

Vermillion County Commissioners

Meeting Agenda

October 1, 2019

8:15a.m.

Commissioner's Courtroom, 2nd Floor, Courthouse

- I. **Call to Order.** The Commissioners convened in a regular meeting on October 1, 2019 with South Vermillion High School student Eli Taylor calling the meeting to order.
- II. **Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.**
- III. **Roll Call.** Members present were President Tim Wilson, Harry Crossley, Tim Yocum, First Deputy Auditor Stephanie Simpson, County Attorney Jon Spurr.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes.** A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to approve the minutes from the September 17, 2019 meeting and the minutes from the Executive Session on September 17, 2019. All in favor, motion carried.
- V. **Approval of Claims.** A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to approve the claims for October 4, 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 October 4, 2019. All in favor, motion carried.
- VII. **Treasurer's Report.** Wilson acknowledged receipt of the Treasurer's Report.
- VIII. **Open Issues.**
 - a. **Vermillion Rise.** Executive Director Bob Grewe was not present at the meeting. Tom Milligan stated that Vermillion Rise had closed on a sale of farming property and planned to close on a second one this week. Milligan said additional land that had been put on the market has been withdrawn, and he stated there are no plans to sell more farm ground at this time. Milligan explained that when the Newport Chemical Depot Ruse Authority took possession of the property that is now Vermillion Rise, there were infrastructure issues that were required to be addressed, by order of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. It was necessary to borrow money in order to pay for those projects, and the original intent was to repay the loans using Tax Increment Financing money from development at the Rise. Milligan said since that development has not yet materialized, the alternative plan was to sell farm land. Milligan said this was part of the original reuse plan when the property was first acquired. Milligan also said that proposals have been received for the installation of a phosphorous removal system in the Rise's sewer system, and that they are being reviewed so that project can move forward. Yocum asked why it was decided to change to requesting proposals for the project. Milligan said that was what the board voted to do, and that the project's cost was not high enough to require bids. Yocum said your engineer advised you to do something, and you did something different from what the engineer advised. Milligan said he didn't vote to do that way. He said the majority of the board did, and he was not clear on their reasoning. Milligan said you would have to ask the members who chose to vote that way. Milligan said he didn't understand why they did it either, to be quite honest.
 - b. **VTA (Vermillion Trails Alliance).** Milligan said that part of the gravel for the parking area at Trailhead Park has been placed, and the area where the shelter will be has been leveled. Milligan said that they hope to start graveling the trail by the end of fall.

Milligan wanted to clarify that there is no hunting allowed on the county farm property where the park is located. Wilson said we don't allow it but that's not to say they won't be out there.

Milligan said representatives of the Indiana Department of Transportation have helped the VTA find a way to extend trails across the CSX Railroad line near Hillsdale, which had been an obstacle to moving forward with trails in that area. He said it would likely take a lot of money, due to the safety equipment that will be needed.

- c. **Jail Renovation/Expansion.** Yocum asked the Auditor's office to make sure that the jail renovation project is placed in the Council agenda, and remains there until the project is finished. He said that he had requested this before and it was removed from the agenda by the Council president. Yocum stated he wanted to know the status for the next meeting and if it will be removed again. He said this is a major issue and it's not going away. He suggested a letter be sent to the Council asking that it be placed on their agenda and remain there. Simpson said she can put it on the agenda again but she stated she could be told to take it off. Yocum asked Simpson who told her to take it off, she stated that Tolbert told her to take it off per a telephone call from the Council president. Spurr said his understanding was that what is discussed is not up to the president but is decided by the majority of the Council. Wilson suggested that the Commissioners give the Council time to address the issue. He said he thinks this was just the actions of one person, he said let's give them a chance to correct themselves.
- d. **Handbook.** Spurr said the next step is to reconvene the handbook committee.
- e. **County Website.** Phelps stated they are waiting on council funding.
- f. **Courthouse Phone System.** Phelps said they are starting to move forward.
- g. **FEMA/MVH Grant.** No comments.
- h. **Fire Alarm System.** Maintenance Supervisor Terry Carrera stated he is waiting on estimates for the fire alarm system.
- i. **Convention & Tourism Commission Ordinance.** Spurr stated he is still working on the ordinance.
- j. **Contract with Historical Society.** This goes along with the ordinance that has not yet been completed.
- k. **Highway Engineer.** The commissioners discussed the possibility of employing a county engineer, and Yocum said he had been told that the engineer position can be combined with the county surveyor position. Engineer Britton Luther explained that if the two positions are held by the same person, the county can save money by only paying that person the higher of the two salaries. He said however, the surveyor is an elected position while the engineer is appointed. Yocum also stated that the money the state will provide toward a salary can only be used for an engineer employed by the county, and not for consulting fees.

