

**VIGO COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**Sunshine Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, November 4, 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 – absent; Brenda Wilson – present; Brad Anderson – present; and David Thompson – present.

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

Councilman Steve Ellis read a statement from councilperson Randy Gentry:

“With a pending court hearing scheduled for 11/14 – a court hearing at my request – I continue to fear for the safety of my family and me 24 hours a day seven days a week. While the sheriff department and Sheriff Fell have been kind in offering additional for security for me during any meeting I attend, the taxpayer cost of such a request for a non-voting Council Sunshine Meeting is not justified. Even with additional security, I am not sure I would be comfortable to attend. I am notifying you that I will not be able to be at the sunshine meeting this evening, but will actively watch the hearing live. After the threats that were made against me after the last meeting by the Council president, my personal safety must take precedent. Violence and threats of violence are never acceptable, but one council member threatening another is beyond reasonable. All Council members have to feel safe to speak, make decisions, and discuss matters without fear of violence or retribution. I thank everyone for their understanding during this difficult time. My best, Randy Gentry.”

Chief Deputy Prosecutor Rob Roberts approached the Council and asked for clarifications on errors to the proposed Prosecutor’s and Public Defender’s Salary Ordinance. He said he hoped to be able to ask questions at an upcoming Annual Budget Committee meeting.

Commissioner Mike Morris approached the Council and noted Hasselburger Bridge was scheduled for completion the following week. He said Culvert, chip and seal, and paving projects for the year were nearly complete. He also said the County was awarded a grant from the DNR for the Riley Trail.

**Reports from Committees**

There were none.

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

**a. Approving Seelyville 2026 Civil Town Budget**

Council Attorney Michael Wright explained this vote would approve the Seelyville Civil Town Budget Approval. He said the DLGF had contacted the Auditor’s Office and said due to a conflict of interest with two firemen on the Seelyville Council, the Vigo County Council needed to approve Seelyville’s approval of their Budget as another layer of accountability. Brad Anderson made a motion to approve Seelyville’s Civil Town Budget. Vicki Weger seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 6-0 vocal vote.

**b. Ordinance Adopting 2026 County of Vigo Indiana Salary Schedule and Compensation Policies**

Michael Wright explained these salary ordinances were the product of the work of the 2026 Council Annual Budget Committee. He said this general employee ordinance reflected the changes to compensation agreed upon by the Annual Budget Committee. There were no questions.

**c. Ordinance Adopting 2026 County of Vigo, Indiana Salary Schedule and Compensation Policies of Merit Officers**

Michael said Sheriff Fell and his administration had met with the Annual Budget Committee and this ordinance reflected the new dates and compensation rates agreed upon by the Annual Budget Committee and there were no substantial changes beyond this. There were no questions.

**d. Ordinance Adopting 2026 County of Vigo, Indiana Salary Schedule and Compensation Policies of Prosecutors and Public Defenders**

Michael addressed the comments Rob Roberts made earlier in the meeting. Michael said he had helped prepare these ordinances, and Rob's concerns about the amount and nature of the budgeted deputies had been a simple mistake on his own part. There were no further questions.

**e. Ordinance Adopting 2026 County of Vigo, Indiana Salary Schedule and Compensation Policies of the Highway Department**

Michael noted the dates on this ordinance were adjusted to reflect the new year and the charts had been updated with the proposed compensation rates for 2026. Michael said beyond the standard changes, there were no substantial adjustments. There were no questions.

**f. Ordinance Adopting 2026 County of Vigo, Indiana Salary Schedule and Compensation Policies of Dispatch/E911**

Michael noted there was additional language inserted into this ordinance adding a probationary period for people coming into the dispatch position giving the department head more discretion in terms of gauging a person's ability to perform the job. He said beyond this the normal modifications were made. There were no questions.

**g. Ordinance Adopting 2026 County of Vigo, Indiana Salary Schedule and Compensation Policies of Correctional/Detention/Building Security Officers**

Michael said the normal modifications to this ordinance were made adding the compensation rates agreed upon by the annual budget committee. There were no questions.

**h. Ordinance Adopting 2026 County of Vigo, Indiana Salary Schedule and Compensation Policies of the Parks Department**

Michael noted this ordinance reflected the new proposed part-time employee compensation rate agreed upon by the Annual Budget Committee. He said the normal modifications were made to this ordinance adding new compensations rates agreed upon by the Committee. There were no questions.

**i. Ordinance Adopting 2026 County of Vigo, Indiana Salary Schedule and Compensation Policies of the Health Department**

Michael said the normal modifications were made to this ordinance for 2026 and it now reflected compensation rates decided upon by the Annual Budget Committee.

