

RE: 911 Director
Courthouse doors, magnetic card readers
07 Health Insurance
Patty Spurr, LCC
County Garage Construction
Eugene & Vermillion Twp Advisory Board
Ordinance-1300 S water lines
Equipment –EOC-Ramon Columbo
Inmate Medical Program
Courthouse closing Policies
Complaints about 200 N & 300 E

Minutes-Vermillion County Commissioners January 9, 2007

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, Harry Crossley and Kim Hawkins. Also present were Attorney Jon Spurr, Auditor Sherrie Koma and Deputy Auditor Amy Tolbert.

A motion to approve the minutes of the December 5, 2006 meeting was made by Harry Crossley, seconded by Kim Hawkins.

Wilson asked Sheriff Bob Spence if he would continue on as the 911 director. It would save money since there will be no salary involved. Wilson said he could hire out help when needed. Spence said he would accept it on a temporary basis. Crossley made a motion to accept, seconded by Hawkins.

New Business

Ron Stateler was present and said that the new boxes on the outside of the main doors are a magnet opener and closer where you will have to use a key, like a hotel room. He said this new system is a little bit more secure. Stateler said there have been some questions brought up and they will need some direction from the Commissioners on how to proceed. What time do they want the doors to open and close? Who will be in charge? Who all should have keys? Stateler said right now everyone has keys to get in and out and do they want to continue that. Stateler said he spoke with several counties to gain some information on how they operate but ultimately it is up to the Commissioners to decide what they want. Stateler said the computer will record who uses their key and when. Crossley said the Fire Department will have to have a key and Stateler said yes they should and it is up to the Commissioners who gets keys. Stateler said everyone would keep their keys to their offices; the magnetic cards are just for the 3 outside doors. Stateler said the computer would be set up downstairs. Hawkins asked if it could be used to keep track of employee's time and Stateler said no because the doors will be opening automatically at a certain time. Wilson asked if that would cause a problem on meeting nights and Stateler said no, the doors could be programmed to open at a certain time on those nights. Stateler said that with this new system there will be a button on the inside that will allow you to leave after the doors have locked. Stateler also said if you come to the courthouse after hours, the door automatically locks behind you. He said the system should be up around February 1st to start testing it so they need to know times to open and close. The Commissioners decided to open the west doors at 7:00 a.m. and the other two at 7:30 and they will lock at 4:15. Stateler said if it doesn't work out we can go in and reprogram it. The Commissioners also decided that all office holders will get

cards, the three commissioners and the council will get cards. Hawkins asked who funded the new system and Stateler said the Department of Homeland Security Grant. Columbo said they do have approval for putting bars over the glass in the Courthouse but he has not seen any money yet. Wilson asked if the cameras were up and running and Stateler said yes they were and the recording system is in the judges office. The cameras are in the main hallways and one in the Treasurers office.

2007 Health Insurance. Wilson told Koma that she needs to advertise for proposals.

Patty Spurr with LCC said she had some mini grant proposals that need the Commissioners final approval. Higher ground Ministries to purchase door prizes for their free movie night, Children of Promise to purchase a video series for children whose parents are incarcerated, North Vermillion Post Prom, and a grant to do a program for two school groups. All together it is \$3260.00. Spurr said this is at no cost to the county. Crossley made a motion to accept, seconded by Hawkins.

Mike Craig had a question in regards to Health Insurance. He said that Vermillion County Illinois is going self-insured and he hoped that some in our county is paying attention to what is going on over there to see how that program pans out. He said it has been in the Commercial News for the past two weeks.

County Garage Construction. Hawkins said he has inherited the Newport Garage Construction Project and he has been trying to get updated on it. Hawkins said on June 6 the previous Commissioners approved \$77929.00 to Swinford Construction to build a new County garage. The specs that they bid have been complied with as far as what they originally bid, but that doesn't finish the building off. Hawkins said he and John Koma met with Rick and Leland Swinford last week, at the construction site, and they told them that they had sent in plans to complete the garage. Hawkins said he checked with Marilyn Love with the plan review at Homeland Security, and they haven't received any of the permits. Nothing has been released yet as far as building. Hawkins said he spoke with Dave Marietta and they were up to about \$136,000.00 right now. Hawkins said he would like to put a hold on the building until we can set down with everyone, Swinford and John Koma, and he would like to receive a release from the State for mechanical, electrical, HVAC, and septic system. Hawkins wants all the permits before we proceed along with the exact cost of what it would take to finish the building. Wilson made a motion that we put a stop to the construction, seconded by Crossley. Hawkins said, according to Dave Marietta what was agreed to was \$130,229.96 but there is not record to who agreed to that.

Eugene and Vermillion Township had a seat that no one applied for, according to the Clerk. If no one applies then it is up to the Commissioners to appoint someone. Rhonda Arrasmith is interested in Eugene. Wilson said he would like to attain a motion to appoint her the Eugene Twp Advisory Board, seconded by Hawkins. The second vacancy is in Vermillion Twp and they will need to advertise it.

New Ordinance put in to effect but Spurr had the wrong road on the ordinance, it was supposed to read that it crosses 1300 S and run to the East. Spurr had it going on Rangeline Road. The rest of the Ordinance is ok and Crossley would like to go ahead and make a motion with the changes going to be made and signed tomorrow so the people can get started running their water lines. Crossley made the motion, seconded by Wilson.

