

Vermillion County Commissioners

Meeting Minutes

June 9, 2020

8:15a.m.

Commissioner's Courtroom, 2nd Floor, Courthouse

- I. **Call to Order.** The Commissioners convened in a regular meeting on June 9, 2020 at 8:15 a.m. in the Commissioner's Courtroom.
- 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 May 26, 2020 Commissioners meeting. All in favor, motion carried.
- V. **Approval of Claims.** A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to approve the claims for June 12, 2020. All in favor, motion carried.
- VI. **Approval of Payroll.** A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to approve the payroll for June 12, 2020. All in favor, motion carried.
- VII. **Open Issues**
 - a. **Covid-19 Update.** Peggie Parsons-Palmer from the Vermillion County Health Department gave an update. Parsons-Palmer said as of today we have not had a positive case since May 26th. She said they continue to get results in but they've all been negative. Parsons-Palmer said that Dr. Albrecht said with the way the trend is going everyone should have the ability to continue on track with the plan the County has in place. She said if the numbers change then he will inform you of it. But as of right now he feels everything is fine to continue with the stages. Wilson said June 14th to July 3rd will be stage 4. Wilson said face masks are mandatory for stage 4. Tolbert said you changed it at your last meeting to mandatory, but it's up to you. She said the Governor recommends face masks. Wilson said they will go with what the Governor recommends. Tolbert said the Governor lifts the public access restrictions on June 14th. Tolbert said you can make stricter rules, that's up to you. Wilson asked what the other Commissioners want to do, Crossley said if the Governor lifts the public access the County should lift it too. Wilson said it's up to each office if they still want people to make an appointment when doing business with their offices. Wilson asked Parson-Palmer if all positive cases recovered, she said yes. Vermillion County has no deaths due to Covid-19. Wilson asked Emergency Management Director if he had anything to add. O'Heir said the national stock pile delivery actually showed up this week. He added that all the response agencies, law enforcement, fire, EMS, are prepared, they have enough equipment on hand, he said he has a little bit of supply at his office, the Health Department has a little bit of supply at their office, and he is still expecting some more deliveries that should be here this week, with a few things their short on, then we should be doing pretty good. O'Heir stated as far as bills and claims we've opted into the CARES Act and into FEMA and we did just receive the law enforcement grant, which is going to buy laptops for all law enforcement in the county at about \$45,000.00 total. O'Heir said they are starting to look at a few of the other things the CARES Act allows to be done like WIFI hotspot and stuff like that. He said we have \$500,000 available to us but if we don't spend it, we don't get it. He said it's not

like they are giving us money as some people seem to think happens, so we will see how much of that we can actually spend within their rules. He said putting a claim in with the FEMA system would only pay 75% of the claims and he doesn't foresee doing that he will do it in the CARES Act instead.

- b. **IT Update.** Paul Fouts with EAS Technology told the Commissioners they are moving on with the refresh, he said they are finally getting back on track. He said they have a couple of outstanding issues that aren't with the refresh. Fouts said he is working with Judge Wesch to get remote hearings set up for the courtroom. Fouts also said he will need to work with O'Heir and Judge Wesch to see what the CARES Act funding would cover for that.
Fouts said he will be working with Tolbert next week getting the IT budget ready for the 2021 fiscal year.
- c. **Courthouse Phone Update / RFP.** Fouts said he has had five calls with different vendors and agencies in regards to the phone system and phone service delivery. He also stated he got an email from AT&T yesterday, and they were interested in giving a quote on either the phone system or the phone service delivery. Yocum asked if this would be sealed bids. Fouts said yes, it could be however they wanted. Yocum said he is requesting that they be sealed bids. Fouts said they are quotes not bids. Fouts said he has requested all quotes be turned in by the end of June so it can be ready for the first meeting in July.
- d. **Community Crossings Grant.** Yocum said they are waiting on funding. Crossley said everything's been taken care of and sent to the State and now they are just waiting on the check.

VIII. **New Business**

- a. **Energy Conservation – Johnson Melloh Solutions.** Rick Anderson from Johnson Melloh Solutions. Anderson said they put together energy conservation programs for counties, cities, towns, airports, any public entity. These are guaranteed energy projects, so we come in do an assessment of your facilities, so I work with your Auditor and get a couple utility release forms signed and then we do a building walk through as well, and I came back to you with information on a potential project. He said there is no initial cost to the county. Anderson said they do quite a bit of solar projects around the State, one being the Indianapolis Airport solar field. He said they are currently doing similar type projects with our surrounding neighbors, which include Town of Rockville, City of Brazil, Parke County, Fountain County, and Covington.
Wilson said it's not initial cost to the county to do the assessment, Crossley agreed they should let them do the assessment. A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Wilson to approve the initial assessment by Johnson Melloh Solutions. All in favor, motion carried.
- b. **Petition to Vacate Alley – Ronald Lee Dunavan Jr.** Dunavan presented a petition to vacate an alley that he stated runs through his garage. Wilson asked if owned both sides of the alley and Dunavan said yes. A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Wilson to approve the petition to vacate an alley. All in favor, motion carried.
- c. **1.5 Ton Console Unit Proposal – Gibson Services Company.** Tolbert said Terry Carrera maintenance supervisor got the quote for the 1.5-ton console unit. Fouts said it's replacing the AC unit in the IT room. He said the current unit is a half-ton and it doesn't keep up with the output now. Fouts said they could move up to a three-quarter ton but he doesn't think that is a good minimum, and the next size up is 1.5-ton and there was a very marginal difference between them and suggested they go with the 1.5-ton unit. Yocum asked where the proposal is

at. Tolbert said it was in your packet, didn't you bring your packet? Yocum said he doesn't have it with him today. Wilson said we will take it under advisement until the next meeting to give Yocum a chance to look at it.

