

RE: Health Insurance
Zoning Administrator
Tax Board
Manatron –new program proposal
Depot Severance Pay
County Auction
Snow Disaster money
Medical Leave
Highway Garage District II
County Property-land

Minutes-Vermillion County Commissioners April 3, 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, and Deputy Auditor Amy Tolbert.

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 6, 2007 meeting was made by Crossley, seconded by Hawkins.

Unfinished Business

Insurance. Spurr said he looked over both plans and tried to give them a side-by-side breakdown of the two of them. Wilson said Miles & Finch's annual premium was \$1,073,185.00 and Davis was \$1,296,169.80. Hawkins asked if we were going to discuss looking into hiring a Broker. Wilson said we should probably take proposals. Dirk Davis asked Spurr if he got the second proposal they submitted and Spurr said he got the faxes that were dropped off. Davis said he dropped some more information off to his secretary. Spurr said he had the proposals that were given to him at the last meeting. Davis said they ended up with better rates and he dropped one off to Wilson and Hawkins after they got the extra information and better rates. Davis gave them new handouts with the new information. There was some confusion as to what the new quote was. Wilson said the new quote is \$1,054,260.00. Hawkins suggested Davis explain the new quotes to them. Davis said he didn't mention it at the last meeting but the life insurance is included. Davis said he would let Joe Hurlee explain it to them. Hurlee said basically the monthly fixed cost is \$21,840.00 and you would put into your bank account each month \$82,460.00. That is your money and that is what we pay claims out of. Whatever is left at the end of the year is your money. Hurlee said they use what they call a Rolling Ag, the maximum that the insurance company could charge you at any given month. He said you save approximately \$200,000.00 with this plan. Hurlee said you had a good year and you got a discount but just how good of year did you really have? He said the company probably made close to \$400,000.00 off of you. He said here you have a chance to recoup that money and still receive some of that money to reserve for future use. Hurlee said that is what they want to do, show them how to build a reserve account and get things under control. He said the worst-case scenario you would have to have about 34 employees to get over the \$30,000.00 in claims per employee and last year you only had 1 person go over that amount. He said it's a blend of self-insured but has a lot of safety nets that fully insured has. On a self insured plan you have to sign contracts that you lock in for a year but with this plan you can get out at any time if you don't like it like a fully insured plan. It is also set up with the Indiana Department of Insurance. Davis said there is a lot of flexibility with this plan. He said this is a fully insured contract it's not self-

