

**RE: Transfer of Funds
07 budget
Assessor data
Pauper Attorney budget
Prescription Drug Cards
Clinton Township Assessor-phone bill
2008 Budget
Study regarding office staffing
Emergency Management office for last quarter of 08
08 Salary ordinance**

Minutes-Vermillion County Council October 10, 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, Attorney Don Darnell, Auditor Sherrie Koma and Deputy Auditor Amy Tolbert. Dreher and Hawkins were absent.

Mattick made a motion to approve the minutes of the September meetings, seconded by Daniels. All were in favor.

Transfer of Funds

Probation \$2840.00 from 249-000-4344 to 249-000-4117 to pay extra help. Judges part time help is paid from this line item and it is in the negative at this time. Costello made a motion to allow, seconded by Mattick, all were in favor.

Highway \$14,000.00 from 201-146-4126 to 201-146-4211 for gasoline. Costello made a motion to allow, seconded by Mattick, all were in favor.

Surveyor \$1,000.00 from 100-106-4114 to 100-106-4112 for office help and \$250.00 from 100-106-4213 to 100-106-4214 for office supplies. Cheesewright made a motion to allow, seconded by Costello, all were in favor.

There were no requests for additional appropriations.

Costello asked how the 2007 budget was coming along and Koma said she has not heard anything. Costello question whether everything was submitted and Koma said it was.

Yoho asked Assessor Pat Ritchey is all her data was retrievable and Ritchey said it was and that they just haven't had time to get it done and turned in. She said she wants to get 2007 done and then go back and work on prior years. She said she spoke with a company and it would cost near \$15,000.00 for them to do the work. Ritchey said it would take 6 to 8 weeks per year to get it completed. She said it cannot be done by October 15 but that they are working with her on the deadlines. Costello asked if the information that needed entering was confidential and Ritchey said it was.

Unfinished Business

Costello said that he has had several calls in regards to the Pauper Attorneys reimbursable expenses. He was wondering if they had cut that budget and Darnell said he thought they did. He said they get reimbursed 40%, 50% for murder cases. Koma said the budget was \$100,000.00 last year, \$150,00.00 this year and they cut it to \$137,000.00. Darnell said they can always come back at the first of the year and asked for an additional.

Prescription Drug cards. Yoho wanted to inform those who weren't aware, that they county will be getting prescription drug cards sometime around the first of the year. The cards will be free to Vermillion County residents and will be offering a savings of up to 20% on top of the resident's current plans. Koma said the card would also be good on some veterinarian medications. No one is sure at this time where the cards will be located but they have several ideas in mind.

New business

Kim Devers, Clinton Township Assessor said that at the last meeting she asked for a \$500.00 additional but was only allowed \$250.00. She said at the time a check had been mailed to the phone company and did not know it so they \$250.00 will get her through the end of the year.

2008 Budget

Costello said he wasn't sure what needed discussed in regards to the 08 budgets but thought maybe Dreher wanted to discuss the Pauper Attorneys. He wasn't here; the budget has already been approved so they decided to move on. Koma stated that \$210,000.00 had been cut from the budget.

Costello said he read in the paper where Vigo County did a study on the amount of workers needed for each office in the courthouse and wanted permission to talk to whoever did that study to see what it would cost and what it would involve to do something like that in our county. He said that their Clerk's office was overstaffed by 21 people. Costello said he just wanted to talk to him and get more information. Mattick thought it was good idea to have him come talk to the council at the next meeting. Mike Craig said he too had read that article and wanted to mention it this evening. He said counties were compared to like counties and that people would be coming to the council and they would have to justify a head count. He said he would like to see Vermillion County do it. Costello said they were going to have to eventually do something. Craig said that someone on this very council told him "we staff Vermillion County like it's the busiest day of the year everyday." Craig said it's the same concept as the insurance consultant and thought it was an excellent idea.

Greg Myer said he wanted to discuss two things. The first thing is the Pauper Attorney statement that was discussed earlier. Myer said he is a Public Defender for Vigo County and that you rarely get 40% reimbursed; it's more like 30 to 35%. He said the council could contact him anything if they had questions.

The second thing was the issue with Emergency Management for the last quarter of 2008. Myer said he had just returned from overseas where he had been doing emergency management for the last 6 months. Myer said he would volunteer his time as the emergency management director before he would let Vermillion County go without it. He would like them to consider him, doing it for free, before they completely dismantle it.

Mike Morgan, Cayuga, expressed concern over the fact that the council was not going to fund the emergency management after September 2008. The council said it was not there fault, the commissioners did not put it in the budget and it was not advertised, there is nothing they can do. Commissioner Tim Wilson said they never had done that in the last 19 to 20 years that this has been in operations and that the State requires us to have an Emergency Management Director. Costello said they have discussed using the Health nurse and Wilson said that she does not live in this county and he will not appoint her. Morgan said that the public health nurse got a grant for get ID cards for police, firemen, ambulance workers etc. and no one has seen the cards yet and he wouldn't advise hiring her for the position. Morgan said if we don't fund emergency management we would loose a lot, from trucks, decon units, air packs, etc. He said this has been going on for 19 years and cannot believe the council will not fund it. Costello asked where they were to get the money? Myer told them that they have options, they need funding and need to try for more grants and that he has offered to work for free. He said too, that if they office is kept open; they will be able to get some matching funds from the government as well. Costello said that they became their own entity and that the

commissioners should of put a line item in their budget to fund it. Darnell said there is nothing that can be done, there just wasn't anything put it and the budget has been advertised, it's too late for this year. Morgan again said that if it closes down, we could loose our equipment. Myer again said he would not let the county go without a director. Costello said that it's up to the Commissioners to appoint someone. Morgan said that we can't expect anyone to do it for nothing., especially driving from another county. Myer said that he lives in Clinton.

There was some questions regarding the salary ordinance. Darnell said its been voted on, its included in overall budget so they cant do anything to it now.

Mattick made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Daniels.

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

John Yoho

Fred Daniels

Lavonna Mattick

Randy Dreher

John Cheesewright

Mike Costello

Jerry Hawkins

Attest: _____
Sherrie A. Koma, Auditor