

**RE: Transfer of Funds: Highway, Economic Dev., Area Plan. Prosecutor, Soil & Water
Mileage Reimbursement
Additional Appropriations: Vermillion County Jail
Soil & Water Administrative Assistants Salary Budget
GPS Mapping Computer Grant-Raymond Columbo
Keeling Inc**

Minutes-Vermillion County Council October 11, 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 Fred Daniels, Lavonna Mattick, Randy Dreher, John Cheesewright & Mike Costello, Auditor Sherrie Koma and Deputy Auditor Amy Tolbert. Absent were Jerry Hawkins and John Yoho.

Councilman Cheesewright made a motion to approve the minutes of last months meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Mattick. All were in favor.

Transfer of Funds

Commissioners Court: \$775.00 from 100-130-4221 Official Records to 100-130-4423 Highway Garage Repair. There was some questions about this. There was a transfer of \$775.00 from Garage Repair to purchase a computer, Auditor Koma, said that was not true, she said that in error. It wasn't for the computer. Official Records was a negative \$266.63, we had to put money in there to buy laminate paper. Councilman Costello asked Commissioner Wilson if he was ok with this. There was some confusion as to what needed done. Councilman Costello asked if the money was to be taken out of Official Records, back to the Highway Garage Repair. Auditor Koma said we couldn't do that because there is not enough money in there now because they spent it on the laminate. Councilman Costello asked how much was spent on the laminate. Auditor Koma said \$147.00. Costello said what we have in front of us is a transfer that we cannot do. Auditor Koma said that was correct, she just wanted to let the council know what was going on and that they can do another transfer after they pay for the laminate. Councilman Costello said there is no transfer to be done at this time.

Vermillion County Highway: \$1,000.00 from 201-146-4320 Repairs to Building, \$4800.00 from 201-146-4314 Communications, \$1500.00 from 201-146-4121 from Social Security, \$1500.00 from Unemployment and \$1000.00 from Medicare (total \$9800.00) to 201-146-4123 Group Insurance. Councilwoman Mattick made a motion to allow, seconded by Councilman Cheesewright. All were in favor.

Vermillion County Economic Development: \$100.00 from 317-000-4326 Surveying/Engineering to 317-000-4329 Office Cleaning. \$400.00 from 317-000-7326 Surveying/Engineering to 317-000-4324 Telephone and \$2000.00 from 317-000-4326 Surveying/Engineering to 317-000-4325 Per Diem. Councilman Cheesewright made a motion to allow, seconded by Councilwoman Mattick. All were in favor except Randy Dreher. He said he had some questions about the amount going to the Per Diem, he wondered if they were going somewhere or had been somewhere. Auditor Koma said it was for a Conference they went to. Councilman Costello said that they need to watch when they come back and want to put money back into surveying and engineering.

Vermillion County Area Plan/Zoning: \$200.00 from 100-145-4413 Office Furniture to 100-145-4323 Travel Expenses, \$200.00 from 100-145-4351 Training & Conference to 100-145-4323 Travel Expenses, and \$100.00 from 100-145-4411 Office Equipment to 100-145-4323 Travel Expenses. John Koma was present to explain it. He said he needs the \$500.00 put into Travel Expenses for his mileage. Councilman Costello asked if he was out of travel money and Koma said yes he was. Costello thought this would be a good time to discuss the individuals that were overpaid on their mileage. He wanted to know if we were going to be reimbursed by check. Auditor Koma said that she has suggested several alternatives. She said that Martha Padish paid by check and that Phyllis Orman has paid hers. Auditor Koma said she is going to pay hers when she goes to the conference next week. She will deduct the amount overpaid from what she will get from the conference next week. Councilman Costello said they want a paper trail and would prefer it all be paid by check. There was some discussion regarding the two part-time mosquito sprayer reimbursements. Auditor Koma said she talked to the state and they said it is not required that they pay that back. Councilman Costello asked if the State was going to pay for it? Costello said we couldn't pay them the 40 cents and not everybody else. Auditor Koma said they are not working now, that they are summer help only. Councilman Dreher said he hates that they are not working at this time, but its still needs to be paid back. Councilman Dreher said that the State says that fiscal body sets that amount and he doesn't think it would be fair to pay John Koma or Martha Padish .34 cents and let these guys ride off in the wind for free when they were overpaid. He knows it's a financial burden but they got extra money at the time that they shouldn't of and they need to put it back. Councilman Costello said Auditor Koma needs to send them a letter letting them know how much they owe and if they work for us next year and they haven't paid us yet, then we will garnish their wages. Councilman Dreher wants to know who from the State told Auditor Koma

that they were exempt. Auditor Koma said that they did not say they were exempt, he said that we did not have to make them pay. Councilman Dreher said he wouldn't mind even waiting until they come back to work next year to have them pay, he doesn't want to put anyone in a financial deal, especially with less than 90 days until Christmas. Councilman Costello still feels we need to send a letter and at least ask them to pay it back by the end of the year. Councilman Cheesewright thought a statement needed to be made stating that they all agree that they need to be notified ASAP.

