

Vermillion County Commissioners

Meeting Minutes

November 04, 2024

9:30 AM

Commissioner's Courtroom, 2nd Floor, Courthouse

- I. Call to Order
- II. Pledge Allegiance to the Flag
- III. Roll Call
 - All Present
- IV. Approval of Minutes for 10.22.24
 - Luther makes the motion to approve the 10.22.24 minutes. Dunavan seconds the motion, all in favor motion carried.
- V. Approval of Claims for 11.08.24
 - Luther makes the motion to approve the 11.08.24 claims. Dunavan seconds the motion, all in favor, motion carried.
- VI. Approval of Payroll for 11.08.24
 - Dunavan makes the motion to approve the 11.08.24 payroll. Luther seconds the motion, all in favor, motion carried.
- VII. Public Comment
 - Several citizens came to the podium to state their concerns regarding WRV and the CO2. They included, Clate Sanquenetti, Mike Kelley, Donald Bohannon, Debbie Watson, Cindy Pyle, Cathy Brock, & Bill Wilson, to name a few. Numerous concerns were repetitive and some of them were: the original meeting Gupta stated if the citizens didn't want it they would not come and we don't want it so why is it here; what will they do when contamination happens and leaks into the aquifer; the WVR is full of lies; concerns of their way of life, kids and grandkids will be in danger; the ADM sequestration site is currently shut down due to leaks; & the federal and state government are supposed to protect our rights.
- VIII. New Issues
 - Proactive MD – Mackenzie Shield explained that Proactive MD has health centers in Montezuma and Terre Haute and is an opportunity to serve Vermillion County. It was agreed to have her present information to the county's benefits committee.
- IX. Open Issues
 - Greg Zoeller – WVR/Wabash Valley Resources
 - i. Greg Zoeller-WVR stated that several of the questions raised were addressed on the FAQ portion of the company's website. He raised concerns about the language in the UDO. He explained there was a process to obtain permits from both federal and state governments. Also, there are a multitude of investors. He questioned the authority of the county over the federal and state's approval of the project. He also stated he does not want to have an adversarial relationship with the county, but is prepared to challenge the UDO if necessary. Paul Stockman, counsel for WVR, stated the WVR's \$2.5 billion project would employ 500 people. He stated he would be happy to talk to the County Attorney, Jon Spurr about any concerns. He did suggest the commissioners remove the provisions from the UDO before it was approved. Luther asked about the law originally allowing the projects approval. Yocum stated that there have been prior attempts from the state to replace local authority and it is overreach on their part. He stated that the local level leaders know what is best for the county. Also stated that this is poor business and the county is being violated and turned into a dumping ground. He feels that the state legislators were being misled. He asked Zoeller and Stockman that if someone came to their backyard and did something like this that they would feel violated as well. He also questioned the lack of incentives for the county. Zoeller then compared the project to the I69/Evansville project. Yocum stated that there is no comparison between a road project and a private project. Luther asked if WVR came to the Commissioners

before the original bills were passed that approved the project. Zoeller did not know as he was not involved at that time. Yocum asked if any legal challenges would have to go through the Vigo County courts system. Zoeller stated only those related to pore space and land owner payment disputes. Yocum asked if the company was making the CO2 to receive money for sequestering it. Zoeller stated that the federal government will not allow CO2 to be released into the air.

