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Credit card resolution for Economic Development

## ***Vermillion County Commissioners Meeting Agenda***

May 2, 2016

6:00 p.m.

Commissioners Courtroom, Courthouse, Newport, Indiana

- I. Call to order. President Tim Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- II. Roll call. Members present were President Tim Wilson, Vice-President Harry Crossley, Tim Yocum, Auditor Phyllis Orman, Chief Deputy Auditor Amy Tolbert, and Attorney Jon Spurr.
- III. Approval of minutes from last meeting. Crossley made a motion to accept the minutes from April 19, 2016, seconded by Yocum. Motion carried.
- IV. Examination of claims and payroll. Crossley made a motion to accept the claims and payroll for release on May 6, 2016, seconded by Yocum. Motion carried.
- V. Monthly financial report. N/A
- VI. Open issues
  - a) Property for walking trail. Parke County Commissioner Jim Meece spoke about their walking trail in Parke County that will connect to the walking trail in Vermillion County. Yocum said the project will be much more attractive to the State if they pursue it together instead of each county individually. Meece said Parke County and the Town of Montezuma went together and secured a Grant from the Department of Natural Resources to complete the railroad bridge just downstream from the U.S. 36 bridge. He said it is an abandoned railway that the DNR was going to remove and scrap but found out the bridge was in good condition and there was no reason to scrap it. The grant was for \$150,000.00 with \$36,000.00 matching, which could be time. So Parke County is going to put in \$18,500 worth of time and Montezuma will do the same. He said they have had meetings for the last year to figure out how to go about it. The DNR initially wanted Parke County to take ownership of the bridge but Parke County was not interested. He said the DNR wants the project completed badly enough that they are willing to keep the bridge if Parke County would put the surface on it. Meece said they have hired Clark Dietz engineering to get things started. He said the final plan will probably consist of pre-fabricated concrete panels. Meece said he is confident that they can get this project done but he is not confident that they can do it with the \$186,000.00 dollars they've been given. There will be no grant money available this year but in 2017 there will be and he suggested both Parke and Vermillion apply for it to finish this project. He said the DNR is very supportive, stating it's very rare to have an opportunity for a trail to cross the Wabash River. Meece said he hopes to have made some progress by Fall 2016. Yocum asked what the plans were for the Parke County side of the trail, where will it link to. Meece said Montezuma has a small trail near the river that this trail will link to. He said Parke County has a group called the Gateway trails that are working

on different trails in Parke County and hoping this can eventually connect to a trail to Rockville. Yocum said he spoke with Mr. Hyer from the DNR and he said there is no problem with that property line from the state. Mr. Little owns the south property line and he has agreed to donate it for the purpose of the trail with the clause that if the trail is not developed the property reverts back to Mr. Little. Yocum said he hopes to have the property issues finalized by the next meeting. Yocum said it is a big positive for us to partner with Parke County.

b) Hog Slat. No one present.

c) Reuse Authority & Economic Development Update. Bill Laubernds reminded the Commissioners that the ground breaking for the new spec building will be on May 9, 2016 at 11:30 a.m.

He then spoke about the options for the water at the jail. He said the first option would be no change from the current situation, raw water would continue to be provided from the reservoir. He said the problem is that IDEM may not permit continued use from the reservoir. The second option is to run potable water through the 8-inch main but at a reduced water pressure than the current water pressure. The third option would be to continue to provide your fire suppression water through the 8-inch main from the reservoir. We would then put in a new 4-inch water line for the jail. He said they will cooperate with whatever option the commissioners prefer.

He said he would like to mention that the reuse authority will be discussing their audit at their May 19<sup>th</sup> meeting at 7:00 p.m. He invited the commissioners to attend.

Yocum asked Laubernds about the TIF districts, stating they assess and get their own taxes. Laubernds said that is not exactly how it works. He said TIF means Tax Increment Financing. If you have a piece of property and there is nothing on it the taxes the Tax Increment is the difference of what is not there and what will be there. The state law allows that difference to be used to develop that project. Laubernds said they were able to TIF the whole Depot and in the future, as properties come on the tax roll, those funds will be used to build out the infrastructure to develop the project, such as water, sewer, roads, etc. He said the County Council is also facing tax abatement. He said they are allowed to abate a tax and that it is an incentive that most businesses expect today. The owner of the spec building property, Garmong, has asked the county for tax abatement. He said their goal is to see the property as competitive as possible so they can get jobs out there as quickly as possible. He said the Reuse Authority is in support of the tax abatement for Garmong and it will be before the County Council next week for final determination.

