

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

July 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, July 9, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.
- II. **Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.**
- III. **Roll Call.** Members present were President Michael Carty, William Brent Bush, Ashley James, Randy Dreher, James McLain, John Michael Major, Robert Spence, Auditor Amy Tolbert, First Deputy Auditor Stephanie Simpson, and Council Attorney Scott Craig.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes.** A motion was made by Dreher and seconded by Major to approve the minutes from the June 11, 2018 meeting. All in favor, motion carried.
- V. **Treasurer's Report.** Carty acknowledged receipt of the Treasurer's report.
- VI. **Comp Time Report.** Carty stated that the total had gone down by about \$1,300.00. He said this is a good sign but told the other council members to keep an eye on it.

VII. **Transfer of Funds.**

Reporting only. Commissioners Court requesting to transfer \$50.00 from Building & Structure Personal Property Liability to Copy Machine & Maintenance.

Reporting only. Health Department requesting to transfer \$100.00 from Burglary Insurance and \$100.00 from Postage to Travel.

Reporting only. Cumulative Bridge requesting to transfer \$4,710.00 from Other Contract Services to Bridge Inspection.

Vermillion County Extension requesting to transfer \$1,200.00 from Equipment Maintenance to Office Equipment. Several equipment items were beyond repair and needed to be replaced. A motion was made by Bush and seconded by James to approve the transfer. All in favor, motion carried.

Vermillion County Extension requesting to transfer \$800.00 from Postage to Assistance and Help. A motion was made by Bush and seconded by James to allow the transfer. All in favor, motion carried.

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>
Economic Development	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00

Dylan Rigger explained that this additional is for the Redevelopment Commission to fund a blight elimination program, with the intent of addressing some of the run-down commercial properties in the county. Dreher asked who would select the properties. Rigger said it would be a partnership between the Redevelopment Commission, the Commissioners and the zoning office.

Dreher asked if the work to clean up or tear down properties would be done by county employees, and Rikken said that District 2 Commissioner Tim Yocum had committed his highway employees to assist with the work, he has not heard from the other commissioners yet.

A motion was made by Dreher and seconded by Major to table the request until it was confirmed that the other commissioners were in agreement. James abstained, motion carried.

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<b>FUND/DEPT</b>	<b>AMOUNT REQUESTED</b>	<b>AMOUNT APPROVED</b>
LIT Public Safety	\$23,800.00	\$23,800.00

This request is from Mark O’Heir, EOC administrator, for repairs and maintenance for the county siren system. O’Heir explained that the county siren system has two points that can be used to monitor and set off the sirens, one at the EOC and one at the Sheriff’s Dispatch center in the jail. He said currently the system at the EOC is inoperable leaving us with no monitor site or back up site. The cause of the problem is a failed radio communications unit that is obsolete and no replacement can be found. The entire operating system is based on obsolete computer software using an old XP system. He said this money would be used to have new equipment purchased, programmed and installed at both the jail and the EOC and initial training on the system.

A motion was made by Dreher and seconded by Bush to approve the request. All in favor, motion carried.

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<b>FUND/DEPT</b>	<b>AMOUNT REQUESTED</b>	<b>AMOUNT APPROVED</b>
General Fund	\$330,000.00	\$330,000.00

The Highway Department is requesting \$330,000.00 to purchase three highway trucks. This was table from last month and Carty asked the council if they had any questions. Dreher stated he went and looked at the highway trucks and he said they are dilapidated. He also stated he would like to see the highway department put something together at budget time to include purchasing a new truck each year.

A motion was made by Dreher and seconded by Bush to approve the \$330,000.00 out of County General for three new highway trucks. All in favor, motion carried.

## **IX. Open Issues**

- a. **Government Consultant.** The Council discussed a contract with Robert Purlee to serve as a consultant for the 2019 budget process. Tolbert stated that Purlee previously worked for the county through Governmental Consulting Services. A motion was made by McLain to approve the contract with Robert Purlee for consulting. All in favor, motion carried.
- b. **Abatement Compliance.**
  1. **White Construction**
  2. **Garmong Development Company, LLC**
  3. **Eli Lily and Company**
  4. **International Paper Company**

The Council discussion several abatement compliance applications that were submitted to the Economic Development Commission for review. The Economic Development Council recommended they all be approved.

Dreher asked about the process of determining if a company was in compliance, and Economic Development Director Dylan Rikken said it was a matter of looking

at costs vs. the number of jobs created. Rigger stated that Elanco was a little short of its promised job numbers due to some retirements, but that they had not laid anyone off and were in the process of filling those positions, so the Commission felt they would be in compliance. Major asked how an abatement was given to Garmong for their shell building at Vermillion Rise Mega Park, since there were no jobs there. Carty explained that in order to receive an abatement, it had to be requested prior to construction, since abatements can not be approved on existing improvements. Major asked if the abatement compliances could be voted on individually, and the council agreed to vote on them individually.

