

Vermillion County Commissioners

Meeting Minutes

February 02, 2026

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 from Jan 5th, 2026
 - Peebles Motion**
 - Hess seconds**
 - All in Favor, motion carries**
- V. Approval of Claims from Jan 09, 15, and 16, 2026
 - Hess Motions**
 - Pebbles Seconds**
 - All in favor, Motion Carries**
- VI. Approval of Payroll Jan16 and 30, 2026
 - Hess Motions**
 - Peebles Seconds**
 - All in favor, motion carries**
- VII. Public Comments:
 - Ron Mack, Vermillion County Surveyor- I sent a letter in January. Two years ago, I was contacted about the right of ways on the Thomas Hood drain around Dana. There is not enough room in the right a way to replace the culvert at the corner there by the Dana ballpark as planned. The drainage board really doesn't have any opposition or a reason to oppose what INDOT is proposing. However, several members of the drainage board have great concern that the corner is too tight. Now, they can't get semis and big farm equipment around during the busy season. The manhole lid covers have been knocked off several times. I am asking for somebody to get in touch with INDOT and the engineers to figure out something different. As I understand it, the intent is to have what I call a catch basin, twelve- or fifteen-foot catch basin at the end of the tile, which will hit that culvert that goes under 71. That would work fine from a drainage standpoint, looks like they're also going to shorten the radius of that corner. The only guard that they're going to have up there is a 6-in curb that a semi tire will run right over that. They are going to have a semi down in the hole pretty easily. Mack thinks there is plenty of room if you're coming off Old 63 turning onto 71. He thinks you can get a semi out far enough. But, when your going back the other way its going to be tight. Several of the drainage board guys run equipment around there, so they have first hand knowledge that its an issue that needs to be addressed by the county from a safety standpoint. Thank you, Ron.

Dunavan- Commissioners, is there any action on that or we can have one of us reach out to INDOT. I think Tim Watson's our contact engineer at INDOT at West Central if somebody would like to do that.

Peebles- I would that's my corner. That's where I live. So, Sure. Yes, I would definitely have interest in that corner making sure it's safe.

Dunavan- I think Ron, you probably have Tim Watson's contact, don't you?

Mack- Yeah, sure.

Peebles- If you could forward that to me sometime this week, I'd appreciate it.

Mack- Okay, I'll send it.

Dunavan- All right. You'll follow up with Ron. Thank you. All right. Any other public comments?

Curt Phelps- First of all, I'd like to thank all you guys for going to Indianapolis. I'm sure that was an experience.

Dunavan- Well, we will say I will correct you really quick. Commissioner Peebles went to Indianapolis for us. Me and Misty Hess could not attend, but he did but, he did read a letter on our behalf. The thanks need to be directed to Bill Peebles for making the trip.

Phelps- In a conversation it has come up about a 60% agreement that you have to have for land owners and eminent domain. Have you ever heard of anything of that? We're obviously trying to pull everything out of the hat and we got a lawyer working on some stuff. We're talking to a lot of people. Everything is to back our county and our people and our board. So, I just wanted to make sure you knew about that. I'm not representing anybody necessarily but myself on a legal standpoint, but Allen Morrison is a DNR director now. There's been question how he got there. What his intent is and what his abilities are now. Obviously, he's a backer of the carbon sequestration program. I heard Scott Baldwin was the individual that really gave him a hard time. I think that's sad. People can't treat people like human beings that have differences, you know. There are campaign funds. We know how these people are getting paid off. That's stuff that you can go look at, its public. I'm hoping myself personally I know we've talked as a group as far as the CBA goes, they have their presentation the last we heard where you guys were working on your presentation for your own version.

Something that scares us about that is the fact that, not that you shouldn't be prepared, but this \$7 million claim that's out there that they say they're going to give us, we don't feel is enough money for anybody's life. I'm a no. Isn't going to happen. If they put it in, they're going to have to put it in on their own will, and we're not going to agree to it. To hang on to their shirt tails and try to suck money out of them, I don't think that is a fair thing either. I don't think it's a wise thing, you know, especially not knowing what they're going to accept with whatever you're putting forward. But the fact that they were talking about wanting you to sign your rights as a commissioner away to any legal repercussions to them as well any future owners. That's too vague and not enough details behind that. Something else we talked about is the 45Q and the 45V, loopholes. I'm not really if they've reached this or not, but this gives them rights to government credits. Usually you can only do one of those credits. You can't do two. I'm just throwing this out there as generalities. Things to think about. We know that we've got multiple LLC's involved in this. They're trying to create multiple companies, injection sites, ammonia, hydrogen. What kind of monkey business is going on there? You know they are trying to hide stuff. They are trying to get as much government money as they possibly can. I was just wanting to point out and give you guys some more information about what we found out. Anything that you guys of course can give us would be great. We're here to back you, not here to fight you. This is something that involves the county. It involves all the people in it. Grandchildren, great grandchildren, whoever, you know. I mean this community is not going to go away, you know. Appreciate your time.

