

Vermillion County Commissioners

Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2019

8:15a.m.

Commissioner's Courtroom, 2nd Floor, Courthouse

- I. **Call to Order.** The Commissioners convened in a regular meeting on January 8, 2019. South Vermillion Senior Kaden Lindsey called the meeting to order.
- II. **Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.**
- III. **Roll Call.** Members present were President Tim Wilson, Harry Crossley, Tim Yocum, First Deputy Auditor Stephanie Simpson, and County Attorney Jon Spurr.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes.** A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to approve the minutes from the December 26, 2018 Commissioners meeting and the December 31, 2018 Special Commissioners meeting. All in favor, motion carried.
- V. **Approval of Claims and Payroll.** A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to approve the Claims and Payroll for January 11, 2018. All in favor, motion carried.
- VI. **Open Issues**
 - a. **Vermillion Rise.** Bob Grewe from Vermillion Rise gave the Commissioners a brief update. Grewe stated that Vermillion Rise entered into a ground lease with J & R Used Tire for a parking lot which will be used for trailers for deliveries to their facility. Grewe reported to the Commissioners that an easement had been granted to AT&T to provide service to Scott Pet Products. Yocum asked Grewe if Vermillion Rise would be able to help cover the cost of providing drinking water to the jail. Grewe said the budget is tight, he said it would depend on whether revenue is generated that could help cover the cost. Yocum asked Grewe about the status of constructing a railroad spur onto the property. Grewe stated that it would cost almost \$6 million to extend the rail lines from the tracks east of Dana to the boundary of Vermillion Rise, and more to continue onto the property to a specific location. Yocum asked Grewe how this would be addressed if a company needs rail service, Grewe said that a company large enough to need rail service would most likely be large enough that it would generate enough Tax Increment Financing money to cover the cost of the railroad spur. Penney Barton said she had seen an article about Nucor Steel looking to locate in the Midwest, and Wilson said that his understanding was that the company is looking to partner with someone that is already in production, rather than starting new at a location.
 - b. **VTA (Vermillion Trails Alliance).** Les Zimmerman from Vermillion Trails Alliance reported that the VTA received a \$5,000.00 grant from Duke Energy. Zimmerman told the Commissioners that the group was interested in pursuing a grant through the state's Next Level Trails program. Zimmerman said the grant would be used to enhance the Hillsdale trail project. He said it would run from the pedestrian bridge over the Wabash River to the CSX Railroad line just east of Hillsdale. Zimmerman said the project is being funded by a \$150,000.00 grant from the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission. Zimmerman said that the proposed trail crosses a gap in the former railroad bed that is being used to develop the trail. The original plan was for the trail to follow the gap as it goes down 19 feet and back up the other side, but this would mean that part of the trail could be underwater during flooding. He said with the Next Level Trails grant, a pedestrian bridge would be built over the gap. Zimmerman said the other enhancement would address one of the issues that has been involved with the trail project since its beginning and that is how to cross the CSX Railroad line. He said VTA is proposing that the commissioners acquire a strip of land running parallel to the railroad line from the current owners, and turn the trail south before it reaches the railroad tracks, the trail would continue south until it reaches an established crossing in Alta, where it could cross the tracks because a crossing has already been established there. Zimmerman said this would eliminate the need to work with CSX on establishing

a new crossing. Zimmerman said the property owners have already been approached about the proposal, and the grant for which VTA would apply will be between \$750,000 and \$900,000. Zimmerman said that the state will be awarding \$90 million dollars in grants for trails over the next three years, and that this is a once in a generation opportunity to complete this project.

A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Wilson to sponsor the grant and to accept ownership of the property in question if it is acquired for the project. All in favor, motion carried.

