

**Vermillion County Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**

December 12, 2022

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 12, 2022 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 Rennels, Rick Weir, Kelly Summerville, William Brent Bush, Martin Brown, , Auditor Brenda Furry, Deputy Auditor Annie Wickens, and County Council Attorney, Scott Craig. Randy Dreher was not present
  - IV. **Approval of Minutes.** A motion was made to approve the minutes from November 14, 2022 by Bush and seconded by Brown. All in favor, motion carried.
  - V. **Treasurer's Report.** President, James acknowledged receipt of the Treasurer's Report.
  - VI. **Comp Time Report.** President, James acknowledged receipt of Comp Time Report.
  - VII. **Transfer of Funds- Non-Reporting-**
    - 1000-33500-101 Equipment & Maintenance in the amount of \$200 and 1000-34300-101 Dues & Subscriptions in the amount of \$100 to 1000-32200-101 Postage for a total \$300.
    - 1000-32400-101 Travel in the amount of \$200 to 1000-32200-101 Postage in the amount of \$200.
    - 1000-35000-121 Meals in the amount of \$175 to 1000-34200-121 Polling Places in the amount of \$175.
    - 1000-11802-121 Clerical Assistant in the amount of \$200 to 1000-11002-121 Absentee Voters Board in the amount of \$200.
    - 1000-35100-123 Training & Conferences in the amount of \$27.50 to 1000-34300-123 Dues & Subscriptions in the amount of \$27.55.
    - 1000-30270-130 Publication of legal notices in the amount of \$900 to 1000-34300-130 Dues & Subscriptions in the amount of \$900.
    - 1000-30274-136 Legal Notices in the amount of \$26.00 to 1000-32200-136 Postage in the amount of \$26.00.
    - 1000-11702-136 Extra Help in the amount of \$1938.69 to 1000-11306-136 in the amount of \$1938.69.
    - 1000-33401-146 Water & Sewage in the amount of \$2946.58 to 1000-33500-146 Equip/Maintenance in the amount of \$2946.58.
    - 1000-31100-146 Legal Services Fees in the amount of \$500 and 1000-32200-146 Postage in the amount of \$46.00 to 1000-33500-146 Equip Maintenance in the amount of \$546.
    - 1000-30262-146 Printing & Other Office Supplies in the amount of \$100 and 1000-30270-146 Publication of Legal Notices in the amount of \$60 to 1000-33500-146 Equipment/Maintenance in the amount of \$160.
    - 1159-11702-214 Extra Help in the amount of \$1080.38 to 1159-11106-214 Health Officer in the amount of \$1080.38.
- Transfer of Funds-Reporting-**
- 1000-21205-121 Election Supplies in the amount of \$5,000 to 1000-32200-121 Postage in the amount of \$5,000. A motion was made to approve the transfer of \$5,000 from Election Supplies to Postage for Voter Registration by Rick Weir and Seconded by Kelly Summerville. All in favor, motion carried.

VIII. Additional Appropriations-

<u>Fund/Dept</u>	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Amount Approved</u>
1149-42000-317	\$156,042.50	\$156,042.50

There is a loan that has a maximum of \$275,000 in funding that can be used for the Cayuga Subdivision. Borrowers also had a loan for \$9,042.50. Account 4000 has been used to pay the initial bills for the loan, (\$84,404.69). We are setting up the funding for when the bills get paid out as part of this loan that the balance can be carried forward into future years. The \$71,6387.81 are monies that were not part of our 2022 budget. This is for the 15 lots in Cayuga. A motion was made to approve the additional appropriation by Bush and was seconded by Brown. All in favor, motion carried.

IX. New Business-

a. **Vermillion County Council 2023 Meeting Schedule-** Please see attached. A motion was made to approve the Vermillion County Council 2023 Meeting Schedule by Weir and seconded by Summerville. All in favor, motion carried.

b. **Fair Board-David Bishop-**Bishop stated that the fair board did not have a concert during the fair and wanted to return the funds that the County appropriated for them in the amount of \$20,000. Bishop gave a check to the Auditor to deposit back to the County.

Bishop stated that they have signed a 3-year contract with a carnival which will be double the size that they have had in the past. The first year will cost \$30,000, and then the carnival will evaluate for the next two years to see if they share profit. The Carnival will have 13 to 15 rides available at the fair. The fair board has worked with two other counties (Benton & Jasper) to get this carnival which is out of West Virginia. They will start with Vermillion County and then work their way up highway 63. For this to work out Vermillion County had to move the fair up a week. Vermillion County fair will start with the Queen Contest on Friday, June 9, 2022, and the last day of the fair will be Saturday, June 17, 2022.

