

STATE OF KANSAS)
WYANDOTTE COUNTY)) SS
CITY OF KANSAS CITY, KS)

SPECIAL SESSION, THURSDAY, JULY 13, 2020

The Unified Government Commission of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, met in Special Session, Monday, July 13, 2020, with eleven members present on line: Bynum, Commissioner At-Large First District; Burroughs, Commissioner At-Large Second District (arrived online at 5:20 p.m.); Townsend, Commissioner First District; McKiernan, Commissioner Second District; Ramirez, Commissioner Third District; Johnson, Commissioner Fourth District; Kane, Commissioner Fifth District; Markley, Commissioner Sixth District; Walters, Commissioner Seventh District; Philbrook, Commissioner Eighth District; and Alvey, Mayor/CEO presiding. The following officials were also in attendance: Doug Bach, County Administrator; Angela Lawson, Deputy Chief Counsel; Bridgette Cobbins, Unified Government Clerk; Gordon Criswell, Emerick Cross, and Melissa Sieben, Assistant County Administrator's; Kathleen VonAchen, Chief Financial Officer; Debbie Jonscher, Deputy Chief Financial Officer; Reginald Lindsey, Budget Manager; and Wilba Miller, Director of Community Development.

MAYOR ALVEY said before I call the meeting to order, I want to announce that due to COVID-19, we have individuals attending remotely. All participants joining by phone should mute their phones when not speaking to avoid background noise. During the meeting, please make sure that you announce yourself by name and title every time you speak so that the public participating knows who is speaking. This is critical given the number of remote participants in his current guidance from the Kansas Attorney General.

MAYOR ALVEY called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL: Bynum, Townsend, McKiernan, Ramirez, Johnson, Kane, Markley, Walters, Philbrook, Alvey.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL SESSION of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, to be held Monday, July 13, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. by way of ZOOM for the final budget public hearing, along with the Community Development 2020 Annual Action Plan and the

Substantial Amendment to the Community Development 2019 Annual Action Plan along with the Library Mill Rate.

Due to COVID-19 the public will be able to observe or listen to the meeting live on YouTube or UGTV or through ZOOM.

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.

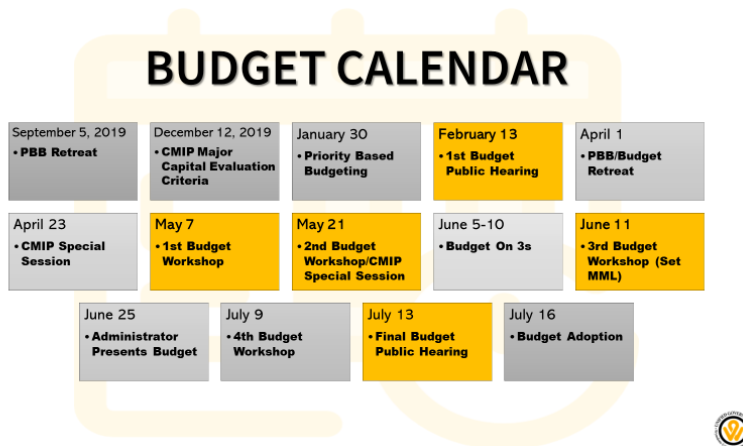
Mayor Alvey said tonight is our Final Budget Public Hearing. I will now turn it over to Doug Bach to introduce staff.

Doug Bach, County Administrator, said at this point I'll go ahead and ask you to load the presentation Reggie or Rocki, whoever is doing that.



As the Mayor stated, tonight is our Final Public Hearing, what is a fairly long process as we move through our budget calendar. This all really starts—it seems like we finish one budget process and then we start again a couple months later with the next part of the budget process.

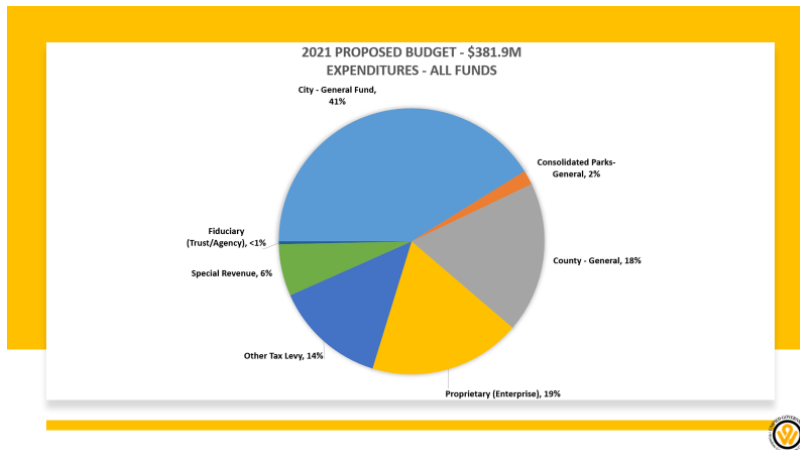
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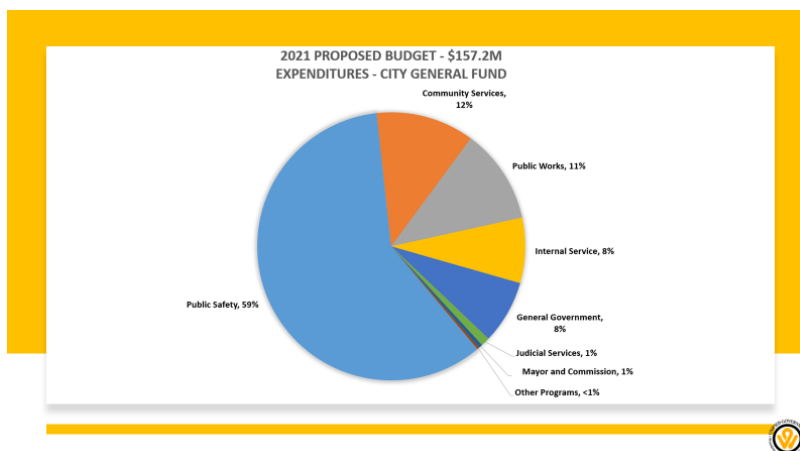
As I look at the budget calendar, you know, we started doing some items on the retreat to think about direction of this year's budget to go through and do our Capital budgeting. We started with our first public hearing in February to get input as to important items coming into this year's budget. Of course, this year was very unique when we had that public hearing. We probably had a lot bigger perspective of different things with directions we could go to add to this year's budget as we we're looking at an economy that was fairly robust. Everything changed in March of this year as COVID really came to play in the United States. It started to hit into our economy and in the Kansas City area in late March. At that time, we really shut down a lot of businesses, so we've seen some changes to our revenue flows, obviously, less than projected, though as we saw in our last meeting not as bad as maybe we were anticipating, but certainly a lot less than what we were making last year and it puts us in a position of having to do a lot of steps to balance our budget.

As you can see on the calendar, we highlighted in yellow. All of these have to do with different budget type activities. The public hearings and the budget workshops that the Commission has noted are all noted here on this presentation tonight, so there are series of five different budget workshops that the Commission did along with a couple of public hearings specifically to draw input. This is the final one that is really set out more from a statutory obligation before we move forward to what is projected to be the adoption this Thursday.

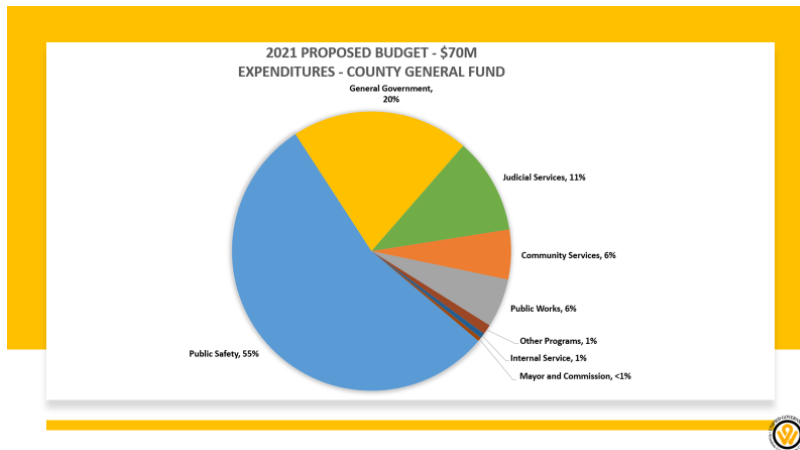
With this, I'm going to ask Reginald Lindsey, our Budget Director, to walk through a few key points in our budget just basically from the numbers and where things are presented from before we move to the public hearing.



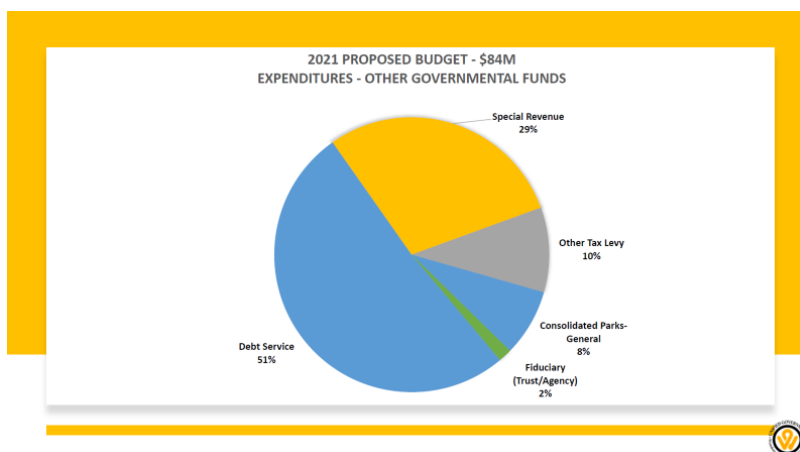
Reginald Lindsey, Budget Director, said the Unified Government's total 2021 Proposed Budget is a \$382M budget. It funds 29 state certified funds and provides 200 services to the community.



The 2021 Proposed Budget for the City General Fund is \$157M. The current slide looks at the different functional areas for the City General Fund. As we can see, Public Safety is 59% of the pie and it's around \$92M. We have Community Services at 12% of the pie and that consists of departments such as Transit, NRC and Urban Planning. That totals like \$19M. Another big portion of the pie is Public Works at 11% at \$17M.

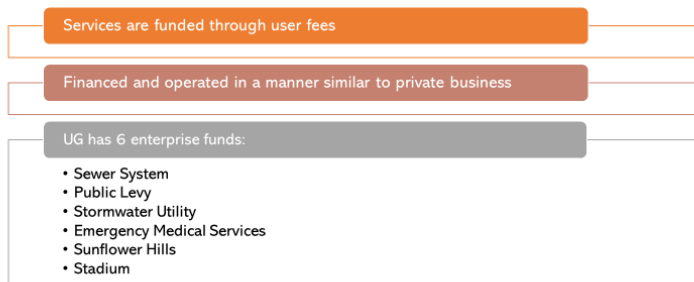


I'm going to trail down into the County General Fund and look at the different functional areas within it. The County General Fund for 2021 Proposed Budget is a \$70M budget of that 56% of it is Public Safety and that equates to \$39M. Some of the departments we find there is the Sheriff's Department, Community Corrections and Emergency Management. Another piece of the pie is General Government which is at 19% for about \$13M. Departments within it are Legal, Appraiser, and Finance. Then also, we have Judicial Services which is 11% of the pie or \$8M. Some of the departments that we have there are District Attorney and District Courts.

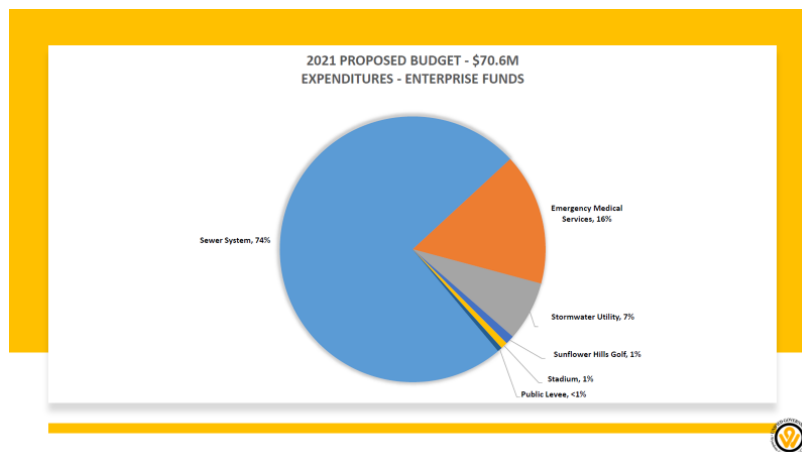


This chart is a breakout of the 20 other funds that total \$84M within our \$382M budget. One of the biggest pieces there is the \$42M Debt Service Fund which is 51%. Then we have Special Revenue Funds that equal \$24M. One of the biggest funds there is our Dedicated Sales Tax Fund. Another piece of the pie is our Consolidated Parks Fund which is \$6.6M.

Enterprise Funds

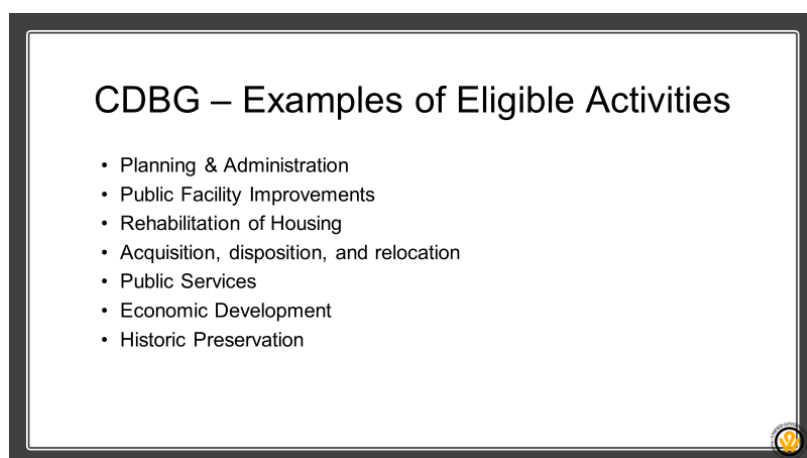


Within the Unified Government we also have Enterprise Funds. These funds produce their own revenue and kind of run as a business. Some of those funds are Sewer System, Public Levy, Stormwater Utility, EMS Fund, Sunflower Hills and the Stadium.



This slide trails down into the Enterprise Funds which are \$70M and we can see the Sewer System is 74% of that pie at \$52M. EMS is 16% of the pie at \$11M and Stormwater Utility is \$5M of the pie.

I'm going to turn it over to Wilba Miller, our Community Development Director.



Wilba Miller, Community Development Director, said the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas receives an annual allocation of Entitlement Funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development or HUD for the following programs: Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnership, and Emergency Solutions Grant Programs.

In order to receive the funds, the Unified Government must submit an Annual Action Plan to HUD. The 2020 Annual Action Plan is the 4th year of the Community Development's 2017-2021 5-Year Plan.

The Annual Action Plan consolidates the three grant programs into a single application which includes a description of the projects and activities expected to be undertaken using grant funds and any expected program income. Examples of eligible CDBG activities are shown on the current slide. The plan also includes actions that the UG expects to take during the program year to pursue the 5-Year strategies.

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As Doug said, the UG must hold two public hearings to inform the community about the plan, the plan process, and to obtain community input. The first public hearing was held on February 13th. Prior to developing the draft plan, the draft plan was published on June 11, 2020 and the citizens were given 30 days to comment. We are fulfilling our second public hearing requirement tonight.

The Plan Budget is summarized by the following slides and is shown by grant and activities.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FY 2020 GRANT BUDGET	
REHABILITATION	1,025,886
PUBLIC FACILITIES & IMPROVEMENTS	650,000
PUBLIC SERVICES	168,000
ADMIN	460,971
TOTAL	\$2,304,857



Community Development \$2,304,857.

HOME FUNDS FY 2020 GRANT BUDGET	
HOME CHIP	188,626
REHAB/NEW CONSTRUCTION	600,000
ADMIN	87,625
TOTAL HOME	\$876,251



The HOME Program \$876,251.

EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS
FY 2020 GRANT BUDGET

ESG PROGRAM ACTIVITIES	183,451
ADMIN	14,874
TOTAL ESG FUNDS	\$198,325



The Emergency Solutions Grant Fund \$198,325.