Councilman Costello went back to John Koma's Transfer request. Councilman Dreher asked what he budgeted for travel expense next year. Koma said his budget is not finalized yet. Auditor Koma said that State cut his budget again. Koma said that is another issue he would like to bring up on a different day. He also said he has a 174 open building permits and what he does is mandated by the state, even though it is a county office. He also stated that any permit he issues takes anywhere from 2 to 6 inspections at various times during construction. He said Geographically this county is long and he might be running from one end of the county to the other on any given day. Councilman Costello asked how much it was for a permit and Koma said it was \$60.00 but could be up to \$700.00 for a commercial property. There was some discussion on raising the price of permits; every one seemed to agree that we were probably the lowest in the state. Koma said he would have to go through the state to see about getting the fee's raised and that he is in the process of doing that now. Councilman Costello asked if there was a motion to allow this transfer. Councilwoman Mattick asked how much he has already spent this year on travel. Koma said approximately \$2300.00. Auditor Koma also stated that when Koma pays back his overpaid mileage it would go back into his travel line item. Councilman Cheesewright asked how much he thought he would need to get through the end of the year. Koma said with the weather turning colder, business should slow down. Councilman Costello said with his \$383.30 reimbursement from over paid mileage going back in, he thought \$250.00 would get him through the end of the year. Councilwoman Mattick made a motion to allow \$250.00, seconded by Councilman Daniels. All were in favor.

Additional Appropriations: Sheriff Kim Hawkins was present to discuss their need for additional money at the County Jail. He said one was for inmate medical, \$23,400.00, and 10,000.00 for jail maintenance. Councilman Costello asked what the jail maintenance was for. Sheriff Hawkins said that what happened was that on December 6 of last year the Commissioners did not renew their maintenance contract with J.E. Shekell. This company provided electrical, plumbing, heating and cooling. He said they do all of their maintenance work at the jail. He said last year, with the agreement, they spent a total of \$30,000.00. This year they have already paid \$23,800.00 but what they owe is \$33,000.00. Sheriff Hawkins believe it will cost somewhere around \$50,000.00 total this year. He said with the maintenance agreement they don't get charged when they come out to work on various things, but without the agreement they are paying for everything. Commissioner Wilson said that he signed that agreement. Sheriff Hawkins said it was voted down on December 6th but it was signed in July of this year. Sheriff

Hawkins said even though the agreement was signed, money was never sent therefore the agreement is no good. Sheriff Hawkins said the agreement covers his ice machines, all kitchen equipment, and it was a good deal. Sheriff Hawkins said he tried to get the agreement to go through, but it didn't and he has bills to pay. Councilman Costello asked they look into this in December, about renewing the contract. Sheriff Hawkins believes what happened is that some other county office had hired Shekell to do some work and were not please with it and that is why the agreement was denied. Councilman Costello said they almost have to take care of the Inmate Additional. He asked Commissioner Wilson to check with Dave Marietta on the jail bond money for the jail maintenance portion, he said he would call him tomorrow. Sheriff Hawkins asked exactly what they were checking on. Councilman Costello said they would do the inmate medical tonight and then call Dave Marietta to see what can be done about the maintenance portion. Sheriff Hawkins said the work has already been done. Councilwoman Mattick made a motion to accept the additional for medical, seconded by Daniels, all were in favor. Councilman Cheesewright asked where the money comes from. Councilman Costello said from County General, that's the only place it can come from. Councilman Dreher asked Sheriff Hawkins if he has talked to the hospitals about getting a break in the cost. He said he talked to Union Hospital Official and what they will do is treat us the same as Vigo County, which is a 20 percent deduction off inmate bills. He has faxed Attorney Jon Spurr the information because an ordinance has to be signed by the Commissioners. Sheriff Hawkins said they are also looking into a company that will send out a nurse, working under a doctors care, to treat the inmates. The service will be a flat \$68,000.00 per year and would cover such things as a heart condition. Councilman Costello said we have a motion to allow and a second, all in favor. There was some discussion about the Pension agreement. It was agreed to hold a meeting of the Pension Board and have a representative come to talk to them. They also want Martha Padish present to compare last year to this year.

