

Vermillion County Commissioners

Meeting Minutes

January 22, 2019

8:15a.m.

Commissioner's Courtroom, 2nd Floor, Courthouse

- I. **Call to Order.** The Commissioners convened in a regular meeting on January 22, 2019. North Vermillion Senior Gage Woodard and South Vermillion Senior Ella Beardsley 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 January 8, 2019 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 January 25, 2019. All in favor, motion carried.
- VI. **Treasurer's Report.** Wilson acknowledged receipt of the Treasurers Report.
- VII. **Open Issues**
 - a. **Vermillion Rise.** Executive Director Bob Grewe gave the Commissioners an update. He said there is no January meeting, the next meeting is scheduled for February 21, 2019. He said he has talked with a development prospect and he said the Reuse Authority is revisiting the cost of the railroad extensions onto the property. Grewe said the original cost estimate was \$6 million for a mile and a half extension, which he said seemed high to him. He said he is trying to get a second opinion on the cost. Grewe said the employees are working to inspect the unused wells to make sure there are no risks of ground water contamination. Grewe also said Vermillion Rise is continuing to work with Vermillion Trails Alliance, and hope to work on ways to create more public access. Grewe also stated that after he done some research that Nucor Steel is still looking for a location in the Midwest and he plans to contact them directly to ask them to consider Vermillion Rise. Yocum suggested that the commissioners send a letter to Nucor Steel in support of Vermillion Rise. A motion was made by Wilson and seconded by Crossley to send a letter to Nucor Steel in support of Vermillion Rise. All in favor, motion carried.
 - b. **VTA (Vermillion Trails Alliance).** Tom Milligan reported that they are working on the Next Level Grant application for improvements to the trail project in the Hillsdale area, but it is uncertain if the application can be completed by the February 5th deadline. He said the process is very challenging, and that there are a lot of moving parts trying to make all this happen. Crossley asked if VTA had talked to farmers in the area about easements for the trail project, and Milligan said one farmer had said he was not willing to be part of the project, so the planned crossing of the railroad tracks is being moved to a different location that will not require that person's property to be involved. Milligan said a program is also being launched, which is to adopt a tree for the Trees of Indiana trail which will be located north of Vermillion County Jail, which will allow residents to purchase trees for the trail in their own name or in memory of a family member for \$100.
 - c. **Jail Renovation/Expansion.** Sheriff Mike Phelps said this will be discussed at next month's meeting.
 - d. **Large Crowd Ordinance – County Property.** Spurr said he sent samples of large crowd ordinances for the commissioners to review. Wilson and Crossley both asked Spurr to clarify that the ordinance is only intended to address gatherings on public property, and not events held on private property. Spurr said he would work on the ordinance.
 - e. **Safety & Security Ordinance.** It was stated that this ordinance is not to be made public and that it will be discussed in an executive session immediately following the meeting.
 - f. **Security/Emergency Manual.** No comments on the Security/Emergency Manual.

VIII. New Business

- a. **Public Defender Board – Appointment.** Wilson read a letter from Bonnie Ave stating that she is vacating her appointment to the Public Defenders Board. Wilson also stated that they received a letter from Nancy Wilson applying for the Public Defenders Board. Yocum asked if the vacancy had been advertised, Crossly suggested that it be advertised and the appointment made at the next meeting on February 5th.
- b. **CASA Update.** Court Appointed Special Advocate Program Director Eliza Porter reported that the newly created program has finished its state certification and is working on its national certification. Porter stated that the training for the first group of volunteers will be held in March. Porter also said the program is looking for office space. She said space is needed where advocates can meet with the families with whom they are working.
- c. **Buggys Pest Control - Bid for Courthouse and Jail.** Martin Russell of Buggys Pest Control told the commissioners that he had submitted a proposal to provide pest control service to the courthouse and jail. The commissioners took the proposal under advisement and said they would address it at their next meeting.
- d. **County Property Lease.** The commissioners said to advertise for county property lease.
- e. **Joink – GIS Agreement.** A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Wilson to table the GIS Agreement until the next meeting. All in favor, motion carried.
- f. **City of Clinton – Tax Sale Certificates.** Clinton Mayor Jack Gilfoy asked the commissioners to assign tax certificates for 11 properties to the city of Clinton, so the properties could be cleaned up, sold and put back on the tax rolls. Gilfoy said that he already has potential buyers for all of the properties.
A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Wilson to assign the eleven tax sale certificates to the City of Clinton. All in favor, motion carried.
Gilfoy also stated that there is one property on which full taxes have not been paid in 20 years, and for which the owner pays just enough to keep the property out of the tax sale, but never pays up the entire amount due. He asked if there was any way of addressing such properties, and Spurr said that it can't be done through a tax sale, but a lawsuit can be filed to enforce the back taxes. Gilfoy said he would ask City Attorney Scott Craig to speak with Spurr about the matter.
- g. **Park Employee – Health Insurance.** There was discussion the seasonal park employees receiving health insurance. Park employees have been allowed to have health insurance through the county, even though the employee handbook says they are not eligible. The commissioners had stated in 2018 that they would allow employees to continue on the insurance for that year, and then either change the handbook or follow the handbook and declare those employee's ineligible.
A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Wilson to follow the handbook and no longer offer health insurance to the seasonal park employees. All in favor, motion carried.
- h. **FEMA Reimbursement.** Emergency Management Director Mark O'Heir presented a list to the commissioner of roads damaged in the 2018 floods that were eligible for FEMA reimbursement. O'Heir said that the manpower, equipment and materials used must be documented in detail in order to be reimbursed, and said the easiest way to do this was to contract the work. He said in order to be reimbursed, work will need to be completed and documents submitted by October 15, 2019. O'Heir said you can't be finishing up on the 14th and expect to get it submitted by the 15th. He said county employees can do the work, but how much manpower, what equipment, and what materials are used must be documented. Yocum asked if O'Heir would be overseeing all this. And O'Heir said no that the commissioners will. O'Heir also stated that in order to have documentation submitted in time, it would be best to complete the work by the end of the summer. The commissioners agreed to have bid specifications prepared for the various jobs detailed in the report, so they can be bid.
- i. **Newport Chemical Depot Reuse Authority Appointment.** There was discussion on John Michael Major's appointment to the Newport Chemical Depot Reuse Authority. It was the Commissioners understanding that he would resign the Economic Development

Commission and Council if they appointed him to the Reuse Authority. A letter was sent to Major asking him to decide which board he wanted to serve. Wilson said that he talked with Major and he stated he would resign the Economic Development Board Council and Commission and remain on the Reuse Authority. It was stated if he doesn't resign that the Commissioners will remove him from the Reuse Authority and advertise for that vacancy.

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 5th day of February, 2019.



Tim Wilson, President

Harry Crossley

Tim Yocum

Attest: 

Amy Tolbert, Auditor