

**RE: Incarceration Fee Fund Ordinance
Jail-Restructuring Salaries
Sheriff's Salary**

Minutes-Vermillion County Council Special Meeting March 12, 2007

The Vermillion County Council 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, Mike Costello, Jerry Hawkins, Attorney Don Darnell, and Deputy Auditor Amy Tolbert. (John Cheesewright was present for the regular meeting at 7 p.m.)

Nina Alexander said she and Bob Spence have a number of things they would like to talk about. The first thing they want to discuss is the ordinance that was presented last month. Alexander asked Darnell if it has been advertised and he did not know. Yoho said Koma won't be here tonight either. Alexander said it needs to be advertised doesn't it and Darnell said yes. Dreher said he thought Koma was instructed last month to advertise it and everyone was in agreement. Costello said it needed to be read as well. Darnell didn't think so, just thought it needed advertised. Costello asked if Koma had a copy and Alexander said yes, she gave it to her last month and drafted it in ordinance form so that they wouldn't have to do anything except advertise it. Dreher said he doesn't recall seeing it anywhere in the paper. Costello said we need to make sure it gets in the paper. Dreher said he understands that this is going to go into a special fund strictly for the Sheriff's department and he will have to come before the council to spend it. Alexander said yes, he would come to the council with an appropriation. Mattick asked if he could use it for whatever he wanted and Alexander said it is limited by the ordinance for operation of the jail or other law enforcement related expenses and whatever he chose to spend it on would have to be approved by the council. Dreher asked how much Alexander thought it would generate and she is not sure. She said she did talk to Judge Stengel and clearly it has to be assessed by the court and the Judge is in favor of such a fee, so she thinks that in situations were it is appropriate that he will assess it. She said it would take awhile to get used to. She doesn't think it will generate a great deal this year but Fountain County has used it for a number of years and they generate several thousand dollars, in the excess of \$15,000.00. Alexander said she just doesn't see it as situation that has any particular downside. Mattick asked how we go about collecting this fee. Alexander said she is not sure; it may be something that they assess and take out of their escrow account if there is money there. If they don't pay it, it can get turned in, they can lose their drivers license. Alexander asked if they need to come back next month, after it has been advertised. Costello said he didn't think it was necessary that they come back. Hawkins said it just needs to be advertised and then they need to act upon it. Spence said he wanted to clarify that this is geared toward weekenders; it doesn't come from that when your arrested you have to start paying. This is a sentenced fees after the person has been found guilty. Alexander said that is important because you can't assess the fee prior to determination of guilt. Alexander said they try to not punish people in a manner that will cost them their job, which creates more problems. Dreher said he agreed with Hawkins, they don't need to come back next month; they will act upon it once it is advertised. Yoho said to Alexander, that she made a statement last month regarding a statute, which allows us to assess them that amount of money, do we still have to have that. Alexander said the statute only allows it if its adopted by ordinance. We can't do it without the ordinance. There was some

discussion again to whether or not it was advertised and everyone agreed it wasn't because surely someone would have seen it in the newspaper.

