

**RE: Bridge Inspection Proposals
Bridge 85 Bids
Take home Vehicle Policy
Public Internet Access
Keeling Inc.
EOC Grant
LCC Grant
Petition to Vacate Sycamore St by George F. Royal III
CSEPP/State funding
NIMS Resolution
County road repairs near Duke & Premier Boxboard
Ambulance Intermediate classes**

Minutes-Vermillion County Commissioners September 5, 2006

The Vermillion County Commissioners met in the Commissioners Courtroom, Courthouse, Newport, Indiana.

President, Tim Wilson called the meeting to order and led in the Pledge to the Flag.

Roll call was taken: Present were President Tim Wilson, and Dennis Marietta. Also present were Attorney Jon Spurr, and Deputy Auditor Amy Tolbert.

A motion to approve the minutes of the August 1, 2006 meeting was made by Dennis Marietta and seconded by Tim Wilson.

Unfinished Business

Bridge Inspection Proposals. Highway Superintendent Bill Clark recommended that they stay with who they already have which is Farrar Garvey. Commissioner Tim Wilson made the motion to accept, seconded by Commissioner Dennis Marietta.

Bridge 85 Bids. Commissioner Wilson gave Highway Superintendent Bill Clark the bid to look over and said they would discuss it at the end of the meeting.

Take Home Vehicle Policy. Commissioner Marietta read from the hand out given to them. The hand out was in regards to the use of Vermillion County owned or leased vehicles and equipment. There are three different areas where county employees use vehicles.

Vermillion County Highway Department, One take home vehicle to be assigned to the Highway Superintendent to be used for job related duties only.

One take home vehicle to be assigned to each district foreman to be used for job related duties only. All other county owned vehicles assigned to the Vermillion County Highway Department should be kept and maintained at the designated District Highway Department Garage.

Vermillion County Sheriffs department, one take home police vehicle to be assigned to all full time merit deputies. Vehicles which are assigned to full time merit deputies, when being used for non job related duties will have restricted travel area not to exceed the counties which immediately surround Vermillion County. All other county owned vehicles assigned to the Vermillion County Sheriffs Department should be kept and maintained at the Vermillion County jail when not being used for county business or at a location approved by the Board of Commissioners.

Vermillion County Parks Department. One take home vehicle should be assigned to the Vermillion County Parks Department Superintendent to be used for job related duties only.

Any use of a Vermillion County owned or leased vehicle that is not job related, must be approved by the Board of Commissioners in a public meeting. The Board of Commissioners may require any agreement to be reduced to writing signed by the commissioners and kept in the Auditors office as a public record. Commissioner Marietta made a motion to accept the policy as written, seconded by Commissioner Wilson. Attorney Jon Spurr will send out copies to all departments.

Public Internet Access. Attorney Malcolm Aukerman stated the the board that was formed at the last meeting had made some calls in reference to different services available. He had some information available in the form of a handout that he gave to the commissioners. He said in addition to contacting Manatron, they contacted some of the end users. He contacted Newton County, which is similar in population to Vermillion County and the Assessor said it was the best thing the county has ever done. They have had their systems about two years. They stated that their cost is \$300.00 a month and that includes on line services available to the public. The Newton County Assessor said that before they got this system, they were getting 50-75 requests from realtors, appraisers, attorneys, etc. Attorney Aukerman has been in contact with Manatron reference the costs of doing this. Commissioner Marietta suggested they invite a Manatron representative to the next meeting to discuss the options available.

A representative for Keeling was not present to discuss the issue of the tower on the courthouse for Internet access.

Ed Cole, executive director of the Vermillion County Economic Development council. He was present to inform the Commissioners that he was working with a group that has looked at a county wide sanitation district, and what they are interested in doing is apply for a community focus fund grant, a federal grant. It is his understanding that when you apply for these types of grants you normally get between thirty to fifty thousand. He is working on getting an

application together. This is at no cost to the county; they just want the county to sponsor the grant. Commissioner Wilson said he had no problems with doing that, to go ahead and proceed.

