

RE: EOC FUNDING
CROUCH REZONING
COURTHOUSE MOLD PROBLEMS
JAIL CONTROL PANEL
ASSESSING CONTRACT

Minutes-Vermillion County Commissioners May 5th, 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, and Auditor Sherrie Koma.

Minutes taken from Daily Clintonian and notes from Sherrie.

April's meeting minutes were approved.

Funding for the Vermillion County EOC for the remainder of 2008 led discussion at the Vermillion County Commissioners meeting Monday evening.

Clinton Fire Department Assistant Chief Todd Young and EOC Director Ramon Colombo spoke to the Commissioners, due to the fact that there is no budget for the EOC following the end of the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP), which is currently scheduled to end with the completion of Nerve Agent VX neutralization at the Newport Chemical Depot, projected for the end of September.

Young explained that once CSEPP ends, the EOC will need to be funded by the county, and gave a short presentation on what the EOC does for the county, by serving county residents in emergencies, such as floods or tornadoes. He explained that the EOC helps oversee communication, coordination between various agencies, release of public information, determination of evacuation routes and coordination with other counties when needed.

Young added that, with grants becoming more difficult to get, whether there is an EOC in place in a county can make a difference in whether or not grants are received.

Colombo told the commissioners that FEMA had agreed to pay the salary for the EOC director through May 2009 and the state had agreed to pay 56 percent of the salary for the office manager. With the remainder of this one salary, plus general operating costs for the EOC, the estimated budget for the fourth quarter of the year would be \$10,524.00. He asked the commissioners to approve this so it could be presented to the county council as an additional appropriation.

Commissioner Tim Wilson mentioned the possibility, with a reduction in EOC staff, of sharing the office space, perhaps with the economic development office, to further reduce costs by sharing costs such as utilities.

Young told the commissioners that it is likely the state will require each county to have an EOC in the future, but by that time, the state funding will be gone, because it will not be available if the county does not choose to accept it now. Later, if the county has to put the EOC back in place, it will have to pick up the full cost.

“We have a state-of-the-art EOC,” Young said. “I’ve been to others. Other counties would kill to have what we have. We’re lucky to have all this handed to us through CSEPP, and now we have to step up and take control of it ourselves.” Commissioner Kim Hawkins said he thought the county could cover the remainder of the year, but wouldn’t be able to commit to anything beyond that. January 1st may be the end of it.

Commissioner Harry Crossley added that, by the first of the year, the county would hopefully have better idea if the state is going to make an EOC mandatory or not.

Some discussion took place regarding the lease for the EOC building in Clinton, as Young and Colombo believe the \$1 per year lease is good for 100 years, but County Attorney Jon Spurr had documentation showing the lease is only through the end of the CSEPP program. If that is the case, a new lease will need to be worked out with the city.

The commissioners voted their approval to pursue the additional appropriation for \$10,524.00, and to check on the lease and see when it is to end. Funding for next year will be addressed in the fall during budget hearings.

Colombo also told the commissioners he believes the county should try and keep all the equipment acquired through CSEPP. He explained that individual fire departments, for example, could be asked to maintain radios and other equipment that they are using.

Hawkins asked if the county could sell the equipment and Colombo said they could not, it would either need to be kept or returned to the state.

In other business, the commissioners approved a request by Wilbur and Dinah Crouch to rezone property located at 5959 South County Road 360 East in Hillsdale from agriculture to suburban in order to meet minimum land requirements for placement of a mobile home. Crouch explained that his daughter wants to put a mobile home on his property, and he has enough land, but under the original zoning, the mobile home would be too close to his house. The rezoning would allow the mobile home to be placed there. The request had already been approved by the Area Plan Commission and no objections were presented, so the commissioners gave their approval.

Donna Thomas reported on recent mold testing in third floor courthouse offices, and gave several recommendations. She said testing had indicated the presence of mold on ceilings and in some vents. She recommended that the courthouse attic be checked for leaking pipes and that the roof be inspected to see if it is in need of

repair or replacement. Thomas also recommended that ducts in the courthouse be cleaned and that materials be stored plastic bins rather than cardboard boxes.

Sheriff Bob Spence informed the commissioners he would attend next weeks meeting to seek approval for funding to replace a control panel, which controls most systems at the jail.

Hawkins asked why Spence went to the council before the commissioners, as they usually approve things first, subject to funding. Spence said he had to go to the council, but had informed the commissioners that he was going to do so. He informed Hawkins that the commissioners could approve replacement of the panel Monday evening, subject to funding, but no action was taken.

The commissioners approved a contract with IAS for assistance with assessing duties, due to the loss of township assessors. Assessor Pat Richey said she had received 3 bids, one from IAS for just under \$5,000.00, and one from Tyler fro closer to \$12,000.00 and one from Appraisal Research for roughly the same cost as IAS. She chose IAS because Ed Bish,, who works for IAS, used to work for the Department of Local Government Finance and she is more comfortable with his work.

Spurr said he had looked at the IAS contract and it is one of the more fair contracts a vendor has sent to us. The commissioners approved the contract, subject to funding by the council.

Wilson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Crossley

Adjourn

Read in full and approved by the Vermillion County Commissioners on the 3rd day of June 2008.

Tim Wilson

Harry Crossley

Kim Hawkins

Attest: _____
Sherrie A. Koma, Auditor