This Plan must be submitted to HUD 45 days prior to the fiscal year that starts October 1st which means submission can be no later than August 15, 2019. Failure to submit by August 15th will automatically result in a loss of these grant funds.

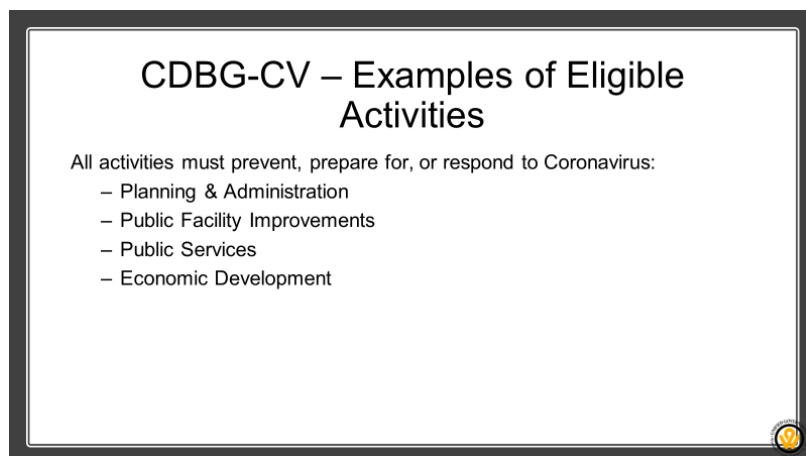
A resolution calling for the adoption of the 2020 Annual Action Plan and all of its attachments will be presented for Commission approval during the meeting on July 16th for the adoption of the Unified Government budget.

HUD CARES ACT FUNDS:
SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT #1 TO
THE 2019 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN



In addition to the regular Entitlement Grants, the Unified Government has been allocated three additional tranches or allotments of HUD funding to prevent, prepare for, and respond to Coronavirus as authorized in the CARES Act. In addition to regulatory requirements for our regular CDBG and ESG programs, these funds carry statutory requirements from the CARES and Stafford Acts.

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In order to most quickly receive the funding, the UG has been directed by HUD to submit a Substantial Amendment to our 2019 Annual Action Plan. The Substantial Amendment includes updates to that budget to include CARES Act funding and a description of the projects and activities expected to be undertaken. Due to regulatory waivers, the Substantial Amendment had a 5-day public comment period which ran July 9 through July 13, 2020. In addition, the public can comment this evening.

The following slides summarize eligible activities and the Amendment budget and is shown by grant program and activities.

**CDBG CV1
GRANT BUDGET**

PUBLIC SERVICES	300,000
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	800,000
ADMIN	255,838
TOTAL	\$1,355,838

*CDBG-CV2 funds were only distributed to states.

**CDBG-CV3 funds have yet to be awarded. HUD is developing the formula.



The CDBG COVID Budgets is \$1,355,838.

ESG CV- Examples of Eligible Activities

All activities must prevent, prepare for, or respond to Coronavirus:

- Street Outreach
- Emergency Shelter
- Homelessness Prevention
- Rapid Re-Housing
- Data Collection (HMIS)
- Administration

* Subrecipient grant match has been waived for ESG-CV funds



Emergency Solutions COVID money, examples of eligible activities, Street Outreach, Emergency Shelter, Homelessness Prevention, Rapid Re-Housing, Data Collection and Administration and no grant match—the grant match has been waived for the ESG COVID Fund.

EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT CV1 BUDGET

ESG-CV1 PROGRAM ACTIVITIES	615,492
ESG-CV1 ADMIN	68,387
TOTAL ESG-CV1	\$683,879

*ESG-CV1 allocation was subject to an RFP process.
Seven subrecipients who are current providers of homelessness and prevention services will be awarded based on process.



The first pot of money that came to us was the Emergency Solutions Grant CV1 budget for \$683,879. These funds were allocated through an RFP process and seven of our subrecipients who are current providers of homelessness and prevention services have been awarded based on process.

EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS
GRANT CV2 BUDGET

ESG-CV2 PROGRAM ACTIVITIES	1,536,929
ESG-CV2 ADMIN	170,769
TOTAL ESG-CV2 FUNDS	\$1,707,698



The second allocation of Emergency Solutions Grant CV2 Budget is \$1,707,698.

A second resolution calling for the adoption of the Substantial Amendment to the 2019 Annual Action Plan attachments will be presented for Commission approval during the meeting on July 16th for the adoption of the Unified Government budget. Once submitted, HUD will work to expedite the review process and issue grant agreements for all of these grants. This concludes my portion of the presentation.

Mr. Bach said, Mayor, that concludes the presentation portion of our presentation. With that, I will turn it over to you for conducting the public hearing.

Mayor Alvey asked, are there any comments or questions before I open the public hearing.

Commissioner Philbrook said I want to thank her for being on the ball and getting with the program as quickly as they had to. Of course, she's in the middle of a lot of these issues (inaudible), but I just want to remind you that you are so appreciated, and you will be definitely working (inaudible) over the next few months because we have other plans for you whoever that ambiguous we is. Just think about it. Thank you so much. **Ms. Miller** said thank you.

Commissioner Townsend said thank you for your work. I have two basic questions. In your presentation can you identify for me under what category the monies that we've had in the past to do home renovations are located? I'm including roofs, handicap access ramps, maybe if you could

put that portion of your presentation back up and identify that for me, I would appreciate it and tell me exactly how much we have for that area.

Ms. Miller said, Reggie, if you would go back to the beginning of my slides, it would be the second slide for Community Development. The 2020 Grant Budget. Commissioner, it is part of the Rehabilitation budget on this page. I believe that we had budgeted around \$400K.

Commissioner Townsend said excuse me, I'm just seeing on this page, it looks like the title page.

Ms. Miller said right. We did not get down into the detail for this public hearing because we had already brought it forward to Commission. So, it's about \$400K. **Commissioner Townsend** said

okay, and that's identified particularly as what. **Ms. Miller** said Rehabilitation of Housing HOME

Repair Program. **Commissioner Townsend** said HOME Repair. **Ms. Miller** said yes. **Mr. Bach**

said I think it's on the next slide Reggie. Is it not in this—which one of these categories Wilba?

Ms. Miller said no. That was in the detail presentation I made. It's included in this Rehabilitation line item of \$1M at the top of the page. It's just one of the several budgets under that Rehab.

Commissioner Townsend said okay, that's fine. I just wanted to make sure I understood where that was because sometimes the detail is not as detailed in some presentations as others. So, you're telling me it's under the Rehabilitation, the \$1,025,886. **Ms. Miller** said yes.

Commissioner Townsend said the second question was generally, you mentioned the COVID budget. Are those monies that have already been allocated under the Community Development system? **Ms. Miller** said we had two sets of money. The first set of money went through an RFP process to our homeless agencies and then we went through a ranking and review process for their applications and will be awarded last week if not this week to the agencies. The second round of money, we're putting an RFP out to the homeless agencies again within the next week. **Commissioner Townsend** said okay. Those allocations are being made through your department. I just didn't want anyone listening to become confused about applications that are upcoming dealing with federal money that we've been talking about. Thank you for your work.

Commissioner Bynum said I was just curious to know, will the Commission have discussion time after we hear public comment. **Mayor Alvey** said no, we did not set it up that way. We close the public hearing, but we do have a final discussion for the Library Mill Rate after the public hearing.

Commissioner Bynum said I was wanting to bring forward some level of conversation around

our fire stations. We had the conversation the night that I presented, and we had a bit more conversation last Thursday night, but what I don't think we've had is any attempt at a straw poll or consensus among the commissioners. We can do that tonight; we can do it Thursday; whatever you feel is appropriate. **Mayor Alvey** said I think it would have to come tonight, so after the public hearing, I assume, that at the end there would be some items brought forward. I do not know what those might be, but I assumed that would happen. **Commissioner Bynum** said okay, thank you.

Mayor Alvey said I will now open the public hearing. Before we take public comments, I would ask Ms. Cobbins to read the statement governing the public hearing.

Ms. Cobbins said we would like to welcome all present to this public meeting of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas regarding the Unified Government 2021 Proposed Budgets and the 2020-2021 Annual Action Plan for Community Development. We appreciate the attendance of those joining us by ZOOM and on phone lines this evening. We recognize the importance of your views. We would, however, remind you that there are 19 individuals signed up to speak on the 2021 Proposed Budgets and the 2020-2021 Annual Action Plan for Community Development. Each person will be allowed three minutes to speak. Should you go to the two minute mark, I will announce that you have one minute remaining and that will allow you time to wrap up your comments.

The first speaker is Lorie Torrez. **Rocki Mayes, County Administrator's Office**, said I do not see anybody in the attendee's by the name of Lori Torrez.

Andrian Torrez. **Commissioner Bynum** said, Mayor, I'm going to guess both of those individuals plan to be speaking at the Planning & Zoning meeting that's also tonight. **Ms. Cobbins** said they were asking about the public hearing and about some items on the Woodlands. I don't know if they're trying to do both of the meetings. I can come back later.

Murrel Bland. **Ms. Mayes** said I do not see Murrel Bland on the attendee's list.

Charles Carney. **Ms. Mayes** said give me a second. I did see him, but I do not see him any longer. **Mayor Alvey** said do you think there was some confusion with folks that they thought they were going to be logging onto the Planning & Zoning meeting? **Ms. Cobbins** said specifically Murrel Bland did ask to speak in regard to the budget. The final budget meeting the information I received in my subject matter. **Mayor Alvey** said yes, he always does and that's good. **Ms. Mayes** said I do not see Mr. Carney on. He was on earlier, but I do not see him on any longer.

Ann Suellentrop, 1865 So. Pyle St., said I'm here today to demand funding for the Community Integrity Unit and the passage of the Wyandotte County Safe & Welcoming Act. I would like to briefly highlight one group affected by local police misconduct and that is the working women of the community. One former prostitute swore in an affidavit that when Detective Roger Golubski or any of the other officers he brought with him came to the Bottoms, we knew we had a choice of providing sexual services or getting arrested. Another said you had to engage in a sex act with him if you wanted to stay out of jail. Golubski always picked up the women in his police vehicle and that is where the sexual acts were performed. Police are given weapons and authorized to hurt and kill others to enforce the law. It is critical that they be held accountable and responsible when they abuse this power. I understand there is a proposal to spend \$260K to set up a Police Oversight Board and for a bilingual hotline for people to call in complaints. This is needed because it makes no sense to me to just let the police investigate themselves. I think such a board should not only have the ability to oversee cases going forward, but it should also be able to look into past cases of abuse. I believe this would increase public trust in the police force and lessen fears about the misuse of power.

Just to give you a little background about myself. I'm a recently retired pediatric registered nurse. I worked 45 years in Kansas City, earned a master's degree in Pediatric Nursing at KU Med Center in '82. I've lived at my current address since 1980. During the 90's when I was working at Bethany Medical Center we had an influx of Spanish speaking patients. At first there were no interpreters, so I went back to school to learn to be a medical Spanish interpreter and I went all over the hospital to help the patients. At that same time half of my street in Rosedale became Spanish speakers from Mexico, Guatemala and El Salvador. They're excellent neighbors and I have enjoyed getting to know them very much. I want Wyandotte County to be a place of welcome and safety for all. **Ms. Cobbins** said you have one minute. **Ms. Suellentrop** said the

nursing profession as well as many other professions all have oversight boards to hold them accountable. Nurses can be reported to the Kansas State Board of Nursing. They can be investigated, prosecuted, fined, even jailed. They can be mandated to take remedial classes or go through drug and alcohol treatment. They can lose their license. This is to protect the public from harm, and I believe police should have the similar oversight.

Kimberly Hunter said I'm in the 66101 zip code. This is in honor of my neighbor whom I will call Jewels. Jewels is not (inaudible), but you can find her story—**Mayor Alvey** said we're having a hard time. The sound is not coming through. It sounds like you're a little bit distanced from your microphone. **Ms. Hunter** said okay. Let me see if I can fix that. **Mayor Alvey** said that's much better. **Ms. Hunter** said I apologize; my sound was having an issue. In addition to the comments that Ann was sharing, I also am speaking on behalf of another victim of the KCKPD that occurred under Roger Golubski watch. Her story was told in the June 15th *Kansas City Star*. One of the things that she said in that article, and the others who testified with her, was that the KCKPD knew about Golubski behavior and there were other officers involved. Then we looked at how can this happen. Current policies prohibits transparency about complaints against police and the secrecy allowed the abuse to continue which is why professionals like nursing and social work publish their discipline record. Since 2017 when new administration took office we still had 10 complaints of racial and bias filed against KCKPD, so all of those were internally investigated and none of them resulted in discipline and the public knows nothing more about them.

This must change because what happened to these victims is about more than Golubski. It's about a culture of coverup. What happened to them is about our Unified Government budget that says a white male officers life is more valuable than a life of an Africa-American woman. Nothing in the budget proposed tonight will protect a woman like the one described in that June 15th article from an officer like Golubski. The proposed budget tonight gives \$93M to the Police and Sheriff, but zero dollars for three items taxpayers have been requesting to restore trust and safety and we've been asking for some of these things for over a year.

The first one is the Community Integrity Unit. Number 2 is an independent bilingual victim hotline. We began requesting that last summer. Number 3 is the Safe & Welcoming Wyandotte ordinance which we've been asking for two or three years for that. The first two items would cost a quarter of a million dollars to create an independent investigative team dedicated to

processing policemen conduct reports and presenting viable cases to the District Attorney for prosecution. **Ms. Cobbins** said you have one minute. **Ms. Hunter** said if our budget can pay for a victims legal settlement such as the Lamonte McIntyre case, which required hundreds of thousands of dollars in payout from our county because of that misconduct, if we can afford to pay that, surely we can afford a proactive plan to support survivors and prevent police violence and future lawsuits from occurring.

When we brought these issues before you in the past, we heard Mayor Alvey say he lacked the authority to prosecute Golubski and to fund these resources, but our understanding is that Alvey and County Administrator Doug Bach had authority to propose changes to this budget and that our commissioners have the power to approve it. If black lives matter in KCK, our budget must reflect that. Let's put the past behind us and try something new. Stop funding of use and coverup and start funding support for survivors. What happened to these women and to Lamonte McIntyre and to John Keith Calvin and to the other murders that were not investigated when Golubski was on the streets must never happen again. Please change the budget. **Ms. Cobbins** said your time is up. Thank you.

Marcus Winn, 420 Sandusky, said I live in Strawberry Hill. I also serve as the community organizer for MORE2 in Wyandotte County. I add our voice tonight to say that budgets are not only financial, but also morale documents that reflect the priorities of a community. As an organization MORE2 believes a major priority in our community should be fostering trust between law enforcement and the broader community. That means fully funding a Community Integrity Unit in line with best practices around the country as well as the final report on the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing which calls universally for civilian oversight structures.

Additionally, annual reports to the Kansas State Attorney General on racial and bias based complaints made about KCKPD are available back to 2012 in detail. At least 46 complaints yet specify only two incidents during that time that were investigated by Internal Affairs. Checks and balances are a good thing and needed here in KCK. That process should also fully fund a bilingual hotline housed and administered outside KCKPD.

I've personally spoken to multiple residents who have started and attempted to file complaints only to abandon the process due to intimidation and fear of repercussions. Community trust requires a process where the public can come forward without fear of retribution.

Finally, that process should also include passage of the proposed Safe & Welcoming ordinance. While I understand the recent Special Session on this subject focused much time on what might happen regarding one part of the proposed ordinance, we believe speculation should not drive our policymaking. What is already happening is that many residents do not contact police when they witness or even our victims of crime because they themselves or someone they know, and love would be put at risk of deportation. **Ms. Cobbins** said you have one minute. **Ms. Winn** said this is about public safety in our community. The statuesque is unsustainable.

We believe these are necessary first steps in building trust here in our community and many agree. That's why we along with dozens of other local organizations that you all know have engaged thousands of voters around these issues over the last year and continue to do so. Just this weekend MORE2 leaders launched an online petition calling for these specific policies that has already gathered hundreds of signatures. My hope is truly that we can work together charting a course that acknowledges the need to build trust and proactively pursue specific policies to correct past wrongs, but we need you, as elected officials, to act and recognize the many voices of the community calling for real change.

