

Vermillion County Commissioners

Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2020

8:15a.m.

Commissioner's Courtroom, 2nd Floor, Courthouse

- I. **Call to Order.** The Commissioners convened in a regular meeting on March 17, 2020 at 8:15 a.m. in the Commissioners 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 March 3, 2020 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 March 20, 2020. All in favor, motion carried.
- VI. **Approval of Payroll.** A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to approve the payroll for March 20, 2020. All in favor, motion carried.
- VII. **Treasurer's Report.** Wilson acknowledged receipt of the Treasurer's Report.
- VIII. **COVID-19.** Emergency Management Director Mark O'Heir stated that he has met with the Health Department and they have reviewed and updated their pandemic plan. O'Heir stated that this is a living document and it's going to change, he said they will probably review it every couple of days, to make sure whatever is happening that we have the most accurate information. Yocum asked where would people go to get the most accurate information from our county. O'Heir said the best access to information from the county's Health Department is the Health Department's Facebook page. O'Heir said other reliable sources to access information are Johns Hopkins and the CDC. He also stated that residents could sign up for updates via the NIXLE system. He said currently there are 24 confirmed cases and one death in Indiana. O'Heir said the Auditor's office is being proactive to the situation. Paul Fouts of EAS Technology stated that employees have remote access to the county's network, which will allow them to work from home if a complete shutdown of the courthouse becomes necessary. Fouts also said the ability to check voicemail from home can be added at a cost between \$200 and \$300 dollars.

A motion was made by Yocum and seconded by Crossley to allow Gibson to program messages from the courthouse phone system to be accessed by employees working at home. All in favor, motion carried.

O'Heir stated that Judge Jill Wesch had ordered all court proceedings halted until further notice. He said this will take effect once it is approved by the Indiana Supreme Court.

Yocum asked about the jail, and if efforts were being made to look at individuals who might be able to be released. Prosecutor Bruce Aukerman said that the county always tries to make sure inmates who are sick, and could receive better care outside the jail, are able to do so.

Wendy Farley from the Health Department said that the area school superintendents have done an excellent job of looking out for the safety of area children. She noted that closing schools was not an easy decision. Farley said that there have been no confirmed cases in Vermillion County, and that the Health

Department will inform the Commissioners and O'Heir, and also let the public know if and when there are any. Peggie Parsons from the Health Department said the county needs to try to address inaccurate information. She said there are people out there saying there's a case in Clinton, there's a case in Bono and we need to control that a little better.

Treasurer Florinda Pruitt asked about property tax payments, and said that some residents are only comfortable paying in person. There was some discussion on including an insert in tax statements encouraging online payments. Pruitt said that banks will take payments but she is reluctant to push everyone off on the banks. There was some discussion on the upcoming primary election and Clerk Amy Griffin stated that there has not been any notice from the state of any intention to postpone voting. She said residents can vote my mail. Yocum asked if early voting at the courthouse could be moved to the Lions Club, and Griffin said the risk would be the same there as in the courthouse.

There was discussion on closing the courthouse to the public, and doing business over the phone and by email. The Commissioners decided to close the courthouse to the public, except by appointment, for business that can not wait, for the next two weeks. It was also stated that security would need a list of people that have made appointments. It was also stated that phone numbers will be posted on the doors and published in the newspaper for all offices. A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Wilson to close the courthouse to the public. All in favor, motion carried.

Wilson stated that their March 31st meeting will be moved from 6:30p.m. to 8:15a.m., and the only business conducted will be approval of minutes, claims, and payroll. He said these steps will remain in place until the beginning of April, and be revisited at that time.

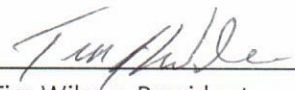
- a. **COVID-19 Ordinance.** A motion was made by Yocum and seconded by Crossley to approve the Ordinance regarding the COVID-19 Pandemic. All in favor, motion carried.

IX. **Open Issues**

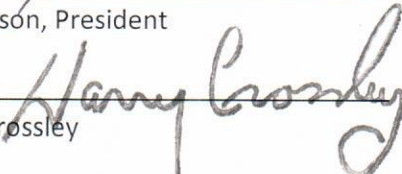
- a. **Vermillion Rise.** Executive Director Bob Grewe of Vermillion Rise reported that the Army budget for Base Realignment and Closure projects had been dramatically reduced, which had ended the chance of receiving funding for the required reservoir bypass on the Rise's water system. Eric Smith of HWC Engineering said he had had talked to IDEM, as the reservoir bypass was required by an IDEM agreed order, he said they indicated they would allow more time for the project to be completed.
There was some discussion regarding the possibility of extending potable water to the jail, possibly in conjunction with the upcoming jail renovation.
- b. **VTA (Vermillion Trails Alliance).** No one present.
- c. **Jail Renovation.** No discussion.
- d. **Handbook.** No discussion.
- e. **Courthouse Phone System.** Fouts said he met with Spurr on Friday on what needed to be done for the rough draft for the request for proposals for the phone system, then Spurr could work on the final proposal.
- f. **IT Refresh – Purchase Policy / Ordinance.** A motion was made by Yocum and seconded by Crossley to approve the Purchase Policy / Ordinance. All in favor, motion carried.
- g. **FEMA/MVH Grant.** No discussion.

- h. **Contract with Historical Society.** A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to approve the contract with the Historical Society. All in favor, motion carried.
 - i. **County Property Lease Agreement.** The agreement was voted on and approved at a previous meeting, with Spurr to prepare the agreement. The commissioners signed the agreement prepared by Spurr for the lease of county property to Keith Hollingsworth.
 - j. **ResCare.** No one present.
- X. New Business**
- a. **Polling Locations for 2020 Primary Election.** A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to approve the polling locations for the 2020 primary election. All in favor, motion carried.
 - b. **Community Action Program, Inc. – Board Appointment.** A motion was made by Wilson and seconded by Crossley to reappoint Barbara Switzer to the Community Action Board. All in favor, motion carried.
 - c. **CASA Volunteers.** No one present.
 - d. **Road Cut Permit – Joink.** The commissioners acknowledged the road cut permit for Joink.
 - e. **Road Cut Permit – Farrington Excavating.** The commissioners acknowledged the road cut permit for Farrington Excavating.
 - f. **Trust Indiana Investments.** Treasurer Florinda Pruitt gave the commissioners an update on investments with Trust Indiana.
 - g. **Granite Telecommunications.** Granite Telecommunications asked to postpone their presentation.
- XI. 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 31st day of March, 2020.




Tim Wilson, President



Harry Crossley

Tim Yocum

Attest: 

Amy Tolbert, Auditor