

**THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CIVIL CITY OF NEW ALBANY, INDIANA,  
HELD A BUDGET HEARING VIA ZOOM.COM ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17,  
2020 AT 5:00 P.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Council Members Mrs. Collier, Mr. Phipps, Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Turner, Mr. Blair, Mr. Aebersold, Mr. Applegate, Dr. Knable and President Caesar.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Shane Gibson, Linda Moeller, Amy Stein, Alicia Meredith, David Hall, Mrs. Rosenbarger, Chris Gardner, Police Chief Bailey and Vicki Glotzbach

**President Caesar** called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that he had given everyone all of the information on flood control at the last meeting and unfortunately Mr. Gardner couldn't make it but he is here tonight. He said the main question that he wasn't able to answer last week was the special projects that he has allocated so unless there are any other questions on the budget, he is going to cut Mr. Gardner loose on that.

**Mr. Blair** asked what the cash balance is in storm water right now.

**Mr. Gardner** stated that he didn't have that figure in front of him but he can get that to him.

**Mr. Blair** stated that he assumes that's where most of the money for special projects is coming from.

**Mr. Gardner** stated that is correct.

**Mr. Blair** stated that he appreciates Mr. Gardner helping with the retention problem at Kohl's department store and asked if we have an inspection process for retention ponds within the city limits.

**Mr. Gardner** stated that they have a new program that they haven't officially launched yet where they do bi-annual inspections, once in the summertime and once in the winter. He said that they completed the first round of the summer inspections in June and are working on putting those reports together and making initial contact with all of the property owners so they did have that on their radar when the initial complaints came in.

**Mr. Blair** stated that he just wanted to know that they would've caught it when they were doing inspections because we had the one at Home Depot and now, we had this one.

**Dr. Knable** asked who actually owns the retention pond at Home Depot and if it is the city or the landowner.

**Mr. Gardner** stated that it is the landowner and that the city only owns three regional detention systems that he is aware of.

**Dr. Knable** asked if we are inspecting them is there any need to create a fee for doing that because that is time and resources spent.

**Mr. Gardner** stated that this is just kind of a pilot program that they are running now and just making initial contact with all of the landowners and per our ordinances, they are required to maintain those. He said that they are just now testing the waters where, originally, it was by complaint only.

**Dr. Knable** stated that he looks forward to the feedback because it is of critical importance as we have had some episodes in the last couple of years. He said if they are required to do that, he thinks they should pass the fee onto them rather than the general taxpayer. He also said after a year or two maybe they could figure out how much time and material is wrapped up in those and how effective it is and come up with a certification program if he feels it is warranted.

**Mr. Gardner** stated that he thinks all of those are valid points.

**Mr. Blair** stated that he assumes that would have to be done by ordinance.

**Dr. Knable** agreed.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that just as an FYI, any fees, fees adjustments or those type things are council approved and go through the normal ordinance process. He said they also require the mayor to signoff on them. He explained that usually when those are required, they are required to enter into long-term agreements with the city to maintain those. He said that does give us the authority, if necessary, to go and take care of the problem if they choose or don't do it. He said obviously they would prefer that they take care of it. He stated that Home Depot was a good example of that because it just accumulated over time and then once Mr. Gardner and his crew got out there, they were able to work with Home Depot and clear that up. He also said that for future ones, they could add in an inspection component cost.

**Dr. Knable** said they could possibly add a penalty for not maintaining it.

**Mr. Turner** stated that for salaries we are budgeted for \$300,000.00 and we are only at \$100,000.00 for six months so it looks like we are going to be about \$100,000.00 under budget there so that could potentially be cut. He also stated that we haven't used any overtime this year and that is budgeted for \$25,000.00. He then asked what longevity is.

**Mr. Gardner** stated that it is a negotiated right by the union.

**Mr. Turner** stated that they are about \$3,000.00 shy in office supplies for what was budgeted. He then asked what other supplies is.

**Mr. Gardner** stated that they are other necessary supplies that would fall outside regular repair.

**Mr. Turner** stated that they have used about \$158.00 of that and it is slated for \$2,500.00 for the year. He said that they have used \$16,000.00 in professional services and have budgeted \$150,000.00 for the year and will be jumping to \$200,000.00 in 2021. He stated that travel and training expenses are not used as well as reserve. He asked what reserve is.

**Mr. Gardner** stated that it is reserve liability and is kind of like insurance if we were to have a lawsuit or something like that.

