

RE: Zoning-Sherrie Wright-Becky Nelson
Web GIS & Phone proposals-Mike Phelps
Freedom Credit
Holiday Schedule
Zoning rent
Moving Offices-Health, Zoning, etc.

Minutes-Vermillion County Commissioners December 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, Auditor Sherrie Koma and First Deputy Amy Tolbert.

A motion to approve the minutes of the November 5th and November 14th meeting was made by Crossley, seconded by Hawkins.

Old Business

Becky Nelson –Zoning issues with Sherrie Wright. Nelson was present and apologized for not being at the last meeting when she was supposed to; she was given the wrong meeting date. Nelson read a prepared statement, which stated that she and her husband went into business 16 years ago, running a greenhouse. She said they did all that they were supposed to do, complied with all the laws and were followed up with all inspections. She said as their business grew, they moved it to Fairview and then eventually to their current place in Clinton Township off of 163. She said all through the moves they have had to have building permits and had to work with the state on ingress and egress. They had to add another driveway on their property. She said they have paid over \$175,000.00 in wages, taxes, insurances, licenses etc. She said they collected sales tax and that their bushes and shrubs are inspected annually. She said they have well over \$500,000.00 invested in this business. She said they donate to the community. She is concerned with the overall appeal of Vermillion County, wondering what potential buyers would say if they saw the mess on 163 and Hazel Bluff. She said that the neighbors were contacted about a beauty shop only. Nelson said that she pays her taxes and follows the rules. Nelson showed the Commissioners pictures of Wright's property, which were taken around the 10th of November. Crossley said the mess had been picked up. Wilson asked Zoning Administrator Jeff Davis if Wright could petition to be zone a U-1 instead of a B-2. Davis said he wasn't the zoning administrator when Wright was granted the B-2 zoning but that she could petition to be a U-1. Crossley said that when Wright came before the board, they approved a 1 chair beauty salon only, not a junkyard. Hawkins asked Wright if she was currently running a beauty shop and Wright said yes, that it is her only income and she has 5 children to support. Wright also said that her husband went to the zoning office and they said he could sell the items from his yard. Hawkins told Wright that her husband could sell his items elsewhere. Wilson asked Davis that if they rescind their previous B-2 zoning would he shut her down and Davis said no. Davis said she could file for a U-1 but advised giving her a timeline to do it. Crossley suggested we leave it at the B-2 until she can petition to rezone it to the U-1. Wilson agreed and said that it had to be done by March 1, 2007. Wright asked how she could be sure it would go through. Crossley asked if she cut hair there before the zoning went through and Wright said no, she was at south 4th street, she did not start working on it until the day after she received the zoning change. Crossley made a motion to leave it at B-2 until after she petitions for it to be a U-1 and that it had to all be done by March 1, 2007, seconded by Wilson. Wilson asked the Nelsons if they were satisfied and

they said they were. Zoning Secretary, Ann Smith, said it was her fault that the Nelson weren't at the last meeting, she gave them the wrong date and apologized.

Mike Phelps-WebGIS and Phone Proposals.

Phelps gave the Commissioners copies of the two proposals that had been discussed at the last meeting. Wilson asked if there were any outstanding contracts and Phelps said there was a 2 year contract with AT&T. Wilson said at the last meeting the proposals were 174,000.00 and 157,000.00 and Phelps said that was not true, The proposals were \$105,680.00 or 117,954.57 with the Sysco equipment and the 157,000.00. Crossley asked that the minutes be corrected to reflect the price difference. Phelps said he recommends using ICS out of Terre Haute. Wilson asked what the difference is between the two contracts. Phelps said one is small business and one is enterprise. He said ICS is using the Sysco brand equipment, which is top of the line and carries a lifetime guarantee. He said the county would buy the switches directly so they can get a 45% discount. He said the only real difference is in the network. He said everything would run through the network. Wilson again asked what the difference is and Phelps said the Sysco equipment, which is better equipment. Phelps said he suggested going with the higher proposal because it is better equipment and that he is familiar with the work they do. He said they upgrades suggested are from the recommendations from Cameron and Associates Audit. Hawkins asked how they were going to pay for it and Koma said it would come from Cumulative Capital Development. Hawkins said the price difference is huge, around \$56,000.00, between the two contracts. Phelps said that's true, but they are talking about 2 very different systems. Crossley said they hired Phelps to do a job and to make recommendations. David Aukerman asked that if Sysco was the only difference, why can't other companies' give a proposal with the Sysco equipment. Phelps said the reason he wants ICS is because he knows Steve's work. Aukerman asked if Phelps recommendation would change if the other company offered Sysco equipment and Phelps said no. Malcolm Aukerman asked why he would go with the higher proposal, it's taxpayer's money he is spending. Phelps said because he knows how the job will turn out. Malcolm Aukerman asked Phelps if he has seen the work from the other guy and Phelps said, no he hasn't. Phelps said that the proposal stated it had to be Sysco equipment or equivalent and he doesn't think the other proposals equipment is equivalent to Sysco. Hawkins said they need to find the best proposal at the lowest price. Phelps said they will buy the equipment themselves at the 45% discount but it has to be installed by a Certified Sysco installer. Wilson asked that if we are buying the parts, can't we have them re-bid on just the installation. Phelps said some of the difference is in the network and telephone systems. The two bids are not for the same quality of equipment and work. There was some discussion on the 800# and how will people make local calls without it. Phelps said the audit pointed out 3 things that need fixed, the network wiring, the phone system and the network itself and ICS's proposal will fix all those issues. Phelps said that AT&T could do a study on all the lines, to see what lines are being used and how often, and it's free of charge. Steve with ICS said that study would be done before they began any work. Wilson said he would like to see a new proposal, with just the labor only and table it until next month. He also suggested having AT&T do the study now. Hawkins asked Steve with ICS if they could reduce their price and he said they could but less lines would cause people to get busy signals when they call the courthouse. Phelps said with ICS there will be no maintenance charge for 5 years. Wilson made a motion for Phelps to have AT&T do the study and to get proposals for labor only, Crossley seconded it. Hawkins said he wants a more comparable price quote.

