

**MEETING MINUTES**  
***Monroe County Income Tax Council***  
***Public Safety Local Income Tax Committee***

***City Council Chambers***  
**Bloomington City Hall, 401 N. Morton Street, Bloomington, Indiana**  
**August 10, 2017**  
**6:30pm**

Allison Chopra called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL

Committee Members Present: Allison Chopra (Bloomington Common Council), Susan Sandberg (Bloomington Common Council), Isabel Piedmont-Smith (Bloomington Common Council), Dorothy Granger (Bloomington Common Council), Ryan Cobine (Monroe County Council), Cheryl Munson (Monroe County Council), Scott Oldham (Ellettsville Town Council), Lois Purcell (Stinesville Town Council)

Staff Present: Dan Sherman (Council Attorney/Administrator, City of Bloomington), Michael Flory (Council Attorney, Monroe County), Stacy Jane Rhoads (Deputy Council Attorney/Administrator, City of Bloomington)

2. AGENDA SUMMATION

Ms. Chopra gave a summary of the agenda.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE MONROE COUNTY LOCAL INCOME TAX COUNCIL

Ms. Chopra noted that a few committee members would be making a presentation to the committee. She said there would be an opportunity for public comment before any final vote.

Mr. Cobine explained that he and Ms. Munson had prepared certain information and spreadsheets to allow the committee to have a good view of the status quo of PS-LIT funding, as well as certain possible outcomes for funding levels in 2018. He said the Estimated PS-LIT Allocations for 2018 spreadsheet (scenarios spreadsheet) (attached as Exhibit 1) could be edited in real time to provide a view of how different decisions would affect the entire picture.

Ms. Munson added that her goal in helping design the scenarios spreadsheet was to allow the committee to see how much it would like to spend for dispatch, a proposed communications project, the townships, and the incorporated entities. She said she had used 2017 funding levels as a baseline, but had then calculated various options that had been proposed or discussed by the committee. She said the scenarios spreadsheet could be updated in real time so that the committee could see how one funding decision would affect funding levels for other things.

Mr. Cobine said that row 8 of the scenarios spreadsheet displayed the percentage of PS-LIT funds that went to the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP or dispatch). He said there was nothing special about the 2017 percentage of funds, nor would there be anything special about the percentage for 2018. Rather, he said that the committee should look at the dollar amount needed to fund certain requests, and those decisions would lead to a percentage. He said the percentage allocated to PSAP in 2017 had become a benchmark when thinking about 2018 funding levels, but he thought it should not necessarily serve as such.

Mr. Sherman pointed out a discrepancy between the scenarios spreadsheet provided by Mr. Cobine and Ms. Munson and certain figures provided previously by Jeffrey Underwood, Controller, City of Bloomington. He cautioned total reliance on the figures in the scenario spreadsheet. Mr. Cobine said the figures included in the scenario spreadsheet came from the certified levy, but could be checked.

Ms. Piedmont-Smith and Ms. Munson clarified a formula contained within the spreadsheet. Ms. Chopra suggested that the committee should use the scenarios spreadsheet as a tool to inform the discussion without relying absolutely on the figures in it.

Ms. Munson and Mr. Cobine further explained the numbers and factors that went into the scenarios spreadsheet. Ms. Munson noted that she had also helped prepare another sheet titled PS LIT 2018 Scenarios and Options (fire and EMS spreadsheet) (attached as Exhibit 2). She said the fire and EMS spreadsheet listed the populations and levies of the various townships to help provide context for funding decisions. It also listed the funding requests for each township along with the priorities for each request.

#### A. PSAP Tax Rate for 2018

Ms. Chopra said the committee would entertain motions from committee members for funding recommendations.

Ms. Piedmont-Smith asked for clarification on what was meant by PSAP tax rate. Mr. Sherman explained the committee would settle on a dollar amount for PSAP, which would allow the rate to be calculated from the known number. Ms. Piedmont-Smith confirmed that the motions would therefore be for a specific dollar amount committee members thought should be allocated to PSAP. Ms. Chopra said yes.

