

**Vermillion County Council**

**Meeting Minutes**

December 14, 2020

6:30 P.M.

Commissioner's Court, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Courthouse

- I. **Call to Order.** The Council convened in a regular meeting on December 14, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in the Commissioner's Courtroom.
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.**
- III. **Roll Call.** Members present were President Ashley James, William Brent Bush, Robert Spence, Neil Costello, Ronald L. Dunavan Jr., John Michael Major, Randy Dreher, Auditor Amy Tolbert, and Council Attorney Donald J Bonomo.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes.** Neil Costello, asked that the minutes from October 13, 2020 meeting be corrected, stating that the amount is yearly not weekly for the grade all. Correction was made. October Notes approved with correction. A motion was made by Ronald L. Dunavan Jr. and seconded by Randy Dreher, to approve the minutes from the November 9, 2020 meeting. All in favor, motion carried.
- V. **Treasurer's Report.** President, Ashley James acknowledged receipt of the Treasurer's Report.
- VI. **Comp Time Report.** President, Ashley James acknowledged the receipt of the Comp Time report.
- VII. **Transfer of Funds- Reporting Only**
  - a. Extension Office to transfer from (35100) Training & Conf to (34300) Dues and Subscriptions, in the amount of \$1,000.00
  - b. Election Office to transfer from (11003) Precinct Workers to (11002) Absent Voter, in the amount of \$425.00.
  - c. Courthouse to transfer from (33402) Building & Structure to (35900) Trash in the amount of \$650.00.
  - d. Jail to transfer from (35702) pest control and (35900) trash hauling to (35000) meals in the amount of \$2,324.85
  - e. EOC to transfer from (33201) Electricity & Natural Gas & (30250) Telephone to Repairs and Maintenance in the amount of \$5,000.00.
  - f. Park & Rec to transfer from (31100) Legal Services & (32200) Postage to (33701) Grounds in the amount of \$554.00
  - g. Park & Rec to transfer from (30262) Printing & (30270) Publication of Legal Notices to (33701) Grounds in the amount of \$200.00
  - h. Park & Rec to transfer from (33200) Electricity and (33401) Water to (33701) Grounds in the amount of \$6,454.96.
  - i. Park & Rec to transfer from (21500) Gas and Oil to (22100) Official Records in the amount of \$3,010.16.
  - j. Park & Rec to transfer from (41101) Buildings to (41202) Improvements in the amount of \$2,101.29.
  - k. Circuit Court to transfer from (21390) Interpreter to (21200) Office Supplies in the amount of \$1,000.00
  - l. Circuit Court to transfer from (31200) Pauper Depo & (32102) Conference & Seminars to (32200) Postage in the amount of \$3,000.00
  - m. Circuit Court to transfer from (34300) Dues & Subscriptions & (30260) Printing to (31401) Exam by Court App Physician in the amount of \$675.00

**Transfers-Council Approval-**

- a. Extension Office transfer from (32200) Postage to (21200) Office Supplies, in the amount of \$2000.00. Motion was made by William Brent Bush and Seconded by Ronald L Dunavan Jr. All in favor motion carried.
- b. Parks Department to transfer from (21700) Tires & Tubes & (21800) Other Garage to (41202) Improvements, in the amount of \$1,574.11. Motion was made by Robert Spence and seconded by William Brent Bush. All in favor motion carried.
- c. Parks Department to transfer from (33701) Grounds to (41202) Improvements, in the amount of \$161.76. Motion was made by Randy Dreher and seconded by Ronald L. Dunavan Jr. All in favor motion carried.
- d. Parks Department to transfer from (21200) Office Supplies & (21500) Gas and Oil to (41202) Improvements in the amount of \$845.50. Motion was made by William Brent Bush and seconded by Ronald L. Dunavan Jr. All in favor motion carried.

**VIII. Additional Appropriations.**

<u>FUND/DEPT</u>	<u>AMOUNT REQUESTED</u>	<u>AMOUNT APPROVED</u>
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1000 County General	\$5,500.00	\$5,500.00
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Jail/Sheriff Additional overtime. Motion made by Ronald L. Dunavan Jr. and seconded by William Brent Bush. All in favor motion carried.

<u>FUND/DEPT</u>	<u>AMOUNT REQUESTED</u>	<u>AMOUNT APPROVED</u>
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1000 County General	\$50,000.00	Appropriation withdrawn
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Mark O'Heir withdraws additional appropriation.

