STATE OF KANSAS)
WYANDOTTE COUNTY)) SS **SPECIAL SESSION, MONDAY, JULY 18, 2016**
CITY OF KANSAS CITY, KS)

The Unified Government Commission of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, met in special session, Monday, July 18, 2016, with eleven members present: Bynum, Commissioner At-Large First District; Walker, Commissioner At-Large Second District; Townsend, Commissioner First District; McKiernan, Commissioner Second District; Murguia, Commissioner Third District; Johnson, Commissioner Fourth District; Kane, Commissioner Fifth District; Markley, Commissioner Sixth District; Walters, Commissioner Seventh District; Philbrook, Commissioner Eighth District; and Holland, Mayor/CEO, presiding. The following officials were also in attendance: Doug Bach, County Administrator; Carol Godsil, Deputy UG Clerk; Ken Moore, Chief Legal Counsel; Melissa Mundt, Asst. County Administrator; Gordon Criswell, Asst. County Administrator; Joe Connor, Asst. County Administrator; Kathleen VonAchen, Chief Financial Officer; Debbie Jonscher, Assistant Finance Director; Reginald Lindsey, Budget Manager; Emerick Cross, Commission Liaison; Chief John Paul Jones, Fire Department; Mike Tobin, Interim Public Works Director; Jeremy Rogers, Director of Parks & Recreation; Wayne Moody, Deputy County Engineer; Budget Staff, and Officer Jake Dent, Sergeant-at-Arms.

MAYOR HOLLAND called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL: Bynum, Walker, Townsend, McKiernan, Murguia, Johnson, Kane, Markley, Walters, Philbrook, Holland.

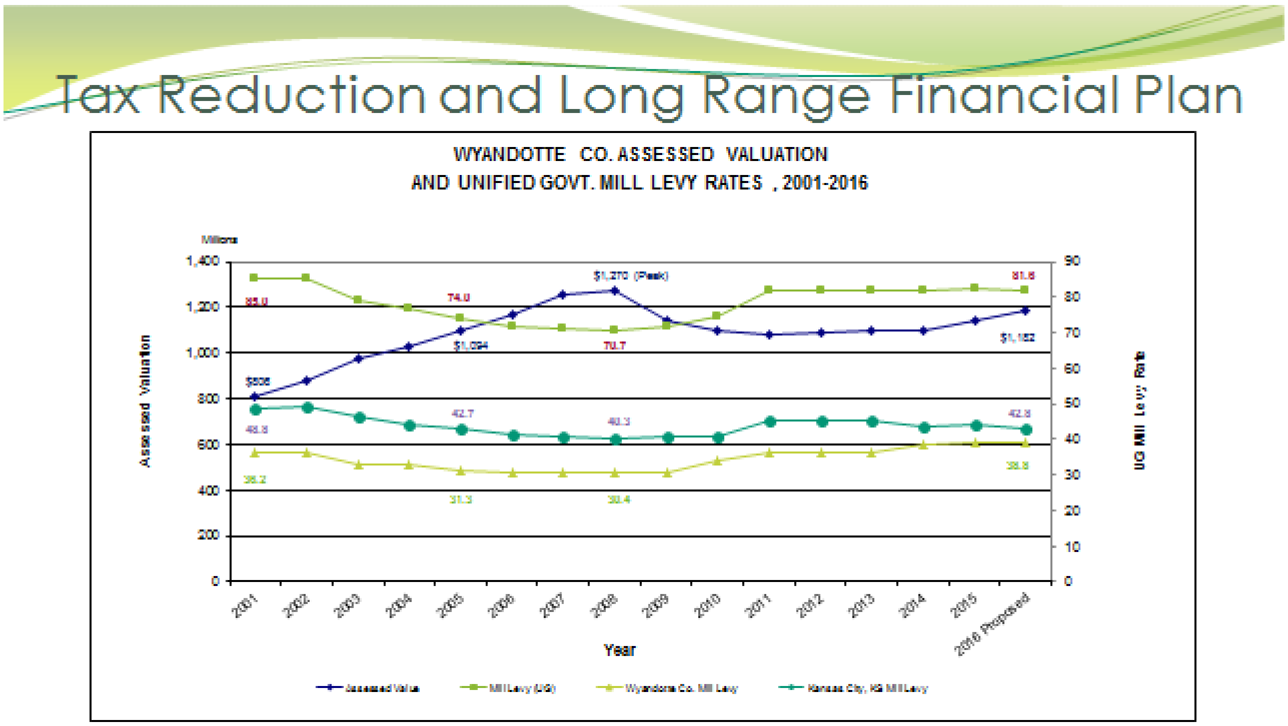
NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, to be held Monday, July 18, 2016, at 5:00 p.m. in the 5th floor conference room of the Municipal Office Building for a Budget Workshop.

CONSENT TO MEETING of the governing body of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, accepting service of the foregoing notice, waiving all and any irregularities in such service and in such notice, and consent and agree that we, the governing body, shall meet at the time and place therein specified and for the purpose therein stated.

Agenda

- Tax Reduction and Long Range Financial Plan
- CMIP for Fairfax
- Quiet Zone
- Argentine Recreation Center
- JFK Recreation Center
- Fire Station
- Courthouse Security
- Accessibility Issues for Current Parks/Public Pool
- Equipment/Personnel for Maintenance of Public Spaces (Non-Parks)

Doug Bach, County Administrator, said we broke out the agenda which we sent out to everybody between topics of tonight, publish this agenda, and then topics that we're doing Thursday night and kind of move through everything that was listed. As you can see what we have up here is an array of topics for tonight's agenda on the Tax Policy, CMIP at Fairfax, I understand that maybe we didn't want to talk as much but we published this so we do have a quick couple slides to show what we're doing, Quiet Zone, Argentine Rec Center, JFK Rec Center, Fire Station, Courthouse Security, Accessibility Issues in some of our public areas, and Equipment/Personnel for Maintenance in public spaces. I will say I believe this is a fairly aggressive agenda, but it all obviously depends on how much time we spend on each topic.

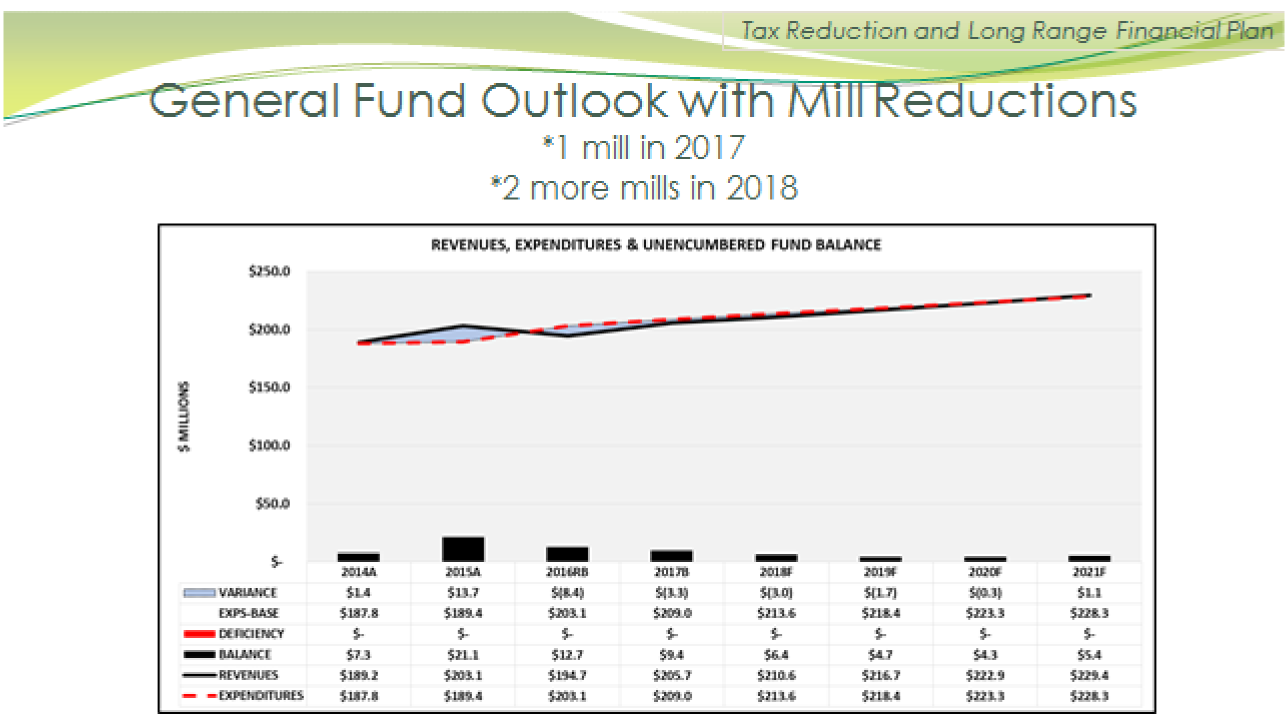


The first one is on Tax Reduction. I'm going to let Kathleen VonAchen, our CFO, talk about this but I thought as we started this discussion on Tax Policy which really I think will provide a lot of guidance on anything we might do on any other topics we have as we work through tonight and Thursday night. Having a good feel for what direction we're going to go, if we're going to change. As you all know I have built in a one mill reduction in this years' coming budget and then had proposed how we could do that to do a two more mill reduction in the following year and what impacts that will do to our bottom line. Kathleen has put together a couple of slides to kind of set the additional stage, do a little bit of going back down as we went through our Strategic Planning and show where that number comes from and then turn it over to you all to kind of kick it around from there.

Kathleen VonAchen, Chief Financial Officer, said this first slide here is a graph that many of you have seen before. We just updated it to include 2016 and it's also included in the budget message for a letter from the County Administrator. What it is is a historical view of the mill levy rates that have been assessed since 2001 so over the past 16 years or 15 years. As you can see there are actually two sets of information here. There the Assessed Value and then there is the Mill Rate. As you can see the dark blue number is the total assessed value of the County.

Just to give you a feel for the level of growth or decline over years of the value of all the property in the county, you can see in 2008 it peaked at $1.2B and then it declined when the recession hit and now it's inching up. You can see that it's been progressively increasing. It's nearly at the peak level basically at $1.2B. The other lines are the mill levy for the entire UG which would include if you lived in Kansas City, Kansas that would be the county and the city and that's the green line up on top of the chart and the total mill levy equals 81.6 mills. That 81.6 mills is broken out by city and county and those are shown on the kind of aquamarine colored line and then the green one below, 42.8 for the city and 38.8 for the county.

As the Administrator mentioned there is a one mill reduction reflected in 2017 and we expect when we do the 2018 Budget that we also propose that we will be decreasing the mill levy again to more for a total of three mills over the two year period and that's because of the new STAR Bond revenues coming in.



	2014A	2015A	2016RB	2017B	2018F	2019F	2020F	2021F
VARIANCE	$1.4	$13.7	$(8.4)	$(3.3)	$(3.0)	$(1.7)	$(0.3)	$1.1
EXPS-BASE	$187.8	$189.4	$203.1	$209.0	$213.6	$218.4	$223.3	$228.3
DEFICIENCY	$-	$-	$-	$-	$-	$-	$-	$-
BALANCE	$7.3	$21.1	$12.7	$9.4	$6.4	$4.7	$4.3	$5.4
REVENUES	$189.2	$203.1	$194.7	$205.7	$210.6	$216.7	$222.9	$229.4
EXPENDITURES	$187.8	$189.4	$203.1	$209.0	$213.6	$218.4	$223.3	$228.3

So based on that recommendation we have an overall General Fund Outlook. This is Consolidated General Funds, City/County and the Consolidated Parks and you can see that the Outlook is that given these reduced revenues we still meet our goal of matching revenues with expenditures. We have the black line which is the revenues coming in over the next five year period and then the dotted red line is the expenditures and you can see that they're both equal to each other. We're able to afford this recommended tax reduction.

Tax Reduction and Long Range Financial Plan

UNIFIED GOVT WYANDOTTE COUNTY & KANSAS CITY, KS
FINANCIAL OUTLOOK - SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS - CONSOLIDATED GENERAL FUND

	2015A	2016RB	2017B	2018F	2019F	2020F	2021F
REAL ESTATE AD VALOREM TAX	$ 66,906,147	$ 66,468,915	$ 69,435,448	$ 69,256,205	$ 71,126,123	$ 73,046,528	$ 75,018,784
				2.7%	2.7%	2.7%	2.7%
SALES TAXES	$ 37,873,105	$ 41,169,771	$ 48,161,241	$ 49,461,595	$ 50,797,058	$ 52,168,578	$ 53,577,130
				2.7%	2.7%	2.7%	2.7%
FRANCHISE TAXES	$ 38,983,372	$ 39,940,000	$ 40,515,000	$ 41,608,905	$ 42,732,345	$ 43,886,119	$ 45,071,044
				2.7%	2.7%	2.7%	2.7%
CHARGES FOR SERVICES	$ 12,898,946	$ 12,764,800	$ 12,808,300	$ 13,154,124	$ 13,509,285	$ 13,874,036	$ 14,248,635
				2.7%	2.7%	2.7%	2.7%
OTHER REVENUES & SOURCES	$ 46,451,504	$ 34,353,500	$ 34,774,379	$ 37,086,489	$ 38,499,128	$ 39,952,337	$ 41,447,274
				2.7%	2.7%	2.7%	2.7%
TOTAL REVENUES & SOURCES	$ 203,113,074	$ 194,696,986	$ 205,694,368	$ 210,567,318	$ 216,663,939	$ 222,927,598	$ 229,362,867
AGR%	7.4%	-4.1%	5.6%	2.4%	2.9%	2.9%	2.9%
PERSONNEL	$ 141,659,012	$ 144,931,652	$ 149,909,091	$ 153,207,091	$ 156,605,183	$ 160,083,260	$ 163,643,353
				2.2%	2.2%	2.2%	2.2%
SERVICES AND SUPPLIES	$ 38,716,499	$ 46,332,643	$ 49,010,423	$ 50,352,812	$ 51,731,970	$ 53,148,902	$ 54,604,644
				2.7%	2.7%	2.7%	2.7%
CAPITAL OUTLAY & TRANSFERS	$ 7,813,897	$ 10,627,013	$ 8,624,861	$ 8,624,861	$ 8,624,861	$ 8,624,861	$ 8,624,861
				0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
OTHER EXPENDITURES & USES	$ 1,174,900	$ 1,227,293	$ 1,416,913	$ 1,416,913	$ 1,416,913	$ 1,416,913	$ 1,416,913
				0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES & USES	$ 189,364,308	$ 203,118,601	$ 208,961,288	$ 213,601,677	$ 218,378,927	$ 223,273,936	$ 228,289,771
AGR%	0.9%	7.3%	2.9%	2.2%	2.2%	2.2%	2.2%
SOURCES OVER/(UNDER) USES	13,748,766	(8,421,615)	(3,266,920)	(3,034,359)	(1,714,988)	(346,338)	1,073,096
UNENCUMBERED FUND BALANCE-FYE	$ 21,128,824	$ 12,707,209	$ 9,440,289	$ 6,405,930	$ 4,690,942	$ 4,344,603	$ 5,417,699
Fund Balance % of Total Expenditures	*11.2%*	*6.3%*	*4.5%*	*3.0%*	*2.1%*	*1.9%*	*2.4%*

This slide is the assumptions for this forecast and you will see on the top part are the revenues I have broken out the larger revenues and then below are the major categories for expenditures. There are some percentage increases for each of those categories with the bottom being the Unencumbered Fund Balance. I have fiscal '15 which are actual audited numbers. 2016 shows the recommended Revised Budget for '16 and that '16 column includes the expected STAR Bond revenues we are planning to receive sometime very late in the calendar year. If we receive those revenues in '16, then we plan to use them on a variety of one-time measures as discussed in the budget letter and those are basically found in the Transfers line below, Capital Outlay & Transfers. The recommendation is to utilize roughly $4M deposited into the Consolidated General Fund to assist in reducing the deficits that have accumulated in several of our Special Revenue Funds; the Worker's Comp Fund and the Employee Health Benefits Fund among other things.

In 2017 that reflects all the STAR Bond Revenue that is to be deposited into the Consolidated General Fund although the total projected STAR Bond Revenue is $12M, roughly $3M of that is required to be deposited into the Dedicated Sales Tax Fund and the EMS Fund. What you're seeing for '17 is $9M in additional revenue and Sales Tax Revenue in '17 and the budget is built with those revenues in place. This all reflects what the County Administrator has proposed. It ends the year with an Unencumbered Balance of roughly $9M. These numbers are slightly different than what's in the budget because I excluded the—we have an annual appropriation that we are required by our bond documents to include and those are funds in '17 they amount roughly $9.6M. It's a revenue number that we budget and then an expenditure number that we budget. In effect it's a Reserve, it's required by our Auditor in our bond documents but it tends to confuse the issue when we're looking at a number of years altogether including the Actual so I've excluded that out of these numbers so we could see these a little more clearly.

All of the assumptions are very conservative for the forecast years '18, '19, '20 and '21 so our revenues are basically being adjusted for inflation and population growth and that's what shown here, very conservative. As you can see in '18 we've reflected a two additional mill reduction and so in the top line you will see Real Estate Ad Valorem Tax and you notice that it's roughly the same amount as is showing in '17 and that's because although there is a two mill reduction which equates to roughly $2M, there is also a corresponding increase because we're projecting growth in our assessed value. That is why that number is relatively the same. In the out years that line grows from $69M to $71M and then to $73M and then to $75M and those incremental increases are due to we expect the assessed value to grow by that conservative amount of 2.7%. The same projection is used for Sales Tax, Franchise Taxes, for all other revenues.

On the Personnel side we've included all personnel costs related to our current contract, our current labor contracts and so all of those costs are built into the assumptions and we've reflected a cost-of-living or CPI plus—a CPI value for the Services and Supplies.

We've left Capital Outlay & Transfers flat. In order to demonstrate that the Administrator has a commitment to continuing with funding our current Capital needs and our backlog of Infrastructure needs and then lastly, just the rest of the category to round out the total expenditures for the General Fund.