Mr. Oldham moved and it was seconded to recommend allocating \$2,875,185 to PSAP (see column highlighted in yellow in Exhibit 1). He explained that the items requested by dispatch were desperately needed and pointed out that the dispatch center served the entire county. He said the proposed communications project would also serve the entire county. He said dispatch deserved the funding it required to ensure emergency services started off appropriately.

Ms. Piedmont-Smith said the dollar amount requested for radios seemed to be inflated by at least \$150,000 over what was estimated to be needed. She said that during the previous year, the committee agreed that the Washington Township fire department, as part of Northern Monroe fire territory, should have been funded but there had not been a mechanism to do so. She still believed it was an important proposal to fund, so she wanted to fund that in 2018. She also thought there was a need to consolidate township fire departments and districts to gain efficiencies. She said consolidation was already occurring with Northern Monroe and Perry-Clear Creek. She suggested funding only those two departments in the hopes of encouraging other departments to consolidate. She wanted to allocate \$50,000 to Northern Monroe and wanted to fund positions that received funding the previous year in Perry Clear-Creek. She said those two things would cost \$144,560. She thought the committee could afford that cost because the request for the radios was more than it needed to be and because the PS-LIT revenue was more than the committee originally thought it would be.

Ms. Sandberg said she supported Mr. Oldham's motion. She understood why dispatch had proposed the amount it did for the radios, which was to ensure that the communications project could be completed even if the radios cost more than projected. She said the committee was not bound to think about things the same way it had the previous year. She saw the communications project proposal as a county-wide good, which she thought deserved to be funded.

Mr. Cobine said he was not in support of Mr. Oldham's motion. One reason was that the proposed communications project had a two-year funding scheme built in. He said things could change year to year and it did not make sense to commit to a multi-year project. He said his more substantive reason for not supporting the motion was that most of the fire and EMS providers had stated that they supported the communications project goals, but thought those goals could be accomplished in a way that was more beneficial to each department. Mr. Cobine said that the townships had essentially committed to the goals of the communications project through other funding, and suggested that the committee should listen to what the townships stated were their funding priorities for the PS-LIT funds.

Ms. Granger said she supported Mr. Oldham's motion. She agreed with Ms. Piedmont-Smith regarding the need to fund the Washington Township project. She was unsure how best to accomplish that funding priority. Mr. Cobine suggested she could move to amend Mr. Oldham's motion. Ms. Granger asked Mr. Oldham if he could support a friendly amendment to his motion. Mr. Oldham said he could not support taking any funding from the amount requested by dispatch.

Ms. Piedmont-Smith said it was a false dichotomy to say that the committee had to either support the dispatch communications project or the township fire departments. She said the committee could do both, but said it should not do so at a cost to the city or county funds. She said she did not understand why there was such an overestimation for the cost of the radios. She said the part of Washington Township that would be served by the proposed fire station was not safe, and PS-LIT revenue was an important funding mechanism for that project. She said it made sense to her to decrease the amount going to PSAP just a little so that the committee could fund some of the requests.

Ms. Sandberg said she did not see the issue as a dichotomy. She said she saw the communications project as central to benefitting the entire community and all of the affected entities. She said much had changed for her since the previous year. She recognized that all of the incorporated entities were facing public safety challenges, but said everyone would benefit from having a unified dispatch system that would make communications more clear and reduce response times. She said she trusted dispatch to know how much was needed for the project. She supported consolidation efforts of township departments. She believed the committee should avoid funding salaries if possible, and thought an evaluation of the criteria used by the committee might have been in order. She fully supported the dispatch proposal.