Ms. Cobbins said I believe Murrel Bland has joined us.

Murrel Bland, 8311 Garfield, said thank you for the opportunity to speak at the budget hearing for the Unified Government. I speak today on behalf of about 80 members of Business West. Most of our members are small businesses and are very concerned about their respective property tax bills. Business West is pleased that you're proposing to hold the line with property taxes in your 2021 City and County budgets. The coronavirus pandemic that has affected all of us in one way or another has forced our members to examine all of our expenses very closely. Thank you for your consideration.

Ms. Cobbins said it looks like Charles Carney is also on the line.

Charles Carney said I'm here today to respectfully demand funding for the Community Integrity Unit and the creation of a line item for a Safe & Welcoming ordinance. Wyandotte County is the second most diverse county in the nation and it's time we start acting like it. As a resident of the

Prescott neighborhood for the last 16 years, I've come to know and appreciate the diverse and talented people of our county, but for too long now as a person of white privilege, I've stood by and witnessed exclusion and suppression of these neighbors. No longer will my silence be compliant. Yes, I have witnessed suppression in the wrongful imprisonment of Lamonte McIntyre and John Keith Calvin who have spent nearly 50 years in prisons for crimes they did not commit.

I know you say you can't go back and change that. Well, a Community Integrity Unit would help us prevent future atrocities and crimes against humanity like this. Honorable Mayor and members, I am tired of seeing Wyandotte Counties Black and Brown people going to jail in ridiculously unjust and disproportionate numbers.

Mayor Alvey, Sir, less you think us protestors are a bunch of leftwing fringe outsiders, I just want to express that I voted for you, so if I'm on the fringe, you're on the fringe. I admired you because of the utmost respect and help I got from your staff when I helped an elderly couple who was being evicted. For that, you and your staff should be commended, but I have to say I'm disappointed that there are no safeguards in this budget for equal justice under the law. I am now demanding that you afford the same respect and dignity for Black women who get detained in a routine traffic stop. She shouldn't be forced into non-consensual sex. Let's call it what it is, rape by an officer like Golubski and there should be oversight, independent oversight. Afford the same equal rights of the woman from Guacamole and her family who forcibly fled violence from her country. **Ms. Cobbins** said you have one minute. **Mr. Carney** said various spiritual documents have commanded us to welcome her and her family with open arms.

Furthermore, numerous studies have showed that when Safe & Welcoming ordinances are passed in other cities, the crime rate is also reduced significantly. Afford all of our honorable people the same rights you afford me a straight man of white privilege. We don't need any more listening sessions. Please no more hearings, no more task forces, no more discussions, no more pretending we don't understand. If watching the 8.5 minutes of a microcosm of centuries of racism didn't help us get it, then we'll never get it. Antiracism is not a noun. It's a verb. We don't want any more gradualism, we want nowism. We want nowism as in justice deferred is justice denied according to Martin Luther King. These are not extravagant demands. If anything, we should be doing more. Cut the check, create the ordinance. **Ms. Cobbins** said your time is up. **Mr. Carney** said I just have one more line. **Ms. Cobbins** said your time is up. Thank you.

Swoncel Blakey. **Ms. Mayes** said I do not see a Swoncel Blakey.

Jesse Blakey. **Ms. Mayes** said I do not that name either.

Rev. Adrienne Showalter Matlock, 512 No. Thompson, said I'm here tonight in my role as an Ordained Minister in the Church of the Nazarene and a concerned Wyandotte resident. Thank you for facilitating a budget process that involves community input. I urge you to incorporate the proposal being put forth from the community to fund a Community Integrity Unit, an independent bilingual hotline that victims can call to report police misconduct and to establish a Safe & Welcoming Wyandotte ordinance.

This proposal is the fruit of thousands of hours of wrestling, problem solving, and doing the very thing that you are facilitating right now, community input on budgeting. I would like to ask, have you ever experienced tragic loss or pain in your life. As you grieve, did you channel that grief, that pain into collaborating with hundreds of your neighbors to develop a plan for community wide solutions because that is what the families of those harmed by our Police Department have done in this proposal.

I have experienced devastating personal loss when at the age of 25 I was diagnosed with Stage 3 cancer and underwent a traumatic surgery that permanently damaged my body. In the 10 years since I have not channeled my energy into addressing solutions to help others, yet these neighbors of ours have experienced devastating pain at the hands of the KCKPD and have channeled that grief into, whoa, developing a budget proposal. Of all the things that they could have done to heal, they are volunteering their precious hours of their precious lives to propose positive proactive solutions that we can implement right now.

One such family is a family of Sameemah T. Musawwir also known as Pearl Davis. She is the cousin of Khadijah Hardaway and the niece of KCK religious leader Imam Hanif Khalil. **Ms. Cobbins** said you have one minute. **Rev. Matlock** said her murder was reported but has never been properly investigated. For Sameemah's sake, for her families sake, I ask you to include these three items in the budget. It is good and right for you as city leaders to facilitate community input on our community budget. You may often feel alone or isolated in making these tough decisions, but in fact, we too have invested countless hours into these deliberations. Please recognize this

important work and fund the Community Integrity Unit, the bilingual hotline, and the Safe & Welcoming ordinance.

Christopher Overfelt, 3121 W. 44th Terr., said thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak to you today. I'm a veteran and I served from 2002 to 2011 in the United States Air Force as an aircraft hydraulics mechanic. I was born in the Kansas City area and after I left the military I came back here to live and work. I speak to you today in order to ask you to add a Community Integrity Unit to the Kansas City, Kansas budget for 2021 and well into the future.

The reason this unit is necessary is because we as citizens of KCK have no trust in the KCK Police Department. This department has shown time and again an unwillingness to hold this officer at law. We've had enough of police abusing the citizens they are supposed to protect. We have had enough of police officers protecting those among them who commit crimes. These officers cannot be trusted to fairly prosecute their own when they hurt our community. It is shameful that every year the majority of our city tax dollars go to funding a Police Department who do not take the time to solve the murders and rapes in our community but go to war against us every day in order to protect the property of wealthy White people.

The police get brand new cars, they get new guns, they get new computers, they get new radios, they get new surveillance equipment; all the while we in our community suffer everyday with poverty. Then the same people who we fork over our tax dollars to in order to protect us, abuse us just for being poor. We are tired of this. We must begin to turn towards a different policing model and stop funding an ineffective burdensome Police Department. We need to redirect funding away from police—**Ms. Cobbins** said you have one minute. **Mr. Overfelt** said to programs that would truly benefit our citizens. The first step toward this path is funding a Community Integrity Unit so that we can hold abusive police officers accountable.

Rev. Mindy Fugarino, 1240 Sumner Ave., said thank you everybody for being here and listening to the community input. Thank you for the time that you've put in to leading our community. I'm registered to vote here in KCK. I echo all the concerns for every victims names already tonight and later probably still too, all the victims that have been named in the *Kansas City Star* over countless articles. I also want to reach out and say it's not just our citizens that are victims, but there's also victims within the Police Department itself. We've seen in the news that a young

female cadet was sexually assaulted by a senior officer in which she complained she was being fired and while we don't have all of those details yet, it seems to be an unpleasant echo of other concerns we've heard already.

A personally have spoken to former KCK police officers who have told me that everyone new that Golubski was dirty and that he was not the only one. It's the good ol' boys club they said. They've talked about how they expressed concerns to their Internal Affairs about other officers whose actions were crossing the line in ethics and even laws. They share that they don't believe that this complaints were ever pursued. I've heard officers talk about how there were rumors going around within the department itself about the possibility that certain officers could possibly have been involved in murdering witnesses. Many officers were suspicious of and even afraid of other officers. One said we just knew who to steer clear of.

These are the people who are hired to protect and serve. These are the people that officers and citizens all depend upon for their lives. One officer said that it was obvious that the only way to get promoted to leadership positions was to be dirty in some way or other and to always look the other way. **Ms. Cobbins** said you have one minute. **Rev. Fugarino** said when officers can't trust each other, when they fear being punished for hiding, for holding each other accountable, when officers known to be dirty are promoted to Captain and even other titles, how safe can our community be. Our whole community is victimized by this kind of corruption. Trust is long past broken. These are real very simple steps to begin rebuilding trust.

We need a Community Integrity Unit fully funded for \$260K. We need an independent bilingual victims hotline, and we need it operating now. We need a Safe & Welcoming Wyandotte ordinance passed and honestly, I want more community input in the interviewing and hiring of the next Chief and I would like that process to be transparent. I would like to see what others in the community have already said in the survey that you sent out. Thank you for listening and we would love to have responses to this.

Jasmine Cervantes said I'm a lifelong Wyandotte County resident and I would like to take my time to talk about the proposed police budget. I will begin by talking about Rose McIntyre who under oath said she was sexually assaulted by Officer Golubski who also forced her into a sexual relationship. After being denied by Ms. McIntyre, Golubski then set her son Lamonte McIntyre up for two murders where he spent 23 days falsely imprisoned for. Golubski used his position of

power to continuously harass and sexually exploit women in this community for 30 years. This is backed by 20 affidavits against Golubski. We all hope and expect transparency from our Police Department, and this is definitely hard to hear as a member of this community. When the Police Chief in 2017 was asked if this could happen again today, he said that the allocations would be dealt with by either the District Attorney or the KBI, but they would definitely be investigated which is strange because most of the reported incidences of racism and police conduct have not been looked at by the KCKPD with only two investigated and one being reprimanded.

The proposed budget includes \$93M for the Police Department and nothing for these three things that would greatly improve the relationships within the community. These are not even 1% of the proposed KCKPD budget. The first thing the Community Integrity Unit would independently investigate reports of police misconduct. The second thing an independent victims bilingual hotline that can safely and more comfortably allow members of our community to important justice and the third is the Welcoming Wyandotte ordinance that would rightfully divide the responsibilities set from ICE and our KCKPD officers.

I truly hope to see a community that has the reasons to be united and to hold trust in those (inaudible) protected.

David Grummon said in addition to being co-chair of the Kansas MORE2 Criminal Justice Reform Task Force I've also been practicing law with my office in the Argentine neighborhood of Kansas City, Kansas for the last 18 years. Tonight, I'm speaking in honor of Lamonte McIntyre. By now most people watching and listening know that after his mother refused Detective Golubski advances they moved to a new address to avoid him. Golubski arrested three of her family members as suspects in a double homicide. Lamonte was one of these three and he was wrongfully convicted and spent 23 years in prison fighting the false charge before he was exonerated. His lawsuit names many other KCKPD officers involvement, none of them have been held accountable.

I think about Lamonte a lot because he's roughly my age. During the time he spent in custody for a crime he didn't commit, I got married, I started a small business and had two kids. Detective Golubski did a lot during that time too, but I'm far less nostalgic about what his KCKPD career left in his wake. That damage is done, but I want the commissioners and the people of

KCK to consider what kind of difference it would have made in the lives in the McIntyre's and all the other victims of Golubski and his conduct.

If our city would have had a bilingual hotline reporting what he was doing, imagine what a difference it would have made if there had been a Community Integrity Unit that could have independently investigated his misconduct, like the kind we're demanding to be included in this budget. You likely wouldn't know Golubski's name or Lamonte McIntyre name because Golubski illicit activities would have been nipped in the bud and he would have been removed from the ranks of the KCKPD and prosecuted within the statute of limitations. This is why we need independent oversight. **Ms. Cobbins** said you have one minute. **Mr. Grummon** said all of us in our respective jobs and roles are accountable to somebody and that's not really what we have for KCKPD officers under the current structure, not really. That's expensive not only for taxpayers due to lawsuits and settlements, but also because the lack of genuine trust hurts the ability of the police to keep us safe.

Funding the Community Integrity Unit and the bilingual hotline is an investment, an overdue payment on the deferred maintenance of the public trust. Until we restore that trust we'll continue to squander the millions of dollars in the public safety—in the budget for public safety because if public safety only works for people who ultra sounds like me, then it's really not public safety. We need that trust genuinely restored, not just with announcements or press releases, but genuinely restored and that is why we need to change the budget. We need the Community Integrity Unit, the hotline funded, we also need the Safe & Welcoming ordinance passed which will benefit all of us.

Anna White said I was born at KU Med and now I live on Cambridge Street in Rosedale. Thank you for listening to your concerned constituents like me who do not feel safe in our own community and are looking to you to invest in measures to make us feel safe. At this point as a woman in Wyandotte County I feel like I only have the color of my skin and citizenship documents to protect me from a corrupt exploited Police Department. I'm first going to share the testimony of Rose Calvin who has suffered at the hands of the KCKPD. Rose Calvin is the sister of John Keith Calvin. Rose was murdered in KCK on KCKPD Detective Roger Golubski watch. Roses family had seen her with Golubski in the days leading up to her death. When her family arrived at the murder scene Detective Golubski was already there and refused to let them see or identify

her body stating he had already taken care of that and they probably wouldn't recognize her anyway. Roses murder has never been properly investigated.

The UG must take responsibility for the pain it has caused constituents and it's been presented with many widely supportive measures to do so, but the UG is not moving ahead with any of them. I urge the commissioners to genuinely consider the Safe & Welcoming Wyandotte ordinance. This will ensure KCK taxpayers are not paying local police to do the job of federal ICE agents. This will help all immigrant victims feel safe reporting crimes with KCKPD without fearing police will report undocumented victims to ICE. This will not prohibit KCKPD from collaborating with ICE to report and deport immigrants charged with violent crimes. Thank for your time and I look forward to seeing an updated budget.

Kristin Scheer said I'm a homeowner and resident in Wyandotte County for 20 years now and a registered voter in 66102. It makes no sense to me that our police force has no oversight. Citizens must have a place to which they can bring their grievances. We deserve to be heard, we deserve to be protected, and we should not fear the very people that are charged with that protection. We have seen what can happen when we allow behavior that has no oversight. George Floyd, Trayvon Martin, Eric Garner, Tamir Rice and Breonna Taylor just to name a few of the high profile cases of citizens losing their lives unjustly to our civically paid police forces who sometimes seem more about subjugating than serving.

Here in Wyandotte we can look to Lamonte McIntyre recently exonerated after 23 years of a sentence for a crime which he was falsely accused, falsely prosecuted, and falsely incarcerated. We can look to John Keith Calvin who still sits in jail. It's been 20 years since his false incarceration. It's been seven years since the person who committed the crime for which he was falsely prosecuted publicly confused on television. Why is he still in jail.

We can look to the women victimized at the hands of KCK Police Detective Roger Golubski who is now comfortably retired from the force. As far as we know never even questioned about these women with whom he was known to have associated; Rose Calvin, Diane Edwards, Vickie Due, Rwanda Tribune, Theresa Randolph to name a few somewhere murdered or terrorized or otherwise exploited. All were victimized and mostly uninvestigated unsolved crimes.

The proposed Community Integrity Unit must be funded. **Ms. Cobbins** said you have one minute. **Ms. Scheer** said the bilingual hotline must be funded so that the citizens of Wyandotte have the oversight and protection they deserve so that our voices can be heard.

I'm here today to insist that these tools be funded, and a Safe Welcoming ordinance be implemented in Wyandotte. Our police force must be held accountable to the people whom they are bound to serve. No one should object to this especially now that we have witnessed the glaring disparity and treatment that people of color and marginalized communities face at the hands of those who are meant to serve and protect. No one should be above the law, not even the law keepers. Fund the Integrity Unit, fund the hotline, cut the check. We are worth the investment.

Elnora Jefferson said I'm looking for my documents so I can read from them. For some reason I'm not able to find them. **Ms. Cobbins** asked, would you like for us to go to the next person and come back. **Ms. Jefferson** said yes, Bridgette, would you please.

Marcia Rupp said I've heard something that sounds like there ought to be a trial for Detective Golubski. I just want to say you know we're in such an unsettled times here. It's hard to try to judge a Police Department by one person. I know I'm not saying that there weren't other incidents. No place is going to have perfect, perfect people in all the people. You know you're going to have a bad apple, but I'm just saying the times are so unsettled now. You've heard a lot of talk about defunding police, about getting rid of police, but yet we have several states that are in disrupt. They are killing people right and left, children on the streets, they need help, and this is mostly in neighborhoods of Hispanic and Black neighborhoods and that's horrible. They need help there and the only ones that can help them are police, okay, good police. We need police. Please do not defund our police. We need every police officer we can get. Missouri, as you know, our state sister, is having a horrible time right now. Crime is just going crazy over there.

