

Minutes-Vermillion County Joint Meeting Jan 12, 2007
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RE: Building purchase in Newport-Moving Clinton Offices to Newport

The Vermillion county council & Commissioners met in the Commissioners Courtroom, Courthouse, Newport, Indiana.

Council President John Yoho called the meeting to order and led in the Pledge to the Flag.

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

Yoho said they called the joint meeting because they have an opportunity to by the building across the street, on the corner, where the Army used to be. We were hoping to put a couple of our county offices in there and get everybody in Newport. That was the intent of trying to purchase it. Yoho said they would like the Commissioners opinion on what they think. Crossley said he talked to Dave Marietta and he said he has still got 116 or 126 thousand left in that fund and according to what the County Garage is going to take to finish, then he will have all that money left. He said something needs done with it by April. He has that much money to put towards that building over there. Someone asked how much they were asking for the building and Yoho said \$78,000.00. Crossley asked if they could get three offices in that building and Yoho said he would think so, there are nice sized rooms in there and its two lots. Cheesewright asked who owned it and Yoho said Albert Clark. Crossley said they could probably get the zoning office, the health office in there. Yoho said they need to get the Health office and Economic Development for sure. Costello asked how many rooms are we using in this building for break rooms alone? Aren't there two or three offices that just have break rooms that cannot be used for an office of some type. He said we did have one smoking room, and Koma said they have a desk back there. Crossley said he thought all the rooms were used up. Costello said there is nothing like that just has a refrigerator and a place to eat. Crossley said he didn't think so. Someone thought the Clerk's office did. Cheesewright said that is the election room. Mattick said there is a break room there but it's not very big. Costello suggested re-doing some things down in the gym area. He questioned how often it got used. Yoho didn't think very often. Cheesewright thought the extension women met there. Dreher said they could meet at the Fairgrounds, they have the space. Dreher said the Church uses it for their chicken noodle dinner and Mattick said they only used it once a year at the Hill Climb. Hawkins said his problem is that he doesn't remember anyone doing any type of financial analysis about, is this a better deal for the county, do we save enough money in rent to offset operating another building, owning another building, having to take care of

another building. Hawkins said he is certainly not against doing it. Yoho asked if anyone knew what Economic Development paid a month, \$1200.00. Cheesewright asked what they were going to do when the Garage was done, were they moving the Highway girls down there? Is this office going to be opened up when the garage is done? Crossley said the man in charge of that wasn't present. Cheesewright said he thought all three were in charge of it. Crossley said Dennis started the building and Kim Hawkins took it over. Yoho said that building belongs to everybody in the county, the one torn down, and everyone should have been involved in that process. Cheesewright said, aren't you putting offices in there for the girls. Costello said he thought that was the understanding. Dreher said he thought the understanding was that three or four years ago, when we refinanced the bonds, that we were going to take \$500,000.00 and do something with it and we pretty much spent it and not done anything with office space yet. He also thought, the initial talk was to put this building down here and it is a nice building, there is no question about it, Rick and them have done a wonderful job on it, but he thought the intent was to take that money and put offices in there and try to offset the costs of some that by using the rent money we were spending elsewhere on all these other offices. Costello said one of the hardest offices to move would be the Health Department and the last one. Cheesewright said the Health office should be down in Clinton and Yoho said no. Dreher said he just doesn't think this building down here was planned out very well. Costello asked how big the office space was out there in the new garage. Someone said it was 16x 20 plus a bathroom and a break room. Costello asked how big the office was that the girls are in now, maybe 10 x 15. Costello suggested that after the girls move the new garage, putting area plan in their old offices or Economic Development. Koma said there is also Soil & Water and Zoning to consider. Costello said we could throw Zoning over here, maybe. Costello said, we are not picking on anyone, but he thinks the recorders office, its pretty spacious, but there are a lot of records, have we ever thought about digitizing or getting our records put on disk. He could imagine everything in that room could be done. Cheesewright said she is doing that, and has been doing it. Costello asked if she was close to getting it done? Cheesewright thought so. Costello said, well that would open up that corner cause if you have it on disk, then you don't need a place for all those books. Wilson said he thought we could have someone come in and analyze the space. Dreher said he thought we had did that a few years ago, we spent \$5,000.00, had a company come in and do a study on this building, what happened to that paperwork? Nina Alexander said she has a copy of that study if anyone would like to see it. Yoho said he has never seen it and she said because it went through the Commissioners. Alexander said write down the number of people that are not in the building, write down the expenses you pay every month for them and then figure out whether or not your going to save any money. Costello said first we need to figure out how much money we need to finish the garage. Hawkins said it's not only that, when those bonds were refinanced, first and foremost the money should have been spent on the jail. That was the source of the bonds. Having not done that and most of the money being gone, jail needs come up and we have some real issues. Hawkins said the bond proceeds are the

