

RE: Bohannon Settlement
 Newport Chemical Reuse Authority
 Financial and tax software
 Hughes Cemetery
 County Farm use
 Intermediate EMT update
 Sterling Insurance
 Sheriff cars
 EOC director line item

Minutes-Vermillion County Commissioners July 1, 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.

Harry made a motion to accept the prior meeting minutes, seconded by Hawkins.

Wilson said that a settlement offer had been made regarding litigation that had been presented against the county. Wilson explained that the litigation and the offer are confidential and details could not be discussed during the meeting but and executive session of the commissioners and council had been held last week to discuss it. Wilson and Crossley voted to accept the settlement offer but Hawkins did not. Wilson said the reason; the only reason he is voting for the settlement is because it would cost less than pursuing the case in court. Wilson said he did not think any money should change hands but it's cheaper for the taxpayers. Councilman Cheesewright added that the acceptance of the settlement by the commissioners was subject to whether the county can find the money.

Joe Beardsley was presented a resolution confirming the establishment of the Newport Chemical Depot Reuse Authority. He explained that the authority had been established in 2000, but the records of the establishment are inadequate, and that the authority needs to be in place and the records complete in order for the county to have a chance to be involved in deciding what happens to the depot property once VX neutralization is completed. The main goal is to get something in there that will create jobs and get the property back on the tax rolls. The Reuse authority board will be made up of five individuals, Tom Milligan, Bob Rendaci,

John Fenoglio, Arden Kilgore, and Albert Clark, all of whom were originally appointed in 2000. The commissioners may make changes to the board at any time if the need arises. Wilson made a motion to allow, seconded by Hawkins.

Auditor Koma informed the commissioners she had been looking into software for payroll, tax and financial records from Low Associates. She said there would be some initial cost to switch software, but the new program would, in the end, only cost about half of what they county is currently paying. Koma said there is money in the budget to cover the costs. The commissioners approved the change.

Mary Lawless said she and her husband had inquired about purchasing plots in Hughes Cemetery, located on County Road 900 North. She was told that Highland Township is believed to own the cemetery and was advised to contact Marion Cook regarding lots for sale. Lawless said she spoke with Cook, who told her all the members of the cemetery association other than himself were deceased, and that if she purchased a plot, he would keep the money, even though he does not own the cemetery. Lawless said she was told by Cook that she would not receive a deed for the plots she purchased, but her name would be written in a notebook so there would be a record of the purchase and that plots were on a first come first serve basis. Lawless said she had wanted to purchase markers for herself and her husband, and have them place at their plots in advance, and she was told by Cook she could not do this because she would get the first open spot in the cemetery. Lawless told him she wanted two plots on top of the hill and he said "that's not gonna' happen, I place you where you need to go." Lawless said she was told by the assessor's office that the Highland Township Assessor was over the cemetery, and showed pictures indicating that neighbors had taken down signs at the cemetery and that a fence and gates had been built and she isn't even sure a hearse could get back there. She said it is not his property and he is telling people where they will be buried and it's not right. Spurr said there are laws that deal specifically with cemeteries, including who should get money from the sale of plots, and that he would research the matter and report to the commissioners at their next meeting. He said it is strictly controlled. He added that he did not know if the commissioners would be involved in addressing the issue or not.

Vermillion County Extension Educator Amanda Bailey asked for permission for the extension office to use the "county farm" property-160 acres located south of Newport for a field day in July. She said nothing would be changed or done to the property, but she was asking permission for people to be able to walk through it. Wilson said they have a farmer that pays rent for the property, and the commissioners gave approve, provided the renter has no objection and the field day would not interfere with the use of the land.

The commissioners asked Ambulance Service Director Paul Lee to give an update on the progress of upgrading the service to the intermediate level of care from its present level of advanced. Lee said the service is still working on it. He said that the outfit that did the training did not tell them that this was their first time they

had ever done an intermediate program. He said the company, EMT Inc of Bloomington did not train employees well for the required tests, and as a result, only two employees passed the test on the first attempt. He added that scheduling test dates could be a long and complicated process. Lee apologized for not going to intermediate sooner but also stated that the process has not cost the county a dime but that he has about \$80,000.00 in it. Vermillion County EMS supervisor, Roger Lewis added that the required test was the craziest test he had ever seen in his life. He said when you get the results, they only tell you if you passed or failed so you have no idea what your strong or weak in. You have to basically start over. Lewis added that one employee had scheduled a test in Terre Haute, only to arrive and find no one there to administer the test. When he called to check on the issue he was told that he was supposed to take the test in Tennessee and there would be no refund. Lewis said they are trying very hard. Joanie Kanizer asked if there was anything the county could do to help with the process, such as providing a refresher course for the employees. Lewis said the best thing to do would be to find someone more familiar with the national test to conduct training. He added that he had check with Fountain County, and it took some of their employees between three to six tries to pass the same test. Kanizer asked who had recommended EMT Inc, and Lee said the company was recommended by Paramedic Jim Henderson, who was an instructor for the company, and that Deanna Hawkins was the Instructor for Vermillion County. Wilson asked when the upgrade would be done and Lewis replied, "When we pas." The commissioners asked Lee to keep them updated on the progress of the upgrade and let them know if they could do anything to help. Lewis said, "Trust me, I'm agitated that I haven't passed. This is my life, It's what I do every day."

Art Shead and Tom Weartz of Sterling Insurance spoke to the commissioners about providing a proposal for major medical insurance for major medical insurance for county employees. They said they had received most of the information, but had not received claim information from the current insurance provider. The commissioners said a letter would be sent to Pierre Fox, the agent for the current provider, asking that the information be released. Weartz said that they had looked at the county's information and that they have another group of comparable size which is paying half of what Vermillion County currently pays, and that the county's current \$1.2 million premium is unnecessarily high. Hawkins mentioned that the county had signed a contract with the current provider in May for next year, and Weartz said that was a unilateral contract, meaning that it only locked the company into not changing rates during the year, but that the county could get out of it and change companies the first of any month. Spurr said he would have to take a look at the contract to confirm. Weartz said if you stop paying them, he guarantees they'll drop you the first of that month.

Sheriff Spence informed the commissioners the department had lost two cars in the last year due to accidents, and had received \$5,000.00 for one of them. He said this money was put into the car fund, and there had been enough money there

to purchase 1 car, not two. Spence said the insurance has not settled on the second car yet, and asked permission, once that payment is received, to ask the council for an additional appropriation to purchase the second car.

Wilson thanked all of the county's volunteer firemen, EMS personnel and law enforcement personnel for their efforts during June's flooding, and also thanked all those that didn't do anything but check on their neighbors. He said he thought the county pulled together really well. Spence said he thought the Highway did an excellent job as well and Wilson agreed.

Wilson told Crossley and Hawkins that they would need to add a line item and establish a salary for the EOC Director for 2009. He said the state would pay 51 percent of that salary. Wilson also suggested that, due to rising costs and the fact that the EOC would now only have one employee, the county consider moving the EOC out of its present location in Clinton once the VX is gone, and putting it in an empty office in the district 2 highway garage. Hawkins said he did not feel the office there would be suitable for the EOC. No action was taken on the suggestion.

Wilson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Crossley

Adjourn

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

Tim Wilson

Harry Crossley

Kim Hawkins

Attest: _____
Sherrie A. Koma, Auditor