- c. **Jail Renovation/Expansion.** Sheriff Mike Phelps informed the Commissioners that he would have something to present to them at their first meeting in February on the jail renovation project and he said he will need approximately an hour for the presentation.
- d. **Large Crowd Ordinance.** Wilson said him and Crossley had received calls asking what this ordinance is about. Wilson and Crossley stated they wanted this removed from the agenda. Phelps told them the purpose of the ordinance would be to address how the county would handle people protesting or picketing on county property. Phelps said that such activities are legal as long as they do not destroy property or block roads, and remain peaceful, but the county does not have any way to handle them. Phelps said in the City of Clinton someone wishing to stage such an event is required to notify the city, but the county does not have that requirement in place. Spurr said he provided samples of Large Crowd Ordinances to the commissioners for review.
- e. **Safety & Security Ordinance.** Phelps said there are a couple of things that need addressed with the safety committee before it is finalized. Phelps said the ordinance is not for public view. Spurr said to advertise for an executive session after the regular meeting on January 22, 2019 for the Safety & Security Ordinance.
- f. **Security/Emergency Manual.** Phelps said he thought this was discussed at the security meeting. He said it could be discussed with the Safety & Security Ordinance.
- g. **Inmate Medical Contract and New Provider.** Phelps said they have a nurse in place now from Quality Correctional Care based out of Carmel. He said they are adding mental health care and it is still within their budget. He said he requested a proposal from another company but they never submitted a proposal.
A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to approve the Inmate Medical Contract with Quality Correctional Care. All in favor, motion carried.
- h. **Courthouse Center Opening.** Wilson said to have Terry Carrera remove chairs and tables from the center opening. He stated Amy Tolbert is working on signs to be placed around the center opening.

VII. New Business

- a. **Extension Contractual Services Agreement – Purdue.** A motion was made by Crossley and Wilson to approve the Extension Contractual Services Agreement. All in favor, motion carried.
- b. **ATC Group – Joshua Price – Brownfield Grant Application.** Joshua Price from the ATC Group Services informed the Commissioners that he is working with the West Central Indiana Economic Development District to complete a US EPA Brownfields Coalition Grant application for submittal on 1/31/19. The grant award is for \$600,000.00 for environmental assessments of Brownfields properties. The selected Coalition members include Clay, Parke, Vermillion, and Sullivan Counties. As part of the application, a letter of support is required from a representative from each coalition member. He said the grant would be managed by Jim Coffenberry of West Central Indiana Economic Development District. Yocum asked if the entire county would be assessed. Price said that the properties to be assessed would be prioritized by the county.
A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Wilson to sign a letter of intent agreeing to pursue the grant. All in favor, motion carried.
- c. **Commissioners Mentoring Program.** Yocum stated that at the January 22nd Commissioners meeting, representatives of the Association of Indiana Counties will be present to produce a video about the Commissioners Mentoring Program for the Association's website. Yocum said the program will also be submitted to the National

Association of Counties for consideration for an award. Yocum said there will be a student from both North and South Vermillion at the meeting.

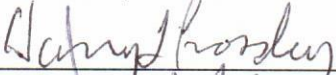
- d. **Zoning Office** – Penney Barton gave the Commissioners a report of permits issued in 2018 from her office.
- e. **Community Crossings Grant Program.** Yocum stated that the county will apply for a \$1,000,000.00 grant later this month through the Community Crossings Grant Program. Crossley said that any projects over \$150,000.00 will need to be bid. There was some discussion on how it is decided whether the county paves roads or whether contactors are hired to do the work. Crossley explained that when the county paves a road, they use pug mix and when hot mix is used, a contactor does the work because the county does not have the equipment to lay the hot mix. Crossley also said that pug mix can be used in paving at a cost of \$38 to \$40 per ton, compared to \$110 per ton for hot mix, or \$30,000.00 to \$40,000.00 per mile compared to \$95,000.00 per mile for hot mix. Yocum stated that the county needs to find a way to do something for the people who live on gravel roads, because they are not getting any of this, as the grant money is used for paving, not gravel.
Zimmerman suggested the county consider hiring a county highway engineer who could help manage road projects. He said he hates to see paving done where there are no ditches along the roads for proper drainage. Crossley said that the presence of more underground utilities makes this difficult. Crossley said it is hard to ditch like we used to, because there is so much buried by the side of the road. Zimmerman said a highway engineer could help the county save money by looking at traffic counts, drainage, prioritizing roads and other concerns. Yocum said that Parke County also does not have a highway engineer, and said he would like to see the counties share one between the two. Yocum stated he would look into this and bring information to a future meeting.
- f. **County Unemployment.** Yocum stated that there will be someone at the next meeting to discuss the unemployment rate and how it is figured.

VIII. **Adjourn.** A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to adjourn. All in favor, motion carried.


Read in full and approved by the Vermillion County Commissioners on the 22nd day of January, 2019.



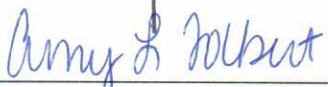
Tim Wilson, President



Harry Crossley



Tim Yocum

Attest: 

Amy Tolbert, Auditor