

Vermillion County Commissioners

Meeting Minutes

September 29, 2020

6:00 p.m.

Commissioner's Courtroom, 2nd Floor, Courthouse

- I. **Call to Order.** The Vermillion County Commissioners convened in a regular meeting on September 29, 2020 at 8:15 a.m. in the Commissioners 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 September 15, 2020 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 October 2, 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 October 2, 2020. All in favor, motion carried.
- VII. **Treasurer's Report / Investment Report.** No comments.
- VIII. **Open Issues**
 - a. **Covid-19 Update.** Wendy Farley from the Health Department gave a brief update of the cases of Covid-19 for Vermillion County. She said from March 23rd to today there are 133 total positive cases and no deaths. Farley stated that they opened a testing site at the Health Department where people can come and be tested at no cost. Farley said they do not test on Sunday and Monday, the afterhours are Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Tuesday and Thursday from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Farley stated they have tested 195 residents, some have been from other counties. Out of the 195 tested 5 have come back positive. We supply the building and the staff, everything else is supplied by the State. Farley said they are starting flu shot clinics and the first one is Saturday from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Mark O'Heir stated that they had some questions after the last meeting about the Cares ACT and what it covers. O'Heir said one the questions were could the additional funding for the ambulance be covered by the Cares ACT, and he said it could not be because it's considered a loss of income. O'Heir said the Sheriff's Department could get hazardous duty pay through the Cares ACT. Sheriff Mike Phelps said it is specific what it covers and it doesn't appear to cover the jailers. O'Heir said on Monday they changed parts of the Cares ACT and all law enforcement officers, jailers, support staff for the jailers and Health Department personnel, their salaries starting on March 1st can be paid 100 percent so the county can recoup that money. O'Heir said he has several supplies, masks, hand sanitizer, thermometers that offices can request, he said they don't need to be buying it for their office when he can supply what they need.
Wilson read the Ordinance 2020-12 lifting the restrictions closing the courthouse to the public. A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to approve Ordinance 2020-12. All in favor, motion carried.
 - b. **IT Update.** Tolbert stated that EAS will give an update at the next meeting.
 - c. **Courthouse Phone Update / Level365.** Tolbert stated that there will be an update at the next meeting.

- d. **Vermillion Rise.** No one present for an update. Yocum asked Tolbert to send an email asking someone from Vermillion Rise be at the next meeting for an update.
- e. **Jail Renovation.** There was some discussion on the jail renovation. Yocum said he would like to have a meeting with Jack Krouse and RQAW and he feels one commissioner needs to be appointed to sit in on the meeting. Meyer said once they get the schematic design then they can all meet again. Britton Luther questioned the involvement of Jack Krause as a consultant and whether he created an unnecessary intermediary between the Commissioners and RQAW. Wilson said they would take Luther's comments under advisement.
- f. **Handbook.** Spurr said he is waiting for Council Attorney Scott Craig to get with him to finish the handbook.
- g. **Position of ERC / Job Description.** The Commissioners discussed having an executive session after the meeting on October 13th. A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to have an executive session after the regular meeting on October 13, 2020. All in favor, motion carried.
- h. **Treasurer's Office Credit Card Agreement – Forte.** Treasurer Florinda Pruitt presented an agreement from Forte for credit card payment processing. Pruitt stated this is the current company and they have the lowest rates for processing payments. A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to approve the agreement with Forte for credit card payment processing for two years. All in favor, motion carried.
- i. **Courthouse Security Desk.** Sheriff Mike Phelps gave the Commissioners an estimate for a courthouse security desk from J. K. Fortner Home Improvement for \$5,500.00. Phelps said this will be built to match the courthouse woodwork and it will be approximately 8' x 9'. A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to approve the courthouse security desk. All in favor, motion carried.
- j. **Courthouse Grounds.** Wilson said they will have a courthouse grounds meeting to discuss what will be taken out and what will be trimmed back.
- k. **Drainage Ordinance – Driveway Permits.** The Commissioners discussed the driveway permits, it was stated that the culvert could be purchased through the county and the county will put them in and the highway foreman will go out and inspect them. It was stated that they would have an ordinance ready for the next meeting.
- l. **Vermillion County Drainage Standards.** It was stated that there are drainage standards for Vermillion County and the Commissioners would need to look at them and see if they want to adopt them.
- m. **Public Law 53 – Area Plan Commission / Appointment.** The Commissioners discussed Public Law 53, which states that Ag Extension Educator Phil Cox, because he lives out of the county, cannot be a voting member of the Area Plan Commission after Oct. 1, and must become an advisory member only, unless the Commissioners approve him remaining a voting member until 2021, in which the APC has requested. Wilson stated that he had no problem with him staying on as an advisory, but as for voting Wilson said he needs to live in the county. Crossley and Yocum agreed. A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to allow Phil Cox to remain as an advisory member but not as a voting member to the Area Plan Commission. All in favor, motion carried.
- n. **Alternative Energy Ordinance.** Carpenter provided copies of the current draft of the solar ordinance that the APC is working on to the Commissioners. Yocum asked if there were going to be public meetings at each end of the county to educate people on what's going on. Carpenter said that those meetings would

