

# Vermillion County Council

## Meeting Minutes

October 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 October 9, 2018.
- II. **Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.**
- III. **Roll Call.** Members present were President Michael Carty, Brent Bush, Ashley James, Randy Dreher, James McLain, John Michael Major, Robert Spence, Auditor Amy Tolbert, First Deputy Auditor Stephanie Simpson, and Council Attorney Donald Bonomo.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes.** A motion was made by Spence and seconded by Bush to approve the minutes from the September 10, 2018 meeting with correction. All in favor, motion carried.
- V. **Treasurers Report.** Carty acknowledged the Treasurer's Report with some comments on investments.
- VI. **Comp Time Report.** Carty stated the comp time report was down \$5,000.00 and everyone was under 160 hours of comp time by October 1<sup>st</sup> as agreed.
- VII. **Transfer of Funds.**

Reporting only. Commissioners Court requesting to transfer \$4,000.00 from Computer Support Services to Juvenile Detention.

Reporting only. County Jail requesting to transfer \$2,000.00 from Septic Tank Maintenance to Jail Water.

Reporting only. County Jail requesting to transfer \$4,000.00 from Septic Tank Maintenance to Jail Maintenance.

Reporting only. Health Department requesting to transfer \$350.00 from Postage to \$80.00 Travel, \$50.00 Training & Conference, \$220.00 Rent.

Reporting only. Health Department requesting to transfer \$75.00 from Nurse and Clinic Supplies to Vaccine and Medical Supplies.

Health Department requesting to transfer \$750.00 from Nurses Aide to Data Entry Clerk and \$500.00 from Office Supplies to Nurse. A motion was made by Major and seconded by Spence to allow the transfer for the Health Department. 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>
General Fund	\$3,990.00	\$3,990.00

EOC Mark O'Heir said the county has been awarded a grant for \$3,990.00 from the Indiana Public Safety Foundation to purchase AED's that will be used for special events around the county so that we stop taking AED's out of apparatus leaving them with none during normal operations.

A motion was made by Bush and seconded by Spence to approve the additional for EOC. All in favor, motion carried.

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<b>FUND/DEPT</b>	<b>AMOUNT REQUESTED</b>	<b>AMOUNT APPROVED</b>
General Fund	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00

Commissioners Court requesting an additional \$25,000.00 for Juvenile Detention because payments to Southwest Regional Youth have exceeded the budget.

A motion was made by Spence and seconded by Dreher to approve the additional for Commissioners Court. All in favor, motion carried.

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<b>FUND/DEPT</b>	<b>AMOUNT REQUESTED</b>	<b>AMOUNT APPROVED</b>
General Fund	\$10,188.67	\$10,188.67

County Jail requesting at additional \$10,188.67 for the amount received from Insurance to pay outstanding debt for flood in the main office at the jail.

A motion was made by Major and seconded by James to allow the additional for the jail. All in favor, motion carried.

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#### IX. Open Issues

- a. **Approval of 2019 Budgets.** The Council adopted the county's \$15,313,844 budget for 2019. The budget includes \$7,958,624 for the General Fund, \$250,628 for Reassessment, \$4,000 for Convention and Visitors Bureau, \$2,559,904 for Highway, \$262,000 for Highway Special, \$295,000 for Local Road and Street, \$655,000 for Cumulative Bridge, \$156,849 for Health, \$208,363 for Emergency Telephone System, \$28,497 for Plan Commission, \$167,600 for Cumulative Capital Development and \$754,355 for Economic Development. A motion was made by Bush and seconded by Dreher to adopt the 2019 Budget. All in favor, motion carried.
- b. **Approval of Town of Newport 2019 Budget.** The Council usually only makes nonbinding reviews of other taxing units' budgets, but because two of the three members of the Newport Town Board are also volunteer firefighters, the council is required to approve the Town's budget. The 2019 budget for Vermillion Township is \$77,388. That amount includes a general budget of \$35,988, Township assistance of \$30,300 and Fire fund in the amount of \$11,100. A motion was made by Bush and seconded by James to approve the Town of Newport 2019 budget. All in favor, except Major who voted no. Motion carried.
- c. **Approval of 2019 Salary Ordinance.** There was extensive discussion on the salary ordinance. Dreher said that the council had discussed last year making the pay the same for all county boards that are paid for attending meetings. He said most boards are paid \$60 a meeting. The park board is paid \$80 per meeting attended. The Council agreed to reduce the Park Board to \$60 per meeting. James stated that concerning employee salaries she felt that since the county has no evaluation system for giving raises, they should be the same across the board, either a percentage or the same dollar amount. James also said she thought that due to the extra paperwork and time involved with the president position of the council that the council president should be paid more than other council members.  
Dreher said that since the county has continued to absorb increases in health insurance cost, raises should be \$1,000 across the board.  
Carty stated that during budget hearings, the council had allowed money for a \$4,000 raise for Economic Development Director Dylan Rikken and \$3,600 for

