

Vermillion County Council

Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2019

6:30 p.m.

Commissioner's Courtroom, 2nd Floor, Courthouse

- I. **Call to Order.** The Vermillion County Council convened in a regular meeting on March 11, 2019.
- II. **Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.**
- III. **Roll Call.** Members present were President John Michael Major, Ashley James, William Brent Bush, Ronald Dunavan, Neil Costello, Robert Spence, Randy Dreher, Auditor Amy Tolbert, and Council Attorney Scott Craig.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes.** A motion was made by Dreher and seconded by Spence to approve the minutes from the February 11, 2019 meeting. All in favor, motion carried.
- V. **Treasurers Report.** Major acknowledged receipt of the Treasurer's report.
- VI. **Comp Time Report.** Major acknowledged receipt of the comp time report. No comments were made.
- VII. **Transfer of Funds.**

Economic Development requesting to transfer \$45,600 from Capital Outlays to Professional Services/Fees. A motion was made by Dunavan and seconded by Bush to table until April. All in favor, motion carried.
- VIII. **Additional Appropriations.**

The Council considered additional appropriation requests as published. President John Michael Major 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 2019, 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:

Health Department requesting an additional for Local Health Department Trust Account for \$33,758. To set up 2018-2019-line items (grant), this is the additional salary for 22 hours per pay and all fringe benefits for our part time employee to go to full time. This is surplus money that the Health Department has in cash for our Local Health Department Trust Account Grant. This was state approved effective for January 1, 2019. A motion was made by James and seconded by Dunavan to approve the Health Department Additional. All in favor, motion carried.

Vermillion County Jail requesting an additional \$15,620.51 for Inmate Medical to pay over capped expenses for inmate medical expenses. A motion was made by Bush and seconded by James to approve the additional for the Jail Inmate Medical. All in favor, motion carried.
- IX. **Open Issues**
 - a. **County Website.** Phelps said the Commissioners will be taking request for proposals for a new county website.
 - b. **County Handbook.** To be discussed at the joint meeting following this meeting.
- X. **New Business**
 - a. **Funding for Approved Repairs by FEMA.** Emergency Management Director Mark O'Heir informed the council that the commissioners would like to

appropriate funds ahead of time to pay for flood repairs that will ultimately be reimbursed by FEMA. O’Heir said that FEMA will reimburse 75 percent of the cost of the work, after it is completed. O’Heir stated altogether, the county has \$295,305.20 in repairs that FEMA has approved for reimbursement. Of that, \$80,550.90 has already been completed, and the county will receive roughly \$60,400.00 back. He said there is approximately \$214,000 in work that still needs to be completed, and Commissioner Tim Wilson said that work will be bid, but the county needs to have the money available to pay for it in order to have the work done, so they are asking the council to fund it in advance. The county will get back approximately an additional \$161,000. Wilson also noted that the bids could come in lower than FEMA’s estimates. Costello asked what would happen if they came in higher, and O’Heir said the county would have a chance, in that case, to appeal to FEMA for additional funding. The Commissioners agreed to present an additional appropriation request at the next council meeting.

b. SWCD – Year in Review – Eric Shideler. Soil and Water Conservation District Director Eric Shideler spoke about things the SWCD has done in the last year, and provided copies of the annual report and the SWCD’s long-range plan.

c. Jail Project – Professional Service Agreement. There was extensive discussion on the planned renovation and expansion of the jail. Phelps introduced Jack Krouse of Construction Controls, Inc., to be hired as a consultant to guide the county through the process of moving forward with the project. The Commissioners approved hiring Krouse, subject to funding by the council. Phelps said Krouse would be the county’s representative as the project moves forward. Krouse said he has been building jails since 1980, and has built jails all over Indiana and Michigan. He said his role would be to help Phelps and other county officials determine what needed to be done as the project goes forward. He said by the end of the project he expected his total fees (at \$150 per hour, as needed) would amount to less than \$20,000, and he said that even that amount would be a stretch.

Major asked if Krouse would be an owner’s representative or a project manager. Krouse said whatever you feel comfortable with, but my personal preference is owner’s representative. Major asked, if a problem arose on site, if Krouse would be the one to address it. Krouse said he would only make such issues his problem if asked to by the county. He said the architect will most likely only be on site every two weeks, so if there is a problem, the county will need someone onsite to represent them.

Major asked if a feasibility study had been completed, and Phelps said one was completed in 2016. Major asked if contractors had been asked to provide budget estimates, and Phelps said that is kind of where we are at now.

Krouse said that they will need to be aware of all the costs involved, which architects don’t always include in estimates. He said that Jefferson County recently started a jail project estimated at \$25 million and ended up closer to \$32 million. Krouse also noted that the estimates that had been provided were at least a year old, so the costs had likely already gone up about 8 percent.

