

BE IT REMEMBERED THAT, The Board of Commissioners of the County of St. Joseph met in a regular session in the County City Building on October 20, 2015 at the hour of 10:00 a.m. (EST) at which time in the following members were present: Andrew Kostielney, Dave Thomas, and Dr. Deborah Fleming D.M.D. were present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The minutes of the last meeting were unanimously approved.

Michael J. Hamann, County Auditor, was present and recorded the minutes of the meeting.

Mr. Kostielney announces that it is Mr. Thomas' birthday.

OPENING AND READING OF BIDS ON: NONE

REPORTS AND REQUESTS FROM:

COMMISSIONERS

**A)
IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING
THE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE DOCKETS**

Dr. Fleming moved to accept the Accounts Payable Docket as read and outlined.
Motion seconded by Mr. Thomas.
Motion adopted by a 3-0 vote.

**B)
IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING
THE CONSENT AGENDA.**

Permission was requested to approve the following consent agenda:

Settlement Requests	
Department	Description
County Sheriff	Anthony Lyons / \$1,500.00

Surplus Requests	
Department	Description
Area Plan Commission	One digital camera, various shelving, speakers and three chairs
County Treasurer	Three obsolete printers
Dept. of Public Works	Four obsolete computer processors, a monitor and a broken copier
Highway Department	An obsolete desk, typewriter and various power lawn equipment
Prosecuting Attorney	An obsolete desk and chair
Sheriff / Civil Division	Two broken printers and four obsolete computer processors
Superior Court	Three obsolete typewriters

Travel Requests		
Department	Description	Cost Estimate
Adult Probation	LaPorte, IN / October 12-16, 2015	\$24.75
Adult Probation	Wabash, IN / November 2, 2015	\$81.00
Adult Probation	Boston, MA / November 2-3, 2015	\$105.00
Adult Probation	Indianapolis, IN / November 5, 2015	\$161.00
County Assessor	Valparaiso, IN / October 23, 2015	\$225.00
Health Department	Indianapolis, IN / November 2, 2015	\$70.00
Human Resources	Revised / Michigan City, IN / Sept. 21-24, 2015	\$1,067.00
Prosecuting Attorney	Indianapolis, IN / October 30, 2015	\$797.30

Prosecuting Attorney	Indianapolis, IN / October 22-23, 2015	\$882.40
Prosecuting Attorney	Denver, CO / November 10-13, 2015	\$4,956.00
Public Defenders	Fishers, IN / October 16, 2015	\$1,514.50
Sheriff	Indianapolis, IN / October 27-28, 2015	\$538.00
Sheriff	Hobart, IN / November 4, 2015	\$600.00
Sheriff	Scottsdale, AZ / November 9-12, 2015	\$1,812.73
Sheriff	Bloomington, IN / November 12, 2015	\$814.00
Sheriff	Plainfield, IN / November 12-13, 2015	\$398.00
Sheriff	Plainfield, IN / November 18, 2015	\$2,956.00
Veterans Service	Revised / Brownsburg, IN / October 20-21, 2015	\$313.00
Voter Registration	Indianapolis, IN / December 14-16, 2015	\$1,239.30

Motion was made by Dr. Fleming to accept the consent Agenda.

Motion seconded by Mr. Thomas.

Motion adopted by a 3-0 vote.

C)

**IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING
A CONTRACT WITH ENFOCUS
FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
SOLUTIONS THROUGH 2016**

This is a contract between Enfocus and St. Joseph County. This continues a partnership, which I believe this is the fourth year. They are helping us to improve our IT. The things involved in this include: Process Mapping, IP Technology, Website Redesign, and Workforce management system.

Mr. Thomas makes note that this is for \$80000.00.

Motion was made by Dr. Fleming to accept the above request as read and outlined.

Motion seconded by Mr. Thomas.

Motion adopted by a 3-0 vote.

D)

**IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING
A CONTRACT WITH HEWLETT-
PACKARD FOR TECHNOLOGY
HARDWARE, SOFTWARE AND
SERVICES**

Mike Hamann, St. Joseph County Auditor, offices on the 2nd floor.

Mr. Hamann states that the next four issues are all somewhat related and will try to discuss them all as one. The Hewlett Packard project is to have this done as a four year packet. The idea is to rent so that every four years departments will get new equipment. The cost of this is \$200000.00 a year. We can afford this by renegotiating contracts with LLOW and by adding our own programmer we will also save a substantial amount of money. They will also do a service if needed. As we go through the departments as part of the tech refresh departments that may get new equipment such as computers we will then give gently used equipment to departments that have much older items and get them upgraded. We should be able to hit the 21st century standards while doing this.

