

Vermillion County Council

Meeting Minutes

August 12, 2019

6:30 p.m.

Commissioner's Courtroom, 2nd Floor, Courthouse

- I. **Call to Order.** The Council convened in a regular meeting on August 12, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the Commissioner's Courtroom.
- II. **Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.**
- III. **Roll Call.** Members present were President John Michael Major, Ashley James, Neil Costello, Ronald L. Dunavan Jr., William Brent Bush, Robert Spence, Randy Dreher, First Deputy Auditor Stephanie Simpson, and Council Attorney Donald Bonomo.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes.** A motion was made by Bush and seconded by Dreher to approve the minutes from the July 8, 2019 meeting. All in favor, motion carried.
- V. **Treasurer's Report.** No comments.
- VI. **Comp Time Report.** No comments.
- VII. **Transfer of Funds.**
Reporting only. Commissioners Court requesting to transfer \$50.00 from Building & Structure Personal Property Liability to Copier Repairs & Maintenance.
Reporting only. LIT Public Safety Fund requesting to transfer \$11.97 from Group Insurance to Unemployment.
Transfer of Funds. Vermillion County Extension requesting to transfer \$1,800.00 from Postage to Office Supplies. A motion was made by Dreher and seconded by Spence to approve the transfer. All in favor, motion carried.
- VIII. **Additional Appropriations.**
The Council considered additional appropriation requests as published. President John Michael Major reviewed the appropriations from the written requests submitted by Auditor Amy Tolbert. Thus, the following ordinance was adopted: WHEREAS: it has been determined it is now necessary to appropriate more money than was appropriated in the annual budget for 2019, BE IT ORDAINED, by the County Council of Vermillion County Indiana, for the expenses of said county government, the following additional sums of money are hereby appropriated and ordered set out of the funds herein specified, subject to the law governing the same:

FUND/DEPT	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT APPROVED
DOC Inmate Medical	\$6,617.00	\$6,617.00

This is to pay over capped expenses for Inmate Medical. A motion was made by Dunavan and seconded by Bush to approve the additional appropriation for the Vermillion County Jail for DOC Inmate Medical. All in favor, motion carried.

FUND/DEPT	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT APPROVED
PHPER	\$246.38	\$246.38

This request is from the Health Department to put the money back into the line item due to the conference being cancelled. A motion was made by Bush and seconded by James to approve the additional for PHPER. All in favor, motion carried.

FUND/DEPT	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT APPROVED
PHPER	\$12,980.00	\$12,980.00

This request is from the Health Department to set up the 2019-2020 Line item (Grant), the grant has increased to \$25,000.00. Salary for the employee is already in the budget for 2019, this is the remainder of the grant. This grant period is from July1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. A motion was made by Dreher and seconded by Spence to approve the additional for PHPER. All in favor, motion carried.

FUND/DEPT	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT APPROVED
STOP GRANT	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00

This request is from the Prosecutor's. They received a grant increase on their 2019-2020 STOP Grant to increase Nina Alexander's pay. This money comes 100% from the Prosecutor's STOP Grant and uses no county money. A motion was made by James and seconded by Bush to approve the additional for STOP Grant. All in favor, motion carried.

FUND/DEPT	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT APPROVED
Certified Shares	\$800,000.00	\$800,000.00
Public Safety	\$400,000.00	\$400,000.00

This is to move cash to Cumulative Jail for the future jail expansion. The council discussed this request. Major said he would like to see a plan first. James said that the Council did the same thing last year, knowing that a renovation or building will have to happen. Dreher asked if there was any information on what was going on with the jail project. Spence said that the jail committee plans to meet later this month, and hopes to be able to present information at the next Council meeting. Dreher said the county needs to move on this, the cost keeps going up. Major replied that the costs were going up because of tariffs placed on steel by President Trump, and Spence said I think there's more to it than that. James said that it has been stated from the beginning that the cost would go up over time. A motion was made by Spence and seconded by Dunavan to approve the additional for Certified Shares and Public Safety to be put into the Cumulative Jail Fund. All in favor, motion carried.

FUND/DEPT	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT APPROVED
County General	\$19,201.00	-0-

In May 2018 the Commissioners agreed to match the recycling grant in the amount of \$21,101.00 pending council approval. On June 11, 2018 the Council approved the request. The grant was not processed by the end of the year so the money was not spent. We have to appropriate the money for 2019 because the 2018 appropriations go away at the end of the year. The amount of the matched has reduced as the grant only allowed \$19,201.00 of our request. The Council discussed this request and they wanted to find out whether the grant was approved. James said it was approved in 2018 and just needed appropriated for 2019. The council discussed tabling the request until they received further information. A motion was made by Dreher and seconded by Bush to table the request for further information. All in favor, motion carried.

