

## Vermillion County Commissioners

### Meeting Minutes

November 26, 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 Tuesday, November 26, 2019, in the Commissioners Courtroom. Ethan Watson, a senior from North Vermillion High School called 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, and County Attorney Jon Spurr. Auditor Amy Tolbert was absent.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes.** A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to approve the minutes from the November 13, 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 29, 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 29, 2019. All in favor, motion carried.
- VII. **Treasurer's Report.**
- VIII. **Open Issues**
  - a. **Vermillion Rise – Resolution.** Executive Director Bob Grewe reported that they have had some inquiries from companies interested in pursuing solar energy projects at Vermillion Rise. He also said there have been several inquiries into the shell building.

Scott Craig presented a resolution authorizing the refinancing of a loan by Vermillion Rise. Lou Britton had prepared the resolution for the Newport Chemical Depot Reuse Authority but was unable to attend the meeting and had Craig fill in for him. The original \$3 million loan had funded the installation of a 36-inch water line at Vermillion Rise, and has been paid down to \$1.4 million with the sale of agricultural land, in order to refinance it. It was stated that the new loan will be paid off in 10 years, the previous loan was paying interest only. Tom Milligan said that 500 acres of tillable land is collateral for the loan. Craig said the state statute requires the Commissioners to approve it, but said there is no financial obligation to the county, it is the Reuse Authority that is obligated to repay the loan.

Yocum said he had been asked if there were any other plans to sell land at Vermillion Rise, and Grewe said that what was sold was for the purpose of paying down the debt, and there were no plans in the immediate future, unless someone wants to put a factory there and employ a bunch of people, then we're all about it.

A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to approve the Resolution for refinancing by the Newport Chemical Depot Reuse Authority. All in favor, motion carried.
  - b. **VTA (Vermillion Trails Alliance).** Les Zimmerman said that work at the Trailhead Park was on hold due to hunting season. Milligan also stated that the VTA is still exploring the best options for how to proceed with the Hillsdale-Montezuma trail project.
  - c. **Insurance – Property and Casualty.** The Commissioners had previously taken MJS and USI offers under advisement. With no discussion this morning, a

motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to retain MJS as the agent for property and casualty insurance. All in favor, motion carried.

- d. **Jail Renovation/Expansion.** Sheriff Mike Phelps stated that the public hearing on the jail project had been held. Yocum asked if the Commissioners needed to vote to move forward with the original proposal, and Wilson said they had already voted to move forward. Phelps said he believes the project now goes back to the Council to be funded.
- e. **Handbook.** A motion was made by Wilson and seconded by Crossley to table the handbook until the next meeting. All in favor, motion carried.
- f. **County Website.** Phelps said Intelli-Leap is working on the new county website and will be getting in contact with office holders.
- g. **Courthouse Phone System.** It was stated that EAS Technology is gathering information on the courthouse phone system and that county attorney Jon Spurr is drafting a letter that will authorize the company to act on behalf of the county, so that they can obtain detailed information on the services provided to write a RFP (Request for Proposal). Yocum asked if the current service would be compatible with the fiber line that AT&T has proposed installing. Paul Fouts from EAS Technology said he is not entirely sure yet.  
Yocum said that AT&T is the current service provider, and is paid \$1,070 per month, and the county pays an additional \$58 per month for long distance service. He said AT&T is proposing to replace the existing copper lines with fiber optic lines, and would include 6,600 minutes per month of long distance, at a cost of \$827.07 per month.  
Jeff Jordan from AT&T said that replacing the line would eliminate outages in the phone system due to the old copper wires. Prosecutor Bruce Aukerman asked what is happening when it rains, that causes the phones to go out, and Jordan said that the copper wire has been in the ground a long time. He said it gets grounded out and you get static and outages. Jordan said the fix is to replace it with fiber. Aukerman asked why AT&T had not addressed the issue sooner, and Jordan said the company had been providing the service that was required, and was proposing the change to fiber in order to fix the issue. He said they were waiting for an agreement from the county to switch to fiber.  
Dreher asked if the Commissioners had looked at other options, and Yocum said that AT&T is the current provider, and they were seeing what they could offer first, and if they did not want it, they could go elsewhere. There was no action taken on the phone system.
- h. **IT issues.** Fouts said that EAS is getting information from the outside offices that will need to be included on the IT upgrade and he will have that information to the Commissioners soon. Fouts said they will be starting soon with the IT upgrade.
- i. **FEMA/MVH Grant.** Mark O'Heir stated that they just waiting for the rest of the reimbursement from FEMA.
- j. **Contract with Historical Society.** Spurr said he is waiting for information to proceed with the contract. A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to table until the next meeting. All in favor, motion carried.
- k. **Highway Engineer.** Yocum told the Commissioners that Parke County is still interested in sharing a county engineer. Wilson stated he is not interested in sharing anything with Parke County, Crossley agreed. Wilson said there have been problems the Parke Vermillion Humane Shelter which is shared between the two counties. Wilson stated that they had talked with Eric Smith of HWC Engineering at their last meeting, and might pursue hiring that company.

**l. Littering Ordinance.** Spurr said the State of Indiana already has a state statute on littering. He said the county would fall under that and the Commissioners did not need to create a littering ordinance.

