

Vermillion County Commissioners

Meeting Minutes

September 02, 2025

Commissioner's Courtroom, 2nd Floor, Courthouse

- I. Call to order
- II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
- III. Roll Call - All Present
- IV. Approval of Minutes August 05, 2025
Peebles motions, Hess seconds
All in favor, motion carries.
- V. Approval of Claims from August 08th, 15th, 22nd, 25th, and 29th 2025
Hess motions, Peebles seconds
- **Peebles seconds all but the one claim that has his check listed from August 15th, 2025**
All in favor, motion carries
- VI. Approval of Payroll August 15th and 29th 2025
Peebles motions, Hess seconds
All in favor, motion carries
- VII. Public Comments:
 - Mark Bruce, vacating an alley. Bruce mentions, he filed some paperwork in the auditor's office about petition closing alley. Sandlin replies, the office has not received any information back at that time.
Bruce- I'm an ally that runs within 7 feet on the side of my house sitting there. I'm taking care of this for five years.

The alley is higher than the side of my house, so whenever we get a couple of days of rain, it just pushes water into my crawl space under my house and I'm petitioning it and my neighbor to close that section of the alley down so I can grade it out, bring it down below level of my foundation and continue taking care.

There's all the paperwork that would require to fill out and a picture of the alley.

Dunavan- So, did you turn that back into the auditor's office or
Bruce- no, wasn't informed to the others

Carpenter- Says it's on the second day of September. That's why it was advertised. It would be on the agenda for tonight.

Bruce- There, I believe it's a picture of the house, the alley, right?

Dunavan- So, it was advertised then?

Carpenter- He does have the receipts or emailed everything. Certified Mail. He has why he sent the Tribune star and it was brand 8/22.

Dunavan- Yeah, normally we haven't turned back in the auditor's office and then we can review him prior to the meeting. So, let's Commissioner's plans out here.

So, you and the neighbor in agreement then to close, you're not paying, just your side of the alley, right? Just your half of the alley. You and your neighbor, the other part of the island.

Bruce- It's a 14-foot-wide easement. So, if we split 7 foot, yeah.

Dunavan-7 and 7.

Peebles- Anybody ever drive down?

Bruce- On occasion when the neighbor lady has a party, one of her boys drives a 4-wheeler and being 7 foot from my bedroom window, that's always a treat. But other than that, it's not blocking anyone from using, you know.

Dunavan- Sure. So, you plan on closing off the alley then?

Bruce- And the picture, there's a fence at the end of the alley. I'll continue to fence across.

Peebles- No underground utilities in that outlet.

Bruce- Gas. Gas runs up next to my house. I have a meter there. That's it. All the other utilities are out on the road.

Dunavan- All right, Commissioners, it looks like everything was advertised correctly, only was just wasn't turned back in.

Carpenter- Did you send your adjacent neighbor a certified letter about this. Did you get a card back?

Bruce- She's received that letter three times. I can practice. She's received it three times. She received it the last time on the 26th, which she was home, but she works nights. So, whether she I mean, I'm sure they've deposited a letter in the box for her to. And she'd been verbally told

Carpenter- if she's not there, they do leave a little card saying you've got a certified letter to be picked up at the post office.

Bruce- And the tracking line shows that she's received it three times. Are they attempted to deliver it three times?

Peebles- And I'd like to, I'd sure like to see that neighbor's opinion on what was in that alley before we just shut it down.

Dunavan- Yeah, 'cause if you do certified mail, don't you? Don't you usually get a card back except the left if they pick it up.

Bruce- But you're wanting to see her opinion that me shutting that alley down in the picture, that alley runs continuously through town. OK. All I'm stopping them from is driving 7 foot beside my house, and I'm going to pick something up and take care of it for five years. She can go the other way. If that's the case.

Carpenter- I can show you on the map here in just about where it's located. What's your address, Sir?

Bruce- 15463 S Urston St. I have verbally told her what I was going to do. And I'm going to be kind enough to put a gate up there in case. Something happened where she needs to. I'm not at odd with my neighbor on this.

Carpenter- So, she has access both off of the street north of her house and to the east of her house there. So, this is his property here, the little yellow square.

Peebles- And the alleys up above the property.

Carpenter- Who's this neighbor north of you?

Bruce- Bill Prouse is 1 to sign the documents with him.

Dunavan- All right, Commissioners, any other questions? If not, I'll entertain a motion to approve the proposed vacated alley before us, or entertain a motion to table for next

meeting if you want more time.

Carpenter- So, he's only vacating the yellows? Just from Yellow Square. North of him is an agreement with him on that part. So that's the only area right here that will be vacated

Peebles- and there is access from the other direction as well. I don't see any reason why we wouldn't allow it to be vacated.

Dunavan- I'll make a motion if somebody wants to make one.

Peebles- I'll make the motion.

Dunavan- I have a motion by Mr. Peebles to approve the vacate. Only as presented tonight. Do I have a second?

Hess- I'll second it.

Dunavan- I have a second by Mrs. Hess. Do I have any further discussion? Hearing none. Call for the vote. All in favor. Motion carries.