be organized by the companies pursuing projects in the county. Yocum said it should come from Carpenter. Carpenter said you're asking me to go and hold presentations on something I don't know anything about, it should come from the companies doing the work.

- o. **Bridge over Spring Creek – 1450 N.** The Commissioners received two bids to replace a bridge on County Road 1450 North. The bids were from E & H Bridge, for a steel bridge at \$155,416 and E3 Bridge for a concrete bridge at \$169,400. It was stated that E3 Bridge would reduce their bid by \$15,000, to \$154,400 if it was approved by November 1st. The work is expected to take 30 days or less, and installation must be bid separately. It was stated that funding will be required from the Council. The Commissioners stated they would advertise for bids on installation of the concrete option, although they were not officially choosing between the two at this time.

IX. **New Business**

- a. **Polling Locations for 2020 General Election.** Clerk Amy Griffin stated the polling locations are the same as they have been in the past. The Commissioners received a list of polling locations. A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to approve the polling locations for the 2020 General Election. All in favor, motion carried.
- b. **E911 Address Update.** E911 Director Derrek Williams stated that the backlog of 911 addresses being issued is getting caught up, with 7 left to complete. Carpenter said a faster turnaround is needed, since some of the homes in question have been built since 2016. Yocum asked Carpenter if building permits were up this year, Carpenter stated yes, they were.
- c. **Illiana EMS Additional Funding.** Eric Shaughnessy of Illiana EMS discussed with the Commissioners a provision in the existing contract which allows the ambulance service to reopen negotiations with the county if its revenue driops more than 5 percent from the previous year. He stated that due to reduction of 336 runs to date compared to 2019, the amount of revenue has dripped by approximately \$147,000, and that he is requesting to reopen negotiations under the terms of the contract. Spurr told the Commissioners that they can reopen negotiations if they feel conditions warrant doing so. He noted that any payment agreed to which goes beyond what is budgeted would have to be funded by the Council, since, the budget for the ambulance contract only covers the amount that was agreed to for the year.

Wilson stated that the Council has agreed to fund the third crew for a year and it will initially be stationed in Clinton, with the intention of locating it in the central portion of the county, near the intersection of State Road 63 and U.S. Highway 36.

Shaughnessy asked the Commissioners to sign a new contract stating this, which he stated the Council had requested. Councilman Randy Dreher said when asked that he could not recall if a new contract had been requested. Shaughnessy said that, since he had been forced to lay off some employees when he stopped funding the third crew out of pocket earlier in the year, the new contract would help him hire people to staff that crew. Council President Ashley James stated that the Council also discussed the possibility of not funding the contract beyond 2021 unless it is put out for bids. Spurr noted that if it is not funded, the Commissioners can still renegotiate it, and Shaughnessy noted that whether or not to bid it is still up to the Commissioners. James stated that there was the possibility of four positions on the Council changing next year, depending on

various election outcomes, and this if it is not funded, the county would be in a bad position, late in the year, to try to bid the contract at that time.

Yocum stated that if run volumes stayed low, Shaughnessy would come back for more money later in the year. Shaughnessy said it could happen, but it won't happen. He asked Yocum would you like me to put it in writing, would that ease your mind? Shaughnessy also noted that the clause in the contract which allows the reopening of negotiations was not something he requested, and Wilson said he thinks it has been in the contract since 1974. Wilson said that may not include it in the next contract. Yocum asked if the county was liable for the entire \$147,000, and Spurr explained that Shaughnessy is allowed to reopen negotiations. Spurr told the Commissioners they could say no, but Shaughnessy could say he doesn't want to work under the contract anymore because he's lost too much money.