commissioners call not ours, but if the jail needs some money, that is our call. Hawkins said his only concern is that if there is some efficiency to be gained then that is find but he doesn't get a sense that anyone knows how much we are spending every month on everything, how much space is needed. Wilson said you get a copy of economic developments expenses every month and Hawkins said he knows that but he meant beyond economic development, that's pretty easy. Hawkins said he has not seen anyone present them with something that says here's where people are, here's how much it costs to do that, here's how much it costs to have that space. Dreher said he thought zoning had a pretty good deal, it's \$270.00 a month and they ask them to increase it by 20 if they were able but they get internet service. The only thing they pay for is the phone. They get their heat, lights and everything in that 270. That is pretty cheap rent. He doesn't think we can afford to do it. Yoho said if you can get economic development out of their place you would save \$72,000.00 yearly, at least. Hawkins said but you still have to take into consideration the expenses in the new building so you wouldn't save all that money. Yoho said no, but you would be saving a chunk. Dreher said he still likes the idea of the gymnasium, it wouldn't cost anything, they already own the building. We would have to heat it so we might as well use it. Costello said it would just need cleaned up a little bit. Dreher said you could put cubicles down there. Yoho said he mentioned it once before and no one would check into it. Dreher said he thinks we can utilize what we have already in our hands. Hawkins said the bond proceeds are almost gone and he remember sitting here a few months ago when they asked Sheriff Hawkins to bring a list of things that he would need done at the jail and that is what the bond proceed fund should have been used for. I never saw that list. Wilson said we are going to be spending some out there because of water issues. Costello asked why they don't have a well out there, didn't the county home have a well. If a well ran the county home, surely it could run the jail. Yoho thought it was a pretty good well. Costello said we spend a lot of money treating and testing the water at the jail and Crossley said you would still have to do it even if you had a well. Wilson he doesn't want to make anyone mad but we need space and using the auditorium would save money. Costello said the 4-H has a lot of stuff on the stage and Wilson said they could store it at the fairgrounds. Costello said he is not trying to root them out, but is there a statute, does it have to be 1000 square feet or 2500 square feet, or is there anything. Spurr said he doesn't know. Dreher said when he talked to Purdue, they said we just have to provide them a space and the lady wouldn't go into any detail, he asked her for specific dimensions and she said there was none. We just had to provide adequate space for them. Wilson asked how much space do they have and couldn't they use Commissioners court for meetings. Costello asked how close the new garage office space was to being done? Rick Swinford said it would be done by April 1st, it should be. He said the hold up is the sewer, septic system. He said their contract just states building the building; they were going to plan on using the existing system when they bid on it. Now the existing system is not usable so they have to figure out what we are going to do. Crossley said he was told that the state ok'd two things, running it through the jail. Dreher said it would have been nice if that was thought out more and that building moved to the

back. Costello questioned the 2 1000 gallon tanks for two stools and a sink. Crossley said they have to do what the state tells them to do. Swinford said the cheapest way to go is to put the two tanks in otherwise your going to spend 25 or 30 thousand dollars if you go to a mound system. Swinford said the second tank is just a back up for the first one. Crossley said if they do their own system you would have out a tank in, a mound system, etc. Cheesewright asked if the price of the building was negotiable because it seemed like a lot of money for Newport. Hawkins asked if the building had been appraised. Hawkins said we need at least two appraisals. Hawkins said lets just assume best case scenario, we get that building done out there, then that would leave the offices in the court house open. Costello said we could also try and get soil and water in here. Yoho suggested we move everyone her but put the board of health at the school. Yoho said if we don't get all the offices up here, we are just wasting their time. He said people from Rileysburg are making multiple calls to Clinton to get a permit; you have to drive 50 miles just to get a birth certificate. If I want to call anyone on the council, I have to make a long distance call. Yoho said we should be calling AT&T and make them change that boundary line. Cheesewright said first we need an appraisal on that building. Yoho said Clark invited the council and commissioners to come look at it and only 2 people showed up. Cheesewright said he didn't know anything about that and Yoho said yes he did, it was mentioned at a meeting. Someone asked what kind of the shape the building is in and Yoho said its in excellent shape, the Army just moved out of it. Costello said maybe we need to take this one step at a time; we need to get the garage done first. Hawkins said and make sure we are utilizing this building. Crossley said when zoning went into the old school, John Koma had gotten quotes on partitions so he might have that information available. Nina Alexander said she is probably in more Courthouses then anyone here, she goes to many different courthouses through the course of the year, and we so are lucky up here to have the kind of building that we have and to have the space available that we have. If you have been in Vigo County's Courthouse you would be appalled at what has happened to that building because of the need for space and we don't have those kinds of needs yet. We don't have unused space in the courthouse, we have underused, under utilized space. She said she knows she is looking at having a company come in and actually digitize some of her records so that I don't take up anymore space than that little closet area to store files because if you go in the basement and it is appalling. The way things are thrown in there; broken furniture is stacked in there. Its not Clarence's fault, it's not anybody's fault who works here in maintenance, the office holders set a box outside there office with a note to Clarence to store it in the basement and then he has to find a place for it. She said she couldn't imagine that 50% of that basement could not just be dumped. It is just terrible the way we don't utilize the space we have. If some of that were cleaned out down there and then some of these offices which are used for storage where put there, you would have a great deal more space. Dreher said he never understood the broken furniture, if its not good enough for one office to use why would it be good for someone else, why don't we get rid of it. Alexander said she thinks people are afraid to dump things because of the requirement that it is county property. Alexander said there is a lot

