

**RE: Additional Appropriation-E-911
Transfer E-911
Transfer-Vermillion County Highway
Additional Appropriation-Cumulative Reassessment and Non-reverting park
Sheriff incarceration fee fund
Jail salary ordinance
Tax Board Appointment
Tax issues-Farm Bureau
National Association of Counties-Prescription Drug Plan
Insurance Broker
Offices outside the courthouse
Annual Report-Investing
Manatron-Technology Issues**

Minutes-Vermillion County Council Special Meeting April 9, 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, John Cheesewright, Mike Costello, Jerry Hawkins, Attorney Don Darnell, Auditor Sherrie Koma, and Deputy Auditor Amy Tolbert. Randy Dreher was absent.

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2007 meeting was made by Costello, seconded by Mattick.

Transfer of Funds. E-911 transfer of \$29,000.00 going from the sinking account to the project fund account. Phelps said that in January of this year they received \$29,335.89 from the wireless board that they did not expect. Basically they have finished phase one of the wireless 911 project and all counties got some type of money back. He said its money they didn't expect and they have a use for it to integrate our records system, 911 with the jail records system. It will help speed up, what we are doing right now is typing everything into 4 different software programs. We have improved it over the last 8 years but we are at a point where we have the abilities to use this move and improve the functions of the jail. He said right now when they make an arrest we have to go through a 4-stage process and it is very time consuming. A simple DUI arrest takes about 4 hours to complete. We should be able to cut in half or more with this new software. Costello asked why it's in for a transfer and also an additional appropriation. Phelps said he just wants to move it from one account into his software account. Hawkins said it was money we didn't originally have, it has to be appropriated first and then transferred. Costello said we need to do the appropriation first and then the transfer. Hawkins said its money that wasn't in the budget, its new money, so you have no authority to spend it. Phelps said we are working with the same company that we have been working with for the last few years; we just never had the money to buy all 4 modules. Mattick asked how much time it would save them. Phelps said he thinks we could at least cut the time in half. He said they have also talked to 2 different companies and they basically have it narrowed down to one, WTH Engineering, who does their 911 maps. They are fitting their price into our budget instead of the other way around. The other company gave us flat fees. Cheesewright asked what the cost was going to be and Phelps said probably right at the \$29,000.00. The other company K& K out of Danville IN was asking \$35,000.00 to \$40,000.00 and we cant do that. WTH has helped us out for years. They were out at the jail working today and did not charge us anything. Costello made the motion to allow the additional appropriation, seconded by Mattick. Costello then made the motion allow the transfer, seconded by Hawkins.

Phelps invited the Council to come out to the jail and take a tour. Mattick asked when the 911 board was going to meet and Phelps said he is working on it and it will be advertised.

Vermillion County Highway Transfer \$400.00 from dumping to tree trimming. Bill Clark not present. Hawkins made a motion to allow, seconded by Costello.

Additional Appropriations. Cumulative Reassessment, other services and charges \$6,500.00. It is for the ratio study and equalization that was done to get us up to date. Paige Kilgore said she has an invoice for \$21,066.67, the 10th of 12 installments for trending. Cheesewright made a motion to allow, seconded by Mattick.

Non-Reverting Park. Capital outlay \$121,810.97. Costello said he didn't remember Ernie Pyle Park being that high before. Smith said they have not had the opportunity to spend as much money, their intent is to work on the well, and we can't put playground equipment out there. She thinks that and the restrooms are what they are planning on doing. She said the money is the balance from last year with the \$1,000.00 from this year added. Costello said its nothing we haven't done every year we just need to approve it and get it going. Hawkins asked why it is an additional appropriation, isn't it budgeted money? Smith said in our regular park budget we have money that sits in non-reverting so then we get a check and have to re-appropriate it each year. Costello made a motion to allow, seconded by Cheesewright.

Unfinished Business

Bob Spence, Sheriff incarceration fee fund. It was already read and Darnell has seen it. Costello made a motion to allow, seconded by Daniels.