-Strolekos -Hi, I'm Susan Strolekos and I want to thank you for going over there. I know the weather was terrible and I did know that you were representing the others and I appreciate that because I do believe counties are going to have to start fighting for the rights. Little by little the states taking away county control over of everything. The SB7 bill was one that was trying to place that control back exactly where it should be with you guys, with us. We know more about what goes on in our county than they do over there. Just for your own knowledge, that guy that came at you, he took \$20,000 from the Wabash Valley Resources. So, he was there defending his position. They put people on the spot, right? It's like you, this is a complex issue. We don't know all the ins and outs of it, but easily if somebody had been knowledgeable about it for years, you could have said, "We want 4D seismic testing. We want the USGS involved. We want them to monitor for microquakes just like they do over ADM. "There are many things that we can ask for, but the thing of it is I don't expect any of you to know all this because one, you're new. You came into this on the tail end of it, right? The fact that you could see, and I'm glad you got to witness it. During the testimony, there was a legislator there. He was like, what is this? Is it a product that's being dumped underground? Then he was like, "Oh, it's trash. It's waste." That tells you why things are moving forward without anybody knowing what the heck's going on. They vote on things. They have no idea. But I am glad you stood up for us. If it's just because your county says no, that's exactly what you should have said. You did, and I'm proud of everyone of you. With

the CBA, if you need help, if you have questions, and I would just suggest that the public does get to see it before anything's signed because the public has been doing research and they can put forth very good suggestions. If this company wants this project to go through, then they would be more than willing to ensure our safety and what it takes for us to feel safe. One of them is Monitoring. They're going to tell you, "Oh, we can't do that. That's done by the EPA." That is not true. Illinois just passed a law and they're requiring at least a minimum of 30-year monitoring. This company wanted only wants 10 years. So, there are ways the EPA is not be all and end all. They set the level, right? Then states can go above those levels to ensure safety for their states and their counties. Thank you, Bill

VIII. Open Issues

IX. New Business-

- a. Hamilton Center- Hi, my name is Christina. I'm the clinical supervisor for the Parke and Vermillion offices. Mandy had an accident earlier today. So, I literally got this an hour ago, so I apologize.
For the fiscal year that ended June 30th of 2025, we had a grand total of 517 consumers in Vermillion County. That age breakdown goes 0 to 17 is 166, 18 to 64 is 332 and 19 people over the age of 65. 461 of those 89% were under 200% of poverty levels. We had 211 inpatient unit stays and did 14,746 outpatient services. Our expenses for our Vermillion County office salaries and benefits were \$948,514. General expense is \$368,033. Cost of inpatient care \$291,180 for a total expense of \$607,727. We did 26,704 in charity care. Had \$192,932 in Vermillion County tax support. We have 24 employees that live in Vermillion County.
- b. Energy savings projects, Rick Anderson with Veregy. Good evening everybody. Thank you for allowing me to come. I don't know if you know much about the utility situation in Indiana. It's not great. We're still a regulated utility state. We're stuck geographically with who we're stuck with. There're five investors owned utilities in Indiana. The problem is the rates just keep going up. As you probably either pay a bill at home or if you pay a bill at a business, the average rate increase has been 6% over the past 15 years. Lately, it's been more like 15, 18, 20%. It's gone up 66% in the last 10 years. It's not going down anytime soon. We're going to be stuck with this regulated situation. What we're trying to help you guys do with some of our programs is get off the utility as much as you can. The first page that I gave you kind of talks about what we look at when we come in to do our assessments. We look at anything that's impacting utilities, lighting, HPAC, solar. When we come into the building, we look at any of those things that are impacting your utilities. The second page that I gave you, is the inflation reduction act that was passed back in 22. Allows you guys to get back potentially 30 to 40% on an investment if you do either solar, geothermal, or battery technology. It's a pretty nice little carrot right now. It's going to be around, the solar is going to go away at the end of this year. The geothermal is going to be around for a while. So, it's a really nice little carrot to be able to get back in.
I gave you some case histories there. A couple of them, one was Dearborn County, one was Hamilton County, and also one was Ripley County. We're just getting finished redoing Ripley County's courthouse. Basically, they got a brand new they got a brand-new building in an 1865 courthouse. So, we basically renovated all their systems. The way that we look at doing these projects for you all is called a guaranteed savings project. There's legislation state of Indiana IC-36-1-12.5 been around about 30 years. You got to get registered with the state to be as a company to do these projects. What we typically come in and do and actually we did an assessment for you guys. I don't think any of you were here five years ago, but um we did an assessment for you guys about five years ago um on not only this building but also on the jail. You guys were renovating adding on to the jail. So, they basically said, "Hey, you know, not good timing. Um you know, come back." So, I'm back. We do these assessments. They don't cost the county anything to do. We came we come back with recommendations. We come back with costs. They all still come back with a cash flow that shows you how this thing works. Pretty simple. Again, doesn't cost the county anything to do the assessment. The nice part about these projects is any of these things that you would typically have to do, it's a different way to buy. So, the old way to do things, hire an