- George Bussing- Yeah, my name is Greg Messing. And I am requesting the county commissioners to issue a one-year moratorium on the solar in Vermont County, Indiana.
- My name is George Anderson. I live in 1375 E 1300 S in Clinton. My concern is the solar panels. And also, I read some of their literature and they said he was going to have pollinators around them. Now if you sit in my living room, Michael Reeves put solar panels over there on his property, which is fine. It's his property and then they come in and planted all these pollinators. Which to me is a big weed patch because it's got ragweed and everything else in it. And then I got to notice that all of my friends like little mice is coming in over there and rabbits is coming over there and eating all the garden.

A law that you can't kill rabbits unless are in season. Well, and it's seasons there, our gardens. I'd like for it to be a moratorium that no solar panels in the Vermillion County.

But I know it's a land owners project. They can do what they want with their problem with their fields in that. So, but the only thing else I'd like them to do is to put money in an account as soon as they start drawing it for the digging commissioning of them solar panels when they're gone because most of the people that's putting them on their property is going to be gone.

And they're going to sell them several times over, so the last person is going to have to pay. So, if it's if it's approved, I'd like for them to see get an actuary in there and see what you can do and then they can put the money in escrow to when it's finished and money's there to take him out and take him out.

That's my feelings. But you can come and sit in my living room and you can see that mess across the road. They didn't ask me.

Dunavan- Thank you, Sir

- I'm Douglas Finley. I live in Vermillion Hills and I just have a couple questions for you guys. I know we've got our county cleanup coming up on the 12th and 13th and it's for dry things. I was just wondering, have you ever given consideration at all to hazardous waste?

So like people have old pool chemicals and different things that they want to get rid of and you don't want to just put it in the trash.

Dunavan- Yeah. So, the solid waste board held a tox-a-way day depending two or three years ago. Yeah, probably 20/21/22. Yes, we held one. It's a very expensive event to hold. So, the board can only afford to do 1 like whenever, once every three years, once every four years because they give you a cost per you know the way and you don't know how much. Gonna bring in. So, the event could cost you 10,000, could cost you 30,000. It was a very expensive event. So, I think we've got one planned maybe for next year or 2027.

Finley- So, I've got to store all that stuff.

Dunavan- Yeah, unfortunately, kind of like my basement. I have a bunch of paint cans in my basement too.

Finley- Second question, does the county still do tree trimming along right away? Long roads,

Dunavan- yeah. Yep. County highway department does. OK. And what do you notify them or whatever? Because I've got some come right out from my driveway on Olga Drive on both sides of the road.

Dunavan- Sure. Yeah, the highway, Yeah, you can call the highway administrator and oh, shoot, let me find the office number here for you. 765-492-3330, you can call, you can call Tia and then she'll contact the right department to make sure

Finley- Because I'm. I'm as big a violator as a person on the West side. So, they're coming together, but they're hanging over the and

Dunavan- Normally like bus routes really quick, you know, school gets close and then whenever, whenever anybody calls and says, hey, there's a spot here, they'll go out and take care of it.

Finley- OK 'cause I just don't want to tree that's leaning to go down across the road and then people can't get in and out for sure.

Patching along the edge of the roads, it's 650 and Flatiron. Right there at the intersection. there's a pothole there you can lose a Volkswagen in.

Dunavan- We'll make sure we let him know that one needs to get fixed.

- I'm Steve Pasco. I live at 14260 S 100 W Rd. on the adjacent property across the road. And I would wish the commissioners would consider moratorium, passing this moratorium on the solar panels. I really don't want to see them in my neighborhood. I'm totally against them. And I really think that it would be advisable for you people to look into it. Thank you.
- Hello, I'm Bill Morgan. I'm requesting the county commissioners to issue a moratorium on the solar system for Vermillion county.
- Hello, my name is Jim Siebel and I'm requesting a moratorium on the solar in Vermillion County, I'd like for would like to see a one-year moratorium if we could.

And do you or do you not? Or would you support a moratorium on this?

Dunavan- Jim, personally for me, the commissioners have agreed to add the solar moratorium for discussion tonight. So, I know all three commissioners, we will, discuss that. Personally, I think a moratorium would be a good thing to do. It would give our APC zoning board or filled with a multitude of good people to review it. Because currently we do have a solar ordinance in place that was passed in 2020. But yeah, I think if you if you hang around here, I think on line item B will be discussing that and I'll be able to see if the commissioners act on that tonight.

- Good evening, my name is Inee Mayhan and I am the commander of American Legion Post 108 located in St. Bernice IN which is located in Helt Township. We have known about the solar panels wanting to encompass St. Bernice, Indiana for a while now. We had a town hall meeting at our local post. They are wanting us to sign a good neighbor agreement. They've been trying to get us to sign one for the last year or so and we've been telling them no, we do not want this. I am not for sure if we're going to be able to stop that tide now that that tide is in motion. I have talked to politicians higher up in the food chain and one of the things I was assured that they would not be able to claim imminent domain for this.

So, with the American Legion being one of the oldest buildings in Saint Bernice and Helt Township not having a grocery store we are in a food desert and so. We have been in talks if we cannot change the ebb and flow of what could come to help Township. We quite a few members in Saint Bernice, are wanting, you know, if we cannot stop the tide and these solar panels from coming in, we would like to have money earmarked specifically for Saint Bernice residents.

