

**VIGO COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**Sunshine Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, October 7, 2025 at 5:00 P.M.**  
**Council Chambers, Vigo County Government Center**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Brad Anderson called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**Calling of the Roll**

Nancy Allsup – present; Vicki Weger – present; Steve Ellis – present; Randy Gentry – present; Brenda Wilson – present; Brad Anderson – present; and David Thompson – absent.

**Communications from elected officials, other officials, or agencies of the County**

Councilman Steve Ellis took the floor and expressed disagreement with the proposed Vigo County School consolidation plan. He expressed his belief that the Council should not contribute funds to the Vigo County School Corporation's consolidation and modernization plan. Steve said he thought that decisions made about County funds being appropriated to assist with the proposed project should be voted on by the taxpayers. Steve Ellis then said he would be conducting the first reading of new Vigo County Ordinance to be voted on at the following Council meeting. Steve said he had the authority to do this citing Indiana Code (I.C.) 36-2-4, and Vigo County Council Rule #7.

Steve Ellis read:

“Unless specifically mandated by Indiana law, promulgated rule, and/or judicial mandate; The Vigo County Council WILL NOT appropriate any taxpayer monies, funds or other Vigo County financial resources for any of the following without a ballot referendum requesting said specific funding and a subsequent approval by the registered voters of Vigo County

1. The Vigo County Council WILL NOT appropriate any taxpayer monies, funds or other County financial resources for the direct or indirect acquisition of any new land parcels for the explicit use to construct school structures or buildings, this includes the purposes of both educational and non-educational functions.
2. The Vigo County Council WILL NOT appropriate any taxpayer monies, funds or other County financial resources for the direct or indirect construction of a new school building or direct or indirect acquisition of any new or preexisting building for the explicit use of the Vigo County School Corporation, this includes the purposes educational and non-educational functions.
3. The Vigo County Council WILL NOT appropriate any taxpayer monies, funds or other County financial resources for the Vigo County School Corporation or any other entity (government and/or private sector, both for profit or not-for-profit) towards a new school or any other building with a designated end use by the Vigo County School Corporation.

4. The Vigo County Council WILL NOT appropriate any taxpayer monies, funds or other County financial resources for the funding of any renovations of any school, school building, or school facility owned and or operated by the Vigo County School Corporation.
5. The Vigo County Council WILL NOT appropriate any taxpayer monies, funds or other County financial resources for, without preclusion of County Council Rule 5(A), the funding of a board, commission or other entity made up of elected and/or non-elected appointed individuals operating with an oversight and/or in an advisory capacity designated to oversee taxpayer and/or private monies directed for the use of the Vigo County School Corporation or any government/private entity OPERATING in the capacity to OVERSEE and/or ADVISE on the purchase, renovation, and/or development of new buildings or facilities for the Vigo County School Corporation.”

Vigo County Parks Department Superintendent Adam Grossman approached the Council and presented a no-cost license agreement with Hoosier Jack Land Co. granting permission to utilize land adjacent to Fowler Park for disc golf and trails. Randy Gentry asked for more details on the situation surrounding the agreement. Adam Grossman gave a brief overview of the ongoing disc golf course construction project at Fowler Park. He said this license to use the adjacent land would allow the disc golf course to be a competitive venue going forward for the sport and bring business to the County.

Seelyville Fire Department Deputy Chief John Hendrix and Abbigale Parker approached the Council two petitions to increase above the maximum levy. One petition for an extension of services and another for a three-year growth factor with an appeal amount of \$20,000. John Hendrix explained Lost Creek absorbed Nevins Township and now is the Lost Creek-Nevins Township. John said they are currently under contract with the Nevins trustee for funding and the funding runs out at the end of the current year. Randy Gentry asked if the DLGF had denied the district's levy, and if so what reason was given. Abbigale said the Fire District was not denied and this was a petition to extend the levy beyond the 4% growth allowed. She said instead of having Nevins Township pay the contract they will be requesting additional levy money to provide the services to Nevins Township. Randy asked if residents would be taxed for this. Abbigale confirmed they would be. She said the residents are currently taxed by the township, so this change would keep tax rates relatively stable. Abbigale explained the second petition was due to the assessed value of the properties exceeding the state-wide average for the past three years, so based on a formula they are able to apply for the extra \$20,000.