Mr. Cobine pointed out that Mr. Oldham's motion was the only proposal that would result in less money for the City of Bloomington. He said he did not understand the hesitation in using PS-LIT revenue to fund salaries, as it was a major funding stream that, while finite, was not likely to go away all at once. He said the city's self-imposed restriction on using PS-LIT funding for salaries should not color how all of the other fund recipients used the funds or how the committee made its decisions.

Ms. Granger said she supported Mr. Oldham's motion. She thought consolidation and collaboration between township fire departments was important. She liked the long range vision of the communications project.

Ms. Chopra invited public comment.

Vicky Sorensen, Indian Creek Township Trustee, spoke about the needs of her department and how the PS-LIT funding could be used to fund salaries.

Rita Barrow, Van Buren Township Trustee, echoed Ms. Sorensen's comments and said that the townships were working toward consolidation.

Ms. Chopra invited final committee comment on Mr. Oldham's motion.

Ms. Sandberg believed the reason the tax council had previously agreed to support an increase in the income tax was to support dispatch. It was her understanding that the townships would then be able to apply for funding, and that process would play out like a competitive grant. She said funding dispatch was her primary concern, as it benefited everyone in the community.

Ms. Munson said she liked to think she had the greater community good in mind when she made proposals. She thought there was an overestimation for the cost of the radios, and thought townships should utilize grants, when able, to help purchase such equipment instead of using PS-LIT funds. She said she would prefer to reduce the amount proposed to go to dispatch by \$400,000, which would allow the committee to fund some of the township requests.

Mr. Oldham said many of the township departments had talked about consolidation, which was good. He cautioned the committee against spending money on things that might not be useful or needed once that consolidation took place. He said the new dispatch positions were desperately needed. He said funding those positions and the communications project would be a step in the right direction.

Mr. Cobine and Ms. Chopra clarified a matter of procedure.

Mr. Cobine moved and it was seconded to amend Mr. Oldham's motion by reducing the recommended allocation to PSAP by \$144,560 (for a total allocation to PSAP of \$2,730,625).

Ms. Chopra said she felt that Mr. Cobine's motion was unfair and she was not in support of it.

Ms. Piedmont-Smith saw Mr. Cobine's motion as a win-win scenario. It would allow PSAP to pursue the communications project, while also allowing for funding to go to certain township proposals. Ms. Piedmont-Smith pointed out that, if the estimates were low, dispatch could request additional funds the following year. At that point, she said, the township consolidation efforts would be further along and townships might require less funding. She said she was strongly in support of Mr. Cobine's proposal.

Mr. Cobine said he did not intend to disrespect the original motion on the floor. He said if his motion failed the committee would still be able to vote on Mr. Oldham's original motion.

The motion to amend received a roll call vote of Ayes: 3 (Munson, Cobine, Piedmont-Smith), Nays: 4, Abstain: 0. FAILED

Mr. Cobine said he assumed the unamended motion on the table would pass. He reminded the committee that it was voting on a recommendation to send to the rate-setting body, the Monroe County Local Income Tax Council. He said whatever recommendation was forwarded would need to be persuasive and make sense to the members comprising that Council.

The motion to recommend allocating \$2,875,185 to the Public Safety Answering Point received a roll call vote of Ayes: 4, Nays: 3 (Munson, Cobine, Piedmont-Smith), Abstain: 0.

Ms. Chopra said the proposal was fair and equitable. She said the PSAP Board that had created the proposal represented the county as a whole. She said the funds would be used for equipment and additional dispatchers that would be beneficial to the entire county.

## B. Distributions to Townships/Providers for 2018

Ms. Granger moved and it was seconded to recommend allocating \$50,000 to the Northern Monroe County Fire Protection Territory for acquisition and construction of a fire station per the application. She said the committee was disappointed the previous year when it had intended to fund the project but was unable to do so. She said her motion was intended to make up for that.

Ms. Sandberg asked whether the proposed allocation would reduce the remaining funds for the incorporated entities that received PS-LIT funds. Ms. Chopra said yes. Mr. Sherman clarified which project Ms. Granger had proposed funding.