Mr. Kostielney asks if this would streamline the process by instead of having four or five companies to buy technology from we can condense equipment and make it more standardized.

Mr. Hamann says yes this will help lower costs and with newer equipment there should not be the need for repair.

Dr. Fleming says she believes this is a great idea to move forward with. It will greatly improve the technology and help with future budgets.

Mr. Thomas says this will standardize the hardware for the departments.

Mr. Hamann says yes.

Motion was made by Dr. Fleming to accept the above request as read and outlined.

Motion seconded by Mr. Thomas.

Motion adopted by a 3-0 vote.

E)
IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING
A CONTRACT WITH
MICROINTEGRATION FOR
COLOCATION SERVICES

Mr. Hamann says this goes along with F & G. Basically what we are doing is switching companies when it comes to bandwidth. Right now we are with Cogent. It is costing us \$2500.00 a month for 40Mbps, which is very limited and not sufficient. We found that with Cyrus one for \$3500.00 a month we can increase the bandwidth up to 1 Gig. This is really fast. This is helpful because if we go this route we have departments that would like to do things such as webinars. This would cut down on travel and things such as this. This cost could go down in the future as we can go down from the 1 gig. The microintegration in the package with cogent, which we are terminating, and Cyrus One they break the fees down in two ways, they charge so much for bandwidth and so much for what they call colocation. Currently with Cogent \$925 for bandwidth and \$1500 a month for colocation. So, with Cyrus the bandwidth is \$2500 but the colocation over at Union Station is on \$780. Regardless of what we do we want to be at Union Station because it is far more efficient and safe. We have been paying Cogent out of COIT. The good news is State Board and the Records Office, where Phil Dotson has been very generous, and our attorneys we have found out that we can use enhanced access fees to pay for this. Currently there is enough money in there for this and they get about \$4000 a month. We will be able to pay for the increase from enhanced access.

Dr. Fleming commends Ian and Mike for their efforts with this.

Motion was made by Dr. Fleming to accept the above request as read and outlined.

Motion seconded by Mr. Thomas.

Motion adopted by a 3-0 vote.

F)
IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING
A CONTRACT WITH COGENT
COMMUNICATIONS FOR INTERNET
BANDWIDTH AND IP ADDRESSING

Motion was made by Dr. Fleming to accept the above request as read and outlined.

Motion seconded by Mr. Thomas.

Motion adopted by a 3-0 vote.

G)
IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING
A TERMINATION OF INTERNET
BANDWIDTH AND COLOCATION
SERVICES WITH CYRUS ONE

Motion was made by Dr. Fleming to accept the above request as read and outlined.

Motion seconded by Mr. Thomas.

Motion adopted by a 3-0 vote.

H)
IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING
RESOLUTION R-18-C-2015,
AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING
THE ST. JOSEPH COUNTY HEALTH
DEPARTMENT FOOD AND NURSING
DIVISION FEE INCREASES

Nick Molchan, Administrator, offices on the 8th floor.

Mr. Molchan asks that the increased fee resolution be approved and effective January 1, 2016.

Motion was made by Dr. Fleming to accept the above request as read and outlined.

Motion seconded by Mr. Thomas.

Motion adopted by a 3-0 vote.

D)

**IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING
BILLS PASSED BY THE ST. JOSEPH
COUNTY COUNCIL**

<u>BILL NO.</u>	<u>ORDINANCE NO.</u>
62-15	50-15
63-15	51-15
64-15	52-15
65-15	53-15
70-15	54-15
72-15	55-15
68-15	57-15
69-15	R10-15
58-15	58-15

*as amended

Motion was made by Dr. Fleming to accept the above ordinances except for 52-15 as read and outlined.

Amended motion to pull out 52-15 and 53-15.

Motion seconded by Mr. Thomas.

Motion adopted by a 3-0 vote.

Mr. Kostielney takes public comments on ordinance 52-15.

Rafael Morton, offices on the 4th floor.

Mr. Morton states that as you are aware, a high level of diligent effort and many long hours were put into coming up with the recommended budget for 2016. The budget process is extremely tedious and difficult every year, mainly because of the enormous negative impact of the property tax caps. We all know that there is no such thing as a perfect budget or a budget that every council member and every commissioner is going to totally agree on. We can only hope to craft one that will allow our departments to serve our residents in the best and most efficient manner possible. In my humble opinion, the councils recommended budget does that. Therefore, I ask for your support. Thank you for your consideration.

