

RE: CSEPP/EOC-letter to Homeland Security
Covered Bridge Certification
County Roads ordinance
GFC forms approval
GIS map data application
EPA coalition assessment grant
Tax Sale Services addendum
911 contract renewal
LCC mini grants
Humane Society water issues
Midwest toxicology services
Hagler property
County attorneys
Bids on scrap metal and vehicles

Minutes
Vermillion County Board of Commissioners
April 6, 2010
Commissioners Courtroom, Courthouse, Newport, Indiana

President, Tim Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:30 and declared a quorum of Commissioner Tim Wilson, Commissioner Harry Crossley and Commissioner Kim Hawkins.

Also present were: Attorney Jon Spurr and First Deputy Amy Tolbert.

Wilson led in the Pledge to the Flag.

Minutes from the prior meeting. Crossley motion to allow, seconded by Hawkins.
Examination of claims. Crossley motion to allow, seconded by Hawkins.

Wilson asked Attorney Spurr to write a letter to homeland security in regards to paying for former EOC employees sick, personal, and comp time. Wilson said that approximately \$28,000 was paid to the former employees when the CSEPP program ended in 2008. The payments were questioned in an audit from the State Board of Accounts and IDHS has refused to reimburse the county for them, due to language in the county's handbook. Wilson said the county was told by IDHSA and FEMA to pay the employees everything they've got coming to them including vacation, sick, personal and comp time. He said this all took place in a meeting involving himself, Crossley, Council President John Cheesewright, Rick Card of IDHS and Deborah Wagner of FEMA. Wilson to Spurr to tell them that we need reimbursed, he said they told us what to do and we did it. Wilson said the EOC employees had always been considered state employees, not county ones, in the eyes of IDHS and received raises when county employees did not. Now IDHS is saying they were county employees. Spurr said he would draft the letter.

Covered Bridge Certification. The Commissioners signed the form stating the county has 3 covered bridges.

Wilson explained that a county road ordinance passed in 2000 needs to be amended, as it set a weight limit during the winter months and as written, school buses are over the 5 ton limit. Spurr said he would draft a new ordinance.

GFC Forms Approval. The highway is using a new system had the forms approved at a prior meeting but they were not worded correctly. The commissioners agreed to sign the new form.

Taxpayer concern over sewage-no one present to discuss this.

GIS Map data application, the commissioners agreed to sign the application.

EPA Coalition assessment grant. Jim Coffenberry of West Central Indiana Economic Development District inform the commissioners a \$900,000 coalition assessment grant had been awarded to Vigo, Clay and Vermillion Counties, which can be used to assess suspected Brownfield sites in hope of addressing any existing issues so the sites may be redeveloped. The first project under the grant is to assess the site of the future Clinton fire station, where the old high school is located. Coffenberry said assessments are being conducted there already. The grant money must be used within the three counties by 2012, and the city of Terre Haute is not included so Coffenberry said there is a lot of money available for assessment projects. If issues are found, there are other funds that can be obtained to help address them. He asked the commissioners to designate a contact person to deal with his department in regard to the grant, and they designated Wilson as the contact person.

Tax sale services addendum. The commissioners approved a change in the agreement with SRI, the company that handles tax sales for the county, which would increase their fee by \$5 per parcel. This fee is paid out of the funds recovered from the sale, and does not require the use of any tax money.

911 contract renewal. E-911 director Mike Phelps asked the commissioners to renew the county's 911 contract, even though it does not expire for two years. He explained that by doing so, the county could save about \$160,000 by not paying for equipment that is longer used at the Clinton Police Department, since that department no longer has full time dispatchers. He said the department will no longer serve as a backup for 911. He said he wanted to be under a new contract before the state tried to take over the system, which has been discussed at the state level, and explained that so far, the state has favored the idea of taking over control of the money first and then figuring out the rest later. Phelps said he wanted to be under a new contract so the county could not be forced to change to a lesser quality provider. The new 10 year contract would cost \$404,000 and the 911 budget has the funds to pay for it. The commissioners approved the renewal.

Scott Miller, president of the LCC was present to request the commissioners approve four mini-grants. The grants are paid for with LCC funds but require their approval. Crossley motion to allow, seconded by Hawkins.

Melissa Wible of Parke-Vermillion Humane Society spoke to the commissioners about the water supply issue at the shelter. She was present last month and explained that their wells are going dry. After several options were discussed it was agreed to ask Hillsdale if they could supply them water. Wilson said he would talk with Larry Southard. Wible also said she needs high speed internet and Mike Phelps said he would get with her about it.

Susan Fields of Midwest toxicology services provided a proposal to the commissioners for her company to perform drug and alcohol screenings for highway employees. After discussion the commissioners declined her proposal stating they were happy with their current provider.

David Hagler spoke to the commissioners about a road which runs through property he recently purchased, which he has been informed may be a county road. He asked the commissioners to confirm whether he owns the road or whether the county owns it. Wilson explained that the previous owners had asked to have the road closed, but it was not closed due to objections from neighbors. Wilson added that the commissioners would be willing to look at closing it again, if Hagler wished. It was suggested that Hagler check with the auditors office about the status of the road. Spurr said that simplest thing might be to request that it be legally closed, so there would be no question about it.

Wilson asked the other commissioners to look into the matter of county attorneys, by checking with other counties to see how many they employ. Wilson questioned whether we truly need 3 county attorneys on the payroll.

The commissioners opened bids for vehicles and scrap metal that were to be disposed of by the county. A bid of \$450 was received from Steve Axtell for the air filter system which had been installed at the jail due to VX, and the commissioners voted to reject that

bid and re-advertise, based on their opinion that the bid was too low. A bid was received from Gibby Elliot in the amount of \$350 for a truck and \$800 for a Durango. He was awarded both.

Wilson moved to adjourn. Seconded by Crossley. Motion carried unanimously.

Read in full and approved by the Vermillion County Commissioners on the 3rd day of May 2010.

Tim Wilson

Harry Crossley

Kim Hawkins

Attest: _____
Phyllis Orman, Auditor