

**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**  
**July 31, 2018**

Scott Oldham called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL

Committee members present: Susan Sandberg (Bloomington Common Council), Isabel Piedmont-Smith (Bloomington Common Council), Dorothy Granger (Bloomington Common Council), Shelli Yoder (Monroe County Council), Cheryl Munson (Monroe County Council), Scott Oldham (Ellettsville Town Council), Lois Purcell (Stinesville Town Council), Jim Sims (Bloomington Common Council)

Committee members absent: None

Staff present: Dan Sherman (Council Attorney/Administrator, City of Bloomington), Jeff Schemmer (Communications Manager, Monroe County Central Emergency Dispatch), Jeffrey Underwood (Controller, City of Bloomington), Michael Rouker (City Attorney, City of Bloomington), Jason Moore (Fire Chief, City of Bloomington), Michael Diekhoff (Police Chief, City of Bloomington), Michael Flory (Monroe County Council Attorney)

2. AGENDA SUMMATION

Oldham gave a summary of the agenda.

3. PRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBER-JURISDICTIONS REGARDING THEIR NEEDS ASSOCIATED WITH PUBLIC SAFETY LOCAL INCOME TAX REVENUES

A. City of Bloomington

Moore reviewed the City of Bloomington fire department's ten-year capital plan, along with the department's 2019 capital needs. He said that the department needed to replace truck #2 in 2019 at an approximate cost of \$1.1 million. He explained that in the coming years the department also hoped to replace an engine pumper costing approximately \$530,000, to purchase a full-sized pick-up truck for \$50,000, to continue reducing EMS response times, and to reduce wear and tear on larger vehicles. He explained that the department was also responsible for purchasing \$130,000 worth of firefighting gear per a collective bargaining agreement. He reviewed the amounts needed for refreshes or remodels of various equipment. He noted that the department was planning to spend \$20,000 to update a training tower. He explained that he would like to get into a seven-year replacement schedule for fire engines. He briefly reviewed the larger items on the department's ten-year capital plan. He pointed out that recent aluminum

and steel tariffs imposed by the federal government might increase the cost of vehicles beyond what was budgeted. He said the department's ten-year capital plan totaled almost \$30 million.

Diekhoff reviewed the City of Bloomington police department's ten-year capital replacement plan. He said the department was instituting a replacement schedule for much of its equipment, starting with rifles and less-lethal rounds. He said the department was planning for the replacement of radios in patrol cars, as well as the purchase of body-worn cameras, automatic external defibrillators, and body armor. He reviewed the other capital purchases planned for 2019 as well as the major purchases planned for the following years, along with the various replacement schedules.

Piedmont-Smith asked if the \$30,000 amount listed on the police department's schedule in 2026 for handguns was accurate. Diekhoff said it was accurate and that the \$3,000 amounts listed in 2023, 2024, and 2025 were for maintenance expenses. Piedmont-Smith asked for more information about the fire department facility needed for carcinogenic equipment. Moore explained the proposed facility would be an off-site cleaning facility that would allow the department to clean carcinogens off equipment before taking the equipment back to the various stations, thus reducing staff exposure to carcinogens.

Yoder asked if Moore and Diekhoff could summarize how the 2019 requests had increased or decreased compared to 2018. Moore said the fire department's request had increased by about \$500,000. Diekhoff said the police department's request had increased by about \$200,000.

Sandberg asked how soon the city should start planning for replacing the police headquarters, which appeared on the capital replacement schedule without an assigned year. Diekhoff thought the current headquarters had a few years of use left. He said initial conversations had started about that issue.

Granger asked for more information about the mobile command post. Diekhoff said it would be a modified mobile vehicle or cargo truck containing communications equipment, meeting space, and computer equipment. He explained it would be used at locations where police needed to establish a command post presence. He said it also had the potential to serve as a backup dispatch facility.

