

RE: Reassessment bids
 EOC Contract
 Employee Handbook
 Newport Covered Bridge
 Speed Limit Ordinance
 Ambulance bids
 LCC Mini Grant
 Jail small claims suit
 Lubovich zoning change request
 Lawlyes vacated alley request
 Driving on unimproved roads ordinance
 Clark resignation from Tax Board
 Election Equipment
 Insurance settlement for burnt wooden bridge
 Sycamore trails and the old county dump

Minutes-Vermillion County Commissioners April 7, 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.

Crossley made a motion to accept the prior meeting minutes, seconded by Hawkins. All were in favor.

Bids for Reassessment. Assessor Richey said she had looked over the bids that were submitted and she recommended using Tyler Technologies. Richey said Appraisal Research was the low bidder but that she had problems with them in the past and she was not confident they could complete the required work. Wilson made a motion to accept the bid from Tyler Technologies, seconded by Crossley. All were in favor.

EOC contract. Director O’Heir said that the Economic Development Council wants to know how much space in the EOC they will be getting for their offices. He said they want to move in shortly. O’Heir said the offices are ready. O’Heir also said he will be requesting another \$36,000.00 be put in his budget in order to cover expenses for the rest of the year. He said the sirens need a maintenance contract and he needs to pay utilities and other costs for the remainder of the year. Hawkins asked him what would happen if he did not get the \$36,000 and O’Heir said then they would have to turn off the lights and gas and close the doors because they can’t pay the bills.

Employee Handbook-Spurr said an updated version of the employee handbook had been sent out for review and is ready for the commissioners to approve and sign whenever they are ready. Wilson said they will plan on signing it at the next meeting.

Newport Covered Bridge. Highway Superintendent Bill Clark said he called the supplier 3 times last week and 3 times in the last two days and he has not got back with him.

Speed Limit Ordinance. Hawkins discussed the need to lower the speed limit on Old State Road 63 north of Hillsdale. He said some residents have complained. He said the posted speed limit is 55 and thought that 55 was bit excessive. Clark suggested the county pass a general ordinance that would set speed limits on

county roads “as posted” and prevent the count from having to pass a new ordinance whenever a limit needed changed. This would also make any existing signs legal, in case they are not supported by a specific ordinance. Spurr said the process of setting speed limits must start with the county council. It was decided that Clark would take the matter to them in order to begin the process.

Ambulance Bids. Wilson said that Auditor Orman needs to advertise for bids for the ambulance service so they can accept one at the May meeting. Spurr suggested considering proposals instead of bids, because it allows the commissioners a little more freedom to negotiate with the providers. Wilson suggested holding a special meeting to discuss it. It was agreed to have an executive session to discuss the specifications and then to hold a public special meeting to make the specifications available.

LCC Mini-grant. Wilson made a motion to allow the \$800 min grant presented at no cost to the county, seconded by Crossley. The mini grant is to help provide uniforms for the Clinton Police Departments new bike patrol.

Small Claims Suit. Spurr said that a small claims suit had been filed against the jail by Professional Account Services over an unpaid medical bill. It was explained that the bill was from a service that the inmate in question had agreed to pay and then did not pay. Spurr explained that because he used to represent PAS in the past, it would be a conflict of interest for him to defend the county in the case. He said he has spoken with another attorney in his firm, Phillip Smith, who said he would represent the county for the same rate that Spurr charges, \$60.00 per hour.

Zoning Change-Davis said the Area Plan Commission gave a favorable recommendation to change Lubovich Excavating land from agriculture to I-2 industrial. The property is located at 16038 South Rangeline Road. It was explained that this would rezone an area around an existing building that is I-2 in order to allow semis to be driven around the building instead of having to disconnect their trailers at night and hook them back up in the morning. Crossley made a motion to allow, seconded by Hawkins.

Vacate Alley. Tony Lawlyes asked the commissioners to vacate an alley, identified as part of County Road 925 North from Lawlyes’ property to the Indiana-Illinois state line. Albert Lawlyes objected to the closing because he owns property at the end of the road, which he accesses through a gate. He said he has no other way to his property. Tony Lawlyes said he wanted the road closed because people drive down it and walk on his property for mushroom hunting and other similar activities and he does not want them on his property. Hawkins suggested putting up no parking and trespassing signs. Bill Clark said he could put up some no parking signs but Lawlyes would need to put up his own no trespassing signs. Wilson made a motion to not close the road, seconded by Crossley. They advised Lawlyes to call the law if people were trespassing.

Prosecutor Alexander said they have an issue in St. Bernice. A resident had built a new house and had asked the county to put in a road to the property. The county declined but allowed the resident to put in his own road on the county right of way. She said this owner is in a dispute with another individual and this other individual is constantly out their driving on the unimproved portion of the right of way. He is tearing up the ground and for no reason but to aggravate the owner. She is asking the commissioners to pass an ordinance which would make intentionally driving on the unimproved portion of a road in infraction punishable by a fine. The commissioners agreed to look at it at their next meeting.

Wilson announced that Kathy Clark had resigned from the Property Tax Board.

Clerk Pruitt said she wanted to look into getting new election equipment and there are only 3 providers in the state and that one of the 3 is not eligible. She wondered

if she had to require a bid with only 2 vendors. Spurr said to check with State Board of Accounts to see if she could accept proposals instead.

Spurr said that the county’s insurance had paid \$10,000 toward replacement of a wooden bridge that had burned and that the suspects insurance had offered to reimburse the county for the \$10,000. In doing so they were asking the county to not to attempt to recover any additional funds in the matter. Clark said the replacement cost around \$132,000. Hawkins said he felt the county should try and recover the entire amount.

Sycamore Trails toured the old County Dump. Hawkins said that he will look into it and then discuss it at the next meeting.

Crossley made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Hawkins.

Adjourn

Read in full and approved by the Vermillion County Commissioners on the 5th day of May 2009.

Tim Wilson

Harry Crossley

Kim Hawkins

Attest: _____
Phyllis Orman, Auditor