Second Reading

Mr. Rivas, Let's have second reading Madame Auditor.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik,

Whereas it has been determined that it is now necessary to appropriate more money than what was appropriated in the annual budget. Therefore be it resolved by the Porter County Council of Porter County Indiana that for the expenses of the taxing unit the following additional sums of money are hereby appropriated out of the funds named and for the purposes specified subject to the laws governing the same

General Fund			
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Federal/DOC	1000-36100-000-9601	Maintenance Agreements	\$	3,960.00
Federal/DOC	1000-45400-000-9601	Other Equipment	\$	<u>12,617.26</u>
			\$	16,577.26

Local Roads and Streets Fund			
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Local Roads & Streets Fund	1169-22610-000-0530	Salt	\$	100,000.00
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Highway Fund			
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Highway Fund	1176-11300-000-0530	Overtime	\$	35,000.00
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Park Operating Fund			
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Parks Operating Fund	1179-31300-000-0803	Training and Education	\$	3,000.00
Parks Operating Fund	1179-31300-000-0803	Training and Education	\$	<u>6,000.00</u>
			\$	9,000.00

Public Safety Data Tech Fund			
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Public Safety Data Tech	4907-45400-000-0380	Other Equipment	\$	35,446.41
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EMA – SHSP Sub Grant Fund			
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SHSP Sub Grant Fund	8146-31200-000-0360	Consultants	\$	501.00
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Trail Fund			
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Trail Fund	8148-39500-000-0079	Contractual	\$	85,959.38
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That conclude second reading.

Mr. Rivas, I will entertain a motion to approve second reading.

Mr. Jessen, So moved.

Ms. Graham, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Motion and a second on second reading, discussion? Roll Call?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Mr. Simms	-	Yes
Mr. Rivas	-	Yes
Mr. Brickner	-	Yes
Ms. Graham	-	Yes
Mr. Jessen	-	Yes

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 5 - 0

Attorney's Report

Mr. Rivas, Alright Harold had to run out of here there was something that he had to take care of real fast. We talked briefly today, I think he is going to be sending out an email regarding a matter here shortly that may be on the agenda next month. I don't know if he did I didn't see it yet.

Any other matter that may come properly before the Council

Citizen Appointments

Porter Economic Development Commission (EDC)
Westchester Public Library

Mr. Rivas, We have some Citizen Appointments Joy?

Administrative Assistant Joy Blakely, Yes.

Mr. Rivas, We have the Porter Economic Development Commission

Mr. Jessen, I move to appoint Margo Machnik to the Porter Economic Development Commission.

Ms. Graham, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Alright there is a motion and a second for Margo Machnik. Any other motions? All in favor of appointing Margo signify by saying Aye? Opposed?

Motion carries on a majority voice vote.

Westchester Public Library

Mr. Rivas, Westchester Public Library applicants.

Administrative Assistant Joy Blakely, He didn't reapply.

Mr. Rivas, He didn't reapply so we only have one?

Administrative Assistant Joy Blakely, Correct.

Mr. Jessen, I will move to appoint that we appoint Heather Augustyn for Westchester Public Library Board.

Ms. Graham, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Motion and a second for Heather Augustyn for Westchester Public Library Board. All in favor of appointing Heather signify by saying Aye? Opposed?

Motion carries on a majority voice vote.

Mr. Rivas, I think Greg we spoke about this initiative that you have going, do you want to give us a quick update on what is going on?

Mr. Simms, A quick update, yes the Suicide Awareness Team is moving full speed ahead. There are currently fifteen members in the group and we've got (inaudible) that are out there that are sponsored by people. We have achieved Non-Profit status and we have a whole \$200 dollars in our bank account. We have brand new hot off of the presses advertisement for the floors, so these can go anywhere on cement anywhere where there are people that we think would like to be aware what's going on. This is brand new to place on countertops and stuff, so what we figured was we should go after the advertisement to get the awareness out there. To get to as many places as we can go in Porter County and to get the awareness out. We figured that's our best opportunity to try and lower these rates.

We've got training starting too...we've got an opportunity to give a thousand hours to give CPR training. Which is an hour and a half (1 ½) of training which costs about \$40 dollars that is free and you get a little certificate afterwards. Our first one is coming up March 10th and from there we are going to have one every so often and anybody is welcome to come whether you are young or old it doesn't matter. Again it is all free...I am missing something...CPR training, Signs and yes we are going to have decals that are going on any kind of an ID whether it would be a Student ID or Business ID's because you want to have that phone number available for people in case they would like it or need it. The pamphlet is already out in locations. We are going to have an event in September on the awareness and this is going to be open to the public and the odds are that it's going to be at Sunset Hill Park. And I think that's it in the nutshell but everybody is really enthusiastic still and a lot of people are thanking us for doing this making this happen. It's not costing the County any money at all. It's all volunteers and donations and that's where we are sitting and this all started from a conversation in October with our Coroner about asking for money for Consulting Fees.

I need to get a hold of Matt (Mayor Murphy) because I saw in the paper that he was concerned about the suicide numbers.

Mr. Jessen, That's true.

Mr. Simms, So we will reach out to him too. I reached out to Hebron today so that this will be countywide.

Ms. Graham, Are you getting schools involved?

Mr. Simms, Yes schools are involved. Businesses are involved. I've got a meeting with Walmart next week. What we want to do is get these in bathrooms and breakrooms. We are going to have an 8 ½ by 11 probably with the same information so that businesses can put it in their breakroom so that people can see it.

Ms. Graham, That's great.

Mr. Simms, We will blanket everything and somebody was talking about getting a billboard. If they want to get a sponsor for that more power to them.