Ramon Columbo stated that the Army is saying that the VX will be gone by July 2008. Columbo said that we need to come up with a close out plan in regards to the radios, sirens, etc. He said the Commissioners really need to come up with a plan on what to do with this equipment. He suggested that they let the law enforcement, etc, keep their radios and maintain them their selves. It would be at

no expense to the County. He suggested the sirens be left in place but the county would be responsible, except for those in city/town limits. There is also decon trucks, trailers, the EOC, pagers, etc, a lot of equipment that Columbo feels we cant maintain as a County but each Department could do it on their own. He said it is all good equipment and the Government doesn't want it back. Wilson suggested we get all Coordinators together and discuss the inventory and make a recommendation. Hawkins asked what the cost was to maintain the sirens and Columbo said he was not sure. Hawkins said the radios are \$50,000.00 per year to maintain and that is a lot of money for the County to absorb. Columbo said but if it is split up per town, department, group then it shouldn't be that much. Columbo said the sirens are all solar powdered so there is no cost for electricity. Columbo said he will get the maintenance costs for all the equipment together and have it ready for the meeting.

Sheriff Bob Spence said that before Kim Hawkins went out, he had talked to a company in regards to Inmate Health Care. He said the program was introduced to the County Council and they reviewed it but it boils down to the fact that the Commissioners need to approve it pending funding from the Council. Spence said \$35,000.00 is budgeted for Inmate Health Care and last year \$81,000.00 was the total cost. Spence said one of the options that the Company offered will cost \$68,000.00 and they take care of all medical expenses for the County. The contract includes an in house nurse for 20 hours a week and doctor on call at all times. The doctor would be in 1 hour each week. Spence wanted to stress that the jailers are not Health Care providers. Spence also stressed that in a Emergency, the ambulance will still be called to provided emergency care. Mike Craig asked if there was a base number of inmates on this contract and Spence said no, this company covers several states and that helps offset the costs. Hawkins said that if the inmate count would drop down then the price would also go down. Spence said the goal is to eliminate the unknown, how much money will be spent each year on medical coverage. This program will let you know exactly how much will be spent per year. Spence said that Parke County has a similar program and someone suggested he look into their costs and meet with the Commissioners next month. Hawkins said the company takes all responsibility and that is a good thing. Spence said he wanted to at least introduce it to the Commissioners. Someone asked if the price included and vision and dental. Spence said it does not include vision, they are not required by law as a county to provide eye care unless it is an emergency injury. The Dental policy basically says that if a tooth is bad it comes out. They do not fill cavities. Jerry Hawkins said that with this company you are looking at 50,000.00 to 60,000.00 additional appropriation, and with out it about \$80,000.00 to 100,000.00 additional. The company will allow monthly payments, so it helps with cash flow.

Larry Langley asked that if the Zoning Meeting needs moved to the Auditorium, does he need to get permission from the Commissioners? Wilson said no. Langley said he is not sure at this time, they anticipate a big crowd, but need to record the meeting so they will more than likely keep it in the Commissioners Court Room.

Mike Craig wanted to know why the Courthouse was closed last week. Wilson said for Gerald Ford's Funeral. Craig said he understood that but why was the State working, banks open and all businesses in Vermillion County were open except the Courthouse. Wilson said that was a decision we made. He said he got a call from the Clerk's office and that the postal service had called her and said all Federal departments were going to be closed. He told her she needs to see what the Judge wants to do, to see if he has any cases and the Judge came back and recommended we close. Wilson said he was always told that if a judge makes a recommendation we were to honor it. Craig wanted to know if they have ever heard the concept of the peoples house. He said this (the courthouse) is truly the peoples house and its here to conduct the peoples business and to close just on the word of the Clerk or the Judge is not right. He thinks the Commissioners should make those types of decisions. Wilson said they did have the final decision. Craig thinks that when the banks, the businesses and State are open then the County should be too. Wilson said everyone is entitled to his or her own opinion. Craig

said he appreciates that and as a tax payer that is what he is saying. Wilson said he is a taxpayer too and Craig agreed but added that he was in a different position, you're an elected official, a Commissioner. Wilson said but it was the President of the Country at one time. Craig said he is just saying he thinks the Courthouse should have been open. Hawkins asked if the Federal Government was next on his agenda, because they closed. Craig said he has no control over the Federal Government and Hawkins said he was a taxpayer and Craig agreed and said he was a resident of Vermillion County. Hawkins said but you're also a resident of the United States. Hawkins said it is a minute thing to argue about, you've voiced your opinion. Craig asked if he believed that people have the right to address their elected official and Hawkins said that is what he has done. Wilson said they would take it under advisement next time it comes up. Hawkins said that he did not vote on it, he was not here at that time. Craig said he just wanted to state that he thought the Courthouse should have been open.

Craig asked if Spence said he was going to do the 911 job for free and Wilson said yes, temporarily. Craig wanted to know what that meant. Wilson said they have 911 Board and will discuss it with them before making a decision on whether to hire someone and who. Wilson said the jobs are appointed and it is not tax payers money and they have had 2 apply for the job. Craig questioned how someone puts in an application for something that was never advertised.

Craig said he has made several complaints about 200 N and 300 E. Craig said there are some serious structural problems on those roads. Craig also said he reported some dumped concrete along the road two months ago and it is still there. Craig asked that Hawkins take a look at those two roads.

Tim Wilson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Tim Wilson

Read in full and approved by the Vermillion County Commissioners on the 6th of February, 2007.

Attest: _____
Sherrie A. Koma, Auditor