

**RE: Additional Appropriations
Area Plan Board vacancy
Poet Ethanol Tax Abatement
Board Members Pay
Coroner Training Requirements
Economic Development salary for Susie Jones
Court software
EOC directors salary
EOC claims**

Minutes-Vermillion County Council March 9, 2009

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, Randy Padish, Lary Langley, Attorney Don Darnell, Auditor Phyllis Orman, and First Deputy Auditor Amy Tolbert.

Mattick made a motion to approve the minutes from the prior meeting, seconded by Dreher.

Additional Appropriations

Cumulative Capital Development \$10,000 for a digital recorder for the Commissioners Courtroom. Dreher made a motion to allow, seconded by Costello. All were in favor.

County General \$5,000 for extra help in the Auditor's Office. Costello made a motion to allow \$2500, seconded by Langley. All were in favor.

Asset Forfeiture Fund \$10,000 to transfer into the checking account. Costello made a motion to allow, seconded by Mattick, all were in favor.

Area Plan Commission.

Vacant spot on the board. Dreher made a motion to appoint Monte Kern, seconded by Mattick. All were in favor.

Poet Ethanol

Tom Milligan was present to represent Poet Ethanol in obtaining a tax abatement. Mike Roth was unable to attend and was planning on coming to the meeting in April. He has spoke with the council previously and asked Milligan to approach the council to see if they could get the approval needed so they could advance forward. Melissa Ambre with governmental consulting said that she

spoke with Roth, had looked over their application and did not see any real issues. Milligan said the current taxes on the property Poet wants is \$9319.28. The first year of the abatement the taxes would be that amount, the second year it would be approximately \$76,768. He said it would equal about 3.5 million in taxes over the next 10 years, or 37 times the current amount. Milligan said just because we offer it, it does not mean they will come but if we don't offer it then they probably won't. Costello made a motion to allow the abatement, seconded by Mattick. All were in favor.

Board Members Pay

The board members pay was discussed and has been discussed at several previous meetings about making all boards paid the same. Current pay ranges from \$40 to \$80 per meeting. Padish said he would like to know what each board does and what the requirements are for board members before making a decision. The council asked that the president of each board provide information to the council regarding their roles and that they will discuss it at future meetings before budget time. Carty said that any board not responding could be dissolved.

Coroner Training Requirements

It was reported that Coroner, Darin Tucker, has not turned in his certification showing that he has completed the required training for his position and will not be paid until he does so. Costello said he has been told that the required documentation has been turned in. The council asked the Auditor's office to send Tucker a letter asking him to provide the required documentation.

Tom Milligan spoke to the council about Susie Jones salary. He asked that they consider increasing her pay from \$27,550 to the same as a first deputy which is \$29,000. He said that Jones is currently the second lowest paid person in the county and felt it was not fair. Jones has been asked to step up and take on some of the duties previously performed by the Director following Ed Cole's resignation. Costello pointed out that no pay increases were given this year and felt it would not be fair. Carty disagreed, stating he viewed it as a promotion, not a raise since Jones had taken on more duties. Dreher asked if it was a permanent raise or just until a director was hired. Milligan said he did not know but felt that things would be structured differently in the future. Economic Development Council Member Jack Fenoglio stated that Jones is the face and voice of Vermillion County to any company that wants to come here. Carty made a motion to promote Jones with a salary increase to \$29,000, seconded by Padish. Costello and Dreher were opposed. Voted carried 5-2.

Clerk Florinda Pruitt informed the council that she intended to present an \$8,000 additional appropriation in April to help fund the conversion to new software in the court. This will cover the cost of scanning old documents into the system and converting the existing records for use in the new system. She just wanted to give the council a heads-up.

EOC director's salary is in the CSEPP fund for 2009 and should be in county general. Costello made a motion to allow the amended salary ordinance, seconded by Carty.

The new EOC director, Mark O'Heir informed the council that he has been asked by the city when payments will begin on the new lease. The lease is \$7,000 per year, which includes \$5,000 to help cover maintenance for the Clinton police officers and fire radios and \$2,000 for cleaning. O'Heir said the cost of radio maintenance will be more than \$5,000 and that the county in the past, paid \$3,400 for cleaning. The cleaning will be done by the Fire Department so they will be receiving the \$2,000. O'Heir also reported that the EOC had approximately \$130,000 in outstanding bills dating back to August and September of last year. He said he needs to know what is in the budget for 2009 and that he heard there was \$10,000. He also reported that he has been working with AT&T to do away with about 20 telephone lines, which will reduce the phone bill from \$1500 to \$300. The council informed O'Heir he would need to talk to the commissioners in April and see if there was money in their budget for the lease. If not, it will need to be presented to the council as an additional.

President Cheesewright adjourned the meeting, there was no motion.

Read in full and approved by the Vermillion County Council on the 13th day of April 2009.

John Cheesewright

Mike Carty

Lavonna Mattick

Randy Dreher

Lary Langley

Mike Costello

Randy Padish

Attest: _____
Phyllis Orman, Auditor