

**RE: Transfer of Funds
Financial Advisor
07 Budget order
08 Budget hearing
08 Salary Ordinance**

Minutes-Vermillion County Council September 10, 2007 and September 11, 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.

Hawkins made a motion to approve the minutes of the August meeting, seconded by Mattick. All were in favor.

Transfer of Funds

Clinton Township Assessor requested 550.00 from 100-114-4112 Field workers to 100-114-4324 Telephone. Costello asked why she needed money in the telephone fund, is she not paying them on time or not getting them. Koma said that her office is getting them the day before they are due. Dreher wants to know if she is receiving them late or she getting them up to the office late. Koma said she wasn't sure. She said that Pat Ritchey would bring them up or fax them as soon as she got them in the mail and we use to struggle to get them paid then. She said she doesn't think she is as fast as Ritchey was. Costello said if they are getting them a day before they are due then something is wrong. Costello said they are shut off, right and Koma said they are back on now. Dreher asked why the bills are so high for such a small office. Koma said she has 2 lines. Dreher said you would think most calls would be local. Costello said the bills looked like they were consistent from month to month except on occasion. Dreher said he thought there was \$184.00 left in that fund. Costello suggested paying half and having her come back to talk to them. Costello made a motion to allow \$230.00, seconded by Daniels. All were in favor.

Vermillion County Commissioners requested 800.00 from 100-130-4357 Professional Services to 100-130-4330 Building & Structure. They are requesting this for repairs on the roof and inspection on the chair lift. Koma said that the chair lift has never been inspected since it was put in. Costello asked if we could take it out of courthouse improvements. Costello asked what was wrong with the roof, didn't we just have it put on. Tim Wilson said it has been on there at least 15 years. Costello said he thought they just redid it when they did some of these other things. Wilson said no, its been quite some time since its been worked on. Koma said, we just need the money transferred. Costello said, well it has to be paid. Hawkins made a motion to allow, seconded by Dreher. All were in favor. Clerks office requested \$1,500.00 from 100-101-4411 Office machines to 100-101-4117 extra help. Martha Padish said they tried to survive while Diana has been on medical leave but it was to the point of survive or give up so she hired a part time helper. She said she had to do something and now she is trying to cover that. She said she can use from her perpetuation fund but she needs council approval. She said she needs the transfer to cover what she has already spent, she knows she is not supposed to do that but she had to do something. Hawkins asked what happens to the office machine fund. Padish said that is a perpetuation fund wasn't sure so she checked it out and found out that is to be used for any record keeping, so anyone that is entering information on the computer or any equipment

dealing with records, then she is to pay directly out of that. Its like a loan, and needs paid back by the end of the year. Cheesewright made a motion to allow, seconded by Daniels. All were in favor.

Prosecutor requested \$2,000.00 from 4326, \$2,000.00 from 4212 Office supplies, and \$3,000.00 from 4222 law books to 4327 Investigatory Expenses and \$2,000.00 from 4138 Witness fees and \$1,500.00 from 4323 Travel to 4413 Law Enforcement equipment and training. All within 244 Pre-Trial Deferral. She also is requesting \$1,000.00 from 4138 Transcripts to 4322 Postage and \$500.00 from Transcripts to 4212 Office supplies and \$1,000.00 from 4335 Equip and Maintenance to 4412 Office furniture and \$1,000.00 from Equip and Maintenance to 4212 Office supplies. She is needing to pay the last quarter of Deputy Yoho's salary. Dreher made a motion to allow, seconded by Mattick. All were in favor.

