

MINUTES OF THE VIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

Tuesday, January 20, 2009

Pledge of Allegiance

President Kathy Miller called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Calling of the Roll

Tim Seprodi, Auditor took roll call. Those present included Kathy Miller, Brad Anderson, Tim Curley, Mark Bird, Darrick Scott, Ed Ping, Bill Bryan.

Public comment

There was none.

Communications from elected officials of the County

Commissioner Dave Decker, inaudible.

Communications from other officials or agencies

There was none.

Reports from select committees

Councilman Bill Bryan, chair of the Special Project Committee, reported the committee met earlier with the county engineer, Jerry Netherlain, and Herschel Frierson with Crowe Howarth about financing options for the Canal Road Project and various other major road projects that are eligible for federal funding. The recommendation of the committee was to present the full council with funding options 2 (10 year financing) or 3 (15 year financing) for final approval.

Councilman Mark Bird expressed concern regarding the County's ability to provide matching financial funds on projects eligible for federal funding. There are several projects that are in the works now that will have the potential for federal funding. Either option would allow for matching funds to make the best use of federal dollars in our community.

Councilman Brad Anderson wanted to know what safeguards would be available to ensure that the funds would remain available for the projects and not used on other projects. Commissioner Decker stated that the money may or may not be available depending on what projects come up between now and then.

Councilwoman Miller commented that part of the funds projected for use for the Canal Road project are proceeds from the bond from the Pfizer Tax Increment Financing Bond and confirmed that if a different company expressed an interest in the Pfizer property and incentives or improvements need to be provided, the County would have to find funding.

Councilman Bryan commented that because of bonding capacities, he recommends the 10 year plan.

Motion: The bond option with a 10-year financing plan, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Darrick Scott, **Seconded by** Bill Bryan.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 7).

Yes: Kathy Miller, Brad Anderson, Tim Curley, Mark Bird, Darrick Scott, Ed Ping, Bill Bryan.

Councilman Darrick Scott questioned Mr. Netherlain about the bridge repairs from the flood damage in June 2008. Mr. Netherlain stated they have received grant approvals from FEMA at approximately 75:25 ratio. Repairs on Thralls bridge should begin in approximately 2 months.

Councilman Anderson questioned the commissioners about an article in the newspaper about E9-1-1 and the combined dispatch department. The surcharge on telephones for E9-1-1 should have been increased prior to the first of year 2009. Why was this not done? How are they going to fund the requested changes for the two departments without the increase in revenue?

Ryan Oilar, Council Administrator, expressed concerns about the use of Rainy Day fund for the Canal Road project and as to whether or not it would be necessary to submit a formal request to the commissioners to use the funds for the project. Commissioners Anderson and Decker stated they would take care of it.

Bernard Ridens, Director of the Taxpayers Association, addressed the Council about a centralized purchasing plan as a money saving measure. The issue has been brought up before, but not acted upon. Currently, Vanderburg County and the City of Evansville have implemented a similar program. He has had discussions with the school corporation and feels they would be onboard to enhance our purchasing power if Vigo County would implement the same.

Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn at 4:58 pm **Action:** Adjourn, **Moved by** Mark Bird, **Seconded by** Darrick Scott.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (summary: Yes = 7).

Yes: Bill Bryan, Brad Anderson, Ed Ping, Kathy Miller, Darrick Scott, Tim Curley, Mark Bird.