

## Vermillion County Commissioners

### Meeting Minutes

February 4, 2020

8:15a.m.

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

- I. **Call to Order.** The Vermillion County Commissioners convened in a regular meeting on February 4, 2020 in the Commissioner's Courtroom.
- II. **Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.**
- III. **Roll Call.** Members present were President Tim Wilson, Harry Crossley, Auditor Amy Tolbert, First Deputy Auditor Stephanie Simpson and County Attorney Jon Spurr. Tim Yocum was absent.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes.** A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Wilson to approve the minutes from the January 21, 2020 meeting. All in favor, motion carried.
- V. **Approval of Claims.** A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Wilson to approve the claims for January 7, 2020. All in favor, motion carried.
- VI. **Approval of Payroll.** A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Wilson to approve the payroll for January 7, 2020. All in favor, motion carried.
- VII. **Treasurer's Report.** Wilson acknowledged receipt of the Treasurer's report.
- VIII. **Open Issues**
  - a. **Vermillion Rise.** Vermillion Rise Executive Director Bob Grewe discussed the request that was made at the last meeting to list the shell building with a commercial realtor. The building can be listed for one year, and if it doesn't sell during that time, there is no cost. Grewe said if it does sell the realtor would receive \$200,000 in commission. Grewe asked for approval from the Commissioners to list the building, and to deduct the \$200,000 from the \$1.5 million which is to be paid back to the county when the building sells. Grewe said the county would receive \$1.3 million at the time of the sale, with the remaining \$200,000 being repaid over 2 years. Grewe said that there are \$100,000 in carrying costs, which includes insurance, utilities, etc., for which Vermillion Rise is paying every year that the building does not sell. Zoning Administrator Penney Barton said that Garmong is supposed to be helping market the building, and that the link to it on Garmong's website brings up an error message. Grewe said he would pass that information along to Garmong. Wilson said they are not asking for additional money just more time to pay the \$200,000 back. Wilson asked Crossley what he wanted to do. Crossley said maybe they should hear from Garmong before approving the request. The Commissioners request to hear from Garmong at their next meeting before making a decision.
  - b. **VTA (Vermillion Trails Alliance).** No one present for an update.
  - c. **Jail Renovation/Expansion.** Wilson stated that the Commissioners intend to ask for a variance under the county's zoning ordinance, which will allow the expansion of the Vermillion County Jail to go onto the adjacent county highway garage property. Wilson said the Area Plan Commission will consider the variance on February 13, and the request will then come back to the Commissioners for the final decision. Britton Luther stated that the variance was due to an error made by RQAW in the planning phase, and that it cuts off the corners of the expanded jail building. He said that would mean 1,300 square feet lost off the building, or about \$260,000 worth of the building. Luther asked the Commissioners to consider

whether they should go forward, or revisit the design and make sure there were no other errors. Wilson stated that the variance would allow the building to be expanded without reducing the size in the manner Luther was describing. He said the jail would only encroach on our own property. Luther said he did not feel a variance was appropriate since it was due to RQAW's error.

It was stated that there might be another issue with the setback from State Road 63, and Wilson stated that it was determined there was no issue with that setback. Wilson asked Kevin Meyer if he had anything to add, Meyer said he agreed that the setback issue should have been caught sooner. Wilson asked Meyer to relay the comments from the meeting to Sanjay Patel, who is working on the design for RQAW.

- d. **Handbook.** Spurr said that they divided the sections that need rewritten three ways, he said he has his part finished, and Anita Fultz has her part finished, and he is waiting to hear back from Council attorney Scott Craig.
- e. **Courthouse Phone System.** Paul Fouts from EAS Technology said they have gathered the necessary information to prepare a request for quotes on a new phone system and phone service at the courthouse. Fouts said it would be a two-part bid, one for the phone service and the other for the phone system. Fouts stated that if EAS prepares the RFQ, they can not bid, so Wilson asked Spurr to prepare the RFQ based on the information gathered.
- f. **IT Refresh – Purchase Policy.** Fouts stated that the hardware and software for the upcoming courthouse information technology update is ordered and starting to come in. He said the majority of the new equipment should be in within the next few weeks, and they will begin getting it all set up.
- g. **FEMA/MVH Grant.** Wilson asked where they were at on the FEMA/MVH Grant. Emergency Management Director Mark O'Heir stated that he sent in more paperwork last week and he thought that was a good sign.
- h. **Contract with Historical Society.** Spurr said he is waiting on some information and dates to be put in the contract. Wilson asked Steve Axtell if he had anything to say. Tolbert stated that Yocum requested that Steve Axtell be at here but she wasn't sure why. She asked Axtell to get with her after the meeting to help on some of the dates needed for the contract.
- i. **Highway Engineer.** No comment.
- j. **Ambulance Service Contract.** Wilson said they are requesting to extend the contract three years and add a third ambulance pending Council funding.
- k. **Redevelopment Commission Appointment.** The Commissioners had received four applications for the Redevelopment Commission appointment. Wilson asked John Moore, a member of the Redevelopment Commission, what he thought of the applicants. Moore stated that Parsons-Palmer had been a Clinton City code enforcement officer at one time and he thought she would be an asset to the Redevelopment Commission. A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Wilson to appoint Peggie Parsons-Palmer to the Redevelopment Commission. All in favor, motion carried.
- l. **Newport Chemical Depot Reuse Authority Appointments.** There had been previous questions about the NCDRA appointment being up at the same time. Tolbert said they do all expire at the same time. Tolbert stated that they could look staggering the appointment for next year when they are up at the end of the year.
- m. **County Property Lease Agreement – 1 year or 5-year lease agreement.** Keith Hollingsworth asked the Commissioners to consider a 5-year lease agreement. Hollingsworth stated that he had been leasing the county property for fifty years.

Spurr said that they have already entered into a one-year agreement this year with Hollingworth, but next year the Commissioners could advertise the county property for a five-year lease agreement.

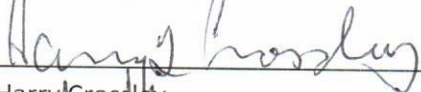
- n. **Gate on North Side of Vermillion Rise.** It was stated that the lock had been removed from the gate. Wilson said to leave this on the agenda until Yocum says to take it off.
- o. **E911 Signs.** Spurr said he had a rough draft of an ordinance requiring residences to have an E911 address sign. Barton said she wanted to comment on this, she said there is over 8,000 residences in the county not 5,000 as previously stated. Tolbert asked if they wanted to advertise the E911 Sign ordinance. Wilson said to go ahead and advertise it so it can be approved at their next meeting.
- p. **Community Crossings Grant Bid.** Wilson said this was to be an estimate and Crossley said he got an estimate for the work to be done and he gave it to Milissa Wible to send in with the grant paperwork.
- q. **ResCare.** Sheriff Mike Phelps stated that he had met with an administrator from ResCare after raising concerns about juveniles who run away from the facility in the county. He said he believes that between himself and the administrator they can work out a way to address the issues, and that he hopes to have a plan to present at the next meeting.

**IX. New Business**

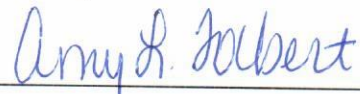
- X. **Adjourn.** A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Wilson to adjourn. All in favor, motion carried.

Read in full and approved by the Vermillion County Commissioners on the 18th day of February, 2020.

  
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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