

RE: 2011 Budgets

**Minutes
Vermillion County Council & Commissioners Joint
July 12th, 2010
Commissioners Courtroom, Courthouse, Newport, Indiana**

President John Cheesewright called the meeting to order at 9:41 and declared a quorum of John Cheesewright, Mike Carty, Lavonna Mattick, Randy Dreher, Lary Langely, Mike Costello, and Randy Padish. Commissioners present were Tim Wilson and Harry Crossley.

Also present were: Attorney Don Darnell, Auditor Phyllis Orman and First Deputy Amy Tolbert.

Cheesewright asked the Commissioners what they wanted to talk about and Wilson stated that they Council called the meeting. Cheesewright then asked Carty what he wanted to talk about. Carty suggested looking at the recommendations from GCS. Dreher said there were several dormant funds which needed addressed. Carty said the Cumulative Jail fund is dormant and Auditor Orman stated that money is tied up in investments and cannot be moved until it comes due next summer. Carty suggested moving money from the Hospital Lease Fund. He also stated that the county has three options in regards to the current financial situation in the highway department. Increase EDIT tax, use money from the Rainy Day fund, which is currently frozen and can't be touched, or paying highway employee's insurance from the general fund. Crossley said in 2011 and 2012 that half the EDIT tax money will go to the Highway. He said half is better than nothing. Costello suggested using money in the hospital lease fund to fund comp time in the highway. Carty suggested moving the money into the general fund but Costello said the state would then think we don't need as much money and cut the budget even more. Orman agreed, stating that doing that will affect the tax rates. There was some discussion on using rainy day fund money but that it was frozen. Cheesewright agreed stating that the Council agreed not to do anything with that money for 5 years. Orman said the freeze only applies the payments from the sale of the hospital and not any money that comes from other sources. Costello asked if any decisions could be made tonight and Darnell said it would need to be done next month and suggest talking to GCS to make sure it wouldn't screw up the tax rates.

There was discussion that was carried over from the council meeting in regard to the highways request to transfer money to pay truck drivers. Wilson asked if they could at least move some money around to pay the truck drivers. Carty asked if anyone wanted to do something different. Darnell said nothing could be done at this meeting because the council meeting had been adjourned. Neild will present it again at next months meeting.

Wilson asked the council to clarify that they are not looking to buy out comp time, but only to have the funds available if someone were to quit or retire. The council agreed, they are not doing away with comp time.

Cheesewright said if we are going to raise money then EDIT tax is the way to go and reminded the council that in 2011 half will go to the highway.

Dreher suggested taking some of the money in the lease fund to buy a mow trim.

Crossley said it would help but then there was some debater to whether it should be purchased or leased.

Padish asked what happens if someone retires and Wilson said currently there is a hiring freeze. Langley asked if it applied to soil and water and it was agreed that it didn't because they have their own board and budget. Mattick said everyone has their own budget. Carty said the question is who manages the departments. We have department heads but tell them they can't hire. Is that the proper way to do it? Mattick said they can't hire because the council won't fund it. Carty said then we became the ones managing them and question whether they knew enough to decide that. Costello said the department heads have to go before the council and make their case for replacing an employee. Langley suggested using the basement to houses offices if needed but the council didn't think it would be well received.

Costello moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mattick. Motion carried unanimously.

Read in full and approved by the Vermillion County Council on the 1st day of July 2009.

John Cheesewright

Mike Carty

Lavonna Mattick

Randy Dreher

Lary Langley

Mike Costello

Randy Padish

Attest: _____
Phyllis Orman, Auditor