

**Vermillion County Commissioners  
Meeting Memoranda**

October 12 2021

6:30 p.m.

Commissioner's Courtroom, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Courthouse

- I. Call to Order
- II. Pledge Allegiance to the Flag
- III. Roll Call
  - a. Present: President, Tim Yocum, RJ Dunavan, & Britton Luther
- IV. Approval of Memoranda
  - a. A motion was made by Britton to approve the September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021 memoranda and seconded by Dunavan. All in favor, motion carried
- V. Approval of Claims
  - a. A motion was made by Dunavan to approve the October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 claims and seconded by Britton. All in favor, motion carried.
- VI. Approval of Payroll
  - a. A motion was made by Britton to approve the October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 payroll and seconded by Dunavan. All in favor, motion carried.
- VII. Treasurer's Report-
  - a. Yocum read over the report from the Treasurer. Total interest earned for September 2021 was \$4,203.97
- VIII. Open Issues
  - a. Health Department Update on Covid-19
    - i. Yocum read the update from the Health Department. Total cases October 1<sup>st</sup> to October 7<sup>th</sup> is 77. The county is still seeing the surge of the Delta Variant. There are 41.7% full vaccinated, and 45.3% of people have at least gotten one dose of the vaccine. Drive Thru Testing and Vaccination Clinic was held at South Vermillion High School on October 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>. The Pfizer and J&J was given and rapid test were administered as well. They are now administering the booster, which is only the Pfizer vaccine. There are still certain criteria to meet if wanting to receive the Pfizer booster vaccine.
  - b. Vermillion Rise
    - i. Bob Grewe was present and wanted to thank the commissioners for appointing the new board member, Lacy Romig. Romig will be there next week to take a tour of the property. There have been a lot of inquiries into properties, especially the shell building. They are holding their next meeting October 21<sup>st</sup> to focus on their utility rate adjustments. They are working on getting the water and sewage on par. Putting final touches on a sewer agreement. Tox-a-way on Saturday was a success. Yocum requests to make commissioners aware when a company comes in to visit, so that the commissioners can formally welcome them. Water line extension is making progress.
  - c. VTA (Vermillion Trails Alliance)
    - i. States there is nothing to report
  - d. Jail
    - i. There have been changes to the security routes. Duke has completed the alignment of the new power line. There are ongoing issues with interference between duct work and structural work on the inside, but the issues should be resolved shortly. The project does remain on

scheduled. Orders seem to be coming in on time. The project completion date is approximately January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

e. Ordinance-Illegal Dumping 2021-12 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

- i. Dunavan states that he would like to discuss it more at the next meeting because it has come to his attention that there might be an ordinance that was already passed in either 1994 or 1995. It should be reviewed, and if that is the case then people need to be aware of the ordinance. Continued to next meeting.

f. Ambulance Audit- Bakertilly

- i. Bakertilly was not present. Britton states that there is a meeting with Bakertilly next Wednesday 10/20 at 1:00 to review the report and to be able to ask any questions they may have for Bakertilly.

g. Asset Management Plan (AMP Highway) Thrive Presentation

- i. John Ford was present for Thrive. Ford talked about the proposed asset inventory for roads that cover four collection areas such as: road conditions, traffic signage, culverts, and guard rails throughout the county. Proposed to get done by March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Road inventory uses the states Paser system to match data INDOT is looking for. The goal is to provide the county with thorough amounts of dates they can use to apply for grants. The road inventory would provide two forms the county is provided with. The two forms consist of a spreadsheet and the GIS mapping system. There is a copy given to the county, a copy given to Thrive, and it is also uploaded into INDOT's system. Sign inventory includes location, type of sign, directional location, height, and reflectivity value of the sign. The reflective levels have become a big issue. Signs that don't have a certain reflective level are deemed to be bad signs, and need to be replaced. A photo is taken of the sign and that photo is turned over to the county. Culverts use a GPS system and desktop mapping to identify the location of the culverts. Thrive measures the span, height, and material so that the inventory is fully covered. Guard rails are the same process. Everything is rated so the county is aware when the appropriate time is to replace them. Thrive has done about 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the signs already. A sticker is placed on the back of each sign to scan, and allow access to all the information on that certain sign. The fee is \$45,000 and that is broken down into three installments. The first installment is 30 days of the execution date. The second installment is January 1<sup>st</sup>, and the third installment is 30 days after the delivery of the product. Thrive could put everything into the system for the county. The county can't apply for another grant until the one they have now is closed. The goal would be to get started right away, if the commissioners agree. Ford believes if they get started right away, they could have it done by January, instead of March. Thrive has a team that goes out to take a completed inventory. There needs to be a decision made by the beginning of November. Commissioners to discuss.
- h. Highway- Bridge #15 Rangeline Over Gin Creek Complete and Open for Traffic
  - i. If the weather co-operates, the final inspection and the check off list should be completed by this week.
- i. Highway- Critical Bridge Issues
  - i. There are 8 critical bridge issues. They need to be done now or it compromises the bridge even further. Britton states that all of the bridges except 1 could most likely be handled by the highway

department. That 1 bridge needs to be considered about what needs to be done and how it is going to be handled. All but 3 bridges are in District 1.