**m. Ambulance Service Contract.** There was considerable discussion on the ambulance service contract. The Commissioners discussed a proposal from Eric Shaughnessy of Illiana EMS that they received at their last meeting. The cost of adding the third location would be \$639,258.80, an increase of \$228,000.00. This would add six full-time positions to the Illiana EMS staff. Spurr told the Commissioners that they can modify the contract, but it still has to be funded by the Council. Brent Bush, Helt Township firefighter and county councilman, told the Commissioners he did not feel Vermillion Rise was the best location for a third ambulance as proposed by Illiana EMS. He said he felt like it would be better off adding an additional ambulance in Cayuga, which would also help response times in Perrysville. Wilson said he had spoken with personnel from Union Hospital Clinton who had expressed the same concerns. Yocum asked if a good road through Vermillion Rise would solve the problem, Bush said it might but there is still the issue of the gates at the entrances of Vermillion Rise.

Councilman Randy Dreher asked response times from Third and Mulberry streets in Clinton to Blanford. He also linked the response times to the funding that the Council provides to fire departments. Dreher said he thought this was the purpose of what we did with the fire departments. He said are we going to do away with the \$50,000.00 that we gave them? He also said would we be here today if Illiana EMS hadn't lost their contract in Paris. He said we can't just create a facility and put people in it because they lost Edgar County. Wilson said the Commissioners had been discussing this idea before Illiana EMS lost the Edgar County Contract.

Mark O'Heir said that the paid firefighters for Helt and Newport are not just EMS people, they're firefighters. Dreher said he felt more needed to be done about response times for the county, and not just one area. Dreher suggested that with all the costs we're faced with right now that any changes should be delayed until the contract comes up for renewal. Maybe we should wait a year and get more information. Wilson said you can ask Shaughnessy at your next meeting because he is going to be there. Dreher said we need to work together, he said he wonders why the Commissioners are pushing it off on them. Wilson said the Council has to fund it.

There was more discussion on where a third ambulance should be located if funded. The Commissioners agreed to ask Shaughnessy for more information on run times, and to look into adding a third ambulance in the north end of the county. It was agreed that if a third ambulance is added that it should not be located at Vermillion Rise.

**n. Inventory Resolution.** A motion was made by Wilson and seconded by Crossley to approve the Inventory Resolution. All in favor, motion carried.

**o. Credit Card Ordinance – Judge and Probation.** A motion was made by Wilson and seconded by Crossley to approve the Credit Card Ordinances for the Judge's office and the Probation office. All in favor, motion carried.

## **IX. New Business**

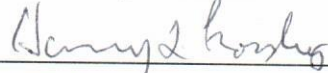
**a. Letter of Intent for EPA Grant – Jim Coffenberry.** It was stated that there is no county match for this grant. A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to sign the Letter of Intent for EPA Grant. All in favor, motion carried.

- b. Buggys Pest Control.** Martin Russell of Buggy's Pest Control presented a proposal to the Commissioners to provide service to the courthouse and jail. Russell stated that he is local and he would provide a better service at a lower cost to the county. The Commissioners asked Spurr to see when the current contract expired, and it was noted that it may be one that automatically renews unless it is cancelled. A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to table until the next meeting. All in favor, motion carried.
- c. Road Cut Permit – AEP – Indiana Michigan Power Company.** A motion was made by Wilson and seconded by Yocum to approve the road cut permits for AEP – Indiana Michigan Power Company. All in favor, motion carried.
- d. 2020 Meeting Dates.** Yocum asked the Commissioners to consider having one meeting a month at night. Wilson said on the months there are three meetings he would have one of them at night and see how those go. A motion was made by Wilson and seconded by Crossley to table until the next meeting. All in favor, motion carried.
- e. 2020 Health Board Appointments.** A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to approve the appointment of Dr. John E. Albrecht, M.D. to serve as Vermillion County Health Office. All in favor, motion carried.  
A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to appoint Dr. Kenneth J. Crane, M.D. to serve as a member of the Vermillion County Board of Health. All in favor, motion carried.  
A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to appoint Terri Hill to serve as a member of the Vermillion County Health Board. All in favor, motion carried.
- f. Certificate Sale.** A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to hold a certificate sale from the properties that did not sell at the 2019 tax sale. All in favor, motion carried.
- g. Newport Vermillion County Public Library Appointment.** A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to appoint Robert Henry to the Newport Vermillion County Public Library Board. All in favor, motion carried.
- h. Newport Vermillion County Public Library – Insurance for Librarian.** It was stated that the cost of the premiums will be covered by the Newport Vermillion County Public Library. A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to approve adding the Newport Vermillion County Librarian to the county insurance with the Library paying the premiums. All in favor, motion carried.
- i. Stop the Bleed.** O'Heir reported that the sheriff's department had held a Stop the Bleed class at the courthouse with about 14 employees participating. O'Heir said stop the bleed kits will be placed on each floor of the courthouse.
- j. Health Department.** Spurr reported to the Commissioners that the Health Board had declined to terminate an employee whose firing had been recommended by the Commissioners after a complaint about that employee's conduct by another county employee. Spurr recommended that the Commissioners work with the Health Board to try to rearrange employees' so that those two do not have to work together, and it was noted that the Health Board is already developing a plan to do so, and will provide a copy to the Commissioners.
- k. CPR/First Aid Class for Employees.** Newport Firefighter Joey Tolbert said there had been interest in a CPR/First Aid Class for employees, and asked permission to use the auditorium to hold the class on a Saturday in January. The date yet to be determined. A motion was made by Wilson and seconded by Crossley to approve the use of the auditorium for a CPR/First Aid Class for Employees. All in favor, motion carried.

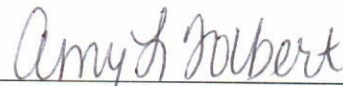
X. **Adjourn.** A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to adjourn. All in favor, motion carried.

Read in full and approved by the Vermillion County Commissioners on the 10th day of December, 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