

# Vermillion County Council

## Meeting Minutes

October 15, 2019

6:30 p.m.

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

- I. **Call to Order.** The Council convened in a regular meeting on October 15, 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, Robert Spence, Randy Dreher, Auditor Amy Tolbert, First Deputy Auditor Stephanie Simpson, and Council Attorney Donald Bonomo. William Brent Bush was absent.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes.** A motion was made by James and seconded by Dunavan to approve the minutes from the October 3<sup>rd</sup> and the October 9<sup>th</sup> meetings, all in favor, motion carried.
- V. **Treasurer's Report.** Major acknowledged receipt of the Treasurer's report.
- VI. **Comp Time Report.** Spence noted that the comp time is going down. No other comments were made.
- VII. **Transfer of Funds.**

Transfer of Funds. E911 is requesting to transfer \$1,000.00 from Radio Upkeep to E911 Administrator. E911 is paid \$13,050.00 and the salary ordinance for 2019 states this but his budget is not reflecting this amount. A motion was made by Dreher and seconded by James to allow. All in favor, motion carried.

Reporting only transfer. The Health Department is requesting to transfer \$100.00 from Animal Lodging, \$600.00 from Postage, \$40.00 from Printing, \$60.00 from Official Bonds, \$100.00 from Burglary Insurance, and \$100 from Dues and Subscriptions, for a total of \$1,000.00 to Utilities.

Reporting only transfer. Sheriff requesting to transfer \$5,000.00 from Software Maintenance to Sheriff's Evidence Tech.

Reporting only transfer. Commissioners Court requesting to transfer \$100.00 from Freight and Express to Training and Conference.

Reporting only transfer. Health Department is requesting to transfer \$500.00 from Extra Help to Group Insurance.

Reporting only transfer. Public Defenders Board requesting to transfer \$3,102.76 from Non Contract Attorney to Transcripts.
- 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
General Fund	\$400.00	\$400.00

Coroner is requesting additional for phone and Internet. A motion was made by Dunavan and seconded by Dreher to approve the additional for the Coroner. All in favor, motion carried.

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<b>FUND/DEPT</b>	<b>AMOUNT REQUESTED</b>	<b>AMOUNT APPROVED</b>
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General Fund	\$135.98	\$135.98
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Sheriff is requesting an additional of \$135.98 to be moved into the Sheriff's Budget Uniforms. A motion was made by Spence and seconded by Costello to approve the additional. All in favor, motion carried.

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<b>FUND/DEPT</b>	<b>AMOUNT REQUESTED</b>	<b>AMOUNT APPROVED</b>
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Cum Cap Dev	\$15,500.00	\$15,500.00
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Additional request for website build with Intelli-Leap. Placing appropriation in IT budget, \$3,000 will need budgeted each year for maintenance. A motion was made by Dunavan and seconded by Dreher to approve the additional. All in favor, motion carried.

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<b>FUND/DEPT</b>	<b>AMOUNT REQUESTED</b>	<b>AMOUNT APPROVED</b>
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Health	\$4,577.34	\$4,577.34
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Additional to cover medical insurance. A motion was made by Spence and seconded by Dunavan to approve the additional. All in favor, motion carried.

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<b>FUND/DEPT</b>	<b>AMOUNT REQUESTED</b>	<b>AMOUNT APPROVED</b>
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Supp Public Defender	\$15,901.04	\$15,901.04
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Additional for Non-Contractual Attorney Fees. A motion was made by Dunavan and seconded by Dreher to approve the additional. All in favor, motion carried.

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<b>FUND/DEPT</b>	<b>AMOUNT REQUESTED</b>	<b>AMOUNT APPROVED</b>
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Restricted Rainy Day MVH	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00
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Community Crossings Grant Match that was approved by the Council. This money sits in Rainy Day Restricted, invested, until the State portion is received. The State has deposited their portion so now we need to move the match money into Fund 9102 Community Crossings Grant. This fund is then appropriated and spent according to the Grant agreement. A motion was made by Spence and seconded by James to approve the additional. All in favor, motion carried.

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<b>FUND/DEPT</b>	<b>AMOUNT REQUESTED</b>	<b>AMOUNT APPROVED</b>
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Community Crossings Grant	\$982,644.00	\$982644.00
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Additional for budgeting the Community Crossings Grant money. A motion was made by Spence and seconded by James to approve the additional. All in favor, motion carried.

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## **IX. Open Issues**

- a. **Town of Newport Budget.** The Council approves the budget for Newport because two members of the Newport's town council are volunteer firefighters, and can not vote on the budget which includes the fire department. This leaves the town without a majority of council members able to vote, and makes it necessary for the County Council to approve their budget. Before the vote Major questioned whether they should continue doing this. He said do we feel comfortable approving it every year, because they are firefighters, or do we

think that they should address that? James said that the Council has approved the budget for Newport in the past. Dreher said he is not opposed to doing it every year, that is what we are here for.

A motion was made by James and seconded by Spence to approve the 2020 Budget for the Town of Newport. All in favor, motion carried.

**b. Solid Waste Budget.** Dreher asked why the Solid Waste budget was not included in the budget hearings, and Tolbert explained that it was, but is approved separately. A motion was made by Dunavan and seconded by Spence to approve the Solid Waste Budget. All in favor except Dreher who voted no. Motion carried.

**c. 2020 Budget Adoption.** A motion was made by Spence and seconded by Dunavan to approve the 2020 Budget. All in favor, motion carried.

**d. 2020 Salary Ordinance.** Major said the Council can act tonight or in November. Costello asked if there were any outstanding questions about raises, and it was noted that the Council had voted to give a \$1,000 raise to all employees except the Commissioners and Council. A motion was made by Spence and seconded by Dreher to approve the 2020 Salary Ordinance. All in favor, motion carried.

