

## **MINUTES OF THE VIGO COUNTY COUNCIL**

### **April 14, 2004**

Sheriff Jon Marvel called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Sheriff Jon Marvel, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Kylissa Miller, Chief Deputy Auditor, took roll call. All members were present except Mr. Cedric Blade.

Mr. Jim Bramble, Auditor, gave the reading of the call.

Mr. Decker called for the approval of the minutes, of the March 16, 2004 meeting. The minutes will be corrected to reflect Ms. Miller making the motion to approve an appropriation for Cumulative Bridge, Canal Road Project. Mr. Scott moves to approve the minutes as corrected. Mr. Roman duly seconds the motion.

Mr. Curley questioned the minutes of the March 16, 2004 meeting whereas Mr. Decker stated that he would put some hard figures in the council's hands prior to the April 14, 2004 meeting, in regard to county employee salary increases. He stated that he did not see this on the agenda for this meeting.

Mr. Decker asked for the show of intent from the Council concerning the county salary half-step increase, amounting to \$230,000.00-\$250,000.00. Mr. Roman expressed his views, as discussed in the last meeting, that this is a Human Resources issue. He feels the Council should wait until budget time to address this issue. Mr. Anderson also expressed his concerns on the spending of additional appropriations from the General Fund amounting to over \$130,000.00 stating if we appropriate an additional \$230,000.00-\$250,000.00 we would not have enough funds to carry out the budget.

Mr. Anderson also expressed his concern about the reassessment changes refunds coming out of Additional Expenditures. The budget was only for \$900,000.00 and at that rate of spending we will only have enough funds to get us through June or July.

Mr. Decker is working on a timeline for the council, which he will present in May at the Council meeting. This will show that in the months of June and July the budget committee will begin meeting with various departments to gather requests for budget appropriations. Mr. Bramble mentioned that the budget is still not finalized for 2004.

Mr. Decker called for comments from the Council. There were no comments.

Mr. Decker called for comments from the Public. Mr. Rod Henry, President of the Greater Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce, representing the Chamber of Commerce and Terre Haute Tomorrow, urged the Council to cast a favorable vote for funds requested for the EDIT Fund. He feels we need a plan in place for economic development, the plan we

currently have is from 1985.

Mr. Bill Miller, resident of Riley township, questioning if the public could ask questions at the Council Meetings. Mr. Decker will check the bi-laws on this. Mr. Roman stated that the county representatives are here as elected by the public and that concerned citizens may talk with those representatives prior to or following Council meetings but not during.

Mr. Bill Miller also asked the amount of estimated revenues from the CAGIT tax. Mr. Decker responded that \$.50 of the \$.75 collected is to be used for property tax reduction. Mr. Decker also said that \$.25 will be put into the General Fund and will be monitored by the Council. Mr. Bill Miller asked if citizens can monitor that. Mr. Tony Miller verified that the county web site, in effect May 1<sup>st</sup>, will be available for public viewing showing where the EDIT tax is going. The new web site will enable each department to post information for public viewing.

Mr. Decker and Mr. Roman attended ribbon-cutting ceremonies for the Rural Transportation System. Mr. Decker also attended a ceremony for the Girl Scout Council. He suggests that Council members attending these various functions, as a representative of the Council, share information with other members.

Mr. Decker announced that he and several other members of the Council would like to request that Council Call meeting minutes as well as meeting agenda be mailed to them 14 days prior to a scheduled meeting.

Ms. Debbie Lewis, County Assessor, stated that funds were appropriated and approved in the 2003 budget for a GIS system. Ms. Lewis is requesting the funds be appropriated again for the project. There is an opportunity for the County and City to enter into an Interlocal agreement regarding GIS. The county would be able to save a substantial amount of money with this joint GIS system. She is asking the Council to sign a letter of intent of an additional appropriation. The urgency of the request is based on the window of opportunity for the flyover. She said this system will be user friendly and beneficial to both county and city departments. Louise Anderson, Health Department, expressed her support for this program.

Ms. Louise Anderson, Health Department, addressed the Council in reference to a letter Mr. Decker sent to all departments asking them to survey in-house personnel as to what they might prefer in benefits should the taxes not allow enough funds for a raise, PERF and insurance premium. She would like to know when the results will be available to departments. Mr. Decker said this would be in June. He stated that each department would have a representative to address this issue and that employees will direct their needs and concerns to this representative. Ms. Anderson asked if this could be provided prior to June, as that is a very busy time for her department. Dr. Decker will try to provide that information in May.

Considerations of the Call began with Mr. Bill Watson, director of the Vigo County Community Corrections Program, requesting a transfer of funds.

Drug Task Force Seized Asset Fund requesting additional appropriations for Car Repairs and Law Enforcement Grant.

Infraction Deferral requesting additional appropriations for office machines.

