

Vermillion County Commissioners

Meeting Minutes

November 13, 2019

8:15a.m.

Commissioner's Courtroom, 2nd Floor, Courthouse

- I. **Call to Order.** The Commissioners convened in a regular meeting on November 13, 2019 at 8:15 a.m. in the Commissioner's Courtroom.
- II. **Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.**
- III. **Roll Call.** Members present were President Tim Wilson, Harry Crossley, Tim Yocum, Auditor Amy Tolbert, and First Deputy Auditor Stephanie Simpson. County Attorney Jon Spurr was absent.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes.** A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to approve the minutes from the October 29, 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 November 15, 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 November 15, 2019. All in favor, motion carried.
- VII. **Treasurer's Report.** Wilson acknowledged receipt of the Treasurer's report.
- VIII. **Open Issues**
 - a. **Vermillion Rise.** Lou Britton attorney for the Reuse Authority explained that the Reuse Authority is working on refinancing its loan with Farm Credit for the water line project that was required by IDEM, which was previously completed at the site. Britton said the new loan will be paid off in 10 years, and while state statute requires the Commissioners to approve it, it was noted that there is no financial obligation the county, as the responsibility for paying the loan falls to the Reuse Authority. A motion was made by Wilson and seconded by Yocum to sign the proposed Resolution for the Reuse Authority. All in favor, motion carried.
 - b. **VTA (Vermillion Trails Alliance).** Tom Milligan from Vermillion Trails Alliance gave an update on the trailhead progress. Milligan said things are moving forward on the Trailhead Park and that options are being explored regarding trails in the Hillsdale area. Milligan said they were not eligible for the Next Level Trails grant. He said there are a number of options to be considered there, and they are working with HWC Engineering to determine the best way to proceed, and hopefully become eligible for Next Level Trails funding from the state.
 - c. **County Property Insurance.** The Commissioner's received submitted offer letters from MJS Insurance Inc. and USI Insurance Services for the county's property and casualty insurance. A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Wilson to take the offers under advisement. All in favor, motion carried.
 - d. **Jail Renovation/Expansion.** No comments were made on the jail renovation / expansion. Wilson stated that there are repairs to the jail that need to be made as soon as possible, regardless if they decide to renovate or expand the jail.
 - e. **Handbook.** The handbook committee will reschedule the meeting that was to be held November 12, 2019, but was cancelled due to the weather.
 - f. **County Website.** Sheriff Mike Phelps said Intelli-Leap is working on creating the County's new website.
 - g. **Courthouse Phone System.** Yocum said that AT&T had said they would replace the line and fix the phone issue in 90 days. Phelps said that any company that would bid on upgrading the system would want to visit the courthouse to

perform an assessment, and that to upgrade to a digital system, the fiber optic lines would likely need improved. Paul Fouts of EAS Technology Consulting said a digital phone system utilizes the internet, but there has to be bandwidth available, so there would need to be dedicated bandwidth for the phone system. Yocum said the county is currently, according to AT&T, paying \$1,000.00 per month, and their proposal would cut the cost to \$825.00 per month. Phelps said he is not sure where those figures came from, as the current cost is about \$400.00 per month. Phelps said having AT&T replace the line would fix the issue with calls being lost, but that the system would still need to be upgraded after doing so. Yocum said he is just reacting to what he is hearing from office holders. He said we have an obligation to have phone service in the courthouse. Phelps said he is just trying to explain that it's not a black and white issue. Phelps said it's 256 shades of gray and a little color on the side, it's a lot more than just throwing a line in, we still have to replace the system. After further discussion on the phone system, it was agreed to have EAS write up a request for proposals for upgrading the phone system, so that it can be put out for bids. A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to have EAS Technology Consultants write up a request for proposals for upgrading the phone system. All in favor, motion carried.

- h. IT issues.** Tolbert stated that the funding for the upgrade to the county's computer systems had been approved by the state, and Fouts said that since outlying offices not located in the courthouse are also being included, it would result in some changes to the cost. He said he would update the cost as soon as he could so that the project can move forward.
- i. FEMA/MVH Grant.** Mark O'Heir reported that the county has received \$58,000.00 in payment for road work that was completed and is eligible for FEMA reimbursement due to flooding, and that all the rest of the work has been turned in, and is awaiting payment.
- j. Fire Alarm System.** The Commissioners received proposals for upgrading the courthouse fire alarm system in the amount of \$15,228.00 from Koorsen Fire & Security and \$24,834.00 from Innovative Communication Solutions. A motion was made by Wilson and seconded by Crossley approve the proposal from Koorsen Fire & Security for \$15,228.00. All in favor, motion carried.
- k. Convention & Tourism Commission Ordinance.** Tolbert stated that Spurr had the ordinance prepared. Wilson read the ordinance. A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to approve the Convention & Tourism Commission Ordinance. All in favor, motion carried.
- l. Contract with Historical Society.** Tolbert stated that Spurr does not have the contract prepared.
- m. Highway Engineer.** Eric Smith of HWC Engineering provided a proposal to the Commissioners for HWC to serve as a county engineer on retainer. He said the company does this for a number of cities and counties that don't need a full-time engineer. The agreement is usually paid on an hourly basis, with a "not to exceed" amount specified. Smith said since he lives in the area, he would most likely be HWC's representative in dealing with the county. Yocum asked if the funding offered by the state for an engineer would apply to the agreement, and Smith said it would not, as that only applies to a full-time engineer. The commissioners agreed to review the proposal and make a decision at their next meeting. A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Wilson to take the proposal from HWC Engineering under advisement. All in favor, motion carried.

