

**RE: Transfer of Funds
Additional Appropriations
National Plan of Integrate Airport Systems
Governmental Consulting Services update/contract/Town budgets
2009 Salary ordinance
Board members pay
EOC Director**

Minutes-Vermillion County Council November 10, 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.

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

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

Transfer of Funds:

Highway \$4850.00, \$1,500.00 and \$6,000.00 approved by Costello, seconded by Reed.

Local Roads and Streets-Cheesewright asked if it was necessary and Superintendant Bill Clark said yes. The current truck has too many miles is causing them trouble. He said they were going to keep it but look into buying a used one. Langeley suggested he buy a new one for himself and passing his down to the garage in need. Dreher suggested getting some quotes before approving this transfer. Postpone until next month. Dreher also suggested a special meeting be held if needed.

Commissioners Court. \$12,000.00 & Auditor's office \$4,500.00 approved by Dreher, seconded by Langely. (\$1,000.00 from publications to computer support was reversed on 11/12/08 due to the fact that there was not enough money left in the budget to pay for ads through the end of the year.)

Surveyor. \$1,150.00 approved by Costello, seconded by Langely.

Extension Office, \$2500.00 approved by Costello, seconded by Reed.

Excess Levy Fund per 08 budget order from State approved by Costello, seconded by Reed.

Additional Appropriations:

Cum Bridge, \$1,423,560.48. Clark stated there were several bridges that need fixed throughout the county. He stated that some bridges were already being rebuilt after flood damage and that FEMA money would be received to reimburse the county for part of the cost. Carty expressed concern over whether there was enough money in the fund to cover the appropriation, and it was decided not to approve the entire amount until it was known for sure if the money was there. \$132,170.24 was approved for the replacement of a bridge that had been damaged by fire, because the work to replace the bridge had already been done. Wilson did not understand because he said the bridge account was one of the riches accounts in the county. Melissa Ambre with Government Financial Consulting said her paperwork shows 1.3 million. Carty said but there have already been expenses out of that fund so we do not have 1.3 million left and the request is for \$1,423,560.48. Costello made a motion to allow the \$132,170.24 for the bridge on 200W only, seconded by Dreher. Reed was opposed. Clark asked if he could come back with the request next month and Cheesewright said yes.

Economic Development Director Ed Cole spoke to the council about the possibility of serving as a sponsor in an attempt to get the airport into the national Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS), which could make it eligible for federal grant money. Cole explained that this obligated the county in no way, and committed no tax money to the airport. He added that even if grants are offered, the county can choose not to accept them, and that the council's vote would only get the airport on the list to be eligible. Cole explained that Economic Development is interested in the airport because businesses look at highways, railroads, and airports when they are considering a county. Expanding the airport would allow the kind of small jets used by companies to land there. Cole said he felt some people envisioned the kind of traffic that major airports receive, but assured those present they would not see that kind of traffic at the airport, but more likely, only see jets land there a few times a year. The other concern he had heard expressed was noise. He explained that the kind of jets that would use the airport are at a level of about 75 decibels. In comparison, an average highway with car and truck traffic is between 85 and 100 decibels. Reed asked if the airport was called the Clinton Airport or the Vermillion County Airport. Cole said it would be called the Vermillion County Airport but that is step 52 and we are only on step 1 of the process. Currently, the airport has been referred to as Clinton Airport but technically it is the White Construction Airport as it is privately owned by White. Tom Milligan, president of the Economic Development Council, acknowledged that he is a pilot and part-owner of a plane that is based at the airport, but added that it has nothing to do with this. He said the present facilities are good for us that like to fly as a hobby. This expansion has nothing to do with that hobby. Milligan emphasized that if grants are received for the airport, the county's match for them would be only 2.5 percent. He said many businesses use a checklist when inquiring about potential sites and an airport is one of the items on that list. He added that a single plane landing at the airport could make it pay off, if that plane is carrying a person who would like to locate and industry here. Carty said that the council was only being asked to submit applications for