**e. Parke Vermillion Humane Shelter.** Parke-Vermillion County Humane Society Board President Mark Southwick gave a brief presentation on the services provided by the Humane Society and its funding. The county increased funding for the Humane Society from \$27,000 to \$35,000 for 2020, and has discussed asking Parke County to increase to the same level. Southwick said he was surprised you were considering giving us more money. He said we've been asking for a long time and not getting it. Southwick said they went to Parke County and didn't get it, and Rockville cut their funding to the Humane Society completely.

Southwick said the Humane Society was established in 1991, with each county providing \$15,000 per year. The current humane shelter was built in 2000. He said they work to get animals adopted and provide them required medical care, and their operating costs are around \$300,000 per year, much of which is provided by donations and fundraisers.

Southwick said Parke County raised their funding from \$15,000 to \$20,000 last year. He said of the animals taken in by the shelter, the majority of the strays picked up are from Vermillion County, while the majority of the animals surrendered by owners are from Parke County. Southwick said there are also a lot of animals left that we don't know where they come from. Southwick said he had spoken to Parke County Commissioner Jim Meece, who told him the county didn't have the money. He said that they received an additional \$5,000 last year, and that George Nicholas helped with that, even though he is no longer a Commissioner. Dreher suggested that Commissioner Tim Yocum speak to Meece, since he talks to him a lot. Yocum agreed to talk to him.

There was discussion on sending a letter to Parke County officials asking them to match Vermillion County's funding to the Humane Society, but after further discussion, it was agreed to see what response Yocum receives from Meece before taking any action.

**f. Jail Renovation/Expansion.** Commissioner Tim Yocum asked the Council to clarify whether the jail expansion project would be left on the agenda on an ongoing basis, after confusion regarding the at previous meetings. Yocum requested the Council vote to keep it on the agenda. A motion was made by Dunavan and seconded by Spence to leave it on the agenda. All in favor, except Major who voted no and Costello who did not vote, motion carried.

**X. New Business**

- a. Estimate for IT Infrastructure / Cyber-Security Refresh.** Shawn Wallace of EAS Technology Consulting gave a brief report on a proposed refresh of the county's IT systems. The refresh would include new computers, servers, updated software, UPS (uninterruptible power supplies) and software licensing, as well as an offsite backup at the Emergency Operations Center in Clinton, so that data stored at the courthouse would be backed up in case of a fire or other catastrophe. The total cost of the refresh would be \$456,814.93. Wallace noted that some courthouse offices are having issues with older computers, and that the refresh will also bring the county into compliance with cybersecurity requirements.

Tolbert informed the Council that the Commissioners had asked for a special meeting to be called, in order to approve an additional appropriation to fund the project, so that it could move forward quickly. Dunavan said this needs to happen as soon as possible rather than later. Major asked if this is a decision you want to rush? Dunavan said it's not rushing, we've got a lot of systems going down.

Tolbert said with the publication requirements for the appropriation, the earliest a meeting could be held is October 30<sup>th</sup>. A motion was made by Dunavan and seconded by Dreher to hold a special meeting on October 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. All in favor, motion carried.

Spence asked if other county departments outside the courthouse were included, and Wallace stated that they were not, because he had just learned that those departments were taking care of themselves.

- b. Indiana/Kentucky/Ohio Regional Council of Carpenters (aka: IKORCC) Tax Fraud and Misclassification of Workers.** Jason King of the Indiana/Kentucky/Ohio Regional Council of Carpenters spoke briefly to the Council about concerns over tax fraud in construction projects. He said many contractors are paying their employees as subcontractors, which requires the employees to file their taxes by 1099, and means that local, state and federal taxes are robbed from the community, and that some were using unskilled labor, which has resulted in quality, productivity and safety issues. He said that several counties have adopted responsible bidder ordinances, to require that contractors pay their employees properly, and encouraged the county to consider this for future projects. Major said he believes the zoning board would have to pass it, to give the building inspector authority to look into how companies paid their workers.
- c. IT Proposal – Chad Lindsay.** Major said that Chad Lindsay would not be present because he presented a proposal to the Commissioners that morning and they informed him that they don't need an IT consultant. It was stated that the county was under contract with EAS through the end of the year.
- d. Special Meeting.** Major announced that he was calling another special meeting for Monday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, so that Mary Hutson can present information to the Council about changes in Indiana's sentencing and pretrial release laws. He stated that if not enough Council members are present, it will be an informational presentation.
- e. Public Comment**

Commissioner Tim Wilson asked about the funding for the fire departments. Dunavan said every fire department that asked for it received \$50,000. Dunavan publicly thanked the reserve deputies and the deputies for their work at the Newport Hill Climb.

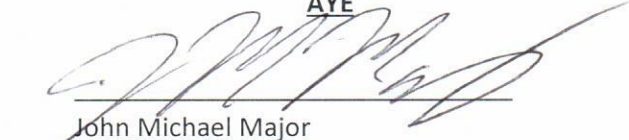

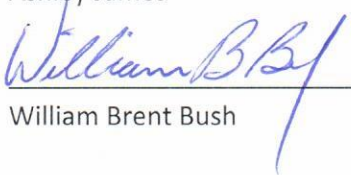

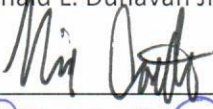

Yocum told the Council that he will be approaching them in the future about the Community Crossings Grant funding.

**XI. Adjourn**

Having no further business to come before the Council, the motion was made to adjourn by Dunavan, seconded by Spence. 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:

  
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Amy Tolbert, Auditor