Ms. Piedmont-Smith said that allocating the \$50,000 would mean an even greater reduction in the amounts going to the incorporated entities. While she thought the PSAP budget could be reduced to allow for such allocations, she was much more hesitant to allocate money that would reduce the amounts going to the city, county, and Ellettsville.

Ms. Chopra said the townships were already receiving a larger portion of PS-LIT funds through the communications project than they received the previous year.

Mr. Cobine displayed the proposed funding scenario on the scenarios spreadsheet.

Ms. Sandberg asked what would happen with the funds allocated to dispatch if the laptops did not cost the full amount requested. Ms. Munson said any remaining funds would go into a special fund set up for capital improvements. Mr. Cobine provided additional detail on the matter.

Ms. Chopra called for public comment on the motion.

Jason Moore, Fire Chief, City of Bloomington, explained that the proposed allocation would reduce the city's fire or police budget.

The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 3 (Cobine, Granger, Munson), Nays: 4, Abstain: 0. FAILED

## C. PS LIT Tax Rate for 2018

Mr. Sherman explained that the tax rate would be derived from the committee's decisions that had been made throughout the course of the meeting. He noted there was \$4,973,794 remaining that would be allocated proportionally to the four political subdivisions.

## 4. OTHER BUSINESS AND FINAL COMMENTS

Mr. Sherman and committee members discussed the process for approving minutes of the committee's meetings.

Ms. Munson moved and it was seconded to review and approve minutes by distributing them to committee members, allowing for a period of review, submitting changes to the chair, allowing the chair to incorporate changes, and allowing the chair to approve the minutes as amended or corrected. The motion was approved by voice vote.

Ms. Piedmont-Smith and Mr. Sherman clarified the portions of the PS-LIT revenue that would be distributed to PSAP and to the incorporated entities.

Ms. Piedmont-Smith thanked the committee members and representatives from the townships and fire districts.

Ms. Sandberg said the decisions the committee had to make were not easy, but she felt comfortable with the results. She thanked those involved in public safety for the work they did. She recognized the strains that public safety officials faced, and said she was happy to fund purchases that would help create a more uniform and standardized system that would help all residents.

Mr. Cobine thanked his fellow committee members and said he appreciated staff that had helped the committee stay organized. He also thanked the applicants for their work. He also said that he had prepared an additional spreadsheet that was not discussed, to show year-over-year spending on public safety. He said he was disappointed because he felt the committee did not listen to some of the stakeholders.

Ms. Munson thanked the committee members, staff, and those who had made presentations. She said she knew the township departments were disappointed, and she was disappointed as well. She was concerned that the radios to be purchased might not have service in all parts of the county. She hoped those involved would ensure that the purchased radios would be usable for everyone.

Ms. Pursell said it was a shame that there was not more money to distribute, and looked forward to the future when the committee might be able to fund more of the requests from the township departments.

Mr. Sherman explained the next steps the Monroe County Local Income Tax Council would be taking. Ms. Piedmont-Smith asked for information regarding the timeline by which the members of the Tax Council would need to act. Mr. Sherman said the Tax Council would need to act before the end of October. Ms. Piedmont-Smith asked whether each member of the Tax Council simply voted yes or no on the Committee's recommendations or whether there could be changes made by the Tax Council. Mr. Sherman said the committee's recommendations would be forwarded to the members of the Tax Council and it would be up to those members how to act.

## 5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

# **Spreadsheets and Information**

**Provided by**

**Cm. Cobine and Cm. Munson**



**This workbook contains three spreadsheets to aid the committee in arriving at a recommendation for the Income Tax Council:**

(1) PSLIT Scenarios

We demonstrate several key options, using the only year we have for comparison, 2017, as a baseline.

Variables such as how much goes to the Dispatch Twp Comms project and toward Fire/EMS units may be changed to see additional options.

