

# **Vermillion County Commissioners**

## **Meeting Minutes**

October 2, 2018

8:15a.m.

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

- I. Call to Order.** The Vermillion County Commissioners convened in a regular meeting on October 2, 2018. South Vermillion student Keely Pitts called the meeting to order.
- II. Pledge Allegiance 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 Crossley and seconded by Yocum to approve the minutes from the September 18, 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 October 5, 2018. All in favor, motion carried.
- VI. Treasurer's Report.** Wilson acknowledged receipt of the Treasurers report.
- VII. Open Issues.**
  - a. Vermillion Rise.** Wilson stated that Executive Director Bob Grewe was out of town and could not make it to the meeting.
  - b. VTA (Vermillion Trails Alliance).** Tom Milligan from the Vermillion Trails Alliance gave the Commissioners an update. Milligan said they finished all the paperwork for the \$150,000 dollar grant they are applying for from the Wabash River Heritage Corridor. He said the grant is for the trail from Montezuma to Hillsdale. He said Parke County's trail comes across the bridge and ends. The grant they are applying for will allow for VTA to continue the trail on the Vermillion County property. Milligan stated the application was due October 1, 2018 and that they should know in about a month if they are awarded the grant. Milligan told the Commissioners that the Trail Head Park near the Sheriff's Department has been seeded and is turning green. He said it will eventually have a nature scape playground and the 50 trees of Indiana along the trail. Milligan said they want to be completely open and transparent every step of the way. He asked the Commissioners if they were comfortable with the insurance. He said they checked with USI and the insurance for the parks would not raise. He asked the Commissioners if they checked for themselves about the insurance. Wilson asked the Auditor's office to check with USI about the insurance for the Trail Head Park. Milligan said they held a public meeting in Hillsdale, he said not everyone was in favor of the trails. He said some voiced their concern about security and safety on the trails. He said they will be addressing those concerns and doing everything possible to make the trails as safe and secure as possible. Milligan stated that this project has been no cost to the county and done by volunteers.
  - c. Updates to Appointments Made by Commissioners.** Spurr stated that he has not received any feedback from the Commissioners. He stated that he removed all the appointments that should not be appointments, they are actually employees of the county. He said he is almost finished with the updates, he just had a couple more he is working on.
  - d. Vermillion County Jail – Expansion/Renovation.** Phelps said he had nothing to report at this time. He said he is working on setting up a meeting with the jail committee and the commissioners.

**VIII. New Business.**

- a. United Way.**Richard Payonk and Danielle Isbell from United Way gave a presentation to the Commissioners on what their mission is in the five counties of the Wabash Valley. Payonk said their mission is to improve communitiesby together fighting poverty. He said to fight poverty, our Community Impact Fund invest in both direct services and the systems in our community that support those services. He said this includes long-standing programs to new, innovative efforts to solve complicated issues. He said 40% of households in the Wabash Valley can’t afford their basic needs, and \$24.45 is needed for an hourly wage to support a family of four, 68% of jobs in Indiana that pay less than \$20 per hour. And 15% of Wabash Valley residents are food insecure. He said they support childhood education programs, they promote healthy lifestyles, and improve access to preventative and behavioral health. They support neighborhoods to reduce crime and drugs while addressing blight and they promote financial coaching and income management. Payonk also gave out forms for donations to United Way.
- b. Bridge Inspection Bids.**Spurr opened the bids for the Bridge inspections. Milisa Carty explained that the way the state is doing bids for bridge inspections is a new process. She said Consultants sent letters of interest and three people from the county will score the bids based on their qualifications. This information is sent to the state and the state will notify the county of the highest score.
- c. Unsafe Buildings.**Barton discussed the unsafe building ordinance with the Commissioners. Spurr said there is a state statue and any local entity can adopt the statue.  
Barton said the Council is not interested in giving more funds until they have a plan in place. She said Larry Beard is the unsafe building inspector and he would be the one to write up a plan and he doesn’t plan on doing that.
- d. FEMA Claims – Mark O’Heir.** O’Heir told the Commissioners they are having issues with the reimbursement claims from FEMA. Wilson told O’Heir if there is anything they can do to help they would.

**IX. 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 16th day of October, 2018.

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Tim Wilson, President

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Harry Crossley

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Tim Yocum

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