

Vermillion County Commissioners

Special Meeting Minutes

June 3rd, 2025

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

- I. Call to order
- II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
- III. Roll Call – All present
- IV. Approval of Minutes from May 6<sup>th</sup> 2025 and May 27<sup>th</sup> 2025  
Peebles motions, Hess seconds  
All in favor, motion carries.
- V. Approval of Claims from May 06<sup>th</sup>, 09<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> 2025  
Hess motions, Peebles seconds  
All in favor, motion carries
- VI. Approval of Payroll May 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 and June 06<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
Peebles motions, Hess seconds  
All in favor, motion carries

VII. Public Comments:

- Bill Hartman- President of Vermillion Trail Alliance. And first and foremost, I'd like to thank Bill, Misty and yourself for always supporting the current alliance here in Oak County.

We just wanted to come up this evening and let you know.

We were able to acquire the two pieces of property. And of course, RJ, thank you again for your efforts in helping us complete that.

So, the county now all of the couple of additional pieces of property which we currently are now working on toward our next project. I'd also like to take a moment and recognize the individuals and the auditor's office who were of great existence.

Misty, Samantha and Jenny and Ron all done a great job in helping us complete that.

Joannie in the assessor's office and then the ladies in the recording. So, they all got it. Really good job in helping us make that transition smooth. So, we're proceeding on with our project.

And other than that, that's about it other than just to express our appreciation for your continued support.

Dunavan- Awesome. Thank you. Bill, any questions for the VTA guys?

Peebles- Yes. What 2 pieces of property are you referring to?

Hartman- Well, it's if you're familiar with the little community of Alton.

There was, we're extending our quarter from the BNO Trail, which runs from Montezuma to Hillsdale. And so, we want to take it from Hillsdale down to the next railroad crossing to the South, which gives us public access out. So, in doing so, there was 2 pieces of property there. One was owned by Low Farm and the other by Swinford Farms. So, they hung with us the whole way, supported us in our effort and you know again we finally.

Closed on acquiring those properties granting them E was back. So, they have access like Mr. Little, he still farms up lot down there. Once your farms is in a conservation easement. So, it's a 40-foot swath down through there that will have a road for farm access and then we'll put our trail on the inside next to the railroad.

To the little community of Alta, which is where the railroad crossings exist, I don't know what

I've done with that.

So that's the two pieces of property that we are Speaking of.

So, we hope to have a bridge across a little Racking Creek here one of these days. And we're going to be down there Thursday working on our parking area for a trailhead from the Vermillion County side, which improves, I feel, security and safety for our citizens because then we have access to the trail from both sides for Maine County and Park County. So, thank you.

- Cindy Pyle Vermillion county resident. At your last meeting, May 6th, RJ, you requested a letter be sent to Wabash Valley Resources? I was just inquiring. That letter has been sent for.

Dunavan- Yeah.

Spurr- I believe you asked for a letter. Yes. For a request. I made a request for a meeting. OK, verbally.

Pyle- I'm just going to ask for a copy of the letter or e-mail.

Spurr- I didn't understand you'd be asking.

Dunavan- Yes, but I do believe John did make that request to WBR.

Pyle- OK, so that was sent and received. They answered and replied.

Dunavan- Yeah, John, John, you could elaborate on that if you want.

Spurr- They are not going to move the wellhead out of Vermillion County.

- Good evening. My name is Inee Mahan. I am the Vermillion County Veterans Service Officer. I am also the commander of American Legion Post 108 out in Saint Bernice. And 1st off, I would like to give thank you to volunteers and American Allegiance in Vermillion County. And over Memorial Day weekend we were able to get every cemetery in Vermillion, County flags out on veterans and on their gravestones, and they've all been picked up.

And so, I would like to give, like I said, American agents of public thank you and all the volunteers that helped out and.

I have been working, my first day was January 31st as being the CBSO when I started we were very limited on resources and so I have been able to make connections with varying companies and some community partners in Vigo County and the surrounding area. But the one thing I am constantly running into right now is local Vermillion County resources for our own veterans and so I have put it in my budget for the 2026 budget; It would not cost taxpayers any money but as the commander of Post one 108; we are wanting to do a raffle A5050 raffle and then we our post would not make any money off of it, but that money would go into a fund that will directly support remaining county veterans. I have several veterans that need to go to treatment facilities. Umm, and they don't have anybody to watch their animals. That's just one instance.

And I am probably over my limit on animals at my house right now, at least with my husband, I am. And so, you know, trying to watch animals for people. And so, and then today also I was brought to me, I knew in Vermillion County, fountain counties VSO is also new, he started the week after I did Clark County and Stan, he just retired and I met the new gentleman today.

Parke County has two vans for transportation to veterans to their appointments. They are at risk of losing one of those vans. So, he came to me today and it's \$15,000 to have a van for on average two years.

What he is willing to do with us is between our county, Parke County and them, Putnam. He is wanting to split that second band three ways. So, it would cost Vermillion County \$5000 and it wouldn't average out to \$2500 a year. But if it is approved, you know for me to do this 50/50 raffle through my American Legion. We will have the funds and then we went and because Parke County is picking up a lot of our slack here in Vermillion County, getting our veterans to appointments.

So, this would help our veterans even more in this county. But then if I'm allowed to do this 50/50 raffle through my American Legion, we are going to get our veterans taken care of and we don't have to worry about looking for housing. I know that's a sore subject on some other stuff. And so, we don't have to worry about that because Parke County, they've got the volunteer drivers and if anybody's interested in being a volunteer driver, of course, we would take, you know all that help, but everything else will just rely on Clark County for that. And like I said, that was all brought to me today and I wanted to do this during public comment because there are

more of you here and then you guys can help me get the word out to the public.

I am now I now have over 30 active files, so I have every bit quadrupled my workload since I started. When I started I had less than 10 veterans. Now I have over 30 and I currently have 15 folders on my desk right now in various stages.