of space in that basement and she is not saying that it should be utilized for offices but it certainly could be cleaned out and used for storage. Yoho said EOC used to be in the basement. Someone asked how long records had to be kept and Alexander said different offices have to keep records for different periods of time. She said she is not a record keeping office. Koma said she has to make a list of what she wants to destroy and then get it approved by the state. Costello said some of the stuff is historical and Alexander said to give it to the historical society. Dreher asked if Phil, Veterans Officer, needed as much room as he has or could he be put into a smaller office, now that he doesn't have a secretary. Costello asked if he could go in the office by the gym and Crossley said no, its too small. Wilson said that office is full of stuff. Someone suggested he be put into Bill Clark's office. Crossley said he thinks solid waste has their records in the office by the gym. Dreher said he agrees with Costello, its time to get the new garage done first and then come back and visit this. He said he thinks we have the best tools here at hand to use, ourselves, to go out and look at utilizing the space here. He doesn't think we need to spend \$5,000.00 for someone to come in and tell us how to do it. Alexander said she would get them a copy of that document that was done. Costello said he wasn't sure who we need to get to clean out the basement. Cheesewright asked Koma if she had inventory sheets, and she said yes. He said to have them just mark off the item when its thrown away. Hawkins so is the plan to get the building done, move the highway people and then take a look at that space and in the meantime get the building by the courthouse appraised. Dreher said that sounds good if it's ok with the Commissioners. Costello asked Swinford if any thing was done in the office area of the new building and Swinford said it was all framed up but its needs wired and dry walled. Dreher asked where we were at on cost at the present time. Swinford said the total is about \$137,997.00, \$10,997.00 left to finish the building. That is just the price of the building; it has nothing to do with the septic system. Alexander said it takes roughly \$150,000.00 to finish, and there is \$81,000.00 left, and there was a half a million to begin with, where is the other quarter of a million? Crossley said his garage, the garage up north. Alexander said, so none of it has been spent on the jail. Koma said some of it has. Alexander said it has to be spent on a capital project; it can't be spent on an expense. Costello said blacktopping, 200 grand, maybe but Crossley said not in the south end. Koma said the jail got some money for painting and other things. Costello said he thought 200 grand went to bituminous materials for some things that were paid. Hawkins said all Sherrie has to do is call the bank and the trustee will give her a printout. Costello asked if Bob Spence has any idea on what he needs for the jail and Crossley said he didn't know, it was just given to him last Tuesday. Hawkins made a motion to table the issue of purchasing the building pending the completion of the building in question here and studying the possibility of moving the girls and taking a look at the space that's going to be available. Seconded by Dreher. Cheesewright said and get an appraisal on that building and Dreher said there is no sense in paying for an appraisal until we see where we are. Crossley said we can get the girls moved out then we can look at bringing economic development into the courthouse and moving the Veterans office upstairs.

Crossley said he doesn't have any big meetings down there. Cheesewright asked about handicap people and Crossley said there is a ramp and elevator.
Costello made a motion to adjourn, seconded by seconded by Cheesewright.
Joint Meeting adjourned
Read in full and approved by the Vermillion County Commissioners on the 6th day of March, 2007

Tim Wilson

Harry Crossley

Kim Hawkins

Attest: _____
Sherrie A. Koma, Auditor

Read in full and approved by the Vermillion County Council on the 12th day of March 2007.

John Yoho

Fred Daniels

Lavonna Mattick

Randy Dreher

John Cheesewright

Mike Costello

Jerry Hawkins

Attest: _____
Sherrie A. Koma, Auditor

RE: Transfer of Funds

Additional Appropriations

Auditor & Assessor Compliancy Issues

Prosecutor and Sheriff ordinance-inmate fee

Morning Star Energy-South Ethanol Plant

Extension Office-overpayment from previous employee

Soil & Water-Sanitary sewer issues

Health Officer- Salary

Minutes-Vermillion County Council Meeting Jan 12, 2007

Yoho said they have already had the pledge to the flag and roll call.

Minutes from January 07 meeting. Dreher made a motion to accept, seconded by Mattick.

Transfer of Funds

Vermillion County Highway 201-146-4126 \$1,624.00 from liability and casualty to Workman's Comp 201-146-4127. Costello asked if there was an injury or something to. Yoho said he is not aware of any. Hawkins made a motion to approve, seconded by Mattick.

Additional Appropriations

County Jail Inmate Medical and Dental \$35,000.00, Part-time for the Clerk \$7,000.00, Voter Registration Clerical \$27,400.00. Total \$69,400.00.

Dreher asked about the inmate medical, was it something incurred from the last administration, something that carried over? Shelly Smith said Sheriff Spence is on his way and she knows they had a lot of bills carry over. Dreher asked what was going on with the Inmate Medical program they looked into it. Hawkins said he heard those presentations and he thought they were taken under advisement. There were two proposals given and were very similar. Spence said two vendors made a presentation to the Commissioners and each one of them are looking somewhere in the area of \$66,000.00 and \$68,000.00, to provide health care to the inmates. The Commissioners basically said they would let me take a look at it and make a recommendation to them. The difference is that one of them doesn't provide any payment to a hospital if the inmate is hospitalized and the other one does. They are currently studying both plans. Spence said the more expensive bid would cover health care in hospitals. Hawkins asked if certain things, such as pre-existing issues and pregnancies were outlined in the contract. Spence said yes and that he is getting some copies made for the council because he respects the fact that the commissioners can enter into the contract but the council has to provide the funding. What we want to try to do is make sure everybody is on board with this before we go out and make a decision and say this is what we have to have and then the council gets stuck with the bill. We want to make sure that everybody is on the same page and looks at it in the same mannerism and understands what we are getting and where it is costing us. Dreher asked if the companies were lump sum premiums or billed monthly. Spence said one of the good things about it is that it is a monthly payment program. The contracts can be signed for a one-year period of time. Mattick said it should be cheaper if they