<u>FUND/DEPT</u>	<u>AMOUNT REQUESTED</u>	<u>AMOUNT APPROVED</u>
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1149 Econ Development	\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00
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Change in medical coverage for employee. Motion made by John Michael Major and seconded by Randy Dreher. All in favor, motion carried.

<u>FUND/DEPT</u>	<u>AMOUNT REQUESTED</u>	<u>AMOUNT APPROVED</u>
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1160 Recorder Office	\$34.68	\$34.68
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Amount should have been encumbered from 2019. Motion was made by Robert Spence and seconded by Ronald L. Dunavan Jr. All in favor, motion carried.

<u>FUND/DEPT</u>	<u>AMOUNT REQUESTED</u>	<u>AMOUNT APPROVED</u>
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4203 DOC Reimbursement	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
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Request is to pay current invoices as well as outstanding invoices for meals. Motion was made by William Brent Bush and seconded by Ronald L. Dunavan Jr. All in favor, motion carried.

<u>FUND/DEPT</u>	<u>AMOUNT REQUESTED</u>	<u>AMOUNT APPROVED</u>
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4912 Allocation Fund	\$79,741.00	\$79,741.00
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To pay Cox, Baker Tilley, HB White Bond Payment. Yearly amount. A motion was made by John Michael Major and seconded by Randy Dreher. All in favor, motion carried.

<u>FUND/DEPT</u>	<u>AMOUNT REQUESTED</u>	<u>AMOUNT APPROVED</u>
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9103 Cert Shares	\$300.00	\$300.00
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This is to make up for end of the year on unemployment. Was not budgeted for 2020. A motion was made by Ronald L. Dunavan Jr. and seconded by William Brent Bush. All in favor, motion carried.

IX. Open Issues

- a. Jail-Baker Tilly-The total anticipated jail costs will be \$22,130,000.00. Jack Krouse Project Consultant presented information on the final cost estimates for the project, which had previously been presented to the Commissioners at their last meeting. This includes \$16.9 million on construction costs and \$4.7 million in "soft" costs for other related expenses along with some other costs such as bond insurance. In terms of funding it was estimated that by the time the project starts, the county will have set aside approximately \$5.7 million which will leave roughly \$16.4 million that must be financed. Jason Semler, from Baker Tilly, presented information on the repayment of the required bonds, and said the bond issue would take 20 years to pay off, secured by the county's Public Safety Local Income Taxes. After lower initial payments, the annual debt service payments for the project would add up to about \$1.1 million per year. Jason Semler stated that after meeting the obligations that are already budgeted from the public safety funds and paying the jail bonds, there would be \$400,000 per year in public safety money remaining. Councilman Randy Dreher asked about the water line extension and Jack Krouse said he was told it was being added by the Commissioners. Randy Dreher said the county had spent \$300,000 several years ago to bring water from Vermillion Rise to the jail. Randy Dreher stated "now we're paying more to correct their problem." Sanjay Patel from RQAW explained that the water being delivered to the jail untreated was not of sufficient quality for drinking, and that the existing line will continue to be used for fire suppression while the new line will provide potable water. John Michael Major questioned the design contingency fees built into the budget, and expressed concern that they were additional fees to be paid to RQAW. Sanjay Patel explained that these amounts were included because the design was still being completed and they were there to build extra money into the project for any additional costs that were identified as the design is finished. Sanjay Patel stated that once the design is complete, that amount will either have become part of the construction cost, or any part of it that is not absorbed into the cost of construction would be removed from the estimates. John Michael Major stated, "I guess I was under the impression you guys had a good idea what it takes to design it." Randy Dreher then asked if the construction manager would be someone affiliated with RQAW. Jack Krouse said that it shouldn't be and Randy Dreher said he heard a rumor that it would be. Sanjay Patel, said that if that was the case, that person would be more of an "owner's rep" than a "construction manager." Randy Dreher stated that "when the county started kicking this can around the estimate had been \$22 million for a new jail and now because the Commissioners couldn't agree on what to do, it's going to cost that much to add less capacity to the existing jail". John Michael Major asked about the cost per square foot (with 7,363 square feet of new construction planned) and it was estimated around \$391 per square foot. Major noted that Fountain County had a new jail built for \$15 million with 130 cells. Jack Krouse noted that three years ago, the current project could have been done for about \$280 per square foot. John Michael Major stated he thought the cost was too much. He also stated he thought we would be better off building a new jail, if needed, which he said he, don't believe it is. John Michael Major then asked the current count of the jail population, and was told it was at 62. John Michael Major then asked what the current capacity was and Sanjay Patel told him it was 83, and Robert Spence stated it was only 72. Ronald L. Dunavan stated that "we have been kicking this down the road for five years and the Commissioners finally decided on this." Ronald L. Dunavan also stated that we can't predict the number of inmates. He made a motion to set the budget for the project at \$22.13 million, as requested, based on the estimates provided. Neil Costello seconded the motion. John Michael Major asked how many new beds were being added and Sanjay Patel said 64.

