

Vermillion County Council Meeting Agenda/Minutes

Monday May 13, 2013

6:30 pm

Commissioners Courtroom, Courthouse, Newport, Indiana

- I. Call to order. President Mike Carty called the meeting to order.
- II. Roll call. Present were Mike Carty, Milisa Carty, Randy Dreher, Jim McLain, Jill Wesch, Attorney Don Darnell, Auditor Phyllis Orman and First Deputy Amy Tolbert. Absent were Brent Bush and Mike Costello.
- III. Approval of minutes from last meeting. Wesch made a motion to allow, seconded by Dreher. All were in favor.
- IV. Transfer of funds-None
- V. Additional Appropriations
 - a) General Fund \$4054.00. Money paid to the county as payment for the Emergency Performance Competitive Grant. The money was spent to build kits to be used by county responders doing damage assessments after a large scale incident. Dreher made a motion to allow, seconded by Wesch. All were in favor.
- VI. Open issues
 - a) Employee Handbook. Carty said the handbook committee met on May 1st to discuss comp time and overtime for employees. He said currently the handbook allows vacation days and sick days to count towards the hours worked. He said comp time does not count. He said the committee decided not to make any changes at this time but that the decision is up to the Commissioners.
 - b) West Central Indiana Economic Development District Appointment. Randy Dreher and Elizabeth Burrows were appointed.
 - c) Sheriff Pension. Stan Brown with McCreedy & Keene explained that they wanted to require 10 years of service in order to receive benefits. He said officers would become 100 percent vested in their pension at 10 years instead of 8. He said the changes would result in savings to the county and would only apply to future employees. He said the current plan allows officers who retire to be paid 2.5 percent of their salary multiplied by their years of service. The State allows counties to let this amount increase for another 12 years, at 2 percent per year. He said the officers are willing to have their contributions increased from 4 percent to 6 percent in order to gain additional years of benefits. The counties portion would increase from \$107,000.00 per year to \$122,000.00 if these changes are made. Spence said the changes are needed because someone right now could run for sheriff, work 8 years and get a pension. He said the changes would make the Sheriff's department a more attractive place to work and make it competitive with other counties. Dreher asked if the money would be better spent putting more deputies on the road. Spence said having more officers would help but improving benefits would help attract better officers. Carty suggested they take it under advisement and meet with the Merit Board. It was agreed to table the matter. Carty added that he was not questioning whether the officers deserved the additional pension money, stating they do deserve it. He said they just need to think it through and make sure everyone is in agreement and discuss the funding.
- VII. New business

- a) Surtax and Wheel Tax. There was some brief discussion in regards to raising the Surtax and Wheel Tax. It was agreed to do some research and discuss it at the next meeting. The issued was tabled.
- b) Governmental Consulting Services. A new contract was presented and Carty stated that there is not increase in price. He stated they are invaluable but would like to see them be more proactive and give more advice. Darnell suggested they be included in the Sheriff's pension discussion. Milisa Carty made a motion to allow, seconded by Dreher. All were in favor.

VIII. Adjournment. Dreher made a motion to adjourn, seconded by McClain. All were in favor.

Read in full and approved by the Vermillion County Council on the 10th day of June 2013.

Michael Carty

Jim McLain

Randy Dreher

_____absent_____

_____absent_____

Michael Costello

William Brent Bush

Jill Wesch

Milisa Carty

Attest: _____
Phyllis Orman, Auditor