architect, engineer, put plans and specs together, advertise, take low bid, change orders. These projects are no change order. So, we come back to you with a project. you guys decide what you want to do. That's what you do. The only change order is if you guys make a change. We've had somebody do a decorating change because of carpeting and paint. That was the only change. So, there's no change, which is nice. Different way to do things. So, all I would need is a motion from you guys to do the assessment. I'd send R.J. few pieces of information I'd have to send to the utility company, but I need your authorization to do that. We get your utility information with account numbers. We come and walk your facilities and then get back to you with a report. Takes about 6 weeks to two months to get a report back.

Dunavan- Commissioners, any discussion on whether you'd like to proceed with the free assessment, correct?

Anderson- Correct.

Dunavan- Any discussion if you'd like to do the courthouse, maybe the annex. I do vaguely remember this five year ago maybe would have been what 2021, 2020. I'm sure those numbers are outdated now 5 years ago.

Anderson- I'd like to say they went down but I'd be lying

Dunavan- I don't have any issues doing a free assessment if you guys are open to it doesn't cost us anything would you like to include the courthouse, the annex? Is there any other or you want to do all county offices or do the courthouse?

Peebles- Yeah, courthouse be property one. Courthouse and the jail.

Anderson- Solar at the jail might not be bad that's your that's your biggest if you ranked your utility spend, your jail is going to be the highest. So, if we could potentially put solar in the jail, we got a great standing seam roof there. But we don't know until we do the charge.

Dunavan- I'll entertain a motion then to give permission to Rick Anderson to proceed with the free assessment for the county courthouse, the county annex, and the county jail.

Peebles-I'll make the motion.

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

Hess- I'll second it.

Dunavan- Second by Ms. Hess. Any further discussion hearing? None. I'll call for the vote. **All in favor, Motion carries**

- c. Vacate alley. Ordinance 2026-1 Heidie Sams. Hello. Sorry, I'm on this. Sorry if I don't answer your questions right. All I'm trying to do here is to be honest, as I've already stated, to vacate. So, supposedly there's an alleyway that is running across in between two of my property lines. So, I'm wanting just to vacate the property line here. Then all of a sudden, there was an alleyway that came up on this back here on the back portion on the back lot on 30 lot 32. They said that is an alleyway too as well, but that's never been considered since I've owned the home in four years. There's been a fence put up on this property for over I know of the gentleman lived there 11 years before I bought it four years ago. So, I'm just wanting to vacate this property to combine it all together. That way, I can have all my land together.

Dunavan- Sure. And you own both sides of the uh property, correct?

Sams- Yeah. Yes. I own lot 32 and another gentleman owns the other side. But I to be honest with you, I don't even keep track with them people cause they're just drunks, alcoholics. I'm going to be honest, they built a barn two years after we moved in. They're all family around us and they're trying to get us to move out of there because we have four children. We moved our children out of Vigo County. We thought we were

moving to a better county. One of the gentlemen that owns this he actually pulled a gun on my husband on our property. This is how we ended up in this mess here. Because they decided to come on our property starting to move our stuff off of our property saying they owned it and then they ended up pulling out a pistol. The gentleman did when my husband told him until it was all settled. We were going to have to get something done here because I want to put up a privacy fence now because I don't feel the safety of my children.