New Business

The Newport Lions Club would like to use courthouse lawn to set their booths on for the Hill Climb, and local non-for profit groups. The Newport Fire Department, in order to handle traffic would like to block a few roads coming into Newport on that weekend. These groups are asking permission, as they do every year. Commissioner Wilson made a motion to accept, seconded by Commissioner Marietta. Also, they received a letter for the Newport Church of God to use the Auditorium for their chicken noodle dinner on Friday and Saturday of the Hill Climb. It was stated that has always been done in the past as well. Commissioner Marietta made a motion to accept, seconded by Commissioner Wilson. The president of the Newport Lions Club was present to thank the Commissioner for their past, present and future help during the Hill climb.

Patty Spurr with the LCC was present to state that they have approved grants for North and South Vermillion School Corporation, for \$3500.00 each. These grants are for prevention activities for the schools. They also have an approved grant for \$5000.00 for the prosecutor's office to be matching funds for a grant they are getting to provide for a full time drug enforcement officer. They are asking permission to transfer the funds. She stated that she also included her budget for the Commissioners to see where the money is going and a letter from the Governors Commission that approved their plan and a copy of the plan. Commissioner Wilson made a motion to allow, seconded by Marietta and stated his appreciation for the work the LCC does.

Petition to vacate Sycamore Street by George F. Royal III. Mr. Royal stated that he wants to vacate a part of a county road that has not been in existence for a long time. He stated that he owns both sides of the road and that the only one who owns property behind it is Jeff Sisson. Mr. Royal stated that Mr. Sisson vacated his lots to agriculture recently. Mr. Royal stated that the neighbors are all family and have access to Mr. Sisson property through their own property. There is no reason for anyone to come down the road by his house. He stated that the road goes nowhere, and stops at a fencerow on the west side of his property line. Mr. Royal stated that he has had nothing but problems and he is tired of it. He does not see any need for it to be open, the county has no need to go back there, and basically it's a driveway for both houses on that road. Mr. Royal brought pictures and maps for the Commissioners to look at. Mr. Royal stated that there are people, animals and 4-wheelers constantly parading down this road. He said he is not trying to cut them off from Mr. Sisson's property in the back; they have access from their own properties. There is no reason for everyone to come down in front of his house. He stated some concerns with people being around his pond and getting hurt. There was some discussion in reference to Mark Uselman who

owns a house next to Mr. Royals on this same road. The Commissioners stated that was a personal matter and only want to hear the facts and about the petition to vacate. The Commissioners stated that they have received 7 letters of opposition about this matter, from neighbors and the Clinton Twp Fire Department. Mark Uselman was present, who resides on 529 W Sycamore Lane. Mr. Uselman owns lots 24,25 and 26. Mr. Royal wants to only vacate the portion of the road next to lot 23, which is what he owns. He does not want to vacate the rest of the road that Mr. Uselman lives on. Mr. Uselman stated that he maintains the road, with black top and white rock. He installed county culvert and also maintains it. Mark Uselman asked why he wasn't notified by certified letter of this closing. Mr. Royal stated that he did not want to close the road by Mr. Uselman's property, only the portion by the property that he owns. Mr. Uselman brought some pictures to show the Commissioners to make his point. Mr. Uselman said he uses the road 300 days a year. He doesn't feel it will be a hindrance to the county by not shutting it down. Mr. Uselman said he called John Koma and that it was in fact a county road. Donna Royal, who has lived there for 10 years, and that the road in question is actually a dead end, and that there is no way for them to get through to the property in question. She said they have created a little path that slides down into their yard to get their quads through. Mr. Royal said his concern was not whether it was a county road; his concern is that someone is going to get hurt and he is going to get blamed for it. Mr. Uselman stated that the Sisson's have 250 acres and that Sycamore Lane is the only county road accessible to the property. Mrs. Royal stated its not accessible, it's a dead end. Mr. Uselman stated that now it's only used for recreational use but some day, they might want to build homes and would need that road for access. Mrs. Royal said its not zoned for a park, Mr. Uselman said it's not a park. Mr. Uselman said it's been a road for 35 plus years and sees no reason why to change it now. Mr. Royal said the road narrows and ends in his pond. The corner is eroded and the road stops and you can't get through. The Commissioners decided that they needed to go look at the property in person before they can make any decisions. Mr. Royal stated that he would like to know when the Commissioners would come out there; he would like to be there and get an attorney, or whatever he needs to do. Commissioner Marietta said it's their county road and they can come back there and look at it whenever they want to. It was decided to table this matter until the next meeting.

