

RE: Coroner Training (Tabled)
Additional Appropriations
Transfer of Funds
Government Consulting Services-Melissa K. Ambre
Capital Projects Board-Ordinance 2008-3
Economic Development-Ed Cole-Updates
Homeland Security Classes-Melissa Buell
Co. Jail Inspection Report (Tabled)

Minutes-Vermillion county Council March 10, 2008

The Vermillion county council & Commissioners 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, Lavonna Mattick, Randy Dreher, John Cheesewright, Mike Costello, Mike Reed, Attorney Don Darnell, Deputy Auditor Amy Tolbert.

Dreher made a motion to approve the minutes of the February meeting, seconded by Mattick.

Yoho stated that they had received a letter from the State in regards to the Coroner and Deputy Coroner not being compliant in their training. Yoho asked to have Coroner Tucker at the next meeting to give them an update.

Additional Appropriations

Nina Alexander, member of the LCC was present and explained that the LCC funds programs to address the issues of drug and alcohol abuse in Vermillion County. The monies, which support the programs, are collected from Defendants who are charged with OWI cases or drug cases. Per Statute, 25% of the monies must be spent on Prevention and Interdiction; 25% must be spent on Treatments; and 25% must be spent on Law Enforcement; the remaining 25% may be spent in any category. The LCC files a Comprehensive Plan with the State, which outlines the local community program. All expenditures for each individual program is then presented to the Vermillion County Commissioners prior to any monies being expended. The monies they are requesting are needed to fund the approved programs for the remainder of the calendar year. The amount requested is \$18,000.00 for fund #255 and \$2,000.00 for fund #332. Costello made a motion to allow, seconded by Mattick.

Mary Haase with the Health Department had an Additional Appropriation for the Local Health Maintenance Fund for \$9525.00 and the Tobacco Master Settlement

Fund for \$12782.00. She explained that this amount is monies left over from the 2007 appropriations. This procedure is done each year. Cheesewright made a motion to allow, seconded by Reed.

Transfer of Funds

Vermillion County Prosecutor's Office

\$2,000.00 from 244-000-4212 to 244-000-4413

\$2,000.00 from 244-000-4222 to 244-000-4413

\$4,500.00 from 244-000-4325 to 244-000-4413

\$2,500.00 from 244-000-4137 to 244-000-4327

\$2,500.00 from 244-000-4138 to 244-000-4327

\$5,000.00 from 244-000-4411 to 244-000-4327

\$1,000.00 from 244-000-4328 to 244-000-4412

\$2,500.00 from 244-000-4411 to 244-000-4412

\$1,500.00 from 244-000-4322 to 244-000-4412

\$500.00 from 100-108-4137 to 100-108-4212

\$500.00 from 100-108-4138 to 100-108-4212

\$1,000.00 from 100-108-4412 to 100-108-4212

Cheesewright made a motion to allow, seconded by Mattick.

Alexander stated that she still had to pay back the general fund \$5,000.00 for Yoho's salary and that she would be doing that soon.

Melissa K Ambre of Government Consulting Services, a Consulting Service hired to conduct a financial health evaluation for the county, presented an initial draft of the report on that evaluation to the council. Ambre said her company analyzed 17 different county funds, looking at revenue and expenditures in each, and made a few recommendations that the county should consider. Overall she said the county general fund is in pretty good shape, as the council has been conservative with spending. She said Revenues are exceeding expenditures. She said the general fund is projected to end the year with a \$3.5 million cash balance. Ambre also identified several funds in which there had been no activity, but money was left in those funds and not being used. She said those funds could be declared dormant and closed, and the money moved to the general or rainy day fund. Funds that could be declared dormant and their balances are: Cumulative jail-\$158,000; Park and Recreation-\$98,000; Hospital lease-\$286,000. She explained that the cumulative jail fund, if it is not declared dormant, could be used for projects at the jail, rather than paying for projects from the general fund. She also mentioned that the same could be done with the park and recreation fund, as it is duplicated by a park budget in the general fund. Ambre also pointed out that the county has two reassessment funds, one for 2002 and one for 2006. She recommended combining those funds, as the 2002 fund is no longer in use and has a balance of \$937,000.00, which could be moved into the 2006 fund. The county highway fund was one area over which Ambre expressed some concern, as revenues are limited, and the county is going to get to a position where it will not be possible to spend as much as is needed. She said the fund is projected to have a negative balance of

\$134,000 by the end of the year. She also recommended reducing the levy for the cumulative bridge fund and raising the levy for the cumulative capital development, as the bridge fund is in good shape and the capital development fund can be used for a wider variety of purposes. This would need to be done by the county commissioners and Ambre recommended it be done soon. She told the council she would put her recommendations in writing once the final report is prepared, and will work with the county to make it available to the public as well.

Ordinance 2008-3 Capital Projects Board. This ordinance would prohibit the state's newly created Capital Projects Board from reviewing, revising, or reducing the budget, tax rate, and tax levy of each political subdivision in the county. Had this ordinance not been passed, the board would be able to revise or reduce budgets and tax levies for the county and for towns, cities, and other tax units within the county. Costello made a motion to allow, seconded by Mattick. It needs to be advertised and go through the Commissioners.

Economic Development Director Ed Cole presented updates to the council on several matters. He said the industrial park in the northern portion of the county, which has been in the works for several years, is still progressing, but there have been problems with natural gas service because it would come from across the state line in Illinois. He said things appeared to be starting to work out with regard to federal regulations on the gas issue, and the park should move forward rapidly after that. According to Cole, there are currently two companies wanting to move from Illinois to Vermillion County and build in the proposed industrial park. One company would create 150 jobs and the second would create 100. Cole also said progress is being made regarding the future of the Newport Chemical Depot property, with VX disposal now 81 percent complete and expected to be completed later this year. Cole said he had met with Mark Jones, the federal government's assistant for base realignment and closure, and had asked for an answer regarding when the base would be considered "surplus." He said he hopes to receive that answer within the next week, and once it is received; reuse planning for the property can begin. Cole also said that Bolt Tech, a quiet company in Cayuga, is looking to add about 20 new employees. The company currently employs 15, paying at \$13.00 per hour to start, with a lot of travel involved. Cole said they have an unusual niche in that they use specialized equipment to tighten and loosen bolts on machinery. Cole also reported that a start-up company which will manufacture auto parts for Toyota and Subaru is interested in building in the Clinton Industrial Park. The company would have about 100 employees. Cole said he could not give a lot of details at present, except that the company is interested and is looking for funding at present.

Public Health Coordinator Melissa Buell said that a joint homeland security class for elected and appointed officials are being scheduled for Park and Vermillion counties, and provided information on the class, which she said would cover official's liabilities and responsibilities concerning emergency management. Buell

said the class would be held at the Wilson Education Center in Hillsdale on April 10 from 3 until 7.

Bob Spence had sent a report to the Council members to look at and sign. Dreher made a motion to table until next month so Spence could discuss it with them, seconded by Reed.

Mattick made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Costello.

Read in full and approved by the Vermillion County Council on the 14th day of April 2008.

John Yoho

Randy Dreher

Lavonna Mattick

Mike Costello

John Cheesewright

Mike Carty

Mike Reed

Attest: _____
Sherrie A. Koma, Auditor