Bob Spence said he wanted to talk about the Inmate Medical program that was presented to both the Council and Commissioners. He said they have decided to go with Professional Health Care and the Commissioners passed and approved to use them pending the approval of the county council. He said he is going to let Shelly Smith explain where they are at financially. He said you have to remember that when he took office on January 1, 2007, they had \$35,000.00 in the line item for medical. They had \$43,000.00 in medical bills from 2006. Spence said they spent the \$35,000.00 to catch up on the bills, they have \$8,000.00 deficit at this particular time. Smith said we were allowed \$35,000.00, we started out with the \$35,000.00 but we had \$43,000.00 that were left over bills from last year that we paid, which ate up the first \$35,000.00 so then we still have some that we need to pay out of this second \$35,000.00 that you approved last month and then our additional for \$40,000.00 will cover what we owe and include the medical contract. Yoho asked if that would take care of us until the end of the year. Smith said we still have dental, that could be a possibility. She doesn't know if there are any outstanding claims that they haven't received yet. That will take care of the medical contract and what we owe at this point and will leave them with about \$1,100.00. Costello asked if we could pay monthly on the new medical contract and Spence said yes. Smith thought it would be about \$5500.00 per month. Smith said this will save us money, we never know what the medical bills will be. Having the nurse there 20 hours will relieve the liability on their part. It's a win win situation. Alexander asked if it would begin this calendar year and Spence said it would be 12 months from the time we sign the contract. It will span 2 budget years. Smith said she spoke to a representative from Professional Health Care on Friday and he said that if we call him tomorrow and say it's a go, they could have it up and running by April 1st, maybe sooner. Hawkins asked how does looking at the 06 expenditure report, under other services and charges for the jail, is the \$79,397.00, fund 132-43330, institution medical and dental, is that inmate and Smith said yes. Hawkins said, so in the calendar year we spent \$79,400.00. Alexander said, but you had a debt of \$120,000.00 because you started this calendar year \$8,000.00 in the hole. Hawkins understood that, he was just saying that when we spend \$79,000.00 and in addition to that you brought \$42,000.00 worth of bills, so really what you are saying is we spent \$80,000.00 and \$40,000.00, for a total of \$120,000.00 for inmates who were incarcerated during 2006. Smith said that Mary Nickels told her today that they also spent \$8,100.00 out of the misdemeanor fund. Hawkins said the company that you did select has more business in the area. It was because the company started out as one company, they then split off and one company got Illinois and the other got Indiana. Hawkins asked if they selected Professional Health Care because they offered something that the other company did not. Spence said one of the things he felt strongly about was that this company will cover hospitalization and the other company will not. Spence said that they had wanted to sign a 3-year contract because it was cheaper but Spence wants to go with a one year to make sure the company is going to be beneficial to the county. They did check references on both companies and both got favorable responses. Dreher said he agrees with Spence on signing the one-year contract and the fact that the county will be saving half of what we spent last year. Alexander said we might turn around a arrest the healthiest people for the next 8 months but then we pick a guy up on a PI that goes in to cardiac arrest, you just don't know. Spence said you have to realize where our society is at, it's sad but the course these people are taking, they are destroying their lives, they are destroying their livers, they are doing all kinds of things to their health with this meth problem and we are ending up paying the cost of that. Alexander said the other thing that she thinks is very good about this for the council in terms of budgeting, is that you know what is going to be spent. Hawkins said he wanted to hear it one more time, he said, so we spent the \$35,00.00 and we were \$8,000.00 more than that. Smith said we got the additional from last month, \$35,000.00 and add that to the \$40,000.00 that will be proposed later this evening. That would be \$75,000.00, the contract is \$68,381.00 so that leaves just a little bit, and we have an \$8,000.00 bill at the auditor's office that we have not paid yet. Spence said we could put it in every

month at a time, \$5,500.00 additional every month. Costello said he would like to have at least 6 months there and then come back and revisit it then. Alexander said if you enter into a contract for a year, then your bound for a year. Costello said, yes we would have to fund it. Spence said they received notice today from the State DOC, that the end of this month we are receiving \$223,615.00. Into the general fund you are getting that money at the end of this month, which is for May to December of 2006. Costello said the only reason he worries is because he remember that in the past, they talked about breaking up the contract payments but it never happened. Hawkins said it just helps with cash flow issues. He said they have a lot of things that have encouraged people to try and change the way they pay but they don't, so you end up with a million dollar expenditures in one month. Costello said the general fund looks good on Monday but terrible on Tuesday. Mattick said we could also earn interest on that money if we could keep in the general fund longer. Costello said if we take the \$8,000.00 off the \$35,000.00, you still looking at having \$27,000.00 and if we put \$20,000.00 with that then you have \$47,000.00 which is 8 months at least and then we will be budget hearings again and we finish that out plus whatever else we need. Costello said the only place he can see taking it out of is River Boat Gambling. Hawkins said it just goes to your cash, that's all. You don't have to find any place to take it from, it just goes to cash. It will all wash out at the end of the year. Anything that is an additional appropriation just goes right out of your cash. Hawkins said with these additional appropriations that Spence has requested, we could reasonably expect that inmate medical, with contract, would be pretty much covered. Smith said yes except for dental, but what she does is make them put in a minimum of two requests before she will make them an appointment. Mattick said the nurse can also make those calls. Costello made a motion to allow it as presented since the money is just coming out of general fund he will make the motion to appropriate. Darnell said he had to do that at the regular meeting. Darnell said the ordinance was the only thing advertised. Hawkins said the additional appropriations were advertised for the regular meeting. Spence said he has two other issues he wanted to discuss.