**Mr. Gibson** asked Mr. Gardner to jump into the special project and give the necessity for it and the details on it.

**Mr. Gardner** stated that he wanted to recap what they have done with the levy system over the last nine years. He explained that making updates and improvements to the levy system has been a priority and they typically spend about \$2M every other year. He stated that the first project was the rehabilitation of all of the pumping plants and that ran about \$2M-\$2.5M. He said that second thing they did was the concrete restoration on all of the floodwalls and the gate wells and then last year they did the backup power. He stated that this year they are moving into the earth levy portions of our levy system. He explained that along our levy system and the embankment, we have roughly 7 acres of rip rap that lays along the side of the floodwall and you will notice it because of the overgrowth and vegetation that has been an issue for maintenance over the years because it grows through it. He stated that they are proposing a levy modification where we remove all of that rip rap and put in a modern product that would not only be more appealing to the eye, but would also strengthen the integrity of our levy system. He said that what happens when the vegetation grows through on the river side or the creek side of the levy, it creates ports through the roots and if the roots get too big, you could compromise the structural integrity of the system. He stated that this project will be the largest one with product reviews and we are looking at anywhere from \$2.9M to potentially \$5M. He said that right now they have that project and the preliminary report sitting with the Corp of Engineers and he is hoping that they

will provide a little feedback before they move any further with them. He stated that he hopes to have follow-up calls throughout the end of this year with them and once he gets the final detail on the product, they will move into final design for it. He said that number is the largest number in the special projects line item since he has been here and those monies are being utilized from cash reserves. He stated that he had fully anticipated being under construction before the end of this year, but unfortunately, the pandemic did not help their situation and they suffered some severe delays.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that it is a set rate that flood control gets and is its own entity with its own rate similar to the library or a fire department township and those sorts of things.

**Mr. Blair** asked if the levy project is dictated by FEMA and is it a requirement.

**Mr. Gardner** replied that it is not a requirement. He said that we participate through the Corp of Engineers and the National Flood Insurance Program as well as the Rehabilitation Program through public law and they provide feedback on things that we need to work on over the years. He stated that we have received an acceptable rating each time he has been through a review with them so this is the next step of the largescale items.

**Mr. Blair** stated that he definitely understands the need to maintain our levy system and keep it in good repair but there are a lot of other projects that could be done with that in the city. He said there is a street drain problem on Glenmill Road and he has a lot of creeks that are backing up that need to be cleared out and those kinds of things. He asked if the funds used for this is going to be taking away from those types of projects because we've got to prioritize what we do.

**Mr. Gardner** stated that flood control funds are specifically dedicated for flood control improvements and all that kind of stuff.

**Mr. Blair** stated that those funds could also be used for other drainage repairs and maintenance.

**Mr. Gardner** stated that the priority here is the levy system.

**Mr. Blair** stated that he understands the need for it but if it is something that we can maintain for a period of time and it is not in need of replacement at that time, then we could use those funds for other projects that need to be done.

**Mr. Gardner** asked Mr. Blair to clarify his question.

**Mr. Blair** stated that he knows there are a lot of piping projects, clearing creeks and streets that regularly flood that need to be worked on. He said that we need to prioritize what we do and how much money we have to spend and maybe those projects are more important than this project.

**Mr. Gardner** stated that he is unfamiliar with what he is referring to and if he wants to provide him with a list that would help.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that creeks could obviously fall under flood control but storm water drains, while there is a slight overlap, would probably fall under the storm water dedicated umbrella to put them into various projects also. He said that if Mr. Blair wants to get a list together, they can take a look at those from an administrative point also.

**Mr. Blair** stated that he will.

**Dr. Knable** asked if there was a comprehensive study of the levy system that led to this or were there specific vulnerable points identified outside of a larger study.

**Mr. Gardner** explained that in their reports for the last ten they have been given an unsatisfactory rating based on the vegetation growing in the rip rap areas and the standard

procedure that has been going on is simply having those cleared out but that is costing between \$25,000.00-\$35,000.00 annually. He added that the vegetation is also causing potential integrity issues with the levy.

**Mr. Turner** stated that at the beginning of the year, he came before the council and presented the Falling Run Study and asked if anything new has come about with that because he knows that had a lot to do with his district and touches a little of Mr. Blair's district as well.

**Mr. Gardner** stated that they are waiting on materials from the Corp on that.

**Mr. Turner** asked how long that has been going on.

**Mr. Gardner** stated that the initial request letter was sent in June, 2010.

**Mr. McLaughlin** asked how many times have we had to close the floodwall off in the past five or six years.

**Mr. Gardner** stated that is kind of a difficult question to answer because the levy system operates based on the Ohio River level so it is not like we're having a flood so put all of the walls up and close all of the gates. He said that it happens in stages and we only reach certain stages based on that river level. He did say that in last decade, we have had nine floods and six of them have come in the last four years.

**Mr. McLaughlin** said that sometimes we forget about the importance of our floodwall and the levy system but every so often nature reminds us and it has happened more in the last eight to ten years.

