

RE: CSEPP Funding for 3rd qtr 08
Transfers and Additional's
Appt to tax board
Bohannon Settlement
Mileage rates
Budget hearings
APC Board appointment
Highway funding
New Member-Larry Langley

Minutes-Vermillion County Council July 14, 2008

The Vermillion County Council met in the Commissioners Courtroom, Courthouse, Newport, Indiana.

Council President John Cheesewright called the meeting to order and led in the Pledge to the Flag. Cheesewright asked everyone to observe a moment of silence for the late John Yoho.

Roll call was taken: Present were John Cheesewright, Mike Carty, Lavonna Mattick, Randy Dreher, Larry Langley, Mike Costello, Mike Reed, Attorney Don Darnell and Auditor Sherrie Koma, & First-Deputy Auditor Amy Tolbert.

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

Additional Appropriation

CSEPP is asking for \$10,524.00 to cover expenses for the 3rd quarter 2008. The Directors salary will be paid by Fema. The money is to cover the Logistics Manager's salary and benefits and office expenses. Mattick said that we have to have a Director or we will lose funding, we don't have a choice. Costello asked who was going to be the Director since Raymon Columbo is retiring Sept. 30th. The Commissioners will appoint that position and they talked about appointing Bobette Warnick. Costello said they were only required to have a director that they did not have to have the logistics manager. It was stated that Fema would pay the director through the end of the year. There was some discussion about next years budget and Wilson said they put in \$32,400 for the director only, no benefits. Costello asked about the car and SUV and what happens to them and Wilson said they would go to the Sheriffs Dept. Carty asked what the expectations were of this job. What is the county expecting to get done? Warnick said that they are a resource management county and work with 7 other counties. Wilson explained their roll in the recent floods, the losses that were filed through that

office. Wilson said they would also help recoup money for lost bridges. Kirt Lowry also mentioned that FEMA will continue to fund the office for up to 180 days after Oct. 1st. Wilson also suggested moving to the county garage to help cut costs. Dreher said Warnick & Lowry have done a phenomenal job. Dreher made a motion to allow the additional for \$10,524.00 to cover CSEPP for the 3rd quarter 2008, seconded by Mattick. All were in favor.

Public Defenders Board. This was discussed at the May meeting but the proper paperwork was not done. Costello made a motion to allow, seconded by Reed. All were in favor.

Cumulative Reassessment. This is not taxpayer's money. They have the money, just need to appropriate it so they can spend it. Costello made a motion to allow, seconded by Mattick. All were in favor.

Transfer of Fund

Circuit Court for \$25.00 for stamps. Dreher made a motion to allow, seconded by Mattick.

Family & Children. Costello made a motion to allow, seconded by Mattick.

Prosecutor. Reed made a motion to allow, seconded by Mattick.

Highway. Costello made a motion to allow, seconded by Carty.

Appointment to the tax board. Lois Stoops is the only one to apply. She is a Republican in good standing with the County. Costello made a motion to hire her, seconded by Reed. All were in favor.

Dwayne Osbourne-not present.

Sheriff Spence-not present.

Jerry Hawkins-removed from the agenda.

Low & Associates-removed from the agenda.

Florinda Pruitt-removed from the agenda.

Commissioners Settlement. Doug Hoffman, attorney hired by the county's insurance company was present and stated that their was a lawsuit against the county filed in federal court but a former deputy auditor. This person is saying that she was discriminated against and her family medical leave and wage statutes were violated. He said they had a settlement conference in early June. He said the county is denying any liability. He also said that the judge has laid out what can be done and they entered into settlement negotiations. He said 3 of the 4 counts against the county are not covered by Insurance. The attorney said the are asking for is \$35,000.00. Costello asked if she was fired and he the answer was no, she quit. He asked how we got into this position. Carty said there are steps that can be taken but the policies in place now are vague. Dreher asked who was suing us and Hoffman said it was Lesli Bohannon. He said this matter is not confidential, it has

to be public. Reed said no one is in favor of doing this, but they don't have a choice. Prosecutor Nina Alexander asked what the settlement agreement was. He said the insurance company is willing to match, making the settlement a total of \$70,000.00. Zoning Administrator Jeff Davis said the county is setting it up for everyone to sue who wasn't fired, had a job, and got unemployment. Carty said again, it stems from lack of policies and procedures being followed by elected officials. Alexander said there is an employee handbook but they are not getting much guidance. Dreher asked about all the missing information and missing items, shouldn't we take care of that before we settle. Hoffman said there is an August 1st time frame to settle by. Reed said there is no team concept between Commissioners and elected officials. Attorney Don Darnell said that the Commissioners have already voted, we have to find a way to pay. Dreher also said there were penalties occurred over the course of Bohannon's employment, shouldn't she have to pay those back and Alexander said no, she is not criminally responsible. Carty made a motion to allow the transfer of funds to pay the settlement, seconded by Reed. Costello, Dreher, and Cheesewright were opposed. Motion carried by a vote of 4-3.

Carty spoke about funding options and requested they look into it more.

Dreher asked that at the next meeting they discuss the mileage rate. He said Davis does an excellent job and drives a lot of miles and would like to look at raising the rates. There was also some discussion about giving him a car.

Budget hearings were discussed. Darnell said they needed to make them as late as possible because new this year is that the Council is required to look over all towns, cities and libraries budgets. They will only be making recommendations but state is requiring that it be done. Koma said it couldn't be read until it has been advertised. The council agreed to move their regular meeting to Monday August 18th instead of the 11th in order to read the budget. Carty asked when they get to see the budgets and Koma said at the reading and Carty said he would like to see it before the meeting if possible and she said she would send it to them as soon as she had them entered into the computer. Cheesewright asked that the budgets be in order the pages numbered as well to make it easier.

Langly advised the council that need to advertise and hire for his position on the Area Plan Commission Board. Koma said she would advertise it.

Dreher said the Highway did in excellent job with the recent floods and storm damage. He asked Highway Superintendent Bill Clark how they were on money and Clark said not good. He said they have spent a lot of money on roads and they will get 75% back from FEMA, but they are still left with a 25% loss. He said the fuel is killing them. Someone suggested working 4 days a week but would that really help. Dreher said he would like to find a way to help them out if possible.

Cheesewright introduced their newest member, Larry Langley and welcomed him to the Council.

Mattick made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Costello.

Read in full and approved by the Vermillion County Council on the 18th day of August 2008.

John Cheesewright

Mike Carty

Lavonna Mattick

Randy Dreher

Larry Langley

Mike Costello

Mike Reed

Attest: _____
Sherrie A. Koma, Auditor