Bishop stated that the 2022 Vermillion County Fair took a financial hit due to there was 3 county fairs going on within ten miles of each other. This hurt the fair in turn out to the fair and for the other activities happening during the fair. Bishop stated that they have contracted 3 major events for the fair, a rodeo, a motor cross event & a truck pull. They are also having a demo race which is something new that they have never done before.

Bishop stated that they wanted to have a music event at the Fair but the prices for the concerts are just to high and they can't afford it.

James asked if the Fair board will have the extra \$5000 for the fair due to the County only appropriated \$25,000 to the fair next year. Bishop stated yes, they have enough in savings for it.

James questioned about profit sharing and if other carnivals did that in the past years. Bishop stated no, they did not. Bishop stated that this carnival is doing discounts for the 4H kids already. The 4H members who help out during the fair the board will purchase the bracelet for them for the night. The Board is trying to get businesses in the area to do a sponsorship night and get discounted prices for their employees. Bishop stated that Benton County Council had a Benton County Night for all the residents to come for one night. Bishop stated that from the surveys they get that most of the people who come to the fair are from the northern part of the county and he would like to get the southern part of the County to come and participate in the fair.

James thanked Mr. Bishop for the update and wished him good luck with everything.

- c. **Resolution establishing 2023 Compensation/Longevity**-James stated that these two items go together so we are going to discuss them together. James stated that a few months back we had some questions on the longevity about when it would be paid out. James went back and found an email from the previous Auditor, Amy Tolbert on October 2, 2020 that she sent out to all employees stating how it would be paid out. James stated that it says that it does go into effect the following January after you hit your five years. Question now is do we want to continue paying it out that way or do it differently. Currently we have a percentage-based longevity, the other option is to do a set amount no matter what position you are at you get the same amount. James stated we can either do a set rate or the percentage rate. Currently the percentage is paid out on each pay period over the course of the year. This has caused some confusion on whether or not they are getting it due to it is a combined into their pay. James stated we have the option of paying it as a one time pay or continue paying it out over the course of a year. Discussion was had on how to pay the longevity and when to actually pay it out for the anniversary date. Council decides to pay out on the first pay in December on a set amount instead of the percentage rate pay. Question was made what if an employee quits before first pay in December would they get paid longevity. Council decided if you leave the County for any reason you will not receive longevity if you leave before the first pay in December. See Resolution 2022-08 A motion was made by Bush to approve Resolution 2022-08 and was seconded by Rennels. All in favor, motion carried.
- d. **Economic Development- Doug Hess**- Doug states that Lynne Brewer will be retiring from Economic Development on January 19, 2022 and he would like to post her position. He would like to ask the Council to allow him to get someone in to train. Weir asked if he had a ball park figure in mind and James stated he would probably around \$1500. Hess stated he would need an additional appropriation in January but would like the blessing from the Council for the amount of \$2000 since he was unable to get his request in on time for the December meeting. James stated that it would come out of their fund not out of County General and go back into their fund if they don't use it. James asked if anyone on the Council had any opposition to that? There was none.
- e. **Economic Development-Ron Dunavan**- Ron Dunavan handed out a recommendation to the Council making Doug Hess the director for the Economic Development Commission, the director for the Vermillion Rise and director for the Redevelopment Commission. They would propose that Doug's salary would change from \$65,000 per year to \$80,000 per year starting January 2023. All raises and expenses would come from the following: Reuse Authority would pay Economic Development \$42,000 per year to have Doug added as the director. This would break down the first year as follows:

- \$15,000 Salary increase (Doug)
- \$2827.50 SS, Medicare & Perf
- \$10,000 a year for lease of a Car with \$10,000 down at signing (one time only)
- \$1,000 salary increase for Office Manager (\$40,000)
- Approx \$200 for SS, Medicare & Perf.
- \$872 for vehicle insurance
- Gas would be paid from money already appropriated in budget for 2023
- Total of \$39,899.50 first year \$42,000 paid in, difference \$2,100.50
- Second year, there would be \$12,000 left to use for raises or whatever is needed. This would help cut down on our budget.