Hawkins asked about another letter they had from Clerk Padish. It was a permission request. Padish said that is what she was talking about, her perpetuation fund. Costello said, but this one says you want to have a trainer for \$1,000.00 a day. Padish said that she just needs permission to use this fund. Hawkins asked if this was a loan. Padish said no, if she transfers out of it, it is a loan, but if she pays directly from it, which she can do, then its not. Padish said she just needs permission to use from this fund. Yoho asked where the trainer was from that charges \$1,000.00 per day and Padish said somewhere by Indianapolis. Yoho said it's a \$1,000.00 per day plus travel. Costello asked if she was the only one available and Padish said Maximus has they account and they are the ones to send over the trainers. Costello asked if we go training when we bought the program and Padish said yes they did. She said when they go the program, everyone was trained in different areas and we were busy. She said Dianna got most of the training on that end of it and she needs someone to come in and pick up the slack and they don't have time to train someone. Cheesewright wants to know what the mileage cost is. Costello asked how the money ends up in that fund and Padish said that it is from court fees, court costs. Yoho suggested training more than one person in the office. He said she needs to have two people trained. What happens if someone quits, then we paid to train them. Cheesewright said we need to know how many days the training will be and how much it is a mile. Hawkins said, the fact is, you have to have this training. Yoho said they need to know how many people are going to be trained and how many days. Costello said, it's her money. Hawkins made a motion to allow, seconded by Dreher.

Sheriff Bob Spence submitted a statement of past due bills that need paid and want to take the money from the Riverboat Gambling Fund. The bills that need paid are PRN Pharmacy \$2,948.97, Midwest Medical Management \$4,590.00, Union Hospital Medical Group \$40.00, Union Hospital Inc \$721.00, Health Professionals Ltd \$31,327.84, Duke Energy \$4,137.03, Daily Clintonian \$250.00, Jailer 10-Civile Processing \$3,500.00 from reduction in Sheriffs salary, Water \$3,500.00, WCCH \$9,556.22. Total money needed \$60,571.06. Hawkins said that they have talked about paying these bills out of several different funds but that is not going to happen because that requires an additional appropriation and no additional can be approved without an approved budget. Hawkins said now it can be done is with unappropriated money from riverboat gambling. He said there is about \$120,000.00 in that fund. Cheesewright asked if it would be reimbursed and Hawkins said he didn't think you could. Spence said there wasn't enough money budgeted last year to cover the bills. Hawkins made a motion to pay the \$60,571.06 and Koma will check to make sure no additional is needed, seconded by Cheesewright. Dreher opposed.

Jerry Hawkins said that a few months ago, when Katrina Hall from Farm Bureau talked to them about local option income taxes and other matters. He said at the end of the meeting he asked her how many counties worked with a financial advisor and she said several. He had her send some names of some consultant, and she sent two, one was a law firm and one was an individual. He said he talked to the individual, Mike Reuter, who works with several counties. Hawkins said his interest in it is that sometimes you just cant sort all this out by yourself in terms of local option income taxes and what happens and what happens to AV and what happens to tax rates. We do have an opportunity to shift about a million dollars in the next year or so off property tax owners to local income taxes. It's

very complicated. Hawkins said, sometimes you just have to ask for some help. He said he has summarized what it would cost to work with this particular consultant. The financial consultant would prepare a fiscal plan and provide a written 3 year fiscal plan for the county, prepare periodic reports, analyze revenues and expenditures on all major funds etc. Another major thing a consultant does in monitor your DLGF budget orders and monitor distributions from the state, to be sure we get all the money we've got coming to us. Hawkins said that Reuter told him that quite often he finds revenue in excess of what his fee is. The consultant computes shortfalls and levee issues, works with the Treasurer and Auditor to prepare estimates, and meets with county officials as reasonably requested. The cost of the service is \$7400.00 to prepare the additional fiscal plan, \$1370.00 a month for yearlong consultant services and reasonable reimbursements. They yearly cost would be \$23,900.00. He would like to recommend that when we meet on the 24th, that someone from this consulting firm come here and talk with us a little bit more about the services. He would like to see us do it for a year, pay it out of riverboat gambling and if its not the best money we have ever spent, then forget it. Hawkins made a motion to invite someone from this consulting group to come talk to the Council at the meeting on September 24, seconded by Dreher. Alexander if that meeting would be open to everyone and Hawkins said yes, it is the budget adoption meeting.

