

**RE: Additional Appropriations
Board Members Pay
Public Health Preparedness Emergency Response Grant Budget
Speed Limit Ordinance
Transfer of Funds
Library Board Appointments
Tax Board Appointments
Jail hot water heater**

Minutes-Vermillion County Council May 11, 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, and First Deputy Auditor Amy Tolbert.

Dreher made a motion to allow the minutes of the prior meeting, seconded by Mattick. All were in favor.

Additional Appropriations

Cumulative Capital Development. Cheesewright said this is for computer software programs for the Auditor's office because they changed systems. It should have been budgeted last year but it wasn't. Carty said he doesn't have a problem with the issue because it was talked about before but that it was approved by the commissioners but there wasn't any record of it so it wasn't included in the budget. Carty said his problem is with the process of how we can sign a contract; they commit themselves to spending \$163,000.00. This has been since October, the invoices are September 08. We agree to pay this in Sept/Oct but it doesn't get in the budget. Darnell said some financial programs have columns for contingent items, so when you enter a contract you put that amount in that column to keep track of the contract. He doesn't know if our program would have that but it is kind of a simple thing to have. Carty said it seems that if you have contracted to spend money there should be a record of it. Darnell agreed. Costello said a 1, 2, or 3 year capital improvement plan wouldn't be a bad idea either. Carty said he has to get his arms around the budget process, we submit a budget to the state, it was approved but we haven't collected any of that money yet, we haven't had any taxes collected this year. Costello said this might be a little different in the fact that it is coming out of the Cumulative Capital Project money that is set aside for projects, that is the only difference. We have x amount of dollars here and we can

do a project out of that right now if we wanted to because we have that amount. We don't increase the tax rate but it's just there. It's continuously there; just keep adding to it every year. We've used it for windows, the heating system, the courts etc. Carty said he has no problem with the actual expenditure, what he has seen with the system and what they are doing with it is a good idea, his problem is with the process. Cheesewright said he needs a motion. Dreher motion to allow, seconded by Langely. All in favor.

General fund-\$43,500 for Emergency Operation Center and \$2,000 is for Katherine Hamilton. Costello said he was surprised by the Katherine Hamilton additional, he is sure it is in the contract that we had signed somewhere along the way. Darnell thought it was covered by statute; they are our mental health provider. The assessment is based upon land value. Cheesewright said we pay it every year. Costello said he didn't realize it was an automatic 6% increase. Dreher said he always thought it was just a flat rate. Costello said he would make a motion to allow the Katherine Hamilton but would like to know how much we pay a year. Dreher said it's a statute, so he will second the motion. All were in favor. Becky Julian told them that they budgeted \$111,000.00 last year.

Cheesewright said the next part is the \$43,500 for the operation center. Langely asked what it was for and O'Heir said it is money for the rest of the year. The \$10,000 they had budgeted is gone. Langely said what is that, utilities and rent and O'Heir said yes. Cheesewright said the explanation was attached and that O'Heir went through it all last month. O'Heir said he has had a lot of bills added to it since last month but he will make it work but he can't do it for less than that. He said you will be getting \$12,500 back from the state for his salary and he has all the leases signed so they can start collecting on that. Cheesewright asked about the FEMA money and O'Heir said they are still fighting on that between the federal government and the state of Indiana. The bottom line is the state can't have the money, if it is not paid to the county then it goes back to the federal government. They can't use it for any state project that they want. It is still being fought out by them. Costello said we wanted a minimum program and we budgeted \$10,000. He is here to get an additional \$43,500 and that is with a part time director and we still haven't decided what is that we have to provide versus what we want to provide. You're trying to come up with a solution; we really haven't defined what our whole issue is. Dreher asked how many sirens we had throughout the county and O'Heir said 17 and that they start from Newport and a few of them go south but the majority of them go northeast covering the predominant wind area. So there are redundant coverage areas. FEMA came out with a thing in 2007 that said the VX is just about gone, we know you have redundant coverage areas and we know parts of your county aren't covered at all. There are no sirens in Universal. They said you can pull one of these sirens out of Newport and have it repositioned down there. Then FEMA said they aren't going to pay to put up sirens that they already put in. Dreher asked that O'Heir check into the cost of moving them. O'Heir said that he wanted to state that the other thing that is not included is the replacing of the batteries and they are going to need replaced soon. Dreher asked what the cost of that was. O'Heir said they are

around \$50 a piece. O'Heir said he spends most of his time doing the grants, finding information. Dreher question when the State Police would start paying and O'Heir said they started May 1st; they will not go back and pay for the previous months even though their equipment was there. Someone asked who would get the money and O'Heir explained that it would go into the county general. We will get \$500 from State Police and \$600 from Economic Development. There was some discussion as to how the county would get the money from Economic Development. Milligan explained that Economic Development was EDIT dollars, your income tax money, still all tax dollars, just from a different bucket. It will come out of that fund and into county general. Dreher said O'Heir is doing a good job, being very frugal with the money. Dreher motion to allow the \$43,500 appropriation, seconded by Langely, Carty abstained. O'Heir said to keep in mind that it will be more next year because this isn't for a whole year. He said they won't pay more this year though.