As you can see down below in the Unencumbered Fund Balance the Fund Balance remains positive. We are expecting it to decline though and you can see that in the revenues. It says Sources Over or Under Uses and so we are expecting the General Fund Fund Balance to decline especially in '18 and that's because of the mill levy reduction. As you notice it kind of picks back up in the later part of the forecast period mainly because we've incorporated in our assumptions that the assessed value would be increasing for the city. So, overall we're going to be maintaining a Fund Balance target of roughly around the 5% level at least in '17 and then later on and we reach that in year 2021.

Mr. Bach said I think as you guys will note this chart you remember is similar to what you all came up with as we went through and worked on it when we did our fiscal Strategic Planning so it really kind of works on those same assumptions going into all the different categories. I think using somewhat conservative revenue estimates go through it, but I would also say those are pretty conservative operational estimates to look at and say we're only going to have a 2% variation in our cost operations and not add anything in Capital and some of our other categories just because the purchase of those Capital Equipment Infrastructure, that's like that all goes up on an annual basis too so a flat number there doesn't allow for us to increase anymore. It is a fairly conservative outlook when we go forward.

As I said on my budget maybe to give you one last preemptive comment I guess as you all get into it is I laid out the budget looking forward and I kind of went through and I kind of did the little lecture on let's not spend our money until we get it. These are sales tax dollars, largely that's the increase comes so they will come next summer and next December before we start to see it. It's not like property tax dollars that we say this is all at once an increase, we know we will get it next year. I'm pretty confident we will get it but it is based on what the economy does and this budget is built around getting our house in order as we go forward and then start to reduce our taxes as we look forward. I can look at a chart like this and feel like, okay, based on these assumptions and based on our outlook from what our Appraiser is showing us I feel like our Ad Valorem Tax Rate percentage will go up more than 2.7% in future years. That gives you room to start continually reducing taxes each year, but that's still based on what's going to happen in those future years.

Mayor Holland said okay we teed this up for the first item on our budget discussions because we need to establish—we set the minimum mill rate last week and we set it at the existing rate, all of us, with the assumption that we would lower it, but before we get into all the programs and ideas that are all unfunded that we would all like to see increases in, we need to establish where we're headed with the mill levy and the tax reduction based on the $12M. That is really the fundamental question because where we set this then is going to help drive the decisions we make for the request of our budget hearings. Spending money is easy and this is one of those times where every mill levy reduction we do is a permanent reduction of the $12M that is a permanent commitment and we can't get it back and so it's counted every single year. We need to discuss what is the right number of the $12M total that we need to reduce. The recommendation is three mills in this budget, one this year and two next year and that's a total of three mills. That would be a quarter of the money that came through, it actually would be a third of the money when you think about what's not dedicated to EMS and Dedicated Sales Tax so it's an aggressive number. Looking at the Listening Tour the number averaged out at about 2.5 mills so three mills is in line with the discussion with people out in the community and the survey was in the three to four mill rate reduction in terms of how people wanted to see that money allocated.

Tonight we need to discuss two things. One, what's the total number of the $12M that needs to go to property tax reduction and then we need to decide over how many years are we going to work that. The recommendation in this budget is one now, two next year. I would like to be more aggressive than that but we need to talk about that as a Commission and come to a consensus tonight because that's going to shape the rest of the discussion tonight and for the rest of the next two weeks.

Commissioner Walker said I have been I think very clear that this money has been committed to the people of Wyandotte County for a long time. From day one, 17 years ago, this money was promised for tax reduction. That was the way this whole project out west was sold, that one day we were going to start getting money and it was going to be the way we reduced taxes. One mill is not acceptable. I'm not sure that I'm locked on a number but I certainly don't feel that anything less than four is sufficient and I also think that we should put some money away for a rainy day. I could spend the $12M in a matter of minutes with projects and ideas and I'm sure every one of you can too. I don't know how you're going to look the voters in the eye and tell them that you voted for a one mill decrease. I can go over a long litany of we told—we didn't, some people did tell the people that we were going to raise the PILOT to 11.9% for a year and then start reducing it and that's four years ago, five years ago now. We haven't reduced that. I mean what are we not doing? We're not living within our means. Now we've got this money and we want to spend it on all these great ideas and the taxpayer gets no benefit. I'm hard on this. I'm going to be unwilling to compromise very much at one or two mills. That's just not sufficient. We have to start with that assumption and then build that budget or not do some of the things that we would all like to do.

Commissioner Philbrook said philosophically I agree with you 100% but under the reality part of it this is where the rubber is hitting the road and so, for instance, one mill of that is body cameras. Do we not want to do that? I'm just trying to figure out what do I want to nix out of next year's budget if we take another mill out and another mill and I'm not against it. It's just I don't have a real clear feeling about how the public feels on some of these things that we're going to have to drop if we do four all at once the first year and I think that's my question. I would like to have some feedback from some of the other commissioners on that.

Commissioner Bynum said I agree with Commissioner Walker. I would like to at least see two and two. Two mills and then two mills the following year, that's a total of four in two years. I would like to see that, but I have a question for Kathleen. On the chart the Unencumbered Fund Balances that we're seeing at the end of each fiscal year that is not the same as the Cash Reserve is it on your chart? **Ms. VonAchen** said no, Cash is a category on the balance sheet. It's at the very top of the balance sheet. Fund Balance is the one at the very bottom. **Commissioner Bynum** said when we're all done this is the Fund Balance. **Ms. VonAchen** said yes, but what you're seeing here is the budgetary basis Unencumbered Fund Balance so it doesn't include a lot of the accruals and such that happens at the yearend audit. **Commissioner Bynum** said and again, these are projections through 2021 basically. **Ms. VonAchen** said right. Well, you know, fiscal '15 match with what's in our financial statements in the CAFR. The rest is projection.

Commissioner Walters said we talk about a tax cut and if we're anticipating a 2.7% increase in assessed value and a one mill reduction, everybody is going to be paying more in taxes in 2017 than they pay in 2016. Would that be correct? **Ms. VonAchen** said if you live in Kansas City, Kansas you would pay Kansas City, Kansas and Wyandotte County taxes so the mill reduction is only happening on the City side and so there is still—basically the value of the mill reduction is fairly close to the amount that the assessed value would go up by if you were in a single-family residential home. Any kind of increase that you're paying for would be a result of the assessed value increase related to the County side of your taxes. Basically I figured out that you're paying roughly $14 more next year if you have a single-family home that's valued at $100K and there is based on a 2.2% increase in the assessed value which is what the Appraisers certified. **Commissioner Walters** said if I am hearing you correctly, there is no tax reduction proposed in this budget. **Ms. VonAchen** said no, there is a tax reduction. **Commissioner Walters** said a mill levy reduction. **Ms. VonAchen** said there is a mill levy reduction, there is a rate reduction. **Commissioner Walters** said I understand that, but the check that people write will not be less in 2017 than 2016. **Ms. VonAchen** said there is no check that's cut but the net difference is the taxpayers would pay roughly $13.00 more given those assumptions. **Commissioner Walters** said I write a check every year for my taxes so that's the check I'm referring to. **Ms. VonAchen** said oh okay. I thought you were talking about the City paying.

Commissioner Walters said I agree with Hal. This is not a significant tax reduction and in fact I don't think it's a tax reduction at all and I'm not one who is in the camp of cutting services and cutting taxes. I think we should cut taxes and also increase services. The tone of the meetings that the Mayor conducted was that we're going to have $12M in new revenue. What should we do with it and I've been thinking about that and a lot of people have been thinking about that, but a part of that question I think presumes the baseline that we don't need any of that $12M to satisfy the basic operations of government. What if we didn't have that $12M? We would still need to satisfy the basic operations of government and we're looking at increases in sales tax, we're looking at an increase in assessed revenue and we should be able to continue to function without the $12M to the level of we have certainly been functioning for the last few years.

One of the things I was really hoping would not happen is the $12M just sort of got absorbed into the budget as if it didn't ever happen or didn't ever exist independently. Yes, I always thought that a portion of that $12M should go for tax reduction and I thought half of it maybe and that would be five or six mills and then we would have the remainder to do something extraordinary in the county but a lot of the projects and a lot of the stuff that I see that $12M going for are not new extraordinary things. Some of them are things that I think should be in the basic operational cost of government which we should be able to fund without dipping into that and then putting it in savings. I'm strongly supportive of a larger tax reduction and I don't really want to think about next year. We only are talking about this year so to think about three mills over two years that's $24M of revenue in two years so three mills of $24M is not a very big number either. I think we should focus on this year and do a more sizable mill levy reduction.

Commissioner McKiernan said you and I have talked about this. Philosophically I absolutely agree with you. As a matter of fact in my early assessment of the $12M I would have put six mills of reduction but I think in some ways, and I've said this to most of you, that's fool's gold. That's fool's gold because what I hear from people is that the real problem they have with the taxes they pay is the taxes they pay relative to the amount they make are high and correct me if I'm wrong at any point here in this, but my understanding is that our total assessed valuation—the number of buildings and the value of those buildings is fairly low compared to other communities in the metropolitan area. Would that be true? So, being a big city with a big budget each one of those relatively small number of buildings with relatively low value has to pay a high rate so that we collect enough collectively in our property taxes to cover our operating budget. The reason I think that its fool's gold that we just throw money at the bottom line out of this and don't put fundamental changes into place is it doesn't change that fundamental equation. We don't have enough buildings valued at enough and so when that happens each one of them gets taxed a little bit more and each taxpayer pays a little bit more of their particular take home income. They pay a greater percent of their income toward the taxes so I think the real thing we need to do, and this is not a short-term fix at all, six mills toward the bottom line would save somebody about $70 on a $100K house by my calculation. **Mayor Holland** said $70 per year. **Commissioner McKiernan** said per year.

What I hear people saying is that's a good down payment, that's a good faith gesture, but what we would really like to see is a more fundamental shift than that and the only way, in my estimation, that we're going to make that shift is more buildings valued at more paying taxes and all three of those have to happen, more buildings, not just the same buildings valued at more because that's just a bigger taxpayer on the person who is already paying on that building. To say that our appraised value is going to go up is great but only if it is more buildings because otherwise there is an increased burden on every current taxpayer. As the assessed value goes up so does the taxes they pay and so it has to be increased valuation on more buildings and the third piece that pay taxes and I think that informs some of our incentive plans and some of the ways that we look to incent new development about how long incentives last, how deep a cut they are, how much we put off getting that kind of revenue in the future and so I think we really want to change this. It's a fundamental long-term program and I think we can put more than a mill as a good faith gesture and that's what I've been calling it. It's a down payment. It's a good faith gesture that we will change the fundamentals so that the percent of someone's income that they pay in taxes in Wyandotte County comes closer to the percent of income that is pretty much the average for the metropolitan area because my understanding is right now as a percent of income we're high.

Mayor Holland said can you go back to the previous slide. Commissioner McKiernan, to your point that blue line shows about $1.1B valuation on all, that's our total assessed value for our entire county. **Commissioner McKiernan** said right. **Mayor Holland** said Johnson County, for instance, that total assessed value is $8B. Their tax rate is half of ours. They are still spending two to one what we are. It's not that we're spending too much money. We're spending half per capita what Johnson County is spending for their citizens. The fact is they have eight times the value so for a lower tax rate over many more buildings worth much more money our median residential property, that's not just homeowners, but rental properties also; our median residential property is valued at $67K. To give you an idea, in Johnson County their median residential property is $210K. It's more than three times the value just on residential and then you have the much larger tax base. When you think about our valuation, it's not that were overspending, it's that we are undervalued and we've got to grow the value. We've talked about the way to grow the value is new buildings, economic development. The incentive that was given to General Motors decades ago was a huge incentive that people were very upset about that they got 100% for too long. Well, for the last 20 years General Motors has been the largest taxpayer in our community. It was an investment, it wasn't a giveaway and we continue to make investments to do economic development in terms of incentives and we're growing our tax base but there is a time before we see that result.

The other piece is blight reduction. We're giving away value by having blighted properties tearing down the values of an entire city block. One blighted house is enough to destroy the values of the entire block and then you have that neighborhood by neighborhood. Blight reduction which is aggressive in this budget, economic development continuing and all of our economic development incentives don't come out of the General Fund, they all come out of the projects from money that we don't already have. We are very aggressive in eco devo; we have an aggressive blight reduction piece. The question is we still have too high of a tax rate and how much is the right amount. We saw at the State what happened when they were irresponsible in cutting taxes. They turned their entire budget upside down and it's still upside down and we need to make sure that whatever mill rate and, Commissioner Walters, you're exactly right; it's a mill levy reduction, it's not necessarily a tax reduction and that's hard to explain to the public.

I agree with Commissioner Walker that one mill is not enough so we need to take all this into account and the other piece is the changing climate in the State, the Tax Lid the State put us, a really irresponsible Tax Lid that is irresponsible as their budgeting. We also need to be aware the sales tax is much more volatile than property tax and I like Mr. Bach's idea that you don't spend it until you have it because it comes and goes much more loosely than property tax does. All of these things need to be taken into consideration. I think we need to do more than one plus two. I like the two plus two. I would also go with two plus one plus one. I think a four mill is a good aggressive amount of money to put toward the tax reduction. Four mills reduction in our city would put it at the lowest rate ever and I think that's something that would be good.

The other piece we don't want to forget is at unification there was a major drop in the mill rate that was voted on and then there were some problems with that and they had to come back and do a major increase in the mill rate to make up for it. So, we want to be thoughtful and planful and deliberate and I think the message is we're reducing taxes over time and we're not just going to drop it all at once because we've seen what the State and we've seen locally that's not necessarily the most responsible way to do it.

Commissioner Philbrook said it's hard to follow up on that. What I wanted to say is so really instead of a 12 we really have 9 to play with because 3 of it goes to EMS and Dedicated Sales

Tax. Is that correct? Okay, scratch the 12, think 9. **Mayor Holland** said I would dispute. **Commissioner Philbrook** asked is that wrong. **Mayor Holland** said it's still 12 because we're able—the Dedicated Sales Tax is dedicated to Public Safety and Infrastructure so we're buying new equipment for our Public Safety and we're buying doing additional infrastructure. So it's still 12. **Commissioner Philbrook** said so the $3M is going toward making up for all the stuff we haven't been buying since 2008 for Fire and for Police and all that. **Mayor Holland** said absolutely new revenue going to equipment, yes. **Commissioner Philbrook** said okay, then where does demolition and that stuff come in from the additional 12 because we're increasing that? **Mayor Holland** said you saw on the initial budget presentation and its spread out through several departments, but it's about $1.7M for that spread over several departments. **Commissioner Philbrook** said out of the 12. **Mayor Holland** said yes. **Commissioner Philbrook** said I just want to understand it very easily as to where that 12 is going because this gets very complicated and so that goes also then for mowing grass. How much of it is going for mowing grass and demolition? **Mr. Bach** said about $1.9M toward our SOAR initiatives which went into various areas. I think more targeted toward the demolition and mowing was about $500K. **Commissioner Philbrook** said I just wanted it out there again so people kind of understand where we're putting things.

Commissioner Markley said I am more than happy to decrease the mill levy by whatever amount everyone else will agree to but I feel like I'm the one that ends up saying this every year so I will just go with that trend. That's fine but over the next two budget workshops we have a list on our agenda of items that people are requesting funding for and as far as I'm concerned if we're talking about reducing the budget by four mills, we might as well not talk about any of those topics because the money has to come from somewhere and that's the part nobody wants to talk about. This is my question, we're going to have dinner soon and I'm wondering if during that period when we did our little Strategic Planning event we took that little chart and we plugged in how many mills we wanted to reduce by and then we saw how the money went away and we could look out over the years and see how that was going to look. Can we bring that back up so that we can all look at it together and talk about what the future would hold if we decided to make these decisions because it's easy to say we all want to reduce taxes by four mills, of course we do, that would be awesome; but if we're going to be bankrupt next year because we need that, clearly that's a bad decision so I think it would be awesome if we could kind of see in real time if we do two mills, if we do three mills, what does the budget look like next year and what does it look like the year after that and are we still going to be in the black.

Commissioner Walters said I see this book we are presented it at a Commission Meeting but we really don't analyze it very much at least I don't think we do. I'm looking at it and it says our General Fund total General Fund Balance as of 2015 is $31,589,000 up $15M from 2014 so I don't think we're going to go bankrupt but I think we do need to be cognizant of our true position. I'm just going by our Auditor's statement of our position and I think each year that I've been on the Commission we always have a budget and we always have a projected General Fund Balance at the end of the year. I think due to a conservative budgeting processes and maybe extreme diligence on the part of all of our staff it always turns out that we have a bigger Fund Balance when the true numbers come in than the approved budget. I think the 2015 was no exception to that so we end up with a bigger Fund Balance than we projected and approved and that has been the case every year that I have been on the Commission. I don't think we're going to go bankrupt and I don't think we're as irresponsible as they are in Topeka. In fact I believe our Fund Balance in 2015 is higher than it has been since 2007 so it's just a question of how much more money we want to put in the bank is the way I look at it and I think there is some room for some trimming.

Mr. Bach said unless there is any clarification I think the Commission understands how that works. A lot of times when you look at the comprehensive financial formula that he's going through there is a cash basis position versus the budget position and so when we don't spend all our money out at the end of the year when we have obligations to contracts that are coming through and where it's going, that's where that number will show up. I certainly will take the position that we are not going to go bankrupt at any time and that's where we always carry a solid cash position and that's a fundamental element that we've always put ourselves in that position so we're not in any threat, have never been in any threat of not making payroll at any time and going through. When we reach yearend we may have a projected Fund Balance of around $12M, but we end up at 30 or such and that's because we have outstanding contracts, such like that, so our cash position is in a much better position and I believe that's how the

CAFR represents that and if I need clarification on that, Kathleen, please do so. I certainly agree that we would always maintain or try to maintain ourselves and I would probably as you all go through this and talk about expenditures, probably to Commissioner Markley's point, to maintain that level of security we do need to keep our Budgeted Fund Balance position higher than where we were a few years ago. As you said, we did get to a higher position a couple years ago, a large part of that came because we had the one-time cash transfers that came in and we held on to some of that money so I don't want to count one-time cash positions that come in to say that's going to be there every year because it doesn't.

