

**RE: Coroner requirements
Transfer of Funds
Additional Appropriations
Salary ordinance
State Representative F. Dale Grubb
AIC Representative Andrew Berger
EOC Administrator
Sheriff Contract
Cum Bridge Additional Appropriation
Jail Matron Salary
Governmental Consulting Contract
Council appointments
09 meeting schedule**

Minutes-Vermillion County Council December 08, 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 John Cheesewright, Lavonna Mattick, Randy Dreher, Mike Carty, Mike Costello, Mike Reed, Lary Langley, Attorney Don Darnell and Auditor Sherrie Koma, and First Deputy Auditor Amy Tolbert.

Reed made a motion to approve the minutes of the prior meeting, seconded by Costello. All were in favor. Later in the meeting it was mentioned that the prior minutes did not reflect the passing of the salary ordinance. It was passed with Dreher voting against it. November's minutes have been amended.

Cheesewright said that he had a letter stating that Coroner Tucker has not completed his training requirements and therefore should not be paid.

Transfer of Funds

Family & Children \$50,000.00. Costello made a motion to approved, seconded by Reed. All were in favor.

Treasurer \$1061.41, Mattick made a motion to approve, seconded by Langley.

Sherriff \$1200.00, Dreher made a motion to approve, seconded by Mattick.

Jail \$6300.00, Costello made a motion to approve, seconded by Mattick.

Park \$20,303.42, Costello made a motion to approve, seconded by Reed.

Local Roads & Streets-withdrew by Clark.

Cumulative Capital Development \$14,376.31, Dreher made a motion to approve, seconded by Langley.

Assessor \$21460.00, Reed made a motion to approve, seconded by Carty.
Coroner \$350.00, Costello made a motion to approve, seconded by Mattick.
Prosecutor \$1675.00, Mattick made a motion to allow, seconded by Costello

Additional Appropriations

Pre-Trial Diversion \$18500.00, Mattick made a motion to approve, seconded by Langley.

Counter Measure \$15000.00 and Drug Interdiction \$ 5000.00, Mattick made a motion to allow, seconded by Langley.

Assessor \$1000.00, Dreher made a motion to approve, seconded by Carty.

Salary ordinance. Auditor Koma said there was some confusion about the transfer that the surveyor has asked for at a previous meeting. She said when Surveyor Dreher asked for the transfer that the council was allowing a raise and the council did not approve any salary increases this year. There was discussion over full-time, part-time, full-time part-time and Costello asked if the new handbook was completed and Wilson said, no it was on hold due to lack of feedback from office holders. Carty asked if Surveyor Dreher's employee was a salaried or hourly employee. Koma said she was hourly but required to be here 1 day a week, making her a permanent part-time person, therefore she is salaried. Dreher said first thing is that we need to get the commissioners to change the handbook and secondly we could not change the salary ordinance because it was adopted last month, by a vote of 6 to 1. Dreher said he doesn't know where this mess came from. Koma said she just wanted to bring it to everyone's attention because no one was supposed to get a raise. Cheesewright said she is permanent part-time which allows her to make \$13.49 per hour and we have to have enough in the budget to cover that. Carty said the \$4,127.00 budgeted will not work. Wilson asked if she gets paid for Thanksgiving. Hawkins said he thinks she is salaried. He said if she is salary, then she should only be paid X amount. He thinks the account should be changed from part time help to secretary. Darnell said if they were going to amend the salary ordinance, they have to do it now, this is the last chance. Cheesewright suggested moving forward with the agenda and then revisiting this subject later this evening.

State Representative F. Dale Grubb and Andrew Berger of the Association of Indiana Counties spoke to the council about the upcoming caps that will be placed on property taxes, and how they will affect local governments. They reminded the council of the option of increasing Local Option Income Taxes to help offset some of the lost property tax revenue. Grubb said Vermillion County's various taxes are the lowest in the state. Carty said he thought the State was going to fund the schools now and Grubb said it is going to be shared; the county will still be funding certain areas. He said the state picked up another 3 to 4 levies. Cheesewright asked if the legislation was going to pass these caps and Grubb said probably not in this session. Carty wondered why no one ever speak of how to save money, only how to raise more. He said all they are going to do is raise more money and then spend it. Grubb said there are a lot more counties in worse shape

than ours. Grubb said we are going to have to raise taxes and cut services to get to where we need to be. Costello said this is going to get worse before it gets better. Cheesewright said the state wants to do away with council and commissioners and have one executive running the county. Wilson said it would be like the dukes of hazard. Grubb said he thought that eliminating the council and commissioners would have problems passing.