funded. It's a reimbursable contract. We pay the claims, you reimburse us. Davis said they wanted to show it last year but the claims weren't good enough. Hawkins asked what happens if we have a bad year and Hurlee said you would pay the same amount of dollars but you would pay with consumer life, or anthem. You would have the same loss experience and the same rate increases. He said out of 5 years you are going to have 1 or 2 years that are really bad. Hurlee said they have helped a lot of businesses and counties create a reserve account and as that account builds up you pay out of it. Hawkins said he agrees with Councilman Hawkins when he brought up the fact about either looking into a broker or a committee. Hurlee said you had an exceptionally great year and that is a good time to look at moving. He said if you pay the same amount to them you have a shot at receiving more money back at the end of the year because you didn't need it. He said he looked at their loss experience and it was just over a little over 50%. He said if you look at how much money you paid last year and you paid out 50% in claims, what was the profit area with the company. He said they are waiting on you to have bad year so they can get the profit. With this company you would be saving that difference. He said instead of sending it all to the insurance company, he trying to teach them to keep some of it in their own hands. We will protect you. It works the same way as what you have right now. Pierre Fox said he wasn't aware that the deadline had been changed. Davis said he mentioned at the meeting that they were still compiling information and they are trying the best they can. Fox said maybe they could propose a different option if needed. Fox also said the reaction to the amount of claims, your loss ratio is not as good as they are making it out to believe because this is the first year under Consumer's life. When you start with and Insurance Company, claims don't roll in for another month or two after the beginning of the insurance period because there is a billing lag between the doctors and the hospitals. Fox said your loss ratio is really closer to 75% not 50%. That 50% is based off of 6 months of claims and there is 12 months in a year and you have even 2 more months of lag. The point is making a self funded contract... Hurlee said its not a self funded contract, it's a fully insured contract and yes you had 6 or 7 months worth of claims, it happens with any carrier you are going to, there is a time of lag in rollover. Wilson said we just need to decide what we are going to do; we need to go with one or the other. He did suggest we look into a broker who can go out next year and put something together. Wilson asked Jerry Hawkins if the Council had the funds to pay the self-funded option. He said they pay it anyway. Kim Hawkins said instead of paying the premiums you would pay the company. Wilson asked him if he thought the Council would be interested in hiring a broker. Jerry Hawkins said he was absolutely sure they would. Kim Hawkins thought that they have to go with the original proposals that were submitted by the deadline. He thinks Davis' plan merits a real hard look and maybe that is something a broker could look into next year. Hawkins said the only complaint with Miles & Finch is that he would like to see improvement on communicating. Employees have complained about getting through to the right person when calling in. Hawkins made a motion to stay with Miles & Finch, seconded by Crossley. Crossley said are we going to advertise for a broker for next year. Wilson said we would take proposals for a broker. Hawkins asked if that was they way we wanted to go or did we want to form a committee? Hawkins suggested a joint meeting with the Council to discuss it further. Wilson said they would meet with the Council at 7 pm on May 1, before the Commissioners regular meeting.

Zoning Administrator Position. Wilson asked Spurr what we were going to do about this position. Spurr said he is suspended without pay, you can leave him suspended without pay until he comes up for reappointment, you can let him go but your only risk is that he is currently charged with a crime and if he would get an acquittal then you could have a problem there. Spurr said Ann Smith is running the office now and you could use that money elsewhere if you leave him suspended without pay. Wilson said that Smith said she needed some inspections made. Wilson said maybe we need to advertise for someone to do the inspections and pay them so much an inspection. Crossley asked if he had anyone in mind, she needs someone now. Wilson said he gave her a couple of names but it needs to be advertised. Wilson said they should let Smith continue to run the office and

then just have someone do inspections only when needed, they would not be in the office at all. Hawkins asked if someone had to sign off on the permits once approved and Smith said she has for 7 years, she has issued building permits since 2000. Hawkins said basically we just need someone to do the actual inspection. Spurr said its up to the Commissioners what they want to do. Do they want to fire Koma and fill his position...Wilson said why don't they do away with that position, save that money and hire someone to do the inspections as they come in? They would save money on insurance, and a salary. Wilson said that Koma himself said there is not enough work there for 2 people. Wilson said McIntosh from Perrysville has experience and they could find someone in the South end and use him or her as needed. We could pay them \$25, \$30 or even \$40.00 an inspection and we would still be money ahead. Hawkins asked Smith if that would work. She said it would work if the Area Plan Commission would agree to do the plan reviews. She said she has no problem running the office, she can take care of most everything that comes up but she has no concept when it comes to looking at a plan review. She said for instance with the Ethanol Plants, she would need a committee of people to look at that plan to make sure it is ok. Crossley asked if she could handle the job herself and do away with the secretary job? Smith said they couldn't legally do away with the secretary job because they have to have it but she could do both. She said she is the one that has kept the records in the office so other than making a judgment call every once in a while, there isn't anything to do that she hasn't already done. Wilson said we need to advertise for someone or a couple of people to do building inspections. Hawkins stated that Zoning is an important job. There was some discussion as to the job description and if they state had any requirements. Smith said she is sure there are requirements and will find out what they are. Wilson suggested she have her board advertise for an inspector and then they will make a decision. Smith said there is a provision in the ordinance that says if the building commissioner needs technical advise it can be hired. Wilson said he makes a motion to have Smith have the board advertise for an inspector, seconded by Crossley.