Vigo County Sheriff Derek Fell approached the Council to answer any questions related to the quarterly presentation of the Sheriff's Commissary Ledger to Council. Sheriff Fell gave a brief overview of the Commissary Ledger and explained its purpose. Randy Gentry noted counties across the state were having closer reviews of these ledgers due to corruption issues. Randy asked if there was a way to have a closer look at these expenditures. Sheriff Fell said he

welcomed any Council member to meet with him in the future and look through expenditures from the Commissary Fund. He said he was confident the Vigo County Sheriff's Department was operating within the confines of the law.

Seelyville Fire Department Deputy Chief John Hendrix approached the Council and expressed concerns over fire safety in relation to electric vehicles and voiced his concern with Vigo County School Corporation's pursuit of electric school busses. Brenda Wilson and Steve Ellis encouraged John reach out to the school officials.

### **Reports from Committees**

#### **a. Annual Budget Committee Update**

Brad Anderson gave a brief update on the progress of the Annual Budget Committee. He said the budget committee had held several meetings and had cut approximately \$1,000,000 out of requests from various departments in an effort to get county employees to the Baker Tilly midpoint. He said the 2026 salary ordinances were planned to be presented in November.

### **Resolutions and Ordinances Other than Appropriations – First Reading**

#### **a. Resolution 2025-4: Approving Amended Statements of Benefits for Tax Abatement on Application of Great Dane Limited Partnership**

Brent Auberry, attorney with Great Dane approached the Council and explained this was a request for a resolution to amend the statement of benefits for a tax abatement granted to Great Dane by the Council. He said more time was needed to complete construction on the site in Vigo County. He said the plan and investment into Vigo County's Great Dane site had not changed, they just needed more time. Brent explained the target date on the current resolution was December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025, but more time was needed to get the equipment ordered and in place. He said they only requested amendment to the resolution would be to change the target date from December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025 to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2027. He said everything else in the abatement request as originally approved was the same, they just needed to change the date. Randy Gentry asked if any of the targets listed in the original approved abatement had been met. Brent said they had not which had prompted this request to extend the target date. Randy requested a copy of the original abatement. Auditor Larry Hutchings confirmed a copy of the original abatement would be provided to Council before the next meeting. Steve Ellis asked Brent if there was a possibility of enacting deadlines and target dates for each phase of the Great Dane project. Brent said Great Dane would be open to working with Council, but cited recent "economic turmoil" creating difficulty for large scale projects. He said this was in part delaying the technology investment required for this project.

#### **b. Resolution of Re-Allocation of Existing Appropriation 2025-7: Clerk's Office – Transfer of Funds**

Vigo County Clerk Leanna Moore and Chief Deputy Clerk Elizabeth Stiverson approached the Council and explained this was a request to move \$2,000 from the Computer Supplies line item to the Equipment New line item in the Election Board Fund for the purposes of purchasing a laptop for the Absentee Voting Office in order to ensure access to the Statewide Voter Registration System on Election Day.

**c. Amended Salary Ordinance 2025-20: Clerk's Office Salary Ordinance Correction**

Vigo County Clerk Leanna Moore explained when the Council approved pay increases for the Clerk's Office earlier in the year, one employee was missed in the amendment to the Salary Ordinance. Leanna explained this employee was paid from the Clerk Perpetuation Fund instead of the County General Fund causing the oversight. This request to amend the Salary Ordinance would correct the mistake.

**Ordinances Related to Appropriations – First Reading**

**a. Additional Appropriation 2025-50: Clerk's Office – Salary Ordinance Correction**

This request for an additional appropriation of \$1,153.19 from the Clerk Perpetuation Fund would fund the request outlined above.

**b. Additional Appropriation 2025-51: Group Homes – Emergency Repairs**

Executive Director of Vigo County Homes for Children Norm Loudermilk approached the Council and noted this request was discussed at previous Council meetings and he was requested to come before Council and request these funds from the Group Homes Non-Reverting Fund. Norm gave a brief overview of ongoing repairs being done to the bathrooms, ductwork, and drainage work at the county's group homes. Randy Gentry asked if the appropriation request had increased from the previous version of this request. Norm confirmed the requested dollar amounts were the same. Randy asked how many children were being housed currently and how many were from Vigo County. Norm said seven children were at the homes currently, and two were from Vigo County.

