

## Vermillion County Commissioners

### Meeting Minutes

February 19, 2019

8:15a.m.

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

- I. **Call to Order.** The Commissioners convened in a regular meeting on February 19, 2019 at 8:15 a.m. in the Commissioner's Courtroom.
- II. **Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.**
- III. **Roll Call.** Members present were President Tim Wilson, Harry Crossley, Tim Yocum, Auditor Amy Tolbert, and First Deputy Auditor Stephanie Simpson. County Attorney Jon Spurr was absent.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes.** A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to approve the minutes from the February 5, 2019 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 February 22, 2019. All in favor, motion carried.
- VI. **Treasurer's Report.** Wilson acknowledged receipt of the Treasurer's Report.
- VII. **Open Issues**
  - a. **Vermillion Rise.** Executive Director Bob Grewe gave an update on Vermillion Rise. Grewe told the Commissioners that Vermillion Rise is working on agricultural leases and is in the process of trying to sell 400 acres outside the fence. He stated they have the land listed with Randy Hicks. Yocum asked about the reason for the land sale, and Grewe said the intention was to try to pay down the loan for the 24-inch water line that was installed at Vermillion Rise.  
Grewe stated he worked with Yocum to provide information about their site to Nucor Steel, in reference to Nucor Steel's ongoing search for a site in the Midwest. Grewe said Vermillion Rise is also working to obtain funding from the Army for environmental repairs to one of the wells that serve the facility.
  - b. **VTA (Vermillion Trails Alliance).** Tom Milligan from Vermillion Trails Alliance said they have some trees picked out for the Trees of Indiana trail at the county farm. Milligan said they will be working on the parking lot and planting of the trees once the weather breaks. Milligan also stated that VTA opted not to apply to the Next Level Trails program by the February 15, 2019 deadline, because they were not ready to do so, he said they are planning to apply in the next round of grant funding.
  - c. **Jail Renovation/Expansion.** Sheriff Mike Phelps stated there was nothing new to report.
  - d. **Large Crowd Ordinance.** Wilson stated the ordinance only affected county property. A motion was made by Wilson and seconded by Crossley to approve the Large Crowd Ordinance. All in favor, motion carried.
  - e. **Security/Emergency Manual.** A motion was made by Wilson and seconded by Crossley to approve the Security/Emergency Manual. All in favor, motion carried.
  - f. **County Property Lease.** Wilson said to advertise the property to be leased in the newspaper.
  - g. **Economic Development/Newport Chemical Depot Reuse Authority Appointment.** Wilson stated that John Michael Major resigned from the Economic Development Board at the Council meeting on February 11, 2019. Major will remain on the Newport Chemical Depot Reuse Authority.
  - h. **Handbook.** It was stated that there will be a joint Commissioner/Council meeting on March 11, 2019 following the regular council meeting.
  - i. **Payroll – Account Change or Closed Fee.** It was stated that there needs to be a change to the fee before it is approved. A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Wilson to table until the March 5, 2019 meeting. All in favor, motion carried.
  - j. **Culvert Replacement – 300 W.** Crossley stated that bids needed to be turned in by March 4, 2019 and will be opened at the March 5, 2019 meeting.



- k. **County Website.** Yocum stated that he had someone present information on updating the county's website. Phelps said that there were two companies that had provided quotes, but one was from last year. Wilson asked Phelps to get an updated quote from the second company.

