

**PORTER COUNTY COUNCIL
Regular Council Meeting
July 27, 2021**

The Porter County Council met on Tuesday, July 27, 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, and Council Member Bob Poparad. Also present was, Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Auditor Chief Deputy Toni Downing and Council Administrative Assistant Joy Blakely. Members not present Council Member Andy Bozak, Council Member Mike Jessen, Council Member Greg Simms and Council Attorney Harold Harper.

Minutes

Approval of Regular Council Meeting June 22, 2021.

Mr. Rivas, Alright we have a quorum, barely. Let's have approval of the Regular Council Meeting minutes for June 22, 2021. Everybody receive and read them?

Ms. Graham, Move to approve.

Mr. Rivas, Motion to approve.

Mr. Brickner, Second

Mr. Rivas, Second on the floor, discussion? All in favor signify by saying Aye? Opposed same sign?

Motion carries on a unanimous voice vote.

First Reading

Mr. Rivas, Can we have first reading Madam Auditor?

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 July 27th, 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:

Local Roads & Streets Fund			
Local Roads & Street Fund	1169-45400-000-0530	Other Equipment	\$ 40,000.00
Local Roads & Street Fund	1169-23620-000-0530	Bituminous	\$ 450,000.00
			\$ 490,000.00

County Extradition Fund			
County Extradition Fund	1155-32500-000-0005	Returning Fugitives	\$ 8,000.00

Adult Probation Pre-Trial Services Grant Fund			
Adult Prob. Pre-Trial Services	9164-22100-000-0274	Office Supplies	\$ (810.42)
Adult Prob. Pre-Trial Services	9164-31300-000-0274	Training & Education	\$ (4,300.00)
			\$ (5,110.42)

45.025 MOH IAC Grant Fund

45.025 MOH IAC Grant	8300-39910-000-0175	Other Services	\$ 195.00
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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 July 15, 2021

Mr. Rivas, Thank you.

Superior Court 4 – Judge Buckley

Superior Court 4 General Fund - 1000-000-0204

Transfer \$3,300 from 11100 Salaries to 11200 Hourly. Reason: Using part-time employee to cover a full time vacancy temporarily. Part-time employee will assume full time position in mid-August.

Mr. Rivas, Judge Buckley Superior Court 4 General Fund transfer \$3,300 from Salaries to Hourly. Reason: Using part-time employee to cover a full time vacancy temporarily. Part-time employee will assume full time position in mid-August. Is there anybody here from Superior Court 4 Judge Buckley? There is a request in front of you guys to entertain?

Mr. Brickner, I make a motion to approve.

Mr. Rivas, There is a motion.

Mr. Poparad, I'll second to get to discussion.

Mr. Rivas, There is a second for discussion. There it is.

Ms. Graham, This for discussion.

Mr. Rivas, Alright we have a motion and a second on the floor for the transfer of \$3,300 from salaries to hourly.

Mr. Poparad, Does he have a vacancy?

Mr. Rivas, You know Bob, this is why we always ask people to come to the meeting. I can't answer that.

Ms. Graham, My question is if we pass it tonight, does that mean that automatically his part-time employee gets the full-time position?

Mr. Rivas, I don't know.

Auditor Chief Deputy Toni Downing, Now they do plan on...they have a person that's already scheduled to go into that position that is vacant currently for the full-time position. But she can't take the full-time position until after summer is over. So right now she's being paid out of the hourly line item until such time as they have...until such time that she can go full-time. So we just need to move things from salaries to hourly to cover her on a temporary basis.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Yes, the hourly line item has been negative because there is not enough appropriation to cover it.

Ms. Graham, So to the answer did we get an answer to Bob's question? Do they have an opening for this?

Auditor Chief Deputy Toni Downing, Currently yes, the full-time opening.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, But she can't fill it until after summer.

Auditor Chief Deputy Toni Downing, Right.

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Or mid-August.

Mr. Poparad, Why?

Auditor Chief Deputy Toni Downing, I think the person that they have identified, has other obligations until after summertime.

Mr. Rivas, This is...didn't we do an additional into this earlier? A couple of months ago?

Auditor Chief Deputy Toni Downing, Right, they had a full-time person in the salaries line item that had to take a unpaid leave of absence.