- d. **Investment Report.** Treasurer Florinda Pruitt gave the Commissioners a report on investments with Trust Indiana. She said the rate January 1st was 1.69 percent and now it is currently .27 percent which is still twice what the bank is offering. Pruitt said overall the funds the Auditor and I have worked to get invested has brought in \$81,129.87 as of the end of May.
- e. **Ed Kanizer – Complaint/Building Permit.** The Commissioners heard a complaint from Ed Kanizer regarding a building he is planning to construct on property he is in the process of purchasing. There has been an issue raised over required documentation from the Department of Homeland Security, and a dispute as to whether the building, which is to be used for storing equipment, is a commercial building since employees will be going in and out to park equipment. Kanizer stated that he had sent a required application to Homeland Security, but Zoning Administrator Penney Carpenter stated that when she talked to them, they had not received it, she said she didn't know what he filed under and she had them check GHGC, Kanizer Excavating, and Ed Kanizer and they couldn't find anything. After extensive discussion of the issues in the situation, Wilson stated the Commissioners would attempt to reach the state inspector by phone following the meeting to assist Kanizer in resolving the issue.
- f. **Professional Consulting Services Agreement – Dossett Consulting, LLC.** Tolbert stated this is for the Cost Allocation Plan. Wilson asked if we have money for this. Tolbert said yes, it comes back out of the fund that the recuperates money from child support. Wilson asked who benefits from this. Tolbert said the Prosecutor, Judge and the County. She said but many the Prosecutor and Clerk. Tolbert said there is a one-year agreement for \$3,400 or a 3-year agreement for \$9,600. Wilson made a motion to approve the 3-year agreement with Dossett Consulting, LLC, seconded by Crossley. All in favor, motion carried.
- g. **Housekeeping Job Description.** Tolbert said Anita Fultz is working on it.
- h. **Ordinance 2020-2 / Ordinance Requiring Street Signs and House Numbers.**

There was discussion regarding signs to help identify 911 address in the county for emergency responders. Yocum said he is trying to find out how many addresses there are in the county. Barton said there are 8,797 E911 addresses in Vermillion County, if the City of Clinton and the incorporated towns are included. She said she could get a total with those if the Commissioners request it. It was stated the ACE Hardware has kits for \$18 or eBay has them for around \$12. O'Heir said why shouldn't everyone be responsible for their own. They discussed putting the number on both sides of the mail boxes, Wilson suggested a change to the ordinance to include both sides.
- i. **Longevity Pay.** Wilson said while we are discussing this, he would also like to discuss the highway superintendent pay. Yocum suggested giving the highway superintendents a \$1.00 raise. It was suggested to add this to their budget request for next year.

Tolbert said the sheet she gave the Commissioners is something Council Attorney Scott Craig and Anita Fultz have worked up. Yocum read the following: Employees shall be eligible for additional compensation (longevity pay) based upon their consecutive years of service with the county. At least 5 years of service equals an additional 1.5%, at least 10 years of service equals an additional 2.0%, at least 15 years of service equals an additional 2.5%, at least 20 years of service equals an additional 3.0%. For employees with over 20 years of

service, the employee shall receive an additional .5% for each year over 20 years of service, but not to exceed an additional 2.5%. Tolbert said Anita Fultz is working up what it would be for this year, then you will need to take it to the Council to see if they will approve it. She also stated that the Commissioners will need to make it part of the handbook.

- j. **Letter from Milisa Carty.** Wilson said they received a letter from Milisa Carty, Highway Department Office Manager, stating that she is requesting that the Commissioners find a replacement for the position of ERC (Employee in Charge). The letter stated that this job is normally given to a highway superintendent or a county engineer not an office manager. Carty is requesting that they find a replacement soon since the county is now working on the Community Crossings Match Grant and have a federal project that is in the process of starting for Bridge 122. It states these are just two of the things that an ERC must handle. Wilson said they are going to talk to Carty to see what is going on and see if they can get someone to help out. A motion was made by Wilson and seconded by Crossley to table this until the next meeting. All in favor, motion carried.
 - k. **Dust Oil.** Barton asked Yocum about him previously mentioning dust control for people who live on gravel roads. Barton said the dust control program costs \$325 for 300 feet of road, which is pretty pricey. Yocum said I don't know if it's pricey or not, but the Community Crossings grant doesn't do anything for people who live on gravel roads, and they pay the same taxes as everyone else. He said he's still working on it.
 - l. **Clean Up.** Yocum recommended that the county's recycling budget for 2021 be increased from \$10,000 to \$20,000. Barton said a lot of people were expecting a spring cleanup. Wilson stated that dumping along the roads has increased recently. Yocum said the spring cleanup will probably have to focus on bagged road-side trash this year, due to budget constraints.
- 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 23rd day of June, 2020.



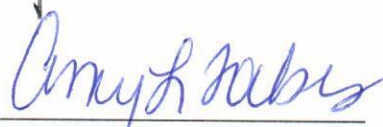
Tim Wilson, President



Harry Crossley



Tim Yocum

Attest: 

Amy Tolbert, Auditor