Bridge 85 Bids. They received 1 bid from White's. Commissioner Wilson made a motion to accept the bid, seconded by Commissioner Marietta.

Raymond Columbo was present and stated that about a month ago he received a letter from the state of Indiana saying that they had paid for some work that was done, but it was paid past the time period that was allotted to get the work done and pay the bill. What has happened, according to Columbo is that CSEPP asked for funding in 2005 that was rejected by FEMA, but they then found some 2003 money and put that back in 2005 budget. Normally if you get funds in 2005 you have until the end of 2006 to do the project and pay the bill. Since it was 2003 money, they only had until the end of 2005 to pay the bill.

Columbo said Mary did not realize that, got the work done and didn't get the invoice until around April of 2006, which is when the bill was paid. Now the state is saying they want the county to reimburse the stated \$16,000.00. Commissioner Marietta asked if the work was done, and Columbo said yes. Columbo then apologized and stated that in 18 years with the CSEPP program, this has never occurred. Columbo stated that the state is actually asking for more than the \$16,000.00 but that CSEPP has some of the money needed. Commissioner Marietta said as far as he is concerned, they paid for the work, it's done. Columbo said that the problem is that the state won't release any more funding to the county unless the county agrees to this. Commissioner Wilson said that the state said they wouldn't release any more funding to the county unless they took care of the sign issue. They did take care of the issue, but they still don't have funding. He said is not going to play games with them. They can take their money. The plant still sits in this county. Commissioner Wilson said that someone is going to meet them on the 12th and maybe he could explain it to them. Columbo said he talked to FEMA and they said it's up to the state. The money goes from FEMA to the state to the counties. Commissioner Wilson said he has received nothing but praise for the use of the signs. Joanie Kanizer stated that she thought the use of the signs really helped the traffic control during the Little Italy Festival. She too has heard nothing but praise for the signs.

Clerk Martha Padish asked if anyone was present from Keeling Inc. No, there wasn't. She said she agrees with Attorney Aukerman on being able to make the records public via the Internet. She feels that there is some confusion over the interment service and the public access. She said she is against going with the new Internet provider, namely Keeling and the tower they want to place on top of the courthouse. She is for the software that will allow the public to view records here at the courthouse.

Commissioner Wilson said they have a resolution from the National Incident Management Systems (NIMS). This is to simplify the language spoken on the airwaves for the Sheriff department, fire departments etc. Instead of running codes, it will be real life talking. Commissioner Wilson said this is the first reading, they will leave a copy with the Auditors office in case anyone wants to read it.

Mike Craig wanted to comment on the closing a couple of weeks ago on 200 N and 300 E, to repair the railroad crossings. He wanted to compliment the work done, everyone from the county to the sheriff's department. He feels that Duke Energy or Premier Boxboard creates 99 percent of the traffic and tonnage that's hauled on those county roads and that they should absorb some of the costs for repairs of these roads. He also feels that Economic Development would want to maintain the infrastructure of that area.

Joanie Kanizer spoke up to thank Commissioner Wilson for getting her the information she needed on the Intermediate Ambulance classes. She questioned how the program was sanctioned with the state. Commissioner Wilson is going to look into this as well. Mrs. Kanizer would also like to know that if they could get some funding for others to take the class, would the County support it. Commissioner Wilson said yes if they could find the funds.

Tim Wilson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dennis Marietta .

Read in full and approved by the Vermillion County Commissioners on the 3rd day of October 2006.

Attest: _____
Sherrie A. Koma, Auditor