Spence said what they want to try and do, it will probably be at the next meeting because it has to be advertised, is restructuring salaries and it has to be done by a new salary ordinance with the Sheriff's department. He said he hired Butch Garver as a deputy in his position. He said he has felt very strong for several years that the new guy on the block should not be making the same amount of money as the veteran's, who are making about \$35,000.00 a year. He said John has been there 18 years and then Garver comes in at the same amount of money. Spence said he told Garver when he was hired that he would come in at \$30,300.00 and then found out that he couldn't lower it. He understands not being able to raise it but thought he could lower a salary. Spence said he asking the board to lower the salary from the deputies wage of near \$35,00.00 down to \$30,300.00 for Garver. Spence said what they are going to try and do over a graduated 4 year period is to take him back up to the level of the rest of the deputies, once he gets the experience and some knowledge behind him. Spence said he thinks it would be a benefit to everyone and Garver understood all that in the interview. Alexander said he wants to amend a salary ordinance, not just for Garver, but also for Jr. deputies, for people just coming into the department to \$29,100.00 and then once they have successfully completed the academy, then it would go up \$1,200.00 then over a period of 4 years would gradually raise. Costello said so if everyone were getting \$1,000.00 raise they would get \$1,300.00 until they are caught up. Hawkins said first of all you want to do salaries different for deputies and then we have the Garver situation. Hawkins asked if he wanted to amend the salary ordinance to address the Garver issue and these other issues now? Alexander said yes. First to specifically address the issue of Garver and then one to amend the salary ordinance to provide for gradations when people are hired into the department. Hawkins suggested taking care of the Garver issue and then revisit the second issue for the 2008 budget. Spence said he wanted to explain something. He said when he took office, one of the key things he heard was we need an investigator, so he took a look at the budget and tried to figure out how to do it and not have to change anything. It is do-able. The way it can be done is this, when Smith took on the position of Matron, she vacated her salary as a jailer,

\$29,100.00. So now we have an open wage of \$29,100.00. He said they also have 9 positions for jailers and we currently have 8. Mattick asked how many they use per shift and Spence said 2 per shift and they have 2, 12 hour shifts. We have 8 jailers, 9 positions, so he decided they would not fill that 9th position, they are going to run awhile and see how they do. He said Smith has not only fulfilled the Matrons position but she is also doing her jailer position and she has really filled in and he feels like he has saved an awful lot of money for the county doing it that way. Spence said, so we've got an open position for a jailer's salary. What he wants to do is take that salary out of the jail budget and put it into the law enforcement budget and then he can put a guy on the road at that \$29,100.00. Costello said so you want to eliminate a jailer position and then add a position, give up a jailer to gain a deputy. Spence said the reason is because they have 6 people that cover Vermillion County that means that half of the time, you only have 1 deputy patrolling this county, the other half you have two. In the event that there is a sickness or vacation then we have to do some split coverage. By adding another deputy, now he can take a deputy out of that role and put him into an investigative role. We did that with Yoho several years ago and we saw good results with that. Spence said what they want to try and do is take Mike Phelps off the road and make him an investigator/detective for the department. This jail position would allow somebody to fill his position back on the streets. Spence said the only cost would be the cost of the retirement program, for a deputy is 21.25% and for a jailer is 5% that makes a difference of 15% of the wages of that individual. That is the additional costs so if you rounded it off to \$30,000.00, the total would be \$4,500.00 for 15%. That is what it would cost to make a jailer into a deputy. Spence said he thinks that is moving money wisely and still not hurting the taxpayer by making these moves. Costello asked if we had enough running vehicles to support our 7th deputy, he understands there have been some problems with transmissions. Spence said we are getting them back in order and it is costing us to get those cars brought up. Spence said some things were let go of and they are trying to bring them up to speed. Mattick said Yoho is under a grant, what if that grant runs out, what happens to him? Alexander said that Yoho's grant will run through the end of this calendar year. The grant we are under right now runs out March 31. so Yoho is fully funded through March 31, thereafter through the end of the year, she will receive \$12,000.00 from Vigo County, another \$5,000.00 to \$8,000.00 from the LCC, and then remainder of what is needed to pay Yoho through the end of the year, she will pay out of deferral. She said she made a decision to do that after she talked to Spence because she thought it was so unfair to do it to his 2007 budget. Alexander said she couldn't tell us, starting next year, that this grant will be in place. She said they have went from \$100,000.00 4 years ago to \$12,000.00. We are not getting any more federal funds. Alexander said she thought they should be aware that at the end of this calendar year that at least a portion of Yoho's salary may very well have to come out of county general. Alexander said that in the last 3 years it has made tremendous difference to have Yoho allocated only to working on drugs. He has done other things too. She said she couldn't fund a position totally out of pre-trial. She said she can't afford the salary and the benefits. She said he will help fund it if needed. Alexander said we do need another deputy, right now she pays out of deferral, she pays the merit deputies to work and extra shift on Friday and Saturday nights so we don't just have one out there. As long as they want to work and they can and they have been, she is paying that. She said she will also pay money into the fund to help pay for the gasoline that is used. It makes a tremendous difference to have that kind of coverage. Spence said he guy they want to move out of the jail and put on the street is Kenny Salzein. Spence said right now he has three deputies that at any given time, that if they needed to go back into the jail, they would be able to. It's a win win situation. Spence said that one of the things he is happy with is that he gives recognition where recognition is due and Yoho has done more for this county, breaking the back of drug dealers and this mess that we have on our hands and the amounts of money he and the other deputies have generated back into Alexander's fund. Yoho has done a wonderful job as far as his abilities and his services. Spence said they are not asking for an additional at this time, they are just asking to transfer the money out of the jail into law enforcement. Hawkins said he doesn't have any question about the need to do what you're saying, that is

