

Vermillion County Commissioners

Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2018

8:15a.m.

Commissioner's Courtroom, 2nd Floor, Courthouse

- I. Call to Order. The Commissioners convened in a regular meeting on January 9, 2018 at 8:15 a.m. South Vermillion High School student Adam Waldrop assisted the Commissioners in calling the meeting to order.
- II. Pledge Allegiance to the Flag. North Vermillion High School student Nathan Roderick lead the Pledge to the Flag.
- III. Roll Call. Members present were President Tim Wilson, Harry Crossley, Tim Yocum, Auditor Amy Tolbert, First Deputy Auditor Stephanie Simpson and County Attorney Jon Spurr.
- IV. Approval of Minutes. A motion was made by Harry Crossley and seconded by Tim Yocum to approve the minutes from the December 12, 2017 meeting and the December 27, 2017 meeting. All in favor, motion carried.
- V. Approval of Claims and Payroll. A motion was made by Harry Crossley and seconded by Tim Yocum to approve the claims and payroll for January 12, 2018. All in favor, motion carried.
- VI. Open Issues
 - a. Vermillion Rise. Executive Director Bob Grewe said that Vermillion Rise continues to pursue 2018 funding from the Department of Defense, Office of Economic Adjustment and Army BRAC Office. He also noted that last week the team responded to a project inquire from the Indiana Economic Development Corporation. Grewe stated that Vermillion Rise is looking forward to 2018 and positive business climate resulting in jobs and investment at the Vermillion Rise property. Grewe also stated they have a client they continue talking with that has shown interest in the shell building.

Commissioner Tim Yocum inquired about marketing in the Chicago area. Grewe said they are not currently doing so, though Vermillion Rise has been doing targeted postcard mailings throughout manufacturers in Illinois. Yocum also inquired about hosting an open house at the shell building. Grewe said the current weather is not inviting for such an event but perhaps Vermillion Rise will coordinate such an event for March or April 2018.
 - b. Walking Trail. Tom Milligan gave an update on the walking trail. Milligan said several people interested in walking and biking trails have come together to form the Vermillion Trails Alliance or VeTA. Milligan noted the group has held visioning sessions to form a sort and long term scope of work as well as vision and mission statements. Milligan said they have incorporated in the State of Indiana and have received their 501c3 status. VeTA is working on mapping trails already in Vermillion County as well as mapping future trails and routes for walking and biking. Milligan said VeTA members have secured former rail road right of way property from three landowners and transferred ownership to the Vermillion County Commissioners. This property connects the recently decked bridge across the Wabash River to Hillsdale in Vermillion County. Milligan said they have secured permission from the Vermillion County Commissioners to form a trailhead on 2 acres of county property just north of the Vermillion County Jail/Vermillion County Highway Department/Parke-Vermillion Humane Shelter. This property would be the launching point for loop trails on the property as well as the old rail road grade that extends 1.5 miles to the south-

east to intersect with a county road. Construction will begin in the spring on this project. VeTA members have also secured support from the Newport Chemical Depot Reuse Authority/Vermillion Rise Mega Park to establish a trail system at Vermillion Rise Mega Park. Milligan said there are many miles of abandoned rail road as well as many more miles of roads. He said it has been the vision of the Newport Chemical Depot Reuse Authority for many years to have recreational use of open space at Vermillion Rise Mega Park. Milligan said VeTA is helping make this vision a reality. Vermillion Rise Mega Park will become a destination for road and mountain bikes. He said they have received a \$2,000 private donation, \$1,000 from Western Indiana Community Foundation, \$1,000 from Greenways Foundation, \$3,000 from Elanco and a private donation of land. He said they have established working relationships with several entities including the Vermillion County Soil and Water Conservation District, Vermillion County Economic Development Council, Newport Chemical Depot Reuse Authority, County Commissioners and the Vermillion County Extension.