Costello asked when we were going to change the salary ordinance and Spence said tonight. Costello asked if he had the proposal with him. Spence thought everything had already been laid out. Costello said you want the salary for the new deputy have to be \$29,100.00 and that so much would be added over the next 3 to 4 years until the deputy is brought up to regular deputies pay. The person would get the normal raise plus \$1,200.00 or whatever it is to bring them up to the next step. Costello asked if the amended salary budget was in front of them and it wasn't. Darnell told them they just need to amend the salary ordinance. Costello asked if they wanted to amend it to read any beginning deputy or just the 6th and 7th. Tim Dispennit said the 6th would be \$1,200.00 more because Butch Garver has already had the academy so his would be \$30,300.00. Smith said we are going to deplete the \$29,100.00 for jailer 1, which is her old salary and put it into the new deputy for \$29,100.00. Yoho said we have not seen a piece of paper stating this. Hawkins said he thinks we all understand what is happening the problem is we haven't gotten a copy of a revised salary ordinance. Spence said he thought all that was already given to them. Hawkins said we only have one salary ordinance and we need to see a revised copy. Spence said that is why we had to come back this time, it was to be done after the last meeting. Costello said it was \$29,100.00 and then an automatic of \$1,200.00 once the person finishes the academy. Dispennet said Deputy 6 would be \$30,300.00 because he has had the academy and deputy 7 would be \$29,100.00 and then with completion of the academy he would come up \$1,200.00 and then we have deleted jailer 1. Costello made a motion to allow, seconded by Cheesewright. Hawkins said when we do the new salary ordinance for next year we have to make sure we understand those steps. Dispennet said he has a written proposal and it will be sent to them.

Appointment to Tax Board. The Commissioners hired two and the Council needs to hire two, one Democrat and one Republican. The two that applied are Joan Rennick, which the Commissioners denied because she lives in Fountain County and Evelyn Hixon. Koma said they could hire Rennick because she is a level II and they used Caroline Ives for years and she was from Terre Haute. Koma said Ives couldn't do it this year, her husband is very ill. Cheesewright made a motion to allow both, seconded by Mattick.

Cheesewright said due to all the hassle with tax issues and new legislature he would like someone from Farm Bureau's tax department to come talk to them at the next regular meeting. They could inform us of what's going on. Hawkins said he thinks there are some real serious implications happening.

Hawkins said he got a brochure from the National Association of Counties and would like to recommend that we join this so that we can get the prescription drug benefit. He said there are like 57,000 pharmacies that belong to a network and hundreds and hundreds of counties belong to a national association. When you belong to the national association they make a prescription drug card to any one who is a citizen of Vermillion County regardless to need. He has some more literature that he gave to Mary Haase to look at, but we has found out is that it could be a 15% to 30% savings, with an average of 20%. Mattick asked if this is what Vigo County has and Hawkins said yes. He said it cost Vigo county \$2,000.00 to join; it would only cost us \$400.00. Hawkins said it could be a great benefit to many people in this county. Hawkins said he would like for us to use some of our Riverboat proceeds and join this and make this card available. Hawkins said he will get with Haase and then discuss it further with the council.

Hawkins said he recommended to the Commissioners to hire an insurance broker. He said we only had 2 proposals this year and he has some concerns. He said the time has come to hire an independent consultant who cannot sell us anything. He suggested the Commissioners seek proposals and wrote them a request for proposals. They would pay a fee based on the number of people on the plan. We would get some to advocate for us, help us through our claims process, help us with our problems, make sure people don't stay on the plan when they are not eligible to simply help us administer the program, in addition to bringing us some proposals and explaining it to us in terms we can all understand instead of being at the mercy of the sales people. Hawkins said he can empathize with the Commissioners because every year this comes up and they only person that they can depend on is Spurr and he is an attorney. He hopes that in the next few weeks the Commissioners will publish it.

Hawkins said after the discussion they've had regarding who pays rent and the costs of the offices outside the courthouse, he had the Auditor's office prepare a spreadsheet. He said he summed up the three-month cost of the Economic Development; Health Department and Area plan was \$6,789.00 per quarter, \$27,000.00 for the year. Hawkins said he doesn't think we can move these people for the \$27,000.00 a year. He said he is not advocating one way or the other; he just wanted to offer the information. Paige Kilgore asked if the Highway offices would be moved to the new garage when it's done? Hawkins said he believes so. Kilgore suggested bringing the zoning office back to the courthouse, it would be much more convenient. Hawkins said we have discussed that. Costello said that \$275.00 a month is the best deal in the world. Hawkins said area plan is \$275.00 a month and there are no other charges, that's hard to beat. Costello asked Kilgore about the room next to the Assessor's office. She said it used to be a Commissioners Courtroom and it's now an office. He wondered if that could be made available. Cheesewright asked about moving the surveyor to where Olga Hutson's office used to be and Phelps said he needed that room for technology related items and that he was getting ready to ask for that room. Kilgore said that room is not big enough for the surveyor; there are two of them in that office. Cheesewright said they are only there one day a week. Cheesewright said the situation has not been settled regarding the girls going out to the new garage. Kilgore also asked about the auditorium, if it could be used. Costello said they have discussed that as well but the space issue in the courthouse is the Commissioners responsibility. Our issue is how we fund the offices. Cheesewright said he wanted to question getting specialist for technology and for the insurance, why don't we just hire a county manager instead of hiring a bunch of different people, just have one person. Hawkins said that is a good idea but he doesn't know if we could that kind of person for the money we are talking about. Hawkins said in regards to the insurance broker, he does not want someone two