1. County Road 1150 South is a big issue. There were bids received last meeting for \$96,000 by Kanizer and \$100,000 from Whites. It estimates right now at around \$80,000 to bring the bridge back into par. Combine that with \$96,000 for the culvert. The road counts on there is very low.

Funding is available, but instead of a \$96,000 fix it is now a \$176,000 fix. Britton would like to go into consideration whether or not to close that road, or maybe make repairs to that bridge, but not replace the culvert.

Britton would like a public hearing next week to get input from the stakeholders who use that road. There is a possibility to abandon that road entirely and make that a private road or repair the bridge and make it a dead end going both directions. Yocum suggests to send out a formal letter to the land owners in that area to make them aware of the public meeting, so they can be there to give their opinions on the situation. A public hearing is now scheduled for Wednesday October 20<sup>th</sup> at 3:00.

j. Community Crossing Grant- Paving status & 2022 Commission status

i. District 1 has been completed. District 2 is still being worked on, but with the weather it has been hard to get that completed. The commissioners are wanting to apply for the grant again next year, but first they need to close out the grant they have now first. They applied for 1.33 million dollars, and the project was quoted at 1.2 million dollars. The county did put up 25% of that, and it has been very successful. Yocum stated that they tried to get a lot of millings at no cost, but that didn't happen. If they get with the state before the next summer project, it could possibly help get the millings for next year.

k. Cyber Security Level 1 & 2 Compliance, Intel-Leap Contract Continuation (\$11,500)

i. Britton states that they have had the contract for some time now, and they need to decide if they want to act on it or not. Level 1 is close to being completed and level 1 has done fairly well without meeting all of the agenda. Level 2 has not yet been started, and they are behind on that. If they can get through level 2 then they would be doing very well. The contract is for \$11,500 to complete level 1 and level 2. Dunavan states that he would like another meeting to review the next phase before acting on it.

l. HWC Comprehensive Plan Review/ Approval Status

i. Scott Nogle from APC came up to speak. Nogle stated that he spoke with Eric Smith on September 29<sup>th</sup> to get everything together to begin talking more about the comprehensive plan. APC's next meeting is October 14<sup>th</sup>. The comprehensive plan will most likely not be completed this year because there is still a lot of work that needs to be completed. Nogle stated that he found out that due to legislative code, any document belongs to APC, so anything the commissioners receive should come from APC. Britton brings up a discussion about maybe closing out the OCRA grant and accepting what they have now, as far as HWC. Britton suggests maybe closing it out and continuing the process. Commissioners would like to continue the discussion at the next meeting to get all the facts together. There is also a new member to the APC who was appointed by Clinton. APC Welcomes Brian Stevens to their team.

IX. New Business

- a. Martin Shepard-Vacate Alley
  - i. Owns both sides of the alley and would like to keep people from hunting. It consists of uneven ground, weeds, and a ravine. Britton states that he would like it to go through the APC to get their opinion on it. A motion was made by Dunavan to approve the vacating of the alley way, seconded by Yocum. Britton had objections with the closing of public ways given the potential County's future interest with the continuity of roads, broadband expansion, expansion of utilities, potential trail network. Britton opposes. Motion passed.
- b. Jordan Wallace Vacate Alley
  - i. They purchased the house five years ago from the wife's grandmother. There have been barns there since the grandmother owned it back in the 1980s. The property has been through three mortgage processes and it has never been caught until now. Britton suggests that maybe there is an error in the GIS system. The right of way length and configuration doesn't seem to be consistent. Mr. Wallace said that he believes the deed was pulled and his property lines were drawn out for him. All three of his structures are showing on two different lots. Britton believes there is just an error somewhere, but he isn't opposed to approving the motion. A motion was made by Dunavan to approve the vacating of the alley, and it was seconded by Britton. All in favor, motion is passed.
- c. Joink Permit Request
  - i. Britton stated that he sent a request for additional information on the Joink permit. Joink sent in a check that is sitting in the Auditor's Office, so a decision needs to be made soon. Britton stated that he will inform the other commissioners on the additional information, and they will discuss it at the next meeting.
- d. Ordinance-2021-14 Reducing the speed limit on 50 E from 310 N to 400 N including S Division Street to 40 mph
  - i. 1<sup>st</sup> reading of ordinance. Chad Hennis had suggested last meeting to reduce the speed limit on that road to 40 mph.
- e. Ordinance 2021-15 Speed limit on unposted county road be reduced from 55 to 45
  - i. 1<sup>st</sup> reading of ordinance. Dunavan would like to get Sheriff, Mike Phelps, input on the situation. Dunavan wants to make sure, if it were to be passed, the deputies will enforce that reduced speed.
- f. Ordinance 2021-16 Declaring that any contract with VCO that is signed on behalf of the County or County Entity other than the board of Commissioners of VCO should cite, as part of that contract, the specific statute giving that person the authority to bind that county.
  - i. 1<sup>st</sup> reading of ordinance. Yocum believes the ordinance needs to be discussed some more.
- g. County Home Lease Discussion
  - i. Britton stated that he received a comment back from the insurance that there is a second part to workman's comp. Which would be something that the farmers primarily cover themselves with the equivalent to workman's comp. If the farmer has himself or workers out there and they get hurt, the county gets sued, but would the county be liable to pay? Dunavan stated that he would like to review it to see if there needs to be any change made. He would also like to put it out for bid. The contract needs to be for four years and that is so they can make any investments

they know they can. Britton questions whether the county has a purpose for the ground or not.

