

Vermillion County Commissioners

Special Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 14, 2020

8:15 a.m.

Commissioner's Courtroom, 2nd Floor, Courthouse

- I. **Call to Order.** The Commissioners convened in a special meeting on Wednesday, October 14, 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, Auditor Amy Tolbert, First Deputy Auditor Stephanie Simpson, and County Attorney Jon Spurr. Tim Yocum as absent.
- IV. **Illiana EMS.** Spurr said he wanted to explain the legal issues pertaining to what they were going to discuss. He said when Vermillion County shops for an ambulance service the tax payers have placed certain demands on the county to provide them with a certain level of ambulance service, they want fast response times and a certain level of responder to come and treat them. Vermillion County doesn't have enough runs, there is not enough money to be generated from operating an ambulance. The Commissioners have to offer a subsidy if we want to have paramedics, if we want to have ambulances in the north end of the County. So, the negotiation is usually with the county, how much subsidy will the county offer to get the level of service we want. The ambulance service gets two sources of income, they get the subsidy from the county and they get whatever they can make off of their ambulance service. In the contract with the county there is a clause that says if the amount of money they make running their ambulance service changes by 5% they can come back and ask for more subsidy. Two meetings ago our service provider gave us a letter that says his income for his business dropped more than 5% and he wants to open negotiations for the subsidy. Spurr said the meeting today is to decide if your going to increase the subsidy or not and if you do where is that money going to come from.
Eric Shaughnessy, with Illiana EMS, discussed medical reimbursement and ambulance billing. He said Medicare reimburses more than Indiana Medicaid. The federal government says if you collect Medicare and Medicaid you can't bill the patient for the remainder. We have to look at the run volume, the supplies, the fuel and the personnel. He said as of October 13th last year we had billed \$1,867,532.66 and had collected \$553,168.06. He said as of yesterday they have billed \$1,371,622.59 and only collected \$321,182.03 which is a difference of \$231,968.03. There was considerable discussion on how much subsidy the Commissioners should give the ambulance provider. Crossley asked the President of the Council, Ashley James, if they approve the total amount he is asking for is the Council prepared to approve the request. She said she couldn't speak for the other Council members but they would consider it.
Shaughnessy discussed at length the billing and the ambulance runs and said due to the pandemic the ambulance runs are down considerably.
A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Wilson to subsidize \$75,000.00 for the ambulance service pending Council approval from either County General or Public Safety. All in favor, motion carried.
- V. **Adjourn.** A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Wilson to adjourn. All in favor, motion carried.

Read in full and approved by the Vermillion County Commissioners on the 27th day of October, 2020.

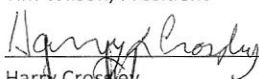
being able to provide that information. Collins said since Covid they are now serving about 1000 more individuals monthly due to the use of telehealth and they hope to keep some of that in place post Covid.

- c. **Highway Capital Improvement Plan.** Tolbert said the Highway Capital Improvement Plan is updated every two years and would need done by the end of the year. She said she wanted to get it on the agenda so if the Commissioners wanted anything changed they could let Spurr know so he could have it ready before the end of the year.
- d. **2021 Bid Specs.** Tolbert said she will be sending out bid specs the first of November, she said the specs she has are the same specs they have used for several years. Tolbert said she will email them to everyone to look over and if anything needs changed it can be done before you approve them at the meeting on the 27th and then they will be mailed out by the first of November.
- e. **Clinton City Tax Sale Properties.** Clinton City Mayor Jack Gilfoy presented a resolution to the Commissioners with 16 properties in Clinton City that did not sell at the 2020 tax sale in September. He said Clinton City cleans up the properties to get them sold and back on the tax roll. A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Wilson to approve the request and the resolution from Clinton City. All in favor, motion carried.
- f. **Longevity Pay.** Tolbert said the longevity has already been paid out but there are a few scenarios where people have been laid off, quit, or fired. One left in 2005 and was hired back in 2011 and the longevity starts from the 2011 date. The Commissioners decided to take each scenario under advisement until they get more information to make a decision at their next meeting.
- g. **Joink – Road Cut Permit.** The Commissioners discussed the road cut permit from Joink and they decided this should be taken to the town of Dana. They said it would be up to the town of Dana and the State Highway to give them permission.
- h. **Board Appointments.** Yocum requested to have a list of appointment by their next meeting so they would have time to see which appointments were expiring and would need filled.
- i. **Agape Daycare Trick or Treating.** Tolbert said the daycare is requesting to treat or trick at the courthouse like they have done in the past. She said they could do it outside this year weather permitting. Wilson said he didn't see a problem as long as everyone handing out candy had on masks and gloves. A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to approve Agape Daycare trick or treating at the courthouse. All in favor, motion carried.
- X. **Adjourn.** A motion was made by Crossley and seconded by Yocum to adjourn. All in favor, motion carried.

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Tim Wilson, President



Harry Crossley



Tim Yocum

Attest: Amy Tolbert/SA
Amy Tolbert, Auditor