A motion was made by Major and seconded by Dreher to approve the abatement compliance for White Construction. All in favor, motion carried.

A motion was made by Dreher to disallow the abatement compliance for Garmong Development Company, LLC. and seconded by Major. When the question of what it would mean if it was disallowed was raised, Council Attorney Scott Craig said the Council could invite Garmong representatives in for a hearing to find out why they were not meeting their projections. Craig stated that when the abatement was approved, the number of jobs projected at that time was zero, and there currently were zero, so you can't terminate them for not meeting their projections. He said you could only terminate them if they didn't put the money in that they had agreed to. Carty said we've already given them the abatement, we're not actually doing it again. He said we're just acting on whether they're in compliance with what they agreed to. Carty said it was discussed by the Economic Development Council and agreed that they are in compliance. Dreher withdrew his motion to disallow, but he said he would like for someone from Garmong to come to a meeting to explain what they are doing. Rigger asked if the Council would like to have Dan Zuerner of Garmong attend, or the project manager for the shell building. Major said bring them all in.

A motion was made by Majors and seconded by Dreher to table the abatement compliance for Garmong. All in favor, motion carried.

A motion was made by Major and seconded by Bush to approve the abatement compliance for Eli Lily and Company. All in favor, motion carried.

A motion was made by James and seconded by Spence to approve the abatement compliance for International Paper Company. All in favor, motion carried.

#### X. **New Business.**

- a. **CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) – Judge Jill Wesch.** Wesch informed the Council that she would request funding next month to establish a Court Appointed Special Advocate program for the county. Wesch explained that CASAs work with cases involving children in need of services or termination of parental rights, and that 83 of the 92 counties in Indiana have such programs in place. She said through the program, a director would be hired, who would train volunteers who would visit the homes of families involved in such cases, spend time with them, and make sure that the children's needs are met, and they are not falling through the cracks. Wesch stated that in 2016, Vermillion County had 75 cases involving children in need of services, 66 in 2017 and 29 so far this year. She said termination of parental rights cases totaled 20 in 2016, 32 in 2017 and 2 so far this year. Wesch provided the council with the proposed budget for 2019 and for the remainder of 2018. She said the state provides a matching grant, a

compacity building grant and a start up grant. Wesch gave the council information to look over and she said if they have any questions they can contact her before the next meeting.

- b. Indiana Office of Defense Development Agreement.** Riggen asked the Council to approve an agreement to work with the Indiana Office of Defense Development on potential defense contracts and projects at Vermillion Rise. He said this is just an agreement between the Commissioner, the Council, Economic Development Council and Vermillion Rise just to say they are going to “play nice” together. He said the agreement was approved by the Commissioners and the Economic Development Council. The Council discussed tabling the agreement so it could be reviewed, but Riggen provided a copy to Craig, who said it did not contain anything that was legally binding on the county. Spence asked if the agreement referred to the county as a whole or just to Vermillion Rise. Riggen told the Council that the Office of Defense Development was focused primarily on Vermillion Rise, because it was a former military base, and is already a secure facility. A motion was made by Major and seconded by McLain to approve the signing of the agreement with the Indiana Office of Defense Development. All in favor, motion carried.
- c. Newport Fire Department EMT – Joey Tolbert.** J. Tolbert thanked the council for the funding through public safety Local Income Tax for his paid position as an EMT for the Newport Fire Department. J. Tolbert said he felt Newport and Vermillion Township were headed in the right direction by creating the paid position. J. Tolbert said normally, without a paid person, we may not have volunteers to respond. J. Tolbert stated he has made four runs since Monday and his response time has been about one minute. He said he thinks it’s a good thing and he hopes the Council approves it again. Spence asked J. Tolbert to keep accurate records and provide them to the council because it will help them see the funds they are providing are helping.
- d. Joint Meeting.** The Council discussed the possibility of holding a special meeting, perhaps a joint meeting with the Commissioners, to discuss the Local Income Tax and whether it should be changed or reduced. James said she would like to discuss setting aside money for the jail expansion / renovation which was one of the reasons for raising the Local Income Tax. Carty said he would like to also have an executive session to discuss salaries prior to budget hearings. Council members agreed to look at possible dates for those meetings.

**XI. Adjourn.**

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

**AYENAY**

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Michael Carty, President

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Randy Dreher

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William Brent Bush

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Ashley James

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James McLain

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Robert Spence

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John Michael Major

ATTEST:

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Amy Tolbert, Auditor