

## Vermillion County Commissioners

### Meeting Agenda

August 6, 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 August 6, 2019 at 8:15 a.m. in the Commissioners Courtroom.
- 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 July 23, 2019 meeting. All in favor, motion carried.
- V. **Approval of Claims.** A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to approve the claims for August 9, 2019. All in favor, motion carried.
- VI. **Approval of Payroll.** A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to approve the payroll for August 9, 2019. All in favor, motion carried.
- VII. **Open Issues**
  - a. **Vermillion Rise.** Executive Director Bob Grewe told the Commissioners that he is meeting with representatives of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation this week to receive updates on new legislation related to economic development, which could affect Vermillion Rise.  
Yocum asked if anyone had approached Grewe about including the improvements that would be required to provide potable water to the Vermillion County Jail in the jail renovation project, Grewe said no one has contacted him. Yocum said he would call someone about addressing that issue.
  - b. **VTA (Vermillion Trails Alliance).** Tom Milligan reported that Vermillion Trails Alliance held a very productive work day at the Trailhead Park property. The work included watering trees and protecting trees from deer, and picking up metal from the railroad bed. Milligan said gravel for the parking lot should be done soon. Yocum stated that the prints for the shelter at the Trailhead Park need to be submitted to the state for approval, and he said that the shelter will hopefully be up in the next two months.  
Milligan also reminded the Commissioners about the upcoming Ernie's Ride at the Rise, which will be held September 14<sup>th</sup>. He said the event will include a bicycle ride through Vermillion Rise, and feature information about Vermillion Rise and about Ernie Pyle.
  - c. **Jail Renovation/Expansion.** No comments.
  - d. **Handbook.** Spurr said the handbook committee had a meeting scheduled following the Commissioners meeting. He said that there have been rumors going around about the handbook, and explain that all that has been done is to identify areas where the handbook, is confusing, or conflicts with itself, in an effort to address those issues. Wilson stated that nothing has been changed yet, and employees should still be going by the existing handbook.
  - e. **County Website.** No comments.
  - f. **Courthouse Phone System.** No comments.
  - g. **FEMA/MVH Grant.** Crossley stated that all but two of the flood repair projects, which are to be submitted for reimbursement by FEMA, have been completed.
  - h. **Fire Alarm System.** No comments.

- i. **Convention & Tourism Commission Ordinance.** Spurr is researching this ordinance.
- j. **Contract with Historical Society.** No comments.
- k. **Covered Bridges – Fire Retardant Paint.** Yocum said to remove this from the agenda.

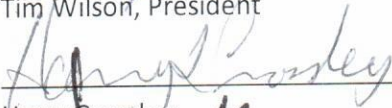
**VIII. New Business**

- a. **Bids – Replacement of Culvert on Co. Rd. 100 S.** The Commissioners opened three bids for the replacement of a culvert on County Road 100 S. The bids received were from E. Smith and Sons Excavating for \$21,300, Swingle Excavating for \$12,000, and Kanizer Excavating for \$9,339. A motion was made by Yocum and seconded by Crossley to award the bid to Kanizer Excavating. All in favor, motion carried.
- b. **Highway Engineer.** The Commissioners discussed possibly hiring a county highway engineer. Yocum said that the state will provide \$40,000 to small counties to help pay an engineer, and suggested that Vermillion and Parke counties pool those funds to jointly hire an engineer to be shared equally between the counties. Wilson said he was not against having an engineer, and that sharing one could be pursued as a last resort but that he felt Vermillion County should try to hire its own engineer first, as there was enough work in the county to keep an engineer busy. Spurr asked if the engineer would be only for roads, or would deal with other matters as well. He said that the unsafe building ordinance needs reviewed, and that could fall under the responsibilities of an engineer. Wilson said it would be for everything, he said he thinks we could keep one busy ourselves. Wilson said he was against shared arrangements if they can be avoided, because he felt that they often don't turn out well for the county. Milligan said that the idea of a county engineer had been discussed many times, going back over the last 30 years. He said that the best thing you can have is a good engineer, but the worst thing you can have is a bad one, and said the county has to be willing to pay to have a good one.  
It was agreed to leave this on the agenda for further discussion and to seek input from the Council and the Economic Development.
- c. **Fall County Wide Clean Up.** There was discussion on a recycling grant that the county had previously approved, which would pay \$5,000 each for two dumpsters for recycling. Yocum said that the quotes he had received were for \$7,500 each, so the county would need to come up with the difference. They discussed the possibility of repairing two existing dumpsters which have rusted bottoms, and using those, and Yocum asked if they intended to return the grant funds, since they were for purchasing new dumpsters. After further discussion, they agreed to have Auditor Amy Tolbert see where there is money available that could be transferred to cover the cost of the dumpsters, and also to have highway employees repair the rusted dumpsters.
- d. **Unsafe Buildings.** Councilman Randy Dreher asked about the \$100,000 that the Council had allocated for unsafe buildings for 2019, and said he knew several buildings had been torn down. He asked if any effort was being made through liens to recoup those costs from the property owners. Spurr said he believes the costs could be recovered through liens, or by adding the costs to the property taxes for the property, and he was not sure which was being done. Tolbert said it had been done through taxes in the past, but was not sure what had been done most recently.

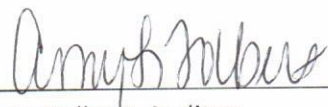
- IX. Adjourn.** A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to adjourn. All in favor, motion carried.

Read in full and approved by the Vermillion County Commissioners on the 20th day of August, 2019.

  
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Tim Wilson, President

  
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Harry Crossley

  
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Tim Yocum

Attest:   
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Amy Tolbert, Auditor