Sims asked for information about station 3. He wondered if there had been any discussions with Indiana University (IU) or a commitment to help with funding for the station. Moore said that IU's long-range plans called for that station to be moved and that initial discussions had started. Moore explained that the property would transfer to IU if the city abandoned it, but if IU asked the city to relocate, IU would have to help pay for the new location. Sims asked if IU would help with funding for aerial trucks. Moore said discussions had happened to formalize such assistance and to put IU under contract. Moore thought the contract would cover the annual contract for service for station 3 personnel, and a contribution of approximately \$1 million for an aerial truck.

Underwood said that there were about \$47 million worth of requests for fire and police over the next ten years, but that the city only received about \$2.6 million in funding per year. He noted the city had serious needs for both police and fire departments as well as serious staffing needs at the dispatch center. He urged the committee to keep that in mind and let the funds flow to the four units of government (Monroe County, City of Bloomington, Town of Ellettsville, Town of Stinesville) that received proportionate shares of remaining public safety local income tax (PS-LIT) funds.

B. Monroe County

Flory explained the amounts requested by the Monroe County Sheriff's Office, Community Corrections, Circuit Courts, Prosecutor's Office, and Probation Department. He noted that the county often used PS-LIT funds to pay for operational costs rather than capital costs, as it had other funding sources that covered capital expenditures. He said the Sheriff's Office requested \$1,265,672 for 2019, a decrease from 2018. He said the correctional center was requesting \$364,445 for 2019, compared to \$158,405 in 2018. He said the increase was due to a request for six new correctional officers for the center. Flory explained the request was meant to address high turnover and high overtime costs at the center. He said the request for the courts was \$487,200, which included the expenses for juvenile detention. He said the Prosecutor's Office was requesting \$19,541 as compared to a request of \$9,250 in 2018. Finally, he said the Probation Department was requesting \$429,605 for 2019, as compared to \$184,883 in 2018. He said much of the increase came from electronic surveillance expenses. He said the total requested by the county departments for 2019 was \$2,566,463, which was approximately a \$125,000 increase from 2018.

Sandberg asked if a change in approach, from a punitive model to a guardian model, would help with the high turnover rate of correctional officers. Flory said the county was very focused on how to make that facility a better work environment. He said they had focused on training of officers and the physical facility itself. Munson said the jail commander, along with the Sheriff, had worked to create new inmate programs focused on reform rather than punishment. She encouraged interested citizens to tour the jail and learn about the programs. Flory added that there was also an increased focus on treatment for individuals dealing with drug addiction.

Sims noted that the PS-LIT budget was variable, while personnel expenses tended to be more fixed. He asked if personnel should be more of a budgeted item rather than paid for with a variable funding source. Flory said funding was tight across the board and that the county was always looking for alternative funding sources. He said the PS-LIT funding was not such a variable funding source that the county was concerned about paying for personnel with it.

C. Town of Ellettsville

Mike Cornman, Ellettsville Fire Chief, introduced himself. He explained that Ellettsville had moved two employees from its general fund to the PS-LIT funding in 2018. He said Ellettsville planned to do the same thing in 2019. He said the town had a \$154,733 request for 2019, which was approximately a \$2,500 increase from 2018.

Sandberg asked what the lifespan was of Ellettsville's aerial truck. Cornman said it had another nine to 11 years.

D. Town of Stinesville

Lois Purcell explained that Stinesville hoped to purchase training equipment with any funds it received.

Piedmont-Smith asked if there was an amount for the equipment. Purcell thought it would cost between \$1,500 and \$2,000.

Public Comment:

Jim Blickensdorf commented on the importance of public access to information regarding the PS-LIT. He also encouraged the committee to recommend fully funding the city's police and fire departments.

4. CONTINUED DISCUSSION IN ANTICIPATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE MONROE COUNTY LOCAL INCOME TAX COUNCIL

Sherman reviewed the estimates for PS-LIT revenues provided by the state budget agency. He explained the committee's role in making expenditure rate recommendations and the other uses of local income taxes. He reviewed the process of making recommendations for the public safety access point (PSAP) and for qualified providers. He noted that any amounts not allocated to PSAP or qualified providers was divided between the four units within Monroe County. He also told the committee it was able to recommend funding to qualified providers for purchases not requested by the providers.