months a year; he wants someone to help administer the plan. Hawkins said he did agree, he thinks the time is right to consider a county manager.

Hawkins said he looked at the annual report in the paper. We under spent the general fund by over a ½ million dollars and that is a good thing. In the non-general fund part of the budget the operating that operating balance eroded by \$406,00.00 and there could be some reasons for that. He said some of could be additional appropriations. Costello asked if we were sweeping yet and Hawkins said no but the last time they had a budget finance meeting the rates were good for the CDs. Hawkins said Phyllis Orman knows what she is doing. Hawkins said he suggested we do more investing. Cheesewright asked if we were going to look into sweep account, he could never get a straight answer. Hawkins said there is some reluctance to do it because the theory is that your money is swept out on non business hours and invested and then swept back in. Mattick asked why aren't we doing it then if we can make money over night. Hawkins said he needs to bring it up again at the next Budget meeting.

Hawkins said he has suggested a couple of times for Manatron to come talk to them and tell them exactly what they do. Phelps said he needs copies of their contracts, that there is software that the county is leasing that they shouldn't be leasing. Hawkins said he wants to know what they do. Phelps said Manatron is the software for the tax programs. Hawkins asked if they are the only company to use and Phelps said they used to be but probably not now. Phelps said he is looking into everything. Hawkins asked Kilgore what Plexis did compared to Manatron. She said Plexis was wonderful and fortunately Manatron hired some of the people that worked for Plexis. She said Plexis had a wonderful support team; you could call them anytime but with Manatron they log your calls and get back to you when they are able. Hawkins said he just never knew exactly what they did and he knows that they are talking to the commissioners about taking it to the Internet. He said its probably time we do that but he wants to make sure that Manatron doesn't have any competitors. Phelps said he is noticing in the contracts that nobody is liable for anything but the county. They have removed themselves from all liability, which includes being hacked when this goes on the web. Phelps said most companies would probably try and do that. He said we also need to know if they are going to store the credit card information or will it need to be entered every time. If they store it, it is a pool for hackers. Phelps said they also talked about email and when it comes up Phelps is going to propose something different that will not cost as much. He said its nice fancy software but we can get it a lot cheaper, we don't need all the features offered and most people wont even use it. Phelps said its complicated and no one could of known better when the contracts were signed. Hawkins asked if everyone knew they had to go through Phelps, they cant buy stuff on their own and Phelps said he didn't know of anyone buying anything. He said he thinks everything is going along pretty well. Cheesewright asked about the Judges server and Phelps said it just came in Thursday and he has notified Mark and just waiting to hear back from him. Phelps said is going to try and do the Clerks office himself and that it's all being paid for by a State grant. Spence said one of the issues he has is that by putting information out on the World Wide Web and people being able to access that information sounds really great but its also risky. He said you are opening yourselves, every elected official for problems from terrorists. Your information will be out there. Spence said it's a good thing to let attorneys, banks, and realtors to access the files they need but he wonders how far we should actually go.

Hawkins asked about the jail lease rental fund and the hospital lease fund. Koma said that is the money that was in there when the Hospital was sold. Costello said we need to get it out. Hawkins said he would rather see some specific need met rather than letting it go to the general fund.

Mattick made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Cheesewright.

Read in full and approved by the Vermillion County Council on the 7th day of May 2007.

John Yoho

Fred Daniels

Lavonna Mattick

Randy Dreher

John Cheesewright

Mike Costello

Jerry Hawkins

Attest: _____
 Sherrie A. Koma, Auditor