Mr. Jon Marvel, Sheriff, requesting an additional appropriation for inmate medical bills. He also discussed working with Senators Waterman and Skinner to pass a bill concerning physicians who receive monies from the State only being able to charge the lowest amount allowable by Medicare.

Ms. Shelia Priester, Executive Director Vigo County Homes for Children, requesting an additional appropriation for extra help. This is for increased staffing during high maintenance hours.

Ms. Lee Ann Riesenbeck, representing the Vigo Juvenile Courts, requesting an additional appropriation for Intake Probation Officers.

Ms. Lee Ann Riesenbeck, representing the Justice Center, requesting an additional appropriation for Assistant Director.

Commissioners requesting additional appropriations for Social Security, PERF and Group Insurance for the above mentioned additional employees.

Harrison Township Assessor withdrew his salary increase request.

The Coroner's Office withdrew her request for employee reclassification.

Mr. Brad Anderson discussed the excessive requests each session for salary adjustments. He suggests that the Council set a budget and stick to it. This Council's job is to consider appropriations for extraordinary emergencies. It is the Council's opinion that considerations for salary on the agenda will not be considered except during budget time, with the exception of new hires. The auditor's office is not to accept requests for salary appropriations per Mr. Dave Decker.

Mr. Bill Bryan expressed his desire for the county to look at hiring a Human Resources Director.

The Commissioners along with Area Planning, requesting \$125,000.00 in the EDIT fund to be used to prepare a Comprehensive Plan Update.

## **MOTIONS**

### **April 14, 2004**

**Minutes of the March 16, 2004 Meeting**-Mr. Scott moves to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2004 meeting as corrected, Mr. Roman seconds the motion. All members voting aye, the motion passes.

**Salary Increase**-Mr. Roman moves to deny the request of county employee percentage raise, Mr. Anderson seconds the motion. All members voting aye, except Mr. Decker voting nay, motion passes.

**Reassessment II**- Mr. Roman moves to call for question, Mr. Scott seconds the motion. All members voting aye, the motion passes. Mr. Roman moves to accept letter of intent for GIS system, Mr. Scott seconds the motion. All members voting aye, motion passes.

**Community Corrections**-Mr. Scott moves to approve transfer of \$6,000.00 to #433-30 Contractual Services, \$610.00 to #411-90, \$47.00 to #415-21 FICA, \$35.00 to #415-22 PERF, \$1,500.00 to #421-00 Office Supplies, \$1,500.00 to #422-10 Preventative Maintenance, \$500.00 to #424-40 Vehicle Supplies, \$500.00 to #435-45 Repair & Maintenance and \$600.00 to #421-20 Janitorial Supplies from #445-71 Building Acquisition, Mr. Roman seconds the motion. All members voting aye with a roll call vote, the motion passes.

**Drug Task Force Seized Asset Fund**-Mr. Curley moves to approve \$6,908.00 to #431-40 Police Grants and \$279.00 to #422-10 Vehicle Repair, Mr. Anderson seconds. All members voting aye, the motion passes.

**Infraction Deferral**-Mr. Curley moves to approve \$771.00 to #446-00 Office Machines, Mr. Anderson seconds. All members voting aye, the motion passes.

**Jail** -Mr. Scott moves to approve \$75,000.00 to #437-80 Hospital Fees, Mr. Anderson seconds. All members voting aye, the motion passes.

**Group Homes**-Mr. Scott moves to approve \$50,000.00 to #411-21 Extra Help, Mr. Curley seconds. All members voting aye with a roll call vote, motion passes.

**Juvenile Courts**- Mr. Scott moves to approve \$25,977.00 to #411-90 Intake Probation Officer and \$25,977.00 to #411-91 Intake Probation Officer, Mr. Curley seconds. All members voting aye with a roll call vote, motion passes.

**Juvenile Center**-Mr. Scott moves to approve \$28,231.00 to #411-11 Assistant Director, Mr. Curley seconds. All members voting aye with a roll call vote, motion passes.

**Commissioners**-Mr. Scott moves to approve \$9,960.00 to #415-21 Social Security, \$8,788.00 to #415-22 PERF and \$36,291 to #415-23 Group Insurance, Mr. Roman

seconds. All members voting aye, motion passes.

**EDIT**—Mr. Anderson moves to approve \$125,000.00 to #433-30 Contractual Services, Mr. Scott seconds. All members voting aye, motion passes.

**Adjourn**—Mr. Roman moves to adjourn the meeting 8:27 pm, Mr. Scott seconds. All members voting aye, the motion passes.

*Presented to the Vigo County Council, read in full and adopted as written this 14th day of April 2004.*

AYE

NAY

_____	Brad Anderson	_____
_____	Cedric Blade	_____
_____	Tim P. Curley	_____
_____	Effie N. Miller	_____
_____	Turk Roman	_____
_____	Darrick C. Scott	_____

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David W. Decker, President

*Attest:*

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James W. Bramble  
Auditor