**VIII. New Business**

- a. **Indiana Workforce Development - Fran Valentine.** Fran Valentine from Indiana Workforce Development gave a presentation on the Unemployment rate for Vermillion County. Valentine stated that Vermillion County has a population of 12,709, with a labor force of 6,926, which equals a labor force participation rate of 54.5 percent. The county's current unemployment rate is 2.7 percent. Valentine also stated that approximately 27.9 percent of county residents have an associate degree or higher, and about 60 percent travel outside the county to work. Valentine said that unemployment between 4 and 5 percent is considered full employment, and that unemployment statewide is historically low. She said that an unemployment rate that is extremely low can be a negative for the county, as it can be viewed by companies as a lack of an available workforce. Valentine also said that Vermillion County is one of 10 Indiana counties whose population decreased by more than 5 percent from 2007 to 2017. She also said that an aging population can make the county's labor force participation rate smaller, because the older residents are retired. Yocum asked if 100 people were taken off the unemployment rate, it would lower the rate, he said it's not like we've got thousands to reduce. Valentine said that because Vermillion County is small, the rate can be reduced more easily than in other places, but that I can't really give you a magic number. She stated that if new businesses open in the county or in neighboring counties, and residents commute to those places to work, it would help reduce Vermillion County's unemployment rate, because the rate is based on residence, and reflects the number of county residents who are working, regardless of where. Wilson asked Valentine if Vermillion County was a county with a lot of people who don't want to work. Valentine said that the unemployment rate is based on those who are actively looking for work. She said the 57 percent participation rate might be a better gauge of that answer, but an aging population could increase the percentage who are not working. Valentine explained how the unemployment rate is calculated and she also stated that the rate comes out of Washington, D.C.
- b. **Opioid Litigation.** A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Wilson to table until the next meeting due to the absence of County Attorney Jon Spurr. All in favor, motion carried.
- c. **Redevelopment Commission – Tax Sale Certificates.** The Redevelopment Commission is requesting five tax sale certificates from the September 21, 2018 Tax Sale. These are properties that did not sell at the tax sale and have been in previous tax sales. A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Wilson to assign the five tax sale certificates to the Vermillion County Redevelopment Commission. All in favor, motion carried.
- d. **Interlocal Agreement – Clinton Redevelopment Commission.** The Commissioners discussed sending a letter to the Clinton Redevelopment Commission advising that they intend not to renew the interlocal agreement under which the city's Redevelopment Commission had managed the White Construction Tax Increment Financing District. That agreement had been entered in 2010, when the county did not have a Redevelopment Commission. They agreed that having established a Vermillion County Redevelopment Commission, the district should be managed by the county commission. Clinton City Attorney Scott Craig said that the city was aware of the county's intention, and had no objection. A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Wilson to send a letter to the Clinton Redevelopment Commission. All in favor, motion carried.
- e. **Courthouse Dropped Calls – Bruce Aukerman.** Aukerman stated that the courthouse phone system has problems when it rains, that lead to calls being dropped or going unanswered. Phelps explained that the issue was with the phone lines and not the

system, and that the only thing the county can do is change to an internet-based system. Wilson asked Phelps to prepare a request for proposals for an internet-based system.

- f. **Recycling Grant Review – Jim Coffenberry.** Coffenberry presented an agreement to the Commissioners for a recycling grant that had been approved in 2018. He said that the \$19,201 grant will not be awarded until the Commissioners sign the agreement. He said the grant will require quarterly reporting to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management and the grant funds will be used to hold two county wide cleanup days in 2019, and establish sites where residents can drop off items for recycling.

A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Wilson to sign the grant agreement. All in favor, motion carried.

Zoning Administrator Penney Barton stated that the next countywide cleanup days will be held April 26-27 and the format will be the same as last year.

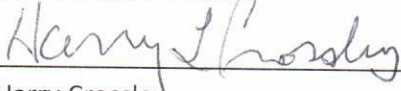
- g. **ONI Risk Partners – Health Insurance.** Pat Carney with ONI Risk Partners gave a presentation on their company to the commissioners. He said they would be interested in working with the Commissioners in the future.

- IX. **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 5th day of March, 2019.

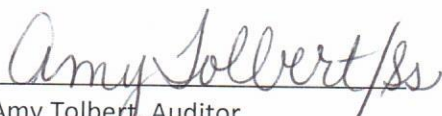
  
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Tim Wilson, President

  
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Harry Crossley

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Tim Yocum

Attest:   
Amy Tolbert, Auditor