And I have been hearing I was told I didn't qualify for this, I don't qualify for that. That's I was told this get in here and get with me and we will figure this out together. So, you don't know until you apply. So, I am encouraging every veteran in that can hear me. You guys help spread the word, get the word out. And every Saturday in June, I'm going to be at American Legion post 108 and I will be doing DD214 drives. Bring in your DD214 in, have a veteran come in, you know, we'll get everything uploaded and we'll start, you know, paperwork.

And then I am going to get with the other American Legions in Vermillion County and I am going to, you know, start setting up base on the weekends to, you know, help veterans, you know, all through the county. Like I said before, Vermillion County has five American Legion posts. We need to really step up for our veterans here in Vermillion County.

Dunavan- Yeah, thank you, Inee one quick question for you before you leave. I think it's a fantastic idea. I know you're going to do it through the Saint Bernice post. Is there any way to partner with all the other five American legions or at least have them sell your tickets as well?

Inee- I have been in contact with Newport and Cayuga, and we are talking about all of us taking turns hosting the drawing. So, because that will help get More people in to see how beneficial our American Legions are in this county. The American Legion has a whole represent over 7 million veterans. I have received all of my accreditations, now I am with American Legion, so when I do forms, I send it into the American Legion and if they don't like the way the forms look, they kick it back to me. So, there's another second set of eyes on the forms, which will just increase the chances of getting approved and not hitting any snags during the whole playing process.

Dunavan- And I also thank your vehicle idea with Parke County is an excellent idea. Commissioners, you guys have any comments or thoughts on it?

Hess- I think it's awesome.

Pebbles- Sounds like a wonderful idea. I'm sure there is a huge need.

Dunavan- Yeah, absolutely.

Inee- There is a huge need. Yeah. Because I have, yeah, I have veterans that are close to foreclosure right now. And so, I'm trying to find the money we raise for the remote, for veterans, it will help them in the short term they're waiting on long term like brands and stuff like that because I now have a referral system like I said, I've had last month, I had 15 referrals for legal services for Vermillion County alone.

Dunavan- I think the commissioners are in support of your vehicle in Denver. So just keep us posted and up to date on that.

VIII. Open Issues: NA

IX. New Issues

a. Vermillion County Dana IOCRA DEMO Project Final Public Hearing

**PUBLIC HEARING #2**

**Blight Clearance (BC) Demolition Project**

**VERMILLION COUNTY**

**Tuesday, June 3, 2025 at 6:00 pm**

**Meeting Location:  
Vermillion County Courthouse – County Board Room 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
255 S Main Street  
Newport, Indiana 47966**

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1. **Call to Order:** Vermillion County Commissioner President RJ Dunavan formally called the Commissioner's meeting to order at approximately 6:00 pm followed by the call to order, pledge of allegiance, approval of minutes/claims/payroll, public comments, open issues; IOCRA project's public hearing began at 6:15 pm.
  2. **Facilitator:** Grant Administrator Kristy Jerrell with Jerrell Consulting & Grant Administration Services.
  3. **Discussions:**
    - a. Kristy Jerrell presented and explained that Vermillion County will be applying to the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (IOCRA) for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to fund a Demolition Project. She explained that in order to apply to the CDBG program, the applicant must be a non-entitlement City, an incorporated Town or a non-urban County.
    - b. Kristy Jerrell stated that the Indiana CDBG Handbook was released in May 2019 and then revised August 2019, each public hearing is required to have the following content to educate and inform the local residents about the project. She stated that the public hearing is an opportunity to educate and inform local residents about the project and it also provides a forum for citizen input. She went over the following required content:

**Goals and objectives of the CDBG program:**

Kristy Jerrell stated that the primary objective of the CDBG program is to develop viable communities by providing decent housing and suitable living environments, and expanding economic opportunities principally for persons of LMI. She stated that to achieve these goals, the CDBG regulations define eligible activities and the National Objectives that each activity must meet. She stated that IOCRA (as the recipient of CDBG funds), is charged with ensuring that each project funded meets one of the National Objectives listed next and that the project is an eligible activity. She stated the three National Objectives are: benefit to LMI persons, prevention of elimination of slums and blighted conditions and urgent need projects. She stated that this project is qualifying under prevention of elimination of slums and blighted conditions – spot basis as per Slum Blight Resolution passed by the Commissioner's on 3-4-25.



Total amount of CDBG funds available:

Kristy Jerrell stated that IOCRA does not reveal how much money is available for each particular round. She stated that the last Round, Round II 2024, a total of 4 blight clearance demolition projects were funded totaling \$1,493,500.

Community development and housing needs of the applicant:

Kristy Jerrell stated that the community development needs of the County is to continuously improve upon all services in the County, especially blighted vacant within the County, thus the reason for applying to IOCRA for this vital demolition project. She also stated that it is always the County's objective to meet the housing and the community development needs of the residents, especially the LMI persons. She stated that public meetings and this required public hearing tonight is one way that the community assesses the housing, public facility, and economic needs of the residents and LMI residents.

Proposed activities for the project and the amount to be requested:

Kristy Jerrell stated that the total project cost is \$581,050. She stated that the proposed activities for the project are demolition related and \$500,000 will be requested from IOCRA in CDBG grant funds.

Proposed amount of funds to be used to benefit low- and moderate-income people:

Kristy Jerrell stated that this project is qualifying under prevention of elimination of slums and blighted conditions – spot basis as per Slum Blight Resolution passed by the Commissioner's on 3-4-25. She stated that Census Data lists Vermillion County at 40.80% LMI; the total amount of CDBG funds to be requested is \$500,000. The amount of CDBG funds proposed to be used for activities that will benefit the 40.80% low-and-moderate-income persons is \$204,000.

Amount and source of local funds to be expended on the project:

Kristy Jerrell stated that the County will be utilizing \$81,050 in local funds: (1) \$5,000 in previously paid environmental review and (2) \$76,050 in County Economic Development Funds Local Fund Number 1149.

Notification of any displacement resulting from the proposed activities or Notification of No Displacement:

Kristy Jerrell stated that this project will result in NO displacement of any persons or businesses. She stated again that the total project cost for this project is \$581,050 and the County will be committing a total of \$81,050 in local match and requesting an IOCRA grant in the amount of \$500,000.

