

Vermillion County Commissioners

Meeting Minutes

May 14, 2019

8:15a.m.

Commissioner's Courtroom, 2nd Floor, Courthouse

- I. **Call to Order.** The Commissioners convened in a regular meeting on May 14, 2019. North Vermillion Senior Mattie Larrance called the meeting to order.
- II. **Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.**
- III. **Roll Call.** Members present were President Tim Wilson, Harry Crossley, Tim Yocum, Auditor Amy Tolbert, 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 April 30, 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 May 17, 2019. All in favor, motion carried.
- VI. **Open Issues**
 - a. **Vermillion Rise.** Executive Director Bob Grewe stated that will be having their regular meeting Thursday and he said there will be discussion about zoning and selling some land outside the fence. Grewe also stated that he had submitted information on Vermillion Rise to an Illinois project which had been stalled. He said he had heard back from the company involved, and discussions were continuing. Yocum said he provided information regarding the work necessary to provide potable water from Vermillion Rise to the Vermillion County Jail to Sheriff Mike Phelps and the architects working on the proposed jail renovation project, hoping to include the work in that project.
Yocum asked about a recent contract for sewer work at Vermillion Rise, and said there had been questions raised about the bids for the project. Grewe explained that the lowest bid for the project was missing some paperwork, but was significantly lower than the next lowest bid. He stated that, because of finances, the lower bid was more important than the completeness of the paperwork. Grewe stated that the contract had not been executed yet, and that the Reuse Authority would still have to make sure all documents were in place to insure proper performance. He said the decision to go with the lower bid was a board decision. Vermillion County Councilman Ronald Dunavan Jr. asked what the difference in cost was, Grewe said it was \$20,000.
Yocum asked if there was anyone on the Reuse Authority who had a connection to the company that received the contract, and Grewe said he was not aware of any connection. Yocum asked if the engineer recommended that the board accept the lower bid, and Grewe said that they did.
 - b. **VTA (Vermillion Trails Alliance).** Les Zimmerman from VTA reported that 24 trees had been planted at the trailhead property. He said there are now more than 30 different Indiana trees represented. Zimmerman had a contract for engineering work to be done by Hanna, Wagle, and Kline that he needs the commissioners to sign.
 - c. **Jail Renovation/Expansion.** Sheriff Mike Phelps reported that funding had been approved by the Council for Jack Krouse's contract as a consultant on the jail project. He said the jail committee needed to meet before moving forward, and that he would try to schedule a meeting.

- d. **Handbook.** Spurr said that Council attorney Scott Craig was now going over the handbook and suggesting changes and that him, Craig and Anita Fultz were going to schedule a meeting to go over the proposed changes.
- e. **County Website.** Phelps said the proposals are due May 28th and that he suggests that they have a meeting to review the proposals.
- f. **Courthouse Phone System.** Phelps said that he had looked into the ongoing issues with the courthouse phone system. Specifically, the issue with the system going down when it rains. He said the county is currently locked into a contract with AT&T and would have to buy out the contract in order to change providers. Wilson asked what it would cost to buy out the contract, Phelps said he was not sure. The Commissioners asked Phelps to continue looking into the issue.
- g. **Dangerous Exotic Animal Ordinance – Area Plan.** There was discussion on the Dangerous Exotic Animal Ordinance. Area Plan Commission member Jared Dreher said the original intention was to list everything that would be considered dangerous. Zoning Administrator Penney Barton said the Area Plan Commission wanted coyotes and bobcats removed from the ordinance, since they are native Indiana animals.
A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to approve the Dangerous Exotic Animal Ordinance with the stipulation that there can be an amendment to the ordinance at a later date. All in favor, motion carried.

VII. **New Business**

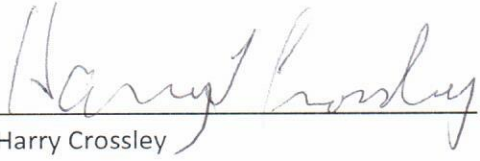
- a. **Recycling Board or Committee.** Yocum asked about the possibility of establishing a recycling board for committee, or whether recycling should be addressed by the Solid Waste Board. He said there are a number of people in the county who are passionate about recycling, and he would like to see more people involved. The was no decision made.
- b. **2019 NACo Achievement Award.** Yocum announced that the county had received an award from the National Association of Counties for the Commissioners Mentoring Program.
- c. **County Clean Up Day Report.** Barton reported that a total of 182,000 pounds of debris was collected during the cleanup day, with 29 dumpsters used, as well as 51 bins of electronic, all up from last year. She said 36 miles of county roads were cleaned up by residents.
- d. **Community Crossings Grant bids.** The Commissioners received one bid, from Wabash Valley Asphalt, for paving work to be completed this year. The bid totaled \$979,594.30. A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to take the bid under advisement and award the contract at their next meeting. All in favor, motion carried.
- e. **Solicitations in Roadways Ordinance.** There was discussion on a solicitation in roadways ordinance. Phelps stated that when individuals are caught doing so, the are instructed to leave, but there is currently no ordinance to support that instruction. A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to approve the Solicitations in Roadways Ordinance. All in favor, motion carried.

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

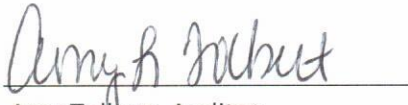
Read in full and approved by the Vermillion County Commissioners on the 28th day of May, 2019.



Tim Wilson, President


Harry Crossley

Tim Yocum

Attest: 
Amy Tolbert, Auditor