

Vermillion County Council Meeting Agenda/Minutes

Monday September 9, 2013

4:30 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. Dreher made a motion to allow, seconded by McLain. All were in favor.
- IV. Transfer of funds.
 - a. Public Defender Board. \$2,000.00 from Exam by Court Appointed Physicians to Transcripts. Costello made a motion to allow, seconded by Bush.
 - b. Vermillion County Jail. \$5,500.00 from Jail water to Civil Processing. No one was present to discuss the transfer so Dreher made a motion to table it, seconded by Wesch. All were in favor.
- V. ~~Additional Appropriations~~ moved to Oct. meeting
- VI. Open issues
 - a) Sheriff Pension. Carty said the Merit Board members, some council members and others met and he is hoping the Council will get a report of their findings soon. Dreher and Milisa Carty said they attended the meeting and there wasn't a lot discussed in regards to the issues the Council has.
 - b) Comp Time. Carty reported that the comp time has gone down \$2,500.00 from the previous report. Dreher said he looks for it to go back up with the winter weather approaching.
- VII. New business
 - a) Amended Salary Ordinance-Conservation Director. \$300 half a year raise. The additional appropriation request to fund this amended salary ordinance was approved at the last council meeting. There was quite a bit of discussion as to whether the raise should be given since the employee worked from another state for half a year. Bush made the motion to allow, seconded by Wesch. Wesch, Bush, Mike Carty and Milisa Carty voted yes, motion carried.
 - b) ~~Amended Salary Ordinance-Public Health Coordinator~~ Moved to Oct. meeting
 - c) Vermillion Public Library Bond Resolution. Dennis Kinderman President of the Vermillion Public Library Board and Misty Bishop the Director were present to discuss their need for the bond. Bishop explained the need for roof repair due to water damage, install new carpet in various areas, install an new yard sign for library messages and

events, repair the existing gym floor and stage, some minor touch up paint and repairs to stairway, and install overhangs for the entry ways. They are seeking a \$300,000.00 bond and not sure on the length at this time. Costello made a motion to pass the resolution, seconded by Dreher, all were in favor.

- d) Economic Development Income Tax increase. Attorney Don Darnell did some research and provided some guidance in this matter. He stated the ordinance had been published and since the council was wanting to pass it at the same meeting it was introduced it would have to be a unanimous vote to do so. If it doesn't pass they can advertise it for a future meeting and it would have to be a majority vote to pass. Carty asked if there were any questions or comments from the audience in regards to raising the EDIT tax. Scott Craig spoke from the viewpoint of a Helt Township resident and taxpayer. He said he supports the tax increase. He said he, like everyone else, does not want to pay more taxes but this tax would be beneficial and a great investment in our county. He said if we don't invest in our county, no one else will. He said we do have the lowest EDIT tax in the state but that no one moved here because of that. He said speaking on behalf of Clinton City he is also in support of raising the EDIT tax. He said it would have a huge impact on the city because currently the city is losing 20%, roughly \$200,000.00 in tax revenue because of the property tax caps. He said those tax caps equal about 2% for the county but they equal 20% for the city. He said it would generate another \$120,000.00 a year to support the police, fire, etc. He said the city has only received a 3% pay raise in the last 5 years. Mayor Jack Gilfoy said the tax caps are killing them. Doug Samuelson with Economic Development asked what kind of community do you want to live in and requested everyone's support on this increase, stating they will still be low compared to other counties. He said this vote is pivotal and urged them to invest in the county, to vote for it, we need it. Dreher asked what kind of revenue does the Reuse Authority produce. Bill Laubernds said the Reuse authority is governed by federal and state statute. It has to be spent a certain way per the transfer documents from the Army. He said the money generated there is for the operation and maintenance of the facility. He said very little county dollars go into it. He said they have to report yearly to the Army. He said the EDIT tax would not affect the Reuse Authority directly. Dreher said that did not answer his question, how much revenue does the Reuse Authority produce. Laubernds said around 6 million per year. Dreher said and none of that comes back to the county, he then asked what the rates of wages were from the businesses within the Reuse Authority. Laubernds said it varies but he roughly an average of \$13.00 per hour. McInnis asked how many farmers from Vermillion County lease the fields. Laubernds said it is bid out and only 2 from the county at this time. Wesch said she wanted to clarify that EDIT tax dollars do not go to the Reuse Authority. There was some discussion on the need for an Economic Development Director. Samuelson stated that the people will not move to our county without community growth. Costello said that's why they need a Director, someone to do better selling our county. Dennis Kinderman said he supports the increase and stated he is looking to move out of the county. He wants to retire and be somewhere where he can go do things without having to drive 40 miles to do so. Milisa Carty said she is not opposed to an increase but is against going from the lowest to the highest. Dreher said why not look into another tax because EDIT tax is the only one they have no control over. Mike Carty said they do have control over it because they approve their budget every year and they are on the salary ordinance. Tom Milligan stated that they are

creating jobs at the Reuse Authority and they need to work on the Economic Development of the county to get the people working those jobs to live here. Carty said we have an ordinance in front of us and asked if anyone in the audience was against it. No one commented. Wesch made a motion to increase the tax from .001% to .005%, no one seconded it, motion died from lack of second. Milisa Carty made a motion to increase it to .002%, Wesch seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Brent Bush-Yes Milisa Carty-Yes

Randy Dreher-No Jim McLain-No Mike Costello-No Jill Wesch-Yes Mike Carty-Yes Motion denied, had to be unanimous to pass.

Darnell said they could now pass a resolution to hold a public hearing. They need to state the date, time, place and the amount they want to increase the tax to. Jill Wesch made a motion to pass a resolution to hold a meeting on Monday September 23, 2013 at 7:00 pm to raise the EDIT tax from .001% to .003%. Mike Carty seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Jill Wesch-Yes Mike Carty-Yes Mike Costello-No Jim McLain-No Randy Dreher-No Milisa Carty-No Brent Bush-No. Motion denied, had to be majority to pass. Milisa Carty made a motion to pass a resolution to hold a meeting on Monday September 23, 2013 at 7:00 pm to raise the EDIT tax from .001% to .002%, seconded by Wesch. Roll Call Vote. Brent Bush-Yes Milisa Carty-Yes Jim McLain-Yes Mike Carty-Yes Jill Wesch-Yes Randy Dreher-No Mike Costello-No. Motion carried.

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

Read in full and approved by the Vermillion County Council on the 16th day of October 2013.

Michael Carty

Jim McLain

Randy Dreher

Michael Costello

William Brent Bush

Jill Wesch

Milisa Carty