

Vermillion County Council

Meeting Minutes

November 13, 2017

6:30 p.m.

Commissioner's Courtroom, 2nd Floor, Courthouse

- I. Call to order. The Vermillion County Council convened in a regular meeting on Monday, November 13, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.
- II. Roll Call. Members present were Ashley James, Randy Dreher, Jim McLain, President Jill Wesch, Mike Carty, Bob Spence, Auditor Amy Tolbert, First Deputy Auditor Stephanie Simpson and Council Attorney Don Darnell. Brent Bush was absent.
- III. Approval of Minutes. A motion was made by Mike Carty and seconded by Ashley James to approve the minutes from the October 11, 2017 meeting. All in favor, motion carried.
- IV. Treasurer's Report. Jill Wesch acknowledged receipt of the Treasurer's Report.
- V. Comp Time Report. Jill Wesch commented that the comp time went down \$500 from last month.
- VI. Transfer of Funds.

Reporting only. Emergency Management transferring \$2,100.00 from Electricity & Natural Gas, \$50.00 from Water & Sewage, \$1,500.00 from Telephone, \$150.00 from Freight & Express, and \$100.00 from Training & Conference to Repairs & Maintenance for a total of \$3,900.00.

Reporting only. Emergency Management transferring \$600.00 from Building & Structure Personal Property Liability to EOC Equipment Maintenance.

Reporting only. Health Department transferring \$180.00 from Training & Conference to Travel.

Reporting only. LHD Trust Account transferring \$750.00 from Nurse's Aide to Data Entry Clerk.

Reporting only. Treasurer transferring \$50.00 from Training & Conference to Travel.

Reporting only. Assessor transferring \$50.00 from Maintenance Agreement to Training & Conference.

Transfer of Funds. Extension requesting to transfer \$3,400.00 from rent to Equipment for ADA Doors, \$1,800.00 from Postage to Office Supplies, and \$1,000.00 from Equipment Maintenance to Office Supplies. A motion was made by Bob Spence to allow the transfers from the Extension Office, seconded by Mike Carty. 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:

FUND/DEPT	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT APPROVED
Cumulative Bridge	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00

This is an additional appropriation for work to be done on Bridge 122 that was tabled at the October 11th meeting because there were no Commissioners present

to answer questions. Bridge 122 is in Tim Yocum’s district. It was declared an emergency during the Commissioner’s meeting on September 5, 2017. Funds had previously been appropriated but it wasn’t enough to cover the bids that came in. Commissioner Tim Yocum was not present but had sent an email and photos of the bridge to the Council members prior to the meeting. Mike Carty asked what caused this to have been approved as an emergency situation prior to council approval. Commissioner Tim Wilson said that Yocum felt it could be done faster while the creek was down. Greg Lloyd from Conexco, the company that completed the work, said the price would have been considerably higher if the creek had risen. He said it might have also prevented the work from being completed this year. Lloyd said there was erosion underneath the bridge that needed to be addressed. After some more discussion a motion was made by Ashley James to approve the additional for Cumulative Bridge, seconded by Randy Dreher. All in favor, except Mike Carty who voted no on principle. Motion carried.

FUND/DEPT	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT APPROVED
County General	\$466.12	\$466.12
County General	\$1,116.90	\$1,116.90

This is the Driving Enforcement Grant money received from the State that needs to be appropriated. A motion was made by Jim McLain to approve both additional appropriation requests for the Driving Enforcement Grant, seconded by Mike Carty. All in favor, motion carried.

VIII. Open Issues

- a. Stipend/Bonus. Jill Wesch said there are three options to the stipend. The options are as follows:
 - 1. Amend the 2017 Salary ordinance to include a stipend line account which would equal the amount of full-time employee’s times \$1,000.00. This would not include elected officials. Pay out the stipend before the end of the year.
 - 2. Amend the 2017 salary ordinance as stated above. Add a stipend line item to the 2018 salary ordinance for the elected officials and pay their stipend out in January 2018. We can’t go over the advertised budget but we can move appropriations around in 2018 so we can move the elected official’s stipend out of insurance into this account to pay it when the budget is approved.
 - 3. Add stipend to 2018 salary ordinance for all and pay all in 2018. We can ask for an additional appropriation in 2018 because the money will have carried over from 2017 into 2018.

The Council discussed the stipend and how to pay it out. Mike Carty said the numbers are running about \$230,000.00 saving for the year and there is enough money to pay for it. Mike Carty said he felt the stipend should be paid in 2017, since employees did not get raises, and said it might be helpful around Christmas time. He said he didn’t feel like the Commissioners and Council should be included in the stipend. Carty said he would be hard pressed to accept it. Ashley James said she thought option two would be the best, pay the employees in 2017 and the elected officials in 2018. Randy Dreher was also in favor of giving the elected officials the stipend, except the Commissioners and Council, he said the office holders have a lot of responsibility and they work very diligently. Jim McLain asked “why shouldn’t we get it, why shouldn’t it be for everybody?” McLain also stated that he thinks if one deserves it, everybody should be equal. McLain said his opinion is everyone should get the bonus. Amy Tolbert asked if the Council wanted to see Dylan Rigger’s performance evaluation before they voted.