IX. New Business


- a. **Public Hearing for Vermillion County Comprehensive Planning Study Planning Grant Project.** Kristy Jerrell presented a comprehensive planning study planning grant project to the commissioners. Economic Development Director Dylan Rikken explained that there are grants from which the county is automatically disqualified, because they require a comprehensive plan that has been updated within the last seven years. Rikken said the grant application will be submitted in November, and if the grant is received, it will be awarded by the end of the month. Completion of the plan will take about six months. HWC Engineering

was the only firm to submit a proposal for updating the plan, and Eric Smith will be in charge of the project.

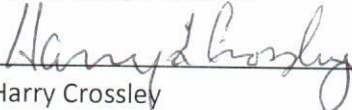
- b. Present Resolution to Commissioners to Authorize Submission of the Grant Application and Commitment of Local Math Along with Auditor Letter.** A motion was made by Wilson and seconded by Crossley to authorize submission of the grant application and commitment of local math along with auditor letter. All in favor, motion carried.
- c. Approval of Polling Locations for the Municipal General Election on November 5, 2019.** Clerk Amy Griffin presented the commissioners with the polling locations for the municipal general election on November 5, 2019. A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to approve the November 5, 2019 polling locations. All in favor, motion carried.
- d. Redevelopment Commission – OCRA Grant.** Redevelopment Commission member John Moore asked the Commissioners to sponsor a grant that would allow the Commission to have an engineer examine a property that needs demolished in Cayuga. Moore explained that there is a concern about how to tear down the building without damaging the adjoining buildings. The grant will require a 10 percent match, which Moore said could be provided by having county employees haul away the debris from the building. A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Wilson to sponsor the grant. All in favor, motion carried.
- e. Complaint; Health Department Sanitation vs. Zoning.** A complaint was filed by a county employee against a Health Department employee, alleging that the Health employee created a hostile work environment. The claim was investigated by County Attorney Jon Spurr, and an executive session was held for the employee. Spurr provided a report on the investigation to the commissioners. Spurr explained that the employee accused of misconduct, by being a Health Department employee, is not under the direct authority of the commissioners, so they do not have the authority to discipline the individual, but can only make a recommendation to the Health Board, and it will be up to that board to make the final decision. The commissioners voted that the employee in question had created a hostile work environment; had used profane or abusive language; had made malicious statement or abusive remarks; had used abusive or threatening language to another employee; had given false testimony during the investigation of the complaint; and had given discourteous treatment to members of the public. A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Wilson to recommend termination of the Health employee to the Health Board. Yocum voted in favor of counseling. Motion carried.
- f. Insurance – MJS Insurance/RT Insurance.** George Smith of MJS Insurance in Rosedale, Indiana introduced himself to the commissioners and gave them information about the services they provide. He said he had heard that the county was not getting the service they needed from their current agent, and stated that he handles insurance for towns, townships and counties including Clinton, Parke County, Rosedale, Dana, Rockville, Helt Township, Montgomery County and Crawfordsville. He said if the Commissioners voted to approve a change in agent, his agency could start serving the county immediately, and be able to provide local service, rather than dealing with service centers in other states. A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Wilson to approve the change in agents for the county insurance. All in favor, motion carried.

- g. **Commissioner and Council meeting held at North and South Vermillion.** Yocum stated that he has been talking to the school corporations about the idea of holding one Commissioners meeting and one Council meeting a year at local schools, to allow students to participate.
 - h. **Boots for Highway Employees.** Yocum said he would like to see about appropriating money for safety boots for highway employees. It was discussed that there is a line item for safety equipment, which could be used. The commissioners stated they will look into a way to provide funds for boots to the highway employees.
- X. **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 15th day of October, 2019.




Tim Wilson, President



Harry Crossley

Tim Yocum

Attest: 

Amy Tolbert, Auditor