Jerry Sears was present and suggested the council hire and EOC administrator full time as opposed to part time. He said the state is funding a portion of this salary and knows the county would benefit from a full time director. He said the CSEPP program has brought many significant benefits for the county. He believes that to be without a full time director effective coordination for disasters and emergencies may not be possible. Costello said the problem with hiring full time is the \$20,000.00 benefit package that goes with hiring full time. Someone suggested doing a contract, thus eliminating the requirement of offering benefits. Carty said that when you tell them what to do, they become employees. Costello asked if we could employ them 28 hours and that not be considered full time. Darnell agreed that a contract could be done. Costello thought it was too late for 2009. Darnell said they should do a contract instead of making them an employee. Cheesewright said the commissioners do the hiring and we need to tell them to do a contract with no benefits. They suggested starting the year at part-time and then revisiting it later. Sears said that they should do what they need to do but strongly suggested hiring full time. Cheesewright said this is something we need to work out with the commissioners. Tom Milligan questioned if the EOC had budget enough to cover operating expenses and someone said no, only salaries were budgeted. Milligan said that Economic Development was moving into the building with EOC and would be helping with some expenses. He wondered how the EOC was going to pay their share. It was then stated there was a budget for EOC and there was enough money to cover their half of the expenses.

Costello made a motion to appoint Darnell as the county council attorney, second by Mattick. All were in favor.

Sheriff Spence submitted a salary contract, that same as last year. Costello made a motion to accept the contract, seconded by Mattick. All were in favor.

Highway superintendant Bill Clark asked to revisit the additional appropriation that was denied at the last meeting. He brought the paperwork to show that he has the funds available for this appropriation. Dreher made a motion to allow, seconded by Costello. \$644,554.00 was the total asked for.

There were some questions as to why the jail matron's salary was more than some elected officials. Spence said per Indiana code 3-6-8-10-5 the jail matron is to make the same as the lowest paid deputy. He said she has the same powers as a deputy. Diana Spence added that this matron save them \$24,000.00 plus and that

she has many duties, such as collector/biller for the DOC, file medical claims, auditing.

Spence said he is working on his yearly report that he must submit to the commissioners and council by state statute. He said he will get it to them shortly. He said so far in 08 they have collected \$358,125.36 from the DOC and believe there is another \$114,520.00 still due.

Governmental Consulting Services Contract. Cheesewright said this is basically a renewal because we used their services last year, the contract is \$19,152.00 and the Circuit Breaker/Loit is \$30,000.00. Cheesewright said the Commissioners enter into contracts and they have already approved this.

Council appointments.

Solid Waste-leave open

911 board-Lavonna Mattick

WCIEDD-Mike Costello

Alcoholic Beverage Board-Cynthia Myers

Area Plan-Brian Smith thru 2011

Clinton Library board-Wilberta Craig thru 2011

Newport Library Board-Pam Hazelwood thru 2011

Park Board-Richard Zumwalt & John Haga thru 2011

WCRCC-Nina Alexander thru 2011.

Langley asked if we were going to vote on the budget and Cheesewright said we already did. Cheesewright said we need to amend the salary ordinance and change the surveyor's part time help to \$4900.00. Carty made a motion, seconded by Reed. Mattick was opposed. Dreher said he didn't understand why Cumulative Reassessment had \$30,000.00 in their part time budget. Cheesewright said to leave it alone.

The council set their meeting schedule for 2009.

Costello made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mattick.

Read in full and approved by the Vermillion County Council on the 12th day of January 2009.

John Cheesewright

Mike Carty

Lavonna Mattick

Randy Dreher

Lary Langley

Mike Costello

Randy Padish

Attest: _____
Phyllis Orman, Auditor