

# ***Vermillion County Commissioners and Council Joint Meeting Agenda***

January 24, 2017

6:00 p.m.

Commissioners Courtroom, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Courthouse

- I. Call to order
- II. Roll call. Members of the Council present were President Jill Wesch, Jim McLain, Brent Bush, Mike Carty, Ashley James, Bob Spence and Randy Dreher. Members of the Commissioners present were President Tim Wilson and Harry Crossley. Tim Yocum was absent.
- III. Jail Expansion or Replacement. Sheriff Mike Phelps introduced Jack Krouse from Construction Control Inc. as having expertise in overseeing the construction of new jail and also in the difference between expanding an existing jail or building a new jail.

Jack Krouse President of Construction Control Inc., gave a Powerpoint presentation on the process to construct a new jail. He said that formal bidding is required for projects over \$150K and bonding is required on contracts over \$200K. Funding sources can be Rainy Day Funds, Cumulative Jail Funds, "Lease Financing"-Revenue Bonds, and General Obligation Fund. He said Soft Costs account for 33% of the total budget. He also said the average cost of a jail is usually around \$90,000 to \$100,000 per bed. Krouse stated most jails are built due to overcrowding. He said they are used 24/7, 365 days a year and are full of people who like to destroy things. Krouse said jails are expensive to build and you've got to look at the cost of building new versus fixing the existing jail. He said our jail was designed by a road and bridge firm, not a jail firm, and built by a contractor who is no longer in business. He said our jail is already 25 years old. Krouse said fixing the existing jail would be expensive and he said his personal opinion is to build a new jail. He said fixing the existing jail could be a serious financial mistake.

Councilman Jim McLain asked how long a new jail would be expected to last. Krouse said they are designed to last 20 years but if they are done the way we're doing them now it can be expanded and renovated.

Councilman Mike Carty asked how the county can explain the need for a jail to the public. Krouse said in a public forum. Carty asked if the county could begin generating funds in advance and Krouse said yes they could, and advance funding is helpful. Krouse said if they decide to build a new jail it would take at least 14 to 16 months to build.

Sheriff Mike Phelps said that it would be a good idea for county officials to visit some newer jails in surrounding counties and see the differences. Tim Wilson asked Phelps to pick some he would like officials to visit. Krouse said he would be more than happy to answer any questions they may have.

- IV. Adjournment.

Having no further business to come before the Council and Commissioners a motion was made by Harry Crossley and seconded by Tim Wilson to adjourn.

Read in full and approved by the Vermillion County Commissioners on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2017.

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Tim Wilson

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Harry Crossley

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Tim Yocum

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Amy Tolbert, Auditor

Read in full and approved by the Vermillion County Council on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2017.

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**NAY**

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Jill Wesch, President

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Mike Carty, Vice President

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Brent Bush

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Ashley James

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Jim McLain

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Randy Dreher

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Bob Spence

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ATTEST:

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Amy Tolbert, Auditor