signed a longer contract. Spence said a little bit but to go more years in the contract also is at a kind of gamble for us due to the fact that we don't know where this company or how well we are going to be satisfied with it. He said he would much rather go with one year and see how it goes and how the company treats us. Spence said then if we are satisfied we could enter into a different negotiation. Dreher asked if there was any limitation on the number of inmates. Spence said they are limited; they are called a daily average balance. He said both companies run about that same. Mattick asked if he had talked to other counties that use either of the companies and he said yes and that both companies do supply with their contract a list of counties they service. Mattick asked if they have contacted any other counties and Spence said yes and they seemed to be satisfied. Spence said what his general point is to equally have an amount of money that we can budget every year for inmate healthcare so that it doesn't hit us in the pocket so hard by fluctuating so radically. Last year was a very very difficult year for us with inmate healthcare. Spence said he would like this to be done by March 1st. Hawkins suggested taking a look at the last two years, figure out what things they might not cover, and then in addition to the premium for the insurance you can anticipate having these costs. Hawkins said the problem is that no one has done this long enough with these types of insurance companies, to really have a history of how things went. Hawkins said if we paid \$120,000.00 in health care last year and we are going to pay \$68,000.00 for health care and \$50,000.00 to \$60,000.00 for what is not covered, that might not be good so we really need to take a look at it. Spence said he wants to recap, what we are actually up against is that for example, you have a man that has Alexander has prosecuted very well and we are going to get him out of our system into the State system immediately, he just simply walked up to another man and shot him in the head and here you've got this character that you have to do something with and he comes into our jail and has a massive heart attack. We end up taking him not only to West Central Hospital but also Union or Regional. He got into us pretty heavy. Alexander said she and Spence are trying real hard to move people out and get them adjudicated as a DOC prisoner or like the young woman who was pregnant, we simply modified her sentence. There is a lot of communication there and we are working on it. She said it's not like trying to plan for your family because we don't know what their health history is. Spence said the difficult part is that the meth user, you want them arrested, you want them put in jail, but usually as soon as they get there they are very heavy into health problems because of the abuse of the meth. It's a difficult situation. Now if we have a person in jail that was picked up on shop lifting and has a heart attack, we contact Alexander and the judge and he is out of there, as soon as he hits the hospital ER, he is no longer ours. Spence said he has to use common sense judgment on what kind of charge this person is facing versus what kind of health care risk that they are costing us and the minor charge is we are going to get them out of there but the major ones such as criminal recklessness with a deadly weapon or reckless homicide or even all the way up to homicide then we have got to do something about this. That is what we are working on. Spence said he would like to try and set a special meeting and go over all the information at a later date but our time is catching up on us a little bit.

Costello said so what you are saying is that what we appropriated last year for the 06 year was probably \$35,000.00 and that was spent on inmate care. On top of that we have spent an additional \$42,000.00, so we've spent \$77,000.00. Spence said we have spent almost \$120,000.00 last year. Spence said it was any one persons fault. Costello said what he is asking is that in September we appropriated \$35,000.00 for this year and that has already been spent because of bills from last year that were on top of it. Spence said that is correct. Their bills totaled \$41,000.00 at the beginning of January 06, we are already \$6,000.00 over budget. Dreher made a motion to allow, seconded by Costello.

Clerk asking for \$7,000.00 part-time or \$27,400.00 full time if not she requests \$9,000.00. Martha Padish said Mary Alice comes in once a week to help out because as you all know starting Valentines Day, Diana has to go have her blood tests run so they can have everything ready for the lung transplant. She said she would need more money for the part-timers when she is gone. In the back is voter registration and elections, things have changed so much and it's going to be changing even more. I need more help up there. It really needs to be a full time person. Padish said she knows the county is in a bind and she will work with everyone but she would really appreciate more money, because there is just no way, when she has to be down in the auditorium to help program and work on machines, they need help upstairs with the absentee part. It's really rough, it's like having two elections, you have two types of equipment, different software's, ballots, everything. Dreher asked if that is just starting this year and Padish said they started in 2006 with the handicap machines. Padish said she needs her part time help in training as well for poll workers and we just don't have enough help to be able to do it. Costello said first off, full time, being \$27,400 we can't forget about our benefit package, which is about \$19,000.00 on top of that. We went through that with the one thing we did so I am sure that is... Yoho asked how much she paid her part-time help and Padish said the \$9.00 per hour. Padish said they had \$2,000.00 and they try to stretch it a little bit, she comes in a couple days of week. Padish said she got an email last Friday that per Federal Government, the first purge has to be done by February 28. She said she has almost \$2,000.00 people she is working with, the towns. She said it is one thing after another. Yoho asked if it was a yearly affair or just election years. Padish said 2006 was an election year but this year it's the towns and cities, and that they will be running Clinton City's in the spring. In the fall the towns have a choice, they can either write us or let us know if they want the county to run it or if they want to. Even if they run it they still have to come here for Padish to run the disks through the handicap machine. Now they say we can charge so much if they wanted to use our handicap machine and she doesn't know who sets the amounts, the council or the commissioners. Dreher said the Commissioners are in control of the property and Costello said the council sets the money because the set the money amount for copies. Dreher said it would almost need to be like a contract. Yoho asked if it was optional if the city runs their own election or if we run it for them? Padish said in the fall, yes and Yoho said why don't we let them run their own every time. Padish said you have to enter into a contract with the county. Dreher asked if it's an option, do we have to run that in the fall or do we not. Padish said they