The funding available to the county, city, and towns under each scenario is displayed at the bottom, along with differences relative to 2017.

(2) Fire-EMS Allocation Options

We provide context for evaluating various allocation options to the Fire/EMS units applying for PSLIT funds again for 2018.

Two allocation options are offered, but this sheet makes adding other variations possible, too.

(3) CostPerDispatcher

This is just a helper calculation.

We calculate the dollar cost, based on Central Dispatch's submitted proposal, of one dispatcher FTE.

This value, named Cost\_per\_Dispatcher, is used in calculations on the PSLIT Scenarios sheet.

<i>Estimated PSLIT Allocations for 2018</i> <i>Cheryl Munson</i> <i>Ryan Cobine</i>	2017 PSLIT Precedent 25 Dispatch FTEs 5.2% Fire/EMS	(0) Follow 2017 Precedent "Stay the Course" 25 Dispatch FTEs 5.2% Fire/EMS	(1) 2018 Dispatch Request +6 Dispatchers +\$800K Comms -0- Fire/EMS	(2) 2018 Dispatch Request +6 Dispatchers +\$0 Comms 5.2% Fire/EMS	(3) 2018 Dispatch Request +4 Dispatchers +\$0 Comms 5.2% Fire/EMS	(4) 2018 Dispatch Request +4 Dispatchers 12.5% Comms 3.9% Fire/EMS	(5) 2018 Dispatch Request +4 Dispatchers 12.5% Comms 3.9% Fire/EMS
TOTAL: PSLIT at 0.25%	7,527,404	7,848,979	7,848,979	7,848,979	7,848,979	7,848,979	7,848,979
PSAP Less Twp Communications	2,182,947	2,276,204	2,075,185	2,075,185	1,941,823	1,941,823	1,941,823
% PSAP of Total PS LIT	29.0%	29.0%	26.4%	26.4%	24.7%	24.7%	24.7%
LIT available AFTER PSAP	5,344,457	5,572,775	5,773,794	5,773,794	5,907,156	5,907,156	5,907,156
Proposed Twp Communications via Dispatch	\$0	\$0	\$800,000	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000
TOTAL: PSAP + Twp Communications	\$2,182,947	\$2,276,204	\$2,875,185	\$2,075,185	\$1,941,823	\$2,041,823	\$2,041,823
% of PSLIT to PSAP Overall	29.0%	29.0%	36.6%	26.4%	24.7%	26.0%	26.0%
TOTAL: Funding for Fire/EMS Requests	\$ 391,560	\$ 407,082	\$ -	\$ 407,082	\$ 407,082	\$ 307,082	\$ 407,082
% of PSLIT Funding Fire/EMS Requests	5.2%	5.2%	0.0%	5.2%	5.2%	3.9%	5.2%
Twp Comms + Funded Twp Requests	391,560	407,082	800,000	407,082	407,082	407,082	507,082
TOTAL: County/City/Towns Distribution	4,952,897	5,165,693	4,973,794	5,366,712	5,500,074	5,500,074	5,400,074
% of PSLIT to County/City/Towns	65.8%	65.8%	63.4%	68.4%	70.1%	70.1%	68.8%
County @ 45.04% Share for 2018	\$2,216,625	\$2,327,145	\$2,240,694	\$2,417,704	\$2,477,783	\$2,477,783	\$2,432,733
County change from 2017 (@ 44.75%)		\$110,520	\$24,069	\$201,079	\$261,158	\$261,158	\$216,108
Bloomington @ 51.96% Share for 2018	\$2,587,395	\$2,684,094	\$2,584,383	\$2,788,544	\$2,857,839	\$2,857,839	\$2,805,879
City Change from 2017 (@ 52.24%)		\$96,699	(\$3,012)	\$201,149	\$270,444	\$270,444	\$218,484
Ellettsville @ 2.98% Share for 2018	\$147,964	\$153,938	\$148,219	\$159,928	\$163,902	\$163,902	\$160,922
Ellettsville change from 2017 (@ 2.99%)		\$5,974	\$255	\$11,964	\$15,938	\$15,938	\$12,958
Stinesville @ 0.02% Share	\$914	\$1,073	\$1,073	\$1,073	\$1,073	\$1,073	\$1,073
Stinesville change from 2017 (@ 0.02%)		\$159	\$159	\$159	\$159	\$159	\$159

