Vermillion County Government 255 S. Main St. Newport, IN 47966

VERMILLION COUNTY COUNCIL BUDGET HEARINGS

September 14-16, 2026 / Commissioners Courtroom

Live Stream @vermillioncountyindiana

https://www.youtube.com/live/6ndGOREcEeM?si=EePV1-rh6oLyBHonhttps://www.youtube.com/live/6ndGOREcEeM?si=EePV1-rh6oLyBHon

1.Council President Ashley James called the Budget Hearings to order at 10:00 am on September 14, 2026.

2. Pledge of Allegiance led by James.

3. Roll Call. Present; President Ashley James, Vice-President Brenda Furry, Neil Costello, Kelley Summerville, Jeff Bose, Rick Weir, Attorney Scott Craig and Auditor Ron Dunavan. Tamie Brown was absent.

2027 BUDGET HEARINGS

1. Vermillion Township-Phyllis Orman. Vermillion County Council is tasked with hearing and then adopting or rejecting their budget due to the fact that members of the board include one firefighter and one is a relative of Orman. Budget heard. Adoption will be at the October Budget Adoption meeting.

2. Scott Craig spoke about revenues for 2027. He stated that Local Income Tax (LIT) is projected to increase for the next budget year. He explained the number that he was suggesting but stated that they could go to 10.7 or 10.8 million if they wanted to. He explained that the number he is using will keep the Vermillion County tax rate basically

the same. He went on to explain other items such as assessed values, tax rates, tax levies, local income tax, etc. He stated that if they keep the tax rate the same, the levy would go up approximately $300,000.00. If we adopt the maximum levy allowed by law, it would be about $350,000.00 which would increase the tax rate from 0.90 to 0.935.

3. Clinton Public Library. Director Becky Edington was present because the State changed the laws for budget approval for libraries. The law now states that if a library wants to increase their budget by more than 49.9%, the County Council must act on it. Craig stated that he talked to Misty Bishop with the Newport Vermillion County Library and they are keeping their growth quotation at 2.9% so they do not have to go before the County Council.

4. Allocation Fund. The funds for the allocation fund come from the two current Tax Increment Financing (TIF) districts in Vermillion County; White Construction and Elanco. He stated they have built the White Construction repayment to the county built into the budget for 2027. He also stated that the Elanco TIF is healthy but rather large bond payments are paid from this account. He stated they have also budgeted items for Ernie Pyle school such as water, sewage, electricity, and ground maintenance. He also spoke briefly about advance funding for the I-74 Corridor project but stated that it was not projected in the 2027 budget. He spoke about the Redevelopment Commission taking the initial steps to create a TIF district around the new Duke plant. They gave preliminary approval at their September meeting. He stated a special meeting will need to be held to discuss this further. He included a brief discussion of the new power plant in Helt Township.

5. Economic Development Fund 1149 Local Income Tax (LIT). Half of the LIT money goes into the highway and the other half goes to Fund 1149. Redevelopment has a few accounts that cannot be paid from the TIF district. Weir asked questions about RJL's contract amounts and the capital outlays in 1150. Scott explained the money in 1150 is repayment from the small business loan program that Economic Development did many years ago. Craig said he advertised for that and explained why. James

explained that she has talked to Commissioner President Dunavan about restarting the program as long as it is structured. Weir also questioned the 60,000.00-utility request for Ernie Pyle school.

Weir motion to recess the meeting until 1:00 pm, seconded by Furry. Motion carried.

Meeting Resumed at 1:00 pm.

https://www.youtube.com/live/2nIT2t8TkYM?si=cmG3xmDm8E4GJ-OJ

6. Paige Kilgore-Assessor

7. Jimmy Miller Jr-LEPC, EMA, e911.

8. Tami Lowry-Clerk, Election and Voters Registration

9. Auditor Dunavan asked what happened to the Recorder and Furry stated that she had called and was not coming.

10. Ron Mack-Surveyor and Drainage Board

11. Florinda Pruitt-Recorder, absent

Furry made a motion to recess the meeting until tomorrow morning, seconded by Bose. Motion carried.

Council President Ashley James reconvened the Budget Hearings at 10:00 am on September 15, 2026.

https://www.youtube.com/live/7HXHrU2EZ-A?si=KV4ogs6MtGd7sfp2

1. Roll Call. Present; President Ashley James, Vice-President Brenda Furry, Neil Costello, Kelley Summerville, Jeff Bose, Rick Weir, Attorney Scott Craig and Auditor Ron Dunavan. Tamie Brown was absent.

2027 Budget Hearings Continued.

1. Wendy Farley-Health Department
2. Lori Bousloug-Purdue Extension
3. Mike Reed-Parks Department
4. Terry Carrera-Courthouse
5. Inee Mahan-Veterans Service Officer
6. Jennifer Peebles-Treasurer

Furry made a motion to recess for lunch, seconded by Weir. Motion carried.

The meeting resumed at 1:00 pm.

1. Penney Barton-Area Plan Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals
2. LCC-absent
3. CASA-Wells & Judge Wrede
4. Coroner-absent
5. Eric Shideler-Soil & Water and Solid Waste

6. Bruce Aukerman-Prosecutor

7. Ron Dunavan-Auditor

Furry made a motion to recess the meeting until tomorrow seconded by Bose. Motion carried.

Council President Ashley James reconvened the Budget Hearings at 2:00 pm on September 16, 2026.

1. Roll Call. Present; President Ashley James, Vice-President Brenda Furry, Neil Costello, Kelley Summerville, Jeff Bose, Rick Weir, Attorney Scott Craig and Auditor Ron Dunavan. Tamie Brown was absent.

2027 Budget Hearings Continued.

1. Slagle-Public Defender Office.

2. Probation-David Robinson & Judge Wrede.

3. Mike Holtkamp-Sheriff & Jail

4. Tia Heid & Commissioner President Ronald Dunavan Jr. (RJ Dunavan)-Motor Vehicle Highway, Local Roads & Streets, and Cumulative Bridge.

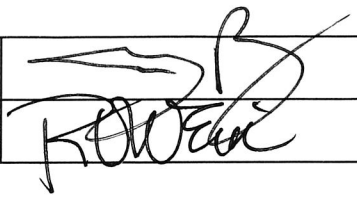
5. RJ Dunavan-Commissioners Court

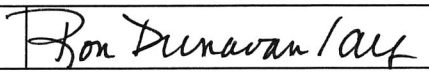
Adjournment:

Furry made a motion to adjourn the Budget Hearings, seconded by Bose. Motion Carried

Read in Full and approved by the Vermillion County Council this 19th day of October, 2026.

Name	Aye Signature	Nay Signature
President Ashley James	Ashley James	
VP Brenda Furry	Brenda Furry	
Neil Costello	Neil Costello	
Kelley Summerville	KS	
Tamie Brown	ABSENT	ABSENT

Jeff Bose		
Rick Weir		

Attestation:		Auditor Ron Dunavan