

**RE: Transfer of Funds-Inmate Medical and Jail water testing
Additional Appropriations-Reassessment, Assessor, Eugene Twp Assessor,
Court Appt Atty, Counter Measure Fee Fund & Drug Interdiction
Property taxes
2007 Budget
Insurance Consultant
Prescription Drug Card program
Technology Project-Specs
Poll workers pay
2008 Budget Estimates-First reading
2008 Budget Hearings
October Council meeting-cancelled**

Minutes-Vermillion County Council August 13, 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, John Cheesewright, Mike Costello, Jerry Hawkins, Attorney Don Darnell, Auditor Sherrie Koma and Deputy Auditor Amy Tolbert.

Cheesewright made a motion to approve the minutes of the May meeting, seconded by Dreher. All were in favor.

Transfer of Funds

Vermillion County Jail \$6,500.00 from various funds to Medical and Dental. Sheriff Bob Spence said they hired this new company to take care of Medical and Dental over 4 months ago and they have yet to be paid. He stated they were doing an excellent job and would hate to lose them. He said they are having the same problem with the testing of the jail water. George Hinote has not been paid for May and July. Spence said right now they owe the medical \$25,000.00 and Hinote \$1,600.00. He said they need to move money to bridge the gap until the budget is approved. Costello said that we need to pay them. Hawkins suggested using fund 211 or 246, because of inactivity of those funds for the past year. He suggested transferring from those funds instead of making all of Spence's other funds short. Cheesewright questioned whether it could be done legally. Darnells said, yes you can transfer without state approval. Costello made a motion to allow the transfer and then working on the balance from fund 211 or 246. Dreher asked that if we take the money out, would we be able to put it back in. Spence admitted that he did not have that he did not have money to spare in those separate funds but that these people have to be paid. Someone questioned why there was not enough money budgeted to cover the water bills. Shelly Smith said the water line item is to cover water bills and testing. The fund only has \$8,100.00 and it costs \$9,600.00 to do the testing for a year. Hawkins again suggested Fund 211, Hospital Lease fund be used to catch up what is owed for Medical and water testing. Costello commented that the water has to be tested or the jail will be shut down. Hawkins suggested having Darnell work with Koma to pay 6 months of medical and water testing through August out of Fund 211. Costello rescinded his previous motion. Smith asked if the Sheriff could submit the additional to move this money and the council said yes. The council agreed to act on the transfer from Fund 211 when it comes in. Yoho made a motion to table it until they bring it back. Someone asked if it was a transfer or an additional and he said it was an additional because you had to make a line item.

Additional Appropriations

Cheesewright made a motion to that all general fund appropriations be tabled until the county's budget is approved. Costello seconded the motion. Hawkins asked about the non-county general funds and Cheesewright said they all should be tabled. Costello then withdrew his second, he only wanted to second the motion for the general fund. No one seconded it, so Cheesewright amended it back to the original motion, Costello seconded it and all were in favor except Hawkins.

Reassessment

Township additional that was presented last month. Costello made a motion to allow, seconded by Mattick.

Reassessment, Assessor \$2,500.00. Costello made the motion, seconded by Dreher.

Vermillion County Assessor-back up tapes. Costello made the motion, seconded by Mattick.

Eugene Twp Assessor, money for level II, denied, this is a salary not a per diem.

Reimburse Court Appt ATTY \$3,000.00 or balance in fund. Dreher made the motion, seconded by Costello.

Counter Measure Fee Fund \$10,000.00 and Drug Interdiction \$5,000.00. Costello made the motion, seconded by Daniels.

Cheesewright made the comment that we need to eliminate property taxes and go to State and Income taxes only. Costello said a lot of people do not pay income tax.

Judge Stengel asked when the State was going to approve the budget and why it wasn't mailed until July 31, 2007. Koma said it takes up to three months to get the budget approved and that we could not get the budget until reassessment was done. She said everything is done and has been sent in.

Unfinished Business

Insurance Consultant. Dirk Davis, who was the only one to apply, was present to discuss the issue. He said right now we pay about \$32,000.00 in commission, he would not work for a commission and his cost would be \$11,400.00. He said the Commissioners approved the proposal, but needed council approval for funding. Hawkins explained that it would save the county roughly \$20,000.00 per year. He said that Davis would represent the county to insurance companies rather than taking bids. Dreher said he couldn't see hiring another employee with the state the county is in now. Hawkins said this insurance takes up 20% of the whole budget and that shouldn't be put on the shoulders of the three commissioners. Dreher said he thought they have done a remarkable job. Hawkins also said that it would not be adding an employee, the consulting fee would be paid from the same line item from which insurance premiums are paid. No action was taken by the council.

Hawkins reported on the Prescription Drug card program. He said the Spurr has the contract and that once the commissioners approve it, it will take 6-8 weeks to get the cards.

Technology Project. Hawkins asked Koma if the specs have been written and she said she thought Phelps was having Spurr do that. Koma said she would look into it.

Dean Strohm was present requesting that the pay be raised for the poll workers. He said they have not had a raise in 12 years and it is getting harder to find workers. He said poll workers are mainly elderly people and they work from 5 am until after the polls close. The council said they would have Clerk Martha Padish look at their pay when she prepares her election budget.

The Council read budget estimates for 2008, with a total estimated budget of \$9,959,665.00.

Budget hearings were set for Monday Sept 10, they will have a short meeting from 6 to 6:15 and then go right into the budgets, and Tuesday Sept 11 at 9 am. The budget adoption was set for Monday Sept 24 at 9 am.

The council agreed to cancel the October Meeting.

Mattick made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Daniels.

Read in full and approved by the Vermillion County Council on the 10th day of September 2007.

John Yoho

Fred Daniels

Lavonna Mattick

Randy Dreher

John Cheesewright

Mike Costello

Jerry Hawkins

Attest: _____
 Sherrie A. Koma, Auditor