Yoho asked about the letter from the DLGF and Hawkins said they letter came a couple of weeks ago and he understood it to say that the because of the information you provided, the 07 budget order will be sent. Koma said she has not received it and she said from what she understands, its says it will release the budget order if held, and ours wasn't held, so she doesn't think this letter applies to us. She said she has been in contact with Vicki and the DLGF and she is working on it right now. Hawkins said, according to the map, most counties have an 07 budget order, we don't. Padish said some of them got the ok and then they got a letter saying they weren't okay. Hawkins said it's definitely a mess and he understands, we are going to set here with the 08 budgets. We've advertised, we've done legally what needs to be done, they only thing this council can do, is reduce this, you cannot increase it, what was advertised in the paper. Now we are going to sit here with the 08 budget and someone can say we need to cut 200,000.00 from the 07 budget, it's possible. The real frustration is you don't even know what your 07 budget is and were sitting here pretending we know what to do about 08. Alexander said, if you don't pass a budget, doesn't it remain what it was last year, you don't quit operating. You can approve what was advertised in the paper. Hawkins said we are going to do what we've always done, its just going to be a little difficult.

2008 Budget Hearing

Budgets considered were:

Parks and Recreation
Soil & Water
CSEPP
Economic Development
Health Department
4-H

The Council recessed for the evening.

Reconvened Tuesday September 11 at 9:00 a.m.

Budget hearings continued.

Circuit Court-Judge
Surveyor
Treasurer
Highway
Cooperative Extension Service
Recorder

Clerk
Auditor
911
Prosecutor
Child Support
Jail-Sheriff
Zoning Administration
Area Plan Commission
Coroner
Assessor
Township Assessors
Voter Registration
Commissioners Court
Court House
Veterans Service Officer
Public Defender Board
Probation
Salary Ordinance

There was some discussion concerning the Parks Department. They want to start work a week earlier in the spring and end a week later in the fall.

There was some discussion as to part-time help and pay. They decided that if they hired any new part-timers in they would be at the part time rate. Any part-timers already making a higher salary will not be changed.

CSEPP wants the county to fund the last three months of 2008. Hawkins stated that the budgets have been advertised and they cannot increase it now. When CSEPP ends, it ends and we can't do anything about it.

Ed Cole with Economic Development discussed a raise with the Council, who were not deciding on raises until the end to the hearings. Cole said he has a problem with not receiving a raise. Dreher said they paid for his education, to take that as a raise. Cole doesn't think he is asking too much, he said no one in the county does what he does. Hawkins attempted to make a motion to allow but there were no other motions made on budgets. Cheesewright and Hawkins were for the raise but all other members were against it.

Judge Stengel said the assistant court reporter is currently paid out of probation but that fund will be 0'd out sometime next year. They are paying out more than they are bringing in. He said he would like to make that part-time position a full time position. Stengel said that he is moving his part-time, Amy Griffin up to full-time. Mary Kilgore has found new employment. They agreed he would hire a part time person, 28 hours a week, at \$9..00 per hour, with no benefits.

911. Alexander said that the grant she used to pay Deputy Yoho's salary has ran out. She would be willing to pay half of his \$60,000.00 salary if the county would keep the position.

Salary Ordinance. Cheesewright made a motion to allow \$1,000.00 raise for all full time employees, excluding the Council and Commissioners, he motioned their raise at \$500.00. Yoho seconded the motion. The Sheriff is excluded, he is contracted, also excludes Prosecutor, Judge, and Probation but their employees are allowed the raise. It also excludes the Surveyor, he gets \$500.00, **the Township Assessor's are excluded**, the Coroner gets \$500.00, Zoning Administrator is full time. None of the boards get raises. Parks department does not get the raise. Health Dept, Mary Haase is the only one to get the raise.

Cheesewright made a motion to adopt the 2008 budget as amended by the Council, seconded by Yoho.

Adjourned

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

John Yoho

Fred Daniels

Lavonna Mattick

Randy Dreher

John Cheesewright

Mike Costello

Jerry Hawkins

Attest: _____
 Sherrie A. Koma, Auditor