

Vermillion County Council

Meeting Agenda

July 11, 2016

6:30 p.m.

Commissioners Courtroom, Courthouse, Newport, Indiana

- I. Call to order. The Vermillion County Council convened in a regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, July 11, 2016.
- II. Roll call. Members present were Michael Costello, Jill Wesch, Randy Dreher, Michael Carty, Jim McLain, Basil Ave, Auditor Phyllis Orman, First Deputy Auditor Amy Tolbert and Attorney Don Darnell. Brent Bush was absent.
- III. Approval of minutes from last meeting. The minutes from June 13, 2016 were approved on a motion made by Wesch and seconded by Carty. Motion carried.
- IV. Comp Time. Costello reported that the comp time has decreased considerably since last month.
- V. County treasurer's report for May 2016. Costello acknowledged receipt of the report.
- VI. Transfer of funds and amended salary ordinance. A reporting only transfers of funds was done to move \$1,743.00 for Truck drivers to extra help. The Highway Office Manager is retiring and they would like to have extra help money to train a new person. The amended salary ordinance states that the position of extra help is to be added to the salary ordinance and paid out at \$9.50 per hour. McLain made a motion to allow the amended salary ordinance, seconded by Ave. Motion carried.
- VII. Additional appropriations.
 - a) 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:

FUND/DEPT	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT APPROVED
County General	\$5,110.00	\$5,110.00
This was a grant payment received by the county on May 5, 2016 for equipment installed on the county utility vehicle. Dreher made a motion to allow, seconded by Wesch. Motion carried.		
County General	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00
Exam by court appointed physician. Dreher made a motion to allow, seconded by Ave. Motion carried.		
County General	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Purchase Taser guns for Court office and Courtroom. Dreher made a motion to allow, seconded by Ave. Motion carried.		
Misdemeanant	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
To pay for Female Offenders Moral Reconciliation Therapy classes (MRT). Carty made a motion to allow, seconded by Wesch. Motion carried.		
Motor Vehicle Highway	\$3,304.92	\$3,304.92
Money collected for dust oil. Carty made a motion to allow, seconded by Ave. Motion carried.		
Rainy Day	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00
County match for local roads and bridge grant. Dreher made a motion to allow, seconded by McLain. Carty and Wesch were opposed. Motion carried. The motion included ordinance 2016-008 which states that the council desires to provide the matching funds and if the grant is denied then the funds revert back to the Rainy Day fund or if only a partial amount is approved, the balance reverts back to the Rainy Day fund. During the meeting the plans the highway put together were presented to the public. Yocum stated the highway would not be putting any money towards the grant at this time because they need money to operate on but he is still hoping to get back 50% of what they have been or will be spending. Dreher asked if the plans included new roads and Crossley said no. Dreher said he would like that the roads be maintained and suggested burning them to make them last longer. Crossley said they do and will continue to do that. Someone asked how the money would be split and Crossley said 40-30-30 as District 1 has more miles of roads. Carty asked how they determined which roads were priority and Wilson said by traffic count. Wesch asked if they did current traffic counts and Wilson said no. Crossley said they chose the highest travelled roads even if there was only a house to two on it. Wesch said the grant criteria includes a current traffic count be done. Carty stated the grant covers a 2-year time period so they could work on a better plan and submit it for next year. Newport resident, Margie Allee, asked if all the roads would be updated and Yocum said no, there would not be enough money to do all the roads. Carty said the plan the Commissioners put together is not bad but he would rather see something benefit every taxpayer since the Rainy Day fund was funded by the taxpayers from the sale of the Clinton hospital. Yocum asked Carty if he had looked at the map and Carty said he did and noted that a bridge over Hazel Bluff may not be a top priority road. Dreher said the school buses travel that road daily. Carty said that		

is exactly the information they need. Carty said he could argue that the roads at Vermillion Rise would benefit the county. Dreher said his main issue is that they control the water around the roads to help make them last longer. He said why should they spend money on something that will fall apart in a few years. Wilson said the problem is the trash trucks, school buses, farm equipment, etc. tear up the roads. Costello read the ordinance Darnell prepared. It states that the council will provide the funds and if the grant is not awarded then the money reverts back to the Rainy Day fund as well as any balance not funded by matching grant. Yocum asked if there was money in the General Fund to use and Carty said yes but those excess funds are decreasing rapidly. Dreher said he would rather they stay with the Rainy Day fund for this project. Carty said the 40-50 miles of roads they will repair will not benefit every single taxpayer in the county. Dreher said they need to keep in mind the jail project that is coming in the near future. Carty agreed and stated that every citizen of the county benefits from the protection of the Sheriff's Department. Wesch said the grant requires an asset management plan and asked if they had such a plan. Yocum said the plan is the rated roads.