Councilman Costello said that Nina Alexander's and Les Zimmerman's Transfer of Funds was late coming to them so they will not be handled until next month. Auditor Koma said they didn't come in the packet, but should have been. They were both in on time.

Vermillion County Prosecutor: Pre-trial diversion: \$1000.00 from 244-000-4317 Transcripts, \$1250.00 from 244-000-4138 Witness fees, \$1000.00 from 244-000-4212 office supplies, \$750.00 from 244-000-4322 Postage, and \$3000.00 from 244-000-4325 Juvenile Support to 244-000-4326 Support Staff (Total \$7000.00)

\$4000.00 from 244-000-4411 from Office Equipment to 244-000-4327 Investigatory Expenses.

Motion to allow by Councilman Dreher, seconded by Councilwoman Mattick.

Vermillion County Soil & Water:

\$4000.00 from 100-148-4112 Administrative Assistant to 100-148-4334 Equipment Repair & Maintenance. \$2300.00 from 100-148-4112 Administrative Assistant to 100-148-4323 Travel. (Total \$6300.00)

Les Zimmerman was there to explain why he wanted this done, which he had explained in full at last months meeting. Councilman Cheesewright made a motion to allow, seconded by Councilman Daniels. All were in favor except for Councilman Dreher.

Councilman Costello asked Les Zimmerman if he talked to his secretary about the pay cut they talked about at budget time. Zimmerman said this was a very difficult situation. She was hired in at a certain rate and now they want to cut her, he doesn't feel that it's acceptable. Councilman Costello said that if they cut the position out, then he would have to fire her, its no different. He said he would rather supplement her wages with state funding that they get, rather than cut her pay. He said he would have to reshuffle his entire budget but he is not going to give someone a pay cut. She is currently making 16,830.00 a year, which is about \$13.00 per hour. She works 3 days a week. Part time workers are to get paid \$8.50 per hour and with the new pay raise it will be \$10.00 per hour. Les Zimmerman said the pay has been the same for that last five years. He hired her at the \$16,830.00 per year and feels that shouldn't change. There was some discussion to full-time part-time and straight part-time. They want Attorney Darnell and Spurr to look into this to find out what it means. Les Zimmerman said this is a salary and they can't lower it. He said they are in a unique agency because they are state governed, they have state and county funding, and they are at the service of the county. He is not saying they should have different rules; the fact is the employees are county employees and when they made the job description up and advertised for the job and interviewed people, they based their salary offering on what was done for the past five years. Councilman Costello said then she should get the \$375.00 raise, because historically it has been that way. Councilman Costello said she would get half the raise, \$375.00 on top of whatever she is making now.

John Koma said he is going to come to the council next month to ask for \$1000.00 for Larry Thomas' legal service on the BZA. It will be an additional appropriation, because this too got cut. He said if this continues in the direction that it has for the last three years, he is going to have to make some changes in his office as far personnel. He said he cannot continue running his office this way.

Raymond Columbo said they have applied for two grants. One for security at the courthouse and one for 10 GPS mapping laptop computers for Vermillion County Responders to use, law enforcement, fire departments, etc. It has been approved, the only catch is that the county has to pay for it first and then get reimbursed. The cost is \$11250.00. He said this is not through the CSEPP program; it's through the Department of Homeland Security. The commissioners Okayed it. Commissioner Wilson and Columbo and others met with the second in command at the Department of the State and they asked if they were going to hold up the

money and they assured him they would not. He said all they have to do is show them the invoice that the county purchased them and they will get reimbursed. He said its possible that the money will be here before the invoice is even due. Columbo said Parke county and Fountain County have them. All counties will be getting them and he hates to see us not take them, not to get them. Councilman Cheesewright made a motion to allow, seconded by Councilman Daniels, all were in favor except Councilman Dreher.

Councilman Cheesewright told Commissioner Wilson that he was against Keeling Inc putting an antenna on the courthouse roof to provide Internet service to the courthouse and the residents of Newport. Commissioner Wilson told him that a special meeting would be held on October 24 to discuss the proposal. He advised the council members who would not be able to attend to give Auditor Koma a written letter stating their position on the matter.

Meeting Adjourned.

Read in full and approved by the Vermillion County Council on the 13th day of November 2006.

Attest: _____
Sherrie A. Koma, Auditor