**j. Ordinance Adopting 2026 County of Vigo, Indiana Salary Schedule and Compensation Policies of Elected Officials**

Michael explained this ordinance contained the annual compensation for 2026 for Vigo County's Elected Officials. There were no questions.

**k. Ordinance Adopting 2026 County of Vigo, Indiana Salary Schedule and Compensation Policies of Court Employees**

Michael said this proposed ordinance had been provided to the Council before this meeting. Michael noted this was a new ordinance not adopted in previous years, due to the settlement agreement made between the Council

and Court employees. He said this ordinance still does the same thing the other ordinances do, providing parameters that employees can be compensated. There were no questions.

Brad Anderson cited the judge's mandate, retirement increases for the sheriff's department, increasing insurance costs, and a county-wide attempt to get those on the Baker Tilly pay grade system to the midpoint established by that study as reasons for a higher budget for 2026.

**I. Resolution of Re-Allocation of Existing Appropriation 2025-8: Adult Probation – Commercial Shredder Purchase**

Chief Probation Officer Lee Ann Reisenbeck explained her request to transfer \$5,200 to the New Equipment line item from the Travel Expenses, Mileage, Registration, and Service Agreements, line items to purchase commercial shredder for the Adult Probation Department. Lee Ann explained they had lost access to the shredder from Community Corrections, and the department handles confidential documents. Brad Anderson asked if this would be a lease or purchase. Lee Ann confirmed this would be a purchase. There were no further questions.

**Ordinances Related to Appropriations – First Reading**

**a. Additional Appropriation 2025-54: Sheriff's Office – Jail Medical Costs**

Sheriff Derek Fell approached the Council and explained this request for \$190,000 to be appropriated would cover the remainder of the jail medical costs for the remainder of the year. Derek said the remaining cost before the end of the year had actually risen to \$315,000 since this original request. Brad Anderson asked if the amount the Council could appropriate could be increased. Michael said due to the proposed additional appropriation being advertised out of three different funds – County General, LIT Correctional Rehab Facilities, and Juvenile Justice Center Non-Reverting – the Council could increase the amount appropriated based on the Sheriff's request, the Council would just need to appropriate some of the request from one of the other funds in the advertisement. Brenda Wilson asked if this bill could be encumbered if necessary. Michael confirmed this was possible. There were no further questions.

**b. Additional Appropriation 2025-55: Vigo County Engineering – Road Salt & Equipment Repair**

Larry Robbins approached the Council and explained his request. He said he would like the Council to appropriate \$140,000 for Road Salt, and \$50,000 for equipment repair. Larry said he could decrease his budget by the requested amount in 2026 to offset the expense this year. Larry noted he usually orders salt in January, but reserves were low ahead of the winter season. Brad Anderson asked if the price of road salt had gone up. Larry said the price had increased by a small amount. Larry said this year had been rough for equipment breaking down, and the \$50,000 would go toward repairing equipment for the remainder of the year.

**c. Additional Appropriation 2025-56: Commissioners – Casino/Riverboat Wagering Revenue Request**

Commissioner Mark Clinkenbeard and Kristin Craig from the Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce gave a brief presentation to the Council detailing the reasoning and history of the Commissioners request for \$100,000 to be appropriated from the Riverboat Wagering Tax Revenue Fund to create an oversight committee to find funding solutions for the Vigo County School Corporation's Modernization and Consolidation plan. Attorney Chou-il Lee approached the Council and explained the parameters and limitations of House Bill 1515. Steve Ellis and Chou-il had an extended discussion about their respective interpretations of the law. Chou-il explained how Indiana state statutes are read and said the oversight committee cannot expend funds not appropriated by Council. Steve expressed his concerns the committee would spend funds beyond what was expected leaving the County responsible for these costs. Steve voiced his opinion the Council should not appropriate funds to this oversight board. Commissioner Chris Switzer voiced his desire for Vigo County to utilize this legislation to

improve area schools. Steve expressed he believed the discussed law was poorly written. Chou-il explained the law only in effect when the County gifts money to the school corporation and the committee would then be subject to open door laws. Steve once again voiced his disagreement with this process and said he would prefer a committee of private citizens form their own committee. All three Commissioners approached the council and said they all were requesting this appropriation in unison and were asking for the Council's help to get the process of an oversight committee. Mark Clinkenbeard and Mike Morris expressed their disagreement with Steve Ellis' objections to this process and request. Chris Switzer once again voiced his desire to utilize House Bill 1515 for Vigo County and confusion on why the Council was resistant to the process. Chris cited the large amount of support the Bill had at the Indiana Statehouse. Chris Switzer requested Council members with questions approach them in the days following the meeting. David Thompson asked School Superintendent Dr. Chris Himsel what the School Corporation would do if the oversight committee was not formed. Himsel said the School Corporation would reevaluate costs and proceed with the modernization and consolidation plan. Himsel briefly explained the state of the schools and history of attempts to correct issues at the buildings and why the Board and the Corporation had determined this plan was necessary.