Dunavan- Sure. Being in their own yard. Yeah, absolutely. So back to the vacating of the alley. The auditor's office, they've met all the requirements that the county's asked them to do, the proper advertising, filled out all the forms.

Ron Dunavan- Yes.

Dunavan- Okay. Commissioner, any questions for Heidi?

Commissioners- No.

Dunavan- Entertain a motion to approve county ordinance 2026-1 by title order vacating a public alley as presented to you tonight.

Peebles- I'll make the motion.

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

Hess- I'll second it.

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

- d. Security Manual or Plan as you guys have seen in your emails, the judge has prepared with the security team here at the courthouse an updated security manual. We will need to approve that tonight. There were no major changes made to that. But, that it is not a public view document. That's an internal document for safety procedures for the courthouse. I'll entertain a motion to approve the updated Security Plan as presented to you in your emails and packets.

Hess- I'll make a motion.

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

Peebles- I second.

Dunavan- Second by Mr. Peebles. Any further discussion? Hearing none. Call for the vote. **All in favor, Motion carries**

- e. Annual disclosures. This is just what we do every beginning of the year. if any commissioners have any conflict of interest. As example, I sign an annual disclosure every year. Our restaurant serves food sometimes to the county election polling locations. I sign an annual disclosure every year for that. That's just what this is. If you have any disclosures that you need to disclose, just make sure you do that with the county clerk's office. Okay. So more of just a statement.
- f. Deer and Turkey Lease-Discussion. At our last meeting, I informed the commissioners that the current lease had suggested some ideas about retaining that property for an extension of x amount of years. In doing so, they would extend it, let's say, three years. they would not be eligible for the raffle again in three years. They would pay a 5% increase each year so the county would in turn get some more money. In exchange, they would mow and maintain the property, improve it. So that was more or less what they were asking for. If not, we can do the annual once a year raffle as we originally intended it to be. However, it was our first year. So, with this person getting it, I think no matter who would have got it, they would have probably made this recommendation that if you extend it, you'll get somebody that really takes care of the property and the county gets that 5% increase. Once their three years are done, you would then raffle it off again, but they would be ineligible. So, they would only be eligible for that that time. If someone else gets it the next time, they may only want it one year, then you raffle it, but we

would write it into the agreement that they would have the ability to extend it up to three more years. I'll leave that open to discussion for you guys what you'd like to do.

Peebles- My opinion is it needs to be an annual withdrawal. Okay. Just to be fair to all the county citizens who are interested in leasing that property for hunting.

Hess- I feel the same way that Bill feels.

Dunavan-So, we will get that advertised then. I think the lease is up. I think the hunting was done in January, so we'll get that advertised. I think last time we didn't have a whole lot of applicants, but since we're a little bit earlier on the ball this year, we'll get that advertised and get that raffled off again. It needs to be done before turkey season starts. Absolutely.

- g. Building permit fee-update in your packets and email. Penney Carpenter sent you a detailed updated list. Our building fees have not been updated since like 1975. Um, with that she was recommending I believe Crawfordsville or Montgomery counties and essentially some of the fees are raised a little bit but a lot of the changes it'll be based off square footage now. If you're building a 6,000-foot house you're going to pay a little bit more for your building permit. If you're building a thousand square foot house you'll pay a little less. If you guys are in favor of proceeding with that, Jon will work on setting an ordinance. That's got to be advertised to the public and then we can get that addressed at our next meeting to effectively set those new building rates for the county.

Peebles-The current rates of paying a building inspector pretty tough. It's tough to do on the rates we're collecting off of inspection fees. So, yeah, it needs to be increased. I'm not sure what that looks like, but I will support Penney in her research that she's done.

Dunavan-She put together a very detailed document.

Hess-I read the document. I guess my one question was, her recommendation was Crawfordsville. I just wanted to touch base with her on that because it's at one like I don't know if we're going to but it's 150 plus 10 cents per square foot and Vigo counties is 125 plus 10. They're the exact same but Vigo counties I guess I mean I don't know so I think that's fine

Dunavan-Do you want to check with Penney before we ask John to write that with those specs from Crawfordsville or do you have any? I believe Penney's entire zoning board is in favor of those rates as well because

Hess- the Crawfordsville ones?

