

**Vermillion County Commissioners**  
**Meeting Minutes**

July 24, 2018

8:15a.m.

Commissioner's Courtroom, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Courthouse

- I. **Call to Order.** The Commissioner's convened in a regular meeting on July 24, 2018 at 8:15 a.m.
- II. **Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.**
- III. **Roll Call.** Members present: President Tim Wilson, Harry Crossley, Tim Yocum, County Attorney Jon Spurr, and First Deputy Auditor Stephanie Simpson. Auditor Amy Tolbert was absent.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes.** A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to approve the minutes from the July 10, 2018 meeting. All in favor, motion carried.
- V. **Approval of Claims and Payroll.** A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to approve the claims and payroll for July 27, 2018. All in favor, motion carried.
- VI. **Treasurer's Report.** Wilson acknowledged receipt of the Treasurer's Report.
- VII. **Open Issues**
  - a. **Vermillion Rise.** Wilson stated that Executive Director Bob Grewe was unavailable to attend the meeting today and that he would be at the next meeting.
  - b. **VTA (Vermillion Trails Alliance).** No one from VTA was present to give an update.
  - c. **Burial Fee's for Veterans.** A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Wilson to table until the next meeting. All in favor, motion carried.
  - d. **Redevelopment Commission Non-Voting Appointment.** The Commissioners have not heard back from Superintendent Dan Nelson about this appointment.
  - e. **Updates to Appointments made by Commissioners.** Spurr told the Commissioners he sent them an email the day before explaining that if they just want the terms that someone can be removed that won't take as long, and he said he could probably have that done by the next meeting, but if they also want the duties of the appointments that would take more research and more time to do because the duties could be under several codes. A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Wilson to have County Attorney Jon Spurr just update the terms which someone could be removed from the appointed position. All in favor, motion carried.
  - f. **Eric Smith – HWC Engineering – Proposals.** No one from HWC Engineering was here to discuss this.
- VIII. **New Business**
  - a. **CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) – Judge Jill Wesch.** Wesch explained to the Commissioners that she would like to establish the CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) program in our county. She said 83 of the 92 counties in Indiana have CASA. Wesch explained that CASAs work with cases involving children in need of services or termination of parental rights. Wesch explained through the program a director would be hired, who would train volunteers who would visit the homes of families involved in such cases, spend time with them, and make sure the children's needs are met, and they are not falling through the cracks.

Wesch said that in 2016, Vermillion County had 75 cases involving children in need of services, with 66 in 2017 and 29 so far this year. Termination of parental rights cases totaled 20 in 2016, 32 in 2017 and 2 so far this year.

Wesch said the state will give a matching grant each year to each county involved in the program.

A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to support the CASA program in our county. All in favor, motion carried.

- b. **Library Board Appointment.** The Commissioners received a letter from Director Misty Bishop of the Newport Vermillion County Public Library requesting to replace Charlene Hubbard with Donna Lidester on the Library board. A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to approve Donna Lidester to the Newport Vermillion County Public Library Board. All in favor, motion carried.
- c. **Newport Church of God – Auditorium.** Sheriff Mike Phelps said that the only concern with security is the ramp, he said in the past they have had issues with people coming in courthouse and wondering around or using the bathroom. Phelps said there used to be metal gates to block the other entry way. Terry Carrera said they are in the shed and they could be used. A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to approve the request of the Newport Church of God to use the auditorium for the Hillclimb on October 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Also, the use of the lobby for bake sales and dinners throughout the year. All in favor, motion carried.
- d. **Petition to Vacate an Alley – Amy J. Hunt.** The Commissioners discussed the petition to vacate an alley submitted by Amy J. Hunt. Hunt said she owns the property on both sides of the alley that she is requesting to close. Zoning Administrator Penney Barton told the Commissioners that Hunt advertised in the newspaper and did the necessary paperwork to vacate the alley's. A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to approve the petitions to vacate the alleys requested. All in favor, motion
- e. **Park Board Employees.** The Commissioners discussed benefits for park board employees who are seasonal. Spurr told the Commissioners that the handbook states that the seasonal employees do not receive benefits, but they have received them in the past. Spurr said the Commissioners either need to state that they would not receive benefits beginning next year, or change the handbook to state that they do receive benefits. A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to allow the new employee to receive benefits for this year and to change the handbook to state that the part time seasonal employees will receive benefits the months they are employed. All in favor, motion carried.
- f. **Pay Raise.** The Commissioners discussed recommending to the Council a \$1,000.00 pay raise for all full-time employees. A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to approve the recommendation of \$1,000.00 pay raise for all full-time employees. All in favor, motion carried.
- g. **Security Cameras.** Sheriff Mike Phelps informed the Commissioners that some of the bushes around the courthouse have grown out of hand to the point where they block the security cameras from having a clear view. Wilson instructed Terry Carrera to work with Phelps to determine how best to address the issue.
- h. **PERF meeting.** Treasurer Florinda Pruitt told the Commissioners that several employees had raised questions regarding how PERF works. She said she met with representatives of PERF and they would be willing to meet with employees to answer their questions. The Commissioners agreed for PERF meetings to be scheduled. A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to have

Pruitt work with the Auditor, Amy Tolbert to set up meetings. All in favor, motion carried.

- i. **Jail Expansion / Renovation.** Yocum said the County needs to look at setting aside money for the expansion or renovation of the jail. Spurr said they should ask the Council to set up a Rainy Day Fund specifically for the jail, which would allow money to accumulate from one year to the next. Crossley said there is a meeting Monday regarding the Local Income Taxes, and this can be brought up at that time. Phelps said the jail committee is meeting on Friday, and that whether or not any decision is made to expand the jail, there is significant renovations and repair work that needs to be discussed.
- l. **Adjourn.** A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to adjourn. All in favor, motion carried.

Read in full and approved by the Vermillion County Commissioners on the 7th day of August, 2018.

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Tim Wilson, President

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Harry Crossley

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Tim Yocum

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