

RE: Economic Development planning committee

Minutes-Vermillion County Council February 16, 2009

COUNCIL & COMMISSIONERS JOINT SESSION

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

Commissioners President Tim Wilson and Council president John Cheesewright called the meeting to order and led in the Pledge to the Flag.

Roll call was taken: Present were Tim Wilson, Harry Crossley, Kim Hawkins, Attorney Jon Spurr, Mike Carty, Lary Langley, Randy Padish, Randy Dreher, Lavonna Mattick, John Cheesewright, Attorney Don Darnell, Auditor Phyllis Orman, and first deputy Amy Tolbert. Mike Costello was absent.

Cheesewright said they call this meeting to discuss the millions of dollars that could be coming to Indiana via the stimulus package. He said they talked about it last Monday and needed to form a committee to come up with project ideas to submit to the state. He said the state wants shovel ready projects. Tom Milligan, president of Economic Development said that they do not have all the answers. He said he is not sure may or may not be available to us but that there is going to money available somehow. He said there are going to be several different buckets of money and that there are going to be opportunities for our county and we want to be prepared and make sure we qualify. Milligan said that we need to have a list of shovel ready projects available to submit. Milligan spoke about the depot and the cleanup that will be needed. He said some of these funds may come into play to use there. Carty thought the army should take care of that before they leave the facility and suggested we use the stimulus money elsewhere. Milligan said that the problems out at the depot are contained and not hazardous so he is unsure if the army will in fact clean it up. Les Zimmerman from soil and water suggested we use some of this money for sewer issues around the county. He said we are sitting in a courthouse where when you flush it goes into the river and that is breaking the law. He said we are the only county without a sewer system. He thinks this should be put at the top of the list. Someone suggested putting feather creek on the list but Crossley said they can't get the right-a-ways. Zimmerman also said we need ditches on our highways, deep ditches. Carty said the roads need prioritized and we had talked about this a year ago. If you have residences who won't cooperate, just don't fix their roads. Buddy White said any water and sewer project should be at the top of the list, businesses won't come without it. Milligan said we are getting money and we need to be ready. Carty made a motion that Economic Development head up this project and report back to the Council and Commissioners, seconded by Mattick, all were in favor. Zimmerman

stressed the need to adopt a .3 percent addition in the credit money and allocate that money for a county wide sanitary sewer district.

Jeff Lamb, Vermillion County citizen said that he doesn't think it's right to have these meetings during the day when most people work. Cheesewright said sometimes it works out and we have to do it this way, we can't please everyone.

The meeting was adjourned.

Read in full and approved by the Vermillion County Council on the 9th day of March 2009.

John Cheesewright

Mike Carty

Lavonna Mattick

Randy Dreher

Lary Langley

Mike Costello

Randy Padish

Tim Wilson

Harry Crossley

Kim Hawkins

Attest: _____
Phyllis Orman, Auditor