Dunavan- I believe so because I mean we're looking at 25 or you know 50 years of no increases.

Peebles-If the board of commissioners doesn't address it again in the next 70 years. I mean yeah.

Hess- No, it definitely needs to be increased. Definitely needs to be increased. I'm good with it.

Dunavan-Jon, if you could proceed with that ordinance and making sure it's, I think it's going to be advertised so many days before the meeting, too.

Jon-I will get started on it.

- h. Park-Signing letter request to INDOT. Becky Holbert done a lot of leg work. Special thanks to her for doing that. She had attached in your packet you will see a request to INDOT to recognize all of our parks in the county. Everywhere from a county park to some town parks located in Clinton, the Cayuga Park. All types of signing is just

something that would be good for travelers going down the road to be able to identify our really well taken care of parks. They're asking us to just sign a letter requesting this and sending that over to INDOT. Are there any changes or anything you guys would like to do before we sign that?

Peebles- What's the cost?

Dunavan- No cost. It's Just a request INDOT. You would request that basically when you're going down the road and you see the signs that say library ahead or county courthouse. None of our parks are identified on state road 63, 163, 32. We just asked them to identify all the parks instead of just one. Let's make it one yes. That way if INDOT tells us yes, they don't have to tell us yes 17 times. We can just get one yes out of them. You good with it? Okay, good. We'll get that signed after the meeting then. I don't think we need a vote for that. We're in agreement.

- i. Disclosures for Commissioners. In your packet, you will have the OCRA owner occupied documents from Thrive. We applied for this grant last year. We did not succeed in getting that, but Thrive feels very confident in applying for that in the spring first round this year. I'll just need permission from the commissioners to proceed with the documents that need signed. Then, we will also need to approve resolution 2026-2 declaration of intent to apply and provide matching funds for CDBG owner occupied program which we've already got letters from last year at those \$55,000. Those were the funds that the redevelopment commission city of Clinton had authorized and they're all still in favor of doing that. We'll just need permission from the commissioners to proceed.

Peebles-Rise board was in on that too, weren't they?

Dunavan-I believe so. I think \$5,000 or \$10,000 something like that. Basically, the \$55,000 gets you the half million dollars.

Peebles-I'll make a motion.

Dunavan- I have a motion by Mr. Peebles to proceed and approve resolution number 2026-2 as presented. Do I have a second?

Hess-I'll second it.

Dunavan- Second by Mrs. Hess

Any further discussion? Hearing? None, I'll call for vote. **All in favor, Motion carries**

- j. Parke County Ambulance Service invoice. Last year with the ambulance service, we were not too sure how much to budget for that. To finish that out the total cost is \$148,401.79. I'll need approval for this invoice and we'll get an additional appropriation set for the council to approve this to close out 2025.

Hess-I'll make a motion.

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

Peebles- I'll second.

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

Peebles-Yes, what can we do to get ahead of that?

Dunavan-I spoke to Mrs. James, council President tonight before I got to the meeting this evening. Essentially since it was the first year, it was kind of just a shoot in the dark number. The council has set aside in Mrs. James view enough money this year to cover the 2026 budget with Parke County Ambulance Service pending any crazy breakdowns or new purchases. But, they knew when they done that they weren't too sure where it would come in at. So, they feel pretty confident, Julie Lanzone does, with their numbers that they will stay in budget in 2026. call for the vote. **All in favor, Motion carries**

- k. Community Crossings Grant. For the public does know, Vermillion County was awarded another community crossing grant for 2026. That's more roads being paved and taken

care of in the county. That's always great news. Our engineering firm, HWC last week took bids, open bids, and we had the following bids from the following companies. Reith Riley Construction at \$646,800.72, Milestone Contractors at \$652,776.30, and DC construction at \$820,044. HWC has reviewed all bid documents and they are recommending the commissioners tonight award the low response of responsible bidder to Reith Riley Construction. I will need a motion for HWC's recommendation to award the 2026 funding application number 15305 to Reith Riley Construction.

Hess-I'll make a motion.

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

Peebles-I'll second.