Mr. Rivas, So we put some hourly in here?

Auditor Chief Deputy Toni Downing, Right.

Mr. Rivas, I just, I mean thank you guys for answering the questions, but this is why we ask department heads and elected officials to be here. I mean we've got the auditor answering questions for a Judge right now on his office staff. Any further questions?

Ms. Graham, No.

Mr. Rivas, All in favor of the transfer signify by saying aye? Opposed same sign?

Motion carries on a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Rivas, Joy you send out so that everybody knows to show up to these meetings right?

Council Administrative Assistant Joy Blakely, Yes.

Mr. Rivas, If they have a request on there?

Council Administrative Assistant Joy Blakely, Yes.

Superior Court 6 - Judge Thode

Superior Court 6 General Fund - 1000-000-0206

Transfer \$20.20 from 31100 Legal to 21200 Office Fixtures Under \$100. Reason: Payment shortage to Pulse Technology Invoice No. 027169.

Mr. Rivas, Judge Thode has a General Fund transfer \$20.20 from Legal to Office Fixtures under \$100. The reason, payment shortage to Pulse Technology invoice.

Mr. Poparad, Motion.

Ms. Graham, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Motion and a second, and the Judge shows up for a \$20.20 transfer.

Ms. Graham, Good for you! There you go, you got it.

Mr. Rivas, For that you could have called me it's only \$20.

Judge Thode, Well

Mr. Rivas, It's nice to see you.

Judge Thode, They suggested to be here and it's nice to see our tax dollars at work.

Ms. Graham, Thank you.

Mr. Rivas, Thank you we appreciate it.

Judge Thode, It was for a...

Mr. Rivas, Sure.

Judge Thode, a ergonomic keyboard.

Mr. Rivas, Ok, there is a motion and a second on the transfer, any discussion? All in favor of the transfer signify by saying aye? Opposed same sign?

Motion carries on a unanimous voice vote.

Judge Thode, Good to see you.

Mr. Rivas, You too, thank you.

Highway – Supervisor Rich Sexton

Local Roads & Streets Fund - 1169-000-0530

Additional \$40,000 to 45400 Other Equipment. Reason: To purchase pavement patching hot box to save on cost of cold mix patch. Hot Mix is half the price and performs better.

Additional \$450,000 to 23620 Bituminous. Reason: Funds needed for Crack Seal approximately 80 miles of pavement.

Mr. Rivas, Highway Local Roads & Streets Fund has a couple of additional \$40,000 to Other Equipment. Reason: To purchase pavement patching hot box to save on cost of cold mix patch. Hot Mix is half the price and performs better. There is a second additional if you want me to continue on? \$450,000 to Bituminous. Reason: Funds needed for Crack Seal approximately 80 miles of pavement. So there are a couple of additional in front of you. Whoa, that's not Rich!

Highway Jim Polarek, No he got twenty years older real quick.

(Laughter)

Ms. Graham, I'll make a motion to approve both.

Mr. Rivas, There's a motion on the floor to approve both additional.

Mr. Brickner, Second.

Mr. Rivas, There's a second. Discussion? Hearing none can we get a roll call on both additional?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Ok

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 4 - 0

Highway Jim Polarek, Thank you

Ms. Graham, Thank you and congratulation to your boy and the good job he's been doing.

Highway Jim Polarek, Thank you, hopefully he pulls it out tomorrow.

Porter County Sheriff - David Reynolds

County Extradition Fund - 1155-000-0005

Additional \$8,000 to 32500 Returning Fugitives. Reason: To cover the cost of transporting fugitives per court orders to Porter County.

Mr. Rivas, Porter County Sheriff County Extradition Fund additional \$8,000 to Returning Fugitives to cover the cost of transporting fugitives per court orders to Porter County. Hello.

Sheriff Comptroller Edie Hahn, Hello

Mr. Rivas, Thank you for showing up.

Sheriff Comptroller Edie Hahn, Thank you for having us here.

Mr. Poparad, I'll make the motion.

Ms. Graham, Second.

Mr. Rivas, There's a motion and a second on the floor for the additional \$8,000 dollars to Returning Fugitives. Discussion?