I'm sure you know there'll be money for Helt Township, but it'll be the residents of Saint Bernice that is directly impacted by these solar panels. And we are going to be the ones left holding the bag after this company is gone. Like some of the gentlemen had said, you know about going about and reclaiming the property after this company is gone in the middle of the night like a baby daddy.

And I'm not going to mince words on that one. So, we have even talked about, you know, even, you know, have a non for profit to see that we are represented rightfully so in Saint Bernice, but also Helt Township and then also what is something our citizens can use?

In Saint Bernice, should there be a TIF district for that area? And do we want, you know, them to, you know, give us, you know, X amount of dollars every year for the life of the lease and put that money directly and invest that money directly back into our citizens?

But yet also not have a food desert in Helt Township because I know Health and Vermillion, we don't have a grocery store either. So there are a lot of, I'd say probably lower middle class people in Saint Bernice that would benefit immensely from, you know, help with, water bills. A lot of our people can't even pay their water bills. We have people, you know, working two or three jobs and the Co-op in Dana, they're not going to be hiring as many people because it's going to be less fields that need to be sprayed. A lot of our older folks, they supplement their income working at Co-op during planting season and harvesting, so this will have an impact, you know, on our economy. No bigger than what we are. We are still going to lose jobs, but then they say they're going to create jobs, but they don't say what size of area are these full-time jobs are going to be. You know, is it going to be for like Indiana and Illinois combined or are we going to have 4 new full time jobs out of, you know, for two states just because they go in ground mode and upkeep and everything.

That's all I have on the solar panels.

Dunavan- Thank you, Inee, and I would like to also say thank you for your hard work. Is VSO, I know I received and the commissioners did as well on Labor Day a report. So, I don't think you ever take any time off. So, I'd like to just say thank you again when I see that you're doing a great job.

Mayhan- So Yep, it's a holiday for everybody else. They have the day off so I can get to them on those days off. But I would like to commend the guys and especially those Vietnam Veterans who are coming in, some of them without their wives, and so they're doing it on their own. But I am getting a lot more Vietnam Veterans in and they are, a lot of them are filing claims for the first time. So, I'm proud of them also.

Dunavan- Keep up the good work.

VIII. Open Issues: NA

IX. New Issues

- a. Thrive West Central- CEO Ryan Keller and Vermillion County Thrive Board Member to explain the 2026 county support service.
- Thanks for having me here tonight. I'm Ryan Keller. I'm the CEO of Thrive West Central. A few things to talk about tonight. Believe you have the papers in front of you. The first document I'd like to talk about is the Vermillion County 2024 Annual Report. So, this is something that I've been doing since I became the CEO at Thrive five years ago. We present what the annual return on investment is for all of our local governments who are working with Thrive. In 2024, the 2025 year and we won't finish our audit in our books until sometime around May of next year. So, we're back in 2024 looking at this. So, in 2024, Thrive requested \$36,884 towards grant matching requests for economic development the Area agency on aging, rural transit and then transportation planning

services. After all that was said and done, we were able to help the county realize over 1.6 million in benefits or a 44:1 return on your investment from that grant matching. So, everything we do here at Thrive is, is always trying to maximize what your returns are with any kind of county or any municipality that we're working with. And it doesn't matter if it's an infrastructure and quality of life or you know, anything in between, That's really where we kind of spend most of our time in those improvements.

In the 2026 grant matching request, so we're always working that several months ahead, a year ahead on our budget, the agency is requesting \$64,499.44. That goes towards a breakdown of basically round Number \$6500 in economic development \$3993 in aging services, a little less than \$12,000 in rural transit or rural transportation planning, and then \$42,000 in rural transit operations.

So, we have last year, we have been operating our World Transit service here in Vermillion County for a really long time. Last year the total expenses for that program in 2024 were \$180,000. We work in conjunction with Federal Highway and INDOT they provide a 50/50 matching on that program. In that year, the county produced \$20,000 in Match and Thrive covered the rest.

We, we were somewhere, we matched somewhere around \$68,000 for that program. We did that through some of our funding with Medicaid and we were doing care management for the state. States shifted that funding and that program to all private healthcare companies now. So, all that money leaves Indiana. It's very unfortunate, not real thrilled about it. But we no longer have that ability to match those kinds of programs and services. So that started last year.

Us kind of seeing that shift and communicating to all the member counties that, hey, if you really want world transit, we think it's so valuable. Access to services is the number one social determinant of health. And that if you can't get access to go to the doctor and go to nutrition or go any place you need to go, it's kind of limits you on all your ability to kind of remain independently in your community in your home. So, in 2025 we have projected so far can a halfway through the year the expenses and utilization has changed some here, but so far, we're only at about after two quarters so, the end of June we were at \$38,630 in total expenses. We're projecting that to kind of stay the same and double. So, we're projecting for next year somewhere around \$84,000 transit program. And with that, 50% of it will be covered by state and federal government, and then we're looking for the other half to that funding.

