

Vermillion County Council Meeting Agenda/Minutes

Monday July 8, 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, Jim McLain, Brent Bush, Milisa Carty, Randy Dreher, Mike Costello, Jill Wesch, Attorney Don Darnell, Auditor Phyllis Orman, and First Deputy Amy Tolbert.
- III. Approval of minutes from last meeting. Wesch made a motion to allow, seconded by Milisa Carty. All were in favor.
- IV. Transfer of funds:
 - a. Highway \$20,000.00 from Liability Insurance to Fuel. Milisa Carty made a motion to allow, seconded by McLain. All were in favor.
 - b. Clerk. \$150.00 from Dues and \$2,000 from Office machines to Extra Help. Dreher made a motion to allow, seconded by Costello. Mike Carty & Milisa Carty abstained.
- V. Additional Appropriations:
 - a. 1000-130 County General Commissioners Court. 31300 Katherine Hamilton \$2748.00. Not enough money budgeted for 2014. Costello motion to allow, seconded by Bush. All were in favor.
 - b. 1000-0130 County General Commissioners Court. 33202 Programs \$5,790.00. Co-sponsorship of Tox-Away Day at the Clinton Municipal Building. Milisa Carty made a motion to allow, seconded by Dreher. All were in favor.
 - c. 1000-0133 County General Emergency Management. 21500 Gas \$89.10. The money was paid to the county on May 28th as repayment for fuel used in a state exercise with the county mobile command unit. Wesch made a motion to allow, seconded by Costello. All were in favor.
 - d. 4602 Capital Fund. 38300 Bond Expense \$1711.00. Money needs appropriated to pay the White Construction TIF bills. Motion to allow by Costello, seconded by Wesch. All were in favor.
 - e. 8111 Health Dept PHPER. 21200 Office Supplies \$980.00, 21300 Operating Supplies \$1,710.00 and 37200 Equipment \$15,550. For purchase of supplies approved by the ISDH through Bonus grant. Costello motion to allow, seconded by Bush. All were in favor.
 - f. 4921 Family Court Grant. 31000 Attorney Fees \$4,950 and 21200 Office Supplies \$50.00. The funds will be used to assist low income families in court proceedings. Milisa Carty made a motion to approve, seconded by McLain. Wesch abstained.
 - g. 4109 Alternative Dispute Resolution. 31000 Attorney Fees \$961.00 and 21200 Office Supplies \$100.00. These funds will assist low income families in court proceedings. Milisa Carty made a motion to allow, seconded by Costello. Wesch abstained.
- VI. Additional Appropriations-Clinton Public Library. Ex-Director Karen Walker and the new Director Becky Cuffle were present to discuss their request for \$48,000.00. They said because the library board is appointed, not elected, the additional appropriation request has to go through the county council. Costello made a motion to allow, seconded by Wesch. All were in favor.
- VII. Open issues

- a) Sheriff Pension. Carty said he still wants to meet with everyone involved in the Sheriff's pension to see what the county's needs are going to be in the future. Carty said Spence had advised them about an assessment of his department that shows he is understaffed by 3 people at the jail. This issue was discussed with the county's insurance carrier. Carty said it's a red flag and that it could be a big issue if we know we are understaffed and there is an injury. He said he would like more information on this before making any decisions on the pension plan.
- b) Comp Time. A summary of the amount of comp hours due to all employees was given to the Council for review. This report will be given monthly to keep the council up to date on the comp time hour balances of each employee

VIII. New business

- a) EDIT Roads & Streets. Economic Development Director Bill Laubernds explained that Vermillion County currently has the second lowest overall county income taxes in the state. He said the results from a series of community meetings conducted by Ball State indicate most residents are open to an increase in the EDIT tax. The current EDIT tax rate for Vermillion County is 0.1 percent and generates \$240,000.00 per year. The maximum rate allowed by law is 0.5 percent. The tax is split between the Highway and Economic Development. If the rate was increased it could generate \$1.2 million per year. Jeremy Weir of West Central Indiana Economic Development District gave a presentation and explained the impact of an EDIT increase on the highway department. He said the highway currently receives \$1.5 million in funding. He provided a plan which would allow all of the county's 200 miles of paved roads to be paved once every 15 years and for all the 198 miles of gravel roads to be maintained and resurfaced as needed. The annual cost would be roughly \$2.4 million. Weir noted that changes in legislation for the next two years will result in the county getting an extra \$480,000.00 in highway funds. Mike Carty asked what roads would be focused on first and Weir explained that the next step is to determine that. Carty asked how to get to the next step. Laubernds explained that the goal is to first look at possible sources to get the money then to prioritize what should be done each year. He said if the council is willing they can take the next step with help from West Central.
- b) SWCD Update. Joel Wesch updated the council on the Soil & Water Conservation District's activities for the last year. He reported that the Director Meg Leader had performed many of her duties from a distance during the last year but returned to the county when needed to oversee programs or events. Joel Wesch stated she is now back in the county working. He also asked that she be given the 3% raise the other employees had received at the first of the year. He said they did not want the raise to be retroactive just going forward. Carty said a formal additional appropriation and amended salary ordinance request would have to be presented at the next meeting for that to happen. There was some discussion as to whether the raise was 3% or a flat amount. Orman to research and make sure Leader receives the same amount everyone else did.
- c) Cost Allocation Reimbursement. The Judge reported that they have chosen to participate in getting reimbursements similar to what the Prosecutor and Clerk have done for several years. He said all money reimbursed goes to the general fund. He agreed to try it for 2 months and state it should generate an additional \$5,000 for the general fund.

- d) Abatements. Orman said Economic Development responded to the abatements and Tin and Eli Lilly are both in compliance. Council President Mike Carty signed off on the reports.
- e) 2014 Budget calendar. The council set the meetings for their budget hearings and adoptions. It was agreed to have their regular meeting at 5:00 pm on Monday September 9th followed by the first round of budget hearings at 5:30 pm. The budget hearings to continue on Tuesday September 10th starting at 8:45 am. The non-binding reviews will be done on September 9th during their regular meeting at 5 pm. The budget adoption will be Wednesday October 16th at their regular meeting at 6:30 pm.

IX. Adjournment. Costello made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Milisa Carty. All were in favor.

Read in full and approved by the Vermillion County Council on the 12th day of August 2013.

Michael Carty

Jim McLain

Randy Dreher

Michael Costello

William Brent Bush

Jill Wesch

Milisa Carty