have to write to the election board, if they want the election board to run that fall election. If they let the county run it then when figure up the charges. Costello asked how many hours a week she was planning on using the voter's registration clerical. Padish said a couple of months before an election, she could use one every day. Padish said you guys are over the money part, you know what you've got and she respects that. Costello said the part-time front office is \$7,000.00 and you figure \$9.00 an hour, that's 777 hours to use and if you go 20 hours a week that equals 40 weeks you can use a part time person. Padish said she is not sure how much she would need the one in the front. Costello said even if we took the \$7,000.00 and use that even for the clerical, were still talking about 40 weeks at 20 hours a week for one person so that could be two people for 20 weeks. If your only talking 2 months before, that's only about 8 weeks. Padish said we also have to help train poll workers and it cuts into that. Dreher said since we don't know where we are with this, can we get by with \$7,000.00 for the whole thing and let her come back to us when she knows more. Yoho asked if any over time work is done on the voters registration and Padish she usually does that herself. Yoho asked if the other girls could do it and Padish said yes, Theresa took training. Costello asked how many people we register a day. Padish some days there is none but there is a lot of other stuff to do, we do everything now. If someone comes in and signs up as a candidate, you have to build that election. Hawkins said the problem he sees, he could not see them adding a \$42,000.00 job right now and he said he understands that we are going to have to do something different with the poll workers pay or we aren't going to have any. Padish said we need to increase their pay. Hawkins said there are some things going on here immediately so you better to look at part time help. We have to figure out some ways to staff things up properly. If we put another \$42,000.00 employee on the payroll here, I doubt seriously if that person would be flat our busy every day of the year. He suggests approving the part-time and working with Padish to see exactly what we need to do to get this done. He said he wants to support her, there is no question about that and Padish said he understands. Dreher said, so what you're saying is just approve the \$7,000.00 and he said yes. Padish said when work starts backing up she would let them know and then discuss options. Padish said another thing is that when she did her budget, we put it like we are having a regular county election, now in the spring, we won't be using all the poll worker money that was allotted for that, can she can ahead and increase the poll workers pay to \$10.00 per hour. Hawkins said he thinks Dean Strohm is coming back in March to do jus that. Hawkins made a motion to approve the \$7,00.00 and then in March look at raising poll workers pay. Padish said she already has the money there, so can't she go ahead and pay them that extra. Costello said part of the problem is that right now it will only be 10 times 30 people but next year it will be 10 times 1000 people. Its on and on and on, its not a \$500.00 bonus at one time, its \$10,000.00, its \$20,000.00, its on and on and on. He doesn't think any raises can be done unless by them as a salary ordinance. Hawkins said Strohm is on the agenda to come back in March. Hawkins agreed, we shouldn't pay people more than the salary ordinance states unless they act upon it. Cheesewright made a motion to allow the \$7,000.00 for administrative clerical, seconded by Daniels.

Padish asked if it's the same and Costello said it's \$7,000.00 total. Padish said there are two different funds so she will just try to work with the two. Dreher said pay them out of part-time help. Padish said they are part-time but she has two different funds, one is election and one is the other. Yoho asked which one is require the most. Padish said she would split it and then transfer it over if needed. Padish said she had a bill from last year that needs paid, does she take it out of this year's budget and Yoho said she didn't have a choice. She said she wanted to make sure. Everyone was in favor of the motion.

Costello asked where we were at on the tax problem that we had with Government Finance? Koma said she is in compliance and Ritchey has a contract signed for the new equipment and they are going to be starting on that and they said if she can be in compliance by March, there wont be any withholding of the funds. Koma said her and Ritchey did not make the meeting due to vehicle problems but Paige Kilgore went. They told Kilgore at the meeting that they had just approved Koma's compliancy and Ritchey was really concerned because there are two things she needed to do to be compliant. One of them was the Sales disclosure form and once she gets the program loaded hopefully she can be in compliance by March. Cheesewright asked if the taxes would be out on time and Koma said she didn't know. Hawkins said, we just need to get the software loaded and get in compliance so we don't have any property tax replacement funds withheld. Mattick asked if Koma had gotten written verification that she was compliant and she said yes and it was included in the council's packets.