Oldham suggested that the committee could recommend funding for the self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBAs) requested by some of the applicants by reorienting funding that the committee originally intended to go towards a dispatch communications project. He said there had been changes in technology and in priorities of the departments that warranted a shift in funding.

Sandberg said she supported reaching a decision that was collaborative and that helped stretch the purchasing power of everyone for the SCBAs.

The committee discussed whether it could reduce the dispatch budget to help fund the purchase of SCBAs for qualified providers. Rouker explained that money appropriated to dispatch could not be spent for non-dispatch purposes. Rouker also reminded the committee that there was a payment due for radios related to the communications project that had started that needed to be made.

Munson thought there would be leftover money in dispatch to be able to help fund the purchase of SCBAs and still make good on commitments to pay for radios.

Underwood said that any reversion money would have to be spent on capital expenditures as agreed to by the city and county.

Piedmont-Smith asked how much reversion money there was and if it was waiting to be spent. Underwood said there had been \$20,976 in unspent PSAP funds on the city side. Piedmont-Smith wondered how much reverted from the county side from 2017.

Sims said it would be simplest to simply fund PSAP and then distribute money to the four units according to distributive shares. Piedmont-Smith thought that was how the process worked according to state statute and that the committee could not change that. Sherman and Underwood clarified the process.

Yoder said she felt there was a consensus to help fund the SCBAs. She suggested that the committee begin discussing that. Oldham said he did not think it was possible within the budget constraints and how dispatch funding was able to be used. Rouker said that was correct. Yoder said dispatch had reversions in 2017 and would likely have some in 2018. She thought there had to be a way to work together to help provide funding for SCBAs. Piedmont-Smith asked if the committee could simply reduce the rate that went to PSAP to provide funding for SCBAs. Underwood cautioned against that as dispatch had substantial capital needs. He said that even if there were reversions, that money would eventually be used to replace very expensive equipment. He said the committee could not do anything about the budget for 2018, but it could ask the dispatch policy board to revisit the 2019 budget and to reduce it by some amount. He recommended that the committee follow that step if it wanted to recommend funding for SCBAs.

Sims said he would like to be able to help with SCBAs but was not sure that the process would allow for it.

Munson thought the committee was not required to request a new budget from the dispatch policy board, but rather was charged with coming up with a recommendation to the Monroe County Tax Council. She understood dispatch had important staffing needs but thought some of the capital requests could be postponed to allow the committee to recommend funding for SCBAs. She did not want to assume what items dispatch would cut if its budget were reduced, but wanted instead to hear from dispatch. However, she suggested reducing the budget by delaying funding for the training room equipment, consultants, and other items.

Sandberg asked what other funding sources were available to the townships that allowed them to make capital purchases. Cornman explained that fire departments and townships had cumulative fire funds that the townships could renew that allowed them to make major purchases. Rita Borrow, Van Buren Township Trustee, said there was a cumulative fund that could be reestablished every five years and was used for funding needs of the department. She encouraged the committee to not make any decisions until it received the answers from departments to questions the committee had posed. Munson asked for information about the cost of SCBAs. Borrow said that information had been submitted. Sherman clarified that the committee would receive that information shortly.

Oldham suggested going back to the dispatch policy board and asking if it would be possible to reduce the dispatch budget to allow the committee to help with SCBAs. He asked if that was possible. Underwood said it was. He said proceeding in that manner would better allow the dispatch policy board to look at the budget to see where, if possible, cuts could be made, and to allow the board to prioritize expenditures.

#### 5. OTHER BUSINESS AND FINAL COMMENTS

Sherman clarified questions asked by committee members that had not yet been answered. Munson asked to be provided with updated revenue estimates when the state made them available.

#### 6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.