

# **Vermillion County Commissioners**

## **Meeting Agenda**

August 23, 2016

8:15 a.m.

Commissioners Courtroom, Courthouse, Newport, Indiana

- I. Call to order. The Vermillion County Commissioners convened in a regular meeting at 8:15 a.m. on Tuesday, August 23, 2016. North Vermillion Senior, Kate Sheppard, assisted the Commissioners in calling the meeting to order.
- II. Roll call. Members present were President Tim Wilson, Vice-President Harry Crossley, Tim Yocum, Auditor Phyllis Orman, Chief Deputy Auditor Amy Tolbert, and Attorney Jon Spurr.
- III. Approval of minutes from last meeting. Crossley made a motion to accept the minutes from August 9, 2016, seconded by Yocum. Motion carried.
- IV. Approval of claims and payroll. Crossley made a motion to accept the claims and payroll for release on August 26, 2016, seconded by Yocum. Motion carried.
- V. Treasurer's Report. Wilson acknowledged receipt of the July Treasurer's Report.
- VI. Community Crossings Matching Grant. Alan Dugger of the Indiana Department of Transportation announced that Vermillion County had been awarded \$720,027.50 in grant funds for road improvements.
- VII. Open issues
  - a) Property for walking trail. Yocum reported that they are waiting for the legal description from Huffman Abstract. Spurr can proceed once he gets the legal description.
  - b) Jail water pressure. Yocum said he was talked with HWC Engineering about doing the engineering work for this project. He said they need to install a booster pump at the jail. He said once Vermillion Rise begins sending treated water to the jail the water pressure will be too low to operate the sprinkler system. He said the booster pump can provide the needed pressure. The quote for engineering from HWC is \$8,950. Sheriff Phelps said he was worried about cutting corners, stating it has cost the county a lot of money in the past. Crossley made a motion to allow, seconded by Yocum. Motion carried.
  - c) Jail geothermal and energy savings. Phelps reported that the committee met and they have re-advertised for this project.
  - d) INDOT 63 & 74. Gary Bowser with INDOT explained that there are 2 options to improve the area around 63 and 1650 N, near the Beef House. They recommend that turn lanes be lined up so they are easier to see. He said they are going to seek approval on a 5-year plan that will create slotted left turn lanes. If this project is approved the work will not start until 2021 or 2022. He said there were not many accidents at that intersection but the ones that did happen were very serious. He also said part of the problem is that people are not reading and following the road signs.
  - e) Eugene covered bridge abutment. Tabled
  - f) Post frame building for district II. Tabled.

- g) Property lease behind jail. Spurr said he spoke with the county insurance provider and they suggested they first figure out the terms on the lease for the pasture lease to Keith Hollingsworth. Spurr said those terms needs to be put into writing. He said the insurance company also suggested that anyone wishing to lease the property be required to provide proof of a \$1 million liability insurance policy. It was also suggested that if they do allow leases, that they be open to the public so others may bid. Crossley suggested they not lease to anyone because of the future plans for the walking trail. Yocum said currently they prohibit hunting on this property. He asked if the person leasing the farm ground could give people permission to hunt and Spurr said that is not clear and needs to be stated in the written lease. Wilson asked Spurr to write a lease for Hollingsworth and that the lease state there is to be no hunting on this land.

#### VIII. New business

- a) Extension Phone contract. Becky Holbert asked the Commissioners to approve a contract with ICS Innovations to set up the new phones system at their new location in Cayuga. She said this is at no cost to the county, as Purdue will pay the bill. Crossley made a motion to allow, seconded by Yocum. Motion carried.
- b) Vermillion Rise Mega Park. Wilson asked Tom Milligan about the leasing of farm ground at Vermillion Rise. He said several local farmers are concerned because the leases are not awarded to Vermillion County farmers. Milligan explained that the leases are put out to bid and are awarded to the highest bidder. He said they are out to get the maximum revenue from that property. He also explained that all the property is in the TIF district.
- Yocum asked for an update on the spec building. Milligan said the roof has been put on and the sidewalks have been poured. He also stated they have received several resumes for the director position. Yocum asked if they could sit in on the interviews and Milligan said that would be determined by the Indiana Open Door Law. Yocum said he would like to formally request, that as the commissioners who appoint the board, they be allowed to sit in on the interviews.
- Milligan also stated that all residents are invited to attend their meetings or call the office if they have questions as a lot of rumors go around but only about 5% of them are true. Phelps said the public does not have confidence in the Reuse Authority or Economic Development because of their failure to attend commissioner meetings with updates. Milligan said they do not know how Economic Development works. He said when dealing with potential companies they have to keep quiet at the request of those companies. They often have to sign non-disclosure agreements. Wilson asked again that someone come to the commissioner's meetings once a month to give updates.
- Yocum asked if they could tour the shell building and Milligan said it is owned by Garmong so it would be up to them.
- c) Sheriff Chief Deputy. Phelps reported that his Chief Deputy has suffered a stroke and asked, if needed, could other employees accumulated sick or comp time be given to him. Wilson said they will research it and let him know. He said he thinks it has been done in the past.
- d) October 4, 2016 meeting has been moved to October 3, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment. Read in full and approved by the Vermillion County Commissioners on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2016.

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Tim Wilson

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Harry Crossley

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Tim Yocum

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phyllis Orman, Auditor