New Business

Appointment to Tax Board. Wilson said they have 4 applicants and they need to hire a democrat and a republican. Crossley said one applicant leaves in Fountain County so they need to re-advertise for that. Crossley made a motion to appoint Kathleen Clark (Republican) and Betty Rayce (Democrat) to the Tax Board, seconded by Wilson.

Manatron-Tim Lacey. Lacey said he was here last month and spoke in regards to an e-government application that would allow putting the Auditor, Treasurer, Assessor, and Records information on-line. He then offered to come back and give a demonstration. He passed out information in regards to the pricing and said he would discuss that after his presentation.

The first thing he spoke about is the Property Max application. This allows the information in the Assessor's office from the Proval data base to be published on the web so that the general public and researchers can use this information. Lacey was connected to the Internet and demonstrated how to use the website with Orange County's website. He said the website is customizable. He said you can search the site by Name, addresses, parcel number or by sales within the county. The search will give you the same information that the Assessor has. Lacey said you can also get a snapshot of the property record card just as if you would walk into the Assessors office and request one. Wilson asked if there was a cost involved for people to access this site. Lacey said Orange County does not charge a fee. He said Lake County offers the snapshot for free, but the details require subscribing, paying a monthly fee. It's all handle on-line via credit card.

The next application is the Collect Max application. He used Parke County's site as an example and Lacey stated they are a new user so it is not fully functioning at this time. Lacey said this site works primarily the same as the last, where you search for the information. Lacey said this site actually goes out from the computer, to their server farm and then back to the county, where it will access the counties data base and return the most current information. He said you are

not going to be looking at old data; you're looking at data from 15-20 seconds ago. Lacey said this site would offer all the tax information such as assessments, deductions, etc. Lacey said that this site would also offer on-line payments of the taxes. Lacey said if you make your payment right now and then go back a minute later, that payment will show up on the website. He said the funds collected are transferred to the county's account within 48 hours. Wilson asked if the one time fee of \$18,000.00 was a set-up fee and Lacey said yes and it covers all 3 applications. Wilson asked if the \$31,500.00 was a yearly fee and Lacey said yes and that it also includes the GIS site, which all these applications will link to. The GIS itself costs around \$25,00, so you would only be paying about \$6,000.00 more to get the 3 applications.

Lacey said the third application is the Record Max and he used a site from Michigan as an example. Lacey said some recorders have elected to publish the images and others have not. Lacey said again, you can search for property and it will give the details of what is recorded. Lacey said if you elect to put the images up then they will put in place a fee that researchers would have to pay to get those images.

Lacey said the last thing he wanted to discuss was Microsoft Exchange Hosting, which is included in the pricing already. Lacey said this allows the employees to have Outlook installed on their PC's. They will have the full function of Outlook. It has a calendar feature that can be used by everyone. Lacey said you could access the email from your home as well using the Internet.

Mike Phelps said he received some information from Bobette at the EOC for a grant from the Indiana Department of Homeland Security. The State is requiring the 911 maps and the GIS map to be put together in order to qualify for this grant. Phelps thinks we have everything and suggests we look into to because it will probably pay the initial costs or close to it. Lacey said he wanted to make it clear that they will not resale the counties data for any reason. He said there are companies that have contracts giving them the rights to resale the data but they do not. Wilson said if we go with these programs then we just need to come up with an \$6,00.00 because the GIS is included. Lacey said he knows of other counties getting that grant and believes it is around \$17,000.00. Phelps said he would look into and see what is needed to see if this is something we could be eligible for. Wilson asked if we were to proceed with it could we then get reimbursed and Phelps wasn't sure and that is something he is going research. Columbo said you have to wait until it's approved. Wilson said he thinks we should go with this, but first see if we can get the grant.