not the problem; the devil is always in the details. How exactly do you get the money? Alexander said you would have to do an additional appropriation for the deputies salary but what you would know is that you have \$29,100.00 over of there for the jailer but its not going to be spent. Hawkins said he is a little confused because this is all in the general fund, so what is the need for the additional appropriation? Costello said he thought they needed a line item for a 7th deputy. Smith said there is an appropriation number in the line item it just has a zero balance. Costello said they still need to move that because if that is the case then he could move anything he wants to that. Hawkins asked if it was a transfer or an additional. Costello said we are creating a position, a 7th deputy at \$29,100.00 but do you want to make our 6th deputy \$30,300.00 at this point too and Spence said yes. The 6th deputy needs amended and then we have to allow the transfer. Mattick said in regards to the graduated pay scale is that the courthouse will raise issues. Spence said law enforcement is another issue, he has never seen a department that hasn't had corporals, sergeants, lieutenants and so on. Dreher asked Spence if he has thought about the money for the jail water. Spence said right now they are paying a guy to come up and test their water at \$800.00 a month. Through the course of changes, he contacted the IDEM and found out that they can have certified water testers on site as long as they are certified only for the jail. In other words, a jailer can't go out and test Clinton's water. If we train and send 4 jailers, over to water testing school, which will cost them about \$30.00 a piece. Then we can start having jailers test water and we can eliminate those dollars. That will free up about \$10,000.00. Costello said that Spence wants to reduce the 6th deputies salary reduced to \$30,300.00 because he has been to the academy and then the 7th deputy, you want to create another line item for \$29,100.00. Costello asked Darnell if this was something we could do at the next meeting or not. Darnell said yes he thought it was okay, to delete the one position and then create the other one.