WEB GIS with WTH. Rex Jones was present to discuss his proposal for the WEB GIS. He said the first proposal was for the mapping only, which is what the state wants and that it is all covered by the grant. He said the information would be for the state only, not the public. He said the county would have to pay for the program and then the state would reimburse them. Hawkins made a motion to allow the first proposal, seconded by Crossley. The second proposal is for WTH to do the upkeep and maintenance on the parcel information, parcel management. He said this proposal includes unlimited phone and on-site support for the first year; it will be \$6,000.00 per year after that. This proposal also

includes transferring the information to the Sheriff and Zoning offices. He said the program would also be available to the commissioners as well. He said this is what we just paid Manatron \$10,000.00 for. He said the proposal also includes the web hosting and that costs \$300.00 a month, \$3,600.00 per year. He said this information would be made available to the public. Phelps said that with our current map, with Mantaron, we are the only county that doesn't offer it publicly. Phelps said that he wanted to make clear that he checked with Manatron and we do own the data, it is ours, the software is theirs. Jones said the Commissioners would determine what layers would go on the map publicly. He said we would be replacing Manatron with WTH, not using both maps. Jones said there is a broad range of information that can be put on the map and it is up to the Commissioners. Ann Smith said zoning would like a layer put on for them. Hawkins pointed out that WRH's price is cheaper than Manatron's. Jones explained that they would take the data we currently have and incorporate it into their system. Smith said there are a lot of mistakes on the current map and was worried about that. Jones said changes would be made as they go. Smith said 85% of the current maps parcels are wrong. Hawkins made a motion to allow, seconded by Crossley. Jones said the 3rd proposal is for a one time interface he said the cost is 2500.0 and 5000.00 for the tax part, he said the 5000.00 would be reimbursed by the grant, so they would only pay 2500.00. He said the assessor and tax information would be put on. Phelps said he agreed with Aukerman, they couldn't be involved in two contracts. He said he feels Manatron is holding off on giving him the information he requested. He said he has a recorded conversation with Tim Lacey stating the contracts are done on a year-to-year basis. He suggested the Commissioners draft a letter to Manatron, to cancel their contract. He said they probably require a 30-day notice. Jones said if he couldn't get out of the Manatron contract, and then he would let them out of his. Hawkins made a motion to allow, seconded by Crossley. Smith asked the Commissioners and Phelps if they were aware that the last 6 years of assessment values are on the DLGF's website, but it's just data.

Heather Huntsager from Freedom Credit wanted to speak with the commissioners about the company she works for. Wilson said he spoke with Treasurer Phyllis Orman and she was in favor of it. Huntsager said that the company collects tax payments for the county via credit card and at no charge to the county. She said they charge 2.95% to the taxpayer using their credit card and that 2.1% pays their fees, .85% is split 50/50 with the county treasurer. She said they are currently in 33 counties. She said each home gets 33 look-ups for free and that you can search their database by name, parcel number, etc. She said they take care of the maintenance for free and post the data on-line. Phelps said he was not aware that they would be re-selling the county's data when he first spoke with her, he thought it was just collecting tax payments via credit card. He said there would be a conflict with the proposal the commissioners just signed. Wilson said he didn't think we should get into it right now.

A man wanted to know if the surveyor had talked to the commissioners about a road that was closed in St. Bernice. They said he hadn't, but he had been ill. Crossley said he would talk to him to see what is going on.

Wilson made a motion to take bids and table them until the meeting on December 28, 2007 at 7:30 a.m. They will also do the yearly appointments as well.

Holiday schedule. Wilson made a motion to take away Columbus Day but to allow an additional person day. The commissioners approved the 2008 meeting schedule.

Wilson gave a statement stating that the Commissioners are aware of the rising cost of taxes and the fact that both installments were due at the same time this year. He said they would like to waive the penalties incurred from late payment, but are not authorized to do so. They have no authority over the State.

Smith said the library is raising their rent to \$300.00 a month starting January 1, 2008 and that they do have enough money appropriated to cover it.

Wilson spoke about moving the extension office to the fairgrounds so they could bring soil and water and zoning back into the courthouse. Phelps said Purdue offers the T-1 line and we only pay for half. He said we couldn't do away with the T-1 line. If we move them, then we would have to pay for it all. Smith asked about the new county garage, she thought the highway girls were going there and Wilson said it is not big enough. Wilson asked Phelps to look into moving the extension office. He said he is not trying to kick them out of the courthouse; they are just trying to make the best use of the space.

Crossley made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Wilson

Adjourn

Read in full and approved by the Vermillion County Commissioners on the 5th day of February 2008.

Tim Wilson

Harry Crossley

Kim Hawkins

Attest: _____
Sherrie A. Koma, Auditor