- c. Kristy Jerrell stated that she will electronically submit the proposal on or before 4-17-25 and final application will be submitted on or before 6-20-25 – all on the online Grants Management System.
- d. Kristy Jerrell stated that Round I 2025 officially opened on 3-13-25. She stated that this is the first funding round for the year 2025. She stated that these rounds are highly competitive and if the grant is not awarded the first time, then the County can apply for Round II 2025 with a due date of final application on 12-19-25.

- e. Kristy Jerrell explained the scoring criteria in which the project is looking at and will be scored on:
- (1) 75 points out of 100 points for National Objective from the following: (1) 50 points for a Slum/Blight Resolution passed by Commissioners on 3-4-25 and (2) 25 points for the project site being listed as a brownfield.
  - (2) 116.61 points of 175 points for community distress points; Kristy Jerrell stated it is several items such as unemployment rate, medium household income, Labor force participation, etc. She stated it is a data already set.
  - (3) 13.95 points out of 75 points in local match contribution (\$581,050 total project cost with \$81,050 in local match which is 13.95% local match).
  - (4) hopefully, at least 169.44 points out of 300 points on the Project Design Factors which are the narratives in the application; she stated that the County must receive at least 169.44 points on the narratives to meet the minimum score of a total of 450 out of 700 to even be awarded but a higher score is really needed on the narratives section to actually be awarded the grant due to the highly competitive projects that the application will be competing against.
  - (5) 50 points out of 50 points for project sustainability which consists of the following:
    - IFA Registry: project site is listed as a brownfield site gaining the application 25 points out of 25.
    - Site Redevelopment Plan: project has in fact this plan gaining the application 25 points out of 25.
  - (6) 25 points out of 25 points for BONUS POINTS; submitted the on 3-12-25 at 10:59 pm and IOCRA granted the 25 Bonus Points on 3-13-25.
  - (7) Kristy Jerrell stated that the application will receive no point reduction for this project as this is the first time, within the past 5 years, that the County would be applying for/hopefully receiving a grant award in this category for demolition.
- f. Kristy Jerrell stated that the demolition project will demolish the contiguous block of buildings at 100, 104 and 116 North Maple Street in Dana, Indiana within Vermillion County. She stated that the project's robust planning development process began in March 2018 when Vermillion County Redevelopment Commission was formed and Redevelopment Board began identifying vacant/blighted buildings within the County, and early 2019, began acquiring tax sale blighted properties. She stated that in Oct. 2019, Vermillion County Commissioners applied for/was awarded an IOCRA planning grant PL-19-003 for a County-wide Comprehensive Plan which Redevelopment was a part of the stakeholder group participating in the planning process; Mar. 2022, IOCRA Comprehensive Plan completed listing "Continue blight elimination and revitalization in strategic areas by coordinating efforts already in process." She stated that in 2019-Apr. 2025 Redevelopment acquired blighted properties/demolished 6 of 16 identified County-wide blighted buildings, 2021 performed a Structural Analysis, 2022-2023 obtained EPA Brownfield grant dollars to conduct Phase I Environmental Site Assessments and Asbestos Surveys.
- g. Kristy Jerrell stated that due to private investment cessation since 2015, several buildings within the Town of Dana downtown area within Vermillion County are vacant/blighted with long-term structural stability issues including collapsed/failing roofs, chimneys, floors and floor joists in portions of the buildings, rotting wood components that are deteriorated or damaged, broken glass

windows, damaged/non-securable/boarded-up windows and door entries and the presence of mold and asbestos containing materials inside the structures.

- h. Kristy Jerrell then opened the public hearing for comments.
- i. Vermillion County Commissioner President RJ Dunavan stated that this is the County's top priority to complete this demolition project.
- j. Vermillion County Redevelopment Commission President John Moore stated that this project is important as the buildings are majorly blighted and need to be taken down for safety – they need to come down.
- k. Vermillion County Council Member Rick Weir asked about the local match money and if the Council needed to appropriate it. Vermillion County Redevelopment Commission President John Moore stated that the Redevelopment has the money already.
- l. Resident Nicole Poole stated that she is a resident in the Town of Dana within Vermillion County. She stated that she is in full support of this project as the buildings are unsafe and need taken down.
- m. Kristy Jerrell asked if there were any further comments that the public would like to make or questions about the grant application or the grant process.

- 4. **Adjournment:** There being no further comments/questions – Vermillion County Commissioner President RJ Dunavan adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:24 pm.



Kristy Jerrell, Grant Administrator with Jerrell Consulting & Grant Administration Services, LLC  
Recorder (See attached Third Party Authorization)

Attachments:

- 1. 6-3-25 IOCRA BLIGHT CLEARANCE DEMOLITION PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA
- 2. 4-1-25 THIRD PARTY AUTHORIZATION TO CONDUCT & TRANSCRIBE PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

**Grant Criteria (Total 700 Points)**  
**Must have a minimum score of 450 to be Awarded**

1. National Objective Score (Total 100 Points) 75 POINTS

National Objective = Prevention or Elimination of Slums or Blight: 100 points maximum awarded based on The characteristics listed below. The total points given are computed as follows:

National Objective Score = (Total of the points received in each category below)

**o Applicant has a Slum/Blight Resolution for project area (50 pts.) passed 3-4-25**

**o The project site is a brownfield\* (25 pts.)**

o The building or district is listed on the Indiana or National Register of Historic Places\*\* (10 pts.)

o The building or district is eligible for listing on the Indiana or National Register of Historic Places\*\* (10 pts.)

o The building is on the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana's "10 Most Endangered List" (15 pts.)