Spence said the last issue, when his salary was discussed he went from \$85,000.00 to \$75,000.00 at his request. The 10,000.00, they had kicked around several ideas but it never got incorporated. He asked for \$3500.00 to go into a line item for legal services and it did not get done so he asking for that to be done tonight and the remaining \$6,500.00 go into extra help for part time help but it was never done. Spence said that he put a couple of retirement age gentleman on the road and we pay them out of the part time jailer position and that is what he is trying to do, put money back into that. He said these guys are doing a fabulous job. Joe Jones and Harold Craig, both from Dana. They have really taken a load off of the deputies. Hawkins said when we approve this in the regular meeting, is it Smith who will work with the Auditor to make sure the money gets into the right funds. Spence the problem is that he thought it was already taken care of when they talked to him about his salary. Hawkins said that is his concern because otherwise we talk about stuff that never gets done, there has to be a paper trail. Smith said she would take the responsibility and make sure that it gets done correctly. Yoho asked why he needed separate legal representation and Spence said one is the fact that the Indiana Sheriffs Association has a legal paid department, every sheriff in Indiana uses this gentleman because that is all that he does. He charges \$3500.00 for every county. He is there to represent Spence and to help him with legal situations because as you know today it's getting more and more complex as far as legal issues are concerned. The second area is that you need people to deal with people that deal with just sheriff's department issues. Yoho said Mike Phelps now has 4 jobs, where is he going to get the hours to cover 4 different jobs. Spence said his hours would be logged just like everyone else. Phelps understands that his first job is with the Sheriff's Department, the others are part time positions. Alexander said her experience working with Yoho and Phelps; they work more than their hours. Hawkins said the Technology Coordinator business is a contract between the Commissioners and Phelps's business.

Mattick made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Daniels.

Read in full and approved by the Vermillion County Council on the 9th day of April 2007.

John Yoho

Fred Daniels

Lavonna Mattick

Randy Dreher

John Cheesewright

Mike Costello

Jerry Hawkins

Attest: _____
Sherrie A. Koma, Auditor

**RE: DLGF-Compliance with Assessor and Auditor
Additional Appropriations & Transfer of Funds
Morning Star Energy
Health Insurance-Pierre Fox
Poll Workers salaries-Dean Strohm
No cost Prescription programs-Jerry Hawkins
Park Board-Transfer that was denied but paid
Technology Coordinator-Mike Phelps**

Minutes-Vermillion County Council Meeting March 12, 2007

Yoho called the meeting to order and stated that the roll call has been done and added that John Cheesewright is now present.

Minutes from the February Meeting. Hawkins made a motion to accept, seconded by Mattick.

Additional Appropriations.

Health Department, what was left over from last year carried over to this year.
Local Health Maintenance Fund \$14,623.08
Tobacco Master Settlement Fund \$19,441.72
Costello made a motion to accept, seconded by Mattick.

Yoho said he wanted to read the letter he received from the Department of Local Government and Finance, its says they respectfully request the Auditor of the State not to withhold property tax credit funds at the end of March for Vermillion County. Yoho thanked Pat Ritchey and everyone involved. Ritchey said we would be getting the SPTRC funds on time. She said they did sign a contract with Manatron for the scanner and software to submit the sales disclosures. They promised the state they would have them submitted by March 1, 2007 and because of a lot of hard work, the deadline was met and that was what released the funding.

Cumulative Reassessment, Ritchey said to reduce the Personal Services to \$2,023.67 and the other Services & Charges to \$17,607.00 because that is the actual invoice. The total additional will be \$14,966.15. She said the overtime was estimated at \$3,000.00 but the girls did a lot less time. Ritchey said she thought there was some concern because she and her employees are on salary and she wants to know if they are entitled to the overtime. Dreher said the council asked them to work that overtime so we have to pay it. Hawkins asked if she had an overtime or part time help line item. Ritchey said no she doesn't. Hawkins asked

where they were going to appropriate it to. Ritchey said she thought Penny Norman opened up a line item for strictly overtime and the number assigned was 109-4115. Hawkins asked if the overtime help has been paid and Ritchey said no. Costello said this is not to be construed as open season for overtime, this is a special occasion and we asked them to get it done. Hawkins said it was an unusual situation, somewhat of an emergency. Costello said he was confused because there is 5 hours of regular time on there as well. Ritchey said the Vermillion County handbook states we work 35 hours regular time then we have to work 5 hours to get to a 40-hour week before the overtime can be applied. Ritchey said so we worked the 35 hours, then we worked 5 hours regular time that brought us to 40 hours, anything above that was overtime. Dreher made a motion to allow, seconded by Hawkins.

