Commissioners & County Council Joint Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 22, 2025 4:00 p.m. Pineview Government Center Commissioner Meeting Room, Suite 104 2524 Corydon Pike

Al Knable called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Commissioners -Al Knable, Jason Sharp and Frank Loop

Present - Council -Danny Short, Denise Konkle, Jim Freiberger, Matt Millies, Sam Sarkisian, Dale

Bagshaw and Tony Toran

Also Present: Auditor, Diana Topping; Sheriff, Steve Bush; Attorneys, Rick and Kristi Fox

Approval of 2-25-25 Joint Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve. Moved by Jason Sharp. Seconded by Danny Short. Motion passed. Tony Toran abstained.

1. Wheel Tax

Al Knable said a House Bill passed the week before that requires counties to adopt a wheel tax, as well as a few other provisions that's being discussed or lose some of their Community Crossing funding. It has not been approved by the Governor yet. It also requires an adoption of an increased excise tax or also the adoption of transportation asset management plan. The Community Crossing funds pay for 50% of paving.

2. Cumulative Bridge Tax Increase

Al Knable said the Cumulative Bridge Tax increase is more of a reallocation. He said when he came into office in 2022 the Bridge 51 project would be approximately \$5 million, now the last numbers he saw was closer to \$8.5 million. The federal match will not go up so the County will have to shoulder close to \$4 million instead of \$1 million. There have not been any adjustments to the levy since 1992. Stan Heil did an analysis of the levy driven funds.

Jason Sharp and Frank Loop said they need to discuss what services they need to supply statutorily.

3. One Southern Indiana Financial Request

Al Knable said One Southern Indiana requested \$15,000.00. They will need Nick Creevy to discuss if it is cost efficient. The Commissioners will take it up internally.

4. Bridge 51 Update

Al Knable said the dam removal is essential to get to any repairs possible on the old bridge to open it open while waiting on the new bridge. They are waiting on permit for dam removal.

5. Administrative Building update

Al Knable said the RFP's for the remodel will probably go out in early May. They hope to move some of the offices in the fall or early winter. Envoy will give a presentation at the May 16 meeting.

6. Judicial Building -brief update

Al Knable said Envoy will be at the May 16 meeting to present Courthouse options.

7. Discussion of possible budget adjustments secondary to SB-1

Al Knable said Senate Bill 1 has passed. Senator Byrne will be sending some data. Danny Short said Senator Byrne's data looks better than what they have been told.

Denise Konkle said she met with Ed Clere and the information he gave her was not as bad as expected. The levies will not be reduced but they will not increase. Baker Tilly is working on an analysis to see the impact.

8. Budgeting Status- various items to discuss

Danny Short said the next Council meeting will discuss moving the EMS contractual services be funded with Public Safety LIT.

9. Animal Shelter

Attorney, Rick Fox, said they are waiting to get two appraisals back that have been ordered. Once they are back the County will be in a position to move forward.

Al Knable said the City has been engaging on the dialogue with regards to resolving the status of ownership of the building. The dialogue right now is to get two appraisals to get the average and offer to the City 50% of the appraisal average. He said the current contact for Animal Control is through 2025 and he would recommend extending it until it is determined what the use of the building will be.

Denise Konkle asked if there has been any consideration of getting rid of the Grant Line Road properties to try to help with some of the bridge problems or anything else they can use the money. She thinks they should get an appraisal.

Al Knable said it is more attractive to him to vacate and liquidate the Pineview Property. He would like to see the Grant Line Road property to be a private public venture.

There has been discussion on moving the Coroner and possibly VA and Planning and Development to the Health Department building. Some folks will go to Nova Parke.

Al Knable thanked Sheriff Bush for being part of the discussions all along with regards to his Department's needs and being amenable to possibly moving from the training room.

Public Comment

Dale Mann, Georgetown, said the wheel tax is unfair to agriculture and the farmer. He has eight licensed vehicles with some only driven a few times a year.

Frank Loop said he would make the motion if there is a way to exempt agriculture.

Dale Mann said the County needs an efficiency study.

He said the public doesn't understand how the County has no money but are building parks, buildings and investing in Novaparke.

Dale Bagshaw said he would like to see the Grant Line Road building go away. He likes the idea of the park going from Grant Line Road to Green Valley Road.

Al Knable said an efficiency study will run 75-100 thousand dollars and if they do it, is everyone willing to live with consequences.

Motion to adjourn. Moved by Jason Sharp. Seconded by Danny Short. Motion passed unanimously.

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Al Knable, President
Jason Sharp, Vice President
Frank Loop, Commissioner
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Discourse Described
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Denise Konkle, member
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Jim Freiberger, member
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Tony Toran, member
Man Mall
Matt Millies, member
Sam Sarkisian, member
Commission, member

Attest: Diana M. Topping, Auditor