

Vermillion County Council

Meeting Minutes

December 11, 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, December 11, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
- III. Roll Call. Members present were Brent Bush, 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.
- IV. Approval of Minutes. A motion was made by Randy Dreher and seconded by Bob Spence to approve the minutes from the November 13, 2017 Joint Council and Commissioners meeting. All in favor, motion carried.
A motion was made by Mike Carty and seconded by Bob Spence to approve the minutes from the November 13, 2017 regular meeting. All in favor, motion carried.
- V. Treasurer's Report. Jill Wesch acknowledged receipt of the Treasurer's Report.
- VI. Comp Time Report. Jill Wesch commented that the comp time was down \$3,000 from the previous month.
- VII. Transfer of Funds.
 - Reporting only. Health Department transferring \$180.00 from Printing to Office Rent.
 - Reporting only. Cumulative Capital Development transferring \$5,000.00 from Material & Supplies to Tech Contract Services.
 - Reporting only. Emergency Management transferring \$5.00 from Training & Conferences to Professional Services Fees.
 - Reporting only. Assessor transferring \$1,000.00 from Equipment & Maintenance to Professional Services/Fees.
 - Reporting only. Assessor transferring \$200.00 from Maintenance Agreements to Travel.
 - Reporting only. Assessor transferring \$625.00 from Maintenance Agreements to Training & Conference.
 - Reporting only. Commissioners Court transferring \$6,000.00 from Building & Structure to Juvenile Detention, and \$20,000.00 from Computer support to Juvenile Detention.
 - Reporting only. Vermillion County Sheriff transferring \$4,600.00 from Training & Conference to Legal Services.
 - Reporting only. Vermillion County Jail transferring \$11,100.00 from Inmate Medical to Meals, and \$6,000.00 from Septic Tank Maintenance to Meals.
 - Reporting only. Clerk transferring \$1,000.00 from Janitor & Elevator Services to Election Supplies, and \$2,000.00 from Gas, Oil & Lube to Election Supplies.
 - Reporting only. Vermillion County Park & Recreation transferring \$2,500.00 from Gas & Oil to Other Garage Repair.
 - Reporting only. Auditor transferring \$160.00 from Dues & Subscriptions to Travel \$80.00 and Training & Conference \$80.00.
 - Reporting only. Auditor transferring \$80.00 from Training & Conference to Travel.
 - Reporting only. Treasurer transferring \$200.00 from Training & Conference to Equipment & Maintenance.

Transfer of Funds. The Clerk is requesting to transfer \$11,000.00 from Absent Voters Board, \$30,000.00 from Precinct Board Members, \$5,000.00 from Clerical Assistant, \$2,000.00 from Printing Other – Office Supplies, \$1,900.00 from Publication of Legal Notice, \$1,000.00 from Legal Services/Fees, \$700.00 from Postage, \$400.00 from Travel Absentee Voters, \$1,700.00 from Polling Places, \$8,000.00 from Meals, and \$1,500.00 from Freight & Express for a total of \$63,200.00 to Election Supplies. A motion was made by Bob Spence and seconded by Randy Dreher to allow the transfer. All in favor, motion carried.

The Vermillion County Sheriff is requesting to transfer \$11,000.00 from Radio Upkeep to Law Enforcement Vehicle Expenses. A motion was made by Brent Bush and seconded by Ashley James to allow the transfer. All in favor, motion carried.

- VIII. 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
Non-Reverting Park	\$3,190.00	\$3,190.00

Vermillion County Non-Reverting Park requesting an additional appropriation in the amount of \$3,190.00 for nine trees at the Ernie Pyle Park. A motion was made by Bob Spence and seconded by Randy Dreher to allow the additional. All in favor except Mike Carty who opposed due to the work already done before the additional was requested or approved. Motion carried.