2. Community Distress Factors (Total 175 Points) 116.61 POINTS

3. Local Match Contribution (Total 75 Points) 13.95 POINTS

Minimum is a 10% local match

Total Match Points = % Eligible Local Match X 1

\*\*\*\$581,050 total project cost with a \$81,050 local match: 13.95% local match

4. Project Design Factors (Total 300 Points)

Project Description 50 points

Project Need 125 points

Financial Impact 125 points

**Must score at least 169.44 to be eligible for grant award**

5. Project Sustainability (Total 50 Points) 50 POINTS

Blight Clearance Program (BCP):

- IFA Registry—A maximum of 25 points awarded for sites registered with the IFA Brownfield program which indicates prior involvement of the Indiana Brownfield Program, or a letter is provided from the IFA Brownfield program that states the site is a brownfield.

- Site Redevelopment Plan—A maximum of 25 points will be awarded for projects that have a site redevelopment plan for the future use of the Brownfield site.

6. BONUS POINTS 25 POINTS

\*\*\* Submitted 3-12-25 at 10:59 pm –Round I 2025 opened 3-13-25

\*\*\* IOCRA awarded 25 points on 3-13-25 at 12:56 pm

7. Points Reduction 0 Point Reduction

# VERMILLION COUNTY

## *Blight Clearance (BC) Demolition Project*

### PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA

Tuesday, June 3, 2025 at 6:00 pm

#### Location:

Vermillion County Courthouse  
County Board Room 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

#### Conducted by:

Kristy Jerrell, Grant Administrator  
Jerrell Consulting & Grant Administration Services, LLC

1) Open Public Hearing

2) Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (IOCRA) - Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

3) General Overview of the Grant Application Process

#### TIMELINES

Submitted Proposal	Before 4-17-25 due date
Submit Final Application	6-20-25
Notice of Grant Award	8-21-25

#### PUBLIC HEARINGS

2 required: 1 Before Proposal Submission  
and 1 Before Final Application Submission

4) Project Overview

Total Project Cost	\$581,050
Requested Grant Amount	\$500,000
Local Match	\$81,050

- \$5,000 previously paid ER
- \$76,050 County Economic Development Funds Local Fund Number 1149

5) General Overview of the Proposed Project

6) Open for Public Comments and Questions Regarding Application for Grant Dollars and Project

7) Close Public Hearing



**VERMILLION COUNTY**

255 S MAIN STREET  
NEWPORT, INDIANA 47966

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April 1, 2025

Indiana Office of Community & Rural Affairs (IOCRA)  
One North Capital, Suite 600  
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2288

**RE: THIRD PARTY AUTHORIZATION**

Dear IOCRA:

This letter expresses Vermillion County's consent for Kristy Jerrell of Jerrell Consulting & Grant Administration Services LLC to conduct and transcribe minutes for all public hearings for the County's IOCRA Grant Proposal and Grant Application for the County's Blight Clearance (BC) Demolition Project.

Thank you for your consideration of this vital community project.

Sincerely,



RJ Dunavan, Commissioner President  
Vermillion County, Indiana

- b. Vacate Alley- Teri Rikken (Teri corrected from James)

So, I assume looking at this year on both sides of it, is that right?

Commissioners, any questions for Mr. Rikken?

Peebles- Maybe not directed at him, but at this point in time that that is not collecting tax because it is in a right away right, the county right of way. So, there's no taxes being how, how quick does that get back on the tax roll?

Dunavan- I think it's pretty quick because I know, like my garage that I, I bought some property and there was a county right away going right through it and you couldn't go to the bank. They want to close, they want that alley closed. And I think back in 50s, sixties, they planted all these alleys and people start building on them and they never, never closed them. So now you get people coming from time to time wanting them closed, but historically we've never closed one unless they own both sides of it, you know, if there's a discrepancy on the other side, then we won't close it. But if they own both of it, then, yeah, you're going to see a tax increase cause now you're going to be paying taxes on an extra. But the county would appreciate that. So, any other questions for Mr. Reagan by

the board?

**I'll entertain a motion to approve the petition to vacate an alley as presented. I'll make a motion. I have a motion, A motion by Mrs. Hester. I have a second, second by Mr. Peebles. Any further discussion?**

**Hess motions/ Peebles seconds**

**All in favor, motion carries**

- c. Area Plan- Penney Carpenter and Brad Johnson Commissioners requested changes to the temporary strategic moratorium on applications for carbon sequestration, projects Ordinance 2025-11

Brad Johnson -So further, Commissioners, we schedule a special meeting of the Area Planning Commission. That meeting was held last night.

The only item of business was to make corrections or changes to the moratorium ordinance that you had adopted last month we had gone through a legal review with our attorney as well as had gotten comments from John Spurr. In the end, our attorney did not have any recommended changes based on the statutory review that was asked of him. However, we did go ahead and make the changes per John Spurr's recommendations.

So above and beyond Jon's requested changes the Area Planning Commission made a few other modifications. And I wanted to point those out and that's why this new document I just showed you is being distributed, so on the second page, item number 2. Because some time has gone by and no research or development of investigation as to what we may or may not do for subsequent currency consideration projects the Area Planning Commission recommended that we change the date from February 6th to April 6th or eight months. We have 8 months, whichever is greater really. This does not come into it doesn't become law until it gets published in the newspaper as well. So, it's your vote plus the publication date so, that's why we bumped that thing. Item number 4 is that it was my recommendation that the Area Planning Commission actually repeal the previous ordinance and replace it cleanly with this one.

So that's what we did is just spell out an item number four that any conflicting ordinances plus specifically that ordinance 2025- 06 be repealed which gets creates the opportunity to have this come in its place. And then item number seven, through public comment and Area Planning Commission deliberation, it was requested that not just being specific about the existing carbon sequestration pilot project as Jon had recommended, but also stating as it was approved by Indiana Code 14-39-1- 3.5 for the carbon dioxide originating from the proposed ammonia plans and then the address of that, which is exactly in state statute. So, it's just making it clear that that's the project that we're talking about with that citation in Everest. So, beyond that, nothing has changed. So, this is John's recommendations to you. Ask us on his behalf to make those changes.

Dunavan- All right, Commissioners, any questions for Brad?

Hess- And those are the only three items that you made addition to.

Peebles- And the red, the red lines are struck.