The sales tax money that's coming in from Village West is a constant going forward so we know we're going to be able to continue to count on that going forward but it is a more volatile, the Mayor pointed that out, it's a more volatile revenue stream that comes in which means we need to have more cash on hand in Fund Balance. If we look for a position to reduce our mill rate, which I certainly will work in that direction, we don't want to do it by reducing our Fund Balance. We want to do it by reducing service and as you all recall as we went through—a lot of things we did move forward we did attack some things in Personnel, made some increases in those areas, we were able to go do our contracts looking forward, but the annual impact does build up and the same thing in all the different operational areas and that's where we find ourselves today and that's why Kathleen put together the chart that shows how our revenues and expenditures line up.

Commissioner Johnson said I would offer that we would have a disciplined and deliberate approach to tax reduction. I know what I've heard and what Commissioner Walker is saying. I think that when we initially came together and we looked at how much should we lower taxes when we saw what the community had said I tended to be one of the ones that said let's try to get the most bang for our buck as well until we begin to go through exercises. I'm glad that you brought the exercises to us to allow us to kind of see the impact of those types of decisions which caused me to kind of back off a little bit. I think we need to look at over a course of time. I think what I understood is that perhaps in the past we said we were going to do things over a two or three or four year cycle of time and by the time we get to that point things change. I think if we can by steady and be disciplined with our approach then that will help us to kind of mitigate the volatility as we try to continue to grow the number of businesses because they're not going to come here all in one year, it's going to take time for those businesses to get here. I think we need to be very steady and disciplined and deliberate in terms of tax reduction that will put us in line with the remainder of the metropolitan area because even after the six mill level, the four mill level, I don't know how many $100K homes I have in my district so if a $100K home is going to get a reduction of $14 per mill per year so I'm not going to get it in my district, it's not going to make that big of a difference. I think we need to be very disciplined and be true to our word. We said we're going to lower it and I think we should be able to present to the public a rationale, reasonable lowering of that over a period of what I would call a short-term period of time. I'm not talking a five to seven year, but maybe a three year period of time because as I understand we still have to pay back some existing funds that we need to get reimbursed as well so it kind of really limits our ability to lower rates only to a certain degree anyway.

Commissioner Murguia said, Kathleen, did you say that over the last year we've seen a 2.7% increase in appraised values across the county? **Ms. VonAchen** said yes, just the residential portion. **Commissioner Murguia** said and that is an average number I'm assuming across the entire county, correct? **Ms. VonAchen** said yes, that's right, just the residential classification. **Commissioner Murguia** said our former Appraiser used to give us a map, and you may have passed this out and I might have missed it this year; use to give us a map by taxing districts which are very similar to Commission Districts what the average appraised value in each district is. If that's available over our break at 6:00, I would like to see that. Do we have an updated version of that Doug? **Mr. Bach** said yes. She came and went through that with all the commissioners earlier this year. I don't know if you missed the meeting but I know she did that by each area a couple months ago. I think it was the end of February and I don't know if we readily have it around with us—I'm sure we have it up in the office. Remember the number that Kathleen broke out there is the difference between what's the impact on the residential and then of course you have new stuff that comes in and then commercial changes that come about as well in each area. **Commissioner Murguia** said for purposes of this discussion I would be happy with just a residential comparison since that's your point of reference is the 2.7 on residential and so if I could just look at that for our continued discussion after dinner that would be great.

Commissioner Townsend said point of clarification. I have so many points where I agree with a lot of what has been said already. I support a reduction in the mill levy but as we said it's just a matter of how much and when. The one thing that I would not want to see happen is that we start off like gangbusters right now with a mill levy reduction and then heaven forbid we have to turn around and say next year or the year thereafter we need to bring that down. I think slower and progressively is better and I can look my constituents in the eye because even though I was quite surprised that in District One tax reduction was I think number one, I'm not sure and I've tried to get this point across to my constituents as Commissioner Johnson pointed out, there aren't going to be a lot of homes in District One that meet that $100K value and we will see—what is that number again, they will be very surprised at how little they get. However, they can see and I will and do get calls about demolition of homes, removal of blight and drug houses, development plans that will bring hopefully persons who want to come in into areas east of 635. That would be extraordinary usage of the money. Also, as we said repayment of funds that we have robbed Peter to pay Paul with and in previous years—the first year that a lot of us were new came in that is what happened and I've been happy to see that we've been trying to refurbish those funds. Those would be extraordinary uses so I would rather see us be slow with the levy reduction that would translate and hopefully attack reduction, but be progressive with it but remember what people will really see that would be impactful. What they're living next door to, what their parks and streets look like, we have an opportunity to use that money and I get where Commissioner Philbrook was going. I was thinking along the same line. Whatever we commit to this mill levy reduction, we don't really have $12M that we're looking at to spend for other things just as Commissioner Markley said so I think slow and steady is the way to go and put some of this money into things that people will see every day.

Commissioner Walker said one of the things we do every budget year is we always bring out this M&E property tax and how much the State has taken from us and you know it was ten years ago. It was a decade ago that we had to plan for this and it was a democratic governor. I wish I could blame Sam Brownback but it was Kathleen Sebelius that drove this thing so Kansas could get better economic development. Well, I don't know that the results have proven worth the sacrifice but I'm sure the money they've saved on Machinery & Tax has lined the pockets of some stockholders or corporate bigwigs somewhere. The point is the question; the rubber hits the road right now. We've been building our tax base. Every year we say we've got to build our tax base but every year every new project that comes in isn't going to pay taxes for 10 to 15 years. When is it that the people are finally—you know I admit a $100K home $70, that isn't a lot of money but it isn't your money. It isn't the fact that you're not—I mean $70 would take me and my wife out for a relatively nice meal once a year. If that's all I get, then that's all I get but it isn't our money to begin to be cavalier with. If you're going to do one mill, forget it, don't do it at all because we might as well spend that money on some services that people will benefit from like cleaning up the parks. You're not going to get one person recognized 14 mills unless you have a million dollar home and I doubt a person who has a million dollar home is going to worry about what one mill would do. Sometime the rubber has got to hit the road guys and we've been waiting 17 years for cash to come in from this cow out west and now she's giving us cash and we're like throwing the balls in the air like we don't know what to do with it. We need to reduce taxes. We need more than a symbolic gesture. I'm not voting for a budget with a symbolic gesture. I'm telling you that right now. I'm voting no if it's a one mill or a two mill reduction. Call it whatever you want, call grandstanding, call it politicking, it is the absolute truth that people, every person, every survey for those that rely on surveys, the Mayor's Listening Tour; reduction of taxes is number one.

I don't care if the people understand that they're not going to get a lot of money. Maybe to somebody $35 is a lot of money. It's the fact that we're moving in the right direction. I am disappointed that we—you know 17 years of anticipation and here we are and if we have to make cuts, we have to make cuts. People deserve tax relief, they deserve relief.

Commissioner Kane said I don't think 17 years ago they knew what was going to happen now and we didn't have the $12M yet and I know there is a lot of debating going on but I think to simplify it I think what we should do is say a three mill levy this year and worry about next year next year because you don't want to promise something you don't have and we need to see how all this money is going to flow out and three mills is giving them something. It's giving them something that's alright and then I don't want to promise next year we will give them another mill and half, another mill to simplify this whole process because everybody—I'll get a motion later but everybody getting wound up but I think that's a better way to start. Three mills now, worry about next year's budget next year.

Commissioner Murguia said I'm not sure what the answer is and all I can really speak to is what I know the details of which is my personal district and so I'll just talk about that just for a minute because that's my only real point of reference. Even though Kathleen said the average is 2.7 increase in appraised value which I'm sure you're accurate on, there are areas of my district because as almost all of you know here that I have worked very hard at growing the tax base exactly what Commissioner McKiernan is talking about. You know $60M on Rainbow Blvd., you've got another $20M on County Line, and you have at least $40M in Argentine alone in retail and economic development; not to mention millions in new housing and new infrastructure. My district in a good way, the appraised values are going up and so unless this Commission is going to reduce, and I would suspect unless you're going to do a reduction of about $6M, my people in my district aren't going to feel what you do. In fact no matter what you do I would bet they're going to pay more because we're growing my district. It's bittersweet, I'm not very happy about that. I would like to see more of a reduction.

Unfortunately, we have other areas of our city that are having a more difficult time growing and broadening their tax base. I don't know how to balance that. It's frustrating personally. I feel like I'm running 110 miles an hour in my district and I'm trying to play my one position for the entire county. I also feel bad for people in Piper where there is lots of development going on, appraised values continue to go up, I bet if you look out in Piper those people—no matter how much you reduce it, I don't think anybody in Piper is going to pay less. I just don't think so. **Commissioner Walker** said well, they're not going to pay more. **Commissioner Murguia** said I think they will pay more because—**Commissioner Walker** said yes, they will but they won't pay as much more. **Commissioner Murguia** said but no one is looking at that. No, let me rephrase that. I'm not disagreeing with you, Hal, I'm really not. I think you make some very good points. I'm the one that has beaten the drum for the nine years I have been up here. I'm proud to say I have never voted for a property tax increase. I'm very proud of that. I tell that everywhere I go and I won't ever do that, but the reality is you keep saying—it's just what Jim was alluding to earlier, most of these people in Piper, the people I can tell you in my district, in Argentine and Rosedale and I can tell you I keep pretty close tabs on Turner; unless you all are thinking about it lowering it six mills they are all going to write larger checks than they wrote last year. I'm not saying we shouldn't reduce it more. I'm just saying I just want to put that out there.

I also want to expand just briefly on what Commissioner Townsend said. I do believe that the number, and I'm a big advocate of the survey, I do believe people are unhappy with how much taxes they are paying in Wyandotte County but I think if we are really honest the unhappiness stems from the fact that these people have been asked to pay more for years and many of these people haven't received more. Sort of the analogy I give to that is it's like going through your favorite place to shop like Target or wherever it would be and you walk out with nothing but you get to the checkout counter and you have to write a big check. When you look at what people are walking on in the way of curb and sidewalk in some neighborhoods, when you look at the recreation opportunities that are available in some neighborhoods, you look at the job opportunities; those kinds of things, the roads in some neighborhoods; some people don't feel like they're getting what they're paying for. I can only speak really knowledgably about my district. I will tell you the level of dissatisfaction with taxes in Wyandotte County though still not great, has gone down in the nine years I've been on the Commission. That's because I truly believe that the people in my district finally for the first time in decades feel like they're getting something for their tax dollar. The only reason I bring that up is because I think it's about—I think we definitely have to provide our constituents with the services they want, need and value to an extent and we also have to manage that with what they're able to pay. I don't have a solution or an answer to all of that but I will just say it is better in my district that I've worked very hard in providing them services.

Commissioner Philbrook said I don't believe there is anybody on this Commission that was impacted any more than I was in 2000. It took my house and ten acres, told me that we were going to get a hell of a tax reduction in our houses when the boom came in so for us as Commissioners we're riding on the back of this fiasco that we were told way back then. To be told that when you really don't know what the heck is going to happen in 20 years is absolutely ludicrous so number one, I would ask this Commission to never make those kinds of guarantees to our people when we don't know what's going to happen in 20 years. Now, everything hit the fan in 2008 and we were not bringing in the kind of money that we should have and so we started robbing Peter to pay Paul to make ends meet. Then what do we do during that time period, we make our Fire and Police use older and older equipment because we don't replace it in time, every ten years so we're behind. Now we're trying to play catchup to take care of public welfare and then we look at okay one mill only reflects a small amount of money when our average household property value is $60K folks. Okay, just like two commissioners right next me and right over here, we all know that $60K is a pretty doggone low amount for property to be worth as your average for a county. So, how do we make enough money to take care of all of those things that everybody needs, the curbs and sidewalks and all that sort of thing. Well, I think they have done a really job of taking what money we had and turning them into curbs and sidewalks, getting TIGER Grants, whatever they had to do to take care of all these other streets that we've managed to improve and we're doing better. I'm still torn because I was one of those people that did not get to see and will not see a big amount because half of my property is business property and that's going to be going up pretty quick because the businesses are going to get reevaluated here pretty quick so I'm not going to see any kind of decrease in my taxes. It doesn't matter if we gave the whole thing to us; I'm not going to see it. It wouldn't amount to a hill of beans, maybe $10 or $12 by the time you're finished so that's where I don't know guys. I would like to give the whole thing to you but it's not going to give you the kind of bang for buck that you really need and that's in curbs and sidewalks and stuff and taking care of making sure that our employees are paid and that we are really doing the projects that our community wants so that's where I am. I just don't know where to go on this and I agree with a lot of people.

Mayor Holland said let's wrap this up. I do believe there is another factor that we've not even talked about. There are multiple other taxing jurisdictions and, Commissioner Walters, as you mentioned when you do write a check for your taxes but you only write one check. You don't write five checks to the five different taxing jurisdictions and so the reality is whatever we do we know the school funding is completely out of whack at the State, we have a community college, we have libraries, we have all kinds of different taxing entities that affect the public and the public doesn't pay much attention—they just know what their tax bill is. Now, the fact that ours is only 48% of that on the City/County side and that our City side is only 25% of their tax bill, only a quarter of what people pay in taxes actually goes to the city and another quarter goes to the County and then more than half goes to the other taxing entities. What we're faced with, we could run ourselves around in circles in terms of what are people going to feel. There is a difference between effective tax rate and mill levy. The only thing we can control is the mill levy and we have an opportunity with this new revenue to reduce our mill levy and then we just need to pick a number that we feel like we can live with and has integrity because we could lower it six mills and the community college could go up three and the school district could go up three and the public saw nothing and then we would get criticized for that as well because people pay their bill to us because we collect it all the taxing entities. Just like BPU collects for us for our fees, we collect for everybody else for property taxes.

What we need to do is come up with a number that this group can find some consensus around for reduction and I think there are two questions. What's the total number of the 12 and how much this year because I think there is integrity at looking at a two or three year plan. I don't think a five year plan because even though we don't have a crystal ball for 20 years, I don't think we have it for five.

Commissioner Kane said what I would like to do is make a three mill reduction this year and worry about next year next year and then that gives staff a start because we can go back and forth all night long, 3.25 and be by auctioneers or whatever. **Commissioner Philbrook** said I second your motion. **Commissioner Kane** asked straw poll. **Mayor Holland** said we can take a straw poll here in a minute.

Commissioner Townsend said even though I know we don't want to look at next year; I have to ask this question. Whatever we commit to one, two, or three; that's what we have for next year as well? **Mayor Holland** said yes, it's committed for next year as well. **Commissioner Townsend** said even though we don't want to look at it if that's the reality of it; I wanted to know that as I assess this vote. So, when we vote for whatever it is we are stuck with that so to speak. **Mayor Holland** said I like the three and he has something on the table but I would prefer to see it at two and one. Right now it's on the table for one plus two next year. I think we need to do more of it this year and do two this year and one next year so I would rather do that than three. He wants to do a straw poll on three. Let's do that straw poll on three. It's not a binding motion but we do need to see if there is a will to do three mills this year and that will make a decision for us for a lot of other stuff we're going to talk about.

Ms. VonAchen said I just want to point out with the Property Tax Lid if you want to raise the Property Tax Mill Rate next year you will have to have a voter referendum. **Mayor Holland**

said I understand that. Thank you and I think that's a good reminder and I think the commissioners understand that.

Commissioner Kane said my motion is for a three mill this year and worry about next year next year.

Commissioner Markley said I would just say I think it's difficult. I mean I'll raise my hand and say yes I would love to cut taxes three mills but I think it's hard to say that without knowing what gets cut to make that happen. This is my question. I'm wondering, we can give staff the directive to say cut three mills but, Doug, as you're working through that can you tell us what three looks like and what two looks like so if we look at the three and we say no we don't want to cut x, y, z; what would the two look like and what gets us to that point. It's easy to say yes, cut three mills but I guess I've been here long enough now to know when it comes down to the people looking at their list of items they want and people looking at what has to happen to get to the three mills, we're going to be like auctioneers again.

Mayor Holland said let me tell you what action we can take tonight. We can ask, see if there is consensus, on the amount and we will give it to Doug and he will come back at a future budget workshop and say this is what it looks like if that's what you want to do. He has already shown us what a one mill reduction looks like and he could show us what two looks like and what three looks like and at the end of the day if we're not ready—we're not going to vote on a budget tonight, but it is helpful to get a consensus because if we're going to send him back with six mills, then he needs to get to work. If we're satisfied mostly with the one mill and what I hear is we're not satisfied with the one mill for this year so we want to see more and the recommendation is three.

Mr. Bach said if I could make one comment to Commissioner Markley's because yes, if we get this direction I need to go back and work on it and work through everything we're trying to develop in the budget. I would say I would go at this from an approach and one is I showed you where we were looking at for debt because we relied pretty heavy on debt over past years and so if we were to reduce a couple extra mills now, I wouldn't want you to expect I'm going to build a budget based on future debt so we're not going to add anything to that because we are ready need an extra mill rate at least in 2018 if not more going forward so I have to account for that for other things so I'm not going to add to it over and above where we're at. I may touch somewhat on Fund Balance but I'm not going to go heavy against Fund Balance because I'm trying to get to 5% which is half of where we need to be and I guess I will just give you those kind of overarching things because those are easy ones. Oh yes, we will just debt something else, we will add more to debt or we will take away all the Fund Balance, it will be back against things we would operate. I just say that without going into it I can't tell you what all those would be and then you could make a decision on that.

Commissioner Walker said part of what we're doing in the budget is putting money back in funds that we have previously, the Commission has, borrowed rather than raise taxes to fill a shortfall, correct? **Mr. Bach** said yes. **Commissioner Walker** said to post 2008 and so while it's important to pay those funds back, it's really like me having $5 in this pocket and I owe this pocket some money so I take it out of one pocket and put it in another. I guess what I'm saying is like the Environmental Trust Fund. If there is an environmental catastrophe that we have to use the Environmental Trust Fund for and we don't have it, then the bottom line is you're going to have to do what the law permits you to do and one it's either to raise taxes, issue no fund warrants or if it's something you'll have to issue debt. That's the reality. We don't have enough money in there to cover an environmental tragedy. We're not going to have enough money in there for a number of years of any sizable nature for a Superfund site cleanup that we've created or because we dumped part of our stuff in there, we have to participate in the overall settlement. Some of this we're just paying back ourselves which while that's important in the long run, it's not as important in the short run in my opinion.