Yocum said, so it doesn't really make a difference, from a county standpoint, the outcome of that abatement. He said there is no money generated from that tax abatement for the county. Laubernds said that is correct. Orman explained that the taxes are paid to the county and then the TIF dollars are sent to the Reuse Authority. Laubernds said the goal is to improve the economy by creating new jobs and improve the fiscal capabilities of the county because at some point the TIF will expire. Yocum asked if there was any exciting news to announce and Laubernds said they are working on executing a Memorandum of Understand from a company sometime in June. He said one thing they need to do is connect Broadway to 71 and it would be built to state standards. He said it is possible a company would help build it as well as obtaining grants from the State.

Crossley said they have issues with semi's pulling into the Highway Garage and then are unable to get turned around. He said the Depot does not show up on GPS because it was a military institution but they are working on that issue.

Laubernds said another thing they are working on is creating walking trails out at the Depot that will be open to the public. He said the plan is to have it completed in 2016 with maps made and opened by spring of 2017. He said they should have around 7 miles done by the first year and then adding it to it every year. He said it is possible to link it to the walking trail that Soil & Water Director, Eric Shideler, is working on as well as the walking trail in Hillsdale and Montezuma.

d) Water Pressure-Jail-Laubernds spoke about the water pressure options at the jail, see above.

e) Responsible Bidding Ordinance. Yocum asked what the purpose is and asked if there is a need to adopt this with what the county already has in place. Spurr said the ordinance will set some standards that are a little stricter than state statute. Yocum asked if it pertained to wage scales. Spurr said he has not read it since the last meeting but thought it did include some language about wages. Yocum said he would like to review it again before making a decision. He asked John Moore if he would sit down with him to explain it and Moore said he would. Moore said the biggest issue it sets out is that it requires a

contractor who is doing the work to be signed to a federally approved apprenticeship. Crossley said he talked to the schools and they are involved in the WRTCE which is comprised of several county schools who are doing building trades. Mark Swingle said they are working with select employers to see what work skills are needed. We are trying to identify the labor needs in our county and the surrounding counties to design our school programs accordingly. Crossley asked what if a low bid comes in but the contractor is not signed to a federally approved apprenticeship. Moore said this ordinance pertains to jobs over \$150,000.00 and uses public funds. He said if the county is funding the entire project then this would give them the option of not having to go with the lowest bid if you feel they are not qualified.

- f) Geo-Thermal system/Energy Savings-Jail. Tabled.
- g) Internal Controls. Spurr said he received some sample ordinances from other counties for them to review. He asked if they wanted to adopt the state minimum or do they want it to be more detailed. He said there will be other requirements such as training that they will work on after they adopt the ordinance. Tabled.
- h) Newport Covered Bridge Historical Marker. Wilson said that he spoke with Stephen Axtell and he said he has not had any luck getting the schools involved. Orman will have Terry Carrera get her the number of the company he used to get a quote to repair this historical marker.
- i) Board Appointee Requirements. Yocum said they need to discuss it further and draft a document to line out what is required from each board appointee. Yocum asked Spurr if he could ask other counties if they have any documents in place that they can review. He said they appoint people to the boards because they can't be there so the appointees need to report back periodically.
- j) INDOT 63 & 74. Tabled.
- k) Eugene Covered Bridge Abutment problems. Tabled.
- l) Clark-Dietz Contract. Spurr said the bridge inspection contract is estimated to finish up in June 2019.
- m) Bridge 80. Orman had a contract for Bridge 80 that needed approval. Wilson made a motion to allow, seconded by Crossley. Motion carried.

VII. New business

- a) SRI Tax Sale Contract. SRI raised their fees that the taxpayer will pay, this at no cost to the county. Crossley made a motion to allow, seconded by Yocum. Motion carried.
- b) Hillsdale Water Grant. Hillsdale is pursuing the grant for water again. The grant administrator had paperwork that needed approved and signed for them to move forward. Crossley made a motion to allow, seconded by Yocum. Motion carried.
- c) Credit Card Resolution for Economic Development. Economic Development would like to seek a bank issued credit card to be able to pay certain bills and to pay for conferences and training. The ordinance lines out the requirements for submitting claims for reimbursement. Crossley made a motion to allow, seconded by Yocum. Motion carried.

VIII. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Read in full and approved by the Vermillion County Commissioners on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2016.

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Tim Wilson

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Harry Crossley

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Tim Yocum

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