General Fund. Vermillion County Sheriff Spence said he asking that \$3,500.00 be put into a line item for legal services. Yoho said they want to handle each item one at a time. For the 7th deputy by reduction of county jail by \$29,100.00. Costello said that is a new deputy. Costello said he makes the motion to allow that and also makes the motion to delete jailer #1. Daniels seconded it. Spence asked them to add in the motion that they are amending the salary ordinance. Darnell said that one has to be published. Yoho said the second issue is Part time jailer \$6,500.00 and the \$3,500.00. Spence said that is the \$10,000.00 he took in reduction of pay. It is already in his budget. Costello made a motion to allow, seconded by Dreher. Yoho said Medical and Dental \$40,000.00 to pay remaining bills and to cover the new contract. Hawkins made a motion to allow, seconded by Costello.

Unfinished Business

Brian Paasch Morning Star Energy. Tom Freely was present and stated they were here last month and gave a brief presentation about the ethanol facility that is planned for Vermillion County. They prepared and presented a draft of a memorandum of understanding. They made some revisions at the request of Darnell. He said the Commissioners did pass this subject to the Council's approval. Hawkins asked about the changes. Darnell said they have to do with the first section. He said they basically it gave the impression that the council was voting in favor of the tax abatement without having the statutory public hearing. They re-worded that part so that basically what you are saying is that you will use your best efforts in having the public hearing prior to July 1st 2007. Costello asked if it would be up to them to file the request for the abatement and Darnell said yes. Yoho asked about the power lines, natural gas, etc. It says they will cooperate with supporting this. Yoho asked if they were obligated to do anything and Freely said as terms of financial commitment that is absolutely right, they are not obligated financially. Dreher made a motion to table it so that they can all have a chance to look at it with the changes, Mattick seconded it. Cheesewright was opposed. Yoho said they needed to be put back on the agenda for next month. Costello asked Darnell if he felt comfortable with the Memorandum of Understanding after he read it the second time and he said yes. Cheesewright said we have done tax abatements before, this is nothing new. Yoho said we have not done it this way before. Cheesewright said they have gone out of their way to do the Memorandum; we've never had anyone do that before. He said they have spent a lot of money to get this thing rolling and they want to get it done. Yoho said they did not commit to hiring local people and Cheesewright said they would hire all they can that is qualified. No one can commit to that. Someone commented that the tax abatement is 10 years and won't be making any money. Hawkins said that is not true because you get the growth and assessed valuation; you just get the property tax in installments instead of all at once. Costello said it would be worth more even at 20% then if it were just farm ground, quite a bit more. Mattick said if they fold up after 10 years will we still get the taxes on the property and Hawkins said yes, the AV would still be there. Tom Milligan said these people are on a schedule and time is of the essence for this thing to happen. Every month that goes back makes a difference to them. They are on a schedule to try and get this done; this sets them back by 30 days. What you just did, he feels can be reversed and should be reversed in order to keep them on track on what

they are trying to do. This is another opportunity for our county. Milligan said you had this MOE last month. Dreher said they didn't have the changes though. Milligan said your attorney had the changes and how much of a change was done? Costello said he would like to ask them one question if they are still here. Costello said the MOE might be something they need to present to the investors. Milligan said that is his understanding and if you put them off another 30 days then that is putting them back 30 days. Time is of the essence for what they are trying to do. Milligan said he thinks you should really hear them out. Costello said he has some questions for Morning Star. He said what is the purpose for the MOE as apposed to just coming sometime before July and asking for tax abatement? Freely said the company is not ready at this moment to come before the council with the tax abatement; they don't have definitive project costs or plans at this time. He said at the same time the company is in the process of spending lots of money in that planning process, raising money, working with engineers and it is important to these people to understand that there is a support from the governmental bodies. This is a \$130 million dollar project that they are undertaking. He said they have tried to give them as much information as they can and give everyone a chance to ask questions. He said that Darnell is absolutely right, they can't supersede the abatement process, they will have to come before the council again and submit a statement of benefits, hold public hearings, etc. Hawkins said we have had this for a month and the two changes were minor so we should just discuss them. He said they are not committing to any tax abatement they are committing to the process that everyone has to go through to get to the tax abatement. The other part is just minor and we have had it for a month. He said it didn't really change anything, just made it clearer. It just says we are going to support the process that gets us to that. Freely said these projects work best when there is collaboration between 5 companies, government, etc. Hawkins said all you are asking us is to support your efforts. Dreher said he is all in favor of this but if Ed Cole is doing all the footwork and supporting them, what do we need to do. He thought that is what we hired Cole to do. He is our spokesperson. Freely said that there is nothing in the MOE that they could take to the court of law and say you are obligated to do something. Hawkins said you couldn't obligate the county to spend money based on a document like this; all you can obligate to is your moral and spiritual support. Hawkins would like to have the opportunity to vote on this again. Dreher said he will rescind his motion and Mattick rescinded her second. All were in favor. Costello made a motion to sign the MOE, seconded by Cheesewright. All were in favor.