Mr. Bach said I would just maybe clarify a little bit because some of those the debt has come due. Like one of the big ones in that regard is the Health Care Fund where we deferred payments, I have to make that payment. I have to repay that. Worker's Comp, wouldn't have to put all the money in that account right away but if not this year or in '17, it would have to come due in '18 so I don't have that latitude and as you call the Environmental Fund is a good example is one we don't have to and I didn't recommend repaying that one this year. I just thought we would let that build. Water Pollution, we could be a little slower but we're not repaying all that, but we are increasing rates to allow for Capital so those are ones we have deferred over years and part of that debt is really on us now. It's not as much just from one pocket to the other, but I understand the analogy.

Ms. VonAchen said I also wanted to point out that the repayment of those special funds is budgeted in the current fiscal year, not in '17.

Commissioner Bynum said before we see if there is consensus on the three mills, it would be helpful for me as we proceed through the rest of the evening, I guess assuming there is consensus on three mills to see the slide you gave us, Doug, back when we had the first view of the budget that showed us how the $12M had been broken down. I cannot find it in here. I think it's in here, I just can't find it. **Commissioner Markley** said page 20.

Mayor Holland said if there is consensus that we want Mr. Bach to go back and look at a three mill reduction and what that would look like for this year, I would just ask included in that he would show us what two mills would like so we would have one, two and three mills and then we can chose. I think there is clear consensus that one mill is not enough for this year. Am I clear on that? I think there is a consensus, it's not unanimous. Unanimity and consensus are two different things and the majority is even a lower standard. There is certainly a majority that thinks it's not enough, there is probably consensus; it's not unanimous.

I'm just going to take a straw poll. If you would like Mr. Bach to come back with an alternative budget with a three mill reduction for 2017, just raise your hand. Okay, there is clearly enough to do a three mill. **Commissioner Walker** said I'm not opposed to three. I want more but I would like to see what a three looks like. **Mayor Holland** said we will get to three too, we already have the one. We will see what three and two looks like.

Commissioner McKiernan said I totally agree with going three, but I'm going to keep pounding on this. In my opinion the long-term solution is increasing the number of buildings, residential and commercial that pay taxes to spread the tax burden out over a larger base so that any individual taxpayer pays less of his or her salary as a percent. That's our long-term solution.

This is simply a placeholder on the road to that long-term solution in my opinion. **Commissioner Walker** asked is that a motion to eliminate tax abatement incentives for new development because that's the only way we're going to get it in our lifetime. **Commissioner McKiernan** said it is not said motion. **Mayor Holland** said let me say this; I would like to address that. All of our incentives are on projects—out of projects that we wouldn't otherwise get and that's a very important delineation. Tax Increment Financing, I'll take this example for Amazon, Amazon, that property right now is generating $5K a year for the taxes, every nickel of it on all those acres. How many acres is it, 130? One Hundred and Thirty acres is generating about $5K for us. We gave them a 10-year 100%. That entire abatement we wouldn't get if that project weren't there, but we still its tax increment; we're still getting our $5K a year so rest assured we're still getting the $5K a year off that project. Once it rolls off, like General Motors, once that rolls off you have to be building the tax base with incentives and it's going to roll off and pay big dividends but most of us aren't going to be here in ten years when that rolls off. Just like the people who voted for the General Motors one weren't here when they became the largest taxpayer in our community for the next 20 years. **Commissioner Kane** said but they were really smart. **Mayor Holland** said that's exactly right and we were really smart for doing the Amazon deal because it's the number four employer day one when they open in our community so it makes sense.

Commissioner Murguia said, Mayor, this is the thing we are on the same page about. I will tell you in theory it sounds great, these wealthy rich developers come in and everybody loves to pound the table and say rape our community. Well, I will tell you what, the minute we stop offering development incentives you will never see one thing built in our county no matter what anybody says. If anybody around this table can bring a development deal forward and they will do it without any extra money, I'll do whatever you say, but I have yet to see any commissioner, any staff person, anybody; bring any projects forward that did not require some sort of incentive. I think to mislead the taxpayer whose watching this or somebody who is going to read about this later into thinking that we can actually do these deals, we just like to give them money is not an accurate picture to paint. **Mayor Holland** said just again to reiterate, there is no money that comes out of the General Fund that we write a check to the developer. The only incentive money they get is generated out of the project that they build so it's new money that we wouldn't have otherwise and so that's very important to say.

Mayor Holland said it is almost 6:30 p.m. We are through Item No. 1 of 9; most of them will not take this long. In fact, I don't think any of them will take 1.5 hours but this was the one we needed to start with because this was the most important discussion. We've been talking about this for three years and I think we got to the heart of it tonight.

We're going to take a 30 minute break (6:24 p.m.) and we will come back at 6:50 p.m. It will be a little than 30 minutes.

Mayor Holland reconvened the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Mayor Holland said we have a lot to do yet tonight so we need to start plugging. I think that conversation was very worthwhile and we're going to continue now and I'm going to turn it over to Mr. Bach to walk us through the next item on the agenda which is CMIP for Fairfax.

Mr. Bach said I think this one was a question of clarification of what was built into the budget. I don't know if there was a lot of discussion that the Commission wanted to have. I'll just to a quick rundown on this. In 2015 we went to $100K—2016 there was $100K in the budget but we didn't expend it all as we started the project so that's where you see it carrying over. It's just a balance of staying consistent at the $100K level which follows into 2017. You all will recall when we did the project that NorthPoint did on the north end of the Fairfax area we established a TDD as part of that project so as projects come on line, one is under construction now that's I believe it's 830 sq. ft. manufacturing facility, they will pay into that TDD Fund which will then be utilized to go out into all the rest of the Fairfax area and that's what we use to bump up from the $100K to the $200K so it's using project revenues from within that area to find additional. **Mike Tobin, Interim Public Work's Director**, said staff, particularly Wayne and the engineers have worked with folks down at Fairfax to develop this schedule moving forward and a lot of it is all in sidewalks, curbs, inlet repair and some stormwater work.

Mr. Bach asked, Commissioner Townsend, did we cover all your questions on that. **Commissioner Townsend** said I really didn't have any—these matters have been addressed so I didn't really request to have it here but I will take this opportunity to thank Mr. Tobin and Mr. Moody. I've heard nothing but kudos for them and how they work with the Fairfax Industrial Association so we appreciate that.

Commissioner Bynum said, Doug, I have been part of asking about it and the reason simply was because I find myself in Fairfax on a daily basis these days and it was just really important to continue the improvements and upgrades that we've been making and so since it was in my face pretty much—you know there is a lot of work to do there. It's a major property tax generator for the community and it wasn't a big controversy or anything, it was just more of a request to continue these kinds of improvement in that district. **Mr. Bach** said I will also note these are these kinds of special projects as they know when we just come in and do our regular road projects and such and those are over on the other side of the CMIP.

Quiet Zone

- Olsson Consultants performed the K-32 Master Plan & Quiet Zone Study for MARC (partial grant)
- The Cities of Edwardsville and Bonner Springs were included along with the Union Pacific Railroad
- The Study Priced and Phased Project according to Federal Regulations
- The 7 Phases have an estimated construction cost of $6.5 million

Mr. Bach said as you will recall this is a project we started doing some consideration for a couple years ago as we started to figure out how to go through and do an analysis of this so I'm going to turn this over to staff to kind of walk through the process we have so we can set that out and then we can turn it over to the Commissioner. We just wanted to set up what we've done to date and then we can turn it over to you to go from there. **Wayne Moody, Deputy County Engineer,** said let me start out with that Olsson & Associates is our consultant. They are a nationally recognized consultant in the Quiet Zone area. They had done the MARC Study in conjunction with Bonner Springs, Edwardsville, the Unified Government, Union Pacific Railroad and the Federal Railroad Association. We have determined after the completion of their Quiet Zone Feasibility Study which the final study for the Quiet Zone was issued in June of this year. We touched base with the cities of Edwardsville and Bonner Springs and neither one of those entities have funding at this time to put towards any work to be done on the Quiet Zone. We've contacted the UP Railroad to confirm once again with them that they will not be adding any funds. They will, however, be requiring us if we do any work to work through them. It is them that do the work basically, the UP does the work on their tracks and then they bill us for all the labor and the equipment.

Part of the study we asked that Olsson give us a phased approached in segments to the entire Quiet Zone. The entire Quiet Zone stretches over an 8.5 mile corridor. They broke the segments out basically into seven segments and we have looked at those segments and determined that there are several of them which are fundable in and about that $2M range. We have proposed in the budget a segmenting or a starting point in 2017 and stretching all the way out to 2023.

Quiet Zone

Phases

- Phase 1 – Ad-Trend, Swingster Road – $1,065,000
- Phase 2 – Holliday Sand – $513,000
- Phase 3 – 4th Street, 9th Street, and 98th Street – $1,718,000
- Phase 4 – 88th Street – $606,000
- Phase 5 – Anchor – $513,000
- Phase 6 – Swartz Road – $533,000
- Phase 7 – Kansas Ave, 65th Street – $819,000
- **TOTAL – $5,767,000**

I think this next slide show the different segments that are potential or phases that could be done in various orders on this. Wayne, I don't think there is any particular order to say one has to come before the other. **Mr. Moody** said that is correct. There is no set order in it. Those were just the phases, the seven phases that were together. I might add like in phase three 98th Street could be pulled out as a single phase in and of itself and make eight phases, however, 98th Street represents the eastern most section of Edwardsville, 4th Street represents the western most section of Edwardsville and so it makes sense to try to group all of those segments together and that was the recommendation that came out of our consultant.

Commissioner Walters said just for my clarification you said that there was money in the 2017 Budget. It's my understanding that there was not money in the 2017 Budget. **Mr. Bach** said correct. We don't currently have money budgeted in the 2017 Budget. **Commissioner Walters** said thanks for letting me go first on this this evening for commissioner ideas of what ways to spend money. The Quiet Zone you all have heard the presentations. This is a long-term investment in the southern part of the county, three cities involved as a quality of life, but also an economic development and a general area desirability issue. I want to bring everybody up-to-date; Quiet Zones are not radical ideas. In fact, on the Kansas side of the metropolitan area alone there are seven Quiet Zones currently in existence created by six different jurisdictions. It just so happens that done of them are in Wyandotte County. I would hope that we would consider thinking about that.

Just a real brief history, I began talking with Bob Roddy about this in 2013. He did some investigation over the course of that first several months of me being in office. I was hoping that we would get the study funded in the 2014 Amended Budget. I was convinced not to do that or not to try to have that done, but to instead include that study as part of an application for a MARC Grant which we did, but that put the study off to being funded in 2015. 2015 occurred; the study was completed in rough draft form last December and final draft form evidently just a few months ago or a couple months ago and so it's been three years since we began talking about this. It's my hope that we will consider funding this in the 2017 Budget because if we don't fund it in the 2017 Budget, it will essentially have languished for two years from the completion of the rough draft in December of 2015, all through 2016, and all through 2017; nothing going forward.

My proposal is to fund a first phase. In the study these seven phases are called segments and I have a specific request and that is that we fund what is called Phase 2 and the first two crossings of Phase 3, 4th Street and 9th Street in Edwardsville at least. That, according to the engineer's estimate is approximately a $2M project. I had hoped to do the entire $5.7M or roughly $6M project, but I have been convinced that is probably not practical at this time.

I did have our CFO look at what it would cost to fund that size of a project because I do not think that this should be a project that is paid for in one year. This is a long-term investment and the taxpayers over the long-term should pay for this, not the people who happen to live there in one particular year. I propose that this be funded. I proposed a 30-year bond and our CFO suggested a 20-year bond. On that basis cutting back from a $6M project to a $2M project the cost would be $64K a year for the first three years and approximately $164K per year after the permanent financing kicks in for the duration of the bonds. So, can we afford that?

I propose, and this actually was Bob Roddy's initial recommendation that this be a County project because of the three cities involved. In 2015 we approved a County budget which anticipated an ending Fund Balance of $2.7M. When we got the final results in the actual ending Fund Balance on the County Budget was $5.5M, a $3M increase over what we approved as a budget. I will just suggest that with total revenues of $56M and an ending Fund Balance of $5.5M we are essentially at 10% of the annual revenues with our ending Fund Balance. We have amended in the Amended 2016 Budget we are now showing a $5.5M starting point. We're suggesting that an ending point will be $3.5M, but as I said earlier, my experience has been that all of the projected budgeted ending Fund Balances are always conservative. With as much as $3M in surplus in 2015 alone, I believe there is money within the current budgets to support these values that I'm talking about. Nothing that we have talked about tonight addresses the County Mill Levy. All the mill levy reductions that we've talked about are Kansas City, Kansas only. There appears to be plenty of money available. This is a good starting point and I would like to have it considered to be a part of the 2017 Budget.

I have one last thing to bring people's attention to. I did get an email, I shared it with some of the commissioners, from a constituent who is trying to help me do my job better, and after he told me what I was doing wrong I did notice that he lived in Piper and I said well you may have me confused with somebody because I represent District 7 and his response was yes, we moved recently. We did live in Edwardsville and we moved for many factors including the constant noise from those darn trains and so that's my evidence that reducing the train noise would have a positive impact on the whole community and I hope you would support it.

Mayor Holland said I have spoken with the Mayors of both Bonner Springs and Edwardsville and both have said they are supportive of the idea of the Quiet Zone. They were very supportive of the K-32 Corridor Study and are very interested in making that—renewing that for economic development both residential and commercial. They're interested in it. The Quiet Zone piece is a piece that they did not originate but are supportive of, but as the Commissioner said, they don't have money to put towards it at this time. I would remind us that we have not made a significant County investment in a long time.

We used to do the CIFI. When I did my Listening Tour in Bonner Springs and Edwardsville they were very excited about seeing CIFI come back which is the County Initiative For Infrastructure and we stopped doing that at the recession and have not picked it up again since. I do not think this level of investment in Bonner and Edwardsville—for the quality of life in Bonner and Edwardsville to help stimulate economic development, I think it's a very good investment and I think it's a reasonable amount starting with the $2M. We've already had our WYEDC—Greg Kindle has already brought to us an opportunity for some development of some land, opening some land for development, and that development could help pay for one or more of these crossings because there is developable land between the highway and the river in these areas where most of these crossings are. We would need to rebuild that infrastructure anyway to get the economic development project and like we often do, we use the economic development project to leverage the infrastructure improvements and so we're already looking at that as another avenue. It's very plausible that we will need to invest in some of these and some of them can be completed through economic development and continues to get the momentum going on the K-32 Corridor. It's been a long time since we've invested down there. I think this is a reasonable amount and something that we should consider.

Commissioner Philbrook said part of this is in my area too, Muncie, so from the Turner Diagonal west to about 72nd Street would be in my part of the corridor and I would tell you that there are people, especially a few very outspoken folks right in behind Blue Hat, that are not happy because some of their trees were removed and that made it even louder for them when the trains come through. Since then I have had a lot more comments about the amount noise when the trains come through and the whistles are blowing and I can tell you living up on State Avenue where I do I can hear them myself and that's a long ways up. So, a question for you guys is which one of these phases would deal with Muncie and the other thing is when you're talking about WYEDC, which one of those areas would include some of that Muncie area? **Mr. Moody** said if you looked at Segment 4, 88th Street and then Anchor. **Commissioner Philbrook** asked where is Anchor. **Mr. Moody** said it's about a mile to the east further. It's a private crossing. Swartz Avenue obviously, Kansas & 65th, there are other things that have to occur at Kansas & 65th. **Commissioner Philbrook** said that's a very complicated crossing. **Mr. Moody** said very complicated crossings. **Commissioner Philbrook** said what about the crossings that are to the east of that? There are two more crossings to the east of that. **Mr. Moody** said to the east of that—88th Street, as I mentioned, 98th Street—**Commissioner Philbrook** said no, east not west. **Commissioner Walters** said she's thinking like 65th is on there. **Mr. Moody** said 65th is on there and that's where the study ended was at 65th. The two that you are thinking about are further on down where the old Payless Cashway is. **Commissioner Philbrook** said yes, that one. **Mr. Moody** said then further to the east of that you have the one that goes back into the concrete yard. **Commissioner Philbrook** said I haven't heard much complaint down that way. It's mostly through 65th west. So, what area were you talking about, Mayor, or can you even say? **Mayor Holland** said about economic development, it was in the Edwardsville area, I don't remember which crossing it was; but it was in Edwardsville. Edwardsville is filling up their industrial park and looking at some land, some developable land.

Mr. Moody said one of the reasons that Phase 3 included 98th Street was because they are close together. They are a half mile between 98th Street and 9th Street. **Commissioner Philbrook** asked does that mean it needs to be included. **Mr. Moody** said its right at that break point. 98th Street, I would recommend going with 9th and 4th because what that does if you don't do 98th Street, that makes the west half of Edwardsville a Quiet Zone and the east half is still the same as you have today and that really isn't what I would consider good sense in my book. I would like to include—if you are looking at Phase 2 and Phase 3 together, you're moving from a little over $2M to $2.3M, but in doing those two phases together, you're basically taking from Swingster Road to 88th Street which is a 4.25 mile distance by rail on an 8.5 mile corridor so for $2.3M you're biting off almost half of it.

Commissioner Walters said I'm all for including 98th Street and the way I made my proposal is at least the three crossings that I mentioned because, as the Mayor mentioned, there are other opportunities. I think 4th Street is a candidate to get some funding from the State for safety improvements. Right now people have to get off the sidewalk as they approach the crossing, go into the driving lanes of the street, and then go back to the sidewalk. The State has funds available for improving safety at railroad crossing, not for improving crossings to make them Quiet Zones, but Olathe did fund one of their crossings in their Quiet Zone that way and so that's a possibility, economic development to help pay for crossings that's a possibility, and so I said at least these three. If we can make more than those three, it would be great. **Commissioner Philbrook** said I agree Jim. I'm not disagreeing with you. I'm just wanting to talk this over so it's out in front of everybody so they understand what's going on and so those particular crossings we would get the best bang for our buck by doing those first and then work on economic development issues and some other things because especially the one at 65th Street is very dangerous and we have people crossing that all the time now trying to go over to the Dollar Store and there isn't any official crossing over K-32 and it's dangerous for them to do that. I agree, I think we need to look for other funding for that. I'm fine with that Jim.