FUND/DEPT	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT APPROVED
Sheriff’s Dept.	\$21,625.00	\$21,625.00

The Vermillion County Sheriff requesting an additional of \$21,625.00 for Sheriff Pension-Court Costs. This is the County Share of Court Costs, which by Statue IC 33-37-7-11, allows the Sheriff to submit a claim to the Council for each writ, order, process, notice, tax warrant or other paper completed by the Sheriff. As long as there is an appropriation sufficient to pay the claim, we do not need any additional approvals from the State. These claims should be paid (IC 33-37-7-4) from county general fund once the Council appropriates the monies for the Sheriff Pension Fund. This part is supposed to help reduce the county’s annual Sheriff Pension Obligation. A motion was made by Mike Carty and seconded by Jim McLain to allow the additional for the Sheriff’s Pension Fund. All in favor, motion carried.

- IX. Open Issues
- a. 2018 Salary Ordinance. A motion was made by Randy Dreher and seconded by Ashley James to approve the 2018 Salary Ordinance. All in favor, motion carried.

- b. Health Insurance. Pierre Fox of Regions Insurance Group gave a presentation. Fox said that Anthem will quote 60 days in advance and that any agent or broker will receive the same quote. He said what happens between the quote and the renewal that can make the difference. He said his firm has underwriters who, using the county's claim history, can forecast the renewal amount in advance, so that the county can have more certainty about insurance costs earlier in the year. Fox said in some cases, through the work that the firm's underwriters do after the renewal figures are released, rate increases are able to be reduced or eliminated. He said his firm recently reduced two from 40 percent to 19 percent, and another from a 10 percent increase to a 1 percent decrease. Fox gave the Council information about Regions Insurance, Inc. The Council took the information under advisement.

X. New Business

- a. Southern Power – Economic Development Agreement. Mike Casey of Southern Power talked to the Council about constructing a power plant in Vermillion County. Casey said they are looking at two possible locations, either Vermillion Rise Mega Park or in a location on the east side of State Road 63 just across from Vermillion Rise. Casey told the Council that this is a lengthy process with many steps, but if they move forward with locating here, it would create 100 to 200 construction jobs over a 2-year period, as well as 20 to 25 permanent jobs with salaries ranging from \$60,000 to \$100,000 per year. Casey asked that the county to consider approving an Economic Development Agreement to provide Tax Increment Financing (TIF) incentives which would allow the company to offer more favorable rates to its customers. The agreement states that 80 percent of the plant's property taxes over 20 years would be used to help the company fund the project and lower the prices it offers to its customers, in order to be more competitive. The remaining 20 percent would go to the county, that amount is estimated to be about \$1 million per year. One hundred percent of the taxes would go to the county after the 20 year period.
The economic development agreement would need to be approved by the county and also by a redevelopment commission. The County does not currently have a redevelopment commission, it would need to be created to review the agreement and make recommendations on it. The redevelopment commission would also be responsible for handling the tax money generated by the property under the agreement. The Redevelopment Commission will consist of 2 members appointed by the Council, 3 members appointed by the Commissioners and a non-voting advisory member that would be a school board member from the school district in which the company would be locating to. The Council agreed to discuss the creation of a redevelopment commission at their January meeting.
- a. LIT (Local Income Tax) Budget.
It was stated that the \$280,000.00 of the public safety money would be used to pay for the \$380,000.00 ambulance service contract for 2018, along with the \$100,000.00 that was already in the 2018 budget.
Sheriff Mike Phelps presented information on the increase in calls, arrests and other duties performed by his officers over the years, and asked that the Council consider funding the hiring of three new deputies, he also requested funds for a part-time secretary in the sheriff's department, as well as pay increases for the chief deputy, jail commander and assistant jail commander. The total costs to fund these requests would be \$320,252.00. Phelps also stated that there is a need for a part-time animal control officer at a pay rate of \$12.00 per hour. He

said the current part-time rate of \$9.50 per hour is not enough to attract someone who will stay in the position. Phelps said that the sheriff's department currently handles dog calls for both the rural areas and many of the incorporated town, except for the city of Clinton, and responds to two or three calls on a daily basis.

Phelps also presented recommendations for courthouse security. He said that only the west door is used as an entrance now, with the other doors locked. He said there should be two security officers and metal detectors at the west door, along with a roaming security officer and another officer monitoring the courthouse's camera system, which also needs an upgrade.