- n. **Littering Ordinance.** Tolbert stated that Spurr is working on the littering ordinance.
- o. **Ambulance Service Contract.** Eric Shaughnessy of Illiana EMS provided the Commissioners with a proposal to amend his contract to include a third ambulance stationed at a central location, possibly at Vermillion Rise. Shaughnessy said this would be to reduce response times to the Dana, Newport, and Hillsdale areas. Shaughnessy said that those areas, along with Perrysville, which is impacted by the need for the ambulance stationed in Cayuga to respond to calls in the central part of the county, make up about 25 percent of the population. He said current response times are about 15 minutes to Dana, 9:56 to Newport, 11:09 to Hillsdale and 11:40 to Perrysville. He said the addition of the third location would decrease times to between 9 and 10 minutes to Dana, about 5 minutes to Newport, and about 9 minutes to Hillsdale. It would allow the Cayuga based ambulance to be more available for calls in Perrysville, which would help reduce response times there.
- Yocum asked if Shaughnessy had an agreement with Vermillion Rise, and Shaughnessy said they had one in place to use the former fire house there, but it was not final, since the Commissioners had not committed to adding the third location yet. Wilson said that the ambulance service seems to be busy all the time, and frequently has overlapping calls at opposite ends of the county. Shaughnessy said the cost of adding the third location would be \$639,258.80, an increase of about \$228,000.00. He said it would add six full-time positions to the Illiana EMS staff. Councilman R.J. Dunavan asked if that was a new contract or an amendment to the current one, and if it would add years to the current contract. Shaughnessy said it was an amendment, and he would like to see it add 5 years to the contract. It was stated that the Council would have to approve the funding.

A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Wilson to request funding for the additional ambulance. All in favor, motion carried.

- p. **Clark Dietz Financial Commitment Letter.** There was discussion on the Clark Dietz Financial Commitment letter. It was stated that Bridge 122, located on Old State Road 63 near Hillsdale, is being submitted for a \$1 million renovation project, which would require a 20 percent match from the county. Wilson said that the bridge deck is cracking and it has other repairs needed as well. It was submitted 2 years ago but was not approved.
- A motion was made by Wilson and seconded by Crossley to sign the Clark Dietz Financial Commitment letter. All in favor, motion carried.

IX. **New Business**

- a. **Redevelopment Commission – Contract Approval.** Redevelopment Commission member John Moore asked the Commissioners to give their approval for the Redevelopment Commission to apply for a grant to tear down and clean up a property in Cayuga. Yocum noted that it included \$10,000.00 for grant administration, and asked if that was for writing the grant, and Terry Jones of West Central Indiana Economic Development District explained that those costs were for administering the grant throughout the project, and that there is no cost for writing the grant. Yocum asked if Cayuga was funding any of the cost, and Moore replied that Cayuga has no money, like every other little town in the county. A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to give approval for the Redevelopment Commission to apply for the grant. All in favor, motion carried.

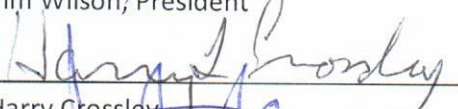
- b. **Inventory Resolution.** A motion was made by Wilson and seconded by Crossley to table the Inventory Resolution. All in favor, motion carried.
- c. **Courthouse Closing.** Wilson apologized for the need to close the courthouse Tuesday, which was the final day for property tax payments.
- d. **Gov Day.** Yocum said he is working on scheduling a Gov Day, probably in the spring of 2020, at North Vermillion, and hopefully one at South Vermillion as well. He said officeholders would attend, and both the Commissioners and Council would hold meetings at each school so students could learn more about how county government works.
Wilson asked if it would be possible to have students at the Commissioners meetings more often. Wilson said Tolbert could take the students around to the offices if Yocum is not present. Yocum agreed that the number of students could be increased.
- e. **Humane Society.** Councilman Neil Costello asked if Yocum had spoken with Parke County Commissioner Jim Meece about the Humane Society funding. Yocum said he had not, but that he would speak with Meece and with Humane Society President Mark Southwick and have information by the next meeting.
- f. **Judge and Probation Credit Card.** Probation Officer Ron Stateler asked the Commissioners permission for the court and probation departments to obtain credit cards from First Financial Bank that can be used for conferences, training, and to obtain criminal histories. He said most of the time, credit cards are required for such things anymore. A motion was made by Wilson and seconded by Crossley to approve the request for the Judge and Probation to obtain a credit card. All in favor, motion carried.

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

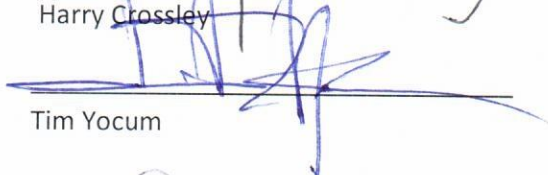
Read in full and approved by the Vermillion County Commissioners on the 26th day of November, 2019.



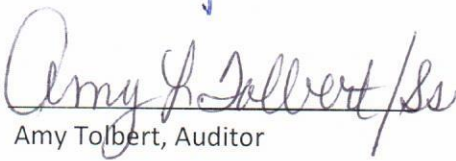
 Tim Wilson, President



 Harry Crossley



 Tim Yocum

Attest: 

 Amy Tolbert, Auditor