We always get some of that crime, always. It always seems to land over here whether they kill them over there and drop their bodies here, whatever, but our sister state and what usually happens over there ends up over here too. Please do not defund these good men. There are good men and women on that Police Department. I know I work with them. The Neighborhood Watch Leaders work with them, the Community Police work with us. **Ms. Cobbins** said you have one minute. **Ms. Rupp** said during the protest there were no crimes and no unpeaceful protest over

here. That is because we have a great rapport with our Police Department and the Neighborhood Watch Leaders do. Even though we have some people that might be dissatisfied, there's a few things we can do about that, but not defunding the police. We need our police and don't be adding more stuff in. Let's just stay with what we have right now. We have an election coming, we have the COVID vaccine coming probably, we have—the economy is getting better. You can see even now it's moving towards that way. We need to get people back to work. We'll be fine, but don't make any moves right now. My mama always told me, when you're not sure what to do, don't do anything at all, just leave it the way it is. Let's stay with what we have. We're doing good. **Ms. Cobbins** said your time is up. **Ms. Rupp** said do not defund our Police Department.

Elnora Jefferson said I reside in Kansas City, Kansas. I attended several of the budget workshops this year and I can attest to the fact that this year's decision-making has certainly not been (inaudible). **Mayor Alvey** said, Elnora, I think we missed some of it. It was garbled. If you want to go back right after you started speaking about having attended several workshops. I think maybe if you lean closer to your microphone, to the computer, it should work a little bit better. **Ms. Jefferson** said (inaudible). **Mayor Alvey** said it's not coming through. **Ms. Jefferson** said the corona pandemic added its own flavor complete with less revenue and greater expenses. I thank each of you both elected as well (inaudible) a northeast community voice regarding the status and condition of the Beatrice L. Lee Community Center and to utter a plea for renovations and upgrades. As you know the center did not make the list of funded projects in this year's CMIP budget. Funding to provide brick and mortar and digital infrastructure, personnel for community and human development and a baseline for economic development specifically job training, entrepreneurial business incubators and also entrepreneurial training will not happen. In addition to these needs, however, is a need to provide disability accesses. Safe accesses to those who currently use the center as well as those in the future.

For a number of months, a traffic cone has been positioned on the upstairs walkup to signal that it is unsafe to walk in that area. The reason is that the cement has again rebroken. In addition, there is no easy, safe access between floors so those with mobility and sight disabilities are challenged to go between floors to attend functions. **Ms. Cobbins** said you have one minute. **Ms. Jefferson** said I believe that the UG is under a consent decree with the Department of Justice relating to its mandate to be compliant with ADA. The first time I looked into this a considerable

annual sum of money was set aside in the budgets to be used for the goal of compliance to federal requirements for disability access to public buildings and spaces.

Tonight's community request is that money from this fund be spent to fix and improve the two issues just mentioned, the sidewalk and access between floors.

Melissa Clark said I have a business. I'm a businessowner and I have been in the Fairfax District for over 29 years. I've also been on the Fairfax Industrial Association Board for 20+ years and currently the Executive Director. My address is 3250 Brinkerhoff Road, KCK, 66115. I just wanted to bring up again, there's been discussions for a couple months now about the Fairfax Fire Station and closing the fire station. On behalf of the FIA we represent 135+ businesses, over 10,000 employees, \$5B in property that is zoned as an M-3 Heavy Industrial District that has nearly 100% supply of volatile unleaded diesel and jet fuel for the bi-state region that's pumped in underground to more than 60 elevated petroleum tanks as well as highly volatile liquid oxygen that's fed under high pressure underground lines to CertainTeed and Owens Corning to do their molten glass furnaces. We contribute \$18-20M annually in property and utility taxes. I don't even know what the payroll taxes are for over 10K employees have contributed as well as the sales tax and use tax.

What we continue to not be able to understand is what kind of message are the city leaders sending to the business community by closing our Fairfax station that more than financially supports a fire station that needs to protect our employees and property including the surrounding northeast residential area. Because of the highly hazardous—the items that are stored in our district in such a small area with such a large population, it would be irresponsible to close our Fairfax Fire Station. **Ms. Cobbins** said you have one minute. **Ms. Clark** said based on the highly hazardous environment in which we work. Our need is not based on the number of calls, but when we do need to make that call, it could easily be for a potential catastrophic event similar to the reasons airports have their own fire station.

We ask the city leaders and the commissioner to vote to not close our Fairfax Fire Station, to keep it open and protect the Wyandotte County area and the Fairfax employees.

Ms. Cobbins said, Mayor, before we go to those with raised hands, there were several requests that were submitted to the Clerk's Office that they would like to be read into the record.

The first is Donnie Thomas with Kensington Community Group asking that I let you know she is concerned with any changes to the Police Department. This group does not want any change to Community Policing and the West Patrol needs to stay.

Sandy Ziolo with the Block Hawks also would like to share her sentiments about the need for Community Policing to all commissioners. They believe both Fairfax and the Piper Fire Stations need to be working stations. The group fears Community Policing could be the next to go. She says she feels all are necessary for our community.

Marlene Bouray with Neighbors Who Care called to let us know that she and her group oppose any changes to Community Policing. They are building strong community relationships and they're needed to continue to foster relationships throughout the whole of Wyandotte County. They request that the West Patrol does not get closed. She also stated they want the fire station in Fairfax to stay especially with new apartments/developments going on in that area.

The final request for the Clerk's Office was from Grace Katzmar. I am making a testimony on behalf of KCK Police Officer Ruby Ellington who shared her report on Roger Golubski before she passed away. Former Kansas City, Kansas Police Officer Ruby Ellington who died last year and had known Golubski since the two went through the police academy together and said in her affidavit that his exploitation of Black women was well known throughout the department. Despite this, he was never punished. In fact, he rose steadily through the ranks. Everyone in the department knew that when Golubski would go on calls that any Black female involved would likely end up in his police car with him and everyone, she said under oath, looked the other way. Although some officers were disturbed about Golubski's misconduct, they were afraid to speak up. Golubski was part of the in crowd of the department and was perceived as untouchable, still is since he's walking around free. His former partner, Terry Zeigler, only stepped down as Chief last year.

We need accountability in Kansas City, Kansas. As a teacher in Wyandotte County I find it reprehensible that \$60M is proposed for the police in 2020-2021 while zero is allocated for public safety resources that Golubski's victims as well as Kansas City, Kansas residents have been

questioning for years. With the current social uprising happening in our country, and as diverse a county as Wyandotte County is, why propose no money for social services.

I am asking for a Community Integrity Unit as well as a bilingual police accountability, phone line accessible to all Wyandotte County residents. It's also time for KCK to implement a Safe & Welcoming Wyandotte ordinance to create a municipal ID and prevent KCK from acting like ICE. That is what KCK taxpayers are asking for. These are the first steps toward creating a safer place for all people to live and work.

Ms. Cobbins said the first person that we have with their hand raised is Nia Mia Rosedall.

Nia Mia Rosedall said I'm a Social Worker here in Wyandotte County. I work with vulnerable population including homeless, struggling with mental illness, addiction and who often have interactions with the police. In working with the police and advocating to my clients they need to be confident that there's real accountability with the KCK Police Department. Right now, I'm not confident in that. While I give independent police accountability and years of abuse of powers to the likes of Roger Golubski and others has ruined the trust between the community and the police.

As mentioned Lamonte McIntyre and John Keith Calvin locked away for years for crimes they didn't commit erodes the trust between the community and the police. What's the point of spending millions of dollars on the police if the public can't trust them.

I'm calling for the funding of the Community Integrity Unit to start building trust with the police and increasing public safety. We need this an independent system to provide for police accountability and to demonstrate UG takes these offenses seriously and people will not be retaliated against for reporting abuse.

We also need to fund an independent bilingual hotline. Victims can call to report police misconduct and finally, we need to establish a Safe & Welcoming Wyandotte ordinance so KCK knows their tax dollars are not going to ICE operations and to build trust with the immigrant communities so they can feel safe reporting crimes to the KCKPD without fearing police or report undocumented victims to ICE.

The cost of these measures is just a drop in the bucket to the amount that's being given to the police so please include them in the upcoming budget.

Angela Montanaro said I am a resident of Wyandotte County. In the proposed budget I notice there is funding for a newly created position in the Police Department, the Media Relations Specialist. It's described in the budget on page 224 "The department recognize that messages presented to the media have become essential to impression management and public relations and request a new personnel position Media Relations Specialist. This position has been filled and early results are very promising." It is disheartening to me that the response to meet media coverage of police misconduct is to hire a PR person. We don't need better press releases. We need accountability. Funding a PR Specialist instead of funding the demands of the community shows where our priorities lie, public image over the people. There is negative media coverage of the KCKPD and it's persistent because it is true. Media coverage is not the problem. The problem is the lack of transparency and accountability and the solution to that problem is funding the Community Integrity Unit, funding the bilingual hotline to report police misconduct, and to pass the Safe & Welcoming Wyandotte ordinance.

Ms. Cobbins said I see Charles Carney's hand up, but he's spoke earlier this evening. Is there someone else on the line that would like to speak other than Charles Carney. Okay, I see his was removed.

Michelle Franks said I live in western Wyandotte County and I'm wanting to know at this particular meeting because I missed the first five minutes, are you going to discuss, or have you already discussed the mill levy for property taxes? **Mayor Alvey** said there's no discussion on mill levy for the property taxes. There will be discussion about the Library Mill Levy Tax, Kansas City, Kansas Public Library. **Ms. Franks** said I'm a homeowner very interested in the rising cost of our property taxes and requesting not to have a raise. If anything, to have them lowered and I know it's difficult with the pandemic, but everybody is in the same boat. So, I wanted to ask for consideration for having the property taxes lowered. I say that because we have to spend money for lawsuits Section B out of our—this shouldn't affect the homeowners. We shouldn't have to pay for mistakes that our leadership makes.

Carolyn Wyatt, 359 Troup, said Beatrice Lee Center no funds. Kensington Center no funds, Armourdale flood work, Bethany Recreation Center no funds, Sunflower Golf \$30K, Police

Boxing up on 5th Street \$50K, Argentine Recreation Center, Metro 24, UG invested to fund public safety. They buy a fire truck each year and there's no fires. There's no need for a fire truck. Ambulance should be with a medic on it—another body for the ambulance as a medic and Fire Department don't need to go. Two taxes already with the Fire Department. A better need with a tax would be proactive programs for the community centers or the OK Program and that's been proactive, another officer would be needed. Two more schools where the OK Program could work with the youth. I'm just saying there's money spent and it's not actually helping the community at all because we don't have a fire so that's just added funds. I just wanted to get that out to you about that because of the public safety where a community could be funded so basically that's all I wanted to say about that.

Ms. Cobbins said, Mayor, that concludes all those that requested to speak this evening.

Mayor Alvey said I would like to thank each of you for joining us tonight to make comments during our public hearing process. What's the pleasure of the Commission? Would you like to move to the Library Mill Rate and then bring up additional topics or bring topics up now?

Commissioner Townsend said since we're in a presentation mode, I would like to see that concluded and then we have the discussions about topics and some of the things we've heard tonight and others. I also had a question; do we not have anything scheduled before Thursday in the way of a last go-round with this. Is this it tonight? **Mayor Alvey** said this is our final budget hearing. **Commissioner Townsend** said okay. Again, I would like to see the presentations and then discussion following.

Commissioner Markley said sounds good.

Commissioner Bynum said I agree.

Commissioner Philbrook said I will throw my name in there. Let's finish up our presentations and make a decision on that Levy and then go on.

Mayor Alvey said okay, very good, let's go on. I'll turn this over regarding the Library Mill Rate to Mr. Bach.



Doug Bach, County Administrator, said the next part of our presentation was a request by commissioners that we come back, and we provide some discussion regarding the Library Mill Rate. A couple years ago we did a very deep dive into the history of it. We're going to touch on that. We're not go into as much—I know a couple of years ago we elected to go back and have a Special Session. If we want to do that, we can spend more time on it, but I have Debbie Jonscher, our Deputy Chief Financial Officer, will talk this evening to talk about the mill rate and then allow for some Commission discussion regarding questions you may have if we can answer those.

Wyandotte County Library District

go to: [KCKPL Library Board Website](#)

Wyandotte County Library District

The County Library District is governed by the County Library Board. The Library District is comprised of all areas of Wyandotte County not otherwise subject to a library tax levy.

- Not in USD 500
- Not in the City of Bonner Springs

Wyandotte County has two library systems:

- Kansas City Kansas Public Library (KCKPL)
 - ❑ Operated by the Board of Education for Unified School District 500
- Bonner Springs City Library (BSCL)
 - ❑ Operated by Library Board of Directors appointed by Bonner Springs City Council

The library systems are funded by taxes levied by:

- USD #500
- City of Bonner Springs Library District
- Unified Government County Library District



Main Library
625 Minnesota Avenue, KCK



West Wyandotte Library
1737 N. 82nd Street, KCK



Turner Community Library
831 S. 55th Street, KCK



South Branch Library
3104 Strong Avenue, KCK



Schlagle Library and Environmental
Learning Center
Wyandotte County Lake Park (west side)



Debbie Jonscher, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, said I'm just going to present some information on the Library Mill Rate. This first slide is just giving a little bit of history regarding the County Library District. I did want to point out that at the top included in your presentation is

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a link to the Kansas City, Kansas Public Library Board website that has this information as well as additional information on the history of the library district.

Starting out, the County Library District is governed by the County Library Board. The library district is comprised of all areas of Wyandotte County not otherwise subject to a library tax levy. So, that would be areas that are not within the USD 500 District and not in the City of Bonner Springs.

Wyandotte County has two library systems. The Kansas City Kansas Public Library which is operated by the Board of Education for the Unified School District 500 and the Bonner Springs City Library operated by the Library Board of Directors appointed by the Bonner Springs City Council.

The library systems are funded by taxes levied by USD 500, the City of Bonner Springs Library District and the Unified Government County Library District.

Wyandotte County Library District

Wyandotte County Library Board

The Kansas City, Kansas Public Library system and City of Bonner Springs Library District receive funding from the Wyandotte County Library Board to provide services to residents in Wyandotte County who reside within the county, but outside of the USD #500 school district and the City of Bonner Springs Library District. This area includes most of the City of Edwardsville and the school districts of Piper and Turner.

The County Library Board consists of 11 members that are appointed by the Unified Government of Wyandotte County Commissioners. The Chair of the Wyandotte County Library Board is appointed by the Mayor and the remaining district board members are appointed by each commissioner representing their respective districts.

The County Library Board has the authority to set the County Library Tax Levy and the Unified Government Commission approves it.

- With that money the Board could either establish or operate a library or it could contract with another library to provide library services to the residents of the County Library District.
- *K.S.A. 12-1218 & 12-1220 – establishing a municipal library, along with the Kansas Attorney General's Opinion set out the process.*
- *("Thus, a board of county commissioners is authorized to establish a county library, but it is the library board - not the board of county commissioners - that establishes the amount of the tax levy needed to maintain the library.")*

1. Kan.Atty.Gen. OP.No. 06-4(Kan.A.G.) 2006 WL325769

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As I mentioned before, the Kansas City, Kansas Public Library system and the City of Bonner Springs Library District receive funding from the Wyandotte County Library Board to provide services to residents who reside within Wyandotte County but are outside of the USD #500 School District and the City of Bonner Springs Library District. This would include most of the City of Edwardsville as well as the school districts of Piper and Turner.

The County Library Board consists of 11 members that are appointed by the Unified Government Commissioners. The Chair is appointed by the Mayor and the remaining board members are appointed by UG Commissioners representing their respective districts.

July 13, 2020

The County Library Board has the authority to set the County Library Tax Levy and the Unified Government Commission approves it to enact it. With that money the Board can either establish or operate a library or it can contract with another library to provide library services to the residents of the district.

I've listed on here a couple of the Kansas State Statutes and I've also cited an opinion of the Kansas Attorney General that set out this process. I have a quote here from the Attorney General's opinion that says "Thus, a Board of County Commissioners is authorized to establish a county library, but it is the library board, not the Board of County Commissioners, that establishes the amount of the tax levy needed to maintain the library."

