

RE: Commissioner-loans-State Board of Accounts
Insurance Consultant
November Commissioners meeting-date change
Sycamore Trails Appointment
2007 Hillclimb
LLC Grant
Sterling Insurance
Tom Crafton-Zoning revocation
County cell phones
Vermillion County Airport Authority
Jail Water-George Hinote
John Koma-AUL, PERF, and vacation pay
EOC-New vehicles

Minutes-Vermillion County Commissioners August 7, 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 Auditor Sherrie Koma and Deputy Auditor Amy Tolbert.

A motion to approve the minutes of the July 3, 2007 meeting was made by Crossley, seconded by Hawkins.

Wilson mentioned the recent news reports in regards to the loans they entered into for equipment and materials for the highway department. He said he knows proper procedures were not followed and that he and Crossley will take full responsibility. He said they have always been honest with people and will continue to be honest with people. He said the equipment and roads are there and invite anyone to come look at them. Hawkins said he sat in on the State Board of Accounts exit interview after the mistake was discovered and feels that this is going to far. He said Crossley and Wilson did what they thought best. He said he stands up for them and Dennis Marietta.

Wilson said they have not appointed anyone as an insurance consultant at this time; they need to put it on the Council agenda.

Koma said that November's meeting falls on Election Day and the Commissioners agreed to have it on Monday November 5th at 7:30.

Wilson said they needed to appoint someone to the Board of directors of Sycamore Trails RC&D Council and the only one to apply was Shawn Rose. Wilson made a motion to appoint him, seconded by Crossley.

Bob Tubbs with the Newport Lions Club was present to ask permission to use the Courthouse lawn for the 40th annual Newport Antique Auto Hill Climb on October 5,6, and 7th. Crossley made a motion to allow, seconded by Wilson. Wilson said the Newport Church of God sent a letter requesting the use of the Auditorium for their annual chicken noodle dinner on October 5th and 6th. Wilson made a motion to allow, seconded by Crossley.

A representative from the LCC was present requesting approval for and \$8,000.00 Drug Task Force Grant. This is at no cost to the county or taxpayers. Crossley made a motion to allow, seconded by Wilson.

Art Shead with Sterling Insurance gave a brief presentation on some of the products and services offered by his company. He offered a program that would

help streamline the enrollment process. Shead said we currently have 3 or 4 enrollment periods, with health, dental and vision. This program would get everything into the same enrollment period. He said he would come back in October and give a full proposal. He said this program would work well with other benefits that they county offers. Sandra with Nationwide was present as well. She said they work in tandem with Colonial and offer the county discounts. Shead said he would come back in October with a full proposal.

Revocation of Zoning Classification, Tom Crafton. Zoning Administrator, Jeff Davis asked that they B-2 zoning classificaton made in 2006 be revoked. He said that Crafton had 2 acres of his property zoned to B-2 buisness to allow him to clean up the junk in his yard. Davis said Crafton has not made any attempt to clean up his property. He said the zoning needs to be changed back to agriculture so then the area plan commission can take action. The commissioners asked Attorney Spurr to check on the proper procedures for changing the zoning back.

Wilson said he has asked Phelps to compile a list of all the cell phones in the county .They just want to know what service is used, how many phones and average cost.

