

Vermillion County Commissioners

Meeting Minutes

December 23, 2019

8:15a.m.

Commissioner's Courtroom, 2nd Floor, Courthouse

- I. **Call to Order.** The Commissioner's convened in a regular meeting on December 23, 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, 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 December 10, 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 December 27, 2019. All in favor, motion carried.
- VI. **Approval of Payroll.** A motion was made by Crossley and by Yocum to approve the payroll for December 27, 2019. All in favor, motion carried.
- VII. **Treasurer's Report.** Wilson acknowledged receipt of the Treasurer's Report.
- VIII. **Open Issues**
 - a. **MJS Insurance – Property and Casualty.** George Smith from MJS Insurance informed the commissioners that they would save \$10,473.00 by moving the county's workman's comp insurance from Travelers to IPEP (Indiana's Public Employers' Plan, Inc.). Smith stated that three other companies had declined to provide quotes. One declined due to the lack of time before the renewal, another due to the number of vehicle claims on the county's history and the third due to the fact that they did not consider the premium large enough to quote.

A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to award the county's workman's comp insurance to IPEP. All in favor, motion carried.

Smith provided quotes for property and casualty insurance from Travelers and Trident. Travelers' quote was for \$132,850.00, plus \$6,000.00 for cyber liability, and Trident's quote was \$115,144.00, plus \$4,630 for cyber liability. After some discussion on the insurance quotes, the commissioners stated that after changing both the property and casualty and the workman's comp insurance, the county would be saving approximately \$30,000.00A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to award the county's property and casualty insurance to Trident. All in favor, motion carried.
 - b. **Vermillion Rise.** Tom Milligan stated that Executive Director Bob Grewe was off for Christmas break. Milligan spoke on behalf of Vermillion Rise. He stated that the Rise is in better financial shape than it started the year, due to selling some farm land and refinancing debt.

Milligan also stated that there have been inquiries about hemp fiber processing at Vermillion Rise, and the shell building has been shown multiple times, so there is a lot of interest.

Milligan stated that there is currently an option in place on an 80 acre site at the Rise for a combined cycle gas-powered power plant, and there have been discussions about solar energy projects on areas of the property that would be difficult to develop for other purposes.Milligan also reported that a company called Pipestone has expressed interest in locating a 7,000-sow confined feeding operation at Vermillion Rise, next to the

property that has been optioned for the power plant. He said some Reuse Authority members have visited other farms operated by the company in order to address concerns about odors, and that there is some odor within a half-mile of those farms, but at a mile or more away, there is none. He said the proposed operation would create approximately 20 jobs, starting at \$14 per hour with benefits, and would generate a \$10 million investment in Vermillion Rise. Milligan said that because of the current zoning of Vermillion Rise does not include such operations, the property would have to be rezoned before the project could move forward. He said this would require approval by both the Area Plan Commission and the Commissioners, at public meetings. Milligan said the company that has optioned the property for the power plant has indicated there would be no issue with the hog operation being located next to it. Yocum said the county needs \$20-\$25 per hour jobs, and that jobs at \$10-\$15 won't help. Yocum asked if such an operation would encourage or discourage other development at the Rise, and Milligan said that, at this point, it is believed the effect would be neutral in that it would not encourage other development, but is not expected to discourage it, either. He also noted that while the lowest paid workers would be at the \$14 per hour rate, the average would be more in the range that Yocum mentioned.

After further discussion, including questions from residents, the Commissioners opted to move on and asked residents who had questions or concerns to submit them in writing to the auditor's office. It was also stated that the Area Plan Commission and the Commissioners meetings where the subject will be discussed would be publicized in advance for those who wish to attend.