Commissioner Markley said I have a tiny piece of this corridor in comparison to the rest of you but we did have this presentation out at my Grinter Group which is the neighborhood group that would encompass my area. I guess I had a little different reaction from them and maybe it's because I tend to ask a different set of questions. They had the presentation, they also said this would be nice, it would be pretty cool, we would like to have less train noise whatever and so I said what are your priorities? If I told you I was going to spend money in your district what would you want me to spend money on and they all said well not that. So, I think that tells us a little bit of something about what the priorities would be. They all think this is great plan but if we're going to spend money in their district, they all said they want the roads widened and we want a light out in front of the Grinter House and to me that tells me this isn't the priority that is highest on their list. I guess that's all I would say about how that group felt about it.

My question is, we had this presentation about debt and how we are going to exceed the number of mills that we're using to pay our debt, how does that fit in if it's debt on the County side versus debt on the City side or are those two combined in that graph you showed us previously? **Mr. Bach** said they are separate. The graph we showed you previously was City debt so this was a different one. I'm currently building in the new Juvenile Complex based on the revenue flow at the County because we've left a little money in Debt so there is some room in there and we're doing a Juvenile Complex without looking to go back to the taxpayers which is fairly common in about every jurisdiction when you see a large major facility such as a jail or something like that built that you go back and ask for a mill rate. It's built in without any kind of an increase there. If we ate $150K out of it every year it would have some impact on the fundability of that.

Commissioner Markley said the other thing we discussed with that neighborhood group, I knew I had one more thing to add to that part of the discussion, was this idea of using development and having that development help fund this. I love that idea. That's actually where I thought we were headed when we started this whole Quiet Zone Study was that we were going to pool resources, all of the cities were going to be in it together and we were going to have this development money and we would use all these monies together to move us along. What I'm hearing today is we have our money, our money period and that doesn't sound as good to me as we heard development money and pool everything together. I'm concerned about that as well because when we spoke at the neighborhood group we talked about that development option and they all said that would be great when we get new development and they are taking the taxes off that, yes, use that and do your Quiet Zone but it doesn't sound like—it sounds like that's an option but it doesn't sound like that's an option that we're headed toward right now. The option we're headed toward is let's put this in our budget and fund it ourselves and I don't know how I feel about that.

Commissioner Philbrook asked how much is it a year for all four of those together because I know we have to pay for, it's almost like lease and upkeep for each individual one? **Mr. Moody** said right now the projection is around $15K a year for the signals. **Commissioner Philbrook** asked each one. **Mr. Moody** said yes.

Commissioner McKiernan asked the need for this is being driven by an increase in the frequency of trains on those tracks. **Commissioner Walters** said no, there is not an increase in frequency on the trains. There are about 51 trains, 54 trains a day. Literally, it's noise abatement. **Commissioner McKiernan** said certainly I know Shawnee, Lenexa and Olathe have all done similar things and so you're thinking about this kind of a proof of concept. Take a small piece, scale it back, if it appears to be successful then it's something that could eventually with funding be scaled up. Could it be scaled to other parts of the city as well where there are grade crossings? **Mr. Bach** said yes. I mean we would have to do studies, look at different areas and move through and do an analysis to see what the cost would be and the practically of doing it in different areas. **Commissioner McKiernan** said certainly there are more—and I stood by one just this past Friday, a grade crossing more toward the east end of the city and it was striking to hear the signal at the grade crossing there. Did I just hear that there is going to be an annual maintenance piece above and beyond the initial construction? So, we're going to commit ourselves to the debt but also commit ourselves—and that was 15 per crossing or an aggregate of 15 for those four? **Mr. Moody** said per crossing basically, equipment maintenance fee.

Commissioner Townsend said I do recall the presentation. At this point I don't recall what these phases would actually fund so just very quickly could someone refresh my recollection about what we would be doing with the accomplishment of the phases? **Mr. Moody** said the monies that you are looking at up there for the different phases include all of the equipment that would be necessary, the roadway improvements if necessary, all of these in your proposal were all with medians and lighting gates. Some of them had widening where necessary, some of them had sidewalk where necessary, however, none of them included any right-of-ways to be purchased and part of the Quiet Zone requirements besides being at least a half mile in length or longer is that they cannot start or stop on a private crossing. Holliday Sand is a private crossing so we would have to enter into a right-of-way agreement with the owners on the south side of Holliday Sand or on the south side of the railroad right-of-way there to buy the crossing from them and we have no idea what that cost would be and so there is an unknown on the Phase 2 element.

Commissioner Walters said this is not specifically part of the budget discussion but related to this there are a lot of questions that are coming up, right-of-way, how much curb and how much roadway widening we're doing at these various crossings and the engineer who performed the study was working as a part of the K-32 Corridor Development Study. So, each crossing is different but being proposed are roadway widenings, sidewalks, curbs and gutters and a lot of things that all have to be vetted and it hasn't been vetted and confirmed yet. What I am going to request is that some of the money in the 2016 Budget that is allocated for Commissioner Special Projects be used to hire a consultant facilitator to take the information that the engineers prepared and to take it to the next step of detail. Have detailed discussions with the railroad to find out exactly what the scope of work is that they will perform that will be required to achieve the Quiet Zone and then if we want to do sidewalks or if the City of Edwardsville or Bonner wants to do sidewalks and road widenings in addition to the Quiet Zone construction requirements, that's certainly has to be figured out as well. Right now it's all in there and there is just another level of detail that probably needs to be sorted out. Whatever process we have to request that part of that 2016 budgeted money be used for that I will be starting that process as well.

Commissioner Kane said a couple of things. One, I have talked to a couple of commissioners, one in Edwardsville and one in Bonner and they're not interested in it. Two, I would have to have it broke down more than just what it is here before I could support something like that and I think that Edwardsville and Bonner would have to fork up some of the money as well, not just us. I think it should be a three city thing and like what Jim said, if we can get somebody here to break it down so we can get a complete understanding, but right now I don't have that.

Commissioner McKiernan said basically I was going to bring up the same point. My question would be if we put this off for some period of time, do we have a reasonable expectation that Bonner and Edwardsville would contribute to not only the initial construction of this, but to the ongoing maintenance and upkeep of these? I think if it were a cooperative agreement and a cooperative project it would be a much stronger project in the long run and so my question would be could we put it off for a period of time, the implementation, to see if Bonner and Edwardsville would and could both commit to part of the construction cost and part of the ongoing maintenance cost. Do we have a development that's reasonably close enough in the pipeline that we might be able to count on some portion of that development to take at least one of these crossings out as part of it?

Mayor Holland said I did a little bit of math with 50 crossings and you said there is no current increase but it's gone up significantly through the years in terms of the amount of train traffic on this. Over the last 20 years it has certainly increased but if you have 50 trains a day, that's two an hour and so every 30 minutes you get four blasts just in Edwardsville, four blasts for each train because it has to blow at every single crossing. That's about every 7.5 minutes and if you're close to that, if you've been down a train crossing, you know how loud that is. The question is, and we've got some ideas on the table, we have some money available to move forward with the planning and the project management in this years' budget available already that we can start drilling into. The question is, you know and we often do this, we give authority up to a certain amount pending the evaluation of the project management piece and so the question is, is the Commission willing to commit some money to this project on the County side and if we budgeted it, if we looked at the $2.2M or $2.3M which would be about $175K a year, $180K a year; we need to decide if people are willing to do that. If we don't do it now, like the Commissioner said, it's going to be at least another year off from when the study was done.

Commissioner Bynum said just a question to clarify, a 20-year bond for the $2M because I heard you say $64K a year. **Commissioner Walters** said I asked our CFO to put together a spreadsheet of what it would cost for a $6M project and that's what she did and I just took all those numbers and divided by three. **Commissioner Bynum** said to do the initial phase. **Commissioner Walters** said it would be $60K some for three years using temporary financing until the construction was complete and then it would be permanently financed for approximately $164K a year.

Kathleen VonAchen, CFO, said if you financed $2M for 20 years at 3%, its $115K a year, no, for 20 years its $150K a year. If you finance it over 30 years at 3%, it's $115K, just the $2M just so you know.

Mayor Holland said so $150K a year. **Ms. VonAchen** said for 20 years. **Mayor Holland** said I don't like bonding things for 30 years. I think 20 is plenty.

Commissioner Kane said I would like us to contact Union Pacific and here's why, somebody just sent me a text that says Union Pacific placed Quiet Zones compromise the safety of railroad employees, customers and the general public. While the railroad does not endorse Quiet Zones, it does comply with the visions outlined in the federal law. So, I think we need to get them involved as well. **Commissioner Walters** said yes, I think I said that that we needed to have conversation with the Union Pacific because they will be doing the construction. Just for perspective, there are seven Quiet Zones in our immediate vicinity and the way you create a Quiet Zone is you make the improvements to the crossings so that safety—by the railroads own calculations is improved and only then will they designate the area a Quiet Zone. I understand that all the railroads have not endorsed Quiet Zones and the fact is that even if you have a Quiet Zone any train conductor can sound the horn anytime he or she thinks it's appropriate. I've always thought it's just a little bit of a convenience for them to oppose Quiet Zones because they certainly don't want to be involved in the funding of them.

Mayor Holland said alright, the request is before us, is there a willingness to send Mr. Bach back to come back with a recommendation of what that funding would look like for the next years' budget based on moving forward with these four pending the outcome of whatever project management was in. Do you want to see the option in the budget? **Commissioner McKiernan**

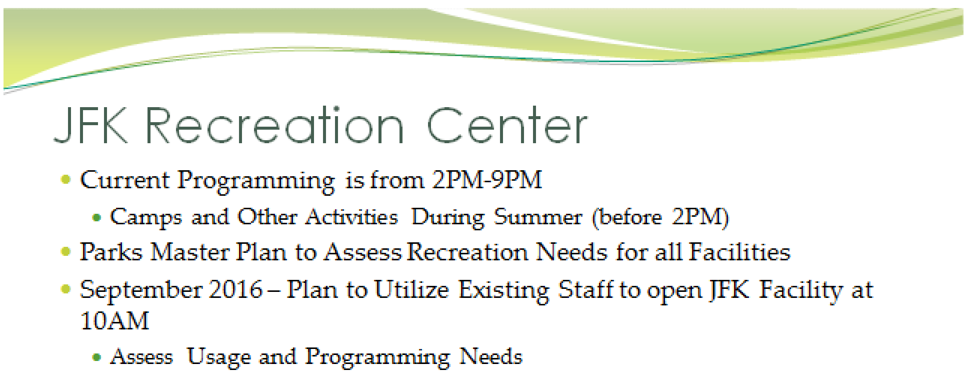
said I would still like to get some sense of the willingness and ability for Edwardsville and Bonner Springs to participate in the initial construction and the ongoing maintenance because I do think it should be a cooperative process.

Commissioner Walker said I think we've had plenty of indication from them, at least privately, that they are not going to participate if it requires any finances. **Commissioner McKiernan** asked well, can they make that not private? **Commissioner Walker** said I guess, Mayor, you could ask them to come in and make that statement. **Mayor Holland** said I think we can certainly make a formal request but we haven't had a formal request to make. If we went to them and asked Edwardsville to fund $6M for Quiet Zones they would say no. I think we need to come up with, and I think we could do this based on the County side of the ledger and, again, that's where I think it's appropriately funded because we have not spent a lot of County money in Edwardsville and Bonner for Capital improvements. If we're looking at $2.3M then we can start doing a calculation. I think Mr. Bach could do this about what would be a reasonable joining or investment by the local community based on the scope of what we're talking about doing. If we were going to do all $6M it would be a formula of how much is in KCK, how much is in Edwardsville and how much is in Bonner; these four crossings, Phases 2 and 3 I believe are all in Edwardsville, is that right? Or is 98th Street in KCK? **Commissioner Walters** said 98th Street is Kansas City. **Mr. Moody** said no, 98th Street is in Edwardsville, 88th Street is in Kansas City. **Mayor Holland** said okay, so Phases 2 and 3 are all in Edwardsville, is that right? **Mr. Moody** said yes they are. **Mayor Holland** said so we would need to look at that $2.3M project, look at the funding and make a formal presentation to them and ask them is that something—and then to come up with a calculation about what would be an appropriate ask in terms of the city's participation in that.

Unless we want to set a threshold here I think I would rather Mr. Bach work it and come back with a recommendation then we try to set a percentage.

Mr. Bach asked am I receiving direction to build this into the 2017 Budget. **Commissioner Philbrook** said I don't think so. **Commissioner McKiernan** said what it would look like to build. **Commissioner Walker** asked can you get it built by the proposed timetable that the Mayor has set for approving the budget. **Mr. Bach** said to get a proposal in front of

Edwardsville and have them tell me whether or not they will fund a portion of it? **Mayor Holland** said I think what we're going to have to do is see what it looks like on the County side based on the temporary notes and the regular financing that we would do for a budget of this kind. I think we can do that in a week and then what would be an appropriate amount and then we could approve or disapprove it pending the participation of the other communities if we wanted to tie it to that and then if they decided not to participate we could come back and talk about that. Mr. Bach says he can do that, he can build that in and bring it back to us and we often do projects pending. Let's get it built in and see what it looks like.



Mr. Bach said we have JFK Rec up here next. Current programming at this rec center and I will turn this over to Joe Connor and Jeremy Rogers to go through it but our analysis of both rec centers was to talk a little bit about—one for the JFK was to talk about the programming and the operations to go there and the Argentine Rec Center is one to talk about adding and doing some modifications at that center for different operations in that area. I will turn this over to Joe and Jeremy to go ahead and walk through both our two rec center presentations.

Joe Connor, Asst. County Administrator, said on the JFK portion of our presentation and just to remind the Commission that at our public input session back in February we got a lot of responses about JFK and a lot of needs for JFK. As we were going through the budget this year we wanted to kind of look at where we were at and things we could do in the interim to see where we wanted to go. One thing that we're really kind of holding hard on is our Parks Master

Plan process which is going to get community input and buy into what rec centers need and what parks need and those kinds of things. We really don't want to jump the gun and start putting a bunch of programming in different places without listening to the community.

We just wanted to go through currently kind of where we're at with JFK and I will let Jeremy come in with some follow-up. Currently the centers are open from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. and that's generally for all of our centers except for Argentine Rec Center that has additional programming that has been put into that particular facility.

During the summer there are different camps and things that require the center to be open earlier generally around kids and basketball and things like that. During the summer it's more than 2 p.m. to 9 p.m.

In September what Jeremy would like to propose is that—I will let him talk about his staffing plan for that, but is to open the JFK facility earlier and provide some additional programming but again while were assessing usage, we're assessing what the programming needs are and we're figuring out how to build this into the end product for the Master Plan. Jeremy, if you want to talk about your staffing and how you would do that.

Jeremy Rogers, Director of Parks & Recreation, said the way I would propose to staff JFK opening up earlier than 2 p.m. would be using existing staff that our current budget would be able to absorb. When we build in our budget we have a set amount for part-time staff and that's how we would staff it is with part-time staff. By doing it in September that gives us time to staff those individuals that would be working there and also give us time to set programs and get things up and rolling for that.

Commissioner Bynum said this was one of the items I had requested. The Parks Master Plan, we budgeted for that in the current year, is that correct? **Mr. Rogers** said yes. **Commissioner Bynum** asked do we have a Master Plan underway. **Mr. Rogers** said yes, that process has started already. **Commissioner Bynum** asked do you know how long before we'll see a Master Plan that helps us understand more how to staff and utilize JFK. **Mr. Rogers** said the firm we have hired to that will roll out the Master Plan in April, 2017. **Commissioner Bynum** said so it's April of next year before we'll see the results of the planning process. **Mr. Rogers** said yes. **Commissioner Bynum** said in the interim you're hopeful to use existing staff, provide more programming at JFK starting at an earlier time and then assess that to see if there is benefit. Am I tracking? **Mr. Rogers** said you are correct, absolutely.

Commissioner Johnson said I think that's the main thing that I heard from the community when we sat down and talked with some folks as well and we were heard it at the public hearing so the fact that you will be doing that is exactly in line with what was requested and so I appreciate that. I'm interested to hear the feedback in terms of the programming that I think will be feasible for that facility. I'm very interested in hearing that.

Mr. Connor said the Argentine Recreation Center, this is a concept that was brought again before the Standing Committee a number of months ago and we were looking for funding. We included in the budget for 2017. Some of the activities would have to happen to make this work is what I have up here on the slide. We would have to have a couple of RFPs developed. One for the private operator and one for the construction phase. We estimate that Interior Construction would be 90 days and Exterior would be 120. Depending on the time of year and depending on different factors one of the things we're trying to get done with this particular project is to have the facility opened up in January. That's the best time a lot of the operators think they want to try to open up and gain membership. Getting on exterior construction and try to do that in the wintertime and that's why I broke those two out from a construction standpoint. What we have included in the CMIP is $350K. We think that is going to cover the portion of the facility that would be renovated and then also we would provide air-conditioning to the entire building. That's kind of our project at this point.

Commissioner Murguia said thank you very much for putting this on the agenda and it's just as Joe said this is a project that actually I brought to Doug and Joe in September of 2015 so it's been about a year ago. It's sort of a novel concept. It ties in with the Healthy Communities Initiative and ways to get healthy, affordable options in some of our urban neighborhoods and a way to begin to ramp up some of our existing community centers and also, frankly, to test the market on the potential for these sort of community fitness centers to thrive in urban areas where there is a lower income population.

The reason I asked for it to be on the agenda is just what Joe said. I'm simply asking that we amend this 2016 Budget to add these costs to 2016 so the work can begin this fall so that it can be open and ready to go in January when everybody wants to join a fitness club and make a New Year's Resolution. If we don't start the project until January 1, 2017 by the time all of these deadlines and the construction is met, it will be spring and memberships in clubs drop in the spring because people chose to spend their time outside walking or in more outdoor types of activity.

The other offer that I have, and this is why you might have been wondering why I was asking the criteria to fast track things, is that our criteria in the past has been for economic development and for health related projects as well as grant funded. The organization, in which I work for, Argentine Neighborhood Development Association, happened to come into some grant money that we are willing to donate to this project but this money has to be spent before the end of the year. I've talked to Doug briefly about that. It would be a $70K contribution to this project which will enable the community center to do some additional things that they have wanted to do to the community center. Again, this is grant monies, not loan money and its cash and it's available right away. **Mayor Holland** asked would that lower this project cost or take it up an additional $70K. **Commissioner Murguia** said no, the original bid as Jeremy and Doug can tell you, was like $600K some and they just cut it back for cost reasons and so this additional $70K the funder would only fund additional and it has to be spent by the end of the year.