We have been partnering both with the county government and our health department. Our health department through the state legislature has had most of their funding really cut from them in this budget year. So, they're unable to help participate and share that load. So, as we come and I present these kinds of figures to you, it is my request that the county would be able to hopefully find for \$20,000 to do the full \$42,000 so we can keep Rd. Transit operating at three days a week within the county. That's another reason for the cost savings is we were operating in five days a week and then we cut it down to three.

But we've been pretty efficient with us with our time. Our trip per cost mile and 2024 was our per trip cost was about \$80.00 and that's averaged over all spots in the county. So, it doesn't matter if we go all the way to the furthest northern spot and bring them down you know, Clinton or Terre Haute, it would average out where all the locations are to this year.

We're actually down to \$41.00 per trip cost. So, we've got it in half. Better fuel-efficient vehicles we purchased, really consolidating rides and doing those types of activities to really reduce costs and be very conservative in our finances and operations.

What questions do you have? I've just thrown an immense amount of information to you in a very quick amount of time and I'm here to answer any questions.

Peebles- Everybody wants \$20,000.

Dunavan- Ryan, I know last year, you know, the former administration was big on data and stuff. So, on these programs, can you, I mean can you provide, I guess annual reports of some of it?

I mean, the council, as you know, Senate Bill 1 is looking to cut a lot of stuff and I think last year they funded, what was it, \$36,000.

Keller- \$20,000 and 2024 and 2025 I believe it's \$36,000.

Dunavan- I can't speak for the council, but I'm not sure they'll go for \$64,000, so I'll leave it up to the Board of Commissioners if they want to submit. I mean, you know, this entirety of this, I do think there's.

Keller- I thought you're speaking just to transit. I mean, the entire, I don't, I don't remember what the entire request was in 2025.

Dunavan- The health department, they contributed last year.

Keller- They did and they're not contributing this year. They can't. They no longer have the grant funding.

Peebles- So, is this just a free ride for the people wanting to ride to get a ride somewhere? Is it they just get on the bus and go?

Keller- And they typically do a \$2.00 donation per one-way trip is what we ask.

Peebles- On a \$40 trip.

Keller- \$40 trip is about what that cost per trip. It is public transportation, so you can think about it like a city bus or county bus is what it is right now we're currently servicing a little over 100 individuals. I think the last time I looked we were 102 and 103 somewhere around there that ride the bus pretty regularly. You know, a lot of them are older adults who no longer have the ability to drive and they want to remain in the county and remain in their homes.

And right now, we're the only conduit that's able to get them to and from the grocery store, back and forth to medical appointments, to the bank to perform normal services, things of that nature.

Dunavan- So, the funding was cut just for rural transportation. You would just cut down from three days a week to.

Keller We've already cut from 5 to 3

Dunavan- That's what I'm saying. But if it was cut again, you would cut from three down. Or would 3 be your minimum?

Keller- No, we could go 2 or one if we needed to.

Hess- if you're only doing that once a week and you have 100 people that you're trying to service, getting the doctor's appointments, getting them to the grocery store, those are people that won't have those available to them any longer, which could be my mom, my dad, your mom. I mean, these are just things I'm thinking of, so for sure.

Bill Reynolds- right, board member, this is a service that a lot of people utilize and want to utilize, and we don't have any alternatives. I'll talk to bus drivers of any I think Inee probably has some service people who utilize this. She can probably have the cake for it too. The reason we're here tonight is we understand it's a funding issue and that's on the council and the budget hearings are coming up in a couple of weeks. But this funding is in the agreement that the commissioners would have to sign is part of the commissioner's budget, which will probably on day three of the budget hearings which I plan to be at to advocate as I was last year.

I'm not sure what their level of support is going to be capable of providing I reached out and we've reached out to couple other groups that may be able to supplement but we don't know what that supplements going to be needed so we need to know what the county is able to provide and maybe try to come up with something in addition to that. But it's counties, the county service people live in the county. It's the service that's provided to the residents here and without this some of those people would be able to live here in a nursing home would it be less well-off so.

We're here to ask you for your level of support on this as it goes to the Council for budget consideration.

Keller- I think that's well said. Yep. It's just a consideration for support. At the end of the day, we understand the County Council has full authority over the budget and they will make the best decisions that they can with the funds that they have. And then we'll come back like you did perhaps last year where we will have to make some cuts or figure out if there needs to be changes here, there or wherever. We'll do our best.

Reynolds- And budget hearings were three days of everybody needing. I need three more people might have to do, but I have to suffer divided by one more so that that's what you're going to have three. They're going to three days of. So, we're making a pleading really questions.

Dunavan- Sure. Thank you. Commissioners, any other questions for Ryan or Bill? Do not have any, if anyone would just ask that you take the Thrive proposal home, review it on all the programs and see if there's any programs you don't support. You do support. If you think the entire funding is \$64,000 needs to match and if it, if we feel that way, the majority will go to the budget hearings with that and request that and see what we can do.

Reynolds- Those 4 pillars are essential, but they're the low dollar ones. The transit is one that really is subject to change or negotiation. The other three, without those there's a lot of things like community crossing grants and we wouldn't be able to before.

Dunavan- The other amounts you're only looking at a little over \$20,000.

Reynolds- Right. So, I know the council last year proposed cutting out the three low dollar amounts and leaving the transit in. Turns out those low dollar amounts are the essential things that we need to support other programs without which we would really suffer for sure.

