

RE: Prescription Drug Cards
St. Bernice Water Grant
Pierre Fox-Health Insurance
Sterling Insurance
SRI-Commissioners sale
Sherrie Wright-zoning change
Tom Crafton-zoning change
Jeff Lamb-zoning in Cayuga for ethanol plant
PTABOA appointments
Pat Richey-Township assessors
Road striping by Premier boxboard

Minutes-Vermillion County Commissioners February 5, 2008

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 Dec 4, and Dec 28 2007 and the Jan 8, 2008 meeting was made by Crossley, seconded by Hawkins.

Prescription Drug cards. Wilson stated that there are two cards available but they didn't vote on the newest card. Wilson made a motion to allow, seconded by Crossley. Wilson stated both cards are available to the residents of Vermillion County. Koma stated that CVS in Clinton would accept both cards and use which one offers the bigger discount.

St. Bernice Water Grant. Koma said she had the forms and all the information. She said that the county has to take the money in and then they will pay out of that fund for the water grant. Wilson made a motion to sponsor the grant, seconded by Crossley.

Pierre Fox of Miles and Finch Insurance presented information and a proposal. He said the county's health insurance renews on May 1, 2008. The renewal insurance carrier, Consumers Life, will provide the renewal rates between 60 and 45 days in advance of the renewal date. Fox said in order to ensure that the renewal process is as efficient as possible; he would like to propose that a small benefits committee be created to more efficiently handle the process. He suggested the

committee be made up of Tonya Lewis, on or more commissioners, one or more council members and a few designated county employees, such as Phyllis Orman, and they could make recommendations to the Commissioners and Council, with the Commissioners having the final say. He said the committee would review any proposals received and report their findings to the Commissioners who would make their decision at their April Meeting. He suggested having a short committee meeting after the commissioners meeting.

A representative from Sterling Insurance and Investments gave a brief presentation on services their company could offer by acting as a broker for county benefits, handling insurance and retirement planning for county employees. They said they had identified areas where the county could save money by eliminating overlapping benefits. Wilson said he would give the information to the committee to review.

Glen Ledkey with SRI was present to discuss holding a Commissioners sale. The sale would consist of 84 properties that did not sell at a recent county tax sale. He said individuals could purchase the properties at a lower price, by paying essentially the fees charged by SRI. Once the individual purchases the property, as the high bidder at the sale, he or she would have to perform a title search on the property and petition the court for a deed. If granted, the court would wave anything owed against the property, returning it to the tax rolls. Once a property is bought at a certificate sale, the owner still has 120 days to redeem it by paying whatever liens are held against the property. Wilson made a motion to have a Commissioners Certificate Sale, seconded by Crossley.

Sherrie Wright requested a change of zoning classification from B-2 General Business to U-1 Urban Residential for the purpose of operating a one-chair beauty salon in the house located at 2188 East Hazel Bluff Road. The area plan sent the petition with a favorable recommendation. Wilson made a motion to allow, seconded by Crossley.

Thomas and Barbara Crafton requested a change of zoning classification from agriculture to B-2 General Business. The zoning change had been previously approved and then rescinded by the commissioners after Crafton failed to meet a deadline for cleaning up his property. The area plan sent the petition with an unfavorable recommendation. Crafton said the APC had not recommended anything, but only sent the request to the commissioners with an unfavorable recommendation. Zoning Administrator Jeff Davis explained that meant the APC was against the requested change. Barbara Crafton said she felt the change should be approved because she and her husband were not present the night the previous change was rescinded and her husband was in poor health, and not able to clean up the property quickly. Attorney Jon Spurr said that there is still a dormant lawsuit before the circuit court, which could nullify any decision made by the Commissioners. Wilson asked Spurr to investigate the status of that suit before they pursued any action on the request.

Councilman John Yoho said that the county has selective zoning because the court has ordered other residents to clean up properties, and then nothing happens. Davis said that was not an APC issue, if the resident failed to follow the judge's order. He also explained that he does not go around the county looking for violations but only looks into those about which he receives complaints. Davis explained that he sends a letter to a resident who is in violation and then the APC decides how long to give the person to clean up the property. If it is not cleaned up then the matter goes to court. Wilson asked Davis to provide the Commissioners with a list of pending violations in the county.

Jeff Lamb asked about the zoning change which had previously been approved for the RAE ethanol plant near Cayuga. The change had been approved by the APC and the commissioners specifically for that plant, but it was stipulated that the zoning would revert to agriculture if the plant fell through. Now that the project has fallen through, Lamb asked when the zoning change would be reversed. Wilson said he was in favor of reversing the change. The Commissioners said they would check the records and make a decision at their next meeting.

Property Tax Board of Appeals. Assessor Pat Richey stated that according to Indiana Statute, she could serve on the PTBOA as the level II and they would not have to hire anyone for that position. Crossley made a motion to appoint Betty Rayce and Katherine Clark, seconded by Wilson.

Richey also stated that if a bill currently before the Indiana House passes, the county could lose township assessors as early as March, or possibly in July, or at the end of the current assessor's terms. She said it was almost definite that the township positions will be eliminated, meaning that she will need to hire a consulting firm to help her with assessing duties. She does not know else to do it.

Technology Coordinator Mike Phelps reported that proposed replacement of the telephone and network system in the court house is on hold until the current contract is closer to renewal, as there would be no major savings from replacing the system at the present time.

Wilson commended Mr. Henry and cleaning up the land near the jail. They are thinking about taking some of that area and making it a nature preserve.

Mike Craig commended the Highway on doing a good job of snow removal.

Kim Hawking reported that Premier Box Board is interested in striping the county road that runs to their facility, but said he was not in favor of doing so until the company blacktops the rest of the road leading out of the plant.

Mrs. Crafton report that some repairs need done out by her place, that she was told it would be cleaned up and hasn't been done. Highway Supervisor Bill Clark

said that it has to be dry before they can and they did not get a chance to do it last summer.

Crossley made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Wilson.

Adjourn

Read in full and approved by the Vermillion County Commissioners on the 4th day of March 2008.

Tim Wilson

Harry Crossley

Kim Hawkins

Attest: _____
Sherrie A. Koma, Auditor