County Library District Mill Levy Comparison 2009 - 2019						
Tax Rate Year	County Library		USD 500 Library		Bonner Springs City Library	
	County Library Mills	% Change (2009-2019)	USD 500 Library Mills	% Change (2009-2019)	Bonner Springs City Library Mills	% Change (2009-2019)
2009	4.130	—	7.730	—	4.545	—
2010	5.030	—	7.954	—	4.545	—
2011	5.030	—	7.980	—	4.785	—
2012	5.030	—	7.980	—	4.945	—
2013	5.578	—	8.922	—	5.160	—
2014	5.583	—	8.911	—	5.146	—
2015	6.059	—	10.985	—	5.190	—
2016	6.059	—	10.985	—	5.190	—
2017	6.042	—	11.036	—	5.035	—
2018	6.068	—	11.086	—	4.823	—
2019	6.122	48.2%	11.145	44.2%	4.723	3.9%

This slide just shows a comparison of each of the districts and their mill levy's for the past 10 years. So, for 2019, the Wyandotte County Library mill levy was 6.122 mills, the USD 500 library was 11.145 mills, and the Bonner Springs City Library is 4.723 mills.

Kansas City, Kansas Public Libraries - Property Tax Funding Summary						
	AV for 2020 Budget	AV for 2021 Budget	Mill Levy	2020 Property Tax Revenue	2021 Property Tax Revenue	% of Total
UG County Library District	487,106,174	516,622,915	6.122	\$2,828,648	\$3,002,122	25%
USD #500 Library District	804,379,962	849,683,183	11.145	\$8,516,574	\$8,996,233	75%
Totals:	\$1,291,486,136	\$1,366,306,098	17.267	\$11,345,222	\$11,998,355	100%

City of Bonner Springs Library - Property Tax Funding Summary					
	AV for 2020 Budget	AV for 2021 Budget	Mill Levy	2020 Property Tax Revenue	2021 Property Tax Revenue
City of Bonner Springs Library	\$77,038,714	\$81,636,129	4.723	\$345,661	\$366,289

The next slide shows the property tax funding for the library districts and we've got this broken up into—the top section is the Kansas City, Kansas Public Library and then the City of Bonner Springs Library. The County Library District, I've got the assessed value showing for both the 2020 Budget and estimated for the 2021 Budget. The library district valuation increased 6.1% and with their current mill levy it's 6.122 mills. For 2020 that generates revenue of \$2.8M and for 2021 it's estimated to generate just slightly over \$3M.

For the USD Library District, their valuation increased 5.6%. I'm showing their current mill levy—I don't have information on if they're planning to change their mill levy, so I made these calculations for USD 500 and the City of Bonner Springs at their current approved levy. So, for 2020, USD 500 Library would receive \$8.5M in revenue and for 2021 it's estimated to be just under \$9M. The City of Bonner Springs, their increased assessed value was about 5.9%, so their 2020 revenue is \$345K and for 2021 it's estimated at \$366K.

Library Board Tax Levy Allocations

LIBRARY	2020	2021
Kansas City Kansas Public Library	2,439,661	2,661,591
Bonner Springs City Library	212,146	235,807
Turner Community Library	418,082	418,082

* KCKPL 2021 allocation includes funding of salary and benefits in the amount of \$79,848 for the Schlagle Library employees

The final slide I have is showing the Library Board Tax Levy Allocations that the Library Board presents in their submitted budget. They have payments to the Kansas City Kansas Library, Bonner Springs Library and the Turner Community Library and I showed the allocations for the approved 2020 Budget as well as the proposed 2021 Budget. That concludes my presentation on the library mill rate.

Mr. Bach said, Mayor, that's the information we have on that. I don't know if the commissioners had some questions or we can try to answer on that. We don't really, as we note, administer the

Library Mill Levy, we just collect the money for that and then the Board that you've appointed oversees it.

Commissioner Walters said I remember a couple years ago when we went through this and I appreciate this update. I'm interested in all of the taxing authorities in Wyandotte County and I believe we should have a coordinated conversation about the tax rate or the tax burden we have on our residents. We don't have a lot of input on the majority of the taxes that are levied in the county. I'm thinking of the school districts, the Community College, this library board; however, we are asked to approve this Library Mill Levy and its always been a little confusing to me because we get no information. We don't know what they're using their money for, we don't know why they're raising their mill levies with such an increase in property tax valuations one could think they could be lowering their mill levies unless they have some capital campaign that they're trying to stockpile money for, but all that is kind of a black box. But, we as commissioners, are asked to approve this and it seems a little irresponsible as it comes up year after year that we are given this information and we are just expected to vote yes and it because more and more indefensible as time goes on when people are concerned about tax rates. Particularly, just based on what Ms. Jonscher has shown us, the tax rate in the USD 500 is pretty high.

I guess we are here three days before we're supposed to approve this, and we don't even have the information other than the USD 500 mill rate that we're supposed to approve. I'm inclined to just let you know I will not voting in favor of approving the Library Mill Levy. I probably should have done this years ago, but if somebody says we have no ability to affect the mill levy for the school district, then they shouldn't be asking us to approve it. That's my sense of this matter at this time.

Commissioner Bynum said I will echo Commissioner Walter's comment about a coordinated shared conversation with all taxing entities. Commissioner Johnson has asked for this numerous times as I have, and I do think especially in our difficult times this is long overdue. I do have a question on the very last slide and then a comment in general that I seek clarification around exactly what we will vote on come Thursday with our budget adoption.

So, if there is any way to see that very last slide of the presentation, it's the only slide I did not understand. What is this slide telling us in terms of tax levy allocations? **Mr. Jonscher**

said this is showing when the Library Board submits their budget, this shows the amount that they are giving to each of the library districts. So, for 2021 when they submitted their budget, they will be making a payment to the Kansas City Kansas Public Library in the amount of \$2.6M. The Bonner Springs Library gets \$235K and the Turner Community Library gets \$418K. That is submitted with their budget. **Commissioner Bynum** asked, are you telling us that when the Wyandotte County appointed Library Board that sets the mill levy equal to 6.122 mills submits a budget they then turnaround and make allocations to these three libraries. **Ms. Jonscher** said that's correct. **Commissioner Bynum** said so within Kansas City Kansas Public Library system, which is taxed at a mill levy rate of 11.145 in addition to the \$11.9M that that mill levy rate raises, they also receive an allocation from the Wyandotte County mill levy rate that's going to equal \$2.6M in 2021? **Ms. Jonscher** said yes, and the allocation is to fund library services that are not—I believe that are not covered that are outside of the USD 500 School District. I will say I'm not sure exactly how this—I think there's a formula for this. I'm not sure how they calculate this amount. I know Angela Lawson is on the line as well as Reggie if one of them would like to weigh in on that. **Commissioner Bynum** said that would be helpful to know and I do recognize we've been over this many times.

Angela Lawson, Deputy Chief Counsel, said yes the County Library Board allocates funding to help provide services for areas that don't have a library. Piper, Edwardsville and Turner, although there is a contract with KCK School District to provide the Turner Community Library, so that is what that funding is for. Then there is funding for Bonner Springs and the KCK Public Library and that helps to provide for items like the Bookmobile that goes out to the areas that aren't served. Also, to allow patrons to go to those libraries. It's to be able to use the services at the library. It is a very odd setup that the Library Board sets it and then the Board of Commissioners enact it without having the discretion to reject it. **Commissioner Bynum** said as per state law and the Attorney General's opinion that we were shown. **Ms. Lawson** said that's correct.

Commissioner Bynum said I'm aware that we are the only remaining library system in the entire nation operating this way and that state law would need to change for this to be conducted in a manner that's different. **Ms. Lawson** said there may be some ability to charter out of that. Obviously, that couldn't be done before the Commission meeting, but that could be something that could be looked at. I think we all recognize it is a very unique setup.

Commissioner Bynum said just a couple of questions for final clarification here. When we adopt a variety of mill levies on Thursday night in addition to the City and the County and the Special Municipal District, SSMID, for the downtown area; the library mill levy that this governing body will vote to adopt is the Wyandotte County Library Board mill levy that's currently set at 6.122 mills. **Ms. Lawson** said right. It's not the—it is sort of the Piper, Edwardsville, Turner area, it's not the District 500 area.

Commissioner Bynum said the USD 500 mill rate of 11.145 mills, this governing body, the Unified Government does or does not vote on that mill levy allocation? **Ms. Lawson** said does not. **Commissioner Bynum** said just to be clear for everyone watching, if you live inside USD 500 KCK Public Schools, you will pay 11.145 mills that will be voted on by the USD 500 Board of Education. **Ms. Lawson** said correct. **Commissioner Bynum** said and not the authority of this taxing entity? **Ms. Lawson** said that is correct.

Commissioner Townsend said I just wanted to echo sentiments already expressed by Commissioner Walters. I think it was a Michelle Frank who wanted property taxes lowered and it is something that I talk about all the time when people call my office asking why don't we, the commissioners, lower the tax rate. I explain that since the '14 Budget, the first one that many of us have had an opportunity in this current configuration of the Commission to address, we've either held it constant or lowered it. It was my rude awakening after that to talk to a constituent that wanted to know why her taxes went up and that's when I realized that we are not the only, we the Board of Commissioners, are not the only taxing entity and we're taking great pains to try to decide what to do with money we do and don't have and where to spend it. I feel like I'm about to make a blind buy with the information I've seen here. There needs to be more of an explanation in my opinion about, as Commissioner Walters said, why these mill rates keep going up. I would be challenged to explain that.

I'm also at this time just wondering why—we've got some heavy requests here tonight and some others we've been grappling with. We are actually approving the budget several weeks ahead of when we did this last year and in prior years. I'm just wondering or really thinking that we need at least one more session before Thursday or earlier than that. At this point with the Library Board allocations, I'm inclined not to move forward with it. It seems like the only thing we can do as a commissioner is vote thumbs up or thumbs down on it.

Commissioner Johnson said I was hoping that everybody saw my hand up, but hopefully, we saved the best for last on this comment and I'm joking with that. I'm just glad my fellow commissioners are starting to get onboard with something that I've been saying for the past two years and I appreciate Commissioner Bynum for making that point. I'm going to ask the Mayor and County Administrator Bach to help me, or help us, figure out a way we can have a coordinated discussion with the other taxing agencies as to how we collectively support the mill levy to the constituents of Wyandotte County. Again, I know we have no control over it, but we need to understand the logic across the board. We have a shared concern and that is for the betterment of our constituents across the board.

When you have situations like this, the increase that is being proposed is about \$246K which gets you pretty close to what has been requested for the Community Integrity Unit by our DA. Again, I'm not inclined—whether it's a mandate by the State or not, I still have a vote and right now I'm not really inclined to vote on that because what I want to do is leverage our one vote a meaningful way that will get us to the table to have a very fundamental conversation, not to throw barbs at each other, not to tear out—no, we can tear down the silos and really get a chance to understand each other. We're all in this together, all of us are in this together and so, it just does not make sense that we are not at some level, and I don't know, Mayor, if that would be the Superintendent and the President of the Community College and so on and so forth and you or it would be with Administrator Bach or the CFO level. I don't really care; I just feel like we need to have a fundamental conversation across the board with all taxing entities so that we can work together as a meaningful way to bring about the betterment of our community.

I'm not inclined to vote for this tonight either. I think those funds could be used for other purposes at this particular time. I yield the floor with that.

Commissioner Philbrook said I have a point of information question. What happens if we do not—if we chose not to vote this up or down or don't bring it forward, what happens legally? **Ms. Lawson** said the libraries could probably go to court to get a mandamus which is enforcing a governmental entity to do an act which is required and since this is required, and again, we're not talking about District 500 levy. We're talking about the County levy because you don't officially do anything to enact that, you just do the County library portion of it, but that is sort of the legal duty as it stands now, so there could be a mandamus action to enforce that.

Commissioner Philbrook said so, here's my question, how much is that going to cost us to pay for that because we'll have to pay for it. **Ms. Lawson** said well you do have in-house counsel. **Commissioner Philbrook** said I know but it takes time and that will cost us money. I mean that's all things to consider. Is it worth it to us to fight it this time versus—**Ms. Lawson** said it may be something to take a look at changing to see if there is a way to charter out in the future or cap in the future, but that would be for next year's budget.

Commissioner Philbrook said I think I'm hearing other commissioners saying we need to really (inaudible) at possibly changing things. I don't know how anybody else feels about this, but I know we've (inaudible). **Ms. Lawson** said to change like the District 500 mill levy—**Commissioner Philbrook** said no, no, no—**Ms. Lawson** said or the Community College, that couldn't be done through this process. **Commissioner Philbrook** said no, I'm not talking about District 500. I'm talking about strictly this board because there's nothing we can do (inaudible). **Ms. Lawson** said not this session. **Commissioner Philbrook** said right, I understand. **Ms. Lawson** said the AG's opinion clarifies that it needs to be passed along by the board and, again, it is a very odd structure.

Commissioner Philbrook said here's my comment for what it's worth, is if we're having problems with this, which we have had for quite a few years now, I really think that we need to be actively looking at what are the alternatives to doing it the way it is and how can we make that work. That's my comment on that.

Commissioner Ramirez said I have a comment and a question. I'll start with my question. It's kind of piggybacking off Commissioner Philbrook. If we were, let's say, we still went through and we voted on it and it didn't pass, could the Library Board still take that legal action, or would they have to go back to the drawing board? **Ms. Lawson** said it would probably be the libraries themselves that took it and not the Library Board because the Library Board is appointed by the Commission. **Commissioner Ramirez** said okay.

For my comment, I would agree with the other commissioners that we need to have a coordinated conversation of all taxing jurisdictions because when I hear constituents and they come to me, they think we control all the mill rates. I tell them we are only one portion. There's the Community College, the USD, the Library and we just need to have that communication going

forward, not just this one time or next year's budget, but every single budget from here on out we need to have a coordinated conversation.

Mayor Alvey said I'm going to comment on a coordinated effort. I guess the question would be what is effective (inaudible) in that conversation and depending upon objective, who would it involve. If we want to have a coordinated conversation, it's the elected officials out of each taxing jurisdiction who would need to hear this because they have the ultimate authority as do we over the mill levy. So, while trying to coordinate that kind of event, it would be quite large and I think one of the concerns I would have is if they would ask the same of us—I understand, you know Commissioner Johnson, you're statement is not to cast spurgeons or throw barbs at everyone, but it's almost as if we're saying we're tired of being blamed for all the mill levies and we want you to take responsibility and lower yours and at the same time, they would say the same to us.

It would seem to me that if we really want that message to get across, then we should reach out to our own elected officials from the Turner School Board, KCK Public School Board, all those taxing entities; we have our means of expressing our concerns as does any other citizen. Those are my concerns in having this conversation.

Finally, I understand that this was done in prior years and the effect was really for us to be told, from what I understand, we will set the mill levy where we think we need to set the mill levy, so I don't want to do a conversation that's just going to be a show. If we've done this conversation before and people still hold us responsible, then how do we think that kind of conversation, that coordinated effort, is going to permeate through so people will get that message.

Commissioner Townsend said I want to go back, a point of clarification to the Counsel who's still on the line, and this goes to what I think Commissioner Ramirez brought up. Are you saying, Counselor, that we as the Commission do not have the right to say yes or no on the proposal? **Ms. Lawson** said you're simply levying what's been decided. It's not like the SSMID where the SSMID they make a recommendation and the Board of Commissioners decides whether or not that's appropriate or you may adjust it. It's not that type of action. This is simply you're just going to collect it. **Commissioner Townsend** said we're voting to collect it. **Ms. Lawson** said you're not voting on the—you're voting to enact it, but you're doing that without much authority to change it. That's already been decided and there's the AG's opinion that's on point on that

issue. **Commissioner Townsend** said so we're agreeing to collect it as its been sent to us. Is that correct? **Ms. Lawson** said that's correct, and again, agreeing to, I'm going to put that into quotes because there's the duty to do that under the state law the way it is now. **Commissioner Townsend** said so there's a duty to collect it. If I was to say no, it has not been explained why these mill levies keep going up or what the need is from that body's point of view, haven't we as the Board of Commissioners fulfilled our duty just by having the vote? **Ms. Lawson** said no. The Attorney General has opined that you have to—I'm trying to find the exact wording in the opinion. "The governing body of the city may not reduce the amount requested by the Library Board" is one of his quotes. I think there is, again, some room in the future to cap it or to perhaps change the structure, but those measures are not in place at this time.

