

RE: Prescription Drug Cards
Crafton-Zoning Issues
County Life Insurance
Phelps-Network, phone, Avaya
Census
Jail Matron Overtime
Airport
Cayuga ethanol plant
County garage permits

Minutes-Vermillion County Commissioners September 4, 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 August 7, 2007 meeting was made by Crossley, seconded by Hawkins.

Unfinished Business

The Commissioners discuss the contract for the County Prescription Drug cards from the National Association of Counties. The association will provide a prescription discount card to all county residents. The cards will be available by the end of the year. Crossley made a motion to sign the contract, seconded by Hawkins.

There was some discussion over the ongoing dispute between Tom Crafton and the county. Crafton had asked several years ago that 2 acres of his 71 acres be rezoned to business so he could store his junk in the 2 acres. Zoning administrator, Jeff Davis had asked the Commissioners to rescind the zoning change because Crafton had not fenced in the area like he was supposed to have done, nor had he cleaned up the property. Spurr presented the Commissioners a draft of the resolution that would rescind the change and then send the situation back to the Area Plan Commission. Davis told the Commissioners that when he tried to review the property and see if anything had been done that Crafton would not let him onto the property and that he did not see where Crafton had done anything to clean up the property. Davis said there were also no fences in place in July and part of a fence was put up last month. Davis also said that he and Larry Beard should not be sent back there because Crafton confronted them with a gun on their last visit. Davis also said the fence is irrelevant, there is still 71 acres of trash and junk that will not fit into a 2 acre area. Wilson asked Davis if he had been back to the property and Davis said no, that last it went from almost being locked in and possibly shot. He said no one should go there unless they are armed and that should be the Sheriff's Department. Hawkins made a motion to adopt the resolution to rescind the zoning change and Wilson comment that Crafton was not there to defend himself. Davis said it didn't matter because he has had more than enough time to get it cleaned up. He said that if the county did not want to enforce it then they could just do away with zoning violations. Crossley asked what would happen if the zoning change was reversed. Davis said it would then go to court and the judge would rule on it and the Sheriff would have to enforce it. Davis said that the Crafton property was probably the worst piece of property in the county and the violations have gone on for over 10 years. He said that even if the Commissioners did not rescind the zoning then the APC would still file suit on the

other acreage. Hawkins made a motion to adopt a resolution to rescind the zoning on the Crafton property, seconded by Crossley.

County Life Insurance. The Clinton Township Trustee and Secretary pay for the county's health insurance but the county pays for their life insurance. Questions had been raised as to whether this was allowable. Spurr said he could not find anything that said it could not be allowed and that it was up to the Commissioners. Wilson asked if any other trustees were getting it and Koma said no one else had been interested. Wilson said he thought it was offered to all of them at one point. Hawkins said he felt they should pay their own Life insurance. Beard asked why the insurance is not offered to permanent part-time employees. Spurr explained that the insurance carrier made the decision about who was eligible and who wasn't and you had to work at least 30 hours per week to be eligible. The trustees, as elected officials, are eligible. The commissioners agreed to look into the issue and the hours worked by the employees in question.

Mike Phelps-Network, Phone System & Avaya. Mike Phelps was present and said that he wrote a proposal request for a new phone system and network in the courthouse. He said he hoped to have the proposals by the October meeting. Wilson made a motion to advertise for the proposal, seconded by Crossley.

Phelps also discussed the contract with a company called "Avaya", which has been for telephones and a phone system at the jail and has been on going since 1993. He said the Auditor's office has been receiving calls for payment because he instructed them to not to make payments until he saw a copy of the contract. He cannot find a copy anywhere. He said the bill for the contract is \$348.00 per quarter and until the issue is sorted out and explained he refuses to pay it. He also said Avaya has refused to provide him with a copy of the contract. Wilson agreed and said if you haven't seen the contract, then don't pay it. Spurr said they could not sue the county over this if they cannot provide a copy of the contract. Hawkins suggested Spurr send the company a letter stating that will nothing will be paid until a copy of the contract is made available. Phelps said the collection calls have gotten to the point of harassment.

Wilson said someone had been attempting to conduct a census in the Cayuga Park. He said no one is conducting a census at this time.

There was some discussion as to the jail matron and whether she is allowed to receive overtime pay when she works a different job in the jail. Sheriff Bob Spence explained that she works extra hours as Matron and does not get paid overtime but if she does another job, such as jailer, then she does get paid the overtime. Wilson thought it would be the same as paying someone else to do the job. Spurr said the State Board of Accounts only wanted to have the policy on paper and there is not a right or wrong way to do it. Hawkins suggested paying the employees hourly and not salary. Crossley made a motion to allow Smith the over time pay for 3 hours, seconded by Wilson. They also stated they will work on getting the County Handbook revised.

Dorothy Porter made a statement in regards to the ongoing discussions about the Clinton Airport. Porter said she read in the paper that it would cost the residents and extra \$15 to \$60 in additional taxes for upkeep. She felt this should be done through an airport tax or some other county tax to ensure everyone pays for it equally. The commissioners explained that this was the Council's matter and to address it at their November meeting. She said she would not be able to attend that meeting. Koma agreed to give the Council her comments in writing at the said meeting.

Mike Craig asked the Commissioners about the proposed ethanol plant in Cayuga. He had heard that it is over. Wilson said he would contact Ed Cole and ask him to give an update at the next meeting. Craig said if the plant wasn't going to be built then the zoning change needs to be rescinded.

There was some discussion as to who pays the permit for the county garage. Hawkins said the state said it was the contractor's issue. Spurr agreed to look into it and that he thought the original bid said the contractors would be responsible for those fees.

Wilson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Crossley

Adjourn

Read in full and approved by the Vermillion County Commissioners on the 2nd day of October 2007.

Tim Wilson

Harry Crossley

Kim Hawkins

Attest: _____
Sherrie A. Koma, Auditor