

RE: Royal/Sisson road closing
Employee Handbook
Newport Covered Bridge
Speed Limit Ordinance
Ambulance Service Specifications
Driving on unimproved roads
Insurance settlement on burnt bridge
County Farm/Sycamore Trails
Perfection Group
Tax board appointment
Malinowski Consulting
USA mobility
Unfinished roadway-Art Sollars
Examination of claims
US Census Bureau
County Road 250 wash out
Emergency Operations Center

Minutes-Vermillion County Commissioners May 5, 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 and First Deputy Amy Tolbert.

Crossley made a motion to accept the minutes from the previous meetings, seconded by Hawkins. All were in favor.

George Royal & Sisson Farms road closing. Crossley said he spoke with several residents who wanted to close several roads in the Crown Hill area. The roads are platted driveways, never been improved. They include Sycamore Street from the northwest corner of Royal's property to the end of the street, plus short Road, West Poplar, Elm Street and West Walnut Street. Crossley said all of the neighbors were in agreement and no one disagreed. Crossley made a motion to allow the road closings, seconded by Hawkins. All were in favor.

Employee Handbook. Spurr said the handbook was done and advised the commissioners that they could sign it or review it again if they had more

questions. Clerk Florinda Pruitt discovered that she did not have the most recent copy and asked that she get an updated copy to review before moving forward. She said that according to the handbook, employees who work on holiday should be paid time and a half overtime. This would apply to the clerk's office employees working on Election Day, as it is a designated holiday. She said that she does not understand why we close on Election Day, that it should not affect the courthouse. Spurr said they can change anything they want in the handbook, that the point is that the SBOA needs a clearer outline. Hawkins discussed lunch time and breaks. He said that if someone does not take a lunch break does that mean they get to leave early? Pruitt said that the handbook says a lunch break will be given only if time allows. Hawkins asked how the employees were paid and it was explained that they get paid 70 hours every two weeks, meaning 7 hours per day, which allows for a 1 hour lunch break. Hawkins said then they should get to leave early if they don't take a lunch break. Pruitt said she was also told by an attorney at a recent conference that her employees must be paid their regular salary for working on Election Day, rather than the \$9 per hour part time rate. Hawkins said he would like to talk to SBOA before they do anything. It was decided to table this until the next meeting.

Newport Covered Bridge. Highway Superintendant Bill Clark reported he had spoken with Levi King about the Newport Covered Bridge, and King had told him work would be started, but it wasn't, as of Monday. He said he had warned King that the commissioners may want some answers as to why the work has not yet begun and may even want to look at someone else to complete the work. Wilson asked him to keep trying to get King to complete the work.

Speed Limit Ordinance. Clark said he was going to discuss this at the May Council meeting and just wanted to let the Commissioner's know. He said once it goes through the council he will bring it back before the commissioners.

Ambulance Service Specifications. Spurr said he had created a draft of a request for proposals for the ambulance service contract. He said the requirements were basically the same and the request stated the factors that would be considered in awarding the contract. It included the character and reputation of the provider, their financial responsibility and where the dispatchers would be located. Joanie Kanizer asked where the current ambulance service stood regarding its promised upgrade from advanced care to intermediate care. Paul Lee, the owner of the current service provider, said that the state is doing away with the intermediate level, meaning the service will remain at the advanced level. Kanizer asked about the possibility of providing paramedic-level service and Lee said he would be happy to do so if there were trained paramedics to hire. He added that to have a true paramedic service, a company must have a paramedic on duty within the county at all times. Having a paramedic stationed in Terre Haute is not a paramedic service. He said there were 3 services that could come in and bid paramedic service but they will actually give you a lower level of service. Lee said he has at least 1 advanced person working at all times on each of the county.

Kanizer said she felt the county needed to have paramedics. She asked if presently, someone needing to be transferred from Clinton to another hospital has to get an ambulance from Terre Haute. Lee said that was not true, he said there is stuff they can do, such as put a nurse on board. He said that the fact is, the county is bidding 911 services, not a transfer service. It is not the county's problem. Their job is to get people to the hospital. He said they don't even have to do basic transfers, it's not a part of the contract, but if they need to go, they will take them. Lee said that in the six and a half years he has been in the ambulance business, not one time has it made a difference if there had been paramedics. The outcome would have been the same. He said most runs were close enough to the hospital that they don't even have to use their advanced skills. Wilson said they could ask for proposals for a paramedic level and see what they are looking at money wise. Spurr said he will make the changes needed to the specifications. He said they have 3 months before they will put those specs out, probably around August to allow the commissioner's time to go over the proposals.