John Michael stated "We currently have 62 people in jail and were going to add 64 to that. And then stated "That's all I've got to say." The Council then held a roll-call vote on the motion, with Neil Costello, Ronald L. Dunavan Jr., Robert Spence and William Brent Bush voting in favor of the motion and John Michael Major and Randy Dreher voting against. Motion passed with a 4-2 vote.

**X. New Business**

- a. 2021 Salary Ordinance- Non-elected employees will not receive a raise until the Salary Study is finished and the Council is able to discuss the recommendations. The study should be finished in 2021. Council also discussed the salaries for county elected officials which must be set prior to January 1, 2021. John Michael Major moved to maintain all elected officials' salaries, at the same level as 2020, but his motion was denied for lack of a seconded. Ronald L. Dunavan Jr. suggested a \$1,000 raise for all elected officials and expressed concern that if officeholders did not get raises, that some could find that their first deputies would be making nearly or as much as the officeholder, once the salary study was finished and raises were given. Ashley James stated that because the newly elected coroner who will take office in 2021 is a physician, and by state law, he will automatically receive one and a half times that is listed in the salary ordinance for his position. Ronald L. Dunavan Jr., suggested adjusting all elected officials' salaries to the state average with counties that are comparable to Vermillion County. Ashley James stated that it had been agreed in previous meeting that no one's salary would be cut. Council went over the average salaries from other counties comparable to Vermillion County. Robert Spence noted that it was an election year, and that those who ran for offices did so knowing what the salaries were, so they should not be raised at this time. Neil Costello noted that for many offices, Vermillion County is already within a few hundred dollars of the average. He also stated that there would be people who ran for offices that had certain pay rates, and would get raises without ever serving a day in office. Randy Dreher stated that most have already received a significant increase due to the recent longevity pay that was approved by the council. After further discussion, the Council agreed to review the state averages (for counties comparable to Vermillion County) for each office and ultimately agreed to adopt those averages for most offices. Salaries recommended were as follows:

Assessor	\$40,250
Auditor	\$42,400
Clerk	\$40,460
Recorder	\$39,920
Treasurer	\$40,970
Surveyor	\$17,763
Coroner (non-physician)	\$15,041
Coroner (physician)	\$22,561

Salaries that will not change include the Commissioners-\$20,457 (state average is \$16,205), Council-\$9,150 (state average is \$5,331 and Coroner-\$15,041 (state average is \$9,119). The new Coroner, due to being a physician, will receive \$22,561. A motion was made to change the salaries to the average amounts by Ronald L. Dunavan and seconded by William Brent Bush. Roll call vote was requested. Neil Costello-No, Ronald L. Dunavan Jr. -Yes, Robert Spence-Yes, William Brent Bush-Yes, John Michael Major-No & Randy Dreher-Yes. With a vote of 4-2, motion passed.

- b. 2021 Meeting Schedule- Budget hearings were not on meeting schedule so that the new members of the council can set them next year. Motion to accept the 2021 Meeting schedule was made by John Michael Major and seconded by Randy Dreher. All in favor, motion carried.
- c. Clinton Library Board of Trustees re-appointment-Susie Pierce's term on the Board is up for re-appointment. A motion as made by Ronald L. Donavan Jr. and seconded by Randy Dreher. All in favor, motion carried. William Webber's term on the board is also up for re-appointment. A motion was made by Robert Spence and seconded by Ronald L. Dunavan Jr.

**Public Comment:** President Ashley James thanked Robert Spence and John Michael Major for their service on the County Council.

**XI. Adjourn**

Motion to Adjourn made by John Michael Major and seconded by Randy Dreher Meeting Adjourned.

AYE

Nay

Ashley James  
Ashley James

William Brent Bush  
William Brent Bush

Randy Dreher

Neil Costello  
Neil Costello

Martin Brown  
Martin Brown

Kelly Summerville  
Kelly Summerville

Rick Weir  
Rick Weir

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Attest:

Brenda Furry  
Brenda Furry, Auditor