

RE: Health Department Building

## SPECIAL MEETING

### **Minutes-Vermillion County Commissioners September 19, 2007 8:00 a.m.**

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 Auditor Sherrie Koma, and First Deputy Amy Tolbert.

Wilson asked Mary Haase to explain when and why they needed to vacate the Old Hospital Building. She said their lease is up at the end of this year. She said she talked to Terry Hill last year regarding their lease and the building itself and she basically told her that they really want them out of there because they want to shut off all the utilities. The Health Department is the only thing occupying that building; the rest is used for storage. Hill said they have had problems getting the boiler fired up year after year and that they have went without heat at times. The roof is leaking, basically the whole building just needs torn down, and that is their plan, when, she doesn't know. Their main issue is to get them out of the building so they can shut off all utilities, because it is too costly to operate. Hill made the comment in the past that they would have no choice but to raise the rent and have them start paying utilities. Wilson asked what they paid in rent right now. Haase said right now they pay \$760.00 a month for about 1200 square feet and it does include utilities except for phone. Haase said right now they are talking about raising the rent and making them pay utilities. Haase was told the boiler cost it self would be well over \$1,000.00 per month for the gas. They would have to pay water, sewage, etc. Haase said her concern is that the building is in such bad shape and to her it is not worth them putting money into that when they have other options. Hill offered Dr. Albreicht's old office, which is on the other side of the hospital, but they are looking at basically the same costs if not more than a building she found, the other half of the license branch. If we move into the building that the hospital is offering us, then we are in the same situation, we have to pay rent and all utilities. She thought the rent its self was going to be about \$1400.00 a month. Haase said she checked into the license branch and Robert Wallace is the owner, he is willing to take over all utilities for just a flat rate of \$1800.00 per month. He would take care of all utilities, all maintenance, there is not cost to us at all. Haase said she was told by another county official that they basically want us out their, Crossley said he wanted to know who told her that she was going to get run out of there. Haase said nobody has told her that, she said she is just there because their lease is up at the end of the year and were going to be in a situation where they will want us to sign another two-year lease, and at a greater cost. No one has ever called and said, we want you out. She has not received any eviction notices. She said she is just going by the conversation she had a year ago, that they are going to have no choice because of the costs that it took to keep that building going, and that they were going to have to look into other options, whether it be raise the rent, make them pay utilities or get us out of there completely. Hawkins asked if she knew how much footage she would need. Haase said right now, they are operating on a little under 1300 square feet and they could still operate on that, but they are kind of cramped but have made due. There are guidelines that they do have to have as far as when they do their immunization clinics, there is patient confidentiality to worry about; there are medicines and supplies that need to be under lock and key. They need to have at least 3 rooms that they can lock up. Wilson asked how many offices they have now and she said 4, and one room is strictly for the immunization clinics, 5 total

and there is a conference room and another waiting room. Hawkins suggest Haase write up exactly what she needs and then go from there. Haase said she has heard that the public health coordinator is done at the end of October, but none of that money goes into anything they do to operate their office. Crossley asked how much of the 1800.00 a month could their office pay or will she have to go to the council to get more money. Haase said she has already went to the council, at budget time and discussed it with them and they approved the money in the budget for 2008. Haase said the rent she pays now, some comes from Grant money. Crossley said to check with Huxford about the old wellness center building on Main Street. Hawkins said there are a lot of buildings to look into.

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.

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Tim Wilson

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Harry Crossley

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Kim Hawkins

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sherrie A. Koma, Auditor