Dunavan- So, you have to take that home, review it and then we're in agreement with the \$64,000. We'll be at budget hearings with that and I'll see what the council tells us.

Keller- I really appreciate it for your time and I'm grateful for the consideration.

- b. Ordinance Establishing a Temporary Strategic Moratorium on New Commercial Solar Projects in Vermillion County, Indiana **Ordinance 2025-14**
- Peebles reads the Ordinance 2025-14 to the audience.

Dunavan- So on that, is there any discussion on the moratorium before us? I know there's been some requests denied for a year moratorium. I know we have one APC member here tonight. Penney, you're the director; with six months be prudent enough time to review the solar ordinance? Joe, I'm gonna put you on the spot here.

(inaudible)

Joe Ellis - I was speaking for Area Planning Commission. Well, I'm not speaking for, I'm speaking as a member of it, but currently, the area plan is working on a zoning for carbon sequestration projects in the future, it is a very busy time for us. Six months when going through this stuff. Actually, six months is a short time when we did our UDO revision, we probably spent a year, Penney, about right any maybe more?

Dunavan- So, do you feel, would you feel in your opinion a year would be more prudent than six months because I want to give you guys half the time to review.

Ellis- I would leave it up to the rest of the voting area plan.

Carpenter- honestly with what we have on our plate now with the carbon sequestration, we're still working on that. Then this on top of that, it's going to take a...

Dunavan- Commissioners and thoughts?

Peebles- I propose moving it to a one-year moratorium.

Dunavan- Yeah, I don't think I want to make sure we give the area plan ample opportunity. I mean that board is filled with great individuals. They take their time. And if you've never been to an area planning meeting, I suggest you go to at least one there in long. I don't know what the average time is, but I know it's longer than commissioners' meetings. They're very diligent in their work and I don't want to handicap them by saying six months rush through this and do something quicker and maybe end up with a bad product at the end of the day. So yeah, I would I would agree with your assessment of moving into one year.

Hess- That's fine.

Dunavan- If there's no other discussion on this, I'll entertain a motion to approve County ordinance #2025-14, as amended by Commissioner Peebles, to a one year set of six months.

Peebles- I'll make that motion.

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

I'll second. Any further discussion?

Hearing none call for the vote all in favor.

Hess- Abstains

Dunavan, John, if it's not unanimous.

Spurr- It's not unanimous. I don't think you can do it on the first or anything. You have to do it at the next, second one.

Dunavan- So even if she abstains, it's still not unanimous. I think it's 2 nothing.

Spurr - But it's not like somebody's going to build the solar field in one month, in 30 days and winters coming, so.

Dunavan- All right. So, Misty if you could make sure we have that on our agenda for the second reading of the ordinance, John, if you could amend that to one year on that.

c. Prosecutor Office- Newport Lions Club

- I'm not here on behalf of the prosecutor's office, I'm here on behalf of the Newport Lions Club. I just happened to work for the prosecutor. We're just asking for the formal permission to use the courthouse lawn and the annex as we have for the past 57 years.

Dunavan- Sure. Yeah, Commissioners, since I've been here for the last five years, this is a very common hill. The line slope comes up, ask for permission to use it. They've used it for 57 years. As Amy stated, it's a great event in the county, so we normally just approve it. Is there any questions, objections, comments?

Peebles- I make a motion to approve.

Dunavan- I have a motion, Mr. Peebles, to approve the lines Club requests.

Do I have a second?

Hess- I second

Dunavan- I'll have a second. Any further discussion hearing? None. Call for the vote.

All in favor. Motion carries.

d. Clinton Public Library- Appointees to the Library Board

- Scott Craig had emailed us I think last week. And there's an appointment that the commissioners need to remake, Rosemary. His e-mail he says, "I've attached a document from the library that shows the current board appointments. By law, the library appointees can only serve 4 consecutive 4-year terms if appointment. If reappointed, Rosemary will be in our final four-year term, all which have been via the county commissioner appointment. She is currently the President Library Board and has been an excellent and active member. She and her husband Mike have been lifelong residents of Clinton or at least.

Thanks for your attention to this matter.”

So, he is asking or the board's asking that Rosemary be reappointed To the Clinton Library Board, I'll **entertain a motion.**

Hess- I'll make a motion.

Dunavan I have a motion from Mrs. Hess. Do I have a second?

Peebles I'll second the motion

Dunavan- second by Mr. Peebles. Any further discussion?

Hearing none call for the vote all in favor.

Motion carries.

e. County Road Acceptance- **Ordinance 2025-15**

- Before I go through this county ordinance, there are several roads that the county is accepting into our road acceptance or County Road system. There's a statement from the county commissioners that we that I'll be reading on behalf of the commissioners.

It has come to our attention that one of these roads being accepted in individual in the community had made a complaint to the Indiana State Police of the county misusing funds. And doing things that we shouldn't have been doing, which is not true. So, with that, to give you a little back story, there's a statement from the commissioners, “The county commissioners are frustrated the state and local resources were expanded on an investigation into the highway department's use of funds to quote UN quote, place rock on a new road accepted into the County Road system. An issue that could have been resolved with a simple phone call, instead of reaching out for clarification, Vermillion County Councilman Jeff Bose chose a route that resulted in wasted time, taxpayers’ dollars and a completely unnecessary state investigation.