- 2024-10 Ordinance: Unified Development Ordinance and Zoning Map: Penney Carpenter & Brad Johnson
 - i. Dunavan stated that he is still reviewing the document and has questions regarding fences and other items. Luther states he has questions regarding the document as well. Luther asks Carpenter if she feels she can administer the document, she states yes. More discussion is needed and moved to the next commissioners meeting.
- Tattoo Ordinance 2022-15 with Amendment for Eyelash Extensions Approval
 - i. Dunavan makes a motion to approve the amendment for eyelash extensions to the Tattoo Ordinance 2022-15, Luther seconds all in favor motion carried.
- Policy's Needed per SBOA - TABLED
- Weight Limits on Roads - TABLED
- Appointing RISE Member
 - i. Yocum recommended that J.P. Roehm be appointed to fill vacancy on the Reuse Authority. Dunavan states that there are issues on how the Reuse Authority is being ran and this should be dealt with before making this appointment. Yocum asked Dunavan if he has addressed his concerns to the Reuse Authority. Dunavan states that they are not returning his calls. He also called Roehm since he was being recommended to be the appointment, but did not talk to him. Luther asks how this reflects on appointing J.P. Roehm to the board. Dunavan stated he thinks the issues should be addressed before making any appointment. Yocum stated that Roehm was one of the smartest people he knows, graduate of Rose-Hulman, has international contacts and the appointment is a no brainer. Dunavan stated he doesn't question Roehm's qualifications. Dunavan stated that if he is re-elected commissioner, and if the Reuse Authority would continue to operate the same, that he would take a personal position to replace each and every board member at the Rise. Luther stated that Dunavan has stepped way out of bounds and he has three pages of documents that could be discussed. Dunavan stated, let's see them, it is a public meeting. Yocum tries to bring them back to order, and to the topic at hand, but Dunavan asks about the concerns Mr. Ellis has with the Rise Board. Yocum stated we are not discussing this now. Luther again asks again why the appointment is subject to addressing the other concerns. Dunavan said he felt it should be addressed before making the appointment, but it appears I am in the minority so just move forward with your vote. Yocum motioned to appoint J. P. Roehm, Luther seconded and Dunavan abstained, for reasons stated. Motion carried.
- County Home Lease - TABLED
- Cell Phone - TABLED
- Union Hospital Agreement Review
 - i. Luther noted that the current agreement with Union Hospital for Vermillion County Sheriff Deputies is \$38 per hour and it should be \$59 per hour to cover all expenses incurred by the county. Luther wants the commissioners to have a discussion with Union about making some changes to the agreement. He agreed that he would reach out to do so.
- County Parks - TABLED
- County Handbook Status & Update (Spurr – Furry)
 - i. Furry stated this is still a work in process and almost complete.
- Public Defender – Cost Recovery
 - i. Dunavan states he is still in the process of working on the construction costs.
- Ambulance Facility (Point Person?)
 - i. Luther stated that Clinton City Fire Department is willing to extend agreement for up to 10 years. He suggested this would allow them to focus on the north

station and possible funding opportunities. Luther, Dunavan and Yocum were all in favor of an extension if the arrangement with the city agreed.

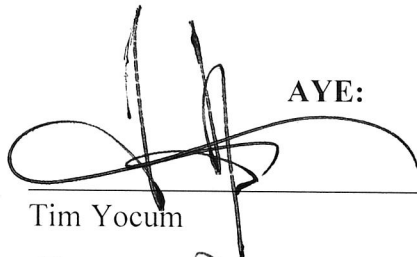


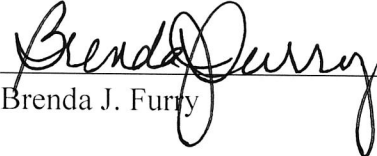
X. Announcements

- County Burn Ban
 - i. Mark O'Heir, EOC Director recommends to, from discussions with fire chiefs and the sheriff, extend the county burn ban to December 2nd. The commissioners agreed to the extension.
- Moved/Time Changed for Commissioner Meetings
 - i. Meeting on December 3rd moved to December 2nd at 9:30am. A discussion on the need for or a change to the December 31st meeting will be decided later.

XI. Public Comment

- Several of the citizens again spoke regarding their objection to WVR and CO2. Most of these comments are repetitive from the first public comment allowed earlier in the meeting.

XII. Adjourn – Luther motions to adjourn the meeting, Dunavan seconds. Meeting adjourned.

	AYE:	NAY:
	_____	_____
Tim Yocum		
	_____	_____
RJ Dunavan		
	_____	_____
Britton Luther		
ATTEST: 	_____	_____
Brenda J. Furry		DATE: 11/19/24