

# ***Vermillion County Commissioners Meeting Agenda/Minutes***

Tuesday January 12, 2016

6:30 p.m.

Commissioners Courtroom, Courthouse, Newport, Indiana

- I. **CALL TO ORDER.** The Vermillion County Commissioner's convened in a regular meeting on Tuesday, January 12, 2016.
- II. **ROLL CALL.** Members present were President Tim Wilson, Vice-President Harry Crossley, Tim Yocum, Auditor Phyllis Orman, and Attorney Jon Spurr.
- III. **ELECTION OF PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT.** Crossley made a motion to nominate Tim Wilson as President, seconded by Yocum. Motion carried. Yocum made a motion to nominate Crossley as Vice-President, seconded by Wilson. Motion carried.
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES.** The minutes from December 29, 2015 were approved on a motion made by Harry Crossley and seconded by Tim Yocum. The motion carried.
- V. **EXAMINATION OF CLAIMS.** After reviewing the claims docket, the claims were approved for release on January 15, 2016 on a motion by Harry Crossley and seconded by Tim Yocum. The motion carried.
- VI. **EXAMINATION OF PAYROLL.** After reviewing the payroll docket, the payroll was approved for release on January 15, 2016 on a motion by Harry Crossley and seconded by Tim Yocum. The motion carried.
- VII. **MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT.** Wilson acknowledged receipt of the monthly financial report.
- VIII. **OPEN ISSUES:**
  - Hunting on County owned property. Wilson stated that some of the property behind the jail is leased to Keith Hollingsworth. He said there has been some issues with people hunting back there and asked Spurr if the county would be liable if someone got hurt and said it is possible. Wilson suggested they not allow anyone to hunt on the property. Yocum said there are plans for a walking trail out at that property in the future. He also asked if the issue could be revisited next year. He said that hunting had been stopped at Vermillion Rise and suggested they try to accommodate some people in the future. Wilson made a motion to not allow hunting on the county owned property behind the Vermillion County Jail at this time, seconded by Crossley.
  - Bridge 122. Crossley said that Bridge 122 on Old State Road 63 near Hillsdale needs some repairs. Orman said they need to let her know what to advertise if they are planning on taking bids. Yocum said he would contact the Bridge Inspector to get the needed information.
  - Feasibility Study. Eric Weflen of RQAW presented the results of the study for jail and courthouse. He said that at the jail the current capacity is 78 inmates, and that the current situation limits the ability to classify the inmates by separating violent offenders from other offenders. He said that separating male and female inmates is difficult as well. He said there is only one padded cell but there should be at least three. He said office space is very limited. He said there is a need for a secure evidence room and a training room. He said it would also be beneficial to keep the jailers and dispatchers in separate locations. He said in order to meet the jail's needs for the next 20 years they need to provide space for 150 offenders. Weflen explained other concerns such as the fact that the pumps for the geothermal system need replaced and that there is a lack of negative air pressure in the medical isolation holding areas. He presented two options for expanding the jail. One involving construction in several separate areas that could be done in phases. He said this option would be the least expensive. The cost would be between \$6.3 and \$7.9 million. This option does not address the need of a separate jailer and dispatch control area. The second option would include the

construction of a new two-story dormitory space and a new administrative area and would allow dispatch and jailer control to be separate. Weflen explained that it would be less staff intensive as the staff would not need to cover as large an area in order to supervise inmates. This option would cost around \$9.6 to \$11.1 million. Wilson asked how long the work would take. Weflen explained that the inmates would not need to be moved and the work could be completed in 15-18 months. Weflen also spoke about the concerns at the courthouse. He said one option would be to move the extension office into the auditorium and expand the prosecutor’s office into that area. The child support could be moved down to the new area and free up space on the third floor for the clerk and Probation. The second option would require moving the extension office out of the courthouse. The prosecutor would still expand into that space and the probation would move to the auditorium. This would allow the public defenders to establish an office on the third floor. The cost for the first option would be around \$1.17 to \$1.63 million and the second option between \$1.2 and \$1.4 million. The Commissioners asked Weflen to arrange a similar presentation to the Vermillion County Council.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS:**

Read in full and approved by the Vermillion County Commissioners on the 26thday of January, 2016.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tim Wilson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Harry Crossley

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tim Yocum

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phyllis Orman, Auditor