Dunavan- I have a second by Mr. Peebles. Any further discussion? Hearing? None. I'll call the vote. **All in favor, Motion carries**

I'd like to thank HWC, the highway board of directors, and especially INDOT for administering the community crossings grant program. It's a big help to small communities.

- I. RJL Solutions Contract several months ago, the commissioners had put together an agreement and presented it to the council for shared economic development director. At that time, they had paused on funding that project and the rise has since hired a director. The commissioners continue to want to see Economic Development in the county and to have somebody as a lead and an organization to oversee that. RJL Solutions has provided a contract to be the county's lead and to oversee that for the county which I believe is desperately needed for the county. In their contract with us it is based on a monthly fee of at \$7,200 a month to be your Economic Development lead. Total investment for the year would be \$86,400 You guys have reviewed that they provide this for several counties throughout the State of Indiana. Rachel Leslie is well known and very well respected. I believe having them on board would signify a lot of strength for Vermillion County and help us streamline economic development considering we don't have anything right now. I'll bring that open for discussion for the commissioners. If there's a motion to approve that and if there is, we will send that to the council for an additional appropriation to approve.

Peebles- It's something we desperately need. I am not the person that can track that kind of thing. I don't think there's anybody sitting up here who can.

Dunavan- I think we need to we need to proceed. I agree. I think we waited a year, six months. You know, we put together what we thought was a good plan and you know, we didn't have support for it. But I think now if we don't if we're not going to share a director, then let's bring a firm in that knows what they're doing and let them tackle it for us. I do believe they would excel at doing so.

Hess- I would agree with that.

Dunavan-They're right here and they're local, right in county. If there's an agreement, I'll entertain a motion to approve the contract and get it sent to the county council.

Peebles-I'll make the motion.

Dunavan I have a motion by Mr. Peebles.

Hess-I'll second it.

Dunavan-I have a second. Mrs. Hess. Any further discussion? Hearing none, I'll call for vote. **All in favor, Motion carries**

If you could help me with an additional appropriation for the \$7,200 a month and then we'll get that filled out for their next meeting.

- m. Good evening, commissioners. Josh Gaskill, Department of Veterans Affairs. What I've given you all is a copy of 101719. I'm not going to insult your intelligence and read this to you line by line. What it is just a standard of accreditation for all County Veteran Service Officers. I know I spoke with you a lot about all the trials and tribulations we've

had out here. The office is in very good shape now. The office is doing great. But basically, it just has all the accreditations I've had. Got a PIV card, dual monitors, hours posted, private area for all that stuff. Great. Okay. Any questions?

Dunavan-No, just don't take Veteran officer Mahan from us.

Gaskill-I'm not Hey, listen. I've heard all you guys talk about the state. I'm a different part. I'm here to fight for the veterans and fight for all the small people. So, she's doing great and I'm here to support her however you guys need me to. Yeah, we love Mahan to death. She does fantastic. I mean, I don't know if there's anything else we could ask of her.

Dunavan-I don't know. No, she's doing really good. We're happy with her, too. So, good.

Gaskill-Like I said, I don't want to take more of your time. If you need anything, let me know. Thank you.

- n. Mahan -Just really quick, I just have to do my monthly spiel to everybody. This Okay, Saturday was my one-year anniversary but the job is aging me in dog years. So, everybody knows I did not have this gray streak this time last year. But anyhow, I am wanting to become more actively involved in the community. I am seeking ways to increase the presence out in the community especially this summer. So, I am inviting like local groups, farmers market, businesses, if they're hosting special events, anything like that. To call, let me know because I would love to be able to set up a table or a booth and just be able to pass out information not only about veteran services, but also the American Legion as a whole. Also, something else I have been working on and I have attended a workshop that Purdue Extension put on this last Saturday. Because I'm wanting to establish something along the lines of a Vermillion County Veterans Council. I'm looking for participation from dedicated companies, business representatives, American Legions, and any other committed parties that are interested in supporting our local veterans. That's all I have. Thank you.
- o. Perrysville Fire Department Brent Lewis- I will say first thing we'll talk about, Brent, is the 700 bucks. A couple years ago when we renovated the station up at Perrysville and moved the ambulance to Clinton, Perrysville Fire Department purchased some of the goods, mattresses, stuff like that. It's your intent to keep the stuff at Perrysville. That's fine by us. Okay. Because the county never did pay for those items, correct? You submitted a bill tonight. I believe it's \$700 for two beds that are at the Clinton City Station. All right, commissioners. Is there any objection to approving the \$700 to Perryville Fire Department to be reimbursed with the receipt presented tonight for the mattresses they purchased?