**Mr. Gibson** moved on to MVH and stated that they actually went over this last meeting but part of their funding mechanism now requires half of it to be used specifically for road related projects. He explained that the recommendation from state board of accounts several years ago when they did this was to basically set up two kinds of funds; one is restrictive and one is unrestrictive. He stated that he thinks he forgot to have the unrestrictive in there so it looked like expenses were way low so he wanted to more or less give the proper documentation so that they had it for themselves. He then moved on to the planning commission and stated that Mr. Wood is present. He said that the planning commission consists of the planning commission meetings themselves and the BZA is under their umbrella. He stated that they have three full-time staffers at this time but they do have more budgeted to add staff and the last hiccup to filling that spot is getting us over into city hall. He stated that Mr. Wood and his group took on the endeavor of the new zoning ordinance as well as the comprehensive plan. He said some of the day to day duties are fence permits, sign permits, etc. and if someone wants to build something, Mr. Wood and his group have to look at it to make sure it is properly zoned for what they are building.

**Mr. Wood** stated that they also have the Historic Preservation Commission and a professional services contract with their staff person, Ms. Laura Renwick, and the amount of that contract is \$10,000.00. He said that they do have the \$22,000.00 in the budget for the printing that he thinks is going to come out but otherwise they are running on the same show they've run on for the past couple of years.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that the \$22,000.00 was left over in the budget from doing the zoning code and printing out binders so that number will get adjusted to what will be a more normal yearly amount.

**Mr. Turner** stated that he is looking at the \$90,000.00 budgeted for the tree plan implementation and it doesn't look like we have used any of that for two years. He asked if we are doing any of that.

**Mr. Wood** stated that 2020 is the first year that came into the budget and it was not in their budget in 2019. He said that they are working on that right now and they will get that spent this year.

**Mr. Turner** stated that the salaries line is at about 32% year-to-date so that would put them about \$100,000.00 under budget. He said that he is looking at a few other things that haven't been used in the last couple of years like other services, travel and training, blueprints and publications and subscription and dues. He said there are plenty of places to either use some of those funds or trim the fat.

**Mr. Wood** stated that some of that is just getting used. He said that they pay about \$1,000.00 for subscriptions and dues for the American Planning Association and the Indiana Planning Association. He also stated that in regards to blueprints, they have recently purchased a plotter which is a large-scale printing machine and they will be using that much more frequently especially when they get their new offices. He added that they are doing the best they can.

**Mr. Turner** said that he knows that planning is very busy.

**Mr. Blair** stated that he knows the annexation budget is in the board of works and he realizes that the pandemic really slowed things down but wondered if we plan on picking that up soon or working on it a little more thoroughly.

**Mr. Wood** stated that they have been working on annexation issues during the pandemic as time permits. He said there have been some other stuff that they have been focused on too but they haven't lost sight of it.

**Mr. Blair** asked if there is a need for them to get together anytime soon as a council committee.

**Mr. Wood** stated that he doesn't think there is anything new. He said that Councilman Coffey was on the committee and needs to be replaced so he wouldn't mind meeting with them just for a status update since there will be a new council member on it.

**Mr. Blair** stated that he will try to arrange that so that everyone will get up to speed and on the same page.

**Mr. Gibson** moved on to the parks budget and stated that it is our third largest budget if you're looking at it from a monetary standpoint. He said it includes all of the facilities that we own and he mentioned the aquatic center, Silver Street Park and Bicknell Park. He asked Ms. Meredith how many parks we do have.

**Ms. Meredith** replied 15.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that their budget is usually pretty tight and if you look at last year's, they were right at 99%-100%. He said obviously it is different this year because the expenses related to the aquatic center are not there but hopefully the pool will be back open next year and we won't have pandemic stuff, but at this point, who knows.

**Mr. Turner** stated that it looks like we are going to be over budget a little this year in the first line item because we are at 59% right now and that is confusing to him because the parks were shut down for almost two months.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that all of the departments continued to operate in some fashion so like the full-time salary that would normally be the aquatic center was assigned new duties this year. He said obviously he is not handling the pool so that is going to skew that line a little because that salary is getting moved over to that one versus being aquatics.

**Mr. Blair** stated that he thought they had made a mistake and had a couple of salaries coming out of there that shouldn't have been. He said that they are looking at the June budget and if you look at the July budget, he thinks it has been adjusted.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that he would look into that.

**Mr. Blair** stated that was a just a question that he had and he got back with him and said that they misappropriated some funds and misclassified some jobs.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that he will verify that but it sounds like Mr. Blair is exactly right. He then moved on to the animal shelter and stated that Mr. Hall is present as well as the President of the board, Mrs. Rosenbarger. Mr. Gibson asked Mr. Hall if he wanted to explain the capital outlays projects that they have done and/or are working on.