Commissioner Philbrook said I just want to make sure that I understand that we're going to be putting out RFPs for both the construction company and the private operator that will come in as the fitness or health center. Is that correct? **Mr. Connor** said yes, we would probably do them in the reverse order. We would want to get our operator first but we're finding out the operators have a lot of requirements and we may have to meet with the construction side of it so we want to get who is the operator going to be, what requirements do they have and then put that into a construction RFP so we have everything, both pieces together, but you have to have the operator first before you do construction.

Commissioner McKiernan said help me understand how this is going to work. What percent of the total square foot are we going to take and dedicate toward private business? **Commissioner Murguia** said the Argentine Rec Center if you've never been there, half of it is gymnasium. It's very typical of the urban community centers. Half of it is one single gymnasium and the other half is a series of community rooms that can be opened up into one big space. There will be some modifications to the interior of that but let's say you're dividing it down the middle, the gym obviously will stay and the other half that is community rooms will go to become let's just say Anytime Fitness Recreation Center. **Commissioner McKiernan** asked does the public lose access to community center space that they currently have access to with no charge. **Commissioner Murguia** said no, we've been able to—I've been working with Jack Webb primarily because it's really Jack's job, on how to keep the programs that are there at the community center which there doesn't seem to be an issue with that. In addition to that with the development in Argentine of the new Argentine Library there are a number of spaces available there and then as you know the groundbreaking for the new South Patrol Police Station encompasses a new community room so we have plenty of community space to accommodate. **Commissioner McKiernan** said so the space the people are currently using as a community would still be available, some of it there, some of it in other places. **Commissioner Murguia** said most of it would actually be there. **Commissioner McKiernan** said and we would become landlords effectively, correct. **Mr. Bach** said yes, the one to run the fitness area would run that side of the center. **Commissioner McKiernan** said and so that operator then would pay some sort of square footage cost to us. **Mr. Bach** said I don't know. That's undetermined. I would say an initial review of it it's probably unlikely. What we looked at was what they would do is they would have a reduced rate structure. That's really the premise of it that you come in and we can operate a fitness center that is available to people in that part of the community at a lower rate than it would be at one that somebody is paying a commercial rate charge for the space they're in. **Commissioner McKiernan** said so we would give up our overhead, our square footage, in return for discounted memberships. **Mr. Bach** said correct.

Commissioner Walker said we're not giving up much down there Brian, not in practical application. I mean the space is used sometimes, mostly the gymnasium. When I've been in there rarely have I seen anybody in the backrooms unless somebody makes an effort to want to go to that—it's not the most conducive place to have a meeting. Yes, I think we become landlords; this becomes our tenant regardless of what we make. I think every community center ought to have a fitness operation. There are people that can't afford the YMCA rate structure even when they discount it. This is easily accessible to a poor community, a minority community; not poor and minority necessarily together but just simply you have a mix of people for which the nearest facility right now I guess would be either in Johnson County or the old YMCA. They have nowhere to go.

Commissioner McKiernan asked so how many of our community centers are currently air-conditioned because that seems to be one of the big overhead costs here for renovation. **Mr. Rogers** said none of our community centers are completely air-conditioned. Most of them have different spaces with the exception of Eisenhower as it's attached to a school.

Commissioner McKiernan said I'm going to say I really have no problem with this concept, but what I would like to see is if we do this for this one center, then what I would like to see is that we have a plan to sequentially move these kinds of improvements around to all the centers to try to implement this same sort of reduced rates fitness coverage because I think there are lots of community—Commissioner Walker is right, there are a lot of communities that could benefit from this. There are a lot of community centers and citizens that could benefit from this type of renovation to our existing centers and so what I'm saying is when this is successful I would like for us to use it as a model and have a systemic plan to implement these same sorts of upgrades whether it be one a year or a two a year. Maybe we have a 12-year plan but by the time we're done with it we have thoughtfully and systemically upgraded all of our centers using this one as the model on which we build then.

Mayor Holland asked what is the breakdown on cost. In terms of the $350K how much of that is going for the fitness center and how much is going for the air-conditioning of the building? **Mr. Connor** said we're estimating about $75K for the air-conditioning for the remaining of the building and so the rest of it will be for construction. **Mayor Holland** said so about $275K will be for the construction. Will we be putting the equipment in there? **Mr. Connor** said no. **Mayor Holland** said they would be providing the equipment. **Mr. Connor** said that would be a part of what we put in the RFP that we can make the space ready to your specifications but you have to staff it, equip it and make it ready to go.

Commissioner Bynum asked would we be asking the operator then to make a fairly long-term commitment to be there, like how long? **Commissioner Murguia** said when projects go on for a long period of time there is lots of discussion. I forget that until we bring them in front of the Commission and then I have to sort of backup. When I brought this concept to Doug the reason I brought it to him is because, Brian, for what you say I felt like our community centers were underutilized. Really they are buildings with nothing in them. As we were talking about JFK earlier, the concern is that you have a building and that's great but you're not running anything out of it. That's the difficult—you have this underutilized space that if we paid our own heat and air-conditioning bill, it would be a huge waste of money. We're just fortunate enough to have the arrangement we do where we don't. When I first brought it forward I thought this is a money maker. I looked at it from a very business perspective. I said, Doug, charge them a square footage price, let them charge membership fees and the concern from Doug, and you can correct me if I wrong Doug, was that we can't charge fair market rates out of a tax paid community center. I said that's why it took so long and I say so you tell me, Doug, what you want and what is reasonable in the way of a community center where we have a public/private partnership so we can start to offer our residents, our citizens, quality recreation opportunities. How do we do that since we can't afford to do that, how do we create that opportunity for others and stay within your guidelines. He said well, and even he laughed, and said if you can find a fair market company that will offer state-of-the-art equipment and charge community center rates, we'll take a hard look at that. Now, I think he thought he was tasking me with the impossible, frankly, it was you know I don't think that's ever going to happen and we were lucky enough to figure that out, but how we were able to do that is by not charging them rent on the space. That's how it becomes more feasible and more doable. So, Melissa, I have to tell you the truth I'm glad you're looking at it sort of like a pilot, Brian, because we don't know if it will be successful so the whole reason in doing one instead of seven or six is to say hey, would this be successful. Then maybe it will be successful in Argentine but in another area of the city maybe we want to set up a more programming base community center where we're offering different kinds of health programming. It just really depends, and frankly, as an old community organizer I think that needs to be driven by the community where the community center is at.

I think this is what we talked about earlier when we talked about the tax rate. These are things we can do for our citizens that in scheme of things don't cost a lot of money and they feel like they're getting something for those tax dollars that they're paying.

So, no, Melissa, I think it would be difficult on a million dollars' worth of fitness equipment to lock somebody down on a 10-year lease. **Commissioner Bynum** said, yes, just a couple years. Something committed longer than a year. **Commissioner Murguia** said it's not going to cost him anything except the cost of his equipment so he's going to want to try to hit the ground running, get as many memberships, because he's going to have to pay his banker for the equipment that he buys so he is going to want to hit the ground running and be there as long as he can to recruit members. Hopefully, that's a little better history. **Mr. Bach** said I would say that becomes a little bit of the evaluation. I don't know that we've said we've got to have a minimum of this many years, now it's more than one. I would like to think we would have somebody locked into five and then you kind of work at it from there. **Commissioner Bynum** said I think that's great.

I need Legal or someone to help me understand again how it is we preserve our tax-exempt status for the building. I know you've told me in the past and I just want to make sure I understand. The second question is for Jeremy. We had talked about with the JFK programming that almost all the buildings have programming that runs from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. you said except for the Argentine Center because we have programming there. I want to circle back around to that just making sure that we have programming going on there now that starts earlier than 2 p.m. and we're going to move that programming to other places. I just want to make sure I'm hearing correctly. **Mr. Rogers** said the programming that currently exists at Argentine before the 2 p.m. timeslot is the existing fitness center. **Commissioner Bynum** said so it's the same kind of activity. **Commissioner Murguia** said what he's talking about is there is currently a very small weight room; workout area at Argentine Rec but it's predominately a freeway. You know the difference and females, which makeup the majority of the population at Argentine Community, feel like it's much more geared toward men fitness, male fitness, so it's kind of limiting.

Commissioner Bynum said okay, then if I could just understand the tax question. **Ken Moore, Chief Legal Counsel,** said the tax question would depend on what kind of agreement we had with the operator. I think the closer we have to—or we actually have the lease type of arrangement, the closer it would be to—we would come to lose our tax-exempt status. The Appraiser, BOTA, and the courts are really pretty clear that you can't really divide parcels out if it's all one building so that would apply to the entire building. Now, the closer we come to like a management agreement where it remains our building and they just manage an operation there, then the more likely we are to preserve the tax-exempt status.

Commissioner Walker said, Doug, I don't mind moving this project up, but what I do mind is if we do move it up we're taking $350K from somewhere. I don't know where but its $350K. How much of a guarantee are you going to give me that this is all for naught, that you're going to make that January deadline. There is no reason to move it up if you come in and say darn the weather or whatever it is and it's not going to open until March, there is no reason to move it up. **Mr. Connor** said I guess I will just say that I would never guarantee that. This would be an aggressive timeline. We have done some legwork already on this particular project so it's not like we're going in completely starting from scratch. I mean that would be the goal. That's why we laid out the specific—**Commissioner Walker** said I know. I've seen a lot of these.

Commissioner Philbrook said so you already know what you need done. **Mr. Connor** said generally. We have a general idea. Again, it depends on who the operator is and then it depends on getting whatever their construction needs are and any specifics they need to have. For example, if they would require a certain type of equipment and you have to wait 30 days to get it in or 60 days or something, we can't control that.

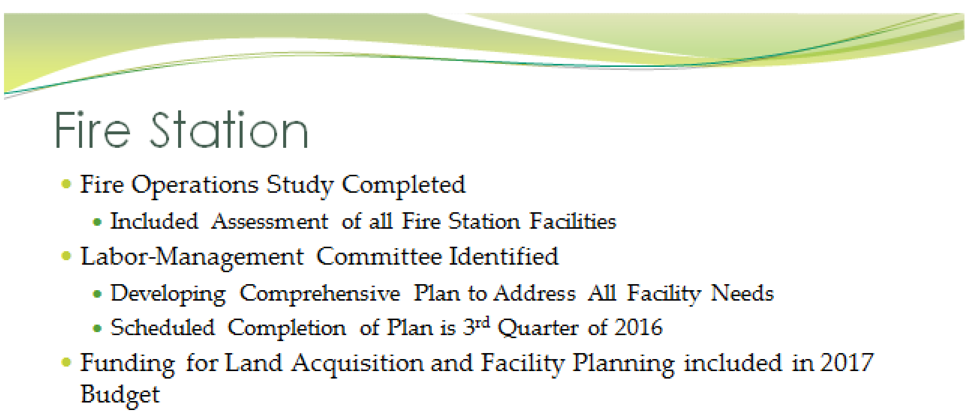
Commissioner Murguia said that's also why I asked to bring it forward and fast, why I have been kind of harping on it about bringing it forward because time is of the essence. Like I said, if we want it to be successful and we want to move it to other community centers, then we have to get ready for that January 1 deadline. **Commissioner Philbrook** asked what does that timeline actually look like in reality. Lay it out for me because you're talking about doing RFPs and all that. **Mr. Connor** said we think the first RFP we could have somebody selected in that four to six week timeframe. That means putting it out on the street, receiving bids and evaluating them, and selecting a person or selecting a company. Then we would start with the second one which again it would probably take closer to the six week timeframe, but again, going through the process, specking it out and getting bids out and getting them selected. **Commissioner Philbrook** said so you're talking about three months out. **Mr. Connor** said we're probably into October, yes.

Mr. Bach said I will just add it's going to be pretty hard to be there by January 1. I think there is a schedule that gets it done. Staff has gone through and done this but I've been through enough RFP processes to go through select an operator. We could concurrently bid construction pieces of this to get out and start going and then modify based on what the operator, after we get them selected and onboard, what we needed to because just based on that schedule we need to have all of our construction, particular the interior side, the exterior parts of the construction could wait and the air-conditioning system and things like that; some of those things can wait until later in the year. They don't have to be there as the project opens but it will be pushing it. It's unfair for me to sit here and tell you that we would be there on January 1, I cannot guarantee that by any means, but we feel like there is a schedule that can get it done but it's aggressive.

Mayor Holland asked am I correct that this is already in the 2017 Budget. **Mr. Bach** said it's in my proposed budget.

Commissioner Murguia said I just have one question myself. Does the cash help you if you are able to get that cash right away to move some of the stuff forward for repairs? **Mr. Bach** said I'm assuming the bulk of what we have to do the work on is the major renovation inside so not a whole lot. I mean it's getting the operator, getting all the bids done, and then getting the work started. Once we're good to go—I mean we're going to fund this with cash so that's how it's going to happen. **Commissioner Murguia** asked so do you want the $70K because I could spend it a lot of places. **Mr. Bach** said yes, we'll take that. We can spend $70K this year even if we do the project next year. **Commissioner Murguia** said whether you all decide or not, just so you know I'm giving Doug $50K so if you do it before the end of the year, spend it; if you don't I need it back. I'm going to be out-of-town as you know and—you have it and you already have the $20K so you have my $70K for the project, hopefully, you can get it done January 1. **Mr. Bach** said I will just clarify, that's made out to the Unified Government. **Mayor Holland** said I will also note it doesn't have a signature on it. **Commissioner Murguia** said oh sorry, I'll sign it. Nice catch, Mayor, nice catch. There you go and he already has the $20K so you have all $70K and that money really does need to be spent before the end of the year. That is the only requirement to the grant.

Mayor Holland asked are folks willing to move this up to this year instead of next year. Okay, I see a consensus to go ahead and move it up.



Mr. Bach said the next item on our agenda is regarding the fire stations. I will have Chief Jones move upfront with Joe on this one as they will be doing the bulk of the presentation. This project is really one that sets out from I think as we started a couple of years ago doing an overall comprehensive look at all our fire stations knowing that we needed to do a lot more, a lot of work, a lot of remodeling, and potential need for new stations. We've gone together and done this analysis. I will have Joe and Chief Jones get into this. The overall initiative behind this was how can we go through and complete this in an efficient way. We built the budget this year that allows us to start this process looking mainly at savings we would have through various operations and be able to move forward and do this without having to add any kind of tax increase or anything like that as we go through it but we could figure out a structure that allows us to do debt to this but have other means to pay for it. I know Commissioner Kane has this on there but we will go through and set this up and then turn it over like we have the other ones.

Mr. Connor said I will go through the slide real quickly. This is mostly information you have probably seen before but we have had the Fire Operation Study completed. It did include a very detailed assessment of all of our fire station facilities. There is actually a separate report on each particular facility. We are addressing this through the Labor-Management Committee and there is a Comprehensive Plan that's being developed that's supposed to be completed by the third quarter of this year according to our own, we set our own kind of timeframe for that. You have approved funding, actually there is some in the 2016 Budget as well, but in 2017 funding for land acquisition and facility planning as well.

Chief John Paul Jones, Fire Department, said the Fire Operation Study was completed and that was initiated through the labor/management process as part of the previous contract. We came together and selected the consulting firm to do the Fire Operation Study but it was part of the overall labor/management process that came together and it continues as Joe stated. The Labor-Management Committee of course has identified the Fire Operation Study component of that is bridged into a strategic planning process as part of this labor/management initiative. Through that the development of the plan, and I guess you would say the plan to address what was identified, and that is that we're in dire need of upgrading and also looking at new facilities regarding fire stations.

Continued in that labor/management process is identified as the third quarter of 2016 and we are actually kind of in the middle of that process now to identify that plan of action and what we'll do going forward in regards to that. The one thing I can't comment on is from the funding standpoint in regards to those recommendations, but I think it's important to know that it's important to establish what the recommendations will be out of this labor/management process so we can look toward the future and have a plan of action of how we tackle this and prioritize this plan going forward.

Commissioner Kane asked is your joint counterpart team or any of those members here. **Chief Jones** said as far as on the labor side I think representatives of Local 64 are here tonight. **Commissioner Kane** said whoever represents 64 please come up here because when I do a joint program I do it side-by-side. I don't do it by myself. I was in a joint program for the UAW at General Motors for 21 years. I think these programs are very important so, Bob, would you come up here please? **Mayor Holland** said, Commissioner, I have a question for you. When we've done the Jail Study and we've done the Police Study, we done that with the Sheriff and the Police Chief, and we've not invited the labor for the Police or Sheriff forward. We've never done that in my nine years here. **Commissioner Kane** said there is language in their agreement that said a joint union process—factors to be considered in the analysis and development station locations including potential new stations and renovations and expansion or closure. That's in their contract so that's why I think Bob should come up here. Are any of the commissioners opposed to having the union come up here and just sit and watch what's going on? **Commissioner Walker** said well, if you won't talk, that will be alright. **Commissioner Kane** said I'm going to do the talking, but the way I've always done it, Mark, and this is no slap at you or anybody else; for 21 years I never presented anything without my management counterpart there and I don't think this should be presented this way. **Mayor Holland** said well, Commissioner, in all the budget years we've ever done—**Commissioner Kane** said it's either yes or no. Commissioners, is he allowed to sit by me or not? **Mayor Holland** said if he wants to sit there, that's fine. **Commissioner Walker** said it doesn't make any difference.