Brad- So that's depicting what was adopted and then what changes look like this time.

**Dunavan- Peebles makes a motion to approve county ordinance #2025-11. All right, I have a motion on the table. Do I have a second?**

**Hess- I have a second.**

**Dunavan- Do I have any further discussion by the board hearing? None. Call for the vote. All in favor. Aye, motion carries. Thank you, Brad. Thank you, APC for your hard work on this.**

**Peebles motions/ Hess seconds**

**All in favor, motion carries**

- d. Ordinance requiring Live Stream Ordinance of Certain Public Meetings 2025-12  
(corrected from Ord 2025-07)

you'll have in there an ordinance requiring live stream for certain public meetings. State law will make sure that all public meetings are live stream. I believe it's July 1st, is that right? This ordinance here just states that because there are people that use this commissioner's courtroom like Paige Kilgore for hearings. You know, there's certain thing this would just kind of solidify that more for county.

Offices or groups outside the county to use our commissioner's courtroom to make sure they do live stream it.

I leave out of the board if there's any questions, suggested changes or if there's a motion on the table, we could approve it tonight.

Peebles- What motion are you seeking

Dunavan- For the county ordinance for the live stream?

Pretty cut and dry. Just something to have if anybody else comes into the because right now the commissioners and council pretty much. **I'll make a motion. All right, I have a motion by Mr. Peebles. Do I have a second? I'll 2nd. And before we go to the vote, Misty, this is titled 07. Is that correct on the OK? All right, I'll call for the vote. All in favor. Aye, motion carries.**

**Peebles motions, Hess seconds**

**All in favor, motion carries**

- e. Insurance Broker- EPIC

- Insurance broker James, I'll introduce you up here. Commissioners County Health Insurance Committee has collectively decided to vote and go with Epic as our new insurance broker. Previously we have had USI for several years. The committee with the majority votes recommended that the county commissioner switch to Epic out of Terre Haute. And James Twitchell from Epic is here to talk and answer any questions you might have for him.

James Twitchell- Yeah, we had a good presentation to the health insurance committee. You know, we've got about 60 employees in our Terre Haute office, several of which are from the Vermillion County area. I think probably to see a really big uptick in service that we're able to provide.

It's going to be local. We're going to be here to help your people. You've got some people with same Commission rates that USI has in place. So, we're not changing the fee structure whatsoever. Your insurance is currently with Anthem. I think the general consensus is an Anthem is doing a pretty good job. So, we'll keep it with Anthem and we'll just continue hopefully to do a good job representing out of the county. We appreciate the opportunity and are excited.

Dunavan-

And I think the big important thing is they are keeping the rates the same because most insurance rates are higher. I mean the fees are higher. So, to be able to match that I think is an important, important piece of that plus having someone local and be able to drive away 30 minutes, you know is very, very helpful with the county.

Peebles- So, no, no change to coverage, no everything, all the coverage is on all your lines.

Twitchell- Dental, vision, disability and then medical are all the same carriers the same. It's just basically that we submit a broker of record letter switch to each carrier takes about two or three weeks to process. At that point we'll be in contact with the county to say, hey,

everything's been processed, you can just contact our team now when there's needs that arise and then come you know renewal and open enrollment period will handle all that. But yeah, your coverages are still the same. OK awesome.

Dunavan- Alright if there's any other questions for James, I'll entertain a motion to switch insurance brokers to Epic out of Terre Haute. **I'll make a motion to switch to Epic. I have a motion by Mrs. Hester. Do I have a second? I second. Second by Mr. Peebles. Any further discussion hearing none call for the vote. All in favor Aye. Motion carries. Thank you, James. Look forward to working with you. Thanks guys appreciate it.**

**Hess motions**

**Peebles seconds**

**All in favor, motion carries.**

- f. Thrive- Fund matching Resolution 2025-06- My name is Jordan, I'm with Driver Central. You guys are seeking to apply for the owner-occupied rehabilitation. That's going to help the critical home repairs for Vermillion County residents, roof repair replacement, HVAC system repair, replacement, water heater replacement or repair ramps and hand rails and radar mutation. You guys should have been sent that. Did you guys get a copy of that?

Dunavan- We have a resolution. Yeah, Yep. Ready to sign.

Jordan- That's just saying that if you guys go after the full grant amount, that \$55,000 will be your guys match for that grant

Dunavan- the Redevelopment Commission voted the other day to up that from 50 to 55,000. So, we can go after that full amount. So, thank you to the Redevelopment Commission Commissioners, any questions for Jordan before we entertain a motion on this resolution?

Peebles- I have no questions. I sat through the rebel meeting, so I kind of knew what was going on.

Dunavan- OK, awesome. **I'll entertain a motion to approve resolution #2025-6 declaration of intent to provide matching funds. I'll make the motion. I have a motion on Mr. Peebles. Do I have a second? I'll second. Second by Mrs. Hess. Do I have any further discussion? Hearing? None. Calling for the vote. All in favor. Aye. Motion carries.**

**Peebles motions, Hess seconds**

**All in favor, motion carries**

- g. Clerk- Tammy Lowery approving cote center locations Resolution 2025-07

Clerk has held public hearings. They are recommending the county go to vote centers and though they are as follows Highland American Legion located in Perrysville, Hugo American Legion in Cayuga, Dana Firehouse located in Dana, Clinton Firehouse and Clinton Fairview Town Hall and Clinton Newport Lions Club in Newport and Wayside Church in Clinton. Satellite voting locations will be on 2 Saturdays Courthouse, Newport, Clinton Public Library and Clinton and the Highland American Legion in Perrysville.

And with these vote centers, you can vote anywhere in the county. So, if you live in Clinton and you're in Perrysville for the day, you can go to the Perrysville and vice versa. You can live in Dana. They've done some good, good data. And it seems to turn out the vote more so **I'll entertain a motion to approve this Resolution 2025-07 if the commissioners don't have any questions or comments.**

**I have a motion on Mrs. Hess. Do I have a second? I'll second. Second. Mr. Peebles, Any further discussion hearing? None calling for the vote. All in favor. Aye. Motion carries.**

**Hess motions, Peebles seconds**

**All in favor, motion carries**

h. Treasurer Jennifer Peebles Requesting credit card

We make sure all these requests come before the Board of Commissioners. That way there's a record of that in a minute, so then they can go to the bank.