Nina Alexander and Bob Spence were present to discuss an ordinance they would like the council to consider. Alexander said she and Spence have spent a lot of time trying to figure out different things that they can do to operate both her office and his department more efficiently. They have met numerous times since the first of the year. One of the things they would like for you to consider is an ordinance, which would allow us to assess a fee for an inmate giving a period of incarceration of 72 hours or more. There is a statute, which allows us to assess them that amount of money. We aren't going to raise a lot of money this way but she talked to the judge and he certainly is willing to assess this following and hearing. She thinks the first year they might raise \$5,000.00 to \$6,000.00 dollars, which might not seem like a lot but that would pay for two radar units. Over the course of the years, this could be, well like in Fountain County, which is smaller than us, they raise around \$15,000.00 a year. It is money that would be placed in a particular fund that could be spent by the Sheriff subject to your approval. It would have to be appropriated and the Sheriff would have to tell you what it was to be spent for. It's just another option for utilizing what statutes we have for helping fund law enforcement. We are loosing money constantly through ICJI. My drug grant, they just absolutely emasculated that. We are just trying to do everything we can to try and support the programs. Hawkins said, so if we pass this ordinance then you would begin to assess this fee. Alexander said we don't assess the fee, the fee has to be assessed by the judge and it has to be assessed following and indigencey hearing but sometimes, and she thinks a DUI arrest for example, he will impose some weekend incarceration, if it is more than one weekend then that person will be assessed \$30.00 per day. Spence thought is was

\$35.00 per day. Alexander said what it says is \$30.00 or what we assess other counties for housing their prisoners, whichever is less. The \$30.00 is the most that we can charge. There is a fee associated with keeping people there and feeding them so it's not all profit, but at least we are not losing money. Alexander said if it is reduced to judgment and it goes on the judgment book, if they don't pay it, it of course attached to their real estate, it would attach to any other personal property. A great majority of the people who are charged with a misdemeanor or a low level felony, they want to get these things paid off. A great majority of these people we charge are our friends and neighbors. Hawkins said once the funds established money is collected and deposited to that fund then at some later point you would ask for an appropriation. Alexander said they might wait a year or two for it to build up unless Spence said he really needs it now. That is why she asked for it to be place in a specified fund. Spence said, that way it is very clear on how much we have made and how much we put in. Not only does it help law enforcement, it is one more thing to where the convicted person or the accused is in a situation where we are not being the burden to pay for everything. This is a system in which the judge can help impose sentences that they have to turn around and pay us for our services, to house them. Alexander said it's a governmental fund and it has to come before you for an appropriation and approval. Darnell said to set it down for a hearing next time and have it published. Alexander said she and Spence would like to set up a special meeting to discuss some ideas the have. The special meeting will be on March 12th at 6 p.m. Brian Paasch with Morning Star Energy said his company is looking to build a modern fuel ethanol facility in Vermillion County. He said he and his wife founded the company in August 2004. They reside in Avon in Hendrix County. Vermillion County was presented to them from a couple of different resources. He said the plan is to start first quarter of next year which means they are going to have to hustle a bit to do site preparation after harvest this year. Building a plant like this should a year to 15 months, so they are hoping to be in operation by the first half of 2009. As far as economic impact, there are a lot of different pieces to consider there and he said he would briefly touch on a few of them. A modern fuel ethanol plant does not employ a whole lot of people, they are looking at somewhere between 40 to 45 people with an average salary range of \$40,000.00 to \$45,000.00 a year. However there is a big trickle out effect. He said there could be 1000 new jobs generated from this plant. Tom with Baker and Daniels said he has been working with Morning Star Energy for that last several months. He said they want to have a partnership with the county and they have prepared a memorandum of understanding. It basically says that there are some things that need to happen for this to work. They are going to need to get cooperation with regard to approvals, building permits, and things like that. Right now their plan is to access on site water and sewer. They want to make sure everything works well with the county. He said the company would be seeking property tax abatement on the real and personal property. He said they have worked with a lot of these projects across the stated and they typically involve a whole array of incentives, which usually include tax abatements, Tif's, help with infrastructure. He said that Mornings Star wants to be good community partners and will only be seeking tax

abatement. They have received a preliminary commitment from the state for \$100,000.00. He would like to come back in the spring or early summer to discuss this more. Yoho asked what costs, besides the abatement, will the county have, and are we expected to put roads in for them? Tom said not necessarily, there are two issues they really hope to hear some feedback and input from the county on, is our on site waste water processing. Is the county going to express an opinion to which technology we use towards treating the waste? The other issue is going to be roadway. They have had some preliminary conversations with INDOT and they have said that they work will us for access off of State Road 63, however they have very strongly counseled us that we need to make a real effort to use one existing cuts either at the airport or the Farrington homestead. Now there is a possibility that someone with the county or state or even our engineers might suggest that what if we wanted a horseshoe type traffic flow, where the ingress was at the Farrington homestead, come through the plant, the trucks drop their grain and then maybe they go out through the Coffman property onto County Road 1100 South. If the county or engineers said this makes sense, we want to do this, then the county says that road is a little beat up, then we need to have some conversations about that. Yoho asked about the rail access, are they going to provide that and they said yes, its part of their budget. Hawkins said he would like to look at the MOE, page 2, section 2, where it says other assistance. In any of your other deliberations with other locations, have any of these things jumped out at you, as hard needs. Hawkins said the sight is a pretty good-looking site with the highway and rail. Tom said what they are really talking about in that section is also administrative support, for example, the utilities, and if they need some support or permits, they want to know the county would support them. We don't think we need county provided infrastructure to make this work, really just administrative support. Cheesewright asked how many acres they are going to end up with, 300 to 320. Tom said, yes, it will be pushing it and until they get the survey back, he is not sure. It's looking like 270 to 275. Hawkins asked how much was in the big parcel, the Farrington parcel? He said it is 115 acres. The Jones field is 55 acres and Coffman is approximately 90 acres and they just started working on surveys and contracts for that today. Yoho asked how many trucks would be coming in on a daily basis. Approximately 100 trucks a day, 6 days a week. Primarily the product will go out by rail. The material that goes out by rail will be dry. If there is a local market, the farmers will purchase the wet, which is cheaper. The wet product has to be used within one week. Yoho asked them if they were asking for a 10-year abatement and they said yes. The MOU that is presented, they are not asking them to deal with it tonight, they would like to come back in March. Darnell said they might have to hold some public hearings regarding certain permits. He said he finds it hard for the county to commit itself ahead of time. Mattick asked if they would be employing people locally and Paasch said they believe there are some skills here locally and they will be using them. The plant is broke into 3 areas, administration, and engineering and high-end maintenance work, and then life science, biochemistry. This is a super sized still, with fermentation etc. If those skills are available they will be using local people. Costello asked what the life span is of this type of plant