\$6,000.00 local health maintenance. Mary Crotty with the health dept. said that it is just basically money that she puts in the budget every year, due to the fact that we didn't have a tax collection last year, she had to take money out of local health maintenance fund and loan it over to the county health fund to support the payroll and the necessary expenditures, now that we have had a collection, she is ready to start repaying that money back to the local health maintenance fund. Carty said he went back and checked the minutes from Oct. 08 and he doesn't see where we approved the loan. Crotty said there was a letter and the procedure that was always done before and they should have it on file. She sent it to the Auditor and copy to the treasurer requesting that that loan be made. Carty asked if the loan can be made without the council's authority, why do we have to approve paying it back. Crotty said she is just going by what she was told by the Auditor and Treasurer. Crotty said the local health maintenance fund is a grant, so she is taking grant money to help out the health fund because of a tax collection not being made. She said she was just following procedure that she was told to follow. Costello said she thinks part of the difference is because it was state money not county. Carty said were going to take it out of the county money and pay it back to the state because it was already spent out of the county money. So we already spent county money which we borrowed from state money to get and now we're going to appropriate more that wasn't appropriated because we already spent more than we had. Costello said no, it went the other way; it went from State money to us. Crotty said that the county health fund is the fund that is supported by tax dollars, we did not have a tax distribution in 2008, that fund was going in the red. Crotty said she took the state grant money, and transferred it into the health fund. Once the tax money got collected it went into the health fund as it always does; now I have to pay it back into the local health money. Crotty said the \$6,000.00 is covered in the quarterly payments they receive from the state. There is money there; she just needs to appropriate it to spend it. Carty said he thought we were paying back a loan not to pay expenses. We are paying back a loan that we never approved. Crotty said she did what she was told so if that procedure is wrong, then we need to change it. Darnell said he thought it needed

to be done with a resolution. Carty said we need a resolution for both sides so it will balance. Crotty said the Auditor has the records where everything went in and out. Costello motion to table, seconded by Mattick, all in favor.

Cumulative Bridge. \$454,574.00. Padish asked who inspects the bridges and Clark said Clark Dietz does. Dreher asked if the \$454,574 was our portion. Clark said they are different, Bridge inspections are our portion, Bridge 36 is an 80/20 deal, Bridge 35 is due to be let in Oct., etc. Costello asked if we still had some money coming in from floods and Clark said yes. He said that Orman had done quite a lot, because none of the match money had ever been turned into the state for the past several years. The money is starting to come back in now. Carty said he doesn't know why we can't get the details before they come to the meeting, a running total of what is done, what needs to be done etc. Costello motion to allow, seconded by Langely. All in favor except Carty.

Old Business

Board Members Pay. Padish said there are still some boards that we have not received anything from yet, would like to get them all and then compare their duties and pay.

New Business

Public Health Preparedness Emergency Response Grant Budget. Crotty said that it is money that the CDC is going to award. The budget is to help prepare us for us any kind of natural or public health emergency in our own county. It is a reimbursable grant; there are guidelines they have to follow. Costello motion to allow, seconded by Mattick.

Speed Limit Ordinance. Clark said that on old 63 in Hillsdale North of 36 out to 63, at the last commissioners meeting they had some discussion about the speed limit there. Their attorney, Spurr, said it was up to the council to enact this ordinance. Costello asked what speed limit they wanted and Clark said 30 mph. The current speed limit is 55 mph. Costello said it is not a highway anymore, it is a rural road, shouldn't it automatically be 35 mph and Clark said no. Costello said we haven't ever written an ordinance and he isn't even sure we do that. We approved them, but we don't write them. Cheesewright told Clark to have Spurr draw something up. Clark said the speed limit signs posted say 30 mph but we can't enforce it because there is no ordinance. Spence said if there is not ordinance then it reverts to the highways guidelines and would be 55 mph. Darnell said the statute says 30 mph. Cheesewright said they would just table this until the next meeting and they get something in writing.

Tom Milligan spoke about a transfer for Economic Development. He said that they have someone that is stepping in as director but is working on a contract basis instead of salary. So they need to transfer the money from salary to contract

services. This guy is the reuse person, they are paying 90% out of reuse federal money and 10% from Economic Development. Costello motion to allow, seconded by Dreher. All in favor.

Library board appointments. Costello motion to keep Bob Boothe, seconded by Mattick. All in favor. Costello motion to appoint Heather Ocheltree, seconded by Dreher. All in favor.

Tax Board appointments. Need to appoint two people, one democrat and one republican but only got applications from 2 democrats, Betty Rayce and Jerry Huxford. The council can only appoint one person and then will have to re-advertise for a republican. There was some discussion as to if they had to have a level 2 certification. Only one member is required to have it and Rennick has the level 2, she was appointed by the Commissioners. Costello said Huxford would be a good one, but Rayce has been doing it forever and probably knows the ins and outs. Dreher made a motion to appoint Huxford, seconded by Carty. All in favor.

Spence said they had a water heater go out at the jail on Saturday and they have been without hot water since then. They have to get it replaced asap. Spence said they contacted their normal contractor and it would be about \$18,000.0 with an 8 week waiting period. The installation would take it up to around \$22,000. Spence said he wasn't happy with that price so he contacted Beverly Plumbing and they recommended doing 2 80 gallon water heaters instead on 1 big unit so that in the event that one would go down, the other would work while the other was being replaced. Spence said the cost on those would be around \$14,000, installed and delivered and they can have them in 2 days. Spence said his money for maintenance for the jail is down to about \$36,000 and it is running right on schedule. Costello suggested using the Cum Capital money, just paying it directly out of that fund because you can't use Cum Capital money to replace the jail money. Costello advised Spence to submit an additional for the next meeting and pay it directly out of Cum Capital Development.

Meeting adjourned.

Read in full and approved by the Vermillion County Council on the 8th day of June 2009.

John Cheesewright

Mike Carty

Lavonna Mattick

Randy Dreher

Lary Langley

Mike Costello

Randy Padish

Attest: _____
Phyllis Orman, Auditor