The Indiana State Police, after a full and independent review, found no criminal intent. Affirming what a basic understanding of county budgeting would have revealed from the outset.

To be clear, once the County Council approves the department's budget, that department has the authority to spend within its allocated funds without seeking further permission from the County Council.

Departments like the Highway department operate within those approved budgets as allowed by law.

This Board of Commissioners remains committed to transparency, fiscal responsibility, effective governance. We urge all public officials to prioritize communication and collaboration over confusion and confrontation.

The taxpayers of Vermillion County deserve leadership that understands its responsibilities and respects the process. The commissioners continue to do that and lead by example in this county.

Sincerely, the Vermillion county Board of Commissioners.”

So, with that, we have before us a county ordinance, County ordinance #2025-15 adopting roads into the County Road system.

“An ordinance adopting certain roads into the County Road system. WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Vermillion County, Indiana, have been made aware of certain roads that have been maintained by the county for many years, but it never been formally adopted into the County Road system.

Now be it ordained and acted by the Vermillion County Commissioners that Section 1 Powder Mill Dr. Mockingbird Dr. Oak Ridge Dr. Redwood Dr. Beechwood Dr. Ashwood Court, Poppies Lane, Crown Home Blvd. Donetta Dr. Robertson Drive, Tonya Drive, Zellwood Drive, Laura Lane and Heatherwood Lane be formerly adopted in the County Road system as County Roads Section 2.

Should any section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance be declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason by any court of common jurisdiction, such

provisions shall be deemed severable in the remaining portions of this Ordinance shall remain in full force in effect. Section 3. All ordinance or parts of ordinance or resolutions that are inconsistent with provisions of this Ordinance are appealed to the extent of such inconsistencies.”

And with this ordinance, once approved, you will see a list of mileage and pictures of each lane that is now being accepted into the County Road system, which will be available for public review.

So, with that, I'll entertain a motion. To accept or approve county ordinance 2025-15.

Hess- I'm actually going to abstain from it because my address is actually in here.

Peebles- I would like to table it until I get a chance to get my eyes on these properties, driveway, roads, whatever.

Dunavan- So these were all produced, this list was started back with our former Superintendent, former administrator. These were confirmed by Brian Russell, Jeremy. And I don't think any is up in District 3. So, I believe it's in District 1 and 2. But these are all confirmed by the highway departments and by the foremen. But if you guys wish to take, I mean if you wish a table, you can.

That's up to you. I mean, I just think some of these especially for the one sooner we get it and accepted the better because of that investigation that was a ball dropped.

Peebles- Well with that with that one, I did go with the highway Superintendent and we did go down and look at that road and we did have discussion about what that road....

Dunavan- So that one, there was a new road being accepted in and these other ones, according to the highway department have been maintained by the county for years. They're plowed, they're passed so there it's more of a retroactive putting them into the road system. But if you want me, if you want to wait, that's up to you.

Peebles- I understand that, but like I said, I'd like to table it and, and get my eyes on.

Hess- Is it possible that we approve the Power mill Rd. mill drive and then the others you can table? I don't know.

Dunavan- Yeah, you could. I mean, we could, we could strike all of them except for the powder mill drive and just do that one tonight.

Peebles- I stood on Powder Mill Dr. before it was before it was done.

Dunavan- If you want to do that, I'll, I mean, you can amend it just for section one that it only includes powder Mill drive. And we'll take the rest of the we'll just have this ordinance with Powder Mill Drive and the picture correlating it and then by next meeting, we'll leave it on the agenda. You can review the other ones.

Peebles- Sounds great. I'll have next week back in. I'll go look at the other ones.

Hess- I mean, I live on one of the roads, so not necessary, but I won't be voting for that one.

Dunavan- Do I have a motion to approve the amended county ordinance 2025-15 to include only powder mill drive?

Peebles- I'll make that motion

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

Hess I second

Dunavan- Second by Mrs. Any further discussion? Hearing none, I'll call for the vote. All in favor. Motion carries

We'll strike the rest of those and just leave. Leave it on the agenda for I guess, would be 2025-16.

- f. WTH- CoreLogic Electronic Map Data Application Agreement
- You should have in your packet and emailed to you attached to the copy of the electronic Map data application from CoreLogic requesting county GIS data.

They do this every couple year and I think the BTH will send GIS data check for \$250 or sent to the county. So, something that's routinely been approved. You guys have any questions?

Fees are undetermined.

You guys want to table we can table until next meeting.

Peebles-I would say until there's clarification, we need the table. Sure.

Carpenter-Someone from the commissioners needs to reach out to Steve Leatherman on this to get to understand what they're doing

Dunavan- Well, I was sent to the auditor's office. So, Misty, just have the auditor send him an e-mail and ask him about the fee schedule in the back. I do remember approving these in the past, but I don't I don't recall paying these delivery fees.

- g. Workforce, WorkOnes and our community - Greg Lee
- I'm the executive director of the Western Indiana Workforce Development Board. So, I'm just kind of on a tour of our service area introducing, reintroducing what the board does, what our WorkOne offices do, just so people know and all the great free resources that we have.

