

Vermillion County Commissioners

Meeting Agenda

November 15, 2016

8:15 a.m.

Commissioners Courtroom, Courthouse, Newport, Indiana

- I. Call to order. The Vermillion County Commissioners convened in a regular meeting at 8:15 a.m. on Tuesday, November 15, 2016.
- II. Roll call. Members present were President Tim Wilson, Vice-President Harry Crossley, Tim Yocum, Auditor Phyllis Orman, Chief Deputy Auditor Amy Tolbert, and Attorney Jon Spurr. North Vermillion student Joshua Culbreath was also present and assisted the Commissioners with the meeting.
- III. Approval of minutes from last meeting. Crossley made a motion to accept the minutes from November 1, 2016, seconded by Wilson. Motion carried.
- IV. Approval of claims and payroll. Crossley made a motion to accept the claims and payroll for release on November 18, 2016, seconded by Wilson. Motion carried.
- V. County Treasurers Report. Wilson acknowledged receipt of the report.
- VI. Open issues
 - a) Property for Walking Trail. Yocum reported that all preliminary paperwork should be completed in approximately two weeks. He said the Commissioners should have the legal description by their next meeting. He also stated that he is working with the DNR to secure the easement on the west side and that could take 2 months to complete.
 - b) Jail Water Pressure. Yocum said the prints from Hannum, Wagle, & Cline are being revised and then they can let this project out for bid. He said he will oversee the project and there will be no engineering costs.
 - c) Jail geothermal and energy savings. Phelps said there are leaks that need fixed immediately and he is working on getting that taken care of. He said he has the money in his budget to pay for the repairs. He said the committee needs to meet with the three companies and interview them before making their decision.
 - d) Eugene Covered Bridge abutment. Wilson asked Spurr to send another letter to the Army Corps of Engineers.
 - e) Grant Writer. Wilson said the Council discussed this in their meeting last night and they said they were going to talk to Economic Development for help finding and writing grants. Phelps said West Central Economic Development will help as well but they won't write the grants for you.
 - f) Technology Coordinator. Phelps stated that he is resigning from this position and the Commissioners need to advertise and put it up for bid. The commissioners asked Phelps for a recommendation for his replacement and he said he has two groups he would recommend but their costs would be a lot higher than what he charges. He agreed to help write the specs for the advertisement. Phelps said to make sure to get background checks on everyone.
 - g) Vermillion Rise Update. Bill Laubernds provided the Commissioners with an update on Vermillion Rise. He said the spec building is ahead of schedule. He said

Kanizer won the bid to install the sewer lines. He said Whites Construction will be finishing the road to the building. He also talked about a new plant, Southern Power. He said they have filed their clean air permit for the construction of a \$700 million power plant. Laubernds said several steps will be required as they move through this process but he can't discuss those steps yet. He said it would require \$50 million in infrastructure improvements and that the company will be responsible for those costs. He said this is still in the preliminary stage but it sounds very promising.

- h) Health Insurance. The Commissioners and Council agreed to send this issue to the Personnel committee for review and then they will report back to the Commissioners.

VII. New business

- a) EOC Pole Barn. Emergency Management Director Mark O'Heir asked for permission to enclose an area next to the EOC pole barn in Cayuga. He said he needs to store some equipment out of the weather. Wilson made a motion to allow, seconded by Crossley. Motion carried.
- b) Prosecutor office. Prosecutor Bruce Aukerman asked for permission to enclose and secure the hallway next to the former extension office. He said it would be a structure that could be removed later and would not interfere with the integrity of the courthouse. He said he would not use taxpayer dollars for these changes. Crossley made a motion to allow, seconded by Wilson. Motion carried.
- c) Political signs on county property. Yocum said he would like the commissioners to consider passing an ordinance which would prohibit placement of political signs on county property. He said, per the state, if there is no ordinance in place then candidates can place their signs on county property. He said he felt county property and courthouse should be neutral ground. Wilson said he did not want to see signs on the courthouse lawn but had no problem with them being placed on other county property. Crossley suggested they pass an ordinance that prohibits signs on the courthouse property only. Yocum said it will become an issue if they do that. Wilson agreed to take it under advisement. Clerk Florinda Pruitt said the law states county employees cannot campaign on courthouse property but the public can.

VIII. Adjournment. Crossley made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Yocum. Motion carried.

Read in full and approved by the Vermillion County Commissioners on the 29th day of November, 2016.

Tim Wilson

Harry Crossley

Tim Yocum

Attest: _____
Phyllis Orman, Auditor