

Vermillion County Commissioners & Council

Joint Meeting Agenda

November 14, 2016

5:00 p.m.

Commissioners Courtroom, 2nd Floor, Courthouse

- I. Call to order. The Vermillion County Council convened in a joint meeting with the Commissioners at 5:00 p.m. on Monday November 14, 2016.
- II. Roll call. Council members present were President Jill Wesch, Randy Dreher, Michael Carty, Jim McLain, Basil Ave, Auditor Phyllis Orman, First Deputy Auditor Amy Tolbert and Attorney Don Darnell. Bob Spence was presented via skype. Commissioners members present were President Tim Wilson, Vice-President Harry Crossley, Tim Yocum, and Attorney Jon Spurr.
- III. Open issues
 - a) Health Insurance Premiums. Jacque Pentell with Forrest Sherer provided information on how the county could save money on insurance premiums. She said they could increase employee premiums or eliminate the \$1500 plan, for example. Carty said he would suggest considering having spouses pay more to encourage them to enroll in their own employers' insurance. Pentell said that is an option they can review. Wesch asked about a health savings account and Pentell said she could provide information for that as well. She said they have someone trained in that area that can provide more information. She also stated several other counties have implemented the spousal provision. Carty said he was hoping they could get something resolved at this meeting. Wesch suggested they put together a committee to eliminate repeated meetings. Pentell said she gets quotes, nothing happens, and then she must re-do the quotes. She said she will do what she can to help. Julie Dixon said she would rather have a rate increase instead of the spousal provision. Clerk Pruitt said she has heard some employers offer a stipend to spouses on Medicaid. She said Medicaid pays very little as a secondary insurance. Pentell said she would have to legally explore that option. Ave asked how other counties rank with their employee contributions. Pentell she could get those numbers for them. It was decided to form a committee that would be made up of the same people that are on the personnel committee; Commissioner President, Council Attorney, Auditor, Payroll Deputy, and Sheriff. Bob Dixon said they keep talking about a savings but really it is just a transfer of cost from county to employee. Carty said yes, cost is cost.

b) Local Option Income Tax (LIT) Tax. Jason Semler with Umbaugh and Associates gave a presentation on the changes regarding Local Option Income Tax. Phelps stressed the need for a public safety tax for the Sheriff and Fire Departments. The new law took effect July 1st and Semler said the purpose was to combine all the various local option income taxes into one tax. The county currently only has one tax, Economic Development Income Tax, at a rate of 0.2 percent. The new tax has three components; expenditures, property tax relief, or special purpose. The county can enact up to 1.25 percent for property tax relief and 2.5 percent for expenditures. He explained that any taxes adopted in 2017 would not take effect until 2018. He also explained that the county has lost \$1.6 million in property taxes due to the circuit breaker. Carty asked if that meant the taxpayers have saved that money and Semler said yes. There was also discussion on how the special purpose tax could help fund the jail renovations. Clinton City Attorney Scott Craig asked if libraries were included in the certified shares and Semler said he would find out and get back to them. Helt Township Trustee Kevin Wickens asked if the public safety tax would help the townships and Semler said it would be distributed to the County and towns only. He said the townships would have to request a draw off the top from the council. City Council Attorney Scott Craig asked that the council give this serious thought and to keep the libraries in mind when making decisions. He said they don't have many options to generate more revenue. Carty said he was in favor of raising taxes if it would help recoup some of what the county has been losing. He would still like to discuss the 50% that currently goes to Economic Development and the Highway. He said he would like to see a plan to connect the highway and the future of economic development. Yocum asked how much would be generated by the tax rates. Carty said 0.1 percent generates approximately \$300,000. Les Zimmerman is in favor of the tax. He said he thinks there needs to be a plan in place and suggested partnering with other counties to hire an engineer.

IV. Adjournment

Having no further business to come before the Council and Commissioners, the motion to adjourn was made by Carty, seconded by Dreher.

AYE

NAY

Jill Wesch, President

Randy Dreher

Michael Carty

Bob Spence

William Brent Bush

Jim McLain

Basil Ave

Read in full and approved by the Vermillion County Commissioners on the 29th day of November, 2016.

Tim Wilson

Harry Crossley

Tim Yocum

ATTEST:

Phyllis Orman, Auditor