

August 29, 2023

Council Chambers
Vigo County Government Center
Terre Haute, Indiana

Roll Call:

Present: Mike Morris and Mark Clinkenbeard

Others Present: County Attorney Terry Modesitt, Auditor James Bramble, Tammy York-Allen, Diana Winsted-Smith, Vickie Oster, Chrissy Patterson, Valerie Stapleton, Adam Grossman, Josie Thompson, Tim Cunningham, Kevin Gardner, Joey Lehman, Jordynne Shelton, Bruce Allen, 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. Deputy Auditor Karen McCammon presented the Board with meeting minutes for August 22, 2023 for approval. Mark Clinkenbeard made a motion to approve the minutes for August 22, 2023. Mike Morris seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 2-0, the motion unanimously passed.

Ms. McCammon then presented the Board with expenditures for the period of August 19, 2023 through August 25, 2023 in the amount of \$4,268,439.34. Mark Clinkenbeard made a motion to approve the August 19, 2023 through August 25, 2023 claims in the amount of \$4,268,439.34. Mike Morris seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 2-0, the motion unanimously passed.

Resolution-Relocation of The Vigo County Dispatch Center. Mark Clinkenbeard introduced Resolution 2023-10 pertaining to the move of 911 Center to the Community Corrections building titled Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of Vigo County, Indiana Approving Relocation of the Vigo County Dispatch Facility to the Vigo County Community Corrections Building, Renovations of the Building and Purchasing of Essential Equipment. Mike Morris said this is to move ahead with what is considered an urgent need. There has been a resolution of support signed by the Vigo County Council for tentative approval for funding. Mike Morris made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-10. Mark Clinkenbeard seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 3-0, the motion was unanimously approved.

Comments or other business from Commissioners or other Elected Officials. There were none.


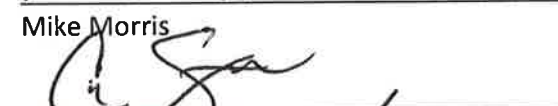
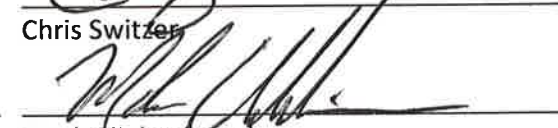
Public Comments. Mary Vandevender, a resident of Nevins Township, said that the Nevins Township Trustee does not live in the township, and has told more than one person she lives in Indianapolis. She is shutting down the Nevins Township Fire Department and wants to go with Seelyville. Ms. Vandevender does not want to go with Seelyville because taxes will raise 1.6%. She doesn't think the other residents realize their taxes will increase that much. Ms. Vandevender wants to know why the trustee is the trustee if she is not a Nevins Township resident. Mark Clinkenbeard said he had heard that a couple of months ago and checked on it and she does live in the township. Ms. Vandevender said the trustee had just stated this past weekend that she didn't live here but her roots were here. Ms. Vandevender said she believes they are being lied to. County Attorney Terry Modesitt said that the Commissioners cannot do anything about it and Ms. Vandevender would need to contact the Attorney General's office.

Mark Mericle, a resident of Prairie Creek, first wanted to ask about the old Masonic Lodge building located in Prairie Creek that has been condemned. He said every time there is a storm, part of the roof blows off and now bricks are starting to fall off the building. He wanted to know if the County could find funds to tear the building down. It is a hazard to anyone near it. The Commissioners will check on this with the Building Inspector. Secondly, he said he doesn't know who the Prairie Creek Township Trustee accounts to, but they have had a problem for the last 8 years. They have a community building in desperate need of repair and residents have been trying for the last 8 years to get the restrooms fixed. They have 2 restrooms and one has never been fixed and the second one was leaking so the water has just been shut off and nothing done to fix it either. He is trying to discover who the township trustee is and why no filings of expenses, etc. have been made in the last eight years. He wants to know what they have to do to get the building fixed and money expended like it should be. Auditor James Bramble said it is his memory that the township trustee has never submitted the proper paperwork to have a budget or a tax rate. There was lengthy discussion about what has not been done, who should be contacted about the inaction, and to whom the trustee has to justify his job. Mike Morris said the trustee has to justify his job to the voters because it is an elected position. The Commissioners and County Attorney Terry Modesitt indicated they could not put anyone in there because it was an elected position. The question arose whether there were township meetings and Mr. Mericle was not aware of any. Mike Morris said they could follow up and see if they could find out who was on the Board to try to get some action. Mr. Morris said they couldn't force the trustee to do anything. The township trustee does not report to the County Commissioners. Discussion continued. It was suggested that he contact the Indiana State Board of Accounts and the Attorney General's Office.

The meeting recessed at 9:20 a.m.

Attest:


James Bramble, Auditor


Mike Morris

Chris Switzer

Mark Clinkenbeard