

Election of Officers  
Victim’s Assistance Additional Appropriation  
Misdemeanant Additional Appropriation  
Appointments 2016  
Business Personal Property Assessment  
Appeals Funding for Taxing Units

**Vermillion County Council  
Meeting Agenda/Minutes**

Monday, January 11, 2016

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 January 11, 2016.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Members present were Michael Costello, Basil Ave, Randy Dreher, Jim McLain, Jill Wesch, Auditor Phyllis Orman, First Deputy Auditor Amy Tolbert and Attorney Don Darnell. Michael Carty and Brent Bush were absent.
- III. **ELECTION OF COUNCIL OFFICERS.** Dreher made a motion to nominate Michael Costello as president, seconded by McLain. Ave made a motion nominate Jill Wesch as president, no one seconded the motion. Costello was elected president of the county council. Dreher made a motion to nominate Jill Wesch as vice-president, seconded by Ave. Wesch was elected as vice-president of the county council.
- IV. **MINUTES:** The minutes from December 7, 2015 were approved on a motion made by Dreher and seconded by Costello. The motion carried.
- V. **COMP TIME:** Costello reported that the amount has decreased since last month.
- VI. **COUNTY TREASURER’S MONTHLY REPORT.** Costello acknowledged receipt of the report.
- VII. **ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION/REDUCTION REQUESTS:** The Council considered additional appropriation requests as published. President Michael Costello 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 2016, 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:

McLain made a motion to allow, seconded by Dreher. Motion carried.

FUND/DEPT	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT APPROVED
Victims Assistance	\$28,647.00	\$28,647.00

Wesch made a motion to allow, seconded by Dreher. Motion carried.

FUND/DEPT	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT APPROVED
Misdemeanant	\$1,455.61	\$1,455.61

VIII. **OPEN ISSUES**

IX. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. 2016 Appointments.

**PTABOA:** Pat Richey on a motion by Wesch, seconded by Dreher.

**Economic Development Council:** Jill Wesch on a motion by Ave, seconded by Dreher. Roxanne Scott, Chantel Booth, and Basil Ave on a motion by Wesch, seconded by Dreher.

**Area Plan Commission:** Michael Reed on a motion by Ave, seconded by Wesch.

**Alcohol Beverage Board.** Cynthia Myers re-appointed on a motion by McLain, seconded by Dreher.

**E911.** The council was in favor of re-appointing Milisa Carty if she still wanted to serve. Tabled.

b. Business Personal Property Assessment. Assessor Kilgore had sent a letter to the council explaining that beginning in 2016IC 6-1.1-3-7.2 provides an automatic exemption for a taxpayer’s business personal property in a county if the acquisition cost of that taxpayer’s total business property in the county is less than \$20,000 for the assessment date. A taxpayer that is eligible does not have to file a return but they must file a notarized certification. The county may opt to charge up to \$50.00 for the filing fee to help offset the lost revenue. She stated that the fee could result in a taxpayer paying more than their bill would be if they would have filed the return. Ave asked about a sliding scale, asking if the fee could be lower for the ones with lower assessments. Kilgore said she was not sure but the code does state they could charge up to \$50.00. Darnell agreed to work up an ordinance that would state any assessment from \$0 to \$10,000.00 would be charged a \$25.00 filing fee and anything over the \$10,000.00 up to the \$20,000.00 would be charged a \$50.00 filing fee. The ordinance will be presented at the February meeting and the decision will be made at the March meeting.

c. Funding for appeals for taxing units. Assessor Kilgore shared a memo from the Department of Government Finance in regards to legislative changes affecting assessment appeals. The memo says that on May 6, 2015 Governor Pence signed into law House Enrolled Act 1603-2015 which introduces IC 6-1.1-15-10.5 which allows the fiscal officer of a taxing unit to establish a property tax assessment appeals fund. The source of the money for the fund will be property tax receipts attributable to an increase in the taxing unit’s tax rate caused by appeals that reduce certified net assessed value in the taxing unit. The money can only be used to pay for expenses the county assessor incurs in defending an appeal of property located in the taxing unit and for refunds resulting from a property tax appeal. Darnell had questions about who the fiscal body in the memo is referring to. He believes it to mean each taxing unit would create a fund not the county council. Kilgore said she would call the state and try to get some clarification and also stated she would be going to conference next week and would gather more information to present at the February meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Having no further business to come before the Council, the motion to adjourn was made by McLain, seconded by Ave.

<u><b>AYE</b></u>	<u><b>NAY</b></u>
<hr/> Michael Costello, President	<hr/>
<hr/> Jill Wesch, Vice-President	<hr/>
<hr/> Randy Dreher	<hr/>
<hr/> Michael Carty	<hr/>

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William Brent Bush

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Jim McLain

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Basil Ave

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ATTEST:

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Phyllis Orman, Auditor