**Mr. Hall** stated that they are experiencing a problem with COVID-19 just as everyone else is and the lobby needs to be sectioned off so they are using a lot of the capital expenses to section off the lobby to make it safe if and ever the public is invited back in. He said that they are also making an enormous play yard in the back by fencing that in. He stated that they own part of that property and the sign company has given them the ability to fence in that property so long as they can have access to the sign to change it whenever they need to. He said that they mow the grass and maintain it so they are allowing them to have a large area in the back so they can exercise the animals. He also said that they spent some of the capital improvement money on a new dryer and a new washer so now they have the ability with the larger dryer to load up and do two loads of fuzzy accessories for the animals at the same time. He stated that they are hoping to get all of those projects done this year and then it won't have the \$72,000.00 in it next year.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that there is a committee meeting next week with the council so he expects to have some feedback brought back to us regarding the animal control budget. He explained that we have had trouble in the past getting payments in some fashion and we have not received any payment this year so unfortunately, we have been forking over the entire bill to date for the operation of animal control. He stated that hopefully that will be addressed before the end of the year and the board is sending a letter to the county to let them know that there is an outstanding balance to be paid to get everything up to snuff.

**Mr. Hall** said that the board has sent a letter to the city council which is the same letter they sent to the county.

**Dr. Knable** stated that email was just within the last couple of hours.

**Mr. Aebersold** said that the meeting is at 11:00 a.m. next Tuesday and they will gather all of the information and bring it back.

**Mrs. Rosenbarger** asked Mr. Aebersold if he wanted any of the board there or possibly the director there.

**Mr. Aebersold** stated that he doesn't know if that is up to them to decide to have them there or not because they are calling this meeting and the letter came from their lawyer. He said that the letter was just to the council so he doesn't know if he wants to muddy the waters by bringing other people into it or not.

**Mrs. Rosenbarger** stated that she will contact them.

**Ms. Stein** stated that the purpose of the meeting is to review the requested budget so it makes sense that she would be there.

**Mrs. Rosenbarger** stated that she will contact Mr. Brad Striegel.

**Mr. Turner** stated that for that last couple of years it looks like they have been about \$100,000.00 in salaries so he doesn't know if they've lost someone and haven't replaced them yet.

**Mr. Hall** stated that he is correct in that they have lost several people but they have adjusted the budget for this year.

**Mr. Turner** stated that in contract services they are up to about 63% for the year so he wanted to know if they need to adjust some funds for that.

**Mrs. Rosenbarger** stated that Mrs. Jane Shine was present and she is one of their representatives in the county.

**Mr. Gibson** thanked Mrs. Rosenbarger, Mr. Hall and Mrs. Shine. He then moved on to weights and measures which is a county position but we basically split the cost associated with some of the salary and benefits and our portion is \$30,000.00. He then moved on to the police department budget and stated that the DLGF give estimates and then they give you what is called certified shares and that is the first one that he was hoping to have back. He said that it was supposed to be back by September 15<sup>th</sup> but he has not seen it come across yet which means they are still just working on it. He explained that the difference between an estimate and when they actually certify it is obviously that he can feel more comfortable and you as a body can feel more comfortable when they certify it because that means they have done a lot more research. He said that as soon as he receives that they will receive an email from him. He then told Police Chief Bailey to please feel free to highlight anything in his budget.

**Police Chief Bailey** stated that you can see that he is not requesting additional funds over last year and they are obviously feeling the effects of pandemic and have been doing very well managing the strategy throughout that. He said that one thing he would like to note is that the council has been very supportive on our speed radar trailer. He stated that has been deployed throughout town at miscellaneous places and it is working very well so they obviously appreciate the funding for that.

**Dr. Knable** stated that he knows Police Chief Bailey has had a challenging couple of weeks so he is in his prayers and thoughts and he told him to stay strong. He then asked where we are staffing wise compared to where he thinks we would be optimal at this point in time.

**Police Chief Bailey** stated that he thinks they are right on target with the numbers that they need. He explained that the utilization of those numbers change as the mission dictates but the raw number of personnel that we have, he feels, works well to serve our community.

**Dr. Knable** stated that there have been a lot of trying times for law enforcement just over the past eight months in particular and asked if he needs any resources from the council to remain competitive with regards to getting new personnel interested in joining the New Albany Police Department. He said that the projections he has seen, and he hopes they are wrong, seem to indicate that there is a shrinking pool of people wanting to go into the law enforcement career. He stated that if that is the case, he hopes it is short-lived and will soon reverse since it is such a noble profession.

**Police Chief Bailey** stated that he thinks they do a really good job with the police merit commission and how they recruit our staff. He said they have had over the past 20 years a decline in applicants for law enforcement jobs and there is thought processes for why that is. He explained that Dr. Knable is correct in that times have been challenging, but he will say that they have not on the New Albany Police Department because of the merit commission and how our community supports its law enforcement. He said they been able to recruit some of the finest officers he has ever encountered in his career. He stated that he has been at this now for over 28 years and he can tell them that they have highly motivated and professional police officers in our community. He said that they are very blessed to have a community that supports them, a wage and benefit package that is attractive and a community that is attractive to police offices to live

and work in. He added that he really can't think of anything right now that would make that better.

**Dr. Knable** said to let them know if he thinks of anything and he agrees with him that the new hires have maintained the overall excellent quality of the force. He said his compliments to Police Chief Bailey for being able to find those folks and attract and maintain them.

