

RE: 2008 Budget Adoption
Michael A. Reuter Consulting Services, Inc.

Minutes-Vermillion County Council September 24, 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.

2008 Budget

Hawkins said he was concerned that the increases weren't put in for the poll workers and about Emergency Management for the last 3 months of 2008. He said that the fund would pay 60% of someone's salary if the county would pay the other 40%. He said the person could even be part-time. He said he hates to see us do away with Emergency Management all together because of grant money. Cheesewright asked if it was mandated by the state and Hawkins said yes, you have to have someone in that position, but it doesn't mean you have to pay him or her. Costello suggested using the Public Health nurse. She is funded through the Emergency Management grants and has been to most of the tabletop exercises. Hawkins added that she has the next year to learn what she needs to learn. Hawkins said he is in favor of the Commissioners directing her to assume those responsibilities. He added that we are only talking about the last 3 months of 2008. Dean Strohm added that he is in favor of it as well. He would hate to see the local fire departments lose out. Hawkins agreed, we need someone to access federal grant money.

Hawkins said that they agreed in a past meeting to increase the Election poll workers pay and he didn't think that was followed through during budget hearings. Padish said that she did put in a \$10.00 raise for the workers. Dean Strohm said they poll workers have not gotten a raise in 10 years and doesn't think a dollar a year raise is fair. He wants \$30.00 per worker. He said they are all older people and he is having a hard time getting others to work. He said they are going to have to increase the pay or they will have no workers come election time. He said these people are working 18 hours a day, some more. Yoho asked him why he didn't discuss the \$30.00 raise with Padish and Strohm said he thought the council was going to do that. Padish said she didn't know how much they had talked about. Costello said that the workers do not do it for the money and Strohm

said, but they still deserve a raise. Costello then asked how much Parke County pays their workers and Strohm said he didn't care what they got. Costello said he agrees, they should get paid more and that he wouldn't do it for that money. Padish said if she had known what Strohm proposed, she would have raised it. Hawkins said that she could always ask for an additional later and Padish asked what her reasoning for the additional would be. Dreher said they should get the raise and work out the details later. Costello said that they would need approximately \$7,000.00 to cover the two elections. Melissa Ambray, from Mike Reuter Consulting Group, said they could go ahead and increase the poll workers, as long as they don't go over the total advertised budget. Everyone agreed to increase the poll workers pay.

Hawkins made a motion to accept the 2008 amended budget, seconded by Cheesewright. Dreher and Costello opposed.

Melissa Ambray with Mike Reuter Consulting group spoke to the Council about the job of Financial Advisor. She had a sample Fiscal Plan, which she handed out. She said that they would give the county a proposed financial plan and would analyze the fiscal position of the county. They would prepare a fiscal plan, by looking at the last three years and the next 3 years. She said they would help monitor tax distributions, provide updates, help with cash flow estimates, attend meeting and do research. She they will not make decisions but will the council the tools to help them make a decision. She said they would help with revenues and expenditures, tax rates, and levees. They can do rate analysis, which would show increases and or decreases and they can work with the Assessor on any problems. They will help prepare and review budgets. Costello asked if they would give recommendations as to what the council should do in particular situations and she said they would but it will be the council's decision. Costello asked about the income tax and she said that it is not mandatory at this time, still optional. Cheesewright said that someday soon it would be mandatory. Hawkins said the levee growth used to be pretty high, now its pretty modest, he wondered if levee growth is now going to be dependant on the local option income tax. Ambray said that the property tax would be frozen, that less there would be less in property tax and more in revenue through the income tax. Hawkins said that the contract presented to them was \$7400.00 for the fiscal plan and \$1375.00 monthly. Ambray said she would be working closely with the Auditor to get the information they need. She will work with Assessor some and the Treasurer in regards to investments. She said their service is to compliment the Auditors work, not replace it. Orman said she thought it was a good idea and would help everyone out. Dreher suggested they try it for a year, he thinks it's a great idea. Hawkins said they are a county with not a lot of debt, but they do have debt. Attorney Darnell thought it would be a good service to the county and well needed. Hawkins asked if there was any cost beyond the contract and Ambray said, only mileage, if they needed her to attend a meeting at some point. Costello asked how often they would be update and Ambray said, probably not monthly, probably only when a change occurred. She said it would take them about 2

months to prepare the fiscal plan and the contract has a start date of October 1st, 2007. She said they won't prepare the 09 budgets, but will review it. They will also help with the budget calendar and advertisements. Dreher made a motion to fund the contract pending Commissioner approval, seconded by Cheesewright, all in favor. It will be funded out of Riverboat Gambling.

Costello made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Daniels.

Nina Alexander came up after the meeting and advised the council that they could not change her budget because it is from a grant and if they line items are removed, she will lose the grant. The council agreed to leave the budget as was previously amended.

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