

January 2021 Minutes

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State Budget Committee Minutes
January 13, 2021 9:00 AM EST
Indiana Statehouse
House Chamber
200 W Washington St., Indianapolis, IN 46204

Members:

Representative Tim Brown, Chair
Senator Ryan Mishler
Representative Gregory Porter
Senator Eddie Melton
Zachary Jackson, State Budget Director

Alternate Members:

Representative Bob Cherry
Representative Carey Hamilton
Senator Liz Brown
Senator Fady Qaddoura
Joe Habig, Deputy Budget Director
Lisa Acobert, Deputy Budget Director

Chairman Tim Brown called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM EST.

Chairman Brown introduced the minutes of the December 2020 meeting. Representative Gregory Porter motioned to approve the minutes. State Budget Director Zachary Jackson seconded the motion. The December 2020 minutes were adopted by consent of the Committee.

Chairman Brown introduced the January 2020 agenda.

Cris Johnston, Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and Zac Jackson, State Budget Director, presented the Governor's Recommended 2022 – 2023 Budget. The Governor's recommended budget increases K-12 funding by 2% in FY22 and 1% in FY23, restores Higher Education's funding with an 1% increase each Fiscal Year, fully funds the Medicaid forecast, and retires existing debt obligations, all achieved within a balanced budget. During their final remarks, OMB Director Johnston and Budget Director Jackson stated that Indiana is one of thirteen states that have an AAA credit rating from all three major rating agencies due to strong reserves, low debt levels, and active budget/fiscal management.

Following the presentation of the Governor's Recommended 2022 - 2023 Budget, members of the Committee were able to ask clarifying questions on the recommended budget.

Senator Liz Brown stated that providers were told to cut their reimbursement from the Department of Child Services by 3%, but after looking at the budget inquired if that was being rescinded. Budget Director Jackson promised to follow-up with additional information. Senator Brown also asked about body camera funding, to which Budget Director Jackson stated that it is possible for the Indiana State Police to absorb the expenses and that there is an active RFP. Budget Director Jackson confirmed once a finalized number is available, it could be implemented into the Budget Bill.

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Representative Porter asked about the reduction of the CHOICE program by \$9 million. Budget Director Jackson replied there have not been cuts in services, and that the CHOICE program has been fully funded through Medicaid. Representative Porter asked for further information on the \$300,000 appropriation to food banks during the COVID-19 pandemic. OMB Director Johnston stated that food banks have benefited from CARES Act funding and that the situation will be monitored for future assistance. Representative Porter concluded by asking about additional funding for utilities and eviction assistance. OMB Director Johnston indicated that \$444 million will be available to Indiana for rental, eviction, and other assistance and that a network is being constructed to administer this program.

Senator Eddie Melton asked for the total savings from paying off long-term state debt, to which OMB Director Johnston announced \$25 - \$30 million in savings during the biennium. Regarding a \$377 million increase in K-12 funding, Senator Melton asked if guidance would be included and Budget Director Jackson replied that guidance would be up to the General Assembly.

Representative Porter moved to approve the January 2020 agenda. Budget Director Jackson seconded the motion. The agenda was adopted by consent of the Committee.

I. Minutes

1. December 16, 2020

II. Review Items

1. Sherman Minton Corridor Project, IC 8-15.5-4-11 and IC 8-15.5-10-3

Indiana Finance Authority and the Indiana Department of Transportation

The Indiana Finance Authority (the "IFA"), in cooperation with the Indiana Department of Transportation ("INDOT") has been proceeding under Indiana Code 8-15.5 (the "Act") to seek offers from one or more private sector entities to design and build the Sherman Minton Corridor Project (the "Project") pursuant to a public-private agreement (the "Public Private Agreement"). The Project provides a major rehabilitation of the I-64 Sherman Minton Bridge over the Ohio River and the associated Indiana and Kentucky approach bridges and will add up to 30 years of service life to the bridge.

2. Governor's Recommended 2022 - 2023 Budget

III. Report Received

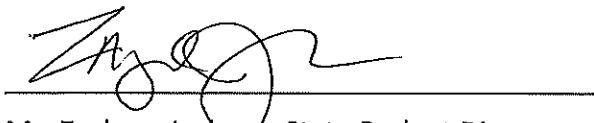
1. Indiana Federal Grants Report for Federal Fiscal Year 2020, IC 4-3-24-7(a) – (12.30.20)

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Representative Tim Brown, Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Zachary Jackson', written over a horizontal line.

Mr. Zachary Jackson, State Budget Director