Emergency Management Director Mark O'Heir. Carty said he felt only giving them \$1,000 was a big mistake. Dreher said that O'Heir has a perk that the others don't get. He said O'Heir has transportation back and forth to work, and gas. Carty said that O'Heir is on-call 24/7 and that perk is part of that expectation. James said that since half of O'Heir's salary is funded by the federal government, a \$2,000 raise would still only cost the county \$1,000.

Spence said he did not feel the commissioners or council should receive the raise, but only those who are expected to work every day. Bush, Carty and Dreher all agreed with Spence.

McLain said but we're elected officials and we get nothing, we sit up here and head all the money off.

Major asked if the council could enact a 7-year freeze on raises for the commissioners and council, so they would not get any raises. Carty said they could do so, but they could easily come back later and undo it.

Carty said O'Heir's position is very important. If we want to only do \$1,000, we can do that and he can decide if he wants to stay for that. Carty said he thinks to not recognize his contributions, maybe he's fine with it, but if not, we'll have to train somebody else. Carty said the same holds true for the Economic Development Director. Carty said he has worked himself up to being very marketable, and he's still underpaid. He said if we don't value Economic Development, fine. Do away with the tax and tell everybody we don't support it. Don't continue to hire and train people and push them out the door.

The council agreed to a \$1,000 increase for all employees and elected officials except the commissioners and council. Bush suggested that Rigger and O'Heir each receive \$2,500 increases. Carty said he feels uncomfortable doing anything less than \$4,000. Dreher said he's not in agreement with \$4,000 and McLain said he is not either. Bush said he thinks both positions are just as important in their fields and doesn't think one should be more than the other. Dreher said he'd do \$2,000 each and that would be about it or give \$4,000 to Mark and do away with Economic Development.

Economic Development Council member Tom Milligan asked to speak. Milligan said he supports Rigger, he said that Rigger can find a job with the training we've given him. Milligan said we don't want to lose him, he said Rigger is recognized regionally with Economic Development. Milligan said we all need to work together as a team.

Dreher asked what other similar sized counties pay their economic development directors, and Milligan said he did not know, but said that Vermillion Rise Director Bob Grewe is paid a lot more, and that it is hard to find someone to take the Economic Development position even at Grewe's higher salary.

Dreher asked if Rigger had received a raise recently, and Carty said he had, but it still didn't bring him to a high salary for what he does. Dreher said we don't know that. Carty said it's not a matter of the size of the county, successful Economic Development Directors, you're not going to find for less than \$90,000. After more discussion on salaries, it was agreed not to take action on the salary ordinance until more information can be obtained on whether the Council president can legally be paid more than other council members, and on how much other counties pay their Economic Development Directors.

#### X. New Business

- a. **Redevelopment Commission Appointment.** The Council received one letter of interest from Ginger Corado. A motion was made by Bush and seconded by

Dreher to appoint Ginger Corado to the Redevelopment Commission. All in favor, motion carried.

**b. Congressional School Fund.** Tolbert told the Council that this fund can be turned over to the state and they will distribute the funds to the schools.

A motion was made by James and seconded by Dreher to turn the funds over to the state. Bonomo said they will need a resolution to turn the funds over to the state. The motion was withdrawn and Bonomo said he would do a proper resolution for the next meeting.

XI. Adjourn.

Having no further business to come before the Council, the motion was made to adjourn by Spence, 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

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ATTEST:

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Amy Tolbert, Auditor