

RE: Employee handbook
Bids
Governmental Consulting Services
Sheriff Deferred Comp Ordinance
Poet Ethanol
EOC building
Circuit breaker analysis from GCS
Traffic count program
Forrest Sherer
09 Meeting Schedule
09 Holiday Calendar
County Road 200 N
Zoning Office Relocation
EOC Director

Minutes-Vermillion County Commissioners December 2, 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.

Wilson made a motion to accept the minutes from last month's meeting, seconded by Crossley.

Employee Handbook. Spurr said he sent the new draft to everyone that had given him an email address and he has not gotten any feedback yet. Wilson said they would discuss it at the next meeting.

The commissioners announced that annual bids for materials and services had been received. Crossley and Clark will review the bids and they will be awarded at a special meeting on Dec. 31, 2008 at 8 am.

The commissioners approved a contract with Governmental Consulting Services. The contract is good through the end of 2009 at a cost of \$19,152.00 plus mileage with mileage to be paid at a rate of \$90.00 per hour based on travel time. Wilson said he felt Melissa Ambre, the consultant who has been working with the county was worth her weight in gold. Crossley added that sometimes the council doesn't follow her guidelines though. Hawkins said Crossley made a good point and that

if we are going to retain her we need to do what she says. Wilson made a motion to approve the contract and added that he would like the council to do what she suggests. Crossley seconded the motion, with Hawkins voting no. Hawkins said that if we are going to pay and Ambre makes recommendations, then the council needs to follow it. That is a lot of money that could be used elsewhere.

The commissioners approved an ordinance which would allow sheriff's department employees to participate in a deferred compensations program offered by the Indiana Sheriff's Association, Morgan Stanley and McCready and Keene. Spence said the plan is being offered to all Sheriff's departments in the state, and does not include any matching of contributions by the county. Participation by employees is entirely voluntary.

Mike Roth of Poet ethanol spoke briefly to the commissioners about a potential ethanol plant in Vermillion County. Roth told the commissioners that his company has over 26 facilities already in operation, and has been in the ethanol business for over 20 years. The company produces over 1.5 billion gallons of ethanol annually, making it the largest producer in the world. Roth said his company is interested in the site north of Clinton, just south of Eli Lilly that had previously been considered by Morning Star Energy. The company already started preliminary engineering and environmental work toward a potential plant on that site. Roth said he plans to appear before the commissioners again in about two months to discuss his company's intentions further.

The commissioners reviewed the lease with the city of Clinton for the EOC. Some revisions had been proposed by the city, indicating that the county will pay for maintenance agreements on radios used by the police and fire departments at a cost of \$5,000.00. The county will also pay one third of the utilities, provide up to \$2,000.00 for the cleaning of hallways and other public sections of the building and maintain the emergency generator at the building. The commissioners asked Spurr to incorporate the revisions into the lease agreement, and announced that that Economic Development will move into the EOC office are on Dec. 19.

A proposal to have Governmental Consulting Services perform a circuit-breaker analysis of the effect of upcoming property tax limits was tabled by the commissioners until Spurr had a chance to review it.

Jackie Mitchell of the West Central Indiana Economic Development District asked the commissioners to participate in a traffic count program which will be carried out by the district and the Indiana Department of Transportation. She said INDOT will pay 80 percent of the cost in 2009, or a total of \$3,086. The county will be left to pay \$771.00, which is 20 percent. This information from the counts will be used to help determine funding for road projects and can also be provided to businesses which request it. Wilson asked if we could request the roads to count and Mitchell said yes. Wilson made a motion to proceed, seconded by Hawkins.

Old National was on the agenda but they did not show up for the meeting.

Dave Marietta of Forrest Sherer Insurance presented the commissioners with renewal rates for the county's property and casualty and workmen's comp insurance. He reported that the property and casualty insurance premium will drop from \$141,351 to \$103,281 and the workmen's comp will drop from \$84,084 to \$63,001, a total reduction of \$59,153. It was mentioned that the county needs to update the list of vehicles on the policy, as it was found there were some listed that are no longer in use, and also that the county will need to report what emergency equipment obtained through the CSEPP program will be removed from the insurance when it is given to towns, townships, or other local agencies. The commissioners agreed to work with Marietta to update this information so he could revise the premiums further, and to act on the proposal at the special meeting on Dec. 31.

Crossley made a motion to allow the 2009 meeting schedule, seconded by Wilson.

Hawkins made a motion to allow the 2009 Holiday Calendar with the removal of President's day on Feb. 16 since state officials do not take this holiday. It was also Agreed to allow 3 personal days. Wilson was not in favor of giving personal days but said he would go along with it. Crossley seconded Hawkin's motion.

Mike Craig expressed concern to the commissioners about the fact that Duke Energy is using County Road 200 North to haul fly ash out of their facility. He asked if anyone had given permission for Duke to use the road for hauling, and said the ash presents a health and safety hazard. Wilson said it was not fly ash but a gypsum by-product of limestone that is used to clean the stacks at the facility. Craig said the situation had been reported to the Sheriff's department and that they had spoken to Duke about it but he did not think any tickets had been issued. Craig he wanted to know if anyone in the county had given Duke permission to use the road. Hawkins said it has been done before. Craig said he did not understand why they would use a county road when they have their own haulage road. Wilson requested someone from Duke to come to the next meeting to discuss this matter further.

The commissioners discussed options of what to do about moving the zoning office back into the courthouse. It was decided to move Highway superintendent Bill Clark's office to the highway garage and moving the zoning office into his office. They also discussed moving the extension office into the auditorium but decided to discuss it at a later date.

Jack West said that during the council meeting when additional appropriations were requested for bridges, no one on the council seemed to know if there was money available or not. He asked if they went into a meeting without a financial report for the county. Hawkins said, honestly that is about the state of the county

right now. Wilson said he has since spoken with Council President John Cheesewright, and that computers are going to be installed in the courtroom for use at the meetings.

Wilson said several people had applied for the EOC director position and they will review and appoint someone at the Dec. 31 meeting. Carty expressed concern over hiring someone part-time; he feels it is a full time position and wondered if it could be added to someone else's job. . Wilson said he would talk with the council to see if any further funding could be obtained. Hawkins wanted to let the residents know that if there were an accident tonight that the Sheriff, Fire and local EMS would be there for them

Crossley made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Hawkins

Adjourn

Read in full and approved by the Vermillion County Commissioners on the 6th day of January 2008.

Tim Wilson

Harry Crossley

Kim Hawkins

Attest: _____
Phyllis Orman, Auditor