Commissioner Kane said I moved out in Piper in 1990 and there was Quail in my backyard and an old fire station. When they annexed the fire station they said we're going to build you a new fire station and we're going to expand your roads. Just since I moved out there Senior Citizen Villa at 115th Street, Westlake, Westmore Downs, Canaan Woods, Canaan Valley, Canaan Lake, Whispering Pines, Piper Estates, Clearview Estates, Northridge Estates, the fourplexes at 103rd & Leavenworth Road, The Meadows on Hutton Road, Piper Landing on 115th Street, and Connor Creek north of Hutton; the reason I bring this up is the entire time I have been here I've asked for an additional fire station out west and we've had 13 or 14 brand new additions since we moved out there. That's thousands and thousands of people and Piper High School—Piper School District has to add the trailers in the next week or two because that's how much it has grown. Now, here's the deal, and No. 8 is the only one we have has a 1975 truck, a water truck. You know what it would be like to stop a truck like that full of water? It runs, it runs good, but here's the deal folks; we pay a boatload of taxes and we get very little services and it shouldn't be a commissioner bringing this up. Staff should have brought this up and said you know what there's the spot to put a fire station and if you look around Connor Creek and some of the other ones that are a heck of a long ways away and a fire increases how often Chief? **Chief Jones** said it doubles every minute. **Commissioner Kane** said alright, so if you're the person on the north end of Piper, by the time you get there it might be too late. My point is we've been talking about this for ever and ever and ever and there has been nothing done and yet our taxes are the highest, any home taxes in Kansas City, Kansas to my knowledge and I believe that we deserve a fire station. Now is the time to do it and let's try to figure it out. Mark, I'm not mad at you. I'm not trying to put on a scene. This is what's going on. This is what the people are telling me, this is what they want and for fourteen additional additions, not counting the ones that were already out there, that's a lot of people folks. When you get the truck out there coming and you see the pumper, you know you're in trouble. What's the closest one to it? **Chief Jones** asked the closest one to 8's. **Commissioner Kane** said yes. **Chief Jones** said 95th & State, No. 6. **Commissioner Kane** said alright, you're at 95th & State and you have to go to 123rd & Hollingsworth, how long is it going to take and what's it going to cost? I think the people out west deserve a new fire station and I don't think they deserve one next year, two years from now, I think they deserve one now.

Commissioner Walker said I don't disagree with you, Mike. It's in need. It's an area that has need but you know if we have an objective management labor study, I've lived for soon to be 34 years in a location that has two fire stations that were built when my father was in his 20s. They were township fire stations. They may look better from the outside than the pole barn, but go inside them and take a look. We've got other areas, Mike, that also need these. Maybe Piper's need is greatest because of the growth. I would ask the question of the fire experts, are the homes built better in Piper to resist fire, are they more apt to be a higher grade material than the things that were built in the 30s and 40s and the 50s that are in the area of where my fire stations are; the Highland Crest area, the Argentine area, the old Turner area in downtown Turner. I would just like to see an objective study. I don't necessarily contend that we should be number one out of the box but if we're going to have a study, I would like to see some rankings or some priorities at least for the foreseeable future because there are other areas that have needs too.

Commissioner Bynum said I completely support a new fire station for Piper or two. I think the study might have shown we need two fire stations in Piper or two additional fire stations in Piper. Joe, you had commented I thought I heard you say as an introductory remark that there is money in the Amended 2016, did I hear that? So is that money for site acquisition? Can you just be more specific? I agree with Commissioner Kane that we need to get started now rather than later and I just want to be clear on what needs to happen, what can happen in 2016 and I think I also see money budgeted in '17 for construction if I'm not mistaken. The assessment done by the consultants shows nine of our stations need to be torn down and built new, six need major renovation and three could get by with minor renovation so certainly after we build at least a fire station in Piper, we should look at this nine. As Commissioner Walker said, begin to rank those but I'm all for money for a fire station in Piper and I say we start this year rather than next year and I don't know what more I can do to support it, Commissioner Kane, other than unless we've not yet identified locations.

Commissioner Philbrook said, Mike, you're right. We've been telling Piper for years since we drug them into Kansas City, Kansas kicking and screaming that we would supply more to them and that includes a fire station. I see my three fire stations in my district and they all need some TLC to say the least and I want to thank my firefighters for toughing it out sometimes there. Not that they are absolutely terrible but they sure could be improved, there is no question. Now, do I want to tell my firefighters in my district that I would rather you had a new fire station, what I think they would tell me because the few I've talked to have been more concerned about the people they are serving than even what their conditions are. They haven't complained to me about their conditions. I visit and they're more concerned that they have the right equipment to do the job and so I would almost be willing to ask them, put your hands up, are you willing to forfeit your improvement to yours so Piper can have another one and I would be willing to bet they would probably vote yes. I could be wrong and they can yell at me and scream at me later but that's where I'm coming from.

Commissioner McKiernan said I do agree that we have to be systematic, we have to start a plan but I spoke with Administrator Bach last December I think it was and I told him after taking a look at a few, and especially the township stations, I feel like even as we're developing a plan for new stations, even as we're locating sites, getting the funding, getting the plans together; there are some fundamental things that need to be done to improve the conditions in our existing stations and I don't think it should wait and I don't think we should put off the improvements just because well we're going to tear that one down in a couple of years. If we have a couple of years' worth of improved working conditions from making some systematic improvements to some of the stations that might eventually be on the demo list, I think we should make them. I expressed that to Administrator Bach and I do believe he has built money into the 2017 Budget to start that process of correcting some of the working conditions in some of our existing stations even if they ultimately are on the list to be replaced. That is one thing I would like to see is we move systematically on upgrades right now even as we're getting our long-term plan.

Commissioner Markley said to me the complication here is that we are waiting for this committee to layout in more detail which facilities go in what order so we have money in the budget, right, for a fire station. I felt like there was consensus last time we met that the Piper fire station was probably the biggest priority, but we don't know what this committee is going to come back with and whether that's going to match with what we feel like we had consensus on. I guess my question is 3rd Quarter of 2016, when are we expecting this plan to come back and is there a possibility of getting some advanced information about what that layout might look like to see whether the Commission is on the same page with what they plan to fund as the committee is telling us we should be funding. **Mr. Bach** said I guess as that's laid out that is how we've done our committee and Mr. Wing and I along with Chief Jones are both on the one where we're looking for fire stations and how that comes out and this is quarter we're supposed to get after this and come back with some good recommendations as to how we will lay those stations out from a priority standpoint. We haven't done that yet so we don't have that priority. I can't really give you the advance, however, the studies that did come out pretty much laid some of the handwriting out there where there were a couple of stations that were out in the Piper area, then there were some consolidated or new stations that were built within other areas of the community. I think it really comes down to our Labor-Management Committee coming back with a recommendation as to which one we think is the first priority as to how it would be done. Remember in doing this, when you add a fire station part of the question that has to be answered are we able to do that with our existing number of companies that we have and if that's the case then that means we have to consolidate an existing house somewhere, put two companies into one and be able to move another company out and let's say the Piper area. If you're not going to do that, then there is a whole different funding area that I don't have any funding for built into the budget to say I'm going to add another company into the budget, essentially $1M, add another firetruck. I think Chief Jones has fought hard for us to work—we're adding four firetrucks next year. We have two pumpers, a Quint and an Aerial built into the 2017 Budget. It's a record number of pieces of equipment or apparatus for us to add in for a number of years. That's not to add an additional piece, that's to take out pieces of equipment we need to remove from operation so we would need to do that. This is really predicated on us not just identifying where the right location is, but it's coming up with the right type of strategy and working our union group on this as to what company we could consolidate and move out into that new area.

Commissioner Walker asked what are we doing here then. Why are we talking about this? We've already got it in the budget. Do we need to expedite the funding, is that why we're doing this? I don't have a recommendation. Are we waiting on a recommendation for where we're going to put it? Are we all going to make a pitch for where we want it? I mean what is this about here tonight? **Mayor Holland** said let's come back to that question because I think that is the fundamental question.

Commissioner Murguia said I just had a question about if we consolidate fire stations and we build new ones and relocate them and you said that is dependent upon whether or not we consolidate some of the companies, you called them companies, I just want to know if we do all of that will then we be able to also ramp up to our minimum manning requirements that the union has been talking about for a long time? **Mr. Bach** said that's part of the discussion. **Commissioner Murguia** asked financially can we do that. Can we afford—that's the question, that's where I think we're at. **Mayor Holland** said so; this is why we did the study. Remember we had all these questions before. Our equipment is completely outdated. The Chief took me on a tour of the stations. Our stations are deplorable, not because our guys aren't doing the best they can but because we've inherited a lot of buildings from townships that are not located in the most strategic places. They were outdated when we inherited them and, frankly, most of them need to be pushed over and we need new facilities that are up to the current standards. Our men and women on the department deserve better facilities and better equipment so we've made a commitment to move forward with new equipment, we've put 20 new police cars on the road this year and we have 30 more coming next year; that's 50 new cars in two years. We bought two new apparatus for the Fire Department this year and we have four more coming next year. We're aggressively—they are supposed to be on a 10-year cycle, some of them are on a 17 and 20 year cycle, they are completely outdated some of the equipment that we have our firefighters running. It's not safe and we have to improve it. We did this study and the study recommended, Commissioner, that we go to minimum manning which is to add four people.

They also recommended that we consolidate companies because we have tremendous overlap on the eastern portion and a lack of service in the west and we need to look at our map and our population distribution and there are other factors. As you know we have a lot of commercial, we have a lot of industrial, we have some older housing stock and some newer housing stock and all of that plays in and our group came back with a recommendation of where we should put our firehouses. If we had a blank slate and we could put them anywhere, where would we put them and how many would we build and that's where I've said we need to be committed to the four minute response time. That's the national standard. I'm committed to it and we have areas to our city where we have two minute response time and out in Piper we have 15 minute response times so we have to redistribute our resources for maximum effectiveness. The study showed that we're overstaffed in our department because of the overlap. If the study is true that shows we need more out west then it's also true that we have too much in the east and we're not talking about eliminating service in the east. We're talking about bringing it to the four minute standard that is the national standard that we should commit to but we have too many firehouses in the eastern portion and they are in largely deplorable condition. We probably need to build eight new firehouses, eight to ten new firehouses to provide adequate facilities in the right locations and we're committed to doing that. I want to implement the full study but I don't want to implement it piecemeal and I'm not committed to building a new fire station until we have an implementation plan for how we're going to consolidate another areas and they need to go hand in hand because I think for a lot of reasons, strategically and politically, we're going to need to build in the east as well as out west at the same time. We're going to be able to do that but the way we're going to do it is by following the study and reducing the numbers of personnel that we have, not through layoffs, no one is going to lay anybody off, but through natural attrition so that we have enough personnel savings to fund the investments we need to make for the long-term. How do we do that? Well, right now we're working through our labor negotiations for our contract. Our contract has a number of provisions in it that we need to work through that enables us to implement our full study. If we don't make some changes to our contract, some global changes to our contract, we're not going to be able to implement our study. If we can't implement our study then we're not going to be able to build the firehouses that we need to build. It's all tied together so we're working on the contract right now. It just went to fact-finding and so it's in the hands of the State right now to set up the process but we should finish the contract negotiations by the end of this year and then we have the money in place for land acquisition, for design, so that we're ready to go. As soon as the contract is finished and we have an agreement on what level of service we're going to have we're ready to start building but we have to do it in order.

I 100% agree we need a new firehouse out west. The people deserve it and the study calls for it and the only way we're going to be able to fund it is through savings through personnel and through consolidating companies in other areas. That's where we're headed and we're going to implement the whole study. My commitment is to implement the whole study. I don't want to implement it piecemeal.

Commissioner Kane said you know, Hal, you said that the people made a commitment to lower taxes, the former Commission. The former Commission promised the people in Piper a fire station and I agree they need to come tell us what study it is and tell us where it's at, but we didn't need a study to tell us we're underserved out west. I would be very disappointed if a fire station went out anywhere else concerning what I just told you of how many—14 additions just since I moved out there in 1990 and I've said this to staff for 11 years and for 11 years I get just the answer I got right there, well we're working on it. I don't want to work on it anymore. I want to get this done, I want them to come back jointly and tell us what their answers are and then we will go from there.

Mayor Holland said to your point Commissioner—**Commissioner Walker** asked so what are we going to resolve tonight? What was the intent of having this on here? **Commissioner Kane** said the intent was to let everyone know the need. I just sat down tonight and just thought about how many that are here Hal. That's a lot of places and I know these places are new but a lot of these places pay—like I said we pay the most taxes of anybody else and we have the least amount of services and we deserve to have the same services everyone else has across the city. **Commissioner Walker** said I don't disagree with you. I made my point to remind you that there are other areas. **Commissioner Kane** said I agree. **Commissioner Walker** said so to me the issue is keeping in mind the study. I don't know how long we're going to be in this process of trying to implement the overall Fire Study and so I guess I would ask you, Mayor, is this like a set of dominos that whatever we decide to do with this is going to be determining of every other domino in the study? That appears to be your opinion. **Mayor Holland** said that's right.

Commissioner Walker said I think putting a fire station at a strategic location based on expert recommendation is not determinative of what we end up deciding to do or disagree with on the east or out south in Turner, for example. Under the study they want—I'm not going to say who the firemen were, but I had to go to a fire station and they talked to me about the proposal of consolidation of one big fire station somewhere central between the two and how that would impact the edges of what the Turner School District is in response time compared to the better response time I have with these old pieces of demolition eligible fire stations. I don't know, Mayor. I just feel like everybody has known for 20 years that we need a fire station out west. The pole barn is the joke of the community if not the metropolitan area. We need a station out there and I don't necessarily agree that everything else depends on where we place that fire station. I do understand your connection between their contractual requirement that they have to have so many companies and what are we going to do with this company—well that would assume we are going to keep them in the pole barn until the new one unless we build the new one where the pole barn is.

Mayor Holland said we need to rebuild the pole barn. The pole barn has got to go but we also need to build another one in another location because we need the pole barn—the study shows for the pole barn plus another one. We need two out west new. The challenge we have, and Mr. Bach said it, we've got to put a company in it. I want don't want to build a building—if we don't put firefighters in it with a truck, there is no sense in building it. Where do we take it from? That's where the comprehensive study comes in. That's why we brought in professionals because you start closing firehouses without a plan and people get worked up and we need to make sure that we have a professional plan, which we have, that shows four minute response time, which we have, with a new plan but it's going to mean in order to put a new fire station out west we've got to put a new fire station in-between two eastern ones so we can pull down two, put a company in each new one without adding additional companies because we're not adding additional companies. We're just not going to add additional companies. In fact the study shows we could reduce the number of companies and by reducing companies we can actually put four people on every truck and meet the minimum standards, the minimum manning standards which I'm committed to. I'm committed to a four minute response time and I'm committed to minimum manning. That means we're going to have fewer companies so we have to use the study, we're on track, we have not missed a beat. Since we got this study back in October the Labor-Management Team has been meeting regularly with everybody at the table to put together the plan to come up with how we're going to do it. We have money for site acquisition and for design so as soon as we have an agreement we can start building fire stations and that's exactly how aggressive we need to be.

Commissioner Markley said so this is what I would say. Doug, I think you said there are several members of the committee in the room tonight including yourself and I think what you're hearing here is there is a consensus that the Piper station should be a priority. We're looking for your recommendation, but I think if you're going to come before us with the recommendation that station be tenth in line you know what kind of reaction you're going to get and if you want full approval of this plan, the fact that we place that as a priority should probably weigh into the plan you present. That's just what I would say that comes out of this discussion tonight.

Mayor Holland said the other piece, and I'll just finish this, closing fire stations is a very emotional piece in a community and I tell everybody you know the hospital I was born in has been torn down, the elementary school I went to has been torn down, the church I was baptized in has been closed, the church I grew up in is closed so beware of City Hall is all I'm saying, right. I will tell you what, it was the doctors and nurses in the hospital that mattered, it was the people in the church that mattered, and it was the teachers in the school that mattered; that's what stuck with me. It's the people in the stations that matter. Our firefighters matter the most and we need to not be committed to buildings. We need to be committed to our firefighters safety and quality equipment and quality facilities and we need to be committed to a four minute response time which means we have areas of our community that have less than a four minute response time. We can't afford a two minute response time. We can afford a four minute response time. It's the national standard. We can't be nostalgic about our buildings but without a comprehensive community plan that says this isn't about your neighborhood and it's not about your neighborhood, it's about the whole community. If we don't present a comprehensive plan than what we're going to do is we're going to build one firehouse and then we're going to have a neighborhood fight about how come mine gets closed and then we're going to fix them and then we're going to have another neighborhood fight about how come mine gets closed. We need to do this as one comprehensive plan as one team moving forward to get it done all at once because I think we can and I think we can really improve the quality of our Fire Department equipment and facilities and put four people on every truck like the union has been asking for a generation.

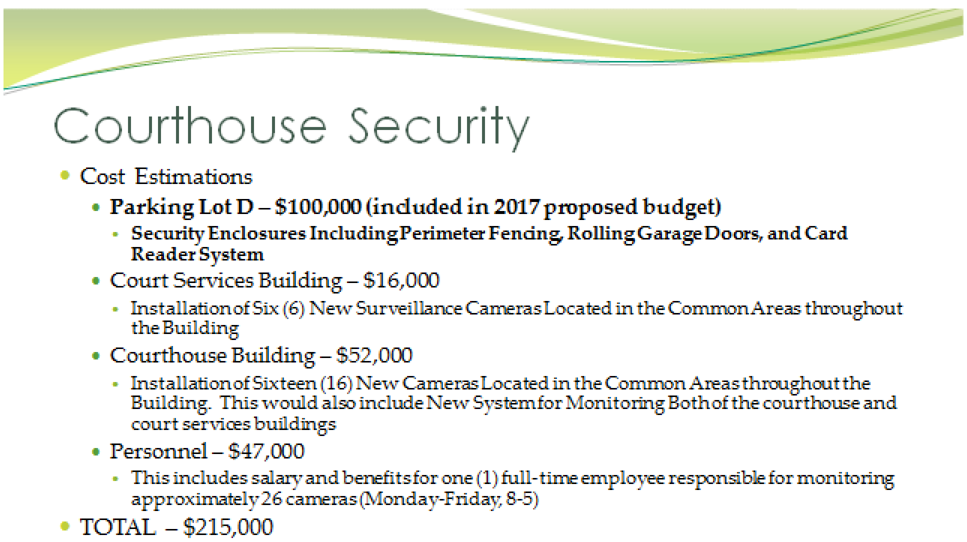
Commissioner Murguia said, Mayor, I hear what you're saying and I think that takes care of some people's concerns but I just want to add something. For me consolidating—I have two fire stations in my district, 10 and 7. I will tell you I'm not in favor, I know the study recommends this; I'm not in favor of consolidating either of those. There is something to be said, and I'm all about efficiencies and saving money and things like that, but firemen and women do more than fight fire when they're embedded in a fire station within our community. I don't love the building that Fire Station No. 7 is in. I have no affinity for it whatsoever but what I care about are the men and women that are in it that makes our community better and safer by being where they're at in our community which is right in the middle of a neighborhood sleeping alongside everyone else in that neighborhood. There is a sense of safety and security by having them there that I think we would miss if we were to follow the study recommendation to locate them in the industrial area where no one sleeps. There are no ancillary benefits to that. It doesn't mean I'm opposed to—a number of the things in the study I think are really good recommendations and maybe there is another way to implement the study. What I've been waiting on and why it's been so difficult to cast a vote or a straw poll on particular issues is it looks like the way the budget is drafted is that it is dependent on the savings from this Fire Study on whether we do some of these projects and that's okay except that I need to know—I want to know what everybody, the committee, is recommending to us as what they think is a good idea to move forward. I guess maybe my mind could be changed but I think it's going to be, and not that it will matter, I'm one vote of ten but I'm just saying that I think we're trying to make a very business or efficiency decision about the way Public Safety—we're not taking into account the benefits that they provide currently with where they're located beyond just response times. **Mayor Holland** said I hear that. I don't disagree with that at all.