Ms. Graham, Not really, I just wondered if there was a balance in this account?

Sheriff Comptroller Edie Hahn, Well the General Fund is \$0

Ms. Graham, Okay.

Sheriff Comptroller Edie Hahn, We have the other fund we have, but once we use that it's gone because we haven't been getting any money. Although the Prosecutor Gary Germann is trying to get us extra money, but you cannot get money out of (inaudible) so that fund is stagnant and it's been stagnant for a while and once it's gone it's gone. And we've got three pickups, two in California and one in Ohio.

Ms. Graham, California?

Sheriff Comptroller Edie Hahn, Yes and it's a bad, bad person, so it's going to wipe that out, we're going to wipe that fund out, unless Gary can get us some more money.

Ms. Graham, Sounds good.

Mr. Rivas, Any further discussion? Can we get a roll call on the additional?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 4 - 0

Mr. Rivas, Thank you have a great night.

Prosecutor – Gary Germann

Prosecutor General Fund - 1000-000-0009

Form 144 \$83,040 to \$90,827 Senior Deputy
\$82,787 to \$75,000 Domestic Violence Deputy

Reason: Office not requesting additional monies for salaries just reorganizing department due to Senior Deputy leaving position to become Magistrate in Lake County. (Retro Active July 6th, 2021)

Mr. Rivas, Prosecutor Gary Germann - Prosecutor General Fund it looks like there's a change in the Form 144 \$83,040 to \$90,827 Senior Deputy, there is an increase there and then there's a decrease to follow from \$82,787 to \$75,000 Domestic Violence Deputy. The reason, office not requesting additional monies for salaries just reorganizing department due to Senior Deputy leaving position to become Magistrate in Lake County. Retro Active July 6th, 2021. So it's just lowering the exact same amount that's increasing to the Senior Deputy.

Mr. Brickner, I'll make the motion.

Mr. Rivas, There's a motion on the floor to approve the Form 144 with the changes.

Ms. Graham, Gary my question...oh are you going to second it?

Mr. Poparad, I am going to second it to get to discussion.

Mr. Rivas, Motion and second on the floor, discussion?

Ms. Graham, I was wondering Gary, why are you doing that now instead of waiting until budget time?

Prosecutor Gary Germann, Well because otherwise I'm putting a lawyer that's had seven years of experience in the same position at the same pay rate to a lawyer that's been a prosecutor for thirty one years. So it's just the timing of when David Urbanski left to become a magistrate in Lake Superior Court, County Division 4, in Hammond.

Mr. Rivas, You're talking about the domestic violence deputy?

Prosecutor Gary Germann, Yes, don't pay attention to the names, because names we will have to straighten them out at budget time, it's just that pay spot.

Mr. Poparad, I don't have a problem with lowering the pay. I have a problem with the Senior Deputy getting a raise in the middle of the year. You are taking that money and moving it giving the deputy a raise.

Prosecutor Gary Germann, Ok

Mr. Poparad, Is that correct? Or have I missed something?

Mr. Brickner, It sounds like it's based on experience. Yes, it's not any additional money from what I understand it's just rearranging his department.

Mr. Poparad, But we're giving the deputy a raise.

Prosecutor Gary Germann, Yes in effect we are, but at the same time I'm managing a staff whether it's a lawyer with thirty-one years of experience who would otherwise be paid the same as the lawyer with seven, so for me it's a management decision.

Mr. Rivas, The person getting the raise, the senior deputy, how long have they been there?

Prosecutor Gary Germann, She has been a prosecutor for thirty-one years.

Mr. Rivas, That's the one that's getting a raise.

Mr. Brickner, I think we, you know we have to let our department heads manage their departments accordingly and work within the budget that they have. And that sounds like that's what to me, that's sounds like what he's doing.

Mr. Poparad, Yes, but at budget time.

Ms. Graham, That's right.

Mr. Brickner, Well it sounds like this was an unexpected event, with somebody coming in. Yeah, this wasn't anticipated

Prosecutor Gary Germann, Yes, he got offered the Magistrate job and that is was a newly created job that started July 6th.

Mr. Brickner, Right?

Prosecutor Gary Germann, Yes.

