

Vermillion County Council
Meeting Minutes

April 10, 2017

6:30 p.m.

Commissioner’s Courtroom, 2nd Floor, Courthouse

- I. Call to Order. The Vermillion County Council convened in a regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Monday, April 10, 2017.
- II. Roll Call. Members present were Brent Bush, Ashley James, Randy Dreher, Jim McLain, Jill Wesch, Mike Carty, Bob Spence, Auditor Amy Tolbert, 1st Deputy Auditor Stephanie Hillyer and Council Attorney Don Darnell.
- III. Approval of Minutes. A motion was made by Mike Carty and seconded by Bob Spence to approve the minutes from the March 13, 2017 meeting. All in favor, motion carried.
- IV. County Treasurer’s Report. The County Treasurer’s Report was not available.
- V. Comp Time Report. There were no comments on the Comp Time Report.
- VI. Transfer of Funds. Commissioners Court/County General/Computer Support transferring \$5000.00 to County General/Solid Waste Expenses. A motion was made by Randy Dreher and seconded by Brent Bush to allow. All in favor, motion carried.
Circuit Court/Asst. Court Reporter transferring \$1210.87 to Court Reporter. A motion was made by Brent Bush and seconded by Jim McLain. All in favor, motion carried.
Sheriff/Legal Services transferring \$2,000.00 to Sheriff’s Evidence Tech and Sheriff/Radio Upkeep transferring \$1,500.00 to Sheriff’s Evidence Tech. A motion was made by Mike Carty and seconded by Randy Dreher to allow. All in favor, motion carried.

VII. Additional Appropriations.

The Council considered additional appropriation requests as published. President Jill Wesch reviewed the appropriations from the written requests submitted by Auditor Amy Tolbert. 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 2017, 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:

A motion was made by Brent Bush and seconded by Ashley James to allow. All in favor, motion carried.

FUND/DEPT	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT APPROVED
County General/Sheriff’s Evidence Tech	\$500.00	\$500.00

Sheriff Mike Phelps said he is asking for a new line item in the Sheriff Budget 105. This new line item is to be called Sheriff’s Evidence Tech.

A motion was made by Bob Spence and seconded by Randy Dreher to allow. All in favor, motion carried.

FUND/DEPT	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT APPROVED
Clerk’s Record Perp Expenses	\$21,339.96	\$21,339.96

A motion was made by Ashley James and seconded by Randy Dreher to allow. All in favor, motion carried.

FUND/DEPT	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT APPROVED
LRS/Grant Match	\$36,353.78	\$36,353.78
MVH/Grant Match	\$164,951.01	\$164,951.01

The county received \$220,027.50 (\$18,722.71 was from highway capital improvement and cannot be used for matching) reimbursement from the community crossings grant which resulted in leaving a balance in Local Roads and Streets and Motor Vehicle Highway. The Commissioners would like to use this money as matching money for the next grant. The money would be placed in the Rainy Day Restricted LRS and Rainy Day Restricted MVH as per the instructions from SBOA. If a grant is not awarded, then the Commissioners will ask for an appropriation from the two funds to place the cash back into MVH and LRS.

A motion was made by Mike Carty and seconded by Brent Bush to allow. All in favor, motion carried.

FUND/DEPT	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT APPROVED
Hillsdale Water Grant/ Water/Sewer Improvements	\$506,000.00	\$506,000.00
Hillsdale Water Grant/31112	\$44,000.00	\$44,000.00

This is the Community Block Grant for the Hillsdale Water Grant. The County is the pass through for this grant. Money will come from the state and then they will pay the claims. Once the money is deposited they have 5 days to submit the checks so they are requesting the full amount at this time but this project could carry over into next year.

A motion was made by Brent Bush and seconded by Jim McLain to allow. All in favor, motion carried.

FUND/DEPT	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT APPROVED
MVH	\$20,041.00	\$20,041.00

This is money from the sale of highway equipment.

A motion was made by Randy Dreher and seconded by Bob Spence. All in favor, motion carried.

FUND/DEPT	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT APPROVED
Non-Reverting Park	\$17,980.00	\$17,980.00

This is to pay for repairs to the covered bridge located at the Ernie Pyle Rest Park on US 36. \$2,500.00 of the repairs is from the Covered Bridge Fund and \$17,980.00 from Non-Reverting Park.

Appropriation Reduction.

WHEREAS: It has been determined that certain existing appropriations now have unobligated balances that will not be needed for the purposes for which appropriated; now, therefore:

Sec. 1 Be it ordained by the Vermillion County Council of Vermillion County, Indiana, that the following existing appropriations be reduced in the following amounts:

A motion was made by Brent Bush and seconded by Ashley James to allow the reduction. All in favor, motion carried.

Reduction	Amount of
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	Requested	Reduction
I. 1000 County General/Assistant Cook	-500.00	-500.00