Probation Officer Ron Stateler presented information on the increase in the number of individuals, especially juveniles, on probation over the years, and requested funds for an additional probation officer. Stateler said with the number of hours involved in juvenile cases, they take up enough time that it is hard for himself and David Robinson, the county's other probation officer, to keep up. He said the juvenile cases take up 60 to 70 percent of Robinson's time. A third officer, at an estimated salary of \$34,000.00 per year is what they are requesting.

The Council discussed having the townships and fire departments attend the next meeting or turn in what they are requesting from the LIT tax.

Auditor Amy Tolbert suggested taking a chunk out of Public Safety and Certified Shares and investing it until it is needed for the jail expansion. Jill Wesch requested to have the Treasurer Florinda Pruitt attend the January meeting to discuss investments.

Ashley James also suggested that some money should be put aside for the eventual expansion of the jail.

The Council agreed to discuss the requests further at the January meeting. The Council will see if any other requests are presented next month before any decisions are made.

- b. Certified Shares Ordinance. There was some discussion on the ordinance and it was noted to make an ordinance for Certified Shares and Public Safety for the January meeting.
- c. Appointments. The Council discussed appointments for 2018 and said that Council Attorney Don Darnell is retiring and will not seek reappointment as Council Attorney. Two request for consideration were received one from Elizabeth Burrows and one from Scott Craig on behalf of his law firm, Cox, Zwerner, Gambill and Sullivan. In his letter, Craig stated that he and D.J. Bonomo would be the ones representing the county on behalf of the firm. Burrows told the Council she has been an attorney for 10 years, she said she owns her own business where she provides health care consulting and legal services, and that any work she did for the council would take precedence over any other clients.

Councilman Jim McLain made a motion to appoint Elizabeth Burrows as Council Attorney, seconded by Ashley James. Wesch, James and McLain voted in favor, Carty, Dreher, Bush and Spence voted against. Motion denied.

Carty said he had dealt with Craig in Dana and was impressed with his work there.

Randy Dreher made a motion to appoint Scott Craig as Council Attorney, seconded by Mike Carty. Dreher, Carty and Bush voted in favor, and James, Wesch, McLain and Spence voted against. Motion denied.

A motion was made by Mike Carty and seconded by Brent Bush to appoint Bob Spence to the E911 Board. All in favor, motion carried.

Leonard Akers and John Michael Major had expressed interest in appointment to the Economic Development Council, but the two appointments to be made were from the financial sector and from the 10 largest employers in the county. A motion was made by Mike Carty and seconded by Bob Spence to reappoint Jessi Purcell to represent the financial sector. All in favor, motion carried.

There was discussion on whether Buddy White’s Company was one of the 10 largest in Vermillion County. The Council asked Auditor Amy Tolbert to obtain that report. A motion was made by Randy Dreher and seconded by Brent Bush to table this Economic Development Board appointment. All in favor, motion carried.

A motion was made by Randy Dreher and seconded by Bob Spence to reappoint Richard Zumwalt and Wayne Bush to the Park Board. All in favor, motion carried.

A motion was made by Bob Spence and seconded by Brent Bush to appoint Pat Ritchey to the PTABOA Board. All in favor, except Mike Carty who voted against. Motion carried.

Randy Dreher made a motion to table the Council Attorney appointment until January. Dreher, Carty, James, Spence and Bush voted in favor, McLain and Wesch voted against. Motion carried.

- d. Council Meeting Schedule. There was some discussion on possibly having some meetings in the North and South ends of the county. Auditor Amy Tolbert said she would need to have a portable recording device if they chose to do that. A motion was made by Bob Spence and seconded by Brent Bush to approve the Council meeting schedule for 2018. All in favor, motion carried.
- e. Fair Board. Fair Board President Tom Luft informed the Council that there is no way the fairgrounds grandstand will be rebuilt by the 2018 fair. He said construction will likely be underway during the fair. Luft said because of this the Fair Board decided not to utilize the \$20,000.00 the Council budgeted for a carnival, as it would likely be a waste of money with some events not taking place. He asked the Council to consider providing the money in 2019.

Having no further business to come before the Council, the motion was made to adjourn by Bob Spence, seconded Ashley James. 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