

Vermillion County Council

Meeting Minutes

May 8, 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, May 8, 2017.
- II. Roll Call. Members present were Brent Bush, Ashley James, Randy Dreher, Jim McLain, Jill Wesch, Mike Carty, Bob Spence, First Deputy Auditor Stephanie Hillyer and Attorney Don Darnell.
- III. Approval of Minutes. A motion was made by Bob Spence and seconded by Mike Carty to approve the minutes from the April 10, 2017 meeting. All in favor, motion carried.
- IV. County Treasurer's Report. Wesch acknowledged receipt of the County Treasurer's report.
- V. Comp Time Report. Wesch acknowledged receipt of the Comp Time report. Wesch said it went up about \$500 dollars. No other comments were made.
- VI. Transfer of Funds. There was a transfer request from Commissioners Court transferring \$20,165.00 from Building & Structure/Personal Property Liability to Improvements. The Commissioners received a quote to restore some broken areas of the courthouse exterior. The quote is for \$40,165.00. They currently have \$52,000 in Cumulative Capital Development and will use \$20,000 of that. Historically this line item has had money left. In 2016 \$55,000 left, 2015 \$52,000 left and 2014 we transferred out \$40,000. They have paid the personal property insurance for the year so should not need this money. There is currently \$68,000 left, so that would still leave \$48,000 left for any changes in insurance if needed. Mike Carty asked if the work needed to be done now or if it could wait. Tim Wilson said there are some issues with the exterior stone that needs fixed and will probably be worse next year but if you want I will withdraw the request until next spring. Jill Wesch also said if it can wait that would be best. No action was taken; Tim Wilson withdrew the transfer request.

There was a transfer of funds request from Cumulative Bridge requesting to transfer \$15,000 from other contract and \$15,000 from Material for bridge to Bridge 122. It was stated that this bridge is in Tim Yocum's district. A motion was made by Randy Dreher and seconded by Brent Bush to table this until Tim Yocum could be here. 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 Randy Dreher and seconded by Bob Spence to allow the additional appropriation for the Stop Grant. All in favor except Jill Wesch who abstained from the vote. Motion carried.

FUND/DEPT	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT APPROVED
Stop Grant	\$61,890.00	\$61,890.00
This is to set up the budget for the Stop Grant.		

A motion was made by Bob Spence and seconded by Randy Dreher to allow the additional appropriation for County General/Pauper Attorney Fees. All in favor, motion carried.

FUND/DEPT	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT APPROVED
Public Defender/ Pauper Attorney Fees	\$61,000.00	\$61,000.00
This additional request is needed to hire one additional full time public defender to stay in compliance with the State.		

A motion was made by Bob Spence and seconded by Randy Dreher to allow the additional appropriation for County General/Non-contractual attorney fees. All in favor, motion carried.

FUND/DEPT	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT APPROVED
Public Defender/ Non-Contractual	\$144,096.47	\$144,096.47
This additional is to pay non-contract attorney until another Public Defender can be hired.		

- VIII. Open Issues
 - a. LIT-Umbaugh. Jason Semmler from Umbaugh and Associates gave a presentation to the Council regarding LIT Local Income Taxes. Semmler said before an ordinance adopting LIT taxes may be approved a public hearing must be held and rates may not be changed more than once a year. Semmler said counties may adopt LIT up to 2.5 percent, and the taxes may be used for property tax relief, public safety or economic development. Semmler said that in 2017, the county lost approximately \$350,000 in property taxes due to the “circuit breaker” caps enacted by the Indiana General Assembly in 2010. Semmler also said that a LIT rate of 0.25 percent would generate a total of \$753,733 in revenue, with \$523,658 of that going to the county, while the rest would go to townships, cities, towns and libraries in varying amounts. He said 1.0 percent rate would generate approximately \$3 million. He said the current Economic Development Income Tax is generating \$602,986, with \$508,303 of that going to the county.
- IX. New Business.
 - a. Mark Swingle gave a presentation on the Vermillion County Economic Development Council Achievements. Mark Swingle asked what Vermillion County would be like if these achievements did not exist. He said the mission statement of the Economic Development Council is to increase the economic opportunities available to Vermillion County taxpayers while maintaining the proven quality of life available to them. Swingle said the VCEDC contracted with Ball State University to assist with a strategic plan in 2013-2014. Meetings were held with County officials and other community leaders for their input. A workshop was held and priorities were established for VCEDC’s future. Ball State strongly recommended maintaining the Economic Development Council. Four committees were formed to work on the priorities selected. They are the Economic Development Committee, Workforce Development Committee,