The Commissioners discussed and agreed to schedule a special meeting at 8:15 a.m. on October 14, for the purpose of negotiating regarding the lost revenue. It was stated that the new contract is 3 years, and as with previous contracts, it is subject to funding annually by the Council. Dreher asked, if the run volumes were down, whether the third ambulance was really needed. Wilson said the Council voted to fund it. Shaughnessy asked if they would like for him to answer that question. Dreher said no, I asked the Commissioners.

A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to sign the new ambulance contract including the third crew. All in favor, motion carried.

- d. **VTA – License Agreement.** Les Zimmerman presented a License Agreement between the Commissioners and the Department of Natural Resources. It states the licensee intends to construct and maintain a jogging, hiking and bicycle trail, for use by the public consistent with the terms of the License, on an abandoned railroad corridor adjacent to and south of the premises and bypass a portion of the railroad corridor by extending the trail over an existing levee located within the premises. Zimmerman said this would be a 25-year agreement. No one was present to object. A motion was made by Yocum and seconded by Crossley to approve the agreement. All in favor, motion carried.

The Commissioners also discussed having the highway department trucks be used to haul gravel for an access road to allow the trail to be constructed. A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to allow the highway department trucks to be used to haul gravel for VTA. All in favor, motion carried.

- e. **Salary Study.** Council member Ashley James stated that the Council is asking the Commissioners to hire Waggoner, Irwin, Scheele & Associates to conduct a salary study for the county. The study will evaluate salaries in comparison to similar positions both within the county and outside, in the private sector, to help improve pay equity. James said it is expected to take 7 to 9 months to complete. Elected officials will be completed first because one their salaries are set for the following year, they can not be changed during the year. A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to approve the contract with Waggoner, Irwin, Scheele & Associates to conduct a salary study. All in favor, motion carried.
- f. **Gordon Flesch Company – Print Study.** Andrew Gauer, Account Executive with the Gordon Flesch Company stated that the Gordon Flesch Company currently service a few units for Vermillion Government offices, specifically, Penny Carpenter's unit is up for lease and he said he would like to see if he can earn the opportunity to perform a print study for the entire government's fleet to see where they can provide cost-effective solutions. A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to allow the Gordon Flesch Company to do a print

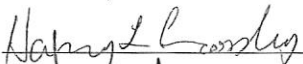
study. All in favor, motion carried. It was noted that several other companies are also doing similar studies. Clerk Amy Griffin asked if there was a form office holders could fill out to provide the needed information, that could just be copied and given to companies conducting these studies, in order to avoid filling them out repeatedly. It was agreed this could be done, and Wilson asked Tolbert if she would collect the information and she agreed that her office would collect the information.

- g. **Window Tinting.** The Commissioners received an estimate for window tinting the windows at the courthouse from Fine Line Window Tinting. Prosecutor Bruce Aukerman clarified that he was not interested in having office windows tinted, but the possibility had been discussed of have the entry doors of the courthouse tinted, to reduce glare and allow officers to see better when people enter. Phelps agreed that on the west side, the glare is bad enough that the camera is essentially whited out most of the time. Wilson said to have Rick Robinson from Fine Line Window Tinting give them an estimate just for the doors.
 - h. **Highway Foremen Cell Phones.** Wilson brought up the possibility of getting cell phones for the highway foremen, so they would not have to use their personal phones and be reimbursed, and the phones could be passed from one foreman to the next as positions change. A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to approve purchasing three cell phones for each county highway foreman. All in favor, motion carried.
 - i. **Burn Ban Proclamation.** Wilson read the Burn Ban Proclamation. It was stated the ban is in effect until October 27, 2020.
- X. **Adjourn.** A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to adjourn. All in favor, motion carried.

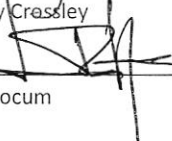
Read in full and approved by the Vermillion County Commissioners on the 13th day of October, 2020.




Tim Wilson, President



Harry Crossley



Tim Yocum

Attest: 

Amy Tolbert, Auditor