or is there one yet. Paasch said the modern fuel industry, the ethanol industry; there isn't a history of how long they last but reasonably it might be much like a refinery, once the plant puts down its roots, its going to be modernized and updated and its going to be around for a while. Hawkins asked if they had some sort of opinion for contraband for ethanol, price of corn going up, price of oil going down, how do you feel about all that in terms of investing ethanol. Paasch said he has to be careful because he is in the process of seeking investors. Hawkins said he would retract his question. Paasch said it is a very dynamic process; it wasn't very long ago when corn was about 50 a bushel. If you go back to the mid 90's, it was about \$5.00. It goes up and down. Talk to the Farm Bureau guys about bushels per acres yield and he can show graphs that it has gone up. Its not a static process, its going to change from year to year. As the technologies get better and the corn yields go up, as the government gets rid of the crop reduction program, where the are paying farmers to not farm their land, all of those pieces of the formula can change, then he thinks the whole structure changes. Yoho asked if he would have trouble from the other place in Cayuga competing for grain. Someone said within 50 miles of their site there is 250 million bushels of corn grown. Within 60 miles, it's around 300. There are other plants in the area, they need 40 million bushels. There is a certain number when the banks and investors get nervous; they are not near that number yet. Yoho said with the railroad, what are you going to have, 80, 90 car trains come in? Paasch said CSX currently is doing ethanol unit trains of 75 cars and said it could go up to 80 soon. What they are concerned about is the lenders will expect us to build the infrastructure to handle importing corn from west, if we were to have a bad year or something went wrong, the trains that come from the west are typically 110 cars at a time. They have to plan infrastructure for worse case scenarios or we end up with a traffic jam. Yoho asked about the crossings, in Clinton how many will be blocked with a 110 car train? Paasch said it is his understanding that the switches are supposed to be high-speed cable, the train is supposed to come in and be able to clear that main line track quickly.

Linda Reynolds from the Extension Office. She said the amount for the contractual services for the three educators was \$88,000.00 in 2006. The amount per educator, divide that by 3, is \$29,333.33. That amounts to about \$2,445.05 per educator per month. That is usually paid in 6 months intervals. The vacancy was from April 2006 to December 2006, the total comes to \$22,000.00. Since we are on this point right here, she would like to introduce their new Ag educator, Ralph Johnson. Johnson started January 8th. He said thanks for having him in the county. He came from Montana where he was working for the University of Montana in continuing education. He has a background in forestry and raising sheep. He hopes to bring a little different depth into the educational programs that they are doing. Reynolds said mileage pay, she nor Becky Holbert has not collected mileage since October and so we took that total amount, which came to \$876.52 from the \$22,000.00. That would leave a check of \$21,128.48. Back in the September minutes, and she gave them a typed manuscript from the minutes, it does say that whatever was budgeted for Extension could be used for Extension but at that point, they thought it was around \$7,500.00. We have come back to