**Mr. Applegate** asked how much additional cost is it to move the radar trailers around if they wanted to get a few more for around the city.

**Police Chief Bailey** said that the one they purchased was about \$9,000.00 and it is a very solid unit and seems to be working well without any flaws or errors. He stated that speaking in regards to logistics, it is not just the trailer but also deploying it and maintaining the data because they have come up with quite a database. He said that they like to be on some sort of rotation with regard to a fair assignment for it and usually place it within a location that has either been identified by one of the council members or by someone in the community that has a concern about speed. He stated that he doesn't know if they need a mass of these things but he would not mind having just one additional one and thinks it would be nice to keep one in the east side of town and one in the west side of town all of the time with a rotation rate of 1-3 weeks depending on the location.

**Mr. Applegate** asked if there is additional stuff for storage or additional server or software that you would see additional costs for down the road.

**Police Chief Bailey** stated that he doesn't think it would be something that they couldn't currently absorb.

**Mr. Turner** asked if there has been any uptick in overdoses.

**Police Chief Bailey** stated that he can't put his finger on it because he doesn't have that data in front of him. He said if he is asking about compared to 3-5 years ago, it is definitely a downward turn. He said that we do still have overdoses in the community though.

**Mr. Turner** asked if there is any interest in Narcan with his officers.

**Police Chief Bailey** replied not especially at this point in time. He stated that we have our ambulance service and fire department who is equipped with that and they are usually on the scene as quick or sooner than we are.

**Mr. Turner** asked if his officers have access to crime statistics, not the UCR stuff, but the petty crime and property crime because it seems like on social media there is a lot of the bike and backpackers. He said car break-ins are a serious problem right now so his question always is if we are keeping track of that little data and being proactive in stopping it because it always seems we are just reactive.

**Police Chief Bailey** stated that they are very proactive and data driven. He said that they utilize a process known as Com Stat where they compile our crime statistics and within areas of the community, they deploy sources and strategies.

**Mr. Turner** thanked Police Chief Bailey and the department and stated that the officers are heroes in our community.

**Police Chief Bailey** said he appreciates that because he does have a fine group of men and women and he is so proud of them.

**Mr. McLaughlin** stated that in his district and at Community Park they have had some what were initially called break-ins on vehicles but once they started looking into them, many times it



was break-ins on cars that were unlocked so the public has to also be aware to make sure their cars are locked.

**Police Chief Bailey** said that he appreciates him mentioning that because the vast majority of vehicles that are entered are not broken into; they are simply entered because people leave the doors unlocked. He stated to further complicate things, they will leave valuables or things such as firearms inside the cars. He also stated that he wanted to mention that social media is the absolute devil when it comes to these rumors and he is finding himself battling social media because things blossom into things that they are not. He gave the example of when social media reported that there was a robbery at Community Park and it turned out to be that a lady left her window down and car unlocked and she was in a shelter house away from the car. He said that she left her purse in the car and someone on a bicycle rode by and grabbed it out of the car and rode away and that negligence on her part blossomed into a robbery on Facebook. He also said that we have to be careful about what we read on social media and what we believe.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that he does have two ordinances that will come before the council in some fashion. He explained that a few years ago in the previous police contract, we implemented an 8.5-hour day and it is a pilot program that was brought to them more from the union themselves to help with morale along with job work hours. He stated that the ordinance that we have on the books basically says 40 hours per week and this pilot plan will make their work a little more conducive to a family lifestyle. He said that they will need to make adjustments to the ordinance when they want to implement this completely.

**Police Chief Bailey** stated that he completely agrees with it and it is a fabulous change for morale for their department and quality of life for the men and women who work here. He said that it didn't reduce or change the coverage that they provide to the community so they are still able to staff as many hours to the community while at the same time providing a little better quality of life for officers. He added that it all stems around the schedule for how they work. He stated that basically what they are doing today is that they have three shifts which are permanent and they don't rotate between those shifts. He explained that with this, it rotates within each shift and there are three rotations so the officers are working 8.5 hours per day and they work 4 days on with 2 days off and with that extra half hour it balances out to where they are full-time throughout the year. He said that the old way had been a very difficult schedule for people to adjust to because they had three different shifts but they were working 8 hour days and they had to work 4 on and 2 off, 4 on and 2 off and then 5 on and 1 off and would then rotate back to those series of 4 and 2. He stated that it only allowed the officers to have a full Saturday and Sunday weekend with their families once every 7 weeks but now with the new schedule, it allows for many more weekends off to spend with their loved ones and they definitely need that to maintain their morale. He said it is a great thing and he appreciates Mr. Gibson taking it to the council to make that permanent.