- c. County Property Lease Agreement. Tom Milligan said the entire parcel is approximately 55 acres. He stated the 2 acres are adjacent to the rail road right of way. County Attorney Jon Spurr is working on the lease agreement.
- d. Courthouse Security Ordinance. Jon Spurr is working on the security ordinance.
- e. Prosecutor Sub Lease. A motion was made by Tim Wilson and seconded by Harry Crossley to approve the prosecutor sub lease. All in favor, motion carried.
- f. Establish a Redevelopment Commission. County Attorney Jon Spurr asked the Commissioners if they want to establish a five-member or a seven-member redevelopment commission, so he could prepare a resolution. Spurr said the members are appointed to a one year term. Spurr also stated that if the board is five members the commissioners will appoint three and the council will appoint two, and if it's a seven member board the commissioners will appoint four and the council will appoint three. Jim Coffenberry from the West Central Indiana Economic Development Board (WCIEDB) said he works with Clinton City Redevelopment Commission on the White Construction Project. He said the Commissioners signed an inter local agreement with the City of Clinton Redevelopment Commission to act on behalf of the county. He said they would be in control of that until the bond is satisfied regardless of whether the Commissioners establish a Redevelopment Commission. Wilson inquired whether that would be a conflict. Coffenberry said it would not be a conflict. Spurr said he emailed the Commissioners pages of rules for the establishment of the redevelopment commission. The Commissioners decided to take this under advisement until their next meeting. A motion was made by Tim Wilson and seconded by Harry Crossley to table the establishment of a redevelopment commission until the January 23, 2018 meeting. All in favor, motion carried.
- g. Southern Power – Economic Development Agreement. Henry Antonini said that Mike Casey could not be at the meeting this morning but they want to obtain easements for water lines under CR 250 S, CR 300 S, CR 350 E, CR 450 E. All east of SR 63 to the river.

A motion was made by Harry Crossley and seconded by Tim Wilson to table the Southern Power – Economic Development Agreement until the establishment of a redevelopment commission. All in favor, motion carried.

- h. 2018 Appointments.

A motion was made by Harry Crossley and seconded by Tim Wilson to appoint Bonnie Ave to the Public Defender Board. All in favor, motion carried.

A motion was made by Harry Crossley and seconded by Tim Yocum to appoint Peggie Parsons to the E911 Board. All in favor, motion carried.

- i. Appointment to and Resolution Confirming the Participation of Vermillion County in the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission. A motion was Harry Crossley and seconded by Tim Yocum to appoint Larry Southard to the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission. All in favor, motion carried.
- j. Health Insurance. Nothing new to report.

VII. New Business

- a. Mileage Ordinance/Resolution. Auditor Amy Tolbert said they need an ordinance stating mileage needs turned in monthly. Tolbert stated that some turn mileage in every six months or once at the end of the year and it is an auditing issue and would be easier to audit if turned in monthly. A motion was made by Harry Crossley and seconded by Tim Wilson to have County Attorney Jon Spurr write a mileage ordinance. All in favor, motion carried.
- b. Tom Milligan asked about the resolution involving appointments. He asked if this would affect the Commissioners serving on the drainage board, the redevelopment commission and the other boards the commissioners serve on. Wilson said “we serve on those other boards by state statute”. Milligan asked “are you violating state statute then.” Spurr said “the Commissioners have the right to appoint who they want”. Milligan asked “at will?” Spurr said “it depends some boards are appointed at will, some are term, some you can only be removed for cause. Where an elected official has the right to appoint that is a right inherent of their office”. Wilson asked Milligan if he was appointed by the Helt Township area. Milligan said he was the recommendation from Farm Bureau as the agriculture representative to the Council and then the Council made the appointment. Spurr told the Commissioners your stating a policy, the resolution says to the extent there are more than one qualified individual you are not going to put one person on two boards. If the statute says by law this person also sits on this board that is not your appointment that is the legislature telling you that certain people have the right to sit on different boards. Spurr said “what you three Commissioners are telling me, to the extent you are able to; you are not going to put one person on more than one board unless there is no one else qualified”. Milligan said “what the county deserves is for you to pick the very best people you can to be on these boards”. Milligan said “for the Redevelopment Commission it is really important that we get the absolute best people the county has to offer”. He said “it’s really important to get good people to fill these positions”. Wilson said he would have Jon Spurr look into it by the next meeting.

- VIII. Adjourn. A motion was made by Harry Crossley and seconded by Tim Wilson to adjourn. All in favor, motion carried.

Read in full and approved by the Vermillion County Commissioners on the 23rd day of January, 2018.

Tim Wilson

Harry Crossley

Tim Yocum

Attest:_____
Amy Tolbert, Auditor