To request that. So, do I have a motion to approve Treasurer's request? **Hess makes a motion. All right. Dunavan will second the motion. Any discussion hearing none call for the vote. All in favor.** Any Abstain?

**Peebles- Aye, abstain.**

**Dunavan- All right, 2 to 1  
Motion carries.**

i. Cancelling AOD (Attendance on demand) (Advanced Time) LOW must have an agreement signed by Commissioners canceling AOD contract between AOD and LOW

Cancelling AOD attendance on demand allow must have an agreement signed by the commissioners.

The committee has done their due diligence for the last 3-4 months reviewing this, talking to adjacent counties, other counties across the state of Indiana and their recommendation is to cancel that contract with AOD.

**So, I'll entertain a motion from the commissioners for that.  
I'll make a motion. I have a motion by Mrs. Hess. Do I have a second? Second. Mr. Peels, Any further discussion?**

**Hearing none calling for the vote all in favor Aye. Motion carries.**

j. HWY- CCMG 2025-1

- Contract approvals for Reith Riley and Evergreen Roadworks - I think first we have contract approvals for Reith Riley and Evergreen Road

Kylee Yocum- They're still working on them. Now can we go ahead?

Dunavan- I know Jon, in the past, could we pray until he approved those pending review of say one of us designated commissioner to review those? That way we don't have to call a special meeting for that. Because I know Clark there's a clerk dates that recommended those. OK, sure. We'll do that then we'll does anybody want to be the designee to review that with the highway department or?

Peebles- If I can do it, OK, sure.

Dunavan- All right. **I'll entertain a motion to approve contract approval for Ruth Riley and Evergreen Rd. works for the Community Crossing Grants 2025. Do I have a motion for that?**

**Peebles-I'll make a motion.**

**Dunavan- Motion with Mr. Peebles. Do I have a second?**

**Hess Seconds**

**All in favor, motion carries**

- Approval to sell old 1-ton truck at garage 1 and on GovDeals-

**Peebles- I'll make the motion**

**Dunavan- I have a motion on Mr. Peebles. Do I have a second?**

**Hess- seconds**

**Dunavan- Any further discussion hearing none call for the vote all in favor**



**Peebles motions**

**Hess seconds**

**All in favor, motion carries**

- Indiana testing contract for driver qualification file management - Kind of been a work in progress out there at the highway department. With that, I met with Mike and Kylie and they had sent a contract over. I emailed that to you guys. Several information there. Kyle, do you want to talk a little bit about it?

Yocum- Basically, because we have all our CDL drivers' files with certain things in them. We have some but not all. And so, they can help me get gather everything. But in order for them to help me and tell me what I have to have in there and to do an audit on our files, they would have to sign a contact with them. And it's going to be \$2700. I think it's \$70 a person, I think 20 CDL drivers, so.

Hess- So just a question, so like is that something that you can't do on your own or is that something is it like you don't have that knowledge or? So, is that not something we can .... Like I know in my position where I work, I have like a check off list and I can look that up and go through those items.

Yocum- I don't know, I haven't looked into anybody I can ask it can't tell me what needs to be in the files. OK. Because it's I don't I don't really know.

Hess- Well, I tried to look it up today through AI, so I did find out a checklist. So, I was wondering if there's something like that that you have, have you like tried that? Obviously, no. So, my question is, is that something we could work together, you and I, I could help you through those things and not pay the \$2700 because I feel like that's an expense that we could avoid if that's something we could do together.

Yocum- Yeah, that's fine.

Dunavan- OK, sure. Now, kindly do not piggyback on that. But a question, you said we didn't have any prior. So, was there any files in the pack because I know you've only been there since January of 25? You don't give me the exact number, but I'm just.

Yocum- 10 of the 20

Dunavan- So, prior to you there was nothing being done, I mean.

Yocum- Yes, I think, I think I have files on certain people, but not everyone. And then they added more regulations, which I wasn't aware of in 2020. So, we have to do like basically background checks on the CDLs. And so, I had to get a clearinghouse account and I've not like learned how to use it. I got the account, but I'm not dove into it, but they we have to run it once a year to make their CDL's are up to date done everything. And that's about ever been done. And it's been a requirement I think since 2020.

Dunavan- OK, Yeah, yeah, I'm, I'm in favor if you can work with Misty on some of this to see if it's something we can do in house and then maybe look at the contract a little bit later if we absolutely must have it. I know you guys did get that booklet, I think right for all the highway that way they can.

Peebles- Do you have access to surrounding counties to find out how they do it?

Yocum- I can call and ask. I've not.

Hess- And we're working on a timeline. Is that correct? We have to have these done as soon as possible. OK. All right. So, we can get together and we'll schedule something. I feel like we could. I'm pretty confident that we can figure it out ourselves.

- k. Holiday Schedule- Adding Juneteenth to the holiday list - Juneteenth is a federal and a state of Indiana recognized holiday. The commissioners back in 2020 or 2021 approved the holiday and then.

After that, they did not approve the holiday. So, it's before us tonight. If we would like to amend the holiday calendar for Vermillion County and add Juneteenth, as does the state of Indiana, as does the federal government.

**Pebbles- I'll make the motion. I can move it to add it to the schedule.**

**Dunavan- All right, I have a motion by Mr. Peebles to add Juneteenth as a paid county holiday and amend the calendar.**

**Hess- I'll second it.**

**Dunavan- I have a second. Any further discussion hearing, none calling for the vote, All in favor. Motion carries.**

I. Nichole Poole- Requesting support establishment of a position for a social worker with in the county for social and substance use needs.

I have two supports here with me that I've been collaborating with. Chris Reed had requested for me to come in front of the commissioners and the council for support to form. We need a position established for social work on.

