

RE: Transfer of Funds
Anhydrous plant, St. Bernice
Courthouse sidewalk
Ambulance money
Road Repairs
Jail Bond money
Board of Health fee increase ordinance

Minutes-Vermillion County Council July 10, 2006

The Vermillion County Council met in the Commissioners Courtroom, Courthouse, Newport, Indiana.

President, Mike Costello, called the meeting to order and led in the Pledge to the Flag.

Roll call was taken: Present were Mike Costello, John Yoho, Jerry Hawkins, John Cheesewright, Randy Dreher, Lavonna Mattick, and Fred Daniels. Also present were Don Darnell, Attorney: Sherrie Koma, Auditor, Amy Tolbert, Deputy Auditor.

A motion to approve the minutes of the June meeting was made by Randy Dreher and seconded by Lavonna Mattick.

Transfer of Funds

\$3500.00 from 100-0131-4334 Building & Structure to 100-0131-4333 Natural Gas

Vermillion County Prosecutor:

\$2500.00 from 244-000-4411 Office Equipment, \$2500.00 from 244-000-4325 Juvenile Support, \$2000.00 from 244-000-4137 Transcripts to 244-000-4414 Capital Projects.

Prosecutor Nina Alexander stated that her electrician had been here the last several weeks and she needs this money to finish paying him.

Motion to accept by Lavonna Mattick. Seconded by John Yoho.

Councilman Randy Dreher asked Public Health Coordinator Melissa Buell about the problems they have had in the past with the anhydrous ammonia plant in St.

Bernice. He wants to get someone involved to talk to the community on the issues regarding safety and effects of anhydrous ammonia. John Cheesewright is having a hard time getting the State Police involved. It was mentioned that someone should talk to Sheriff Hawkins. Buell stated that jurisdiction lies with IDEAM. They advised her that there is not a whole lot they can do at this point. There are safety precautions they have to take and as far as Buell can tell, they are meeting them. Dreher wants to get some literature to educate the people that live in the area. Prosecutor Nina Alexander offered to talk to the State Police to set up an informational meeting on safety. Alexander wonders if it would be more a Health Department issue but would be more than happy to check with the State Police to see what they can do.

Councilman Mike Costello asked about the blue paint he had seen along the steps on the east side of the courthouse. Commissioner Tim Wilson stated that he thought that Maintenance Superintendent Clarence Williams had wanted them painted because some kids had melted some wax on the concrete and he wanted to cover it up. Wilson stated that he did not know and did not authorize it to be done. It was suggested that it be power washed off. A lot of money was spent on the concrete.

Commissioner Tim Wilson said the ambulance money is short and they will be unable to fulfill the contract. Auditor Sherrie Koma stated that \$259,000.00 was budgeted and they agreed on \$274,000.00, they need about \$15,000.00 more. Councilman Mike Costello asked if this was an almost four year contract or a three year. Wilson stated that it was a three-year with the chance to extend. Costello stated that they were in six or seven months of a three-year contract and Wilson agreed.

Highway Superintendent, Bill Clark presented the council with a list of roads he would like to get fixed, along with estimated costs. Clark asked if he would be able to use some of the money from the sale of the hospital to make the proposed repairs. Councilman Jerry Hawkins asked if they could use the funds remaining from the jail bonds for these projects. Councilman Randy Dreher stated that it was something that they could take under advisement.

Councilman Mike Costello asked Commissioner Tim Wilson how the garage was coming along. He said he had no idea what was going on with it. He said he would check with the State and Building Commission and see if certification plans are needed.

Councilman Jerry Hawkins asked if the Jail Bond could be used to fix the roads that Highway Superintendent Bill Clark had mentioned earlier. It was stated that the Jail Bond was to be used for Capital Improvements only and no one was quite sure if the roads fell under the Capital Improvement definition. Attorney Don Darnell will look into it and get back with the council. It was also stated that the

Jail Bond needs to be used within a time frame or the money would be moved elsewhere. Councilman Randy Dreher stated that the hospital money was taxpayer's money and needs to be given back to the taxpayer and felt that repairing the roads would be a good way to do it. They asked Clark to prioritize his list just in case they are unable to do all the roads. Prosecutor Nina Alexander then asked again about the Jail Bond money, stating that there should be close to One Million dollars there. The Jail Bond money's time frame is about to expire and maybe it could be used to do some electrical work or used to do some work in the Courtroom. The money will not be lost but it will be moved. The council asked Commissioner Tim Wilson to get a hold of County Attorney Jon Spurr to see what the time frame was left and what it could be used for and to see if we can use it for roads.

Councilman John Cheesewright asked Commissioner Tim Wilson about the Park. It was everyone's understanding that it was all taken care of but it has not been. It's being used as a dump. If they put barrels out then people steal them. They have turned this over to the park board but nothing is being done. There is a dumpster there but people are just dumping trash everywhere. It was stated that the park board purchased a large sign but not sure that the sign is going to really help. They are going to see if Sheriff Kim Hawkins can get a few guys out there to clean it up and then start from scratch.

Board of Health

Health Department Representative Mary Haase from the Health Department said she talked to County Attorney Jon Spurr about increasing their fees. The Health Board has approved the ordinance at their last meeting to increase their fees. Other counties told Haase that they go through their Commissioners to get the ordinances passed but Spurr said she needed to go through the Council because the Council controls the financial part. Attorney Don Darnell questioned the fact that it said Amended Ordinance. Haase is not sure if it's amended. She stated that the fees have been in place forever so it had to be approved at some point by the Commissioners. Darnell stated that it's County property that they are selling, whether it's a vaccine or whatever, it's still County property and in that case the Board of Commissioners would be in charge. She said they did go through the Commissioners to get the approval for a new fund to put this money into, they want the vaccines put into a separate vaccine fund so they can do a budget for just that. Haase also stated that this is the process Spurr told her to go through. She also talked to Tammy White with the Department of Local Government and Finance and she also said that was the procedure. Darnell advised her to go through the Commissioners for approval to raise the fees. Haase stated that she just wanted to go through both the Council and Commissioners to get it on record from both. It was also mentioned that it might need to be published Haase stated that it would definitely be published.

Councilman Lavonna Mattick asked about the reimbursement for the employees who carry Medicare supplements instead of Health Insurance. The council is

going to set up a meeting with the Pierre Fox, the insurance agent, to see what needs to be done.

Councilman Jerry Hawkins still had some questions about the Jail Bond proceeds. The Auditor or Treasurer should be getting statements about how much is in there. It was mentioned that the money had to be used first for Capital Improvements to the jail and then secondly for Capital Improvements to County property. Attorney Don Darnell will find out exactly what the definition of Capital Improvements is and Commissioner Tim Wilson will see what the time line is on this Jail bond and they will discuss at a later meeting.

Councilman Randy Dreher wants to commend the Extension Office and everyone involved in the 2006 Vermillion County Fair. He stated that is was a really nice fair. All council members agreed.

Fred Daniels made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Lavonna Mattick.

Adjourn: 7:30

Read in full and approved by the Vermillion County Council on the 14th day of August 2006.

Attest: _____
Sherrie A. Koma, Auditor