

Vermillion County Council

Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2021

6:30 P.M.

Commissioner's Court, 2nd Floor Courthouse

- I. **Call to Order.** The Council convened in a regular meeting on October 18, 2021 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, Vice President Randy Dreher, William Brent Bush, Neil Costello, Rick Weir, Kelly Summerville, Martin Brown, Auditor, Brenda Furry, Chief Deputy Auditor, Annie Wickens, and County Council Attorney, Scott Craig.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes.** James acknowledge the September 13, 2021 and the September 14, 2021 meeting minutes. A motion was made to approve the September 13th & 14th 2021 meeting minutes by Weir and seconded by Dreher. 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 the Comp Time Report.
- VII. **Transfer of Funds- Approval by Council**

1000-106 Surveyor is requesting that \$1000.00 from 11305-106 Head Chainman be transferred to 21200-106 office supplies.

1000-106 Surveyor is requesting that \$2000.00 from 11702-106 Extra Help and \$1000.00 from 11703-106 Surveyor Helper be transferred to 21204-106 Surveyor supplies. These transfers are for purchasing office supplies and surveyor supplies. A motion was made by Costello to approve the transfers and was seconded by Brown. All in favor, motion carried.

1000-126 Drainage board is requesting that \$1000.00 from 11802-126 Clerical Assistant be transferred to 21200-126 Office Supplies. This is to upgrade the monitor for location, mapping, postage, files & containers. A motion was made by Costello to approve the transfer and was seconded by Brown. All in favor, motion carried.

- VIII. **Additional Appropriations.** The Council considered additional appropriations as published. President Ashley James reviewed the appropriations from the written requests submitted by Auditor Brenda Furry. Thus, the following ordinance was adopted: WHEREAS: it has been determined it is now necessary to appropriate more money that was appropriated in the annual budget for 2021, 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:

<u>FUND/DEPT</u>	<u>AMOUNT REQUESTED</u>	<u>AMOUNT APPROVED</u>
<i>Community Crossings grant</i>	<i>\$817,330.00</i>	<i>\$817,330.00</i>

This is to allocate the monies received from the Community Crossings grant. Monies need to be allocated into the 3 districts. A motion was made to

approve the allocation of the funds by Bush and seconded by Brown. All in favor, motion carried.

IX. Open Issues-Budget Adoption-James stated she would like to do the Budget Adoption at the end of the meeting due to there are some issues that need to be discussed. Costello stated he would like to see the Council have the Fire Departments fill out a standard form that he has put together, stating the reasoning for funding and how the spending went in the past. (see attached) James stated that there is \$50,000 in the budget for each fire department and if we approve the budget we can then in January decide if we want to disburse all of it or just some of it. Craig stated we can do a reduction at the beginning of the year if we would like to change it. Costello requested that the form be turned back in by the fire depts by November 3, 2021. Auditor to email all Fire Departments with the form. James stated that the Commissioners received the Audit back from Baker Tilly on the Ambulance. The amount in the budget is the amount for the second year of the contract. It states we have 3 paramedics full time. The previous service was for 2. Summerville stated he doesn't believe that the County needs 3 ambulances. Discussion was held on whether the County needs 3 ambulances. Bush wanted to know what happen to the basic truck that was supposed to run Monday through Friday 8-5 for transfers? Mark O'Heir stated it was still running and it was in the report. James stated that she wanted to revisit the Ambulance budget since we got the audit back and wanted to make sure everyone was still ok with the budgeted amount. Dreher stated that the concern he had was that the Commissioners took \$25,000 of the tax-payers money to do this audit and the Commissioners are not meeting until Wednesday on this, so how do they expect us, to make a decision on this tonight? Dreher would rather not vote on it tonight and wait until the Commissioners come back with a recommendation. Weir stated that he thought the Commissioners and Council were going to all get together discuss the Ambulance. Dreher stated the he knows that if they appropriate for the three (3) ambulances that we know it will get spent. Costello stated that if we appropriate for 3 and decide we don't need 3 we can reduce the amount we pay. Dreher would like to know what does the Commissioners want 2 or 3 ambulances. We need to know, to make a decision. Costello stated that the report tells us financially what is going on, but that this audit was not for the logistics on how the ambulance functions but for the financial side of the process. Dreher stated that he doesn't think we will get a handle on all of this until we build our own facility and get control of this. Costello stated that this issue is a very serious, complicated, long term matter that effects people's lives. Costello believes we need to maybe put a board together to help the commissioners get recommendation. Dreher stated we need to do this before the end of the year instead of waiting when the funding is not available. Costello stated we need a long-term plan for the counties needs not a year to year contract. Costello stated that this is not an easy decision this is a long-complicated process and we need to fine tune what are needs are for the County. Summerville questioned what the Ambulance actually made not including what the County has paid. No one knew the answer. Costello stated that the industry pay-out is about 30% to 40%. And that we as the County is the subsidy of the pay to the Ambulance. Summerville stated he would like to know the amount the ambulance actually made, to make a decision. James stated that would be a good thing but for the budget for next year we need to make a decision and look into this a bit more for the following year. Attorney Craig stated that we can change it now or we can keep it the way they have it and in January reduce it or whatever the Council would like to do. Costello stated he wouldn't know what to change it to and that we will really need to be careful on what we decide, people's lives depend on this service. Costello recommends that we leave it alone for now, and either add to it or reduce it later. James recommended we have a joint meeting with the Commissioners and go over it with the commissioners. Weir stated he also wouldn't know what to change it to, he would have to go with what is recommended due to he has no expertise in this area. Weir stated he would like the contract to state they have the right to audit the

books for the ambulance. James stated that for future contracts she would like to see that the company we hire use the major insurance companies. From previous years at one time the Ambulance did not take Anthem, but it was corrected but for future reference we need to make sure they use the bigger insurance companies. James stated she will get with the commissioners and brainstorm on the different issues.