Pierre Fox with Miles and Finch said he wanted to keep them in the loop. He said he presented the Commissioners with the proposal of the Health Insurance. It was a 5% decrease for Consumers life with no plan changes. He said it is about a \$50,000.00 to \$60,000.00 decrease. He said the real purpose of his meeting is to let you know how this should work. Employee deductions that are taken out of their check, this renewal date is a May 1st effective date so if it is your desire as a council to increase deductions or make changes, you may want to start the process now and arrive at a decision by your next meeting. He said there is a special meeting on the 20th at 10 a.m. and they will probably want to know if you intend on changing anything. He said he couldn't promise a decrease every year. This is unusual. He believes increases will happen in the future and you're going to have to change plan design or contributions, all companies do that. If your intent is to make changes, we need to not wait until the last minute. Hawkins said if you don't do systematic increase in insurance then you get hit all at once. Fox said the employee is paying about 6% of the costs now, and the county is paying 94%. He said to keep that in mind. He said they want employees to have good health insurance at low employee deductions and good benefits so we are not trying to purposely cut their benefits. Hawkins said he doesn't want to come back next year with a 17% increase when we could have had a 12% increase. Costello said he understands that two or three people may have retired or quit or whatever and they were on our insurance plan and the family plan is probably \$1500.00 per month. Fox said we pay \$1200.00. Costello said if they were not taken off in a timely manner, then we end up paying. Fox said most of those were resolved. He said the county needs to be very careful in reconciling the bill. They only go back

two months. Cheesewright said he wanted to thank Fox for the work he did during his operation, they figured they saved the county about \$40,000.00 by being on Medicare A & B. Fox said the claim experience really dictates the future increases so by terminating people off the plan who really shouldn't be there, that will help. Good administration will help and we will help them where we can. The administrator is Consumers Life and Lesli Bohannon in the Auditors office.

Dean Strohm thanked the council for the opportunity to come before them and he hoped they have all had a chance to read his letter. He said what he is asking for has nothing to do with him because as Precinct Committeemen, they do not get compensated. He said the letter refers to just the poll workers and does not include the meals or the rental of the facilities. Strohm said it is getting harder to find people to work the polls. He said most of the polls consist of elderly people; we don't get any young people who want to be involved. He said with the new regulations that the Federal Government has put on us, we know have to taxes out. So if you are getting \$90.00, you are probably taking home \$70.00 or less. He said for the inspector and judge it is a longer day then the rest of the workers because they still have to come back to Newport for the poll results. Strohm said the workers usually work a 14 plus hour day. He said there is a 3-hour training session they have to attend at Newport which they do not get compensated for. Strohm said no offense to the Clerk's office but the last time they were up here, they were there for three hours, they started at 9, and it started on time. They left a little after 12. They concentrated on the handicap voting machine. We only had about 3 people cast a ballot on those machines. The reason nobody wanted to use them is because it was a touch screen and it was something new. They said we had to have at least 5 votes cast on it, so we had some of the poll workers cast their ballots on that machine. He understands that it was \$5,000.00 per machine and they had 17 machines. He said they had extensive training on that machine but they didn't train them on the sorting machine. He said when they go the machines they still had tapes in them from the election before, so then the Clerk's office had to come down and reprogram them. That caused some problems. Strohm said he has been a precinct committeeman since 1983 and he has seen a lot of changes over the years and a lot of people go through. He said he has had some good, steady people work the elections year after year but he knows of 4 right now that have said they doubt that they will do it again and he doesn't know how he can replace them. Strohm said he thinks more money might encourage them to stay. Hawkins said basically what you want to do is offset the tax deduction. Strohm thinks the election countywide is a little over \$11,000.00 and if they go with a \$30.00 increase it would be about \$14,000.00. Strohm said he would appreciate anything they could do. Strohm said he did notice that between May 06 and November 06, they did go up \$10.00 on the meals. He thought the rental charge was \$50.00. He said he is concerned, if he doesn't get people to work then there won't be an election. Hawkins wants to know if he is asking them to approve an increase. Strohm said he was told to start with the council and he wasn't sure what the steps were. Hawkins wanted to know if they would have trouble getting workers this spring and Strohm said he didn't know at this time. Cheesewright asked if the precincts could be narrowed down. Strohm said it is set up by boundaries. Costello said we used to have more, and Mattick agreed, saying we cut them in half. Cheesewright said why have all this expense if we can consolidate and put two precincts into one, but didn't know if we could by law. Hawkins though the Clerk was the only one who could reduce the number of polling places and someone said it was up to the Commissioners. Darnell said there was a statute involved.

