

Vermillion County Council Meeting Agenda/Minutes

Monday, November 10, 2014

6:30 p.m.

Commissioners Courtroom, Courthouse, Newport, Indiana

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Vermillion County Council convened in a meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Monday November 10, 2014.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Members present were President Michael Carty, Vice-President Jill Wesch, Michael Costello, Randy Dreher, James McLain, Milisa Carty, William Brent Bush, Auditor Phyllis Orman, and First Deputy Amy Tolbert. Attorney Don Darnell was absent.
- III. **MINUTES:** The joint meeting minutes from October 15, 2014 and the regular meeting minutes from October 15, 2014 were approved on a motion made by Dreher and seconded by Costello. The motion carried unanimously.
- IV. **COMP TIME:** Michael Carty acknowledged receipt of the comp time report. He said it has went down \$2,000.00 and that they are still working it down. He said he still has a couple of questions about a few people that are on the list but they will work on that at another time. Dreher asked what the maximum number of hours a person could accumulate was and Orman said 160. Crossley said all of the highway employees are well below the maximum. Costello said there is one at 163 and a few are close to the 160. Highway employee Robert Dixon asked how much longer the comp time would be on the agenda. Michael Carty said for as long he is on the council. Dixon asked why and Michael Carty said because he wants to see that it gets worked down. Dixon said the Commissioners have done a good job at working it down. Michael Carty said it is their responsibility to ensure that the liability is recognized. Dixon asked what will happen this winter when the hours go up and beyond the 160. Michael Carty said the Commissioners set the policy and it is up to them to administer them. Milisa Carty stated that they have until October of the following year to work those accumulated comp hours off. Costello explained that they are fiscally responsible for paying the hours so they need to be aware of what those hours are. Michael Carty explained that the expense has already been incurred, it just has not been recognized and that is why they get a report monthly. It is an unrecorded liability. Prosecutor Bruce Aukerman explained that his staff is unable to take off the accumulated hours because he only has one person. Michael Carty said then we should probably pay them. If we can't work it down then we need to pay it. He said the employee has earned that money, they are entitled to it and we should pay it. He said comp time is a way for you guys to manage your expenses. Aukerman asked how they are to turn it in, as overtime. Michael Carty said yes if that is what it is. Aukerman said, each pay period? Michael Carty said, yes, each pay period if you have overtime, but you should be trying to avoid the overtime. He said the policy says we are not going to accumulate more than 160 hours so we should be paying for anything above that. Aukerman asked about the hours up to 160, he said it is fine if you have a way of working it off, taking it off, but what if you have no way to do that because you only have 1 person staffed. Michael Carty said his opinion is that if there is no way to work it off then what is the point in letting them accrue it. He said it is an avoidance of an expense that you are incurring that should not have been avoided in the first place. He said they do not want to incur overtime but sometimes it does happen so it should come out of your budget when it happens instead of down the road when you retire. Michael Carty said back to the initial question, he wants to see the report so they will continue to get the report on a monthly basis.
- V. **TRANSFER OF FUNDS:** The Council approved the request for the transfer of funds. The following resolution was adopted.

TRANSFERS

Be it resolved, the Vermillion County Council hereby approves the following request for transfer:

Costello made a motion to adopt the following transfer; the motion was seconded by Milisa Carty and carried unanimously.

Amount: \$3,000.00

From: 1176-12400-000-0533
MVH/Workman’s Comp/Highway General
Amount: \$11,000.00
From: 1176-412601-000-0533
MVH/Liability & Causality/Highway General
Amount: \$7,000.00
From: 1176-12600-000-0533
MVH/Unemployment/Highway General

To: 1176-21500-000-533
MVH/Gasoline/Highway General
To pay fuel bills.

VI. **ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REQUESTS:** The Council considered additional appropriation requests as published. President Michael Carty reviewed the appropriations from the written requests submitted by Auditor Phyllis Orman. Thus, the following ordinance was adopted: WHEREAS: it has been determined it is now necessary to appropriate more money than was appropriated in the annual budget for 2014, BE IT ORDAINED, by the County Council of Vermillion County Indiana, for the expenses of said county government, the following additional sums of money are hereby appropriated and ordered set out of the funds herein specified, subject to the law governing the same:

Costello made a motion to table, seconded byDreher. Motion carried.

FUND/DEPT	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT APPROVED
General/Commissioners Court	\$5,250.00	\$5,250.00

1000-30575-000-0130, County General/Recycling Event/Commissioner’s Court. The City of Clinton is hosting a Tox-A-Way Day and they are paying 50% of the total cost. The Vermillion County Soil & Water Conservation District is paying \$50.00. They are asking that the county cover the remaining \$5,250.00. Michael Carty said he is all for supporting this event but would rather it be done through a transfer of appropriations instead of an additional appropriation. Costello suggested they request the appropriation at budget time next year. Bush made a motion to allow, seconded by Milisa Carty. Motion carried.

FUND/DEPT	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT APPROVED
Cumulative Jail	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00

1142-33403-000-000, Cumulative Jail/Jail Maintenance/Cumulative Jail. The money will be used to fill the cracks in the parking lot at the County Jail.