James also stated that there were a few other issues with the budget that they need to discuss. The local health maintenance was advertised at \$35,000 but they are funded by a grant so therefore the budget is lower than what was actually spent. In January we will have to do an additional appropriation and fix the issue. There are a few funds that we will need additional appropriations in January. James stated that Craig had emailed the Council the spreadsheet of the levy and certified rate and last year we did lower the tax rate and we did not increase the levy. James commented about how Baker Tilly had stated that we were the only county who did not do the max levy in the state. Last year it lowered the rate by 2%. Craig gave the Council several different scenarios on what we could do (see attached). The budget ordinance includes the middle rate. (see attached). No objections were made. James read the Resolution for the Budget. A motion was made by Bush to approve the budget and seconded by Weir. Dreher opposed, motion carried.

New Business

- a. Mike Phelps-Check from destroying old Firearms in Evidence- Council stated that the check should be deposited into County General. \$820.00
- b. Elanco TIF Bonds-Scott Craig went over the project that the Redevelopment Commission has been working on with Elanco to expand the TIF Area from Whites to Elanco. Tom Pittman was connected in the meeting via phone. Craig stated that back in 2009 Vermillion County created its first TIF district, first Economic Development area. It was done in conjunction with Whites Corporate Office on the south end of the county. Whites need water and sewage for that building. That is when we created a 28-acre TIF district and economic development area just for the Whites Corporate Office. We also created an allocation area within the district. We have been using the tax dollars that White has been paying over the past decade to pay for the water and sewage on that area. Redevelopment Commission as been having discussions about expanding that area just a little further north down the Highway, in anticipation to promote growth and development for the County. Craig stated that this is a good area for that due to having the highway and the railroad really close. We also have I-70 just south of this area and I-74 north of this area. The county also has the river nearby. Craig stated that the previous Economic Development Director, Dylan Riggen had been in discussions with Elanco. Elanco was considering making an investment in Vermillion County. The discussion has been ongoing for about a year. Craig stated that they have working on the structure of how this is all going to work. Representatives from Elanco were in attendance. The proposal that they have been working on is for Elanco to invest \$105 million in Vermillion County over the next decade in equipment at their Clinton facility. As an incentive to encourage them to make that investment we would agree to issue TIF Revenue Bonds. Scott explained how TIF Revenue Bonds work. Scott also explained that the Council will have to vote on Ordinance 2021-17 (see attached). Emma from Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors, went over the financial structure and gave a handout on how it will work. (see attached) A motion was made by Weir to approve Ordinance 2021-17 and was seconded by Dreher. All in favor, motion carried. This is the first of 2 approvals on this ordinance. Council, Commissioners and Economic Development Commission will meet on November 10, 2021 to get the Ordinance 2021-17 passed. Council to meet November 10, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. to approve the order the second time. Council will change the regularly schedule meeting from November 8, 2021 to November 10, 2021 at 4:00. James thanked Elanco for being such a big part of our community and stated she is looking forward to working together in the future.

- c. Approval of Electronic Meeting policy-Scott Craig presented a Vermillion County Council Policy on participation in meetings via Electronic Communication. Craig stated this would help in having meetings without having to have all members be present at the Courtroom. Four members would have to be present at all times, but this will allow the ones who aren't able to attend to vote electronically. There are stipulations to the policy. (see attached) A motion was made to approve the Electronic Meeting Policy by Bush and seconded by Costello. All in favor, motion carried.
- d. Amended Salary Ordinances-Economic Development requested that the Council amend the salary for the Director in the amount of \$60,000 yearly and \$2,307.69 Bi-weekly-Director Relocation Fee to a lump sum of \$2,500- Stipend/bonus for Deputy Director \$15,000. A motion was made by Bush to approve the amended salary and was seconded by Dreher. All in favor, motion carried.

X. Public Comment

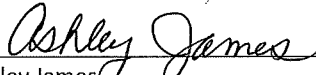
James stated we would be changing the regular schedule meeting in November from November 8, 2021 to November 10, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. This is so that we can include the TIF Elanco project. The December 13, 2021 meeting will also be rescheduled to December 16, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

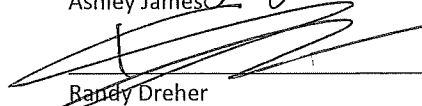
XI. Adjourn

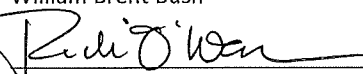
Motion to Adjourn made by Summerville and 2nd by Weir. All in favor. Meeting Adjourned.


AYE


Nay

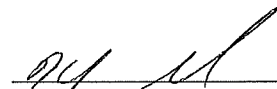

Ashley James



Randy Dreher

William Brent Bush

Rick Weir


Martin Brown


Neil Costello


Kelly Summerville

Attest:

Brenda Furry, Auditor