Michael Hamann, St. Joseph County Auditor, offices on the 2nd floor.

Mr. Hamann states that he too is in favor of this budget. It is not perfect and people had to make compromises and there are a lot of things going forward that we need to address in the New Year. A legitimate concern would be how sustainable it is. I have made a point that it is sustainable for 2016. It is about a 4 million dollar increase. We will have to do something going forward so that we can maintain this. There are some definite legitimate needs. Such as the jail, the Health Department, the Prosecutors Office and others. I feel that it is a very good process. People worked very hard. I want to thank the County Council, the Commissioners and my Chief Deputy who put in a tremendous amount of time trying to accommodate everyone. If you veto it, it would go back to the County Council they can override it. If you override it and it goes back to the council say they don't want to override they don't have enough votes there may be enough time to make a few changes but otherwise the budget will revert to the 2015 budget. Then we would have no time to do this and it would have to be done by the state and have negative ramifications for my office. I know it wasn't a perfect process but I hope you can look past that and support this budget and know that we can always find room to improve. I also wanted to point out that if there is anything else that our office can do to keep you informed and help you make the best decisions we want to make sure we can always do that. Thank you for your consideration.

Dr. Fleming thanks everyone for the time and effort it took to create this budget but we have known for quite some time that the full effect of the circuit breaker credits was delayed for St. Joseph and Lake County, with some debt funds being exempted through 2019. This means that we will eventually have to come to grips with the full impact of the state law and constitutional amendment that protects all taxpayers from having to pay any more than 1, 2 or 3% of their property value. The County basically has had more than 5 years to prepare for a drop in the property tax income, and instead of acknowledging it, this year we are faced with a General Fund increase of \$4 million. In a year when we should at least be holding the line, the county departments threw caution to the wind with almost an 8% increase instead. Let me restate this more plainly: Every other county in the state of Indiana, all 90 out of 92 (except St. Joseph and Lake) are already abiding by the full tax cap law. St. Joseph County is basically overtaxing its residents with an add on called the exempt rate, through 2019. This was a deal made in Indianapolis to get the law passed because our county and Lake County had so much debt supported by property taxes. As this exemption goes away in four years, our property tax payers will finally have the full protection that all other taxpayers in the state now have. All governments in our county will receive less in property taxes and we just can't keep pretending we have more money coming in every year. Even if we could afford this \$4 million increase in 2016 by using existing cash reserves, we will not be able to sustain it. We will run out of cash and be faced with cuts or even worse, calls for another round of "crisis" income tax increases. One of the proposed methods of balancing the 2016 General Fund is to use \$2 million from the CEDIT fund, an income tax fund that was set up for economic development to support the growth of St. Joseph County. Although the state may allow it, is that \$2 million really being used for economic development? As the circuit breaker impact reaches its full potential to protect taxpayers, are we prepared to take more from economic development to support the growth of county government? Some future projections would suggest we might need \$5 or even \$6 million of the CEDIT revenues once the circuit breakers are fully enforced. All of our Public Safety LOIT, an income tax, is being used for Sheriff and jail expenses. All of our COIT, another income tax, is being used for employee benefits and IT expenses. Now a growing amount of CEDIT, the final income tax, will be used to prop up the General Fund operations in the county. Some department heads did work to reduce staff levels in order to pay their remaining staff raises and save the county money. Sadly, this was not the case for all departments. It is not truly feasible or advisable to both increase pay rates and add more employees. A compliment to the Treasurer, and Prosecutor, who reduced staffing in the General Fund and increased pay for their employees. After multiple open and productive discussions about ways to save money, we are presented a budget for our adoption that cuts nothing, adds no efficiency and has the potential to increase future taxes for the citizens of St. Joseph County.

Mr. Thomas asks counsel about Mike's comments on if there were a veto today the council could override and make changes. Did I hear that correct?

Mr. Hamann again explains the process.

Mr. Thomas asks if amendment were made would it have to come back to the Commissioners.

Counsel says he is unsure.

Mr. Kostielney says yes after the changes it would have to come back and be voted on again.

Mr. Thomas says that if this were not voted on at all then in ten days it would pass automatically. I would like to commend all those who were there and helped in this process. Again it may not be the best budget but it is good. It was very open and transparent everyone had a chance to speak and have questions answered.