As Inee was up here talking on the veteran's side, there is a large need. As a social worker I do help with those extra resources along with substance use, mental health needs. We were also going to put into the proposal for funding for this position doing an in house for incarceration program for rehabilitation.

So, I am not asking for funding, but I cannot fund something that does not exist, so I need support in being able to establish this position.

Dunavan- So, this position would operate under the Sheriff's Department or would it operate as a standalone to the commissioners? Would it operate underneath the judge's office?

Poole- I think it would operate more under the judge because it would go by sentencing, you know, depending on, you know, what the charges are looking like, you know what kind of time somebody's looking at if they, you know if they get a year and a half sentence and they do nine months of jail, we could do 60-day program for a possible modification. Of course, that would be up to determination of the judge and be leading those programs and there would also be probationary terms for case management and referrals for any of those possible needs. That and we work with our county, Vital County, Fountain county.

I'm currently an employee of Valley Oaks Health, temporarily in Montgomery County, so I do hold the clinician position

Hess- it's not like, so your programs are those like a, would you like to work with a, A and a like how does that....

Poole- I, work facilitate a recovery curriculum? And most of those curriculums can carry from 30 to 90 days kind of just depending on what those needs are. I'm actually drawing up a new curriculum state based now. But it's we're kind of comfortable with the....

1<sup>st</sup> Supporter- Other social work with strategies department. So, the general Police Department, this is doctor Jennifer Todd. She does ACIT video county and she helped our police chief develop my position. She kind of got a hold of me with what she's saying you can kind of there's so much you can do with how you want to develop it in the Sheriff's Department. You can have them do outreach and potentially have them go out before they go to jail or do stuff instead of jail, like there's programs to do that. I mean, the thing about the program is she's kind of got it set away. But you could design it the way that works best for your own account and you can put it where you feel it would work best for your county, whether that's the jail or whether that's the Sheriff's Department.

It's just finding what works best for your county because the model of having a social worker, the model looks different in every community because every community is so different. So, so that's a different way to really rule. And I, I only stay in Terre Haute, so I don't reach the county at all. So, our jail has its own like social worker in it. So, it just depends on what you guys, you know, what you guys have to what information, what data you kind of gather on

what would best benefit your community, and then you apply that to what you want to do?

2<sup>nd</sup> Supporter- I'm just going to add, so I being a licensed clinical social worker last seven or eight years, we began to look at the needs related to the Police Department, Sheriff's Department, court system, the jail and really looking at because so many of them have the same people coming before them and doing some intervention at different pieces. So, it what we've seen and doing, we call it crisis intervention team work as you and I can see it in lots of different ways throughout the United States, actually.

It sounds like you're at the beginning to say, OK, we think we have a need to have someone come in and help us to try to catch people somewhere in this process and get them referring to treatment, basically try to keep them from coming back into the criminal justice system. We want to turn over rate, which was part of the idea, with the right of working with the chief of police in Terre Haute to say, OK, we brought in a social worker at the Police Department. What would it look like and how we would?

So, so we were at the beginning at one point and saying OK in Vigo County, what do we want to do here? And also, to coordinate between the Police Department, the jail has their own in house now. Psycho education person doing mental health work through the health department, the diversion court, and then actually the Sheriff's Department actually participated in some of the crisis intervention teamwork. But being a little smaller community, it's actually nicer because you could coordinate it using less positions and a little less resource.

But I think where we started out was identifying, we think there's a need, you know, for potentially within the county government, city government to, to use someone to try to basically somewhere along the process of them entering criminal justice system to or before even to, to catch them referring to treatment, which is what you're talking about. So, where we started was, and we're just here to say hello, we're introducing ourselves. We kind of did this a little a few years ago. We started with talking to some community partners who also had a stake in this in terms of funding and then put together kind of what we wanted the position to look like, what the requirements we've got to do that and then obviously looking at grants or additional resources. So that was the planning statement. It's kind of sounds like that's where you're at right now. OK.

Poole- I'm currently drawing up a proposal to be able to take to United Way, see what funding is out there as there are some grants through stamps and grants.gov. But we can't file for a grant if I'm not part of the agency to file for those grants.

2<sup>nd</sup> Supporter- It does seem like there needs to be at least one host system that's willing to say, let's look at this. Nice. That's what it sounds like you're coming to the commissioner, essentially the county,

Poole- and that might be the sheriff was very vague with me. So, I'm kind of just going off on my own sense of the need, you know, I've, I've been a part of the need and I have that little experience. I've been sober for 14 years. So, you know, and this was kind of just the profession that I ended up in. I wanted to be somebody that I never had through that journey.

And I have made a living out of it. I want to be able to bring that back to our communities. And we do have so many, you know, resources around us that we can utilize especially so we're living so.

2<sup>nd</sup> Supporter- And I think one of the reasons the chief of police got me was the host of Terre Haute. He basically was like, I'm tired of relying on an outside system to do some of the case management and the referral services because of the waiting list.

So that's what kind of sounds like you're at the beginning for resources. Jeremy and I, if you ask this planning stage, we access the health system to tell you the truth, United Way Community Foundation.

Obviously, the city or the government system and all of these people kind of thing together and said, OK, let's look at this program in this particular position and then that's how that would hold.

Dunavan- Commissioners, any questions, comments?

Peebles- I'm definitely not opposed, but I do believe that you're in a very vague spot with it right now and continue. You need to continue discussions with the judge.

Poole- And well, I've been meeting with the judge, the probation permit and the sheriff. So, you know, he wanted me to come in for anything. He kind of gave me nothing.

So here I am trying not to look like a fool, but you know, if we can have the support of, you know, the commissioners and the Council to establish this, we were not asking for funding. We want to be able to find these positions.

Dunavan- And I think the commissioners are open to anything. But I think like Bill said, the second hand, you know, continue to work with the sheriff, the judge, you know, you know, budgets are due. Is it June 13th, June 30th? So, if there is a position to be, you know, put in, they need to get that done by June 30th, you know, and whether that's the Sheriff's Department, the judge, but, you know, and then work like you said, that plan with what it's going to look like, then come back to the commissioner's budget hearings, I believe in September.