VIII. Open Issues

- a. Joint Resolution Restricted Rainy Day LRS and Restricted Rainy Day MVH. A motion was my Ashley James and seconded by Randy Dreher to sign the Joint Resolution allowing funds to be placed in Restricted Rainy Day Fund LRS and Restricted Rainy Day Fund MVH. All in favor, motion carried.
 - b. Health Insurance. Jill Wesch stated the Commissioners approved \$1000.00 for the employees into their HSA account per council approval. Randy Dreher said he is disappointed with the committee’s effort to look into insurance changes. He said we talked about pooling with other counties or getting competitive bids and neither of those things happened. He said the County’s agent talked to other companies but said that was not the same as getting bids as someone else could have come in cheaper. He said in the end the county had to take what was handed to them. Jackie Pentell the County’s agent from USI stated that she went to every viable company in the state and that using a different agent would not have affected cost. She said you could have 10 agents get quotes and they are all going to get the exact same quote. Dreher asked if all agents charge the same commission and Pentell replied that her commission is the standard Anthem commission given to all agencies. Pentell said she also got a rate freeze for this year again. Deputy Clerk Amanda Delp said the spousal carve out will affect four of the five employees in her office. She questioned whether having fewer people on the County’s plan would result in higher rates later. She also said that one employee would end up accruing an additional \$4000.00 in costs per year due to the changes. Carty said the county was trying to find ways to save money on insurance that continues to go up. He stated that 15 people would be affected by the spousal carve out and by doing that we can give that money as raises for the other 70 people. He said there are winners and losers in every decision you make. Carty said we have a very generous plan, if we would rather keep everybody insured than give raises, it doesn’t make any difference to him, but that’s the choice they’ve got to make. Carty also said if we save \$100,000 and give back to the employees the county is breaking even. He said we needed to start talking in July about what type of insurance program we wanted to have, but we kept putting it off.
- Penny Barton, Zoning Administrator, asked if the Commissioners and Council members who are eligible for insurance elsewhere were taking it. McLain said he does not take the county’s insurance. Carty said he was on the county plan but is not eligible for an HSA because he is on Medicare Part A, so the changes will cost him more as well. Pentell said what the county has approved is not actually a spousal carve out, but a spousal provision. A carve out would mean no spouses were eligible for insurance, while a spousal provision only means that those who can get insurance through their own employers are required to do so. She said she doesn’t want anyone to think we’re saying no spouses. Pentell said that the employees’ contribution to premiums had not been raised since 2013, and that the \$1500 deductible plan robs us of being better consumers, because people don’t worry about health cost once their deductibles are met. She also stated that preventive care was still covered at 100% and they are going to roll out Telemedicine, where you can call a doctor describe your symptoms and then the doctor will prescribe medicine and you only pay your co-pay.

James said she felt like the changes slapped some employees in the face, they got no raises, their insurance went up, and they lose their spouses on the insurance. She also stated that making these choices at the last minute was a bad idea. James said she wanted to put herself on the health insurance committee.

Wesch said that the Commissioners had already made the decision on the changes, and the council's only action was to vote on whether to approve the \$1000 HSA contributions to employees who took the HSA plan.

A motion was made by Ashley James and seconded by Mike Carty to approve the \$1000 HSA contributions to the employees who took the HSA plan. All in favor except Randy Dreher, who voted no. Motion carried.

- c. Economic Development Commission Appointment. There was discussion on the appointment of Brian Hughes to the Economic Development Commission that was tabled from the last council meeting. There was some confusion to the appointment, the only appointment that is open is the one Jill Wesch vacated and has to be filled by a county council member. There was some discussion on the difference between the Economic Development Council and the Economic Development Commission. Carty explained that the Commission was established first and is required by state statute. The Commission includes one member appointed by the commissioners, one by the council and one by the legislative body of the largest city in the county which is the Clinton City Council. Carty stated that when the county passed the Economic Development Income Tax (EDIT) in 1994 or 1995. A study group recommended a larger group be formed to control what was done with the EDIT tax money. The Council passed a resolution to create the Economic Development Council, which included the three members of the Economic Development Commission, two members from the financial sector, three members from the 10 largest employers in Vermillion County, President or delegate from the council, President or delegate from the Commissioners, and a discretionary appointment. Carty said it was probably a good idea when it started but there's so much confusion, especially with a third entity, Vermillion Rise, that has nothing to do with either one but gets all the publicity. He said it causing a problem because it's not working like it's supposed to. Carty said he thinks some changes need to be made. Carty said he would be willing to serve on the Economic Development Commission but he said he would be coming back with some other recommendations later that might not be agreeable to everyone. Dreher asked if the county council could dissolve the Economic Development Council. James stated that every other county in the state only has an Economic Development Commission and no Economic Development Council. County Council attorney Don Darnell said the county council would have the authority to rescind the resolution establishing the Economic Development Council. He recommended that the council fill the Economic Development Commission vacancy, and let any potential changes be discussed within the Economic Development Council and Commission.

A motion was made by McLain and seconded by James to appoint Mike Carty to the Economic Development Commission. All in favor, motion carried.

- d. DOC Payments/Ordinance. This is an ordinance for county reimbursement from the housing of Level 6 felony prisoners. A motion was made by Bob Spence and seconded by Randy Dreher to approve the ordinance for County Reimbursement Fund for Level 6 Felony Prisoners. All in favor, motion carried.
- e. Jail Maintenance Water Heaters. Sheriff Phelps said he is waiting on one more bid before he brings it to the council.

- f. Bob Grewe – Vermillion Rise. Executive Director Bob Grewe from Vermillion Rise came to introduce himself to the council and give an update on the spec building. He said they will be doing more landscaping soon and Garmong will be putting flood lights in front of the building to draw attention.

IX. New Business

- a. Amended Salary Ordinance – Circuit Court. A motion was made by Randy Dreher and seconded by Bob Spence to approve the Amended Salary Ordinance for the Circuit Court Reporter and Assistant Court Reporter. All in favor, motion carried.

Having no further business to come before the Council, the motion was made to adjourn by Randy Dreher, seconded by Jim McLain. Motion carried.

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NAY

Jill Wesch, President

Mike Carty, Vice President

Brent Bush

Ashley James

Jim McLain

Randy Dreher

Bob Spence

ATTEST:

Amy Tolbert, Auditor