Drug Prosecution Fund	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
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To purchase drug prosecution equipment for use by the Sheriff's Department in drug investigations. This is strictly grant money. Carty made a motion to allow, seconded by Dreher. Wesch abstained. Motion carried.

VIII. Open issues

- b) Jail energy savings and jail expansion. It was explained by Jerry Hawkins that they need to go back to step one and start the process over, utilizing the energy savings statute as their guide. He said this statute differs from the public works statute as that it allows you to go with the most qualified person not just the lowest bidder. It gives you more control. He suggested they advertise as the statute states and then move forward from there. Dreher asked about the water pressure for the sprinkler system and the jail and Sheriff Phelps said Vermillion Rise is boosting the pressure at this time. He also stated they are not paying for water yet.
- c) Health insurance wellness program and premium costs. Tabled.
- d) Public safety fund. Costello said that Becky Holbert is in contact with Larry DeBoer and that he will be at a meeting in the near future to explain the details of this tax.
- e) Local match for local road and bridge matching grant. (see additional appropriations)
- f) Sheriff -School resource officer grant. Phelps said that both North Vermillion and South Vermillion have received or will receive grant money for a school resource officer. He said it is a 50% matching grant and it only covers the pay, not equipment or vehicles. He said a school resource officer is needed and will cost

money. He said it is a full time position and this person would have the same duties as a regular Sheriff's Department Deputy. This person will also be responsible for teaching. He said one option that would save money would be to hire a retired officer. He said he has two current officers interested in the job. Ave asked about job descriptions and Phelps said there would be an MOU. Dreher talked about charging Clinton City for dispatching to help offset those costs. Phelps said he would look into that. Phelps also explained that this person would have to go through the academy and that if the person if full time there would be no cost for that training. Stephanie Ping asked if there was any security at the schools currently and Phelps said no but his deputies and the Indiana State Police officers do walk through's when they are in the area. Dreher asked Phelps to bring some solid figures to the next meeting.

IX. New business

- a) Judge-Jail, probation budget and update on new laws. Judge Bruce Stengel spoke about the inmate overpopulation and the workload that the Probation Department is dealing with. He said that he works with Prosecutor Bruce Aukerman and Sheriff Phelps on an almost daily basis about which inmates they can release to keep those numbers down. He said he has stopped sentencing people to weekends in jail because there are so many arrests made on the weekends that causes the jail to be overcrowded. He said for the 2017 budget the Probation is asking for a third Probation Officer and it is very much needed. He said he would give up the third floor conference space to make room for this person and the cost to convert the room would be around \$4,000.00. He also stressed the importance of keeping probation on the third floor because they are currently the only security in the courthouse. He said this year they will have 270 kids come through probation and most will be new cases. He said David Robinson, the Juvenile Probation Officer, cannot handle all these cases himself. He these cases along with the school suspension cases is a lot for one person. He said the alternative school was a very good program but just shut down with no notice. Chief Probation Officer, Ron Stateler, said there were 74 felons a few years ago and now they have 179 and some of those won't come off of probation until 2031. Aukerman later clarified that when they release someone from jail early they contact the Jail Commander to look for the non-violent people who have been in for a while. He said they used West Central Community Corrections in the past and the inmate paid those costs. He said the county could contract with them and would receive a very discounted rate. He said it is a very good program and worth looking in to.

Adjournment. Having no further business to come before the Council, the motion to adjourn was made by Dreher, seconded by McLain.

AYE

NAY

Michael Costello, President

Jill Wesch, Vice-President

Randy Dreher

Michael Carty

_____absent_____
William Brent Bush

Jim McLain

Basil Ave

ATTEST:

Phyllis Orman, Auditor