Jerry Hawkins said he wanted to mention that he saw in the paper that Vigo County has a prescription/drug discount card that was actually no cost to the county. The county has to belong to the National Association of Counties. We just belong to the Indiana Association of Counties. Hawkins said he emailed the guy to find out more information. Vigo County with their population only pays \$2200.00 a year. It is very easy to participate in and it could be as much as a 20% discount. Hawkins said he has not heard back from them yet.

Dreher said back in November the Park Board came and asked for a transfer for \$1,000.00 and it was denied. He wants to know what was done about that, did they not pay him. Yoho said they went ahead and paid him. Hawkins said this is the second year in a row they have exceeded the budget. Costello said, so we tabled it and they paid it. Yoho said he brought it to the attention of the State Board Accounts lady that is here now. She said it is against the law to overpay it.

Mike Phelps at the Commissioners Meeting he was appointed as the Technology Coordinator. He has a contract he wanted the council to look over. He said basically he needs to know how long to make the contract and wanted to state that both sides will have the ability to cancel. He said there was also some concern that if he was on duty as a deputy sheriff and then he gets called to work on a computer, would he be double dipping? He said he would never charge the county twice. He said the newspaper stated he would do it for \$15.00 an hour, 15 hours a week. That was in error and the recording will show that he requested \$20.00 an hour and 15 hours a week. He said it would be great to get the 15 hours a week and for awhile, until everything is straightened out, then it will be that much but after that he doesn't think he will always be need the whole 15 hours. He said he will only charge for the hours he works and if he ends up working 20 hours a week then he wants to be paid for it. He said he would like to bill bi-weekly. Hawkins said we need to make sure Koma understand that this is not general fund expenditure; it's Cumulative capital development expenditure. Hawkins said what we need stopped is different offices going with all these different vendors without representation. Phelps said a policy needs to be set regarding those issues. Phelps asked if his services were courthouse only or countywide. Phelps said he would be submitting monthly progress reports to the council and commissioners so they will know what is going on. Phelps said he planned on working on the commissioner's courtroom because if you are in the back of the room, you can't hear what is being said. Dreher said we really need to stop the offices working on their own things. Hawkins said the protocol says that if these offices do their own work they will very likely not get it paid for, they need to work with Phelps. Phelps said he is going to be working on the Judges issues. He said it will be around \$10,000.00 minus labor to get it completed. He thought it was already approved in December. Phelps said the Judge as approved that he will close that floor down if needed, possibly over a holiday weekend or he would shut off ½ a day Thursday, so we would have that day and Friday, Saturday and Sunday to get it done.

Yoho said they got their check from Purdue University, \$21,128.48.
Spence said that he wanted to say that he is glad that we have a council that is progressive that wants to do things to improve Vermillion County. He just wanted to say thank you.

Costello made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mattick.

Read in full and approved by the Vermillion County Council on the 9th day of April 2007.

John Yoho

Fred Daniels

Lavonna Mattick

Randy Dreher

John Cheesewright

Mike Costello

Jerry Hawkins

Attest: _____
Sherrie A. Koma, Auditor