Commissioner Townsend said let's say that this does not get this measure concerning the Library Board does not get the six votes, would we be as the Board of Commissioners seen under what you just read as having been derelict in our duty and possibly subject to the mandamus action that you're talking about? **Ms. Lawson** said I think a mandamus action could be filed by the libraries because they are the ones that would be harmed by the funds not being transferred to them. **Commissioner Townsend** said I think with this clarification, I'm understanding what you're telling me, then to have some type of coordinated effort or meeting with those people who make the determination, I think it's imperative we find a way to that because it sounds like our hands may be tied. We have to impress upon that body that we don't have the authority to change it. They may know that already. I mean this is really clarifying for me but at the same time we have to be responsible to our constituents so that we could even explain to them why the other library boards think what they're proposing is appropriate. It may not be for further discussion today, but I do believe that we as the Board of Commissioners need to have some type of hearing or Special Session or something as we've done in the past, it's been awhile with the BPU even, so that it is impressed upon them that constituents look to us as the sitter of all these rates. What I have told my constituents who called, that they need to share those concerns with the other elected officials who sit on those boards, but people are going to look to us. I think it's imperative we have that meeting, that conversation before this time next year with the board representatives.

Commissioner Bynum said could we go back a couple of slides to the mill levy rates? So, the County Library Board is proposing, it looks to me, what is the proposed mill levy rate for 2021 for

County Libraries? **Ms. Jonscher** said their proposing to keep their mill levy the same. 2019 is the current approved mill levy that was set last year at 6.122 mills. They're not proposing an increase for this year. They're proposing to keep their mill levy constant. **Commissioner Bynum** said okay, so there is no proposed increase in the County Library mill levy rate for 2021. It's going to stay at 6.122 mills, so it's the same rate we adopted last year at this time and it is our appointments to this board that sets that mill levy rate. It's not some other elected body. It is our very own appointments onto this Library Board that have proposed 6.122 mills for 2021. **Ms. Lawson** said that is correct and I have a very awkward disclosure to make that I am, in fact, on that board, so I do need to clarify that, but yes, there was no raise. **Commissioner Bynum** said well thank you very much because what I was going to suggest was that I have not seen a proposed mill levy rate increase for the County Library mill levy and that if we're concerned with that, it's our own appointments onto this board to have them bring forward and explain to us why would they propose a mill levy rate. Those are the two points I wanted to make.

With regard to the Mayor's concern about the convening of every elected officials, I completely understand your concern. I will say I'm unaware of any such convening since I've been elected, which is five years now, there may have been something prior. What was in my mind along the means of convening every elected body in Wyandotte for that conversation was simply to start from a place of our goals, where they overlap, where we agree, and where efficiencies could be possibly found going from where our strategic goals and visions might overlap and then take it from there. That's what had always been in my mind as we talked about convening the entire group of anybody that has the ability to levy taxes in our town, so with that, I'll conclude.

Commissioner Markley said this isn't our animal, but I will say it must not be that odd because there's another entity in our community that has this same setup and I think actually two. The Recreation Commission, there similarly setup so that the governing body is the school board, the taxing entity at the school board and same deal, Attorney General's opinion say the school board shall adopt the budget set by the Recreation Commission. Having sat on the Turner Recreation Commission, we have had similar discussions with the School Board in Turner where they said but we really don't want to do this, and then we said well, you don't really have a choice because the statutory language says it has to accept our budget. It's a very strange relationship because it

bears the question why have them approve the budget if you're not going to let them talk about it or make demands related to it. It's a weird statutory animal, but it is similar to the statutory animal that you find elsewhere in Kansas Statutes and it has the same sort of language attached to it.

I would piggyback on what Commissioner Bynum said, which is that we each have an appointment to this board, so one course of action would be if you're concerned about taxes being levied by the Library Board, you should be speaking to your appointment because that board sets the budget like we're setting the budget for the Unified Government. I'm not opposed to having a discussion with other taxing entities. I'll be honest, I think it would keep us from having surprises when we see our tax bills and see that some entities have increased their tax mills. I don't think it's likely to result in different entities taking different steps or making different decisions. I think people are operating with their primary goals in mind and probably that discussion isn't going to impact that, but certainly it could be a fruitful in just bearing our relationships in having some good discussion.

Mr. Bach said I just want to provide that I think an option for the Commission to consider here, as Ms. Lawson as pointed out, when she's using the term chartered out. I think since it's not a consistent application across the State of Kansas, our opportunity may be there for us to home rule out of this. We could still have a Library Board, but you may be able to change the requirement there or the ability for them to set the mill rate and forward it to you to take action on to collect it where we could at least look into it so they could come forward with a recommendation for a mill rate and then it would be your decision as to whether to implement it or not. That would require them to come back with more justifications for their budgets. If that's an action the Commission wanted us to dig into—I don't know, it does get a little bit into legal proceedings to see whether that home rule action could be done. I think that would be the one avenue we would have on top of as the commissioners suggested, they are your board appointees to look like at and offer direction to. Since they are your appointees I would think that home rule action would be an option for this Commission to look at.

Additionally, I will just add, I believe it was the summer of 2014, it might have been '15, but I believe then that former Mayor Holland convened the elected heads of all the other taxing entities or at least the boards presidents from the school board, all of those within Wyandotte County and then one at the Community College to come together and they talked about taxes and

where they're set at. There was a discussion held. I don't think there was really a lot that came from that, but it was on an attempt to get all the elected leaders from each one of those boards together. It was just the board presidents which to my recollection was quite an undertaking to get them all in one room, but that did happen around that timeframe.

Commissioner Burroughs said I believe there has been discussion about possibly sending a letter addressed from the Mayor and the Commission to all acting entities requiring them to hold the line on taxes as much as we possibly can, and it was stated we can't mandate those types of comments. I will share with you, Mayor, that as elected leaders and partners in this process when it comes to taxation, we all have a responsibility to represent our constituents. We have a different opportunity here. We have new leaders, Mayor, including yourself that have different working relationships. We also have new leaders elected in other positions that we should be at least reaching out and communicating the pressures that increase mill levy increases as well as the increased taxation is causing on our community. Now, there is a way we can stop this. We can vote no on the budget. We don't have to accept what they present to us. We can vote no on the budget and when the pressure begins to be applied to those who are continuing to put pressure on us to support budget increases, we can have those discussions.

I might submit, Mayor, again that I believe under the previous administration I was in leadership in Topeka and I had made a suggestion to Mayor Holland that there be a letter sent by the elected leaders of this body to request some sort of a meeting or advise them to be aware of the burden on taxpayers from the continued increase in taxation. Nothing behooves us from doing that and I believe we can opt out under home rule because it's not consistent across the state. Those inconsistencies may very well help us do that, but that is for our legal counsel to discuss. I just wanted to bring up the proposal that this is not much different than the BPU bill that our constituents get. We address the PILOT, but yet when the BPU bill goes out, they look at the BPU for their rate increases and what's happened, there's that ambiguity there.

As I stated, I truly believe that either a meeting or a strong letter stating that we are aware of the burdens that increased mill levies or increase in taxation is causing on the community and what it does, and we're willing to sit down and have that discussion.

Mayor Alvey said, again, I would suggest that I believe that the other elected representatives that I've spoken, other taxing jurisdictions are quite aware because they hear from their constituents as well. Not everyone misunderstands that—not everyone believes that all the taxes comes from the UG or that all BPU fees comes from the UG. There are people out there who do understand all of this and I believe they are communicating with the people they elect, and I think they're quite aware of it. I'm really opposed to any kind of presumption on our part that we are going to lecture other boards, other commissions, as to how they see to conduct their business except as we do that individually.

For us, as the Unified Government, to go frankly tell another taxing entity that they are over taxing their people and they need to be (inaudible). Frankly, I would receive that as an insult to my intelligence as if I am not aware of what the tax burden is doing to our residents. That's my concern about this. I will never send that kind of message to other elected officials. (Inaudible) from Topeka frankly all the time that the tax policies that were proposed during this past legislative session simply were taken out of the hands of local jurisdictions (inaudible) to really care for their residents as they see fit and to be held accountable for tax increases that we might see fit to impose because we're trying to provide a certain level of service. Just like at the state legislator level, they try to tell us that their control from us over making decisions we need to make for taxation, I frankly, don't receive that well.

I'm well aware, as I'm sure each one of us is, the possibility we have to maintain and reduce the tax burden. I'm assuming based on my conversations with other elected officials and other taxing jurisdictions, they're quite aware of that as well. I think we ought to respect what they're doing and give them the benefit of the doubt and if they're not responding to their citizens, that's going to be on them.

Mayor Alvey said let's move on to—Mr. Bach, would you describe if there are any changes that the Commission would like to make to the budget, the process, so that the public understands what that process is.

Mr. Bach said today we have before us the proposed budget that we went through with several workshops prior to that has been submitted to the Commission at the end of June. If there are any amendments the Commission would like to make to the budget as we go through these workshops,

that's really the time to come in and say, okay, we want to add expenses here, take away from it there. I mean one thing to recognize for each action of the Commission, there's a reaction, so where we're going to pay for something we have to figure out where we're going to bring the revenues for us to balance that. Basically, it's an amendment. In previous years I've actually referred to it as a yellow sheet because we done it on a yellow sheet paper, so a lot of times that's what we would call it, it's just passing the yellow sheets, but it's basically amendments that are going to what is proposed out there for a budget. I get direction from the Commission to do that. We'll prepare that and then have that available to go with the Commission on the adoption Thursday night.

Mayor Alvey said I think that will bring us to the topic that Commissioner Bynum raised and that is the proposal for continue funding the fire station in Fairfax.

Commissioner Bynum said, Mayor, are you asking me to speak on this now? **Mayor Alvey** said yes.

Commissioner Bynum said I'll just bring it forward in the hopes for the conversation and there have been many. I would only reiterate that I continue to appreciate the Mayor for allowing the small task force to meet. That group came together over a period of more than four hours and what I had brought forward several weeks ago with options for funding out of Special Funds was simply a way forward to keep the Fairfax Fire Station operating in its current capacity while allowing us an option for being able to open the Piper Fire Station which is brand new and ready to be opened and occupied. That's the discussion I was hoping to have.

We have seen several communications since then. One from Mr. Bach last week. I would say maybe as a warning that using those funds is not well contemplated and then today we received a communication indicating that using funds outside of those two options such as moving funds away from a CMIP funded project is simply not allowed. That is what I read Ms. VonAchen's communication to mean today. I would only reiterate that I personally never advocated for moving funds out of another department or away from another project. I never advocated for cutting a service or furloughing another employee.

My suggestion was that we borrow out of the two funds that were identified that might be able to tolerate the borrowing and so, that's what I'm just asking us to contemplate today. I don't know if I'm being overly optimistic or not, but I continue to have confidence that the funding to keep all of our fire stations operating can be located and I know that we have future grant opportunities.

I would also put that forward for the possibility of funding the Community Integrity Unit. That too might be a project that could be funded through sought after grant dollars. With that, I will just turn it to other commissioners for whatever might be on their mind. What I'm hoping for is some sort of negotiation at this point and close only with the statement that I cannot understand again, for probably the fifth time, why it is we believe that closing a fire station where we have a written agreement to not only build it, but operate it for the protection of that entire industrial area, is being put forward as literally the only option for providing the coverage that we know is needed in the Piper area. Thank you, Mayor, for the time and I will conclude.

Commissioner Johnson said I appreciate this dialogue that has been presented. As we've been talking about this I guess one of the things I thought to present to you all is an option to consider and that is either delaying the funding for the Piper Station or temporarily closing the Fairfax Station for the remainder of this fiscal year with the commitment from the Commission as a whole that we would work to find the funding for both in the following fiscal years. So, in that way we would not be permanently closing either, but hopefully, buying time as Commissioner Bynum has already said to figure out if there is a way to be able to find funding for both. I just want to put that out there. If it sticks great, I just want to try to be part of the solution to this.

Commissioner Ramirez said I've been fairly quiet on this. I've made comments here and there, but I'm new to this Commission and definitely everyone knows here that my learning curve has not been an easy task in these last few months. My day job, I'm daycare worker. I work directly with children and one of the things I'm required to have is CPR certified. Fortunately, I haven't had to use it, but since we haven't had to use it doesn't mean it should be taken away.

USD 500 staff their schools with Resource Officers. They don't have a big call volume. We staff City Hall with armed officers, that doesn't have a big crime rate. The point I'm trying to make is our counties public safety should not have a price tag on it. We protect our assets, schools

protect their children, City Hall protects its staff and we must protect the assets in Fairfax. We need to stop finding ways to dodge this and find a way forward. To me that's staffing both Station 12 and 15.

A thing that I've been looking over and reckoning around in my brain, it seems like every time we have this discussion the explanation that we get from administration is this is the direction I was given by the Commission at that time. That was a past direction. It seems a big portion of this Commission has given a new direction and the administration is not listening or following the new direction that is being given.

I think that Rev. Matlock put it perfectly, that this is the community's budget and the community has spoken especially with this fire station. I hope that we don't ignore the community when it's their budget. I hope that we as a collective body of the governing body we keep fighting for our community and fighting for transparency, not for ourselves as a governing body, but for the communities that we represent. We need to listen to them.

Commissioner Kane said, Christian, I don't think I could have said it any better and I agree with you. I'm sure that some of the commissioners were told that this was going to come out of the current manpower. At least three of us weren't, so that's one issue.

The other issue is that we had an opportunity to sit down with the Fairfax people in a large place, well 6-foot apart, to listen to them. I believe staff has sat behind these meetings, so they don't want to go in public like what happened the other day at the Woodland's thing where 45 people showed up. If we would have had this where we sat down and talked to them, they were given 22 days' notice that they were going to shut that down and they've asked multiple times for a one on one or meetings with all of us to correct this very dangerous situation. I don't like ZOOM and the virus is terrible, but we could have met, we could have sat down, we could have talked about what was going on, but it's been 3 years and 10 months.

When I brought that up last week about a park, all I was asking for was two picnic tables, three picnic tables maybe, and a little place to cook; not a million dollars. We have been led astray by the numbers and they say it's going to cost this much to do this and this much to do that and we already have the equipment. It is difficult for me that I sat there, and we voted on this and I thought, man, this is the greatest thing that we have done since I have been on the Commission.

All of us were in unison with the vote, we all wanted it to happen, and they built the hotel over in Kansas City, Missouri before they built the fire station.

It bothers me when several of us has said, hey, we want to do this. We need to figure this out and staff continues to tell us, nope, that's not the plan. We are the Commission, we are to guide staff, staff is supposed to listen. Last week when they said it was political, my history is safety and 10,000 people work down there and I don't care if they don't live here, they work here and that's probably one of the biggest insults that I've gotten saying this is all political. It's about saving people's lives.

Our community deserves to be served, to be served fully. We shouldn't have to go through all these roadblocks. We should get this done and go about our business, but like what was said earlier, when we've given you direction and all we do is run into a brick wall and say, nope, we're not doing it. It's like last week when Doug said—when I talked about the park, he said it's a million dollars. It's not a million dollars. It's not \$10,000, but a million dollars for a 2-acre park, that's been misleading, misguiding, and absolutely wrong.

Commissioner Townsend said as being the district commissioner for Fairfax, it really pains me to contemplate that there won't be a station there, but also as a commissioner for the entire district in and out of Fairfax and as a UG Commissioner, I have to look at what we have the resources to do and try to be responsible for all of these issues that have come before us, not just the fire station aspect. The other things that I contemplated over the weekend that will not be in the budget; services for which we're saying we do not have the money.

I want to thank Commissioner Kane for trying to come up with an idea that may be plausible from Capital Maintenance and I too read the letter from our CFO which cautioned against it, but it was a good try. I also spent the weekend going in a lot of places in my district and outside of the district and I was disheartened to see how our city is beginning to look because of the impact that has hit us already with the budget, not being able to cut grass and lots that belong to us. Not being able to as rapidly fix potholes. These are things that our citizens see every day and as we battle this pandemic we don't want to; I know I don't want to and I doubt any of you do, want to put another burden or mental fatigue on our citizens because of what our city is beginning to look like.