Ron stated that the Reuse is in-agreement with this and is onboard with what was presented. Summerville questioned if they would be replacing someone at the reuse authority and Dunavan stated Hess would only be doing the work for

Economic Development and the other part they are splitting into 2 positions. They are hiring someone for the day to day processes. Rennels stated that this is like an operational manager position. Dunavan stated that Hess will be doing Economic Development only. Rennels stated like Executive Director like duties? Dunavan stated they split what Bob Grewe was doing and gave Hess the Economic Development part. Stating this will help the County out. Hess is currently working on some things right now out at the Rise. Summerville questioned will it cost us anymore? Dunavan stated no. James stated that the Reuse Authority is going to contribute to the County \$42,000 a year. Dunavan stated the first year their will only be a few thousand left but after that there will be \$12,000 left each year for raises and other items. Rennels stated that actually there are a lot of parallel activities going on between these entities so this seems like a great idea. Dunavan stated that is what we are working towards working together as one unit and Hess is the hub of the County. Weir states you have two years on here but is the Reuse Authority going to keep contributing past the 2 years? Dunavan stated yes and the numbers may change. Dunavan stated that the intent is to keep it going and that the Reuse Authority partner with the County going forward. Dunavan thanked Leigh Ann Smith for helping with the numbers for the salaries. James questioned what amount Dunavan was wanting for the Office Manager. Duanvan stated he wanted to have that position at \$40,000 based on experienced. This is for Lynne's position. Rennels questioned if there was a position open for an accountant at the Rise? James stated that they are contracting the bookkeeping out with a company. Dunavan stated that yes, they have hired Kemper CPA to do the bookkeeping. James stated that if we agree with this we will have to change the numbers in the January meeting. James stated that we will have to appropriate the money. James stated that the additional will come from the Reuse Authority. James stated that with the additional duties it would be \$80,000 for the director and \$40,000 for the office manager. Summerville questioned who would be doing redevelopment and James stated that when they hired the Economic Development Director that he would be part of redevelopment. Dunavan stated this is just combining it and putting it on paper. Dunavan states that Hess is already working with everyone now. James states he is not employed by redevelopment he just oversees it since they go hand in hand together. Hess does come to the meetings already. James stated that in Hess's contract it was a stipulation that Hess be involved with redevelopment. Dunavna stated this is the goal for the county to get us moving forward and working together as a group. Summerville stated this will add to his work load. Duanvan stated yes and that is where the Office manager will be an important position. Dunavan states that Hess has already done a lot for the Rise already and deserves credit for it. James asks if there are any objections to accepting Reuse Authority's proposal? No objections were made. Dunavan questioned if they Council has to vote on this and James stated no they do not have to vote on it they will have to do an additional appropriation in January with the new amounts after we receive the funds from the Reuse Authority. Dunavan thanked Leigh Ann for helping with the numbers on the salaries. Dunavan also thanked Annie Wickens for doing the Commissions minutes for the meetings.

- X. **Updates:** James stated that she had a few announcements for January items to discuss. Rennels questioned if the Reuse Authority was a separate budget? James stated that they are a separate entity, they are not funded by the County. Rennels stated he believes this is a good move just wanted to make a clarification that the monies where not County funds. James stated that the Communication will be better between the two entities. James stated that the Council is in charge of appointing board members to several boards. There is an alcohol beverage board appointment, an E911 board appointment, a property tax adjustment board of appeals appointment, solid waste management, the Vermillion County Newport Library appointment and also the

West Central Indiana Economic Development which is now Thrive West Central appointment, and the Redevelopment Commission has two openings. James stated there is also some other boards that are requesting Council members to be a part of. The local emergency preparedness committee, also Indiana Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council, this something new and they would like one of us to be a part of it. These are quarterly meetings and James will get the information out to everyone to take a look at. James also stated we have a handbook committee & health insurance committee. James stated that she is on 7 of these boards and would like to get more the other Council members involved. James stated that if anyone is interested in applying for any of the boards please go to the website and fill out an application online. Applications for the Council will be open until December 31, 2022. Council will make decisions at the January 9, 2023 meeting. Applications are on the website under departments and then appointments. You can also apply in the Auditor's office with a paper copy. James stated she will send out a list of all boards that need appointed by the Council

James wanted to thank Bill Rennels, Brent Bush and Randy Dreher for their service on the County Council. Bush has been on the Council for 12 years and Dreher 20 years. James appreciates everything they have done. Everyone thanked them for their service. James also thanked Rennels for the year of service he did. Rennels appreciated and loved the interaction. Bush stated that if you have never been to a Council meeting you need to come to one. He thinks that everyone should know how the County operates.

**XI. Public Comment: None**

**XII. Adjourn**

Motion to Adjourn made by Weir and 2nd by Brown. All in favor.  
Meeting Adjourned.

AYE

Nay

Ashley James  
Ashley James

Not Present  
Randy Dreher

William Brent Bush

Rick Weir  
Rick Weir

Martin Brown  
Martin Brown

William Rennels

Kelly Summerville  
Kelly Summerville

Attest:

Brenda Furry  
Brenda Furry, Auditor

Date: 1/10/23