Mr. Brickner, I mean that's my thought on this, you know sharing with the group that we have to let them run and their manage their people in their departments.

Ms. Graham, Well, the senior deputy is going to get a pretty good sized raise however and I realize she's very educated and you know they have lots of experience. But how's that going to set with all your other prosecutors?

Prosecutor Gary Germann, Yes, well it really works out because the lawyer that's moving into that spot that was vacated, once we make the adjustment is also getting a raise. So I hired within, so there were a number of people that move into a higher paying job position. But I just could not justify paying those two lawyers exact personally, exactly the same.

Mr. Poparad, Alright.

Mr. Rivas, Any other questions or discussions?

Ms. Graham, We'll see how it is at budget time like Bob said.

Prosecutor Gary Germann, It's the same dollar, I'm not asking for an increase over the entire cost of the budget.

Mr. Poparad, Okay.

Ms. Graham, No you're not. Okay.

Mr. Rivas, Can we get a roll call on the Form 144?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Yes

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 4 - 0

Prosecutor Gary Germann, Thank you

Adult Probation – Chief Probation Officer Melanie Golumbeck

Adult Probation Community Corrections Pre-Trial Services Grant Fund - 9164-000-0274

Reduction (\$810.42) to 21100 Office Supplies
(\$4,300) to 31300 Training and Education

Reason: Reducing the grant account to Pre-Trial Services Fund to be in line with what was awarded for the remainder of 2021.

Mr. Rivas, Adult Probation Community Corrections Pre-Trial Services Grant Fund we have a reduction (\$810.42) to Office Supplies and (\$4,300) to Training and Education. Reason: Reducing the grant account to Pre-Trial Services Fund to be in line with what was awarded for the remainder of 2021.

Ms. Graham, Move to approve.

Mr. Rivas, Hello and good evening. Do you want to approve the reduction?

Mr. Poparad, Second.

Mr. Rivas, And a second.

Ms. Graham, I want to make a motion on exactly what she's asking for.

Mr. Rivas, Exactly it, the reductions of those two. There's a motion and a second on the floor, discussion? Could we get a roll call for this Vicki for the reduction?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik,

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 4 – 0

Adult Probation Chief Melanie Golumbeck, Thank you.

Mr. Rivas, Thank you.

Memorial Opera House- Scot MacDonald

45.025 MOH IAC Grant Fund - 8300-000-0175

Additional \$195 to 39910 Other Services

Reason: MOH received grant funds and need to increase appropriation to accommodate the funds to be received.

Mr. Rivas, Memorial Opera House, we've got and Scot he's here MOH IAC Grant Fund additional \$195 to Other Services.

Ms. Graham, Thank you for coming.

Mr. Rivas, Thank you for showing up Scot.

MOH Director Scot MacDonald, Of course.

Mr. Rivas, Reason Memorial Opera House received grant funds and need to increase appropriation to accommodate the funds to be received.

MOH Director Scot MacDonald, Right, so the grant is going from \$9,335 to \$9,530 so we just need to expand the appropriation so that we can spend.

Ms. Graham, I'll make the motion.

Mr. Brickner, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Motion and a second. Any further questions? Can we get a roll call on the additional?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Yes

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 4 – 0

Ms. Graham, When does your Nine to Five open?

MOH Director Scot MacDonald, September 17th and runs through October 3rd.

Ms. Graham, Very good.

Mr. Rivas, So you couldn't have done it on September 5th? I mean...you know come on. Everything going well there?

MOH Director Scot MacDonald, Yeah very.

Mr. Rivas, Wide open right?

MOH Director Scot MacDonald, Yeah, were back open things are going very well. Things are selling very briskly and I will be seeing you next month because we just received two more grants. So I'm taking of that with the shutter venue grant and another IAC grant that we received.

Mr. Rivas, Perfect, keep up the great work.

MOH Director Scot MacDonald, Thank you.

E-911 – Director Anthony Stua

E-911 Foundation Fund - 4922-000-0303

Transfer \$3,102.96 from 31300 Training & Education to 45400 Other Equipment. Reason: Transfer needed to purchase Television Monitor for Training and Teleconferencing.