Peebles-No objection.

Dunavan- All right. By agreement, we'll get that paid for you, Brent. Then I'll let you discuss the \$1,500 that Clinton City has been receiving. Perrysville hasn't received anything. There was no agreement ever signed.

Brent-When we started into this venture, it was our understanding that the old administration was trying to put both ambulances in a southern. They were trying to purchase a building in Cayuga that was not fit for habitation without a lot of updating. There wasn't going to be anything set in place in a timely fashion which was going to leave the northern half of the county uncovered. They had reached out to several different locations. Departments wouldn't step up. We stepped up, renovated our building so they would have a place to house in. In doing so, we have lost \$25,000 of money to do so, which is a big chunk for a small department that runs off of taxable income that comes into the station or fundraisers that we do throughout the year. We had agreed upon at a point that we were supposed to be getting paid the same amount as what Clinton City is, \$1,500 a month for the entirety of the time that they're there. R.J. and I have been back and forth via email discussing what was going on and that we

agreed that it should have been backdated and moved forward. The contract, for whatever reason, was supposed to be amended and sent to us. It wasn't amended and sent to us. I don't know why. I have no good reason. Maybe it was supposed to have been sent to us and we never received it. We did finally receive a copy that was amended. It's been signed and submitted, but we haven't had anything back yet. We are looking to receive back pay for that to cover expenses for the building or increase in utilities because beforehand our building was not occupied other than when we were there for a call. Now it is occupied 24/7 365 days a year. You have an increase in electricity that is substantial. We put in three new HVAC systems, one for each room, one for the living quarters there. Now that we have people occupying the building, you're going through more hot water. You're going through electricity, you're going through more gas from the cooking, which is all part of it. But we're looking for that \$1,500 to be all-inclusive to cover everything, including additional updates we've done to the building since then, repairs that have been involved with more use with the building, what was intended to start with.

Dunavan-Brent, I might add as well, this is tough for Misty and Bill because they weren't here, the other two commissioners are not here. But it was the intent of the former administration that this would be a very short-term solution and short-term has turned into 19 months in. So, this is a short-term fix for a long-term problem. I think Perrysville has stepped up immensely. I can't speak on behalf of the former administration where this contract got dropped, where it didn't get signed. I know there's emails that show me and Brent last year discussed that, but that was him following up from the previous year saying, "Where's it at?" There was nothing ever addressed. We had sent it back and forth and the other two commissioners had never addressed anything about it. I do feel for Perrysville, they stepped up at a time when this county needed them, if they hadn't had our ambulances, both would have been based out of Clinton. Where me and Bill live it would have been a 20-minute response time. Where Brent lives would have been a 30-minute response time. And if you lived up by I-74, you might as well call Fountain County or Warren County for that matter. Brent, I don't know if you have an exact number of the \$1500 in the 19 months because you can just times it by 19, but \$28,500. It would be my opinion that the board would recommend to approve this payment to Perrysville. Since we'll be going to the council asking for \$86,000, we might as well go before them and ask for a little more.

Hess-The \$28,500 and then you said the \$25,000 LIT money loss. So, is that an addition to that?

Brent- No,

Hess- you're just asking for the \$1,500 per month for 19 months.

Brent-Yes

Dunavan- I think Brent, correct me if I'm wrong. So, each year the county council's since I was on there in 2018, they have given \$50,000 to fire departments every year. So, with you guys stepping up, they agreed to forego half the money to go for that station because the idea was when they left you would have a renovated station that you could use as well. But their cost of stepping up was they had to forfeit some of that funding from the LIT tax.

Brent- Which has faulted us in further funding as far as air pack replacements. We were fortunate enough to apply for a grant receive a grant for that but now we're to the point where we have to replace other equipment turnout gear boots gloves. The cost of doing business in a fire department is excessive but necessary.

Dunavan-Commissioners, any other questions for Brent?

Hess-So you never received the contract?

Brent-The first one that we received was set for Clinton City. We asked that it be amended and returned and it was never amended and returned.

Hess-So you received the original contract without Perrysville being on there.

Brent- That's correct.

