

Vermillion County Council

Meeting Agenda

August 24, 2016

6:30 p.m.

Commissioners Courtroom, Courthouse, Newport, Indiana

- I. Call to order. The Vermillion County Council convened in a special meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 24, 2016.
- II. Roll call. Members present were Michael Costello, Jill Wesch, Randy Dreher, Michael Carty, Brent Bush, Jim McLain, Basil Ave, Auditor Phyllis Orman, First Deputy Auditor Amy Tolbert and Attorney Don Darnell.
- III. 2017 Budgets. Carty provided a spreadsheet to the council and explained that the 2017 budget is in excess of \$1,081,449.00 and that 2016 budget exceeds revenues by \$465,131.74. The spreadsheet showed that for 2017, in county general, there is \$940,787.00 more requested and part is due to 9 new positions. Phelps questioned the 6 new positions from the jail and then realized he had had asked for 3 dispatchers from county and general and e911. He said the 3 dispatchers are to be paid from e911 but their benefits are to be paid from county general. It was also noted the Assessor asked for a First Deputy from county general and cumulative reassessment. The council agreed to leave it in cumulative reassessment and remove it from county general. It was agreed that with these 4 positions removed, they need to look at the benefits and lower them accordingly. Orman said she will have the Payroll Deputy re-figure the benefits. Carty said they also need to decide if they are going to ask employees to pay more of their portion of insurance. Dreher said they really need to take a close look at it. Ave asked when the employees last witnessed an increase and Costello said it has been a long time. Prosecutor Bruce Aukerman invited Dani Snyder of West Central Community Corrections (WRCC) to tell the council about their services. It is an idea that could save money. Snyder explained that WRCC is a home incarceration and detention program that can be paid by the offender, the county, or both. She said the program offers many options for the offender and can be customized to best fit the needs of the county. She said the person would wear a GPS enabled ankle bracelet and would be monitored 24/7. She said this program is not for serious offenders so it won't work for everyone. She said the person would be incarcerated in their home and monitored or would be sentenced to home detention where they could go to work. She explained that when the offender is incarcerated at home, they are responsible for their own medical bills. She said the offender can still do their time but at a reduced cost to the county. She said they also offer services such as counseling, substance recovery, anger management, etc. Dreher asked how many counties they currently serve and Snyder said 5 counties, 137 people. Dreher asked if the contract was yearly and Snyder said there is no contract to sign. She said everyone works together, there are no up-front costs, and if an offender fails to pay then the county would pay the balance due. Carty said one thing they need to keep in mind is the legislative changes and the talk of jail overcrowding and building a new jail. He said the should talk to the commissioners about forming a committee to discuss these issues and ways to reduce costs. Ave said there is a new rule that could go in to effect January 1, 2017. It will require courts to look at and assess all those arrested. Someone will be assigned to assess them and give them a grade. The grade will determine whether they can be held with cash bail, without bail, or released. Carty asked if all offenders in the Vermillion County jail were Vermillion County residents. Phelps said most are, but some are being held for other counties. He said they make \$35 per day to keep an offender for another county. He also stated they have 74 legal beds and they are full. He said the program Snyder spoke about could help with the

issue of overcrowding. Carty said he is very concerned about the cost of adding a new jail. He said an added jail is added people and that is a fixed cost that will never decrease. He said we can't afford more people.

Darnell asked Aukerman if he keeps statistics of the offender's addresses'. Aukerman said he did not but his program could probably get that information for him. He will look into it and said Phelps might be able to give a better estimate than he could. Phelps said they can send a report of the daily population and if they can add the residence information they will. Darnell said he thought it would be helpful.

Costello asked if there were any other comments. Wesch said they really need to look at the insurance. Carty asked how they wanted to handle the budget process this year. He did not see the need in bringing people in if there wasn't much to discuss. He said he would rather spend the time on the bigger issues. Darnell said there must be record that they have been presented and heard all budgets. Aukerman said he will talk to them about grants during his budget hearing. He said they need to take a hard look at what grants are available. He said it's work but there is a lot of money out there and not all of it requires a heavy match. Costello said they will spend extra time talking with Sheriff, Prosecutor and Probation. He said raises will be what they can be. Wesch asked if anyone has looked at the numbers to see what offices are using and not using to see if there is any way they can reduce any accounts. Carty said most office holders do not spend all their funds, they do a good job, but they ask for the same amounts year after year. Bush suggested they look into grant writer's. Phelps said that is a good idea. He said he does not have time to write grants for his office.

Adjournment. Having no further business to come before the Council, the motion to adjourn was made by Bush, seconded by Ave. Read in full by the Vermillion County Council, this 12th day of September, 2016.

AYE

NAY

Michael Costello, President

Jill Wesch, Vice-President

Randy Dreher

Michael Carty

William Brent Bush

Jim McLain

Basil Ave

ATTEST:

Phyllis Orman, Auditor