Counsel again goes over the process if there were a veto and any amendments were made or not made.

Mr. Kostielney thanks everyone for their hard work. Mike Kruk did a great job on his budget. The Prosecutor's had fantastic organization. Regardless of what happens the Drug Commander needs to be put into place. While it is very concerning the size of the increase the Sheriff has proposed I don't think there is a choice. There are a lot of good things in the budget. My concerns are some of the inconsistencies with which some of the departments were handled. But it comes down to sustainability we need \$2 million from CEDIT, which we have done before when times were very lean we have had to use CEDIT funds to support the general fund budget because funding simply wasn't there. Once we got through that time we made a commitment verbally that we were not going to

do that moving forward because we know the true financial impact of the circuit breaker. It is not hitting us now but will 2-3 years in the future. What helped us to keep going we were able to prepare ourselves and our budgets to get as lean as we could so we could prepare to get through those challenging times. My fear now is that we do not have a method in supporting the 2016 budget in 2017. These CEDIT funds will not be available we will need every penny in CEDIT funds just to meet the obligations that we are going to have moving forward. It is very concerning and scary supporting a budget that we cannot support moving forward.

Motion made by Dr. Fleming to veto ordinance 52-15.
Motion seconded by Mr. Kostielney.
Motion adopted by 2-1 vote.

Motion made by Dr. Fleming to pass ordinance 53-15.
Motion seconded by Mr. Thomas.
Motion adopted by 3-0 vote.

J)
ANNOUNCING TRICK OR TREAT HOURS

Trick or treat hours are from 5:00pm till 7:00pm on Saturday October 31st.

ADD ON
IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING
A SECOND AGREEMENT TO
EXTEND A CONTRACT
WITH BEACON MEDICAL GROUP

Peter Agostino, 131 S. Taylor.

Mr. Agostino says he has been working on contracts with Troy Scott from Benefit Focus on the extension of the clinic. We received several offers as previously stated. By dividing up the contract with WeCare providing reporting and Beacon providing the Medical we are able to keep the staff. The price going forward is looking to be \$731,000 as a base price which brings it down. We still have some amendments that need to be made to the contract to bring them into conformity. Nothing major. We also want to make sure that Dr. Henderson will be the doctor. The extension is for 10-31 with Beacon with the current contract so we can tie things down. We may need a little more time. We would ask for about another week on to that so that we can finish this up.

Mr. Kostielney says that if needed we can call a special meeting.

Mr. Agostino says he believes that they can authorize additional time in advance with the agreement of Beacon.

Mr. Kostielney asks if we can just extend it for an additional 30 days so that we do not have to come back if it takes more than the week.

Mr. Agostino says that would be up to the pleasure of the Board but we do not intend on using all 30 days.

Motion made by Dr. Fleming to accept the recommendation Mr. Agostino in reference to the above contract and the extension as read and outlined.

Motion seconded by Mr. Thomas.

Motion adopted by a 3-0 vote.

PURCHASING
IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING
A REQUEST TO ADVERTISE FOR
OFFICE SUPPLY AND PRINTER
TONER BIDS

Scott MacKenzie, Purchasing Manager, offices on the 7th floor.

Mr. MacKenzie requests for advertising dates of October 25th and November 1st. with a bid opening on November 17, 2015.

Motion made by Dr. Fleming to accept the recommendation of the Purchasing Department in reference to the above request as read and outlined.

Motion seconded by Mr. Thomas.

Motion adopted by a 3-0 vote.

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS:

CONSENT AGENDA:

Development / Subdivision Requests
Description
Letter of Credit Cash in for Evergreen Plaza Major Subdivision, Section One
Change Order No. 2, Traffic Calming and Signal Flashers Project
Change Order No. 3, Miscellaneous Road Resurfacing/Rehabilitation in Kingswood Estates, Miami Trails and other Subdivisions

Special Event Requests
Description
Suicide Prevention Center to conduct the <i>Race to Save Lives</i> , Saturday, November 7, 2015

Traffic Regulatory Requests
Description

Project Completion Affidavit Requests
Description

Motion made by Dr. Fleming to accept the recommendation of the Department of Public Works in reference to the above consent agenda as read and outlined.

Motion seconded by Mr. Thomas.

Motion adopted by a 3-0 vote.

OLD BUSINESS: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, Mr. Kostielney asked for a motion to recess, Dr. Fleming so moved, seconded by Mr. Thomas. Meeting recessed by a 3-0 vote.