I too put forward a suggestion several weeks ago when we talked about the task force that was financially neutral to the budget which would let Fairfax personnel—sometimes they would be in Fairfax and sometimes they would be at the new facility. I know that is not the ideal, but it would not be any more of a burden on us financially if we wanted to keep it open and I think it would also give us the opportunity to see whether 5 can consistently meet the expectations that were set forth in the FACETS proposal.

I think one of the commissioners mentioned a couple of weeks ago or asked the question if having Fairfax there was not financially efficient, why hadn't that been closed before. Well, probably because there had not been the FACETS study, so there had been nothing for us to contemplate and that was the purpose, as I understood of it of the study, to see where efficiency's would lie or how we could be more efficient.

I am reminded that dealing with the Fairfax issue is not the only thing we're going to address as a body. With other areas of the city where we have citizenry exposed because the response time of four minutes was the National Fire Protection Association is not being met. So, we have to look at not only how we're handling this, but how we might approach those other things as well. I would ask that we seriously consider splitting the baby if we want to see Fairfax open. Another option would be—because the safety of individuals that was mentioned numerous times, but the numbers indicate that most of the calls there are not responding to fires, but to medical situations.

So, what would it look like to have an EMT or an ambulance there or some staffing that would allow for rapid response to deal with medical situations even if there was not a pumper. I don't know the answer to that, but I know that if we have people in the Administrator's office and our Fire Department who could figure that out and come back with it.

The key thing is, there is a presence there in Fairfax, there would still be a presence at the new facility, but to do so its budget neutral. It pains me to think there won't be, but efficiency is what we also have to consider.

Moving on to another aspect, I think we heard it tonight and I gave a lot of consideration to this over the weekend, I think we have to find some way to fund this Community Integrity Unit. If not in its entirety for 2020 and 2021, at least give the funding that the DA said would get it started even if it's just in 2020. I would like for us to go back to him and confirm what those numbers would be and what the headcount would be. As I looked at the materials from last week,

I think he had a full headcount of two people currently in the Integrity Unit, one fulltime and two part-time and he wants to go to five fulltime staff. I would like someone to go back to him and confirm what those numbers were and confirm what those numbers were that he mentioned, I believe it was last Thursday, that would at least get him started and for us to look at the County budget, Safety budget, to see if money could be taken from there.

My concern is that we do what we can to remain budget neutral. We know that we're going to have some diminution of services, but we can keep the ball rolling and be fiscally responsible.

Commissioner Burroughs said I would just clearly state that I would encourage all the commissioners to continue to peruse through the budget. I believe there are a number of areas within the budget that some of the issues that have been raised tonight can be funded. It's about priorities. We as commissioners have priorities and we believe that collectively we should be able to set those priorities. We've heard a tremendous amount of community involvement in reference to the Integrity Unit and it will be interesting to see what direction this Commission takes in reference to that. It's also quite interesting to see the amount of interest that has been put into the fire station in Fairfax and what action the Commission chooses to take on that as well as the mill levy for the library that has been discussed this evening.

As I've stated clearly, I would encourage my fellow colleagues to look through the budget. I would ask that staff look at page 167 dealing with the Knowledge Department and I would like a report as to why \$5.9M was spent this year in the CAFR report in reference to—or in the budget book in reference to the IT Department. I believe that \$5.9M that was brand new this year and we can always pullback six months on that and move it into the following year, but there are a number of questions in reference to the CARES money and I believe it was mentioned the other day by Administrator Bach that any new monies that was to be identified, he would like to have the liberty to put that into services and programs. I truly believe that we're the ones that set policy. We are those that determine where the allocations should go when it comes to setting policy. I do know I'm not trying to comingle what the Administrator's responsibilities are and what our responsibilities are, but by ordinance, by law, as well as by Charter, those are delineated.

I would encourage us to be mindful that we have an opportunity on this budget to have input and should our input be ignored and continue to have roadblocks that come forward, Mayor,

I would hope that we continue to move forward in a collaborated effort to do what's necessary to lead this community forward and this division over some of the items that have been here tonight to be blamed on COVID is just another stall word in reference to us being able to get to the real issue and that's the identification of some of the questions within the budget. Mayor, thank you for recognizing me and to my colleagues, stay safe.

Commissioner Johnson said I'm not one who tries to prolong the conversations at all, but I think this one is warranted. Commissioner Townsend made the statement earlier that she wished—and I think Commissioner Bynum did too, that they wished we had a little more time to try to make sure that we do everything we can do to turnover every stone. I'm wondering, and I'm asking the question to I guess Administrator Bach and to you as well, what reason is there for us not to move the final approval of this budget back by at least one week, maybe two weeks, but I would say at least one week so that we can continue to try to flush out some of these issues?

Clearly there's not agreement on this Commission right now and I would like to do all we can do to try to make sure we're turning over every rock. I've given an option and no one as it relates to the fire station, no one has come onboard with that. Commissioner Townsend has given an alternative option, no one has come onboard with that and so it just speaks to the fact that we are divided as a Commission and I would like to do all that is possible to see if we can find a solution even if that means taking a little bit more time to talk about these issues that have been put before us.

Secondly, the issue with regard to the Community Integrity Unit has been brought before us by a numerous number of persons in our community who have spoken with one voice and have asked for the same thing. They've not had difference of opinions. I personally had no idea that they would be on call tonight, but I think they made a very good argument that there are some real concerns in our community relative to the issues that we're contending with as it relates to our law enforcement agency, basically policing themselves, and so I think that warrants additional time.

Knowing that we are in a limited budget, I think in these days and times it would behoove us to be as caution and take as much time to move through this. So, unless you all tell me or tell us that there is some reason why we have to make a decision on this coming Thursday, I would like a little more time to look over this or discuss this further.

Mayor Alvey said, Commissioner Johnson, from my perspective we can do that. I do think it's going to affect some schedules. I would say this, I'm not convinced that we are divided, that we're going to come to come to the agreement. In my opinion it seems to me as much as we would like to say there is no price tag, everything has a price tag, that's why we're meeting. That's why we have the disagreement here. When we chose one priority, we have to set something else aside. That's what we're experiencing all across our budget. If we're going to try and not furlough people additionally and we're not going to raise taxes, the money has to come from somewhere. We do not have fee opt money. We have to spend what we have no more and based upon where we are, we just simply don't have the revenues. That's clear to us. So, I'm not convinced that moving this out two to three weeks is going to change the dynamics of it. I think we're still separated on these things. I would prefer that we move forward and bring the budget to a vote on Thursday, but I'm not hung-up on that, we don't have to do that.

I will say this, I'm going to go back to the fire station. You know we've listened to our community and our community tells us in the community survey that the number one priority is streets and the condition of our streets. We're not nearly funding them the way they need to be and as those continue to deteriorate, the cost of us to take care of that infrastructure only gets greater and greater. So, not only do we delay what we're doing now by not spending money, we're actually increasing the cost as we move further. That's what happens to infrastructure. If you don't put a new belt on your car, you're going to start having problems with the water pump, you're going to have problems with everything else. We know that how it works.

Also, in the community survey listed policing as number two and we are now looking at the possibility of not hiring 24 new police officers just to fill positions that have been emptied out and this academy class was the most diverse we've had in a long time and we're going to miss out on that opportunity. I would say in terms of whether the Fairfax Industrial Association has been able to make their case toward us, I disagree with that. I've had conversations. We know where they stand. We know what they're trying to tell us and we're simply saying, okay, based upon what was recommended through the FACETS study and what's brought to us by the Chief, we can continue to provide adequate coverage. We're not choosing to bring danger to that area. We're simply saying we can do this more efficiently.

Finally, in terms of whether we are giving direction to the Administrator or not, this is what this is about. If you have something—if any commissioner wants to bring something

forward, that's what we're doing now and so the County Administrator can only take the direction that is given by the Commission. If you chose not to vote for it, that's how that works, but for us to get down into the budget and say this is how each operation, that is in fact mingling our responsibilities with the County Administrator. The structure is such that the Commission and the Mayor together hire and direct the County Administrator who then runs. The County Administrator runs the operation of the government. We lead the operations of the government and that's what we're doing right now.

Finally, I would say if there are other places in the budget where we believe there is money hidden, please bring that forward. Frankly, I did not hear that in that small task force meeting that there were these places within the budget that we are wasting money or that money ought to be redirected because everything, in my opinion, practically everything I've seen from this Unified Government, we operate very lean already. If you take something out, something is going to go lagging. That's been my experience. If you can find it and show me that there are ways to bring it forward, otherwise, we need to stop giving our public the idea that we are wasteful or that we are negligent. That's simply not true and I think as elected officials we need to be defending our staff and the hard work they're doing given very limited resources. Every one of them would like to do more if they had it. I can't tell you how many people I've asked—you know when we've had to ask people to go out and do something, they're already behind. They don't have the resources they need and we, again, our responsibility is to provide resources, we want to also protect the community by not raising taxes. That's the balance. If we want to do more for our community, we're going to have to generate more revenues. If we want to cut, then we're going to have to expect that the community—the streets are going to get dirtier and meaner as we get further down the road. I don't see any other way to describe the dynamics we're in.

Again, if we want to move this out two or three weeks, that's alright. Frankly, I don't see how the dynamics are going to change.

Commissioner Bynum said I would just like to ask a couple questions, one question really with regard to the Community Integrity Unit. Do we have Ms. VonAchen or Ms. Jonscher on the call or Mr. Lindsey that might identify for us the current County reserves that are anticipated at the end of 2020 and would the reserve on the County side be a location for funding the Community

Integrity Unit? It was my understanding that Mr. Dupree asked for \$260K to fund that unit. That's a question for one of our staff people.

With regard to the fire station, I'm interested in whether or not we could pursue what Commissioner Townsend is putting forward so that both of those stations can be opened at least partially and as she explains, it would mostly be revenue or budget neutral—I should say expense neutral.

Lastly, I would just say that with regard to the work that we did in the small group, I did say from the beginning that if that came forward to the full Commission and it wasn't supported, that I would certainly live with that. I do appreciate all the comments that I've heard from the commissioners who have taken the time to speak to that issue so far.

With regard to the CIU, if we could hear what the anticipated County reserve would be at the end of 2020 please?

Mr. Bach said as we get the information, just to clarify, the fund balance on the County is a negative cash position for both '20 and '21. The reserve is an amount of money we build in case there is some emergency that happens through the course of the year that we—is that what you're asking about? The fund balance is negative \$2.6 this year and \$2.3 next year. I'll let one of the finance team note when we budget in our operations in case we go over at some point. **Commissioner Bynum** said okay. **Mr. Bach** said can I get that Kathleen, Reggie or Debbie?

Debbie Jonscher, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, said the amount in reserves is an amount we budget for an unexpected expenditure on the County side currently in 2020 is about \$147K. I will just note there is a fund balance, but I just want to note that we need to publish the mill levy for the—the publication we published for the County, so I need to check to make sure we're not going over that. The fund balance is actually projected to be about \$5.2M but as Doug said, the net change in fund balance was a negative—is \$3.8M on the County side for 2020. **Commissioner Bynum** said so, the terminology that I used is incorrect (inaudible). **Ms. Jonscher** said I didn't hear all of that. **Commissioner Bynum** said I just commented that I'm using the wrong terminology. **Ms. Jonscher** asked, are you asking what the fund balance is estimated to be at the end of 2020 or were you asking about reserves that we built into the current budget? **Commissioner Bynum** said actually why don't you tell me both of those things. I think I heard

Mr. Bach say the reserves were in a negative position. **Ms. Jonscher** said that's correct. That's the net change in fund balance, is a negative \$3.8M. That's the difference between what we take in in revenues versus what we're spending in expenses. **Commissioner Bynum** said then the fund balance—**Ms. Jonscher** said the fund balance is \$5.2M on the County side.

Mr. Bach said just an additional clarification too, I believe the DA said he could staff this unit at about 1.5 positions, I mean, during that conversation. That's where he could get started, but he did ask for more.

Mayor Alvey said someone has their line open and so we're getting static. Everyone make sure they are muted.

Kathleen VonAchen, Chief Financial Officer, said I just wanted to clarify just a little bit what Debbie was saying. She was also saying that there's about \$140K, I think she said, in which she said reserves that's budgeted. That's actually, you know, instead of using the word reserve, it's more like a contingency that's budgeted in the County General Fund. I think what she was suggesting is that we draw from that contingency number to fund all of—well, a portion of the DA's proposal that was submitted to us after the deadline. That would be just basically shifting those funds out of the contingency reserves that's currently budgeted to the District Attorney's Department to support that effort. Rather than the 2.5 FTE he's asking for, maybe going with the 1.5 FTE that he mentioned would get him started. That's one way of doing that, that I would recommend.

Commissioner Ramirez said I have a comment and then one question. I'm going to start with the question to Commissioner Johnson. If he could describe his proposal one more time? **Commissioner Johnson** said my proposal was simply to keep both—not just permanently close down either station. It would be either to suspend funding for the Piper station until fiscal year 2021 or whatever the next year is, I don't know, I want to make sure I get the right years and/or to temporarily close the Fairfax station for the remainder of this fiscal year. The hope in both would be to try to find money, and again, I've heard the comments here that we've already done all that, but we (inaudible) find some money within the next—as we close out this fiscal remaining year to

find monies for the next fiscal year to be able to maintain and to man both of those stations. I hope I didn't make that too jumbled by that's what I proposed. **Commissioner Ramirez** said no, that's makes a lot of sense.

For my comment, I do want to thank staff for everything that they do. This is not an easy task especially for the crisis that we're under. None of this is easy, but I want to say it's not fair—it seems like every time we have this discussion the comment is like our hardworking employees are always the first on the chopping block anytime we bring up this fire station discussion. It's not fair to them. They're already under stress right now under a furlough program. I'm sure, as other commissioners, I'm sure we can find it, but we have to sit down and actually do the work together, not divided, not in our silos, but together as a Commission sit down and go through the budget and find places that maybe—which ever proposal we chose. We need to do it together and not divided.

Commissioner Markley said this is needing more of a scheduling clarification question. On Thursday we only have before us the budget adoption. Is that correct? We don't have a Commissioner meeting following that 5:00 p.m. Is that right? **Mayor Alvey** said that's correct. **Commissioner Markley** said so potentially there is time for discussion on Thursday if there are specific items that we would like staff to comment on, to have the Chief available to comment on, or to provide some slides on Thursday to finalize this discussion and still adopt the budget on the proposed timeline. So, if we want to know, for instance, whether having only an ambulance at the Fairfax station is feasible or whether Commissioner Johnson's proposal—whether the Chief thinks that's feasible or what that might look like as far as budget impact or what it takes to fund half of an employee in Dupree's office, we could potentially see those slides on Thursday before budget adoption.

I mean in some ways I'm inclined to agree with the Mayor that I don't know that positions can change significantly no matter how many weeks we add on, but I also in consonant that people are asking questions tonight that they deserve to have an answer at some point. I guess I'm just saying that answer could come on Thursday and then our positions could be made clear during that budget discussion, so immediately following. **Mayor Alvey** said, Commissioner Markley, I'm going to take you up on that to see where we might be, but if the option would be to come together at 5:00 on Thursday, I guess the question, would that satisfy, I'm not certain it will. I still think we're going to be at fundamental at odds over where we go with this budget.

You could go through the budget. I don't know how we're going to have enough time as Commission to sit through and go through this 300-page budget, more than 300-page budget, and I'm not sure where we would go to find the monies that we're saying are there. I mean what we depend upon is staff to do the job, County Administrator to give direction where we might cut, and how he might handle this and come forward with this. If there are specific things we want to fund, you would say if you're going to fund the fire station, then you're going to have to find the \$900K from somewhere, bring that back to us. We need to have some direction from the Commission that in fact the majority of the Commission, for instance, wants to fund up the continuing operation of the Fairfax station and if that's the direction of the Commission, then that goes back to the County Administrator who comes up with a revised budget on Thursday that then we can vote on. Am I wrong about this process?

Commissioner Burroughs said there were some comments made earlier about disparaging our employees. First and foremost, that has never been the intent to this elected individual to disparage any of our staff. Our staff works hard under any condition and I respect the value of work that they do. Mayor, just because questions and comments are made doesn't mean that we're adversarial, it means that we have questions and comments that should be addressed. This is a public forum and we should be allowed to do so without judgment.