Recorder Porter asked if the Office holders going to have any say so in how much of this is done and Lacey said yes. Porter said she thought they would have been approached first. Lacey said he was under the assumption that you had already been approached and Porter said no, she read it in the paper. Lacey said he thought there was a committee put together to research it and Wilson said yes there was. Lacey said they would work with the offices to put up as little or as much as they want. Wilson asked Jerry Hawkins if he thought the council would pay the difference if they get the grant. Jerry Hawkins said he thought so; he understands there is a great need for this. He said that the council doesn't have a good understanding of the services Manatron offers and suggest he discuss it with them as well. Lacey said he would be happy to come to council meeting and explain it to them. There was some discussion as to offices losing some fees and Lacey they wouldn't necessarily have to. Its up to the Commissioners and office holders what is put on the site and what requires a fee. He said their goal is not to take any fees from the offices. Porter said it doesn't make any sense to put their images on line because they only have 3 years indexed. Lacey asked if the had their images backed up on microfilm and Porter said yes. Phelps said they can be scanned in and Lacey said there are companies that will do it for them. Phelps said they have their own scanner now. Crossley made a motion to table the issue until they find out about the grant.

Columbo said Fema has allowed the counties to pass and ordinance that would allow severance pay be awarded to its employees at the end of the program at the Depot. He said he got together with Attorney Spurr and came up with and ordinance. He said it's at no cost to the county. He said it's just a way to keep

people on board until the end. Columbo said they wont fund it unless we have an ordinance in place. Columbo said you have to be employed at least 2 years and you have to stay until the end. Columbo thinks it will be about a year and half before it's all said and done. The projected day is September 2008. Hawkins asked where we were at on the close out costs of the equipment and Columbo said he is going to have a meeting in May with the Commissioners, the Council and the State. The Commissioners will have to decide if they want to keep the equipment. He suggest the sirens be left in place and let the communities take them over. Hawkins asked if the Fire Departments would absorb the costs to keep their equipment and Columbo said yes. He said the State has some grants to help the Departments pay for maintenance. Columbo said its county equipment but if they release it to the towns then they wont be responsible for it the towns will. Wilson asked Columbo when he needed an answer and he said as soon as possible. Hawkins suggested at the next meeting and Columbo requested it sooner because he has a meeting at the end of this month. Columbo said next month would be okay and Wilson said it would need to be advertised before the meeting.

Wilson said the Auction has been set for the 28th of this month.

Crossley said Bill Clark met with the State and are getting back \$21,000.00 back for the 48-hour snow disaster we had.

Jerry Hawkins said he would like to volunteer and ask permission to write a request for proposals where you might seek and insurance consultant and he will get it to Spurr to look at.

Mike Craig asked what decision was made about the Zoning Administrator. Spurr read from his notes that the Commissioners said they were going to look at the statutory requirements as to whether or not we need a building inspector, see if we can advertise for someone and pay per inspection, and let Smith run the office. Craig said about 7 years ago the Commissioners were close to doing away with zoning and the reason was because it just wasn't needed. It is a difficult time for the commissioners and that office and he would like to see the commissioners use this opportunity to really reexamine this zoning in the county. He said to see if it is doing what it should be doing for the taxpayers. He suggested doing away with zoning and just having ordinances. Craig said that they have a real smart person in that office right now that understands it and she could streamline that office. He said you need to base your decision on what is best for the county. Craig said he thinks they are on the right track; it is a one-person office and has been for a long time.

Hakwkins said they have an employee that has a question about medical leave, non work related and they want to know if they get paid for Holidays while on leave. Spurr said he would look into it.

Hawkins said the County Highway Garage District II is supposed to be done by Friday.

Wilson said he would like to make a nature preserve on the old dump grounds and then try to market the remaining acreage.

Crossley made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Wilson

Adjourn

Read in full and approved by the Vermillion County Commissioners on the 1st day of May 2007.

Tim Wilson

Harry Crossley

Kim Hawkins

Attest: _____
Sherrie A. Koma, Auditor