Mr. Rivas, E-911 Foundation Fund transfer \$3,102.96 from Training & Education to Other Equipment. The reason transfer needed to purchase Television Monitor for Training and Teleconferencing.

E-911 Director Anthony Stua, Good evening.

Mr. Rivas, How are you?

E-911 Director Anthony Stua, So far so good.

Mr. Rivas, Perfect.

Mr. Brickner, I make a motion.

Ms. Graham, I'll second it.

Mr. Rivas, Motion and a second on the floor. Discussion on the transfer? Hearing no discussion, all in favor of the transfer signify by saying Aye? Opposed same sign? Transfer carries.

Motion carries on a unanimous voice vote.

Ms. Graham, How is your department doing?

E-911 Director Anthony Stua, It's doing well, we're just waiting on AT&T to finish the circuit issue we've had and as soon as that's done we'll be moving into the dispatchers. Long time coming but we're getting there.

Mr. Rivas, Perfect.

Ms. Graham, Very good.

E-911 Director Anthony Stua, Thank you very much.

Mr. Rivas, Thank you.

Second Reading

Mr. Rivas, Second reading?

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

Local Roads & Streets Fund			
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Local Roads & Street Fund	1169-45400-000-0530	Other Equipment	\$	40,000.00
Local Roads & Street Fund	1169-23620-000-0530	Bituminous	\$	450,000.00
			\$	490,000.00

County Extradition Fund			
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County Extradition Fund	1155-32500-000-0005	Returning Fugitives	\$	8,000.00
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Adult Probation Pre-Trial Services Grant Fund			
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Adult Prob. Pre-Trial Services	9164-22100-000-0274	Office Supplies	\$	(810.42)
Adult Prob. Pre-Trial Services	9164-31300-000-0274	Training & Education	\$	(4,300.00)
			\$	(5,110.42)

45.025 MOH IAC Grant Fund

45.025 MOH IAC Grant	8300-39910-000-0175 Other Services	\$ 195.00
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Mr. Rivas, Is that it?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Yes that conclude second reading.

Ms. Graham, What do you need? Motion to approve

Mr. Rivas, Motion to approve second reading.

Mr. Brickner, Second.

Mr. Rivas, Motion and a second to approve second reading. Discussion? Roll Call?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Yes

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, 4 – 0

Mr. Rivas, Thank you.

Attorney's Report

Mr. Rivas, Attorney's report Harold had to, I believe, go and pick up his daughter from the airport. So I told him this was a pretty easy agenda that if he wanted to go pick his daughter up.

Any other matter that may come properly before the Council

Mr. Rivas, So any other matter that may come properly before the Council?

Ms. Graham, Well we should wish Vicki Urbanik Happy Birthday week!

Mr. Rivas, Week? Today? When is it?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, It was two days ago.

Mr. Rivas, Two days ago, Happy Birthday Vicki! Should we sing happy birthday?

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, No.

(Laughter)

Mr. Rivas, No, well happy 35th birthday!

Auditor Vicki Urbanik, Thank you.

Mr. Rivas, Well I appreciate everybody coming, I know it's summertime and people are doing other things. We've got a quorum, in terms of the budget we've got a meeting shortly with a small group Mike and I and Vicki with the Commissioners and Bakertilly, just trying to get some things, I know I just want to make sure we continue

on the solid financial footing that we're on moving forward. So we've got a lot in front of us, we just want to make sure that everything that we're doing we could afford to do and we're taking it from the right buckets of money and just continue on the successfully path that we're on.

Ms. Graham, So with the departments, have they been notified?

Mr. Rivas, Not yet, nope after that meeting we'll get a letter out immediately. So it's a couple of weeks different I think but we just have a lot of discussion going on. So I think it's just fine. So, no reason to rush greatness right Sylvia?

Ms. Graham, Oh that's true.

Mr. Rivas, We've been doing great things up here. So, alright anything else?
Bob?

Mr. Poparad, No.

Mr. Rivas, Mike?

Mr. Brickner, I'm good.

Meeting Adjourned

Mr. Rivas, Alright.

Mr. Poparad, I make the motion to adjourn.

Mr. Rivas, Motion.

Ms. Graham, Second.

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

Motion carries on a unanimous 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