**Dr. Knable** asked how many weekends it is going to from being off every 7 weekends.

**Police Chief Bailey** stated that it is every 4 now.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that he will need the council's assistance in the near future to finalize that and get it changed in the ordinance. He said that the second one has to do with the police merit commission and their job is to do the hiring by taking applications, do the screenings and do the interviews for future police officers. He stated that they are also in charge of promotions so they administer all of the tests related to promotions, review the results and then the promotion schedules are dictated and done through that. He said that they are also responsible for disciplinary action when it exceeds the authority by statute of what the chief can implement through his office. He stated that their budget has been pretty consistent and is not a lot but they have board meetings once a month and they do have a secretary that administers and takes care of the minutes and all of the other various things.

**Police Chief Bailey** stated that the police officers appoint two members to that board, the mayor's office appoints one member, the city council appoints one member and then those four combined appoint the fifth member.

**Mr. Gibson** explained that the language originally drafted for the merit commission basically indicated that they didn't want anybody that was receiving public funds to be on the board and in doing research, he found that they didn't really want someone that is actually employed by the city to be on that board. He stated that is has, however, been attempted to be construed as anybody that works for any public funds such as a teacher and they have had some teachers on there. He said that the argument was that they are receiving public funds so they should not be on there and he obviously doesn't believe that was the gist of the ordinance when it was passed so he would like to clean that up.

**Dr. Knable** asked if he is going to use language to just exclude anyone that receives an annual salary from the City of New Albany.

**Mr. Gibson** replied yes.

**Dr. Knable** asked if there would be any need for someone who has retired from the city within the previous five years or something that would give some distance from someone recently employed.

**Mr. Gibson** said that might be a good example but if they are receiving a pension, he thinks they could arguably say that they are receiving city funds so that would negate someone of that nature but that would be like a policeman obviously.

**Dr. Knable** agreed but gave the example of Mrs. Moeller who has done a great job but she retires and wants to stay involved in some way so couldn't they make it something like five years past so there is no close proximity to working with some of these folks. He then asked what the duration is of the appointment on the commission.

**Police Chief Bailey** stated that they vary from member to member by the ordinance.

**Dr. Knable** stated that he doesn't remember the council ever appointing anyone.

**Police Chief Bailey** stated that Mr. Tony Toran is the council's appointment and is the president as well and he was appointed two years ago.

**Mr. McLaughlin** stated that it may have been three years ago. He said that in his first term, he appointed him and he was re-appointed again in his last term as president or Dr. Knable's term as president.

**Mr. Gibson** moved on to the police pension and stated that it is no different from the fire pension and what he discussed last time. He said that we pay the pensioners on a monthly basis and we submit those payments that we have made to the state through the retirement program then we are reimbursed twice a year in June and December. He stated that it is run by the board and Police Chief Bailey is on that board.

**Police Chief Bailey** stated that he is the president of the board and Mr. Mike Mills is a retired police officer and he is the pension board secretary and then there are four other members. He said that there is an appointment by the mayor's office and then the police officers appoint the balance and those terms go from one to two to three years.

**Mr. Gibson** moved on to 911 Communications and stated that Police Chief Bailey has been gracious enough to take it over and help manage the operations of that department. He said that everything in this budget is pretty much the same other than a slight difference in the PERF amount.

**Police Chief Bailey** stated that the communications center is staffed by 11 full-time and 1 part-time dispatcher and is housed in the main firehouse on Spring Street. He said that he is the department head who oversees the supervisor and then the supervisor manages the staff. He explained that they dispatch all calls for service in the City of New Albany for police, fire and EMS and all 911 calls are routed through that center as well as non-emergency calls after hours.

**Mr. Turner** stated that he heard a rumor that Motorola is forcing an upgrade for the city and county for \$500,000.00 and asked if he knew anything about that.

**Police Chief Bailey** stated that he had a representative contact him from one of their competitors he believes and they are no longer going to support some of the hardware for some of the infrastructure that they currently have. He said that the bottom line is that it really doesn't require a mandatory or quick upgrade but he thinks eventually it will be a conversation that they will have to have with regard to radio technology improving continuously. He stated that they are going to stop supporting certain hardware pieces but he doesn't believe that our system is imminently in jeopardy at this point in time. He said fortunately the person that brought this to his attention is also a friend and he wasn't trying to sell him anything but just wanted to let him know that somewhere down the road they will have to look at some upgrades but he doesn't believe it will be a 2021 thing.

**Mr. Turner** asked if this would be a good opportunity to think about merging county and city communications systems into one so we can all save a little money.

**Police Chief Bailey** stated not in his view. He said that our system operates independently and operates very well and he doesn't believe that a unified center would operate well and he can state that from talking to every police officer that works in Clark County. He stated that their system is convoluted and difficult and he is surprised that they haven't had an incident as a result of it. He added that by statute, we are required to have two centers within our county and we are Center 1 and they are Center 2 so it works very well.

**Mr. Turner** stated that he did want to thank his communications team because they are the unsung heroes in the city and county because they are taking phone calls from people on their worst days.