Leadership Development Committee and Community Development Committee. The recommendations from the Economic Development Committee were for the reuse of the former Newport Chemical Depot for our best shot at Economic Development. Swingle went on to say the OEA grants from May 1, 2008 until now have totaled 5.44315 million that we've helped bring into the county. And from 2011 to 2017 Ag Revenues at the Rise was 6.187 million. He also said they've done the environmental cleanup that's totaled almost 2.3 million through matching monies from Economic Development in tandem with the Rise. Swingle asked if anyone had any questions. Mike Carty asked him if he was speaking for himself or for the Economic Development Council. Swingle said for the Economic Development Council, he stated that he is the acting President. Carty said we just had a meeting a week ago and you didn't mention any of this at the meeting that you were going to present these facts, you didn't even present the facts at our meeting. Swingle said you asked for an explanation of the OEA's monies and where they've gone in our meeting. Carty said I didn't ask, I know where they're at. Someone else was asking about the matching fund for the OEA grant. Swingle said he just wanted to reaffirm our mission statement and the monies we try to help out the communities and that's on the papers in front of you. Tom Milligan, Reuse Authority member said he comes to the Commissioners meetings and he said he would be glad to answer any questions and if he doesn't know the answer he will find out. Milligan said you need to be comfortable with what we are doing, the partnership we have with our community it needs to be transparent. Randy Dreher asked if they've had any inquiries in the new building. Tom Milligan said they have shown the building. Dylan Rikken said yes there's interest it's also listed on a commercial development site. He said billboards are up and they've had inquiries from all over the country. He also said Garmon is promoting the building. Rikken said they get two to five leads a week on the building. He said Economic Development voted to allow \$120,000 toward the marketing of the shell building and the Vermillion Rise as a whole. Swingle said because it is a big part of our budget and we want you guys to feel comfortable in the decisions we are making with that dollar amount. Milligan said there's nothing more that they want to do than sell the building and get the money back to the county that's involved in this too. Rikken said we can send you all copies of the marketing plan. Milligan said if anyone wants to look at the building they just need to call out there. He said you need to feel ownership and pride in what we've got out there. Milligan said the power company we are working with is a natural gas powered combined cycle base load power plant and they've got two sets of plans depending on how they sell their energy. Lee James asked if that's going to affect the jobs at Duke. Milligan said this is not to put Cayuga out of business. Dreher asked how many jobs it would create. Milligan said around 30 good jobs. Dreher asked if it would be union jobs building the power plant. Rikken said based on what Southern Power has done in the past it would be union workers. Carty said his issue with the whole thing is they're going to have three years to do this and they're going to bring in a ton of people from outside hopefully we'll have some local union people that have an opportunity to work there then they're going to leave and we'll have a nice infrastructure that Rise will have to sell to the next group of people and that's great, I'm all for that but where have we focused the rest of the plan? Where is this going to filter? You mention we, we didn't bring in five million dollars, Rise brought in five million dollars of revenue. We're asking the taxpayers of this county to pay for things that are

going on at the Rise property and that's not necessarily bad, I'm not saying it's wrong but I want to talk about what are we doing to be sure we are getting a return from those tax dollars for the taxpayers. Swingle said I understand what you're saying; it's the same EDIT dollars that was spent at White Construction when all those EDIT dollars were captured down there for White's building. Carty said that's not exactly the way it went, the holding company they had, they bought their own bonds to repay over time, the EDIT tax didn't do that, the TIF district did. Swingle said I'm sorry I said EDIT I meant TIF district. Carty said my issues are that we need to be looking at getting more things done than just the Rise property. If we really want to have a return back to this county we need to be looking. Swingle said we've looked at it over the years. It's in that outline. Carty said we've looked at it, we have meetings. We have a really good community development part of it, it is working well. The leadership program seems to be working but there's also Economic Development side and workforce development side of it. Dylan is spending time selling a building we funded and I'm sure that's time well spent but we also want to be sure he's spending time doing these other things that in my opinion are more important. Milligan said he agrees. Roxanne Scott said we have met with Kristy Jerrell about starting a revitalization grant. Scott said we need to get people motivated. Carty said he's a little disappointed in the things we're not doing, that is where my concern is at. Rigger said that workforce development, we've commissioned a guy who does these types of things. It hasn't gotten the results I wanted but it's gotten business owners large and small coming to these and looking at short term training needs. It's not moving as fast as I would like it to. Rigger also said a lot of it is motivating people and finding the key people in the towns and communities to head this, we are making strides in that direction. Carty said his expectations were a little higher. Milligan said we wanted jobs there a lot sooner, as soon as the government turned it over, it's been a lot slower than I would of liked. Carty said you're doing it for the Rise. Milligan said they're doing it for the people of our community.

Rigger said we are nearing the end of our five year plan and we are going to have to adopt a new one, he would like to focus more on the quality of life. He said because people move where the quality of life is not where the jobs are. Tourism needs to be considered more in our economic Development plan. He said if you have suggestions tell us. You and the Commissioners appoint our board members. Milligan said we want to make Vermillion County a place where people live, work, play and stay. Economic Development and Vermillion Rise meetings are open to the public.

- b. Stamps. Randy Dreher asked the board to entertain a motion to tell the Treasurer's office to return the material that was taken from one office to another without permission. He said it was brought to his attention that property was taken from one office and moved to another office. Jill Wesch recused herself due to the potential criminal investigation because of her position as Deputy Prosecutor. County Attorney Don Darnell said property is the Commissioners decision and Council deals with the money side of it. He said it is no longer monies and it should be up to the Commissioners to decide what to do. Dreher said but could we send a letter asking for them to be returned? Darnell said yes that there is nothing wrong with sending a letter. Darnell said he thought the Commissioners were taking care of this. Jim McLain said he was at the Commissioners meeting and nothing was really done about it, he said the Commissioners said they would look into it. Dreher said did she purchase with

the intent to take them to the Treasurer’s office? Dreher said she took the \$10,000 and put it in an asset and took that asset. Darnell said he thinks it would be better to have the Auditor write the letter. With the president of the Council excusing herself from the meeting, Mike Carty is requesting that the Auditor write a letter asking that the property be returned.

Having no further business to come before the Council, the motion was made to adjourn by Bob Spence, seconded by Brent Bush. Motion carried.

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<div></div> <div>Jill Wesch, President</div>	<div></div>
<div></div> <div>Mike Carty, Vice President</div>	<div></div>
<div></div> <div>Brent Bush</div>	<div></div>
<div></div> <div>Ashley James</div>	<div></div>
<div></div> <div>Jim McLain</div>	<div></div>
<div></div> <div>Randy Dreher</div>	<div></div>
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ATTEST:	
<div></div> <div>Amy Tolbert, Auditor</div>	