

Vermillion County Board of Commissioners

Meeting Minutes

Date: April 6th, 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 March 2, 2026

Hess Motion

Peebles Seconds

All in Favor, motion carried.

- V. Approval of Claims dated February 6, 13, 19, and 27, 2026.

Peebles Motion

Hess Seconds

All in Favor, Motion carried.

- VI. Approval of Payroll dated March 13 and 27, 2026.

Hess Motion

Peebles Seconds

All in Favor, Motion carried.

- VII. Public Comment:

- a. Surveyor, Ron Mack requested permission to leave the alignment of County Road 1800 South as currently located. Approval for additional compensation to contractor Jim Swift estimated \$150/hour for marking the road centerline.

Hess Motion

Peebles Seconds

All in Favor, Motion carried to allow the road to remain in its current location

Hess Motion

Peebles Seconds

All in Favor, Motion Carried to approve a not to exceed amount of \$1,200 for contractor services.

- b. Susan Strole-Kos spoke in support of extending the moratorium on CO2 storage (CCS) projects. Emphasized collaboration with Midwest states and concerns about cumulative impacts in the Illinois Basin. Noted risks of regional pressure buildup from multiple CCS projects. Urged broader, regional-level evaluation rather than single-project approvals.
- c. Doug Bohannon- raised concerns regarding a historical agreement with a mining company (Universal) to reconstruct a roadway approximately 3.5 miles in length. Alleged the agreement was not fulfilled following mining operations. Commissioners acknowledged the concern and agreed to review historical records.

- d. Inee Mahan- American Legion Post 108 (St. Bernice) Announced a 50/50 fundraising to support Vermillion County Veterans. Announced nomination process for annual “Of the Year” awards recognizing EMTs, law enforcement, and fire personnel.

VIII. Open Issues

- a. None

IX. New Business

- a. Town of Fairview Park- A request was presented for assignment of a tax sale certificate for a parcel identified as the Patrick Kent property. Discussion included the status of the property, noting multiple unsuccessful tax sale attempts and likely abandonment. It was noted that the Town of Fairview Park has performed cleanup efforts and intends to utilize the property for public purposes.

Peebles Motion

Hess seconds

All in Favor, Motion carried. To approve assignment of the tax sale certificate to the Town of Fairview Park

- b. **Read and sign Proclamation for Sexual Assault Awareness Month-** read on record.

Hess Motion

Peebles Seconds

All in Favor, Motion carried.

- c. **Attorney Agreement** – The Board reviewed an agreement between Vermillion County and Spurr Law Offices, P.C.

Peebles Motion

Hess Seconds

All in Favor, Motion carried.

- d. **Extension of Ordinance #2025-11** The Area Plan Commission requested a nine-month extension of the existing moratorium. It was noted that no changes were made to the ordinance since its prior amendment. The extension request was due to time constraints related to other planning matters.

Peebles Motion

Hess Seconds

All in Favor, Motion carried. To extend Ordinance #2025-11 for a period of nine-months.

- e. **Vermillion County APC-** Amendment to Unified Development Ordinance (UDO)- Section 5.69. Proposed amendment establishing temporary use and structure standards. Intended to address increase demand for temporary housing related to ongoing development projects. Developed in coordination with the Area Plan Commission and Health Department. One commissioner expressed concern regarding insufficient time for review but did not oppose the measure.

Hess Motion

Dunavan Seconds

Peebles Abstained, Motion carried. To approve amendment to UDO Section 5.69 as presented.

- f. **Levi Gossett requested to purchase property** 83-14-10-330-028.000-001 owned by the county for \$250. Property described as landlocked, unused, and in poor condition. Legal counsel recommended allowing time for additional public interest.

Matter tabled until May 4th Commissioner meeting to allow for public notice and potential competing offers.

- g. **Les Zimmerman- Vermillion Trail Easement and Quitclaim Deed.** Discussion regarding return of property previously transferred to facilitate a conservation easement modification and bridge construction. Project has received necessary permits following an extended approval process. Request made to return property to county ownership.

Commissioners approved, proceeding with preparation and execution of a quitclaim deed returning the property to the County.

- h. **Old National Bank- Change signers on the Lock Box.** Review of outdated signatories on a county-associated lockbox account. Current listed individuals are no longer affiliated with the County. Motion to designate RJ Dunavan and Jennifer Sloan as authorized signatories.

Hess Motion

Peebles Seconds

All in Favor, Motion carried

- i. **Highway capital improvement appropriation** request for \$800,000.00 to facilitate the purchase of three tandem trucks. Request previously reviewed and recommended by the Highway Board. Motion to approve submission of the additional appropriation to the County Council.

Hess Motion

Peebles Seconds

All in Favor, Motion carried.

- j. **Ordinance 2016-009 for discussion political signs.** Safety concerns with signs in rights-of-way. Plan to revise ordinance to include all county properties and parks.
- k. **Bruce Aukerman-**

Teen Court (formerly Peer Court) collaboration established with similar program in Vigo County. Initial cases have been successfully processed. Participation requires: Admission of wrongdoing, completion of community service, and jury participation in future sessions. Program currently operating with minimal cost to the county.

Truman House Program (Terre Haute) A residential recovery program for individuals with substance abuse issues was discussed. Noted for strong accountability measures and successful rehabilitation outcomes. Approximately 150+ referrals made historically. Prosecutor recommended future presentation from program representatives regarding potential funding support.

Circuit Court Judge Chris Wrede provided additional details: Program is voluntary and community-based. Helps prevent juveniles from acquiring permanent records. Involves attorneys serving as judges and structured sentencing (community service, participation requirements). Program in early stages locally but has a long track record of success in Vigo County.

- I. **Commissioner's Beef Raffle Drawing**- Conducted in partnership with Ellis Farms under a pasture lease agreement. Proceeds from \$20 application fees to be distributed to local nonprofits via commissioner grants. **Winner: Greg Cutrell.**

Deer and Turkey Hunting Lease Raffle- County-owned 70-acre parcel made available for hunting lease. Winner required to pay \$1,000 lease fee. Proceeds to be distributed to community organizations. **Winner: Cole West**

Countywide Cleanup Days- Scheduled for Friday and Saturday at designated highway garages. Residents encouraged to bag trash prior to disposal.

Victory Marathon/ 5K Event- Scheduled at Vermillion Rise Mega Park. County provided assistance with mowing and brush clearing along the race route.

X. **Ajourn**

Hess Motion

Pebbles Seconds

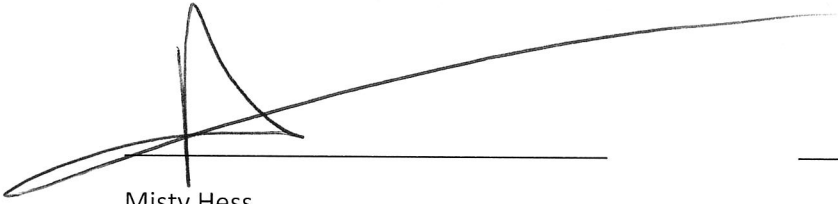
All in Favor, Motion carried.

AYE:

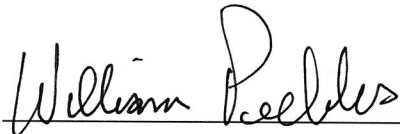
NYE:



RJ Dunavan

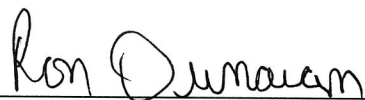


Misty Hess



William Peebles

ATTEST:



Ron Dunavan, Auditor