Driving on unimproved roads ordinance. An ordinance which would establish a \$500 fine for driving on the unimproved portion of a county right-a-way was discussed. It was decided to table it until next month so Sheriff Spence can look it over to see if he would have any issues relating to enforcement. Wilson had Spurr go ahead and read the ordinance. Spurr said changes could be made if needed.

Insurance settlement for bridge that burnt-tabled.

County property-Sycamore trails. Amanda Bailey from the Vermillion County Extension Office and also a representative of Sycamore Trails spoke to the Commissioners about a plan which had been discussed last year to utilize the 60 acres of the county farm for conservation and education opportunities. She said the plan would allow some of the land to be put in various government programs and would possibly generate some money for the county from sale of timber. Hawkins asked if this agreement would affect people who like to mushroom hunt or squirrel hunt on the property. Bailey asked if they allowed that, thinking that it would be a major liability. She said hunting would not be allowed on the property if they agreed to this. Hawkins said people have mushroom hunted on that for years and now they won't be able to. Bailey asked if allowing people to mushroom hunt was more important than the education opportunities this could provide. Hawkins said some people would think so but that he was not going to argue the point. Bailey said that she is not saying mushroom hunting would not be allowed, but questioned if the county presently allowed it. Wilson said that the county does not say whether you can or cannot. Wilson said he thought that Hollingsworth lease some ground for his cows and that they would have to look into that before doing anything.

Perfection Group. They were doing a follow up savings analysis on the courthouse and the jail. The commissioners gave them permission to put together

some costs regarding proposed efficiency improvements in lighting and other energy uses.

Appointment to tax Board-Wilson made a motion to appoint Lois Stoops, seconded by Crossley, all were in favor. (They had actually appointed Lois Stoops and Joan Rennick on 12/31/08. Had to redo the process due to advertising)

Malinowski Consulting. Pruitt asked the commissioners to approve an agreement between her and Malinowski Consulting to recover between \$10,000 and \$13,000 which the county should have received in reimbursement for handling child support cases. The cost of the agreement is \$3,600, of which about \$2,400 can be included in the funds recovered. Pruitt said she could pay the \$3,600 from her incentive funds, which are funds that her office receives based on child support that is collected and that the commissioners return the \$2,400 to that fund once the money is recovered. Wilson made a motion to allow, seconded by Crossley, all were in favor.

Stacey Bunes with USA Mobility was present to discuss the county using pagers instead of cell phones. She said yes they would still need cell phones but they could downsize the amount and cost. She said money is available from homeland security to cover the cost. They suggested she talk to the EOC director, Mark O'Heir.

Unfinished Roadway-Art Sollars-not present.

Examination of claims for 05/15/09. Wilson made a motion to allow, seconded by Crossley. All were in favor.

Norm Carpenter of the US Census Bureau asked the Commissioners for help in preparing for the 2010 census. He said each person counted as a resident of the county could result in about \$300 per person per year that the county can receive from various sources. He asked the county to consider appointing someone to be a point person for getting information out in the county, and recommended that the person be a 4-Her. Wilson agreed.

Michael Bardas and Dale Strubinger both live on County Road 250 W. They expressed concerns regarding a portion of the road which is washing out. The two men said gravel had been placed there, but it is still running down into a small valley on one side of the road and expressed concern that, eventually, the road will wash out completely. Wilson said this would need to go before the drainage board.

Emergency Operations Center Director Mark O'Heir presented the commissioners with the lease under which the county will rent the EOC from the City of Clinton, at a cost of \$7,000 per year. The commissioners signed the lease.

He also presented a lease with the State Police to rent space in the EOC for radio network equipment, at a price of \$500 per month, and a lease to allow the Economic Development Office to rent space for \$600 a month, and the commissioners signed both those leases.

Adjourn

Read in full and approved by the Vermillion County Commissioners on the 2nd day of June 2009.

Tim Wilson

Harry Crossley

Kim Hawkins

Attest: _____
Phyllis Orman, Auditor