Ed Cole was present to speak about the Vermillion County Airport Authority. There was a public meeting last week, which explained what they wanted to do with the Clinton Airport. Herman “Buddy” White said that the airport must be publicly owned in order to be eligible for federal grant money that could be used to expand the existing airport. He said that the matching funds required are only 2.5 percent. He said this would be a great opportunity for the county and that Ed Cole receives calls from businesses looking for locations and they all wanted to know where the nearest airport is. The current airport runway is only 3,800.00 feet, which is not long enough for these types of planes. Cole said when this airport was built, it was an asset but now planes are faster and bigger. Ken Ross with NGC Corporation, a consulting firm in Indianapolis, stated that 32 out of 37 people who filled out comment cards are for this improvement, 4 were against it and one person needed more information. Ross explained that the once the council votes to establish an airport authority, the members of that board would be appointed by the Commissioners. The grant would give the county at least \$150,000.00 per year. Ross also told the commissioners to consider that White is willing to donate the existing airport, while other counties pay as much as 4.6 million for airports the same size. Ross said the improvements needed could be funded by grant money but the operating expenses, such as mowing could not. To fund these costs, the state allows the airport authority to a maximum levy of 5 cents per \$100.00 of assessed valued. He said he thought it could be funded with just 2 cents per \$100.00. This means that at \$74,000.00 house would see an increase of \$15.00 per year. Ross went on the explain that the Commissioners vote would not commit the county to anything. In order to be eligible for grants it must be publicly owned and must submit an Airport Layout Plan, which the Economic Development has agreed to fund if the Commissioners and Council agree to do it. If the council agrees to it in September, no funds will be requested but it will qualify the airport for grant money next year. Wilson asked how much more land would be needed and Ross said between 35 and 50 acres, which can be purchased with grant money. Jack West asked what would be done about the houses located near the runway and Ross said he was not aware of any homes located near the runway. West also asked how Paris IL was able to draw businesses without and airport and Cole said that Edgar Co. does have an airport. West said he was against it. Hawkins asked that if once an airport authority was formed, it could look into other sites for an airport or just this existing site, Ross said there was an option, but other sites would be more costly. Someone questioned noise issues and Ross explained that the jets which would fly into the airport are smaller and less noisy than those used at commercial airports. He said the noise is quieter than a semi or a train and is very brief. Ross also said that the airport would only need to staff one person, as manager, no air traffic controller is needed. Denise White said that her father in law was an avid pilot, but that they are not, they don’t even own a plane and they are not going to continue to fund

the airport. Councilman Hawkins said he was in support of the idea and that this is our county and without investing in the county over the years we would not have nearly the tax base that we do now. He said this is an opportunity for a major investment that we don't have to pay 6 million for. Once it's gone, its gone and wont come back. Mike Craig said the grant money can go away overnight and that you can't rely on it to fully fund something. Commissioner Hawkins someone told him that this would be like getting a 1 million dollar home for 50 dollars. He said we all pay taxes and the thinks we need an airport. He also pointed out that the commissioner's decision tonight was just to support the proposal. Hawkins made a motion to support the creation of the airport authority, seconded by Crossley.

Wilson said he received a letter from DLGF stating it had not received the county's property tax information and that the budgets and tax distributions were being held up because of this. Koma said that all required information has been sent to the state.

George Hinote, who tests the water at the jail, asked when he was going to be paid for May and July. He has been paid for June. It was explained that the council approved \$10,.00 to pay for testing but it was an additional appropriation and they county cannot spend that money until the budget is approved. Sheriff Spend said that is inmate medical program has been running for 5 months and they have not received a payment yet. Wilson agreed to go to Mondays Council Meeting and discuss these issues with the council and to make sure they are paid.

Wilson said that in and executive meeting the commissioners agreed to pay former Zoning Administrator, John Koma, his contributions to AUL and PERF up until he was placed on administrative leave. And to pay him 10 days of vacation pay. Hawkins made a motion to allow, seconded by Wilson.

EOC Director Ramon Colombo informed the Commissioners that the county was received a new command vehicle and decontamination trailer and the old ones need to be returned to FEMA. He needs the commissioners to sign the titles. Wilson asked if the truck that pulled the command trailer also needed to be returned because there is some interest in using that vehicle to pull the smokehouse trailer. The commissioners signed the title for the decon trailer but asked Columbo to check on the truck before singing it.

Wilson said he has received a letter from the library director indicating that the library would be willing to store old records from the Clerks office for which there is no room in the courthouse. Wilson said they would get with Padish on this issue.

Crossley made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Wilson

Read in full and approved by the Vermillion County Commissioners on the 4th of September 2007.

Tim Wilson

Harry Crossley

Kim Hawkins

Attest: _____
Sherrie A. Koma, Auditor