Ms. Graham, That's \$17,000 dollars.

Mr. Simms. Well if someone wants to sponsor that we'll be happy to get it going. But as far as we know nobody else in the area or state is doing what we are doing. They all talk about it but we're the ones that are doing it...I talked about the signs and we have t-shirts that say "Don't Give In to the War Within", so whoever wants those we are giving them out. Again what is that all about? Suicide and Awareness and what we can do. It's surprising how many people are touched by it. I walked into a Walmart and I had this mask on and one of the greeter's had kind of pulled me aside and two of his family members had committed suicide. It's seems like a lot of people want to talk as well and they just need to talk. It's really interesting with the pressure going on nowadays that people just want to vent a little bit and it seems like that even helps. Just that little bit seems to help some of them with this very problematic situation that we've got. So compassion and listening and a wonderfully caring group of people all working toward this...yes it's coming together.

Ms. Graham, Well thank you Greg for doing this and getting involved

Mr. Simms, I will tell you what when a group of people are still motivated and excited to meet...that right there is amazing. The group is still intact and going strong because sometimes at this point maybe there is one or two people showing up to a meeting that started out with fifteen. And we still have high numbers so people know the importance of it.

Ms. Graham, That's good.

Mr. Rivas, Thank you Greg.

Mr. Simms, Yes no problem.

Mr. Rivas, For running with this and your initiative that you've taken this on.

Mr. Simms, It's my hope...

Mr. Rivas, Providing awareness. So is there anything else that may properly come before the Council? I know that I spoke to you guys briefly about Baker Tilly. Mike and I engaged them and we had a Zoom meeting with them last week, so their just kind of wanting them to do an analysis...a financial analysis of the county right now by looking at our expenditures and our revenues. To kind of step back and take a look at where we are at right now. We've got this \$32 million dollars coming too and we want a plan and we've got to 2024 with that. So every once in a while we need to step back and take a look at where we are at financially and then maybe then look at a one (1), three (3) and five (5) year plan of where we want to go with things. So I know that we've got some projects out there. You guys have all talked to Highway and their restructuring. How do we get our roads up to where they need to be? Greg you were talking about Suicide Prevention and Mental Health. There is discussions about the Jail and maybe potentially in the future using one of those pods as a mental health ward or work release. Our center towns and our center garage is dated. The Memorial Opera House needs work, so we've got projects that we need to look at so there's time to maybe take a step back and look at where we are at and maybe make a plan moving forward.

Mr. Simms, Yes.

Mr. Rivas, So they're supposed to put together a proposal for us. So as soon as we receive something we'll get it out. I think if people are comfortable with it then we could put it on Commissioner's to approve it and find a way to fund it. Then you know we could get them going and maybe they can help us move into this budget session too. That was one of the things that Mike and I talked to them...we've been up here and I've been up here for a little while and maybe there's a better way to budget. You know there's 91 other counties and maybe we are missing something. Maybe we can make things a little bit easier on Vicki during budget session and her office. So that's all I got on that Mike.

Mr. Jessen, No, I think it's important to add some additional structure to how we approach the financing and now is a critical time to do that. I mean, I think as we talk about the smoothing which will allow for a spending policy. We know that from a funding standpoint we have significant funds in different places to kind of further identify what those amounts are that will help us establish what sort of projects or programs we could initiate. We are getting close...close all but to the end of our capital projects program that we started a couple of years ago and that was with the Animal Shelter, the Courthouse, the Administration Building entrance, the North Annex Building, Expo Center...

Ms. Graham, The Old Jail.

Mr. Jessen, The Old Jail, so we are at a point right now where we know that there is still work to do and we're anxious to get started on that next plan. We think it's an opportune time to bring in some outside help to review where we are at financially, what we can do comfortably going forward, all the while capitalizing on the Hospital Proceeds and ties it nicely with the legislation for the smoothing and so it's

the time to do it and I think it'll help. Like the smoothing it'll help all of us feel that much more confident, more comfortable with what our plan is going forward. So I think we have a terrific relationship with the Commissioner's office and when we can as a group, when all ten of us can work together to accomplish something I think we've proven what can be done when we collaborate. So the iron is hot so we want to strike and so we look forward to that.

Mr. Rivas, Absolutely and with the \$33 million dollars it give us a chance to for everybody to breathe, we've got some time. We are not going to run out and spend it. We fit it into exactly what you said, we make a plan.

Ms. Graham, Yes and it has to be used by 2024?

Mr. Rivas, I believe that's correct. So this gives us time to step back and take a look and then plan moving for short term, mid and long term.

Mr. Simms. Yes.

Mr. Rivas, So I'm excited so we'll keep you posted when they bring a proposal to us and maybe that will be on the agenda next month. So Vicki you're staying on top of all that for us with the \$33 million dollars? Because that's something that your office has to track and will eventually be audited.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Correct.

Mr. Rivas, So we understand that weighs on you and we'll make sure that we're all working together ...the Commissioners, Council and your office. Everybody's working hand in hand with everything that we are doing.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, That's very good news thank you.

Mr. Rivas, All right is there any further discussion? Anybody? Anything?

Mr. Jessen, It's good.

Meeting Adjourned

Ms. Graham, I will make a motion to adjourn

Mr. Rivas, There is a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Jessen, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Second. All in favor of adjourning signify by saying Aye? Opposed?
Greg Simms.

Motion carries on a majority voice vote.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned.

**PORTER COUNTY COUNCIL
PORTER COUNTY, INDIANA**

Jeremy Rivas

Mike Jessen

Sylvia Graham

Bob Poparad

Greg Simms

Andy Bozak

Mike Brickner

Attest: _____
Vicki Urbanik, Auditor