

Vermillion County Council Meeting Agenda/Minutes

Monday August 12, 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, and First Deputy Amy Tolbert. Auditor Phyllis Orman was absent.
- III. Approval of minutes from last meeting. Jill Wesch stated that 2 corrections needed to be made in the paragraph discussing the update on Soil & Water. The sentence was “Wesch stated she is not back in the county working” It was changed to “Joel Wesch stated she is now back in the county working” Costello made a motion to accept the minutes as amended, seconded by McLain.
- IV. Transfer of funds-none.
- V. Additional Appropriations:
 - a. 0052 Area Plan Commission. 35700 Professional Services & fees \$1,500.00 Invoice from K.K. Gerhart-Fritz for planning workshop held with APC on June 26, 2013 plus attending the June 13, 2013 meeting. Dreher made a motion to allow, seconded by Milisa Carty. All were in favor.
 - b. 1000-0148 County General Soil & Water. 11308 Conservation Director \$300.00 half year pay increase. Bush made a motion to allow, seconded by McLain. Wesch abstained. Randy Dreher was opposed. Motion passed.
 - c. 1176 Highway. 21500 Gas & Oil \$40,000.00 fuel for the rest of the year. 31701 Road equipment repair \$15,000.00. 31601 Truck equipment repair \$10,000.00. Tolbert explained there was only around \$24,000 left to appropriate. The full amounts get sent to the state then the state sends back the amount approved or denied. Dreher made a motion to allow the amount the state allows, seconded by Costello. All were in favor.
- VI. Open issues
 - a. Sheriff Pension. Mike Carty said he spoke with Mark Clark & Bruce Aukerman and they have decided to all get together and come back with a combined request of needs. He said they need to look at the whole process before doing anything. They will make a presentation to the council in the near future.
 - b. Comp Time. Mike Carty stated the amount of comp time has been reduced since the last report.
- VII. New business

- a. Update on jail sewer system. Joe Darlington with Burns & McDonnell Engineering gave the Commissioners a map and stated the design should be completed early September with construction starting somewhere between October and December. He said the Highway will also be connected and the Humane Society has the option to hook in if they want. Mike Carty commended the Commissioners on their diligence on this project.
- b. White Construction Report. Mike Carty stated that Scott Craig had emailed an explanation on the White Construction Report. He said no action was needed and that the bonds were purchased outside of the county.
- c. Economic Development Plan Presentation. Economic development Council President Doug Samuelson gave the council 2 handouts. One was the complete plan and the other was a short summary of the complete plan. He said he was going to discuss the short summary handout. He said he was going to discuss some background information, vision, goals, implementation and the next steps. He said economic development in conjunction with Ball State University has prepared a new five-year development plan. He said there are some really good opportunities and they need a good long term strategic plan. He said there were five town hall meetings held with 101 people attending the various meetings. He said there were also 24 individual interviews conducted with county and community leaders. He said some key components of the plan include attracting and retaining jobs; collaborative planning and leadership; transparency in the use of EDIT tax money; attracting good jobs that will contribute to individual and community wealth; protecting rural and agricultural aspects of the county; improvement of community infrastructure; and growth of small business. Some of the goals of the plan are to create a strategy to attract and retain businesses and to integrate communities in future economic development; to enhance communities by assisting them preparing for the impact of successful economic development; to develop a skilled work force and create the talent that businesses are seeking; and to grow leadership and foster collaboration, cooperation and transparency in the public and private sectors. Samuelson said the economic development needs an Official, full-time economic development entity, and the resources to fund such an entity. Mike Carty said the fact is we need funds to get things done. He said nobody likes taxes but there are things we need to start to address and be ready so we don't lose the opportunity that the Vermillion Rise Mega Park gives us. Mike Carty said for an EDIT tax increase to go into effect for 2014, it would have to be approved before October 1, which means the council would need to adopt an ordinance to increase it during their September meeting. He asked Attorney Darnell to have an ordinance ready for the September meeting. Costello mentioned that there are other taxes out there such as CAGIT and COIT that the county could consider. He said EDIT has a very limited scope but CAGIT and COIT could be used for other things such as sheriff deputies. Mike Carty said the county has been frugal but according to the experts, they need full time people working on it along with the resources to do it. Samuelson said look at what the Reuse Authority Director Bill Laubernds does versus what we'd ask of a full-time position and reminded them that Laubernds focus is on Vermillion Rise. Costello stated that our county cannot afford to put \$400,000 into the Vermillion Rise and then do this. Mike Carty said the county is not putting money into Vermillion Rise. He said they pay 10 percent of Laubernd's salary and that they are not putting EDIT money into Rise. Costello asked if they wanted to go back to a \$40,000.00 per year director and Mike Carty said they want to get back to a full time, efficient director. Sharon Canaday with

Ball State said Vermillion Rise is one of the pieces of the plan. She said it is a gift that other counties would kill for. She said it is separately funded and built to be self sustaining. She said there are other assets in the community. She said the plan deals with an entity that can go out and do what the Economic Development Council can't. Canaday said the intention is to create areas where people want to live and work. She said you want people to come here and hire your people. Costello said he thought that is what former director Ed Cole was supposed to be doing. Mike Carty said people assume that economic development and the reuse authority are the same thing but they are not, the reuse is separate. It was explained that when Cole left he was not replaced because the Army encouraged them to make sure they had someone with experience in the Base realignment and closure closing process, and offered to pay 90% of that salary, which led to the hiring of Laubernds. Tom Miligan stated the reuse authority focuses only on economic development at Vermillion Rise and not on the other goals that are laid out in the plan. Mike Carty said the others are equally as important and doesn't do us any good go have the best companies in that park if the employees do not live in the county. Darnell agreed to prepare an ordinance to increase the EDIT tax and to check on the process required to pass it.

VIII. Adjournment. Costello motion to adjourn, seconded by Wesch. All were in favor.

Read in full and approved by the Vermillion County Council on the 8th day of September, 2013.

Michael Carty

Jim McLain

Randy Dreher

Michael Costello

William Brent Bush

Jill Wesch

Milisa Carty

Attest: _____
Phyllis Orman, Auditor