- c. **VTA (Vermillion Trails Alliance).** No updates.
- d. **Jail Renovation/Expansion.** No updates.
- e. **Handbook.** Spurr said they need to rewrite the problem areas.
- f. **County Website.** It was stated that the new county website is underway and this could be removed from the agenda.
- g. **Courthouse Phone System.** It was stated that EAS Technology is working on the RFP. Yocum stated that they need to make a decision on AT&T replacing the current copper line with fiber optic. Yocum said he could have a representative from AT&T come to the next meeting.
- h. **IT issues.** No comments.
- i. **FEMA/MVH Grant.** Mark O'Heir stated that they are just awaiting payment.
- j. **Contract with Historical Society.** Spurr said that some blanks need filled in with dates and then it will be ready for the commissioners to sign.
- k. **Highway Engineer.** No comments.
- l. **Ambulance Service Contract.** Wilson said that an additional appropriation has been sent to the council for their January meeting.
- m. **Pest Control Letter.** Spurr sent a letter to Orkin to notify them of their termination.
- n. **Sheriff's Department – Clinton Union Hospital Security.** It was stated that Clinton Union Hospital is working on the contract and will have it ready after the first of the year.

IX. **New Business**

a. **2020 Appointments.**

Alcohol Beverage Board. There was some discussion on when this position expires. Tolbert said they are waiting to hear from the state about this appointment. A motion was made by Wilson and seconded by Crossley to table the Alcohol Beverage Board appointment until the next meeting.

Community Action Board. A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to appoint Barb Switzer to the Community Action Board. All in favor, motion carried.

E911 Board. A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to appoint Peggie Parsons, Cole West, and Sonny Carey to the E911 Board. All in favor, motion carried.

Economic Development Council. A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to replace Mark Swingle with Ronald L. Dunavan and to reappoint Mike Carty on the Economic Development Council. All in favor, motion carried.

Innkeepers Tax Board. A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to reappoint Larry Bemis and Steve Palonci to the Innkeepers Tax Board. All in favor, motion carried.

PTABOA. A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to appoint A. Lee Taylor and Brad Ringwald to the PTABOA. All in favor, motion carried.

Redevelopment Commission. A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to reappoint John D. Moore, Oren A. Sutherlin and John Bean to the Redevelopment Commission. All in favor, motion carried.

The other appointment to the Redevelopment Commission which is held by Kelli Hill was table until they find out if she is still interested in serving on the Redevelopment Commission.

Newport Chemical Depot Reuse Authority. The five current members Jack Fenoglio, Tom Milligan, Albert Clark, Arden Kilgore and John Michael Major, had all reapplied, and Commissioner Tim Yocum had also submitted an application. Wilson initially suggested that Yocum be appointed in place of Fenoglio, but it was stated that Fenoglio is one of the most active members of the Reuse Authority. Yocum stated he did not want to cause a problem by seeking the appointment. Carol Uplinger stated that he had also submitted an application to serve on the Reuse Authority. After considerable discussion the Newport Chemical Depot Reuse Authority appointments the commissioners decided to table the appointments until the next meeting.

b. Wabash River Heritage Corridor Appointment. A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to reappoint Larry Southard to the Wabash River Heritage Corridor and to reappoint Les Zimmerman as the alternate to the Wabash River Heritage Corridor. All in favor, motion carried.

c. Extension Educators – Becky Holbert. County Extension Director Becky Holbert presented a Memorandum of Understanding: Purdue Extension Contractual Services Agreement in Vermillion County to the Commissioners for their approval. A motion was made by Wilson and seconded by Crossley to approve the Memorandum of Understanding: Purdue Extension Contractual Services Agreement in Vermillion County. All in favor, motion carried.

d. Health Department. Wilson read a letter from the Health Department implementing a plan for the Vermillion County Sanitarian to interact with the Zoning Building Commissioner. The letter stated there is to be no interaction, unless in a business setting. The letter was read for the purpose of making this plan a public record.

e. Road Cut Permit – Greg Bussing. The road cut permit is for replacing field tile and road culvert on County Road 5100 N 1350S. A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Wilson to approve the road cut permit for Greg Bussing. All in favor, motion carried.

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

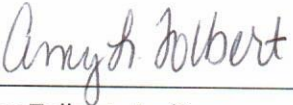
Read in full and approved by the Vermillion County Commissioners on the 7th day of January, 2020.



Tim Wilson, President

Harry Crossley

Tim Yocum

Attest: 

Amy Tolbert, Auditor