Exhibit 1

Eligible Fire/EMS Unit	Total Unit Request	Population			Levy			Priorities							Recommendations			Notes
		2015 Est <sup>(1)</sup>	% Pop Eligible Units	Pop-based Allocation	2017 Levy <sup>(2)</sup>	% Levy Eligible Units	Levy Allocation	#1 Description	#1	#2 Description	#2	#3 Description	#3	Total	Alpha	Bravo	Charlie	
Bean Blossom	\$ 118,540	2848	7%	\$ 20,199	\$ 118,140	2.7%	\$ 8,169	Turnout gear	\$ 25,000	Station repair	\$ 15,000	Storage shell	\$ 10,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 15,000		
Benton	\$ 65,824	3527	8%	\$ 25,018	\$ 320,714	7.2%	\$ 22,176	SCBA	\$ 65,824	-	\$ -	-	\$ -	\$ 65,824	\$ 25,000	\$ 32,000		
Indian Creek	\$ 61,300	1713	4%	\$ 12,151	\$ 75,336	1.7%	\$ 5,209	FF/EMTs	\$ 14,050	FF/EMTs	\$ 14,050	-	\$ -	\$ 28,100	\$ 14,000	\$ 18,000		
Perry-Clear Creek FPD	\$ 283,679	18033	42%	\$ 127,915	\$ 1,628,805	36.7%	\$ 112,622	FF/EMTs	\$ 263,520	Benefits	\$ 16,338	Benefits	\$ 3,821	\$ 283,679	\$ 150,000	\$ 180,000		
Van Buren	\$ 276,500	10406	24%	\$ 73,813	\$ 1,790,834	40.3%	\$ 123,826	Radios		FF/EMTs	\$ 126,000	Benefits	\$ 72,000	\$ 198,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 80,000		
Northern Monroe Fire Territory	\$ 97,500	6753	16%	\$ 47,901	\$ 506,167	11.4%	\$ 34,999	Wash Twp FF	\$ 50,000	SCBA	\$ 22,500	Outfitting app	\$ 25,000	\$ 97,500	\$ 66,000	\$ 82,000	+ radios @ \$72,000	
<b>Total in Eligible Twps</b>	<b>\$ 903,343</b>	<b>43280</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$ 306,997</b>	<b>\$ 4,439,996</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$ 307,000</b>		<b>\$ 418,394</b>		<b>\$ 193,888</b>		<b>\$ 110,821</b>	<b>\$ 723,103</b>	<b>\$ 307,000</b>	<b>\$ 407,000</b>		
<b>Total Unit Options</b>																		
	\$307,000	Dispatch Twps Communications Project: \$100K (Option 4)																
	\$407,000	Dispatch Twps Communications Project: \$0 (Options 0, 2, 3)																
	\$407,000	Dispatch Twps Communications Project: \$100K (Option 5)																
(1) 2015 Data from <a href="http://www.stats.indiana.edu/index.asp">http://www.stats.indiana.edu/index.asp</a>																		
(2) DLGF 2017 Certified Levies Memo																		

Exhibit 2

PSLIT 2018 Scenarios and Options

Line #	Proposed 2018 Dispatchers (+6)
51110	\$222,000
Raises	\$32,530
Specialty pay	\$4,200
51210	\$19,564
51220	\$36,149
51230	\$85,644
TOTAL	\$400,087
Cost per Dispatcher	\$66,681.17