**Police Chief Bailey** stated that they are good people and he appreciates him saying that.

**Mr. Applegate** stated that he stopped by the center and saw their workspace in the firehouse and asked if there is any way to look into the desks that raise and lower to just kind of allow them to move a little bit since they can't leave their stations.

**Police Chief Bailey** stated that he will talk to the communications supervisor and see what they are requesting and what their needs are and go from there.

**Mr. Blair** stated that he appreciates that group and has had the opportunity to go to their center as well and watch them do their jobs which can be very stressful at times. He also stated that he is a member of the police committee on the council and he has taken calls from and talked to some of the dispatchers and he has heard the same thing as Mr. Applegate as far as furniture and specifically chairs. He said that he would like to add funds to this budget to improve their working desks and seating situation because he thinks it would be a morale booster. He asked if it would be possible to add funds to the budget for that.

**Police Chief Bailey** stated that they did look into some furniture upgrades as far as desks but they have continued to purchase new chairs that have high backs and are comfortable for long-term seating. He said that they also invested in a conference table/dining room table and some new appliances and things like that. He stated that the desks are big dollar items so he would have to speak with Mr. Gibson to see if there is any money available to purchase those.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that they are having a committee meeting soon to discuss that item and get the ideas together. He said sometimes they may not be able to go out and buy all of them at once but there are ways to work things into the budget to at least buy things over a period of time.

**Dr. Knable** stated that there is a legitimate reason to reconfigure that space which would be social distancing and he would pursue using some of the CARES money on that.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that is a good idea. He stated that things had been going well until this year and COVID-19. He said that they tried to start to budget and move some of 911 Communications' expenses back over to the budget again but at the end of the day, we have a pot money to use to provide the services that we have to do. He said that 911 originally started in the general fund numerous years ago and unfortunately needed to be moved to EDIT and has been there for years. He stated that this year in the budget we were slowly trying to move that over but COVID-19 said hello to us and made those adjustments different. He said that the difference between those is the way we ultimately fund them and he will go through a little bit of the funding. He also said that he gave projections on those other funds and he also gave the income numbers on those earlier. He stated that is the main difference that you see in this budget versus last year.

**Mr. Turner** asked what contractual services are.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that would be to hire an engineer if we need one to go evaluate a situation or if we need to hire a financial expert here or there to look at something. He said that it can also be used for something like if a sign gets knocked down and it needs to be fixed really quick and we can't get our crew out to fix it in time.

**Mr. Turner** asked about other services.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that they use that mainly for equipment and mostly for IT stuff.

**Mr. Turner** stated that in 2020, they've only used about 1% of the travel budget and in 2019, they only used about 5% so there is a place that we can maybe move some things around. He then asked what quality of life services are.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that would be the concert series at Bicentennial Park, part of the July 3<sup>rd</sup> events, Trunk or Treat or any other community type events. He added that obviously we have not been able to implement those events this year.

**Mr. Turner** stated that in 2019 we were about \$100,000.00 under budget and then obviously this year we are \$150,000.00 under budget. He said that he thinks that would be a great place to cut some monies and put into a rainy day or something like that.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that along with the packet he sent out LIT, LRS, Rainy Day and River Boat projections. He said that is a spreadsheet that he put together several years ago to allow him internally to look forward and take a snapshot. He stated that he projected out to 2025 which most governments that he usually works with do not do that and Mr. Blair finally got him to do it.

**Mr. Blair** stated that he really appreciates it and Mr. Gibson did a great job on it and is very useful.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that it really helps him too. He started with rainy day and said at the end of the year it should have a balance of \$666,000.00 in it and we don't budget anything in that and it is obviously used for various things that the council may consider an emergency. He said that he doesn't perceive any need for that from an operational standpoint or anything next year. He then moved on to local roads and streets (LRS) and stated that is exactly what it is for. He said it could be to help supplement a large project if necessary or to do smaller projects here or there that are needed. He stated that he did put together a history on each of the funds that get an

income so that you can see what we have received in the past and what projections he used for the future. He said the average for LRS for about the last several years has been about \$700,000.00 and it went up in 2018, 2019 and 2020 so the state did start funding it a little bit more, however, the projection he has for next year is \$574,000.00. He added that the projection he has for this year is \$693,000.00.

**Mr. Caesar** asked if \$1,107,425.00 is the river boat funds available right now or at the end of the year.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that the income projected this year is \$500,000.00 so an estimated balance after expenses and everything else, it is about \$77,000.00 at the end of the year which is at the very bottom on page 6.

**Mr. Turner** stated that on page 9 there is a line item under capital outlays of tree implementation plan in the amount of \$100,000.00 and asked if that is different from the \$90,000.00 that the plan commission has.

**Mr. Gibson** replied yes and asked Mr. Turner to hold onto that question and he will come back to it. He then stated that he wanted to go through river boat income wise and said that the average estimate has been about \$901,000.00 over that 10-year timespan and obviously we are not going to get \$901,000.00. He said that he took an 80% factor just to be safe and \$721,000.00 is 80% of what that average would be so for next year he just estimated hopefully \$700,000.00. He also said that page 8 gives a history of what we have received in the past.