Dunavan-To follow up on that, just to clear that was last year when Brent had sent those emails to me. But again, this process had started the year prior with former administration. I had only started getting that stuff as I became president the next year and Brent was like, "Hey, where's this at? You know, it's been six months. I haven't seen anything." And that's when I reached out to Misty, John's executive assistant and paralegal and she had started that process of sending stuff too. But, again at that point it was 12 months too late you know 15 months too late. Without departments like Brent stepping up people in the northern end of this county 36 north would have had no ambulance coverage. Well could have had some but your response times would not have been what they were. The response time where it's set now I mean between the north and the south if you're in the center of the county is not ideal anymore. Yeah, but if you were anywhere from 36 on north, the response time would have increased drastically and that's not good for anybody in the county.

Hess- If we were to approve this tonight, this would catch us up and then we would have to pay additional months to come.

Brent-Yeah, that would be February. So, that would be through the end of this month.

Hess-This would be through the end of February.

Dunavan-Now, do you anticipate I was told John Graves and Julie Lanzone were anticipating the renovation to be complete by I think two weeks from now. I think mid-February.

Brent-It used to be. Nobody has communicated.

Dunavan-Let's say hypothetically we're out at the end of February. We would be a clean slate then.

Brent- Yeah. I mean, we can go that route, but for the contract, the way that it was written up, it's supposed to be 60 days' notice, at the minimum. But we can work with that.

Dunavan- What about if we get your full 28,000?

Brent- Yeah, if you do that, I mean, I have no issue with that. If you catch us up to where we are current, I don't think our administrative board would have any issues with it through the end of February. Then if it goes on from there, we can just add another as it goes month to month. That will work.

Ron Dunavan-But we would need \$29,200.

Dunavan- If you went if it went the extra

Ron Dunavan-No, if it went \$700, you already owe.

Dunavan- The \$700 needs cut now though. I think we can pay that out of the improvement fund I believe. If there's no other questions for Brent, I'll entertain a motion. Because we already approved the \$700, so this would just be for the \$28,000. Would you say \$28,500?

Hess- that's through the end of February.

Peebles-How'd you guys get stuck with paying for beds at Clinton?

Brent-Because we purchased them through an appliance and furniture place that offered us a very good deal on them. If we bought them as a whole one group, it was cheaper to go that route than it was to pay \$500, \$600 a piece for them. Trying to save the county some money.

Hess-I guess my only other question is, and not that I don't believe you, but like the auditor's office, have they made sure there wasn't a payment being put somewhere else versus just not paid.

Ron Dunavan- I made several attempts and Misty did too, trying to figure out contract to get the money going his way. I feel like Perrysville did step up. I mean they took \$25,000 of their own money renovated the building. It's been going on now for 19 months. We haven't paid a dime.

Hess- I just wanted to make sure. I'll make a motion that we would move forward the \$28,500.

Dunavan-I have a motion. Do I have a second?

Peebles-I'll second.

Dunavan- Second by Mr. Peebles. any further discussion?

Peebles- I want to see this resolved and I want to see it resolved the way that you have it, I wasn't there for those initial discussions and I don't know how it's going to work out. We're going to try.

All right. Hearing none. **All in favor, I motion carries**

- p. Peebles- Senate Bill 7. The day I went over and testified for Senate Bill 7. It passed the Committee. It went to the full Senate the next day for the full Senate to vote on. They amended that bill to state that this does not have anything to do with Wabash Valley Resources. That was the only way the full Senate would vote on it. I hope everybody understands that the three of us due to a bill that the governor signed last year have absolutely no say. That's what Senate Bill 7 amended was to give us back control of what goes on in our counties. So, I hope everybody understands that when the EPA, the Department of Energy, DNR, all those people get together, they just stomp on us little guys. So, it is what it is, I guess, at this point. It does not impact Wabash Valley Resources. It's their pilot project and man, they're going to see that thing go in. We are too. Every day it's a fight from 10 different directions. That's why we got a lawyer coming from 10 different directions. He's going to state we aren't letting this go.

X. Adjourn

Peebles makes motion adjourn the meeting

Hess seconds,

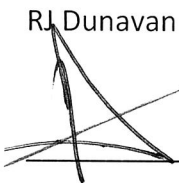
All in favor, motion carries.

AYE:

NYE:



RJ Dunavan



Misty Hess

William R. Peebles

William Peebles

ATTEST:

Ron Dunavan

Ron Dunavan, Auditor

