

RE: Employee Handbook
Covered Bridge Repairs
Speed Limit Ordinance
Ambulance Service Proposals
Unimproved Roads Ordinance
LCC Minigrant
Construction engineering bids
Bridge 35 bids
Ice control salt-Morton's Salt
Clerk marriage license microfilmed
Malinowski Consulting
Redevelopment Commission
Highway funding
Examination of claims
Sheriff cars

Minutes-Vermillion County Commissioners August 4th 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.

Old Business:

Spurr stated that he had made all the changes recommended to the county's employee handbook. He said all he needs to do is fix the table of contents. Hawkins said he still thinks something needs to be done with the exempt and non-exempt and that maybe they should hire someone to write the handbook. Spurr said they can throw the whole thing out and start over if they would like to. Wilson asked if the handbook stated that all employees have to wear a seatbelt. Spence said it is in their handbook. Crossley said it's a law. Hawkins said he doesn't think this handbook will ever work. Orman said it will cost money to hire someone to write it and they will have to go to the council for the money. Wilson said he inherited this handbook 13 years ago. Hawkins said it's flawed. Spurr said State Board of Accounts wants us to have our handbook in writing, they don't

care what it says, and they just want a set of rules to follow. Orman said they want those policies enforced. Wilson suggested SBOA meet with them and the office holders to discuss what needs done. Pruitt said that SBOA is just trying to protect them from a lawsuit. The commissioners agreed to table it.

Clark said that he had spoken to Levi King, who had agreed to perform repair work on the Newport Covered Bridge, and informed him that if the work was not done that day, the county would get someone else. The work was completed that day.

The commissioners discussed a proposed speed limit ordinance for county roads. The issue has been discussed at several meetings, due to residents' concerns over people driving too fast on Old Highway 63 North of Hillsdale. Spence stated at a previous meeting that the speed limit for that area, if none is posted, would be 55 mph. Phelps said it is a residential area so it would be 30 mph. Spurr read the definition of an urban area, which would qualify for the 30 mph limit under state law, and said that, in an unincorporated area such as Hillsdale, an urban area is one with more than eight houses in less than a quarter of a mile from each other. Spurr said this is only if it is not posted. We can post a speed limit but it won't be back by an ordinance. If someone were to get a ticket, that person could challenge the ticket in court and it could be dismissed if no ordinance could be produced to support it. Hawkins made a motion to adopt a county wide ordinance which would establish the speed limits "as posted", seconded by Crossley. Spurr will re-write the ordinance and have it at the next meeting.

The commissioners approved a request for proposals which will be advertised to seek proposals for the new ambulance service contract. The request includes a request for alternative proposals for paramedic level service. Hawkins asked if the commissioners had considered trying to provide a place to house the ambulances, in order to reduce costs. Wilson asked where they could be housed and Hawkins suggested Cayuga, Clinton Fire Dept, or Clinton Twp Fire Dept. It was mentioned that most fire dept. do not have the room. Hawkins suggested the jail. It was noted that the jail is 17.5 miles from 74 and 18 miles to the Vigo County line. Crossley said 66% of the population is south of US Highway 36 and Wilson said that they would have to house one in Clinton. Spurr said they could discuss these issues in negotiations with those who submit proposals.

After several months of discussion, the commissioners asked Spurr to re-write a proposed ordinance regarding driving on unimproved roads to deal specifically with a single location where there have been problems. Crossley expressed concern that by singling out one location in St. Bernice where this has been an issue recently. Hawkins said he would only vote for the ordinance if it was specific to that road, Indiana Avenue. Spurr agreed to re-write the ordinance. Hawkins motion to table, seconded by Wilson.

The commissioners approved a \$300 Local Coordination Council minigrant to purchase meth and marijuana drug test kits for Clinton Police Department. Wilson motion to allow, seconded by Crossley.

The commissioners opened several proposals for construction engineering work on various county roads, which they explained is work that will only be done if the county receives stimulus money for the projects. Proposals for work on Bridge 35 west of Salem Church were also opened, and were give to Clark to review.

Crossley made a motion to allow the quote for ice control salt from Morton's Salt at a price of \$76.16 per ton, with a commitment from the county to buy 275 tons, seconded by Hawkins.

Pruitt asked the commissioners for permission to take record books containing marriage licenses to Indianapolis to have them put on microfilm so that they can be digitized. Hawkins motion to allow, seconded by Crossley.

Pruitt asked the commissioners to contract with Malinowski Consulting to process claims related to process expenditure reimbursements claims for money that is to be reimbursed by the state. The company had recently recovered over \$48,000 for the county, and estimated that for a cost of \$221 per month they could recover and additional \$2,800 per month for the county. Crossley said they would need council approval to spend the money. Wilson made a motion to allow pending council approval, seconded by Hawkins.

Joe Beardsley spoke to the commissioners on behalf of the Economic Development Council. He explained that there are projects coming up, such as a new office building being planned by White Construction, which will require action by a county redevelopment commission. The White project will require such a commission in order to receive a federal grant that will help pay for running water and sewer lines to the proposed building site on State Road 63. Beardsley said 5 people had been appointed in the past, but laws had changed, which required the commissioners to appoint three members and the council to appoint two. Beardsley said he could not find record of the commissioners actually voting to establish the commission. He asked them to pass a resolution re-establishing the commission. Hawkins motion to allow, seconded by Crossley. He also asked the commissioners to approve an interlocal agreement with the city of Clinton, which would allow the city's redevelopment commission to serve on behalf of the county until members are appointed by the commissioners and council. Hawkins made a motion to approve, seconded by Crossley.

Wilson stated that if funding for the highway department does not change, it may be necessary to lay off some employees on Jan. 1, 2010.

Wilson made a motion to approved the claims, seconded by Crossley.

Spence asked the commissioners to request funding from the county council for the purchase of three or four new sheriff's cars, and to approve the purchase pending council approval. He estimated the cost to be around \$100,000. Wilson said he did not think the council would approve it. Hawkins said \$100,000 was too much when they were just talking about laying off people and suggested cutting the number of people driving cars. Spence asked if he meant laying off police officers and Hawkins said no, he meant cutting the number of drivers and reducing the number of cars needed. Hawkins asked how many vehicles the sheriff's department has, and Spence said he could not remember. Hawkins said, about 13 and Spence said that sounded about right and added that currently there are 9 people driving cars. Spence said they bought a transport van, but it is not a police car. He said he was driving a vehicle that was acquired from the EOC because it was not equipped as a police vehicle, and he was leaving the cars that are equipped for the deputies. He said they used to get 3 or 4 vehicles every year and if we would of kept doing that we wouldn't have to play catch up now. Wilson said it did not hurt to ask the council, we may get one or two out of them.

Crossley made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Hawkins.

Read in full and approved by the Vermillion County Commissioners on the 1st day of September 2009.

Tim Wilson

Harry Crossley

Kim Hawkins

Attest: _____
Phyllis Orman, Auditor