**Mr. Applegate** stated that he asked in the first session whether the sports gaming is going to add a silo of money because that could really adjust these numbers.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that the money we usually get is based upon admissions so he doesn't think that if they do great on their off-site betting would translate into more money for us but if they get more people going because of that then it would.

**Dr. Knable** stated regardless of who the owner has been, is or may be down the road, the foundation will give X number of percent to local governments and asked if that is correct.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that he believes he is correct.

**Mr. Blair** stated that he has looked into it and Dr. Knable is absolutely right because it was part of the development agreement to have the casino here locally so it is by state law.

**Mr. Gibson** then went back to Mr. Turner's question and said that he had actually removed the tree implementation plan from planning and zoning due to trying to make his budgets work and put it over here so that's why you see the \$100,000.00 there. He said that he forgot to take \$90,000.00 out of planning and zoning.

**Mr. Turner** stated that he was looking at the budget to actual and Scribner Place doesn't look like they have used any of the \$239,798.00 for two years.

**Mrs. Moeller** stated that they don't pay that until the end of the year.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that he doesn't have police cars budgeted but he does think that is a priority and he would like to but feels that is a discussion that needs to be had between the committee and the chief as we move forward. He said that they do have it budgeted for this year but those will be purchased later in the year. He asked that the committee take a good look at cars with Police Chief Bailey and see what is necessary. He said that his thought process right now is that we haven't had any cars totaled and replaced or anything like that so they will make an order for the cars and get them late in the year and that will hopefully carry through all of next year and we won't have to worry about budgeting for them.

**Mr. Turner** stated that there are two fire engines that are getting old.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that as the fire committee gets together, they need to look at all of the options available. He said that we did finance a ladder truck several years ago and we did finally get it paid off last year so there are various ways to do things if we get on the same page and make sure we are walking down the right path.

**Mr. McLaughlin** stated that the \$390,000.00 for police cars is not last year's allocation so is that what we are projecting next year.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that is this year's.

**Mr. Blair** stated that he thinks they are going to be looking at doing some kind of financing for fire equipment and the good thing is that the life of that equipment is long-term so you can pay it off well before it depreciates and governments can borrow money at a very low interest rate especially in this economy.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that Mr. Blair is right that the rates are very low so if the committee can nail down what we are talking about along with the administration and the chief's staff, that allows he and Mrs. Moeller to look at what is available to us.

**Mr. Blair** stated that he appreciates Mr. Gibson continuing to have money for paving in there. He said that he has \$1.5M which he thinks is substantial and will allow us to get quite a bit of work done. He stated that it also puts us in the position that if they keep the Community Crossings Grant going next year, we will have matching funds available to be eligible for that grant. He added that it could be that other cities don't have the funding available so that may put us in a better position to receive more money from the state through that match.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that we have been fortunate and hopefully we will continue to be. He said that Mr. Christmas and Clark Dietz do a good job of putting that package together.

**Mr. Blair** asked what our obligation is going to be next year on the current city-county building as we move to the city hall.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that he can hopefully give an update in about a week and a half because the building authority hired a new attorney and he has a meeting with him coming up to talk about all of those various things.

**Mr. Blair** stated that obviously we need to get out from under that as quickly as possible and move to the new building.

**Mr. Gibson** agreed. He then stated that when he did his projections, he showed getting through the COVID-19 period which is not just this year but will unfortunately be 2021 and probably 2022 to some effect from an income standpoint. He said that once through the COVID-19 period, you can see that he is using a 5.18 percentage rate for growth per year and that's just based upon a 10-year average. He then moved on to the last couple of pages of the packet and said they are summary sheets so you can see what is available. He said that it is a quick reference versus trying to dig through all of the other sheets.

**Dr. Knable** stated that he would like to reiterate something that Mr. Turner eluded to. He said any unspent money on this budget because of things that weren't able to be implemented because of COVID-19, he would like to see us be able to make an allocation to rainy day fund because he thinks we are going to need it coming up.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that they are trying to look at how much money we have available and the good thing about the general fund is that if the cash comes in and it doesn't get spent, it doesn't go away. He said that it gets used in the cash balances for next year's budgets.

**Mr. Blair** stated that we do need to look at areas where we can maybe reallocate or prioritize differently. He said that he would still like to see if there is anyway possible to give a wage increase to the employees or possibly do a stipend using our current cash balances. He added that there are things that we had savings on this year due to the pandemic. He also added that the cost of living keeps going up and inflation keeps rising.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that he did take that to heart after the last session and that is one of the things that he is working on. He agrees that that he would like to keep the employees motivated and be able to give them a raise if possible.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

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Bob Caesar, President

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Vicki Glotzbach, City Clerk