I would like to also state that I believe there are still some questions within the budget, I've heard it this evening throughout the discussion, and I believe a number of commissioners have issues and/or opportunities in which to address within the budget. To continue to state this is our budget, Mayor, I really question that. We've had input but the budget hasn't changed. We have had input. We have given guidance, we have brought forward issues, and the budget still has not changed.

I respect the process, I truly respect the amount of work staff has put into this, but just because a commissioner has the due diligence of looking through a budget and asking questions doesn't mean he's disparaging staff or doesn't mean that he doesn't have concern about the amount of workload that is put on our staff in reference to this. I will not hide behind the fact that COVID is going to get blamed for some of things within the budget that we're failing to discuss. Mayor, I will continue to advocate for this community. I will continue to support the staff and members

of the Unified Government, but I will also stand on behalf of the citizens to ensure that their voices are heard no matter who wants to come back and jump on me for the comments that I make.

Commissioner Alvey said, Commissioner Burroughs, I'm not jumping on you for the comments that you made. I am challenging some of the assumptions that are made there, and the assumption is that somehow as a Commission we are going to go through all of the operations of the Unified Government and decide where money needs to be spent line item to line item. It simply does not work that way.

Secondarily, I never implied that you made disparaging comments about our employees. What I said was our employees have worked diligently, they do not have the resources they need, and the administration has come through. We have had multiple workshops at any time where these things could have been discussed further, but what we never do during these workshops is come to an agreement and take a straw vote to say to the Administrator we want you to do this or not. We've not yet taken a straw poll, for instance, on whether we want to fund up the fire station. So, I suggest that we do that at this time. Are we going to continue—we want to give direction to the County Administrator either to continue to find ways to fund up that fire station understanding it's going to require cuts elsewhere in which—from what I understand you're saying, we ought to be able to decide what those cuts are or do we simply say we have decided that the Fairfax Fire Station, that company can be relocated.

Commissioner McKiernan said one of the beauties of having a Commission of ten is that the majority will out in this case and so the collective will of the majority of commissioners is the direction that we will ultimately take. I will say regarding Station 15, I have not seen any compelling evidence that suggests to me that continuing to fund Station 15 will enhance the safety and security of the Fairfax area over having Station 5 alone. I haven't seen that. I also don't have confidence that we can find ongoing funding because this is not a one-year funding, it's an ongoing funding to maintain that staffing in the future.

Having said that, Commissioners Townsend and Johnson have brought forward some interesting twists on a staffing idea that I do think deserve at least being run out to their logical conclusion. How would they play out, would they enhance the safety and security at a potentially more manageable budget figure. I don't know. Commissioner Burroughs has suggested there

might be some efficiencies that we can still gain that might help to fund this, but as I said, I have not seen compelling evidence to date that continuing to fund the staffing of 15 will enhance the safety and security of the Fairfax area.

On the issue of the Integrity Unit, I want to say first of all that I appreciate the work of the Kansas City, Kansas Police Department. I know that if you look at the LexisNexis Crime Map that we, in my district, benefit tremendously from the hard work that the men and women of the Kansas City, Kansas Police Department who go out every day in an attempt to keep us as safe and secure as we can all possibly be.

Having said that, I do think that we would benefit from having an Integrity Unit and a hotline. I do think that independent oversight can absolutely help when there are issues of a potentially fractured community trust. I do think that finding the money to at least fund the beginnings of an Integrity Unit would be a good investment on our part as a community. I do think we could pay for that out of fund balance at least in the first year and then we can see how it goes from there.

I will say; however, I'm very frustrated that we did not receive information about this unit until the eleventh hour. I wish—no, if we had received information about the mechanics, the nuts and bolts, the cost of this unit earlier in the process, I do think we would have had a better opportunity to try to work it into the process rather than waiting until here we are on Monday before budget adoption on Thursday. Having said all that, I will yield to my fellow commissioners.

Commissioner Philbrook said (inaudible) have to make some of these decisions because a lot of these hurt. Me, as an individual, and a lot of our other poor people that are living in this community because we have a lot of stuff to deal with right now. We can blame COVID for some stuff, but definitely not for all of it. I agree that, yes, it would be helpful to have an independent group looking at issues that come forth. I know that in the past in some cases that we have sent them to the state and/or the Highway Patrol and some other people to do some investigations. We've even had the FBI do some investigations for us in Wyandotte County, so we haven't totally ignored other folks doing investigations for us, even the DOJ. I do on the other hand believe that we do need to start something up.

I also am disappointed that this was brought to us at such a late time because it did need to be worked into our budget to allow us to try to figure out how we could make this work. Also,

to look how we can get additional fund (inaudible). This is not easy to say that it's just very, very difficult to say that I don't have a true believing—feeling that I would (inaudible) none of the folks that work for the UG are all about doing a wonderful job. Yes, like it or not, (inaudible) have our best interest at heart are the ones that get noticed and the ones (inaudible) sad thing to have to say, but yes, it is our responsibility. I do think we need to look at possibly giving some beginning funding, but definitely not the full amount and look for something else.

Now, the really hard one is around the fire station. I have not accepted the fact that I believe that Fire Station 15 needs to continue. I understand the heartfelt need for that station and that it's a very emotional issue, but on a business level, I would say as far as I know it doesn't look like it is necessary. I added up the number of calls that between Fire Station 15 and 5 and they get less calls than the fire station just up the street from me between 61st & 62nd Street and they're doing a fantastic job. I'm really having a problem saying that we should have two stations where one station looks like it can do the job when I have another station just up my street even doing more work and it's a sad thing to have to say. In a world where we had all the money we could spend we may not even have to consider that and keep 15. If other commissioners can come up with a way to make things work, I'm more than happy to listen, but so far I haven't heard (inaudible) yet. Thank you everybody and that's where I am on things.

Commissioner Kane said, Mayor, you brought up the issue about a straw poll, let's have one.

Mayor Alvey said very good. Make the motion commissioner.

Action: Commissioner Kane made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bynum, we continue to work on keeping 15s open and man 12s.

Commissioner Bynum said I do have a question because is a straw poll a vote or is it just taking the temperature of the group? **Mayor Alvey** said right. This is to tell the County Administrator to find other funding for maintaining operations at Fairfax and opening up at Piper. Do I understand that correctly Mr. Kane? **Commissioner Kane** said correct.

Commissioner Markley said but it's not an official vote, right, because we're in a Special Session. **Mayor Alvey** said that's correct. It is not an official vote, so what I'm assuming will

happen, what's going to happen how this goes, that's the direction to the County Administrator to come back with whether the same budget or a revised budget by Thursday I suppose. **Commissioner Bynum** asked, are you suggesting funding other than the funding that was brought forward from the two special funds that we talked about a couple of weeks ago. **Mayor Alvey** said I think that would be at the discretion—I think probably, Doug, I'm not going to speak for you, but I imagine you would come to us with a few options about how to fund that if that were to be the vote.

Mr. Bach said, yeah, I mean I think we bring forth what the Commission group had suggested as removing the money away from—I guess looking at the CDBG money and then the Downtown Redevelopment Funds were a couple of the suggestions, to take the money away from those funds. Otherwise we would look to see what other areas we could take away from different operations to move over into this account unless there is different direction from the governing body.

Commissioner Townsend said I would like this analysis to include information from the Administrator's Office or the Fire Department about the option that would budget neutral as well. Since this is not an official vote, I would like to see if that is possible. I have been told that it is. The logistics of it, the Fire Department would have to work out, but in terms of what that might look like as long as it is budget neutral.

Mr. Bach said I'm not quite sure how that works. I mean that can be a separate direction. I mean when you're saying budget neutral, you mean within the operation of the Fire Department, right, how there's could be budget neutral. This is, I think, the motion that I heard from Commissioner Kane was one of adding funding into the Fire Department budget so we're moving it from somewhere else to put it in there in order to add the additional personnel. A separate action could be to look at the neutral.

Mayor Alvey said, yes Commissioner Townsend, it would seem to me that we've got a motion for a straw vote to move funding into the Fire Department to fund up operations at both Fairfax and Piper. Should that not pass, then you could bring an additional motion. We would examine other methods—ways to solve the problem. **Commissioner Townsend** said I guess that's my

point. I would like to see that done regardless to see that since it is what I've been told would be neutral to the budget, I think we should be able to consider that as well as if other commissioners want to see that we move money from elsewhere. I'm not seeing it as an either/or. You're right, two distinct options. That was my point.

Mayor Alvey said to be clear, what the straw vote is, whether we will move money—continue to fund operations at both Fairfax at the same time opening Piper. Is that correct Mr. Kane?
Commissioner Kane said correct.

Mayor Alvey said we have a motion and a second, let's take a straw poll.

Roll call was taken and there were four "Ayes," Bynum, Burroughs, Ramirez, Kane; and six "Nos", Townsend, McKiernan, Johnson, Markley, Walters, Philbrook. (Motion failed).

Mayor Alvey asked does someone want to bring a straw vote for the Community Integrity Unit.

Action: Commissioner Johnson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Townsend, for the Community Integrity Unit.

Commissioner Markley asked is this a poll to fund the entire amount or—**Mayor Alvey** said yes, let's be clear. Commissioner Johnson, what are you proposing? **Commissioner Johnson** said as has been discussed, we figure out a way to get it funded for this year. I believe that's what the request was. **Mayor Alvey** said fully funded, fully operational? **Commissioner Johnson** said, hold on. Commissioner Philbrook, you had brought it up. What did we—I think what you were talking about is what I agreed with. **Commissioner Philbrook** said basically, I thought that we could start it out and fund it for the rest of 2020 and in the meantime look to see if we could find additional funding for 2021 to ramp it up. That's where I was coming from Harold.

Commissioner Johnson said I move with what Commissioner Philbrook said. **Commissioner Markley** asked do we know how much that is though? **Commissioner Johnson** said \$92K. **Mr. Bach** said he indicated if he could get started he had a half-time, I believe, investigator. He wanted

to move that to fulltime and then bring on another dedicated to it, so it was 1.5 positions that he needed to get started. I believe that would be probably like the fourth quarter of this year. Maybe if we could look at it from that perspective and then continue on with that group into next year and maybe you continue with—I guess I’m giving you a conservative proposal. You can think what you want to, if they continued with that operation for a half year that would give you guys the ability to see what happens to the budget and then we know what to do, so we could fund at that level for the last quarter of this year through next year. Then if you decided you want to ramp up and add to it next year for the second half of ‘21, you would have that option. **Commissioner Philbrook** said that’s nice, but I still didn’t hear an amount. What I’m amount (inaudible.) I’m sorry, Doug, to put you on the spot. **Mr. Bach** said you’re probably in a range of around \$100K on an annual basis. We’ll get the exact number, but that’s what I would say it would be in that range for an annual. **Commissioner Philbrook** said that would be for next year. **Mr. Bach** said for the ‘21 Budget, it would probably be a little over that, but somewhere in that nature. **Commissioner Philbrook** said because it looked like he was pushing forth, what I remember seeing, was something around \$90 some thousand, something in that category. **Mr. Bach** said I believe that was for this year to fund up. **Commissioner Philbrook** said for the rest of the year, right? **Mr. Bach** said right.

Commissioner Philbrook said so, I would say the funding for the 1.5 people, so he has a fulltime person to do the investigation and a half-time person to keep track of the monies and all the administrative stuff. That’s where I’m coming from for right now and then see what happens and where we need to go with that. If it something that needs to be done, we just need to figure out how to fund it and how to make sure it has ongoing. That’s my thing. Harold, is that what you’re thinking? **Commissioner Johnson** said yes. You said it exactly right, the way I was thinking it and I don’t think as fast on my feet as you do. **Commissioner Philbrook** said that’s what we have in mind and if that makes sense. **Mayor Alvey** asked, are you seconding that Commissioner Philbrook. **Commissioner Philbrook** said I wasn’t the second. **Commissioner Bynum** said I believe Gayle was the second. **Commissioner Philbrook** said however you want to do it. Whoever you want to be first, it doesn’t matter to me. **Mayor Alvey** said we had Commissioner Johnson who brought the motion. Now we need—**Commissioner Philbrook** said then I’m seconding it in that fashion. He and I are agreeable.

Commissioner Townsend said just clarification, I'm looking at the materials that the DA brought forth because I want to just be clear what the motion entails. In 2020 he wanted to move a part-time administrative person to fulltime and he wanted to two additional fulltime investigators and that would add \$92K to the budget. So, is that the motion we're taking that we're taking the straw vote on? I remember asking him what he could get started with so it might be something less than that, that's why I recommended earlier we get clarification from him or maybe the Administrator had those numbers, I just don't recall what the reduced amount was that he said. I'm just trying to be clear on the motion. I support us doing something trying to find that money. **Mr. Bach** said he stated during the meeting, at least in my notes, that he felt like the bare minimum to get started would be to at least have 1.5 more positions. I do not know what that cost is. Specifically, that's where I was estimating. If I look at 1.5 positions, it's probably \$100-\$110K. I don't know what kind of positions those are to come into it, so it's somewhere in that range probably to do that on an annual basis.

Reginald Lindsey, Budget Manager, said for a full year, there's two positions that he wanted to add and then a half position he wanted to add, so the first investigator with benefits and everything \$99K and the second investigator is \$94K and then to make the half position a fulltime position, it was \$32K with benefits and that's for a full year and that gets us to \$260K that he talked about. **Mr. Bach** said okay, so if we were doing the part-time position and just one of the fulltime positions, that's \$131K. **Commissioner Markley** said annually, so if we're just doing one quarter in 2020, then it makes a difference. **Mr. Bach** said right, yes, you only need a quarter of it for this year, but then I would need to build that into the budget for '21 because I'm assuming in January we'll keep it going.

Commissioner Bynum asked why would we only need one quarter of this current year. **Mr. Lindsey** said that's because once we load the budget up, it will be enacted in September and then they have to hire for the position. It's possible we wouldn't get someone hired until like October so you would be paying for October through December. **Commissioner Bynum** said okay.

Commissioner Ramirez said this is for a point of clarification. We've moved away from the fire station straw poll, now we're on the CIU straw poll? **Mayor Alvey** said correct. **Commissioner Ramirez** said okay.

Mayor Alvey said we have a motion and a second. Roll call.

Roll call was taken and there were ten "Ayes," Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, McKiernan, Ramirez, Johnson, Kane, Markley, Walters, Philbrook.

Mr. Bach said, Mayor, if I may just to clarification, so, we're going to come back with that on a yellow sheet or the amendment for the last quarter of 2020 and then the full year of next year to fund up 1.5 additional positions in the Convictions Integrity Unit. **Mayor Alvey** said that's my understanding, yes.

Mayor Alvey asked, shall we have a meeting at 5:00 on Thursday prior to an attempt to pass the budget afterwards, towards the end. Is there a motion for that?

Action: Commissioner Burroughs made a motion that we continue to have discussion on the budget before we take a final vote.

Commissioner Markley said I already show 5:00 to 7:00 on my calendar. I guess that's part of the reason I was confused earlier. I show budget adoption going from 5:00 to 7:00, so I guess I'm in favor of that motion since it's already on my calendar, but maybe my calendar is missed up. **Mayor Alvey** said alright, so apparently we do not need a motion for that. That's already scheduled in time.

Commissioner Townsend said I do want to go back to motioning if that's required in the straw poll sitting, giving direction to the Administrator and whatever staff he needed to do a presentation on Thursday upcoming about what it might look to have a split of services at Fairfax and Station 12 with the presumption that it would be budget neutral. I would just like to see that presentation. It may be feasible, it may not be, but that is something I would certainly like to see us look at for

Thursday. **Mayor Alvey** said that won't require a motion, I don't believe. It's just asking for a presentation to bring that forward for our discussion. It doesn't require a motion. That can easily be done. Am I right Mr. Bach? **Mr. Bach** said yeah, we can do that Mayor. So, it's a rotating operation between the two stations. **Commissioner Townsend** said right. **Mr. Bach** said we can easily do that, and we'll do it.

Mayor Alvey said that concludes our meeting for the evening. Thank you. I know this is very tough. I know we're very emotional. I do not mean to offend anyone. I simply try to say what I think needs to be said and if I hurt anyone's feelings, I apologize. Thank you all.

MAYOR ALVEY ADJOURNED
THE MEETING AT 8:23 p.m.

Bridgette D. Cobbins
Unified Government Clerk

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July 13, 2020