you because it is much more than \$7,500.00 and we they would like for the council to make a decision as to whether we can use that. One of the reasons they went ahead and spent the mileage was because of this conversation. It was only \$876.00 but she went ahead and spent that out of that and it has taken awhile to get that actual budgeted amount total. Costello said it was budgeted but the other thing we have to be careful of too is that's its not real money, its there right now to pay this and that, but its not going to be there later. So we have to be careful and use it as a security blanket. Yoho said if this money was to pay for an educator's salary, how could it be used for mileage without authorization. Costello said it would have had to have been moved around. Yoho said if this were handled correctly we wouldn't have overpaid this money to Purdue. Reynolds said we are under contract. Reynolds said they tried and Yoho said whoever was in charge, overcharged us. If I were doing business with the, I wouldn't do business with them ever again. Hawkins said we are not getting \$21,000.00 extra. It can't be looked upon as revenue; it's just not a revenue item. The budget can't grow more than it has. Reynolds said they wont have this this year because they have 3 educators. This is a one-time deal. Yoho said they did received \$21,000.00 of cash more than what we should of paid. Didn't you pay a check to Purdue every time? Reynolds told Yoho it is paid every 6 months. Yoho said we paid Purdue an extra \$21,000.00 in cash. Reynolds said it's not really extra. Hawkins said we paid them but didn't receive the services. Yoho said that's right, so they owe us for the services, cash. Holbert said the county didn't not receive the services; the rest of the office just filled in our families took a big hit as result of it. That needs to be kept in mind as well. Yoho said if you owe us money, we want the money as far as he is concerned. Yoho asked for a motion one way or the other. Dreher asked what happens to the money if they don't do anything. Hawkins just say the check comes to the Auditor, it has to be deposited to some fund. Reynolds said right now it is being held in an overage account at Purdue to pay back to the county. Hawkins said but you want it paid back to the general fund and actually deposited in extension funds. She said no, they would like to, maybe, for the council to think about it and if we have a shortage again this fall in our mileage, take that into consideration, that we did pay back the money. Yoho said that you should have paid in the first place. Reynolds said it was under contract. Yoho said for 3 people but we only had 2 so Purdue over charged us, anyway you look at it, we've been overcharged. He said he doesn't care how its split, we were overcharged. Reynolds said she doesn't consider it and overcharge when she is paying it back; there is no recourse for a contract. Holbert said it could only be used by Vermillion County at Purdue. Dreher said we don't need to do anything. Reynolds said it just needs accepted and she wants them to keep it in the back of their mind. Costello said it's a tough thing because, like Yoho said, we paid for something we didn't get. Cheesewright said but it was nobody's fault, it couldn't be helped, the money is coming back. Les Zimmerman said as you know, the Soil and Water Conservation District and the Economic Development Council have been working together for a year and a half now to explore solutions for the under resolved sanitary sewer issues in our county. Several of you have been included in these discussions. We have a

proposed a formation of a county wide sanitary authority that would be funded with a small increase in the EDIT tax, so that our communities will have some resources to draw on as they chose to develop this fundamental sewer infrastructure. We had hoped to get this passed this time around so this can be enforced beginning in 2008 but several of you had expressed some reluctance to embrace this approach without more information about the cost impacts on these affected communities. In order to address your appropriate concerns Economic Development Council has commissioned a feasibility study that focuses on Perrysville, Newport, Dana, and Universal. This study will be presented to the economic development council in a public meeting this Thursday February 15th at 7:00 p.m. This study will examine different rate scenarios in these various towns based on treatment options, grant options, and other funding. Other funding would include county funding based on the EDIT tax. Our plan going forward is to present this information and these options to the various communities in a series of town hall meetings over the next 8 months. We will solicit public input and comments and by October of this year we hope to have a comprehensive proposal for your consideration. The fact remains that we have several small communities including our county seat that continues to discharge raw sewage into our surface waters. This is in violation of state law and this is in violation of any reasonable standard of public policy. Our public health, our over all quality of life in economic development opportunities will all benefit from a commitment from county government to assist our towns in establishing this basic infrastructure. Ed Cole said Thursdays meeting will be a presentation by the people who common wealth engineering who put together the study, they are going to be presenting an executive summary. It is a good opportunity to ask questions about the process. It is an open public meeting at the Economic Development Office. Hawkins said what he would ask them to do as council members is to keep an open mind and receive the information, consider the information that will come out over the next few months and consider possible long term beneficial effects. He doesn't think there is any question in our minds that communities are attracted to developers because they are moving themselves in positive directions. He would just like to encourage them to keep an open mind. It's an organization to facilitate assistance for people when the time is right to move in directions of dealing with sanitary issues. Zimmerman said he thinks it's important that Hawkins noted the fact that they are not here to try and make anybody do anything. Cheesewright said he would like to say, that on behalf of a county council member and Farm Bureau President, he wants to compliment Ed Cole and the Economic Development Board for all the help they have done to bring these two Ethanol plants into our county, its going to be quite a benefit financially, job wise and after all we are making fuel for America. Maybe someday we won't have our men and women killed in Iraq and other places, we can depend on our own resources. Yoho said they received from Larry Beard Sr. requesting they adjust his 2007 earnings to \$12,960.00. Costello asked what he is getting now and someone said \$14,000.00. Hawkins said this is what we would of done in January had he sent us the letter. Dreher said he makes a motion to leave his salary at \$14,000.00, whatever they appropriated, set the budget at, seconded by Costello. Costello do

we even have to make a motion if we don't change it. Yoho said not if we don't change it. Hawkins said he doesn't think any action is warranted if we are not going to change anything, his only question is, did we do this for him last year, and everyone agreed they did. Hawkins asked why would we not do it for him this year. Dreher said it just creates a lot more havoc for the people in the Auditor's office and we have enough problems; he doesn't think we need to change it. Hawkins asked if it created problems last year. Mattick said we didn't get it in time this year. Koma said she had the letter and did not bring it to them. Mattick said, then we can't blame him. Dreher said why don't we set the salary at 12,900.00 from here on out and not worry about it. Yoho said he agrees with Dreher on that. Dreher said but then what if wants it raised back up. Costello said last year he asked for 12,300.00 or something like that. Costello said the salary is what it is and if he doesn't want the job, someone else can take it. Mattick asked if we have ever had other applicants for that job. It was decided to leave the salary as is and everyone agreed.

Mattick made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Daniels.

Read in full and approved by the Vermillion County Council on the 12th day of March 2007.

John Yoho

Fred Daniels

Lavonna Mattick

Randy Dreher

John Cheesewright

Mike Costello

Jerry Hawkins

Attest: _____

Sherrie A. Koma, Auditor