

August 15, 2023

Council Chambers
Vigo County Government Center
Terre Haute, Indiana

Roll Call:

Present: Mike Morris, Chris Switzer and Mark Clinkenbeard

Others Present: County Attorney Terry Modesitt, James Bramble, Cheryl Loudermilk, Tammy York-Allen, Bill Watson, Christina Patterson, Joni Wise, Diana Winsted-Smith, Chris Eldridge, Larry Robbins, Josie Thompson, Jared Bayler, Sheila Priester, Tim Cunningham, Kevin Gardner, Joey Lehman, Kara Wright, Jordynne Shelton, Bruce Allen, Marcus Maurer, Chris Wilbur, Richard Shagley, Tony Cassiseah, and several members of the public.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Mike Morris called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Review of Minutes/Claims. Auditor James Bramble presented the Board with meeting minutes for August 1, 2023, for approval. Mark Clinkenbeard made a motion to approve minutes for August 1, 2023. Chris Switzer seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 3-0, the motion unanimously passed.

Mr. Bramble then presented the Board with payroll for August 3, 2023 in the amount of \$1,188,760.32 for approval. Mark Clinkenbeard made a motion to approve the August 3, 2023 payroll. Chris Switzer seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 3-0, the motion unanimously passed.

Mr. Bramble then presented the Board with expenditures for the period of July 29, 2023 through August 4, 2023 in the amount of \$420,060.52. Chris Switzer made a motion to approve the July 29, 2023 through August 4, 2023 claims in the amount of \$420,060.52. Mark Clinkenbeard seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 2-0, the motion unanimously passed. She then presented the Board with expenditures for the period of August 5, 2023 through August 11, 2023 in the amount of \$917,947.77. Chris Switzer made a motion to approve the August 5, 2023 through August 11, 2023 claims in the amount of \$917,947.77. Mark Clinkenbeard seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 3-0, the motion unanimously passed.

Resolution 2023-09 – Accepting State Public Health Funding. Chris Switzer asked Joni Wise of the Vigo County Health Department to speak about this. Ms. Wise said Senate Bill 4 was a bipartisan supported bill that enhanced public health funding for Indiana. It doubled the amount. The State took a 3-year average of the health department's budget and they doubled that. The Health Department is working with community partners to see where this money could best be utilized. They are working with the Courts, Chances and Services for Youth, the school corporation, some of the recovery services programs to help the needs. This money is used to supplement, not supplant, what we get from our tax levy. Chris Switzer said most counties across the state are opting in. Chris Switzer made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-09. Mark Clinkenbeard seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 3-0, the motion unanimously passed.

Appointment to Library Board – Commissioners. This is the Commissioners' appointment to the Library Board. This is to certify that George Heubel is appointed to the Vigo County Public Library Board, effective the 8th day of August, 2023, for a 4-year term expiring on July 9, 2026. In testimony whereof,

the Vigo County Board of Commissioners have hereunto set their hands and seal the 8th day of August, 2023. Mike Morris made a motion to approve this appointment. Mark Clinkenbeard seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 3-0, the motion unanimously passed.

Proposal for Gibson Services - Maintenance. Commissioner Morris presented the proposal from Gibson Services Company for the installation of a new Carrier unit in the amount of \$3,293. Mark Clinkenbeard made a motion to approve the proposal. Chris Switzer seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 3-0, the motion unanimously passed.

Acceptance of Workers Comp Insurance Contract – Commissioners. Mike Morris said they had reviewed the new workers comp insurance contract. The challenge continues to keep the employees of Vigo County safe. There has been a substantial premium increase over last year. They may need to shop this a little better next year. Chris Switzer made a motion to approve the workers comp insurance contract. Mike Morris seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 3-0, the motion unanimously passed.

Acceptance of Liability Insurance Contract – Commissioners. Mike Morris said they had reviewed the renewal of the liability insurance contract. Chris Switzer said Jon Wright went over all the buildings they own and there were no concerns or issues and everything was still good. The premium had increased only nominally this year. Chris Switzer made a motion to approve the liability insurance contract. Mark Clinkenbeard seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 3-0, the motion unanimously passed.

Comments or other business from Commissioners or other Elected Officials. Auditor James Bramble said the Treasury Department added new categories last week that ARPA funds could be used for. Among them were disaster recovery like we just had. It can be used for certain transportation and bridge projects so if the Commissioners wanted to re-evaluate where some of the funds went, those types of projects could now be included. There was a brief discussion.

Public Comments. Susan Strokoss of West Terre Haute spoke about her concerns with the proposed carbon dioxide wells/sequestration being proposed. Another lady (no name given) from New Goshen also expressed her concerns and concerns about the preparedness of Vigo County in the event these wells cause an earthquake or other natural disasters. It was noted that an amendment to Senate Bill 451 removing any local control pertains only to Vigo and Vermillion County. There was a very lengthy discussion. Chris Switzer has set up a meeting for next Tuesday from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. to meet with representatives from Wabash Valley Resources about this issue. He said the Commissioners would be there, he thought some of the State representatives would be there, and representatives from Wabash Valley Resources. He stressed that they are asking people to be civil during the meeting. Marie Osborne from West Terre Haute also expressed her concerns and asked several questions. Discussion continued.

Cliff Stevens was present to talk about the memorial benches at the southeast corner of the Court House. There are currently two names of veterans who were killed in Viet Nam, one from Garfield and one from Gerstmeyer High Schools. He would like to request permission to add the name of a Wiley graduate, Theodore Alfred Sweatt, who was killed in 1968, to the memorial. Commissioner Morris will handle the matter. Mr. Stevens said he was also President of Vigo County Memorial Park and talked about the availability of purchasing bricks to be placed at the site. He also talked about the addition of various items that will be placed in the future to represent each branch of the military.

Assessor Kevin Gardner talked about the well water in West Terre Haute and the fact that most of the wells were not good. He asked if there might be some type of collaboration with the Town of West

Terre Haute to extend their municipal water to the outlying rural areas with ARPA funds. There was discussion about this.

The meeting recessed at 10:10 a.m.

Attest:


James Bramble, Auditor


Mike Morris


Chris Switzer


Mark Clinkenbeard