So, as I said, I'm the director of the board. Our workforce board serves 6 counties in this area. So, we serve Clay, Vermillion, Vigo, Sullivan, Putnam and Parke counties.

So as the board, we serve job seekers and employers in our six-county region. We are completely grant funded through state and federal grants. We were one of the many agencies who lost a lot of funding in this last cycle.

So, we're doing a lot more with less, but we still have a lot of the things that we can offer. Our board is made-up of 25 members, 13 in the business and industry community and then 12 from different community organizations and resources. We also have elected officials who serve on our board. They don't count towards that total number. Commissioner Dunavan is one of those and Ryan Keller who was here earlier serves on our board.

So just some of the things we do, if you're familiar with the Workone offices, a lot of people call them or refer them as the unemployment office. We've not had unemployment staff in our offices in probably 10 years. So, we would like to be known as the employment office. We offer a lot of resources in our Workone offices. They are open to anyone. So, we have free Internet, we have public computers for people to use for job search. We offer various different workshops about job search, so resumes, cover letters, interviewing, how to search for a job, how to use a computer. We have all these different free workshops that we have, way our board works, we on the employer side, we have business services. So, we work with employers. If you've heard of the employer training grant, that is a very popular grant in the state of Indiana that is used to train current or incoming employees. So, if you're an employer, you can get with us and we can gets in one of your employees to training for up to \$5000 to get a certification or whatever it might be and we will reimburse you that \$5000 up to \$50,000. So, we can reimburse employers up to \$50,000 to get their workforce where it needs to be.

Another important grant that we have is called the Workforce Ready Grant, very easy grant. The eligibility for that for a job seeker would be you have to be 18, a resident of Indiana and an eligible U.S. citizen and we can pay up to \$5000 for training for anyone who might be interested in that. So, we have CDL training. We send a lot of people CDL training, welding, CNC machining, but we have a lot of different training options.

But those are just kind of our most popular. Speaking of that training, we Parke County, we just paid for a number of their employees to get their CDLB licenses because they needed a lot of those. So, we help them do that. So, if the Vermillion County has any

needs, please let us know and we will see if there's something we can help with.

We also do a lot with partnerships as far as job fairs, job postings, if you're familiar with the regional employment, an opportunity Expo that happened in Terre Haute last year. It was a very large job fair with 70 employers. We had almost 400 job seekers attend so it was a huge, great event.

We plan to have that again in April of this year. So, we'll be promoting that. We encourage anyone from Vermillion County to come out and we would like to speak, I might speak with Ryan about getting Thrive to provide some transportation for those people who may not be able to get down to Terre Haute for that.

We also do county specific job fairs or employer specific job fairs. So, if you know of anyone or if anyone like to have a job fair in our work one office in Clinton, which is our Vermillion County location, you can speak with us. You can have a hiring event. We will publicize it, put it on our social media, make sure we send it out to all of our partners. So, there's just a lot of different things we can do for job seekers and employers who are looking to fill their workforce needs.

As far as our Workone offices go, like I said, we serve anyone. We can serve anyone. Our grant funding is basically for people 16 and up to send them to their training.

Another thing that we are starting to do a lot more with is apprenticeships. So, the state and federal legislation that's coming out is really focused on apprenticeships and work-based learning. So instead of kind of going to class and getting that degree is that apprenticeship stuff. So, we have a lot of apprenticeship funding. One of our largest apprenticeships right now is our Union Health Registered Nurse apprenticeship, which is very successful. It's got a 95% completion rate.

But we can do apprenticeships in any field. So, if anyone's interested in doing an apprenticeship on, you know, in agriculture, in public policy, something like that, we can work with that entity, create an apprenticeship plan. We also have funds to pay half their wages during that apprenticeship. So free money is always great. So, we offer a lot of things to help employees and employers upskill and contribute to their local economies.

So, I just wanted to introduce myself and let you all know all the great resources we have at our Workone offices and through our board. And I will leave some material and some information, my contact information for all of you if you ever have any questions or need anything from us. So, thank you again for having me.

Dunavan-Commissioners, you have any questions for Greg?

Hess- Do you have anyone that's currently in our county using the services of Work One?

Lee- Yes, our Clinton office, it was closed kind of off and on here for a while, funding cuts and staffing issues, but we're getting that back up and going. So, our Vermillion office is pretty, we get a fair amount of people in there and they either use the computers, apply for jobs, or we do have access to the unemployment system if someone wants to log in and do that but we get some pretty good traffic there.

h. Ambulance Survey

- The ambulance survey the commissioners have put out, was officially finished. We had a total of 371 responses from community members. And the commissioners are currently assumed still reviewing those responses. Are you guys look at those?

Pebbles- I, I've looked out and there's, there's a lot there though.

Dunavna-There's a lot of information. Once you get down to the comments section, there's a lot of the top half of it. You got the graphs. You can really see what people want. So, I don't know if you guys want to discuss any of that, but I do want to keep the ambulance discussion at the front burner. So, there's nothing more than that. I'll leave it on the agenda and then we can discuss via e-mail, some ideas you guys may have or

how you'd like to proceed going forward? Bring Christy Gerald in since we've got all those results shared.