h. Economic Development Commission Status

- i. Britton would like to schedule a meeting with the commissioners and council members concerning the discussion on what the Economic Development council is, how it is formed, and to what extent that they perform development within the county. Britton also wants to make sure that the funding is being used accordingly. Yocum states that he would like an open meeting including the City of Clinton to figure out how to come together to make things happen. He stated that having meetings with different entities is a great thing.

i. Work Sessions

- i. Britton suggests one meeting being a long session, and the morning meetings being short. The morning meetings can be where the business that needs to be urgently taken care of is discussed. Then after the morning meeting, go straight into a work session for the commissioners to discuss items to more of an extent.

j. Nancy Wilson with the Public Defender's Board

- i. Nancy provided a list of what the office would need. The budget has not yet been approved by the county council, but with it being anticipated that it will be approved there is a decent size list on what they need. It would be a newly created office, they will be starting from scratch. The list of what they would need is as follows: Office space requirements, storage issues, work stations, office equipment, communication, and office supplies. All of those are subject to 40% reimbursement from the state. Ms. Wilson provided a letter from the Public Defender's Commission better explaining the reimbursement. They have discussed a few different spaces for the office, but haven't found a definite place. It would be a full-time office. The basis of a regional Public Defender's is still in the works. The three counties involved are Parke, Fountain, and Vermillion. The three counties are coming together to regionalize the Public Defender's office. They are all struggling to provide public defenders and the income to those attorneys who are representing someone. Instead of one county providing, it would be better to have three counties together. The state is looking at this very strongly, but the issue is the location. All three counties need to come together to figure out a location that is central to the three counties. When status of all three counties has been determined, then the three judges will meet with one another and come up with some better solutions.

k. John Moore- Redevelopment Commission

- i. The commission was created in a resolution in January 2018. In November 2018 they took it upon themselves to try to clean up some properties in the county. Since 2018, they have been working on five different properties. The address to property 1 is 155 N Orchard Dr in Dana. Property 2 is located on N Sycamore St in Dana. The other 3 properties are located on Division Street in Cayuga. Mr. Moore provided pictures of the before, during, and after. The two properties in Dana have been completely cleaned up. One of them has a new pull barn built that has water, sewer, and electric. That property is back on tax rules, and the services are being utilized quite nicely. The town of Cayuga tore two of the three buildings down due to too much structural damage. The

properties are cleaned up and are anticipated to be put on the market soon.

I. Melissa W/ble

- i. Proposes to help with grant writing. The proposal hasn't changed much from last year's proposal. Yocum states that they need to figure out a way to fund Melissa for all that she has helped with. She does a great job, and has been a tremendous help.

X.

Public Comment

- a. Marvin Milligan talks about the history on 1150 S. The road was built for free by farmers. They built it because it made the drive 3.5 to 5 miles shorter to Newport. The road is still used to get to Newport. County Road 200 S was apparently abandoned about 2-3 years ago, but there is now going to be a house built there, and with that road being abandoned that could become an issue. Yocum stated that he needed to do some research on it to be able to discuss it.
- b. Teresa Buchhaas- This morning she had found her father on the floor, yelling for help. She had called the rescue squad, but they refused to transport her father to the hospital. She stated that he was disoriented and since she was his power of attorney, that she would like him to be transported. The rescue squad said that since he answered the simple questions he was asked, that he doesn't need to be transported. Ms. Buchhaas asked to step outside and discuss the situation more, but the rescue squad said that it was not necessary. Since the rescue squad refused to transport, she called a friend of hers to come help. They got him in the vehicle and he was taken to Danville Hospital where he will most likely spend 2-3 days. He had torn his skin, hit his head, had a lot of bruises, there was blood splatter, and he was shaking tremendously. She stated that she is going to get his medical records when he is released from the hospital. She said circumstances was the proper assessment was not completed and it should have been made from the beginning. She wanted someone to be aware that she is going to write a complaint, and she has already called the directors for Illiana EMS.

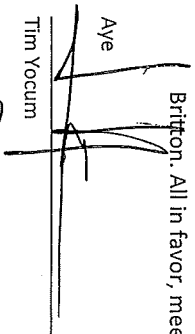
XI.

Adjourn

- a. It was motioned by Dunavan to adjourn the meeting, and it was seconded by Britton. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

Ave

Tim Yocum

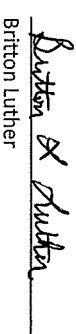


Nay

RJ Dunavan



Britton Luther



Attest  
Brenda Furry

Date: 10/26/21