grants and see what is available. He said he felt the council needed to plan ahead, take the time to do it right, see if we can get the grant, then see if we can make a plan that will work. He made a motion to sponsor the airport. A resident asked who would do the paperwork required and Cole said he would more than likely being the one to complete them. The resident asked him if he could spend time on applications, couldn't he spend that time on looking for jobs. Cole explained the consulting firm NGC, Inc, has done most of the work to date on the project and that the letter requesting the airport be included in NPIAS would not be complicated. Another resident asked if the airport would be used to fly out products made in Vermillion County or just to ask people to fly in and asked why those interested in the airport couldn't be sent to Terre Haute instead. The resident also suggested if the county is dead set on an airport, that a new one be built on the Newport Chemical Depot property rather than near Clinton. Milligan explained that at the Depot property, there would be safety concerns over existing towers on the property that will probably not be torn down, including one over 600 feet tall. Dreher then seconded Carty's motion to sponsor the airport. A roll-call vote was held with Dreher and Carty voting yes and Reed, Costello, Langely and Mattick voted no. Motion denied.

Melissa Ambre with Governmental Consulting Services presented an updated report on the county's finances. She said she had updated information with the 2008 budget now that it is approved, and noted that the report projects the county will begin to spend more money than it takes in between 2009 and 2011. Ambre also noted that the highway department will lost about \$1.2 million over three years, and that there are few options to address the fund's needs, other than using the Rainy Day Fund or increasing local income taxes. She mentioned that the county's current CEDIT tax is 0.1 percent, and if it is raised to the maximum of 0.5 percent, it would generate about \$1.2 million, which could be used for highway or other projects. However, if this is done, the county must have a plan for using at least 75 percent of the money generated through the tax. Costello suggested that Ambre sit in on the council's budget hearings next year. Amber also pointed out that her contract ran out on Oct. 31 and presented a proposed contract for an additional year, which will be given to the commissioners to consider.

Dan Eggerman, also of Governmental Consulting Services, presented a report to the council on the budgets of other taxing units in the county. Beginning this year, the council is required to review all budgets in the county and issue nonbinding recommendations. GCS conducted this review on behalf of the council, and issued basic recommendations for all tax units, recommending that all tax levies be allowed up to their maximum levies, in order to avoid hurting the other tax units by reducing their levies. GCS also recommended that all budgets be approved within the revenue available. It was noted that the budget for the city of Clinton was not included, as GCS had not received the city's budget yet, but it will be included in the recommendations now that it has been received. The

council voted to approve GCS's recommendations, which will be submitted to the state on behalf of the council.

The council also reviewed the 2009 salary ordinance, and after extensive discussion agreed on several changes. It was agreed that, although the county has officially established \$9 per hour as the pay rate for part-time employees, those currently receiving a higher rate will continue to do so rather than have their pay cut. However, when new people are hired for positions that are currently paid more; the new employees will receive \$9 per hour. The council also agreed to cut the amount for part-time help in the Auditor, Treasurer, Recorder and Clerk's office to \$1,500.00 and require office holders to ask for additional appropriations if needed. Amounts allowed for extra help in the Clerk's office and for election help were also reduced. It was noted that the money for election help should not be needed as there is no election in 2009.

Although it had been stated there would be no pay increases this year, the council agreed to increase the salaries of 2 sheriff deputies. Spence reminded the council that, when he took office, he had proposed that new deputies start at a lower salary than those who have experience, and work their way up to the same salary over their first years of service.

The council also discussed the per meeting rates paid to members of various boards. It was mentioned that members of the sheriff's department merit board receive \$30 per meeting, the zoning boards receive \$40, the drainage board receives \$60 and the park board receives \$80, as examples. The council agreed that they need to look at those rates and determine if changes should be made, either to pay all the same, or to base the pay on the importance of the positions.

The council also agreed, after further discussion, to pay the part time EOC director a salary of \$25,000 per year, which will be paid half by the county and half by the state. Carty disagreed with this decision. Someone asked why they wouldn't get the \$9 part-time pay but concerns were expressed that it might be difficult to attract a qualified person at that pay rate. The position will be part-time meaning it will not qualify for benefits but a direct will be hired with the understanding that, during emergency situations, additional hours may be required

Costello made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Dreher.

Read in full and approved by the Vermillion County Council on the 8th day of December 2008.

John Yoho

Mike Carty

Lavonna Mattick

Randy Dreher

John Cheesewright

Mike Costello

Mike Reed

Attest: _____
Sherrie A. Koma, Auditor