**c. Additional Appropriation 2025-52: Prosecutor's Office – Infraction Deferral Fund Request**

Chief Deputy Prosecutor Rob Roberts approached the Council and explained this request was for \$15,000 to be appropriated to the Law Enforcement Grants line item from the Infraction Deferral Fund. He explained this request would cover last minute requests from law-enforcement agencies seeking assistance. Steve Ellis asked Rob if funds from this request would be used at his business Top Guns. Rob said purchases from that business were not anticipated in any way. There were no other questions.

**d. Additional Appropriation 2025-53: Commissioners – LIT Correctional Rehab Facilities Fund Request or LIT Special Purpose Fund Request**

Representatives from architecture and engineering firm RQAW and Garmong Construction gave the Council a presentation detailing a proposed Vigo county Residential Treatment Facility. Representatives said the proposed cost for the facility in the presentation would be \$41 million and construction would take 16 months. Commissioner Chris Switzer approached the Council and explained this request was for \$896,355.64 to be appropriated to the Professional Services line item from either the LIT Correctional Rehab Facilities Fund or the LIT Special Purpose Fund to pay the invoices for RQAW and Garmong construction's design work to this point. Chris Switzer noted this was a moment the Council could make a decision on the county moving

forward with the proposed residential treatment facility. Steve Ellis asked if the \$896,355.64 was the extent of the request or if the Commissioners had approval to continue using funds related to this proposed facility. Chris Switzer confirmed this request was to pay invoices received to this point in the project and the Commissioners would be required to get Council approval on any future expenses related to this project. Chris Switzer then gave a brief history on this project including decisions by previous Councils and the loss of financial assistance from state grants. He suggested there be future meetings between Commissioners and Council members to decide how the County would be moving forward with the proposed residential treatment facility, or if they were moving forward with it at all. Randy Gentry expressed his disappointment with the amount of money and the results of this request. Vicki Weger said she did not believe this request was useless and expressed her support for the project going forward. Chris Switzer noted to Council these LIT funds could only be spent on correctional facilities. Mark Clinkenbeard approached the Council and said the previous Council and Commissioners' decision to pursue this project and this facility was a result of the jail overcrowding over the past several years. He expressed the disappointment with the amount of money the County spends on criminals and said he believed the proposed solution would be a solution to help solve this problem. Randy clarified he was expressing his disappointment with the County missing the opportunity for a grant in the past that would possibly cover some of this expense.

Chris Switzer noted the work on the north plaza of the courthouse would be complete in the next couple of weeks and would be approximately \$1,000,000 under budget. Switzer credited the hiring of a construction manager for the money saved. He said the remaining money would be going into the LIT Fund #1144.

Chris noted he had distributed the LIT budgets for 2024 to the Council and the documents contained percentages of distributions to various units of the government.

### **Public Comment**

Michael Ellis approached the Council and voiced his concern with the amount of people being held in the jail he believed did not belong there. He expressed his disappointment with Hamilton Center's services with treating mental health cases in the community and said he believed many are battling mental health and addiction and not getting treated effectively with County resources. He commended the Commissioners' efforts to bring a residential treatment facility to the community.

### **Adjournment**


Steve Ellis made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vicki Weger seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 6-0 the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

# MINUTES OF THE VIGO COUNTY COUNCIL SUNSHINE MEETING OCTOBER 7, 2025

*Presented to the Vigo County Council, read in full and adopted as written this 12<sup>h</sup> day of November, 2025.*

Aye	<input type="checkbox"/>	Absent	<input type="checkbox"/>	Randy Gentry _____
Nay	<input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Aye	<input type="checkbox"/>	Absent	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nancy Allsup _____
Nay	<input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Aye	<input type="checkbox"/>	Absent	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brenda Wilson _____
Nay	<input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Aye	<input type="checkbox"/>	Absent	<input type="checkbox"/>	Steve Ellis _____
Nay	<input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Aye	<input type="checkbox"/>	Absent	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vicki Weger _____
Nay	<input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Aye	<input type="checkbox"/>	Absent	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brad Anderson _____
Nay	<input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Aye	<input type="checkbox"/>	Absent	<input type="checkbox"/>	David Thompson _____
Nay	<input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Attest:

  
Larry T. Hutchings, II  
Auditor

Council would not sign minutes 11/12/25