Major said a new state law passed in 2018 set out specific issues that a feasibility study would need to address, and asked if the one conducted in 2016 would be sufficient. Council Attorney Scott Craig noted that the study has to be presented to the public, and that the 2016 study may not meet all the requirements.

Krouse suggested that he begin by analyzing the soft costs, such as bond interest, engineering and other costs, as well as operating costs, and provide that

information to a financial adviser who can work with the county's attorneys on how to fund the project.

Major asked who is on the Jail Committee, and Phelps said it includes himself, Commissioners Tim Wilson and Tim Yocum, the jail commander, County Attorney Jon Spurr and Sonny Carey. Major said he would like to see a new feasibility study conducted. He said he thinks we need to do a new study to see if we need a new jail or to renovate. He said what might happen if Level 6 felonies go back to the state, and what it will look like once Vigo, Greene and Fountain County build new jails. Commissioners Harry Crossley stated that the current jail is already overpopulated.

Major said he knows we all want to do this right, because the last jail wasn't done right. He said if we need a new jail, we can build it at the Rise and turn it into a juvenile center.

Phelps said we've been doing this since 2015, we've already gone from \$7 to \$9 million up to \$16 to \$18 million. Phelps said I'll do what you guys want, but it's frustrating seeing it keep getting kicked down the road. Dunavan said he would hate to see us waste another year and have the price to go up more. James said that the study that was done allowed room for future expansion, so there was no risk that the expanded jail would end up too small. Major said he just thinks it would be a better idea to get another study done, he said that's his personal opinion. He said he would like to take the study and go to every town, show people what we're going to do and see what they think. Phelps asked who would spearhead that effort, and Major said that a new committee might be needed with the sheriff, prosecutor, probation officer, judge, three council members and two commissioners. Spence asked who had conducted the previous study, and Phelps said it was done by RQAW. Spence said in two years we have another election and who might be replaced? And are they going to say we're new on the council, we need another study? And here we go again chasing our tails like a mad dog. Spence said sooner or later, we've got to grab the bull by the horns and decide what we're going to do. Dreher said he agrees with Spence that we've been kicking this down the road for three years.

Phelps described current conditions at the jail, and said that, in addition to bed space, the kitchen and laundry facilities are too small for the current population. He said it takes two hours to feed the inmates, there is no space for mental health inmates, which are a growing issue, all the cells are full, and there are a growing number of female inmates. Spence said we need to understand where we're at and what it will cost, and he said he thinks Jack will help us do that. Craig said that the feasibility study likely will need to be updated along the way, to make sure it addresses all the requirements of the 2018 law. James said she has no problem with that she just doesn't want to see us go backward. Major said he thinks the study needs to be done independently, instead of by the architect who is going to be hired.

The Commissioners had already approved hiring Krouse, and the council's only role was to approve funding. The council asked the commissioner to request an additional appropriation at their next meeting.

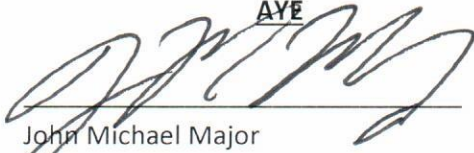
- d. **Grandstand Update.** Albert Clark reported on the progress of the Vermillion County Fairgrounds Grandstand Project. He said the physical grandstand is complete, with about \$1,000,000 spent so far. He said bids will be let in the near future for electrical work and the construction of restrooms, all of which should be finished by this summer.

XI. Adjourn


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

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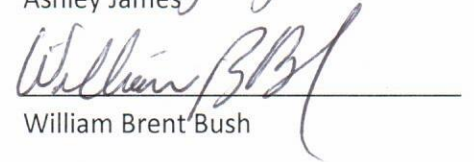
NAY



John Michael Major

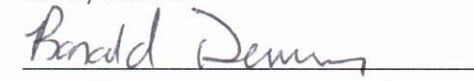


Ashley James



William Brent Bush

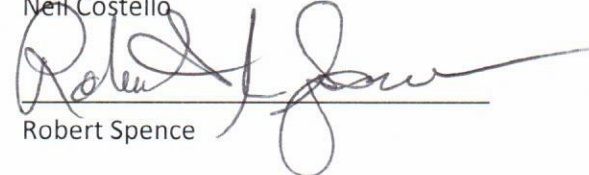
Randy Dreher



Ronald Dunavan

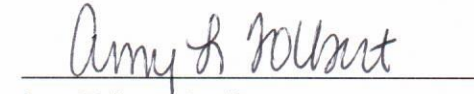


Neil Costello



Robert Spence

ATTEST:



Amy Tolbert, Auditor