Bob Wing, Fire Department Union Representative, said, Mayor, if I might--**Mayor Holland** said I just want to ask the Commission if you want to open it up for Mr. Wing. (All said yes.) **Mr. Wing** said I would just like to straighten up a couple things that I've heard not only tonight but over a period of time. This language was in place and has been in place for quite a while and quite a bit of thought went into the making up of this language and it's still very effective today. All of this language would ultimately undo what has already been started at the committee level and that is that a joint committee would be formed with the assistance of a consultant but that consultant report would not be the driving factor of what we jointly come up and bring back to you. The union is on record and the employees are on record of saying the recommendations of those consultants to this committee make sense. In fact I will go on record saying right now the actual recommendations make sense because that's what drove the argument to begin with. The compliance with the NFPA Standard 1710 which is not only a four minute response time, it's a four minute, eight minute response time for the total alarm assignment. My point is as a committee from the employee's perspective we're going to take that thing and use it as it relates to a factual relationship on what we're going to present to you in factual. Not in invented facts and what we found in some of those recommendations is there are invented facts in there that should be taken into account and given to use the elected officials because I think it's time that we just put everything on the table. Our position from the employees perspective is the inner-city needs just as much protection as Piper does, it still does today, but it needs to be redistributed to cover the Piper issue and still leave Commissioner Townsend's area protected the way it needs to be, the four and eight minutes. Commissioner Johnson's area with the four and eight minutes and not alter that just to take care of Piper. The south end needs to be taken care of with adjustments but use those existing resources to get Piper what we've been talking about all along and that's not to say that what FACETS brought back to you is the factual document in total fact that would be best for this community. This language is still in place today and will work well in that as a committee and we're going to bring back to you what our joint thoughts are, what we've determined as a matter of fact and then by this language here all eleven of you are going to make the decision by this existing language. I don't know how you want to alter it any way, you all are still going to make the decisions based on what your professionals in this city that work here for you day in and day out believe is best for your community but it's still ultimately going to be your decision. That's all this says right now, no more no less. I don't see any need for change. We're already into this process and I'm glad to hear you all in the process with us. We're going to report back and it's going to be ongoing but I needed to say that. We're going to not bring back to you issues based on invented fact and what we have found in going through this there are invented facts and with that, Mayor, I appreciate the time.

Mr. Bach said I just want to make sure it's clear as we close out on this, and I think Mr. Wing said it well, there is savings that can be recognized. I think everybody recognizes that's how it could happen within the study that has been done. I just want to be clear, there is nothing in our budget that allows for me to build a new station and add a new company so that's not in there and if anybody is thinking that, then that's different because I'm just clarifying where I'm operating from the beginning of this meeting. A new company is over $1M to get in and operate for the year and depending if we do a pumper that's $600-$700K one-time, you've already given me direction to go back and reduce $2M out of the 2017 Budget, 50% of our Operating Budget comes from Public Safety, that's Police and Fire on the city side. You've already given me direction unless we're going to rip apart Parks or stop mowing or not do streets, but I need to take $500K, cover your ears Chief Jones, out of your budget in order to balance this thing in 2017. There is a lot that's got to give and work back and forth as I go through this so I want to get direction and I just want to make sure everybody is clear that's how I'm building the budget so far. **Mayor Holland** said I think there is clear consensus here; we've got to build a new fire station in Piper. I don't think anybody disagrees with that, that's absolutely a fact and I think we're on track to get that done in the most expedited possible way and we've got to go through the steps in order to get there and I think all the steps are underway. We're not sitting on anything. We've got the Labor-Management Committee working, actively working. We still have the consultants engaged in the process so the process is still moving forward. We haven't slowed down. We are actively moving forward with the negotiations on the contract, nobody is sitting down on that. That has been an active engagement since January so we're actively moving forward in all of these facets and to build a new fire station out west as fast as possible. It is conceivable that based on changes in the contract and personnel savings in the Operations that we could start building two firehouses next year. That's conceivable and it would come out of the savings out of the department and so it is absolutely possible that with money that's budgeted we could reallocate from Operations to building certainly when we have a commitment to those savings we can issue bonds because those don't hit us until the next year when we get the full savings so we've learn the tricks of the trade here, Mr. Bach, on how we can get this done in as expedited way as possible.

Chief Jones said I just wanted to say that I do—there have been positive comments made in regard to response times and when it comes to rehabilitating old fire stations you know keeping some of these stations going with what we have within the budget is a tall order, but we can provide for that as we move forward. Clearly the priority is in the area of response times and so I think when the Piper area is talked about in relation to response times and when priorities are generated out of labor-management process and that area being talked about we're not talking about just doing that. Of course there is going to be a plan to take care of these other areas as far as rebuilding fire stations but in my world NFPA 1710 response times as relates to a standard and cover, for the city response times become the priority and those response times as Bob Wing alluded to in relations to 1710 and that the Mayor alluded to in the four minute response time for medical and first unit on the scene for fire there is another component to that. There are several components but another is that the eight minute response time to have a full complement on the scene to be able to fight a fire with the requisite number of individuals and that's according to National Standards so the positive comments on response times as being a priority that's the kind of world I live in and I appreciate the dialogue and concern but also the willingness to take into consideration what the Labor-Management Committee recommends. **Mayor Holland** said I think we have the right people on the job so thank you very much.

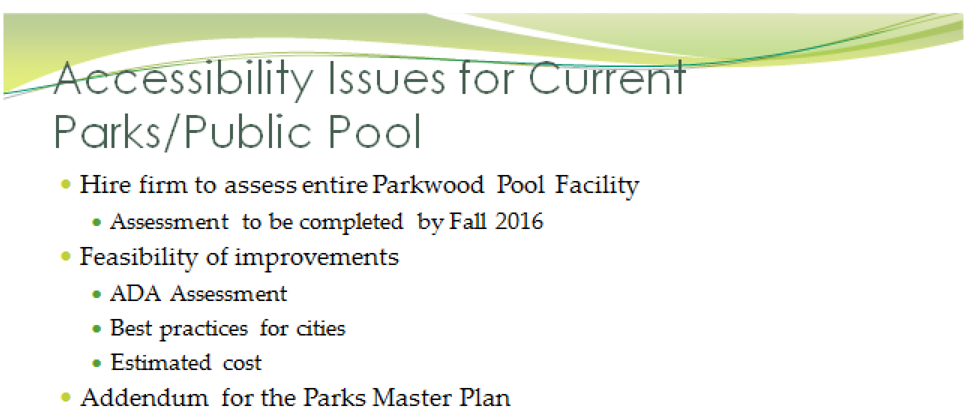
Mayor Holland said I plan on ending at 9:00 p.m. tonight and that's 15 minutes from now and if you need to take a break, go ahead. I would like to check-in on a couple of these other items to see if we can move through them and I think we will plan to stop at 9:00 regardless of how much further we go but if you guys will give 15 more minutes, we will go ahead and finish some stuff up. I also want to thank all the firefighters who came out tonight. We appreciate your participation.



Mr. Bach said this slide is on Courthouse Security. We will start—I know this is another one that was asked to be on to discuss it but I want to start with just kind of running through what's in this year's budget and priorities and, Mike, I might just run through some of this and then I'll turn it back to you to answer any detailed questions on it.

Earlier in the year Gordon convened a group that had Facilities, Mr. Tobin on it as well as our Facilities, Judge Lampson, Mr. Burns, Sheriff, people in the judicial complex and we went through and listed out kind of the top priorities of things we needed to do in the Courthouse. Parking Lot D Security, that's really one where we go in and screen the area off around that parking lot so people couldn't easily access it just going through off the street there. Then there are a couple different ones here on different security cameras that would be in place and then Personnel. We said what is the highest priority you have and they said securing the parking lots so people can't just move in and out. That's in this year's budget. I didn't really highlight it going through it, it's part of our Parking Lot Improvement Plans that's in there for that $100K. The other ones would be ones we would look at in the future. Obviously, Personnel is an ongoing operational cost that hits it so the security there is a one-time cost. That's what we have built into this year's budget. Mike, am I missing anything? **Mike Tobin, Interim Public Works Director,** said no, not really. The garage right now as it's sits in Parking Lot D anyone can walk in there and walk right up to where the judges are parked or anything in there. They have found people in there, vagrants smoking, living in stairwells, etc. What we would do is fence it all off, put in a door system similar to what we have downstairs and secure that area off. **Mr. Bach** said it won't be as fast for employees getting in and out but it does change the environment dramatically. **Mayor Holland** asked is that an employee parking lot. **Mr. Bach** said yes.

Mayor Holland said, Commissioner Kane, you asked to put this on here. Do you have any other questions or concerns about this? **Commissioner Kane** said I think this is a good start and once we get six months, eight months in go back and reevaluate and see if there are improvements that need to be made. **Mayor Holland** said absolutely.



Mr. Bach said this one is accessibility issues for current parks/public pools. This is one where we kind of have an overall assessment that's going into our Parkwood Pool area. I will turn this over to Joe and Jeremy to discuss what we have built into this year's budget and then see what additional things will come from there. **Commissioner Walker** asked what is there really to discuss. I mean just looking at it of course we should do all of this if we are not ADA compliant or we don't have the best practices unless you're going to tell me the estimated cost is $700-$800K. **Mr. Bach** said I think one is we just had a question about explaining what we had in the budget so we would clarify what we have in place for it and then if there was something that needed to be added I think that might have been the Commissioner's intent. **Commissioner Townsend** said also this is in response, Commissioner, last year there was a request to look into getting a slide and some preliminary steps have been taken to investigating that but the response was if there is some accessibility questions or concerns. I didn't quite understand where that was because as I understand we have people with segments of our population with special needs who use the pool as it is so I didn't see what the overall problems or concerns were relative to the ADA. **Commissioner Walker** said I'm just saying is there anybody in disagreement to move ahead with the accessibility issues for the pool project.

Mayor Holland said no. I will just tell you this is where no good deed will go unpunished. We did a budget change last year, this group did, to put in a slide at this pool and so we went to put in a slide and it triggered all the ADA requirements and so we couldn't put in the slide. Everybody said you approved the slide, why didn't you put in a slide. Here's why, if we put in the slide then it triggers the federal government to say you have to do all the other upgrades and so our $30K slide becomes a lot more. We have to do this study because we want to put a slide in for those kids and they went all this summer without a slide again because that project triggered more and so that's why we're here just to let you know we're going to look into it and try to get it done.

Also, in the budget we should note we are doing an ADA Park that's going to be specific for a destination park especially for special need kids that will be a destination for families to come to our community in our community and from around the community to be able to use. That's a big initiative Commissioner Walker has been pushing and that funding is in next year's budget and I'm pretty excited about that project. **Commissioner Murguia** said it's mostly grant money. **Mayor Holland** said a lot of it is grant. We have some grants and we have some cash that we're putting in and so it's a great leverage opportunity and really it's an economic development opportunity. It's really providing an amenity in our community that folks need.

Commissioner Walker said I have visited the park that Jeremy was responsible for in Independence. I don't know if any of you have been out there but it's pretty amazing and the day I was there, there were quite a few people there and a few wheelchairs, etc. We have equipment but we don't have a park where we have all the things are needed. If we're as successful as Independence you will be glad you did it and I left it to Parks and staff to determine the best location. I didn't have a preferred location. I want it accessible and I would like, I think we've talked about this, that if we build it at a location where there isn't bus service then we're going to have to ultimately extend some kind of bus service to that area so they can at least get back to where they can catch another bus.

Mr. Bach said within our budget we're doing the assessment of the Parkwood facility. This is a couple thousand dollars. This is something that we are doing that will come back, allow us to tell us what of this ADA Assessment, best practices, estimated cost needs to be done and then we incorporate that over into the Master Plan for the Parks that will be going on. It will be part of what's turned back next April and that's really how that will stake out and we will have our answers in it from there.

Equipment/Personnel for Maintenance of Public Spaces (Non-Parks)

Mowing Requirements	Responsible Party	Mowing Area	2016 Frequency	Proposed 2017 Frequency
Right of Way	Street Department	250 acres	Bi-Monthly	Bi-Monthly
Code Violation Lots	Street Department	1000 lots	Twice per year	Twice per year
UG Buildings	Contractor	25-30 locations	Once per week	Once per week
Parks Facilities	Contractor & Parks	54 locations 2700 Acres	3 times monthly	3 times monthly Additional weed control
Cemeteries	Contractor & Parks	14 locations 105 Acres	Every 7-9 days	Every 7-9 days
Ball Fields	Contractor	23 fields 40 acres	(13) 2 times per week (10) 1 time per week	(13) 2 times per week (10) 1 time per week Additional weed control
Medians	Contractor	26 miles	Every 7-9 days	Every 7-9 days Additional weed control
UG Owned Lots	Contractor & Parks	4260 lots	3 times per year	3 times per year
Land Bank Lots	Contractor	2200 lots	As allowable	1-2 times per year

Mr. Bach said this next item is Equipment/Personnel for Maintenance of Public Spaces, non-parks. This is a similar chart to what you saw last year when we added some of our cost into what we were doing in the different areas and then we will lay through what's in this year's budget and then I believe one of the commissioners might have some specific questions but we need to show what we have.

Mr. Tobin said I would just like to say that the money and the support that the board and the Mayor and everybody have put behind us have achieved results. We're doing more, we're mowing more, we're staying close; this has been a tough year because of all the weather and all the rain that we've had but the crews have worked harder and we've done it with less overtime because we've had more support and we're getting more out of the contractors. With the extra people that Parks has had—because they still do the bulk of the most noticeable mowing it has worked very well I think. Can it be improved? Sure, everything can. If you want to throw more money into the mowing program we would love to have it.

You will notice from the chart the biggest difference on the chart now from what you saw last year is that the frequency has picked up. There is stuff we're doing now that every seven to nine days and specifically three times per year on UG owned lots that we weren't doing before.

Commissioner McKiernan said first of all on Land Bank lots I specifically asked that we budget and be proactive about getting out and cutting those lots without them having to be on a per complaint basis, thank you so much. I see, although it's a low frequency, at least we have it and we're going to be proactive about that.

If there is any way possible to cut code violation lots more than twice a year I think we would all benefit in the blight reduction area.

Commissioner Townsend said the reason I had asked for this to be put on the agenda was to draw attention to some things that I was seeing. I want to commend everybody that has worked on the parks. There has been a phenomenal positive response from the constituents, however, this year what I have seen and gotten more complaints about, and I don't know the purpose behind it other than lack of funding, are spaces that our public non-parks that have not been cut and I'm getting more and more of those types of complains. Quite frankly, I have seen firsthand areas that were, I don't know addressed more speedily or more frequently, than this year and I was led to understand there is a lack of funding, lack of personnel, and equipment. What I was hoping to see happen is that just as we did last year and the year before that made a tremendous difference for just a relatively small amount of money to put into the Street Department. That's what I've learned to understand that what we've done in the past went to parks, not to streets and that is what I would like to see have the same type of attention and resources put to. That is what my request was about. **Mayor Holland** said I think it's important too that the public know that as we did the Listening Tour and the survey blight reduction was the big item and the SOAR group that we heard from the other day in terms of the comprehensive look at blight and the 17 different departments that touch blight and putting money strategically in different areas has brought us to the point where we have additional money that's showing up in the cutting of empty lots and making sure our city just looks better. That's money well spent and I think that's going to help the impact on our community.

Commissioner Walker said I have been having a very brief dialogue with the County Administrator, Mr. Bach, and I wanted you to know another definition of blight. Another definition of blight is unpainted fire hydrants. I have learned through Mr. Bach that somehow the responsibility of painting the fire hydrants is the BPUs which they don't do. My neighbor is on me almost every time she sees me in the yard about the fire hydrant between our properties. Now, I don't care. She has lived there 43 years and that fire hydrant has never been painted and I think it would be a great summer job program for eight or ten kids and a paint bucket and a brush to go out and paint fire hydrants. Do you know how nice a fire hydrant looks in a yard, I've got 100's in my neighborhood and I bet they're old and unpainted and so that's another definition to our blight. **Commissioner Townsend** said that ducktails right into the purpose of adding a similar program for the Street Department that we did for Parks. Before you can even paint the fire hydrants you have to be able to see them and I'm going to combine the list tonight of those where the weeds have overtaken them. That's a security issue so I'm all with the paint but first we have to mow around them so they can be found.

Commissioner Bynum said I just wanted to thank the commissioners and the staff, Mr. Bach, Mayor, for the good, good discussion and it's my second budget cycle and I guess I'm still learning but it sure seems easier than this time for me last year, but this was really good discussion and I really appreciate everyone.

Commissioner Philbrook said I have a question for our Legal Counsel. I wonder if some of those fire hydrants get painted by accident, what kind of repercussions are there on the people that paint them. **Commissioner Murguia** said you get in really big trouble because I've done that and BPU was not happy. **Commissioner Philbrook** said so you have to have permission.

Mayor Holland said on July 21st we will do Transit, AAA Service Delivery Impacts, Animal Services, Drug and Alcohol Fund, WYEDC, Home Repair Fund and Revenue by Fund/Expenditure by Fund so look forward to that this Thursday starting at 5:00 p.m.

MAYOR HOLLAND ADJOURNED THE
SPECIAL SESSION AT 9:00 p.m.

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Carol Godsil
Deputy Unified Government Clerk

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