

RE: Transfer of Funds
Additional Appropriations
Budget Hearings
Local Option Income Tax
State Board of Accounts Exit Interview

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

Transfer of Funds-Vermillion County Prosecutor. Costello made a motion to allow, seconded by Dreher.

Additional Appropriations

Vermillion County Jail for water to pay George Hinote for testing the water, \$10,000.00. Shelly Smith said they pay him \$800.00 a month to test the jail water. Smith said there was not enough budgeted to pay it. Yoho said they have the exact same budget this year that they had last year. Costello questioned whether we have always done this and Smith said yes, every since she has been there. Costello made a motion to allow, seconded by Hawkins.

Vermillion County Assessor asked for \$3,000.00 for professional services, to hire a licensed appraiser to value low income housing units to prepare for Indiana board of review appeal. Dreher thought there should be a bill before this is paid. Hawkins questioned why it was out of county general, it should come out of Cumulative Reassessment. Darnell said it would have to be advertised out of Cumulative Reassessment and then brought back next month. Additional denied by Cheesewright, seconded by Costello.

Reassessment. Helt, Highland, and Clinton Township assessors. They are asking for additional money for the additional time spent due to state ordered trending. Richey said they have had increased calls and appeals and the extra help was needed. Sigrid Uhey said she had 68 appeals due to the F-11's going out. Kevin Wickens said they were all caught off guard and he missed 2 weeks at this regular job because they were so busy. Yoho question whether they could legally pay the extra since the price is in the salary ordinance. Wickens said the state statute is a per diem amount. Yoho said he has no objections it its legal. Hawkins agreed, he isn't questioning paying them, just wants to make sure it is legal. Darnell agreed, if an elected official in the Clerk or Treasurer's office works over, they do not get compensated. Wickens said he has done this for 13 years and the county always paid them a per diem for reassessment activities. Hawkins said we need something is writing before they can approve it. Additional denied by Costello, seconded by Dreher.

Prosecutor. Vermillion County Asset Forfeiture Fund consists of monies seized from primarily defendant's accused of certain drug related crimes. This fund does no contain any taxpayer's funds. She is requesting the money be appropriated from the fund so that it can be deposited into the VCAF Fund checking account. The expenditure of the fund is governed by statute. Costello made a motion to allow, seconded by Cheesewright.

Yoho said they have scheduled the budget hearings for Monday September 10th at 7 pm; the regular meeting will be at 6pm, and Tuesday September 11th at 9 a.m.

Hawkins had some questions about the new types of local option income tax. They need to be adopted by August 1st. Cheesewright is going to see if Katrina from Farm Bureau will come and help explain it to them.

Cheesewright said they need to discuss the audit from the state board of accounts. Hawkins aid he has read the summary and there are some irregularities that simply cannot happen again. Koma said what they were referring to was not the audit, but the exit interview. Hawkins wanted to know if someone cost them a penalty, who is responsible for it. Yoho questioned how people could borrow money when they didn't have the authority to do so. Dreher said \$27,000.00 was misused from one fund to pay interest; it should of come out of that department's budget. Cheesewright said that it stated on page 2 that officials and employees are to pay claims in a timely manner. The penalties, interest, etc. could be the responsibility of the employee or office holder. How do we keep people from borrowing money again? Wilson advised the council to go to the bank and give them a list of who is authorized to get a loan. Yoho said he filed a complaint with the prosecutor and she is looking into it.

Dreher made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Hawkins.

Read in full and approved by the Vermillion County Council on the 13th day of August 2007.

John Yoho

Fred Daniels

Lavonna Mattick

Randy Dreher

John Cheesewright

Mike Costello

Jerry Hawkins

Attest: _____
 Sherrie A. Koma, Auditor