### **Public Comment**

Summer Ligget of 1563 W. Indian Meadows approached the Council and expressed her desire for action to be taken to assist the School Corporation citing her experience as a teacher and parent.

Shelby Reed of 10088 S Mill St. expressed her support for the Council to assist in forming an oversight committee for the school consolidation and modernization plan.

Garrett Hawthorne of 2555 East Moyer Drive expressed his displeasure with the status of Vigo County Schools. He provided testimonies collected from his fellow students.

Clark Cadick of 2516 North 9<sup>th</sup> Street expressed disappointment with Council for comments made by council members and expressed his support for the funding of an oversight committee.

Zion Ogundare provided a testimony of an acquaintance in support of the Council appropriating money for an oversight committee, and provided her own comments of support.

Allyn Nourse of 327 Hamilton Drive expressed her support of the Council potentially appropriating funds for an oversight committee and her disappointment with Council's comments.

Henry Connor of 121 Country Club Rod expressed his support for school improvement and the Council funding an oversight committee.

Ben Cadick of 2516 North 9<sup>th</sup> Street provided testimony from fellow students and expressed his desire for school improvement. He voiced his support for the Council to fund an oversight committee.

School Board Member Rick Burger approached the Council and expressed support for the school oversight committee. He noted there was now a new school board and a new superintendent and explained his support of the consolidation and modernization plan for the schools.

Susan Turner of 204 Bluebird Lane expressed support for the Council to fund an oversight committee.

Earl Elliot of 57 W. Lawrin Blvd voiced his support for the Council appropriating funds for an oversight committee. He cited his previous work as an accountant and work in local government.

Olivia Cordray of 8175 Wabash Ave. expressed her desire for the Council to support the schools and her support for the consolidation plan.

Local business owner Bill Hann expressed his support for Vigo County utilizing House Bill 1515 and expressed his displeasure of the Council's trepidation of the request for funding for an oversight committee.

Joe Wilson of 7626 N 41 St voiced his concerns about the County providing funding to the Oversight Committee and the cost of the school consolidation plan without increasing taxes.

Ava Stevens of 8132 Carriage Lane provided testimony from fellow students voicing their displeasure with the state of the schools.

Alex Allen-Hodge of 25 Deming Lane voiced his support for the oversight committee and the potential for the committee to find solutions to school improvement without a tax increase.

McKenzie Johnson of 17 Harding Ave provided statistics about the socioeconomics of Vigo County and expressed her disappointment with some Council members' statements about the funding request for the school oversight committee.

Craig Machino with the Terre Haute Airport Authority expressed his support for the creation of a school oversight committee.


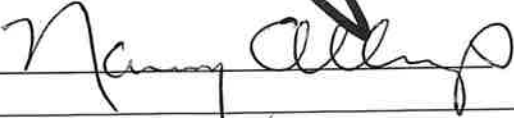

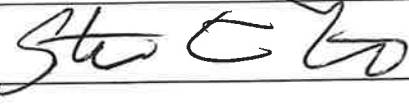
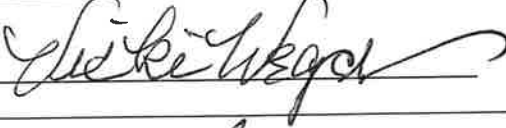
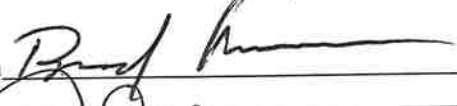
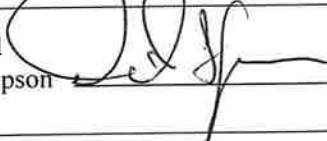
### **Adjournment**

Brad Anderson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Brenda Wilson seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.


# MINUTES OF THE VIGO COUNTY COUNCIL SUNSHINE MEETING

## NOVEMBER 4, 2025

Presented to the Vigo County Council, read in full and adopted as written this 10<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2026.

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

Attest:

  
Larry T. Hutchings, II  
Auditor