

**Vermillion County Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**

April 9, 2018

6:30 p.m.

Commissioner's Courtroom, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Courthouse

- I. **Call to Order.** The Vermillion County Council convened in a regular meeting on Monday, April 9, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.
- II. **Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.**
- III. **Roll Call.** Members present were President Michael Carty, Randy Dreher, James McLain, Ashley James, Jill Wesch, Robert Spence, Auditor Amy Tolbert, First Deputy Auditor Stephanie Simpson and Council attorney Donald Bonomo. William Brent Bush was absent.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes.** A motion was made by Wesch and seconded by McLain to approve the minutes from the Special meeting on January 16, 2018 and the regular meeting on March 12, 2018 with corrections. All in favor, motion carried.
- V. **Treasurer's Report.** Carty acknowledged receipt of the Treasurer's report.
- VI. **Comp Time Report.** Carty stated that comp time was down \$2000 from last month. Carty said that one of the reasons the council reviews this report is the fact that the amount budgeted for overtime in 2018 is \$59,800, which means that if all employees who were owed comp time had to be paid at once, we couldn't pay all the overtime that's accumulated. Wilson stated totals might be higher due to recent weather. Carty said he just wants them to be aware right now that there's not enough money to cover it and they need to keep track of it.
- VII. **Transfer of Funds.**  
Reporting only. The Health Department is requesting to transfer \$500.00 from Operating Expenses to Travel.
- VIII. **Additional Appropriations.**

The Council considered additional appropriation requests as published. President Michael Carty reviewed the appropriations from the written requests submitted by Auditor Amy Tolbert. Thus, the following ordinance was adopted: WHEREAS: it has been determined it is now necessary to appropriate more money than was appropriated in the annual budget for 2018, BE IT ORDAINED, by the County Council of Vermillion County Indiana, for the expenses of said county government, the following additional sums of money are hereby appropriated and ordered set out of the funds herein specified, subject to the law governing the same:

<b>FUND/DEPT</b>	<b>AMOUNT REQUESTED</b>	<b>AMOUNT APPROVED</b>
County General	\$3750.00	-0-

Commissioner Tim Yocum rescinded the request for \$3750.00 for Grant Writer and will discuss this at the next Commissioners meeting.

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Certified Shares	\$24,315.06	\$1,573.32
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This additional is for benefits for the new seasonal parks department employee that was not done when the additional seasonal employee was approved. Wayne Bush said when they requested the additional for the seasonal employee they forgot to ask for the benefits. A motion was made by James and seconded by Spence to approve the \$1,573.32 for Social Security, Medicare and Unemployment benefits. All in favor, motion carried.

## IX. Open Issues

- a. **Vermillion Rise – Leasing Module Building.** Bob Grewe of Vermillion Rise stated that offices are currently housed in Building 7700 at Vermillion Rise. He said the building is 30,000 square feet, and is a single block construction with no insulation which he said makes the utilities extremely high. Grewe said it is not fiscally prudent to remain in that building, with utility costs running \$150,000 to \$200,000 per year. Grewe explained that the Newport Chemical Depot Reuse Authority had explored the option of leasing a modular office building at a cost of \$30,000 per year. Grewe said the building would be located on Broadway which is the main road through Vermillion Rise in close proximity where other businesses are currently located.

Grewe explained that the state statute which governs how the Reuse Authority operates requires that any leases entered into by the Reuse Authority be approved by the Council as the fiscal body of the county. Carty asked if there would be any liability to the county, and Council Attorney Donald Bonomo said there would not. Bonomo said the Council is only required to approve the lease.

James asked about plans for Building 7700, and Grewe said that part of the building may be temporarily used to store records and equipment that can't be moved to the modular office. Grewe said that most likely due to the utility costs, there has not been much outside interest in utilizing Building 7700.

James made a motion to approve the lease of a module office building, seconded by Carty. James, Carty and Wesch voted in favor, and Dreher, Spence and McLain voted against it. The motion was defeated due to not reaching a majority vote.

- b. **LIT Applications.** The Council received six applications from area fire departments for public safety funds from the Local Income Tax.

Applications received were from:

\*Cayuga Fire Department - \$53,993.20 for eight full self-contained breathing apparatus.

\*Newport Fire Department - \$33,800.00 for one full-time and one part-time person plus taxes, with no benefits, for July through December 2018.

\*Dana/Hillsdale Fire Department - \$53,318.00 for two full-time and one part-time firefighter plus taxes, with no benefits, for July through December 2018.

\*St. Bernice Fire Department - \$45,990.00 for 10 complete sets of turnout gear, and \$15,000.00 for reserve for future capital purchase to replace aging apparatus.

\*Fairview Fire Department - \$33,478.00 for fire helmets, boots, gloves, protective boots, coat/pant sets, folding water tank and suction hose.

\*Black Diamond Fire Department - \$6,000.00 to help fund the cost of underground storage tank removal.

It was discussed that the applications will be reviewed by the committee which consists of Bush, Spence, Dreher and Bonomo with a recommendation being made to the Council. Mark O'Heir the Emergency Management Director asked if it would be helpful to have another councilman on the committee, especially given that Bush is the Dana Fire Chief, and his department is applying for funds, which would mean he would need to abstain from voting on the application. Carty said that the committee will not make any final decisions, but only make a recommendation, and that if more than three council members are on the committee, it would constitute a quorum of the council. Questions were also raised regarding when the applications will be approved, since fire departments only have until June to submit applications for 2019 public safety funds. Tolbert said that the June deadline is somewhat flexible, since departments do not yet know what they will receive in 2018.

## X. New Business

- a. **Resolution Establishing a County wide Clean-Up Donation Fund.** The Council discussed establishing a Countywide Clean-Up Donation Fund. This fund is for the purpose of receiving and accepting donations made by members of the public to assist in covering expenses associated with countywide clean-up programs undertaken by the Commissioners and the Solid Waste Management

District Board. The funds will only be used for payment of dumpster fees, hauling charges or other expenses incurred as part of a countywide clean-up program.

A motion was made by Wesch and seconded by Spence to approve the resolution Establishing a Countywide Clean-Up Donation Fund. All in favor, motion carried.

- b. **County Redevelopment Commission Funding.** Economic Development Director Dylan Rikken discussed the Redevelopment Commission funding. He said they had to get bonded which was \$600.00 and they've had one attorney bill. He said they paid it out of the edit fund. Rikken said we could ask for money or we could establish a budget through edit then draw down from capital expenditures and then create a budget for 2019. Carty said he likes that idea.
- c. Commissioner Tim Yocum asked if the county was setting aside money for the proposed expansion of the jail. Dreher replied that the Council needs to know what the commissioners plan to do in regard to the jail. Sheriff Mike Phelps said there needs to be one more meeting with the judge and prosecutor before any decisions are made, but since there is not a permanent judge at present, that meeting has not taken place. Phelps also said we're not overcrowded right now and if they're not going to fill it, there's no need to expand. Carty said that the public safety money that is being collected and accumulating could be used for the jail expansion in the future. Dreher said if we don't need all that money, we may need to think about reducing the tax.

XI. **Adjourn.** A motion was made by Wesch and seconded by James to adjourn. All in favor, motion carried.

Having no further business to come before the Council, the motion was made to adjourn by Wesch, seconded James. All in favor, motion carried.

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Michael Carty, President

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Randy Dreher, Vice President

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William Brent Bush

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Ashley James

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James McLain

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Jill Wesch

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Robert Spence

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ATTEST:  
  
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Amy Tolbert, Auditor