IX. Open Issues.

- a. **2020 Public Safety LIT Fire Departments.** Major said this is also on the agenda for budget hearings on September 3rd, with the intention of discussing them at that time and approving them at the September 9th meeting. Other Council members stated they were under the impression that the decision would be made in September, but several members of the fire departments in the county were present, and they believed that they would be discussed at this meeting. Helt Township Trustee Kevin Wickens informed the Council that other entities, such as the townships, have to know how much LIT funding will be approved in order to complete their own budgets, and that the delay makes it difficult for them to prepare their budgets on time. Emergency Management Director Mark O’Heir asked if it would be possible to send a notice to the fire departments, to inform them when the discussion would take place as part of budget hearings, so they will know when to show up. Dunavan asked who said a decision was to have been made tonight. O’Heir said at the last meeting the council said they would make a decision at this meeting. Major said that the requests are scheduled to be discussed at budget hearings at 3:45 p.m. on September 3rd, with the final decision to be made at the regular Council meeting on September 9th. Major said the fire departments would be notified.

A motion was made by Dreher and seconded by Dunavan to table the 2020 Public Safety LIT for Fire Departments until September 3rd. All in favor, motion carried.

- b. **County Website.** No comment.
c. **County Handbook.** No comment.

X. **New Business**

- a. **Review Estimated Property Tax Levy and Circuit Breakers.** No one present to discuss this.
- b. **Highway Engineer.** They council discussed the possibility of hiring a county engineer, either directly or in a shared agreement with Parke County. The Council received a letter from Commissioner Tim Yocum which explained that the state will provide \$40,000.00 per year toward an engineer’s salary. Yocum and Parke County Commissioner Jim Meece had discussed the possibility of pooling the state funds and sharing an engineer between the two counties. Commissioner Tim Wilson said the Commissioners wanted to see if the Council was interested in pursuing the matter, and suggested a committee could be formed to determine what the duties of the engineer would be. Wilson said he felt like that there is enough work in Vermillion County to keep an engineer busy. Costello said he didn’t see how one person could cover two counties. Dunavan and James said they were in favor of discussing this further and would be in favor of receiving more information. Wilson said the Commissioners would move forward with getting a committee together to pursue the possibility of hiring a county highway engineer.
- c. **Sheriff’s Commissary Fund Report.** Sheriff Mike Phelps presented the Sheriff’s Commissary Fund Report to the Council. A motion was made by Dunavan and seconded by Spence to accept the Sheriff’s Commissary Fund Report. All in favor, motion carried.
- d. **Library Board Appointment.** Misty Bishop sent an email stating that David Aukerman expressed interest in becoming a part of the library board. A motion was made by Dreher and seconded by Bush to appoint David Aukerman to the Newport Vermillion County Public Library. All in favor, motion carried.
- e. **Amended Salary Ordinance.** The Prosecutor’s Office received a STOP Grant to continue to pay for a Part-Time Deputy Prosecutor. This salary has increased to

\$40,000.00. This Grant begins July 1, 2019 and runs for 1 year (12 calendar months). This salary ordinance needs to be retroactive and go into effect July 1, 2019.

The Prosecutor's Office received a STOP Grant to pay for a Part-Time Investigator. This is salaried position of \$20,000.00 per year, including Medicare, Social Security and Unemployment. This Grant begins August 1, 2019 and runs for 1 year (12 calendar months). This salary ordinance needs to be retroactive and go into effect August1, 2019.

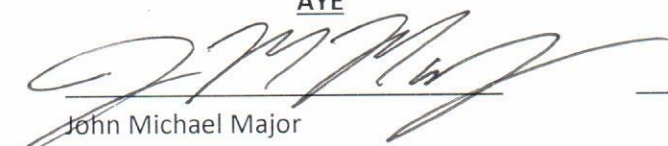
A motion was made by James and seconded by Bush to approve the salary ordinances for the Prosecutor's Office. All in favor, motion carried.

XI. Adjourn

Having no further business to come before the Council, the motion was made to adjourn by James, seconded by Bush. All in favor, motion carried.

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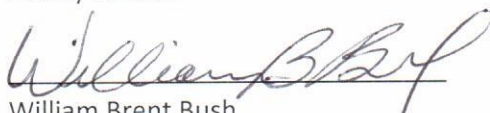
NAY




John Michael Major




Ashley James



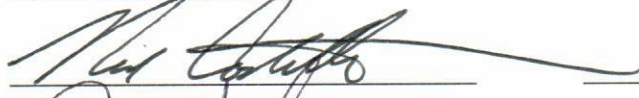
William Brent Bush




Randy Dreher



Ronald L. Dunavan Jr.



Neil Costello



Robert Spence

ATTEST:



Amy Tolbert, Auditor