She stated that the 2018 Salary Ordinance will be accepted along with the stipend. The Council looked at the evaluation. It was stated the increase for Rigger was included in the 2018 Salary Ordinance.

A motion was made by Ashley James and seconded by Randy Dreher to amend the 2017 Salary Ordinance for the \$1,000.00 bonus for full time employees and have the 2018 Salary Ordinance include the \$1,000.00 bonus for office holders excluding Council and Commissioners. All in favor, except Jim McLain, motion carried. McLain clarified that he was in favor of the stipend, just against not giving it to the Council and Commissioners.

IX. New Business

- a. Vermillion Rise – Update. Executive Director Bob Grewe gave the Council an update on Vermillion Rise Mega Park. Grewe said they continue print and digital marketing of the shell building. Grewe said the shell building is listed on LoopNet, CoStar and Zoom Prospector. He said they are currently working with an active prospect. Grewe said they are working with a manufacturer to purchase a small parcel for a 15,000 sq. ft. building. Scott Pet has leased building 713, and building 717 remains. He said they have entered into an agreement with Duke Energy for certain parcels to serve as a staging area for emergency electric system restoration. Grewe said they have purchased an advertisement in a site selection publication coordinated by the Indiana Economic Development Corporation. He said they are pursuing land parcels associated with CSX Select Site program and AT&T is working on extending fiber to the Park. Grewe said they obtained a U.S. Small Business Development HUBZone designation and an Indiana Urban Enterprise Zone designation for the Park. Grewe said they continue to meet with site selectors, industrial realtors and they attend Department of Defense and Army related conference events. He said they are preparing DoD funding applications for 2018. He said they are working with Duke Energy and site selection consultant to obtain an assessment of the Park and target market recommendations. He said they are looking at softening up the gate in 2018 maybe some new signage and get rid of the barb wire fence. Wesch asked if she missed something, she thought there was going to be a ribbon cutting or a tour of the shell building. Grewe said it just kept getting pushed out. Wesch asked if they still plan on doing something. Grewe said he thinks so maybe around the holidays. Grewe said they did a premier listing on LoopNet in the summer. He said shell buildings go two to five years before they are filled.
- b. Health Insurance. Ashley James said she and Tim Wilson met with the current provider. James said our contract is a May renewal and it would be best if we want to go with a January renewal that we have a contract from May 2018 to December 2018, with another renewal in January 2019. There was discussion on changing insurance agents or whether a different agent could have obtained better rates from Anthem. James said to her understanding, once Anthem provided a quote, that quote would be the same through any agent. James also stated that we cannot go into the school's co-op, there is a co-op for Counties but she said our current provider said it's not in our best interest to go into a co-op with other counties. After some more discussion the Council agreed to talk to some other agents about representing them in dealing with Anthem.
- c. Local Income Tax. Derek Hughes asked about the recently approved Local Income Tax increase. Hughes also asked what the county planned to do with the money generated by the increase. He asked the council what do we need \$4

million extra dollars for. Jill Wesch replied that she thinks he missed a few meetings where that was discussed. Wesch told Hughes that it had been in the newspaper several times. Hughes said he lives in the northern end of the county and doesn't take the newspaper. He said wanted to know why the increase was needed. There was discussion on what had taken place over the last several months regarding the local income tax increase, including replacement of money lost to the property tax caps, the possibility of putting money aside toward the expansion of the jail, and public safety. Sheriff Mike Phelps discussed public safety concerns, with hiring more deputies and also putting paid firefighters in more of the stations, especially in the north end of the county, to reduce response times. James also said that in addition to the county, the townships, cities and towns will also see additional money from the increase. Hughes asked why it was necessary to increase the tax all at once. Carty replied that it wasn't all at once, but was done over the course of a year and a half. Wesch told Hughes that none of the money generated can be spent without being appropriated, so he could see how it is spent by coming to future meetings. Wesch also said that the budget for the public safety portion of the money will be discussed next month.

- d. Hamilton Center, Inc. Hans Eilbracht was here to update the Council on the Hamilton Center and said he would be back after the first of the year to keep the Council informed. He said in 2017 they have treated 519 clients from Vermillion County. He said their goal is to have better communication with the counties they serve.

Having no further business to come before the Council, the motion was made to adjourn by Mike Carty, seconded Jim McLain. All in favor, motion carried.

AYE

NAY

Jill Wesch, President

Mike Carty, Vice President

Brent Bush

Ashley James

Jim McLain

Randy Dreher

Bob Spence

ATTEST:

Amy Tolbert, Auditor