I'd like to thank all the 371 people that did participate in that too. It's a lot of good information and the more information the commissioners can have, the better decision we can make on behalf of you guys. So, thank you for that.

Peebles-I would also like to push that back to say thank you to the committee that was put together that did the year, year and a half work, the groundwork that went into studying the ambulance service that we have, what we can do to improve it. I don't want anybody to think that that doesn't hold weight.

Dunavan- No, absolutely. The committee done a lot of good work, a lot of groundwork, a lot of hours and time spent. So, we appreciate their endeavor and any public comments we have received. All right, we'll keep that on the agenda for next meeting.

i. Perryville Fire Dept

- Last year, when the commissioners had agreed to place the ambulances at the Clinton Fire Department and the Perryville Fire Department, there was lease agreements were to be signed. The lease agreement was signed by Clinton City I think it's \$1500. Perryville Fire Department was supposed to have a similar, a similar lease agreement sign upon some e-mail and discussion with the Fire Chief last few days. That agreement was never signed. They have not received any payment for, I'm going to say at least 10 months since last year.

So that agreement does need to be put before us. So, John, I don't know. I know Misty had emailed again to Brent, but if you could add that. I think you could probably just send the exact same one that Clinton said he has and just, you know, change the address.

But I think as commissioners we need to make sure we back pay that 10 months or whatever that amount of time is, because they did agree to take that ambulance and we had nowhere to go with it.

But yeah, if you could work on that, make sure Brent, he said he's willing to sign it as soon as he gets it. But that plays in with ambulance survey too, so.

j. Newport Church of God

- And is this for the use of the auditor auditorium? For all three days?
I believe this is done. Is there anybody here from the Newport churches? I think this is something I know this has been done for several years. Kind of like the Lions Club, they always ask for permission every year.

Peebles- I would, I would grant them permission.

Dunavan- Yeah. They use the auditorium to do stuff and there's never been any to my knowledge. There's never been any issues in the in the pastor is one of our county deputies here. So, Mr. Hawkins does a great job. **So, I'll entertain a motion to approve.**

Peebles- I motion.

Dunavan- Motion by Mr. Peebles. DO I have a second?

Hess- I second.

Dunavan- I have a second by Mrs. Hess. Any further discussion? Hearing none, I'll call for the vote aye. Motion carries.

f. WTH- Updated information-

-Carpenter- I reached out to them today about this. It does come across my desk first. This company is an AI company that wants the information. So, who's paying the 750 is the core logic.

Dunavan- So the county's just receiving the \$250 check

Carpenter- Correct, for a lot of information we put on there because we could update land owners and things. So, it goes into a national database. So, the \$750 comes from to

WTH from the company getting the information.

Dunavan- So, we shouldn't even seen that Backpage because that back page is isn't for us.

Carpenter- Well you have the sign saying okay that WTH gives them our information on our map. That's what this is all about because I had questions. So, I called them today and spoke with Corey.

Hess- We appreciate it.

Donavan- With that new information, would you guys like to act on it tonight or do you still want to say what's the next meeting?

So, so the county would be receiving \$250. So essentially any company is just trying to get your data, which may be a good thing there maybe one to build here or you know.

Carpenter- So, when I reread it, it says once you guys when fully executed application is received by WTH the requesting client will be notified which is this CoraLogic. Once the payments received from the requesting client, WTH will send GIS data to the client and a check for \$250 will be sent to the county. So, they're paying the county for the information we put on there since they're sharing that on a national level.

Dunavan-Yes, I think anytime someone requests that data, we'll see one of these requests come through. And like I said, maybe once a year maybe I've seen one.

Well, thanks for the information, Penny.

So, you guys don't want to have that table or would you guys like to act on it with the new information?

Hess- I'd like to, I think I trust what Penny's saying, but I'd also like to read it to you and just do a little. So, will this hinder anything that we're doing currently if we don't act on this tonight?

Carpenter- No, it'll just be the other 30 days out that they'll wait for the information, but that's not a problem,

Hess-And it won't impact us in a negative way at all, like there's no information that they're trying to get out there, OK.

And I would just say let's leave it table then

Announcements: **County Wide Clean Up Day Sept 12th and 13th**

- If you have any junk or if you're in violation with the APC, make sure you utilize these free clean up days. You can take almost anything for free. I think TVs there is a small charge and mattresses I think are \$5. They'll be located at the District 1 garage in Clinton and the District 3 garage in Cayuga. So, make sure you utilize those.
- Only other thing I have, uh, before the Board of Commissioners is the county pasture lease has been executed and signed the VTA and as far as work together and reduce that area, we've got a new fence going up so that everything worked out well there. I'm not sure when the new fence will be put up. I think they're waiting on their builder right now to get out there, but that has all been agreed to and signed to so. I'll have a copy sent to me later today or tomorrow, and they'll be kept in the prompter's office.

X. Adjourn

Dunavan- I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

Peebles I'll make the motion. Hess Second.

All in favor, Meeting adjourned

AYE:

RJ Dunavan

RJ Dunavan

Misty Hess

Misty Hess

William R Peebles

William Peebles

NYE:

ATTEST:

Ron Dunavan

Ron Dunavan, Auditor