So yeah, I think the Commission would entertain anything but just bring us back a plan and let you plan on doing but. We appreciate you coming.

Hess- I was just going to say the more like information that we have in the data that you could get from them. I know there's a need. I'm not saying there's not. I'm just saying that information to have that information would definitely be able to make it easier for us to have make a decision so.

1<sup>st</sup> Supporter- It sounds like you're a day-to-day gathering space because you have the gathering shows this is the name and this is where we're at the Sheriff's Department for jail, wherever you want to put it.

Poole- And the probation department is starting to pull some of that data for me on the data kind of role. I guess I like to go off the data. So, you know, I've been working with Cheryl on getting some of that pulled together specifically with animal justice system right now because cases have developed.

M. Board Appointments - the Board of Commissioners asked the Redevelopment Board and the Rise Board to reapply and we opened up applications.

The Board of Commissioners have spent considerable time the last few months reviewing these applicants, talking to applicants.

And I informed board members on behalf of the commissioners that we would take action tonight or in action tonight on those applications. So, with that, I'll open it up to the rest of the board for discussion or comments on that.

Hess- I'm going to make a motion to appoint the following to the Redevelopment Commission and the Vermillion Rise Board. So, the RDC, I'm going to recommend Doug Meadows, Amanda Murphy, RJ Donavan. The Rise board I'm going to recommend JP Ream, Joe Ellis, Jeff Mahalik, Willie Wires and Eddie Thompson.

Dunavan- All right, I have a motion on the floor by Mrs. Hess. Do I have a second?

Dunavan- I'll second the motion discussion.

Peebles- My beliefs on it are that we have volunteers working for the commissioners all across this county and if we pull the wool off from underneath them in the middle of the year instead of when they're up for replacement or reinstatement, then that jeopardizes the ability for us to draw on the volunteer pool in the future to help us oversee the rise, oversee redevelopment.



Soil and water, all those, all those people are there appointed by the commissioners and I just don't.

I don't feel that it is in the best interest of this county to treat those volunteers that way.

Dunavan- All right. Thank you, Bill. Before we call for the vote, I will say, you know these members of the Redevelopment Commission, the vermilion Rise, have spent considerable time and effort over the last year, some board members serving, you know, up to 10 years. I appreciate their efforts and time and commitment to that board. However, with the recommendation tonight, I do believe some new members and new vision is needed on some of these boards and **I will call for the vote for another further discussion by the board.**

**All in favor**

**Hess- aye.**

**Dunavan- All opposed.**

**Peebles- aye.**

**Dunavan- Motion carries 2 to one.**

Announcements-

- We have a couple other items that was emailed to us. Kayak kiosk rent. The Community Foundation is working with the Blue Wave Project to utilize the Wabash River and its tributaries. Dale White and the Community Foundation and Michelle Stuck it sent us an e-mail. They would like to ask the Board of Commissioners for permission to place these kiosks on county property if we have any launches.

Currently, the county only has one property and that is the Buddy White property that has been donated by Eugene.

Again, the Community Foundation will work with us on placing these. They'll be a little kiosk you can rent a kayak from. So, **I'll entertain a motion tonight from the commissioners to give the Community Foundation permission to proceed with that, and they will work with the commissioner before any kiosk is placed.**

**Hess -I'll make a motion.**

**Dunavan- I have a motion on Mrs. Hess. Do I have a second?**

**Peebles- Second, Mr. Peebles,**

**Dunavan- any further discussion by the board hearing none, I'll call the vote. All in favor. Aye. Motion carries.**

- I've talked to you guys briefly about this. The county farm. I was supposed to have a document sent to me today. It wasn't sent to me. It's located by Trailhead Park just north of the county jail. It had been leased out for years to Mr. Hollingsworth, there was some fence repairs that's needed.

There's any proposal sent to us about fixing that fence in exchange for X amount of years of lease that's being worked on? I don't need no approval tonight, but I would like to ask the commissioners if we'd like to designate one of us to work with Mr. Ellis on that proposal he's working on. If anybody would like to do that or I can, it's up to you guys.

Peebles nominates RJ Dunavan to work with Mr. Ellis.

Dunavan- All right, I'll, I'll work with Mr. Ellis, that proposal to get it to us for our review. But that has been a past year lease for I think 50 years or 45 years right now, it's just not being utilized.

Peebles- So, it is my opinion that we don't put animals in there to keep the passenger down and it's going to be overgrown and not usable and take thousands and thousands of dollars to clear anything that we don't use it that way.

Dunavan- I will work with Mr. Ellis on getting that proposal to us as soon as possible.

- I have on my notes here is yesterday the county started the text, textmyGov initiative.



You can sign up on our county website, there's a widget and you can sign up for updates from the area Planning Commission, the commissioners, the clerk's office. And when you do that, you'll receive a text to opt in reply yes.

It is our way of trying to, you know, we like Eric and everything you do on, you know, on that, but unfortunately everybody has Facebook, you know, so the texting service is a way to inform the public of all of our decisions, meetings, elections, everything. So, we encourage you to go sign up for that. Other than that, that is the last thing that I have on my notes. Commissioner, do you have any other comments or?

- Peebles- The last ambulance meeting there's a discussion about a survey being sent out.

Dunavan- Yes. Misty, were you going to work on that survey with Julie Lanzone?

Hess- Right. OK. Yeah, I think we're going to get that sent out.

Dunavan- And Bill brings up a good point. We appreciate all the feedback we got from those ambulance meetings. We wish they would have been better attended by the public, but that is a top priority for the Board of Commissioners. We'd like to move on that quickly so we can get that survey out in the next couple of days so we can decide what course of action we're going to take.

- X. Adjourn  
**Peebles motions, Hess seconds**  
**All in favor, motion carries**

AYE:

NYE:

RJ Dunavan

RJ Dunavan

Misty Hess

William R Peebles

William Peebles

ATTEST:

Ron Dunavan

Ron Dunavan, Auditor