VII. **OPEN ISSUES:**

- Newport Chemical Depot Reuse Authority.Director Elizabeth Burrows introduced herself and stated that one of her tasks is to come and update everyone on what is going on out at Vermillion Rise. She first thanked them for the letter for CSX. She said they are very excited because they will be getting the CSX select site designation and they are down to the last step of getting the easement. She said CSX only names 25 sites across the county so they put a lot of money into marketing those sites so you may see us in Airports or other large sites across the U.S. as well as on their website. She said the other good thing is they do not pick sites that fail and she asked them what their success rate was and they said 100%. She said the second thing she wanted to talk about was the wastewater project out at the jail. She said it is about 80% done. She said it looks to be around mid-December before the project is completed. She said the third project they have been working on is hiring some local interns from Rose Hulman or ISU. They are currently taking resumes. She said they want to enhance workforce development and keep local kids in Vermillion County. Burrows then asked if there were any questions. Michael Carty asked what the CSX Select Site Designation really means. Does it mean they are committed to bringing the rail to the site or does it mean they will actually break ground here in the near future? Burrows said it will happen, the designation means they will be turning dirt.

VIII. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- County Vehicle-Assessor Paige Kilgore said the Assessor’s office would like to have sole ownership /possession of a good working automobile for the purpose of field work. She

said she has spoken with the Commissioners about an old vehicle that is not being used. Detective Michael Phelps said the only vehicle he is aware of is the old Chevy that was Mark O'Heir's. Kilgore said it would not be a take home vehicle, that it would be parked at the Courthouse every night and that she has the funds to take care of a vehicle. She said the Assessor's office has 516 personal property mobile homes at this time to inspect and they also have to inspect new construction and buildings that have been torn down. She said the current company would charge \$25.00 per parcel to handle the items that are above and beyond their contract. She said their contract is only for real property. Michael Carty said he is confused by the statement that she already has the money in her budget to take care of a vehicle. Kilgore said she does not have a specific line item but she has the cash and it's located in Cumulative Reassessment. Michael Carty said if you have the money then this is up to the Commissioners. She said the Commissioner's said they were okay with it but was told to get council approval. Phelps said he does not have the authority to give away a car but if the car is still there in January he would have no problem with Kilgore using it. Milisa Carty said she does not have a problem with it, she just wants to make sure that 2 weeks down the road that it does not break down and suggested having it looked at. Michael Carty explained that the council has nothing to act on and that Kilgore needs to transfer funds to open the new account for the car. Spence said he has no problem with her using it and asked where she was going to park it at night. Kilgore said at the courthouse. Spence thought it would be subject to vandalism and suggested she park it back at the jail each evening. Kilgore asked about the process if she were to purchase a new car and Michael Carty explained that the council would have to make the appropriation but only after the commissioners allowed the expense. Kilgore asked why the Commissioner's had to sign off on it and Michael Carty said because it is their responsibility to decide what this county needs. He said the council is the fiscal body and all they do is approve or disapprove the monies. Commissioners President Wilson said the commissioners have given their approval. There was some discussion on the mileage she has earned in the past and how that cost will go away as she will not be incurring mileage.

- NIXLE 360 Mass Communication System. E911 Director Michael Phelps explained that they are wanting to upgrade their mass communications system and that the money would be coming from E911 and Duke Energy not taxpayers dollars. He said his question is where to put the money from Duke as they will be paying 3 years in advance but he would only be paying NIXLE on year at a time. Costello suggested they treat it as a grant and create a line item for it.
- County Engineer. Michael Carty said it has been discussed and he is not suggesting they do anything but would like to start the process of researching the cost and benefits of having a county engineer. Milisa Carty said we should have LTAP come talk to us and they can guide us in the right direction. Michael Carty said that is where he would like to start and possibly get some other counties to give their input. He would like the Commissioners to be involved as well. Milisa Carty said if they do it she would like to see that person working for the whole county just not the Highway. Crossley said it won't be cheap. Milisa Carty said the state will provide some money and she thought it was up to \$20,000.00. Wilson said he and Milisa Carty will work on getting some meetings arranged.
- 2015 Salary Ordinance. Costello made a motion to allow, seconded by McClain. Dreher was opposed. Motion carried. Dreher asked if they found out if Susie Jones works full time for Economic Development or for the Reuse Authority. Michael Carty said she works full time Economic Development but also assists Elizabeth Burrows and Bill Laubernds at the Reuse Authority. He said they are working on reorganizing the structure so it is easier to understand. Michael Carty said she works for both places but her salary comes from Economic Development only. Dreher said when Ed Cole left they gave her an increase in salary until that position was filled and then she was to go back to secretary pay. He said those positions have been filled but her salary has not changed. There was some discussion as to whether Bill Laubernds replaced Ed Cole. Michael Carty said he did replace Ed Cole. He said he would like the issue addressed at some point. Aukerman asked how the salary ordinance differentiates between a 7 and 8 hour work day. Michael Carty said it doesn't. Aukerman asked why not. Michael Carty said they are paying for a full time job and it's up to the office holder to set the hours. Michael Carty said he would

like to arrange a meeting with the handbook committee, the commissioners and the council to address the issue.

- Wheel/Surtax. With changes being made by the state a new ordinance will need to be prepared. The information was sent to Darnell. Tabled.
- Highway 3 year plan. The Commissioner’s presented the Council with the plan prepared by West Central. The Council will review it and asked that someone from West Central come and explain it to them.

AYE

NAY

Michael Carty, President

Jill Wesch, Vice President

Michael Costello

Randy Dreher

James McLain

William Brent Bush

Milisa Carty

ADJOURNMENT: Having no further business to come before the Council, the motion to adjourn was made by Michael Costello, seconded by Randy Dreher.

Michael Carty, President

ATTEST:

Phyllis Orman, Auditor