

**RE: Election of Council Officers
New Councilman-Mike Reed
Transfer of Funds
Prosecutor-appropriate money for fund 329
Mike Craig-Airport Authority vote recognition
Pat Richey-Township Assessor
Jim Davis-Appraisal Research
PTBOA-Richey as level 2
PTBOA-2 appointments
Tax and Capital Project Review Ordinance
Commissioners-paying back money owed
TIF districts
Financial Planners**

Minutes-Vermillion County Council February 14, 2008

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, Mike Reed, Attorney Don Darnell, Auditor Sherrie Koma and Deputy Auditor Amy Tolbert.

Yoho stated that they would start off with the election of officers, so the new president could preside over this meeting. Dreher made a motion that Yoho continue to serve as President, seconded by Cheesewright. All were in favor. Cheesewright made a motion to close, seconded by Mattick. Costello made a motion to elect Cheesewright as Vice President, seconded by Mattick. Dreher made a motion to close, seconded by Daniels.

Yoho welcomed new councilman Mike Reed who was elected by caucus to replace Jerry Hawkins who resigned to become mayor of Clinton.

Mattick made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 2007 meeting (there was no January 08 meeting due to lack of business), seconded by Daniels, all were in favor.

Transfer of funds in the family and children fund. They are requesting that \$33,000.00 be transferred from Child Welfare Service to Child Welfare Service Probation. Costello made a motion to allow, seconded by Mattick.

The Vermillion County Prosecutors office is requesting to use the \$8,500.00 in the Vermillion County Asset Forfeiture Fund #329. Prosecutor Nina Alexander had submitted an Additional Appropriation form, but this was not really an additional appropriation, its not tax money. Gene Greenwell stated that the money will be deposited into the asset forfeiture fund checking account and that his account is used to pay expenses for her office. The money is generated by users fees and must be appropriated by the council before it can be spent. Costello made a motion to allow, seconded by Mattick.

Mike Craig-Airport Authority vote recognition. Craig comment about the Airport Authority, stating that he had attended both commissioner and council meetings where the issue was discussed and that he felt the council did a good job and that is very well aired. He said there were good questions asked and everyone was treated with respect. He said he would like to see more push back on the undocumented comments and to see the council be more aggressive when tax dollars are involved. He said that in the future he would like to see a matter such as this, not die for a lack of a second, but to see everybody vote on it and make a statement why they voted the way they did. He said he thought that Economic Development represented their side well. He said Darnell did a good job in of pointing out potential pitfalls. Craig stated that he was not against the airport but could not see how the county could justify expanding its labor force and creating another bureaucracy with everything that is going on that could affect the county.

Pat Richey stated that the state is making some rather drastic changes and it appears that the county will be losing its township assessors at some point, as early as March 2008. She said there is a general assessment of all 14,000 parcels in the county coming up in 2009. She also stated that 2 township trustees/assessors do not have their level 2 certification but they are still allowed to perform their assessing duties. Costello questions their pay and if they were getting paid for this, because level 2's get an extra 1,000.00 and Richey said, no, they would not get the extra. She said that the state is no longer requiring the level 2 because they are doing away with township assessors so it is pointless for these people to go back and get the certification.

Richey introduced Jim Davis of Appraisal Research, who said his company has worked with Vermillion County in the past and is ready to help pick up the pieces and take care of whatever needs to be done. He said they have been in business for over 30 years and over 20 years in Indiana. He said his company does work in several counties in Indiana, including Posey, and Fulton among others. He said the company could work on a per parcel basis for the county, helping with assessing duties. The average cost is between \$18.00 and \$30.00 per parcel for residential or \$65.00 to 85.00 for businesses. He said the larger industrial properties such as Eli Lilly would be at a higher cost. Davis said his company could also help represent the county during appeals. Richey said she would mainly need help with 100 to 200 commercial and industrial properties in the county. Davis said his company would need to start work as soon as possible. Davis agreed to provide some information on other counties in which his

company has worked and he mentioned that he currently does similar work for Parke County. He also agreed to provide the Council with a total estimate of the cost involved. Richey said she has a representative from another company to the March meeting in order to compare their costs and services.

Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals. The Commissioners have appointed 2 people and the Council needs to appoint 2. They had 2 new people apply. Richey said she automatically serves on the PTABOA as the secretary and she only votes in the event of a tie. She said she can by law, serve on the Board as the level 2 and would like to do so. She said then the county would not have to hire a level 2. Tim Wilson said that tax board does a tremendous job for very little pay. Betty Rayce stated that she was concerned if Richey would be able to sit in there with them 7 hours a day, 4 days a week. Cheesewright made a motion to appoint Joan Rennick as the level 2 assessor, seconded by Daniels. Costello and Dreher were opposed. Costello made a motion to appoint Charlotte Perry of Dana, seconded by Cheesewright.

Darnell presented the council with copies of an ordinance which would prevent the Tax and Capital Projects Review Board, recently established by the state, from having the authority to review, revise and reduce the budget, tax rate and tax levy of any county, city, town, school, library or other taxing entity in the state. The board automatically has this authority unless the county passes an ordinance limiting its authority. The ordinance must be passed before July 2008 in order to prevent the board from having the authority over the county's budgets and taxes. The council will taken action on the ordinance at their March meeting, after it has been advertised.

Yoho said Spurr sent a letter to the Commissioners in regards to the money they need to pay back. He said Wilson and Crossley want to pay but they don't know where to pay it back. There was also some discussion to why it is being split in half and not third. Someone suggested inviting Alexander to the next meeting to explain this to them.

Someone asked if a TIF district was created for the area by Duke Energy in Cayuga and Koma said they county only has one TIF district and that is in Clinton.

Costello said that he spoke with the financial planners that he had mentioned at a previous meeting and that they would like to give a presentation at a future meeting.

Cheesewright made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Daniels.

Read in full and approved by the Vermillion County Council on the 10th day of March 2008.

John Yoho

Fred Daniels

Lavonna Mattick

Randy Dreher

John Cheesewright

Mike Costello

Mike Reed

Attest: _____
Sherrie A. Koma, Auditor