

RE: St. Bernice Water Grant
Bridge washout in Newport
Duke Energy Trucks using County Roads
Board of Zoning Appeals appointment
Park Board appointment
EOC Director
Highway office relocation
Salt shortage
Newport Chemical Depo Local Reuse Authority
Bridge Bids
Newport Covered Bridge Repair

Minutes-Vermillion County Commissioners January 6, 2009

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 Phyllis Orman and First Deputy Amy Tolbert.

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

Shannon Mcleod of Priority Project Resources spoke to the commissioners about the St. Bernice water project. She said that the commissioners sponsored a grant for them last year for a study to determine the town's utility needs. She said the previous grant was a 29,700.00 planning grant and that it has all been completed and forwarded to the state and the state has approved their recommendations. She said some of the suggestions included a new elevated water tower, a backup generator and other plant and distribution improvements. She said the proposed cost is just under a million dollars. She said she is here to ask the commissioners to sponsor a construction grant. She said the water corporation is going to pursue a grant for \$500,000.00 through the Office of Community Affairs. She said they are not asking the county for any money. She said St. Bernice is in an unincorporated area; therefore they need to the county to sponsor the grant. She also stated that they can have up 3 grants at a time with the office of rural affairs and wanted to make sure they were not sponsoring any other grants and Wilson

said they were not. She said in sponsoring this grant she will need some paperwork and the commissioners will have papers to sign. She said they have to have 2 public hearings, one on Jan. 15 and one for sometime around the first of March. She said after the grant is approved, the county will have to create a fund to deposit this money into, then the county will write 1 check to St. Bernice water and they will then pay the bills. She said they have to apply no later than March 16 or they will have to wait another 6 months to apply. Crossley made a motion to sponsor the grant, seconded by Hawkins. All in favor.

Ralph Gaines spoke about a bridge in Newport. He has spoke with the commissioners previously about the washout near the bridge which is causing his property to wash away. Kim Hawkins said he has spoke with Annabelle Robertson and she has the same concerns. Gaines said he spoke with John Hall, an engineer with the Department of Natural Resources who had given him the original permit number for the bridge. Gaines said this should help the county to make the needed repairs. Highway superintendant Bill Clark said he had spoken with DNR about putting concrete in the creek bed to redirect the water back to its original channel, but he had been told he should not do that. Gaines said Hall told him that is what should be done. The commissioners asked Clark to call Hall himself to see how to fix this problem.

Mike Craig has brought up at the last meeting a problem with Duke Trucks using county roads to haul synthetic gypsum and the debris is all over the roads and on private property. He asked if a representative from Duke was here and Wilson told him no, that they would be here in February. Craig presented the commissioners with pictures showing material which had leaked from some of the trucks, both on County Road 200 North and in the parking lot of Green Acres Restaurant. He also brought in a sample that he had scooped up with a plastic spoon out of the Green Acres parking lot. Craig has a packet of articles from several newspapers that he shared with the commissioners as well. Craig said this product they are hauling contains heavy metals. He said it is not illegal but why would anyone want it in their homes or yard. Hawkins said that the permit that was included in Craig's packet allows them to sell gypsum. Hawkins said the paper stated that it reduces soil erosion and is good for fertilizer. Craig said that is fine but that he doesn't want it on his road way or in his yard or in his house. He said it is in the same category as fly ash and that they would like you to believe its pie filling. He said he is not challenging their permit. He thinks ultimately the commissioners were blindsided. Hawkins thinks it's only fair for them to publicly announce what is going on. Craig said they have advocated their responsibilities and gave it to the contractors. He said the trucks are overloaded and he wants the commissioners to send them a letter. He also suggested drafting an ordinance in regards to the weight limits. Spurr said the commissioners would be in charge of the load limits, the health would have to deal with the pollution and the Sheriff would have to deal with the overloaded trucks. Sheriff Spence said he does not have enough manpower to set up there all day long. Wilson said that Duke does have a wheel washer but was told it was not functioning but should be

soon. He suggested asking them not to heap up their loads so high. Someone asked why they couldn't go out the front gate and use the highway and Spence said the tarps on the highway is not a good idea. Wilson asked Spurr if they have the authority to send a letter and Spurr said yes but he is not sure they will listen. Spence said it's not fair when they ticket the trucks because the truck drivers are the ones who end up paying it. Hawkins suggested that officers begin issuing citations to Duke Energy directly for permitting the violations. Craig asked that the commissioners move to get their permit revoked. He said it may not get done but it will get their attention. Spence added that he had spoken to the safety engineer but it had gotten him nowhere. Hawkins again told Spence to write Duke the tickets and Spence said he would, if that is what they wanted him to do.

The commissioners reappointed Lisa Gilman to the Board of Zoning Appeals by a motion from Crossley and a second from Wilson.

Wilson said Ira Jones, Mike Reed and Sherrie Koma had all applied for the seat on the park board which is currently held by Ira Jones. Wilson made a motion to re-appoint Ira Jones, seconded by Crossley. Hawkins was opposed.

The commissioner also discussed the need to review several applications which had been received for the vacant EOC director position. Auditor Orman said she would provide each commissioner with copies of the applications. Hawkins said they need to get an inventory of items received through the CSEPP program. He said the new director will be working most of the time to clean up the CSEPP mess. Clinton Asst. Fire Chief Todd Young said that the state had inventoried some equipment and that inventory should be available somewhere.

The Commissioners discussed moving the highway office out to the highway garage. Crossley said that they first had to install phone lines. It was stated that a new door will also be installed to allow restroom access. Wilson said they may need to install the phone lines, move in and then install the door later.

Hawkins said that with the shortage of road salt this year due to budget constraints, the county may have problems if there are many more ice storms. Mike Craig suggested that, since Economic Development Director Ed Cole is resigning, the commissioners should consider changing the position to part-time and using the saved money to help the highway with salt. Wilson said they would look into it.

Hawkins said that one member of the Newport Chemical Depo Local Reuse Authority had not been showing up for meetings and that he would like to be appointed to that board. Wilson said he would check the attendance and see if this is true.

Wilson said they received 3 bridge bids. Clark will notify the state that 3 bids were submitted. Orman said that the minutes from the last meeting need to reflect

that 3 bid proposals were submitted. Crossley made a motion to note that change in the minutes, seconded by Wilson.

Wilson asked Clark if he had any luck on getting the Covered Bridge outside of Newport repaired and Clark said that it will be started somewhere within 10 days to 2 weeks. They lumber is cut special and takes longer.

Crossley made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Wilson.

Adjourn

Read in full and approved by the Vermillion County Commissioners on the 3rd day of February 2009.

Tim Wilson

Harry Crossley

Kim Hawkins

Attest: _____
Phyllis Orman, Auditor