

VIGO COUNTY COUNCIL
Sunshine Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 2, 2025 at 5:00 P.M.
Council Chambers, Vigo County Government Center

Pledge of Allegiance

David Thompson 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 – present.

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

Commissioner Mark Clinkenbeard approached the Council and said the Commissioners were withdrawing their request for Additional Appropriation 2025-47. He gave an overview of various projects throughout the County. He said Hasselburger Bridge near will open near November 1st. He said sidewalks around the Courthouse and the Old Jail site would be complete around early October. Mark invited the Council to the opening of the Lock 47 Park the upcoming Saturday. Mark noted Commissioner Mike Morris could not be present at the meeting, but was in full support of the proposed consolidation plan for the Vigo County School Corporation.

Reports from Committees

a. Annual Budget Committee Update

Brad Anderson gave a brief update on the progress of the Annual Budget Committee. He said there would be a hearing the following day.

Resolutions and Ordinances Other than Appropriations – First Reading

a. Resolution 2025-2: Resolution Modifying Local Income Tax Rates Vigo County

Council Attorney Michael Wright explained this resolution would approve the distribution of a portion of the public safety rate to Fire Departments based on a 65/35 ration approved at the August 12, 2025 council meeting. Randy Gentry asked if this was an annual vote. Michael Wright confirmed this was an annual vote approving tax rates and distributions to binding units.

b. Resolution 2025-3: Sugar Creek Fire Protection District Debt Service Fund Request

Michael Wright explained this request for a resolution would give the Sugar Creek Fire Protection District permission to create a debt service fund for the purchase of two new Fouts FB Custom Pumper Apparatus. Michael said this was a step the Fire Protection needed to take through the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance. Randy asked about the process of purchasing new equipment and if the process was done locally. Chief Darrick Scott approached the council and explained debt service funds were commonly used by local units to purchase new equipment and they have gotten better financing looking elsewhere. Randy noted the state provided financing as well.

c. Resolution of Re-Allocation of Existing Appropriation 2025-6: Group Homes – Transfer of Funds

Vigo County Homes for Children Executive Director Norm Loudermilk approached the Council and explained this request would be to transfer \$25,470.00 to the Contractual Services and Building Repair line items from the Payroll Salaries line item. He said these funds would be used to make emergency repairs to both group homes. He said there was a leak at the Glenn Home, and replace water damaged furnaces and A/C units. Norm said the request was for \$8,920 to be moved to the Contractual Services line item, and \$16,550 to be moved to the Building Repair line item. Norm outlined the necessity for these repairs. Randy Gentry expressed his concern with transferring money from the payroll salaries line item to pay for these repairs. He noted the additional appropriations this department had been granted at the previous Council meeting. Norm explained the issues necessitating this request came up after the previous meeting. There was discussion about the merits of using funds from the Group Home account in the General Fund versus using the Group Homes' Non-Reverting Fund. There was discussion about the timing of the request and the inability to advertise to taxpayers the potential additional appropriation required before this meeting. The possibility of transferring funds from Group Home's Payroll Salaries line item for this request versus having Building Maintenance use their budget to pay for this and then having an additional appropriation "reimburse" the expense to the maintenance budget. Commissioner Mark Clinkenbeard provided an overview of the status of the group homes. Judy DeLisle with the Auditor's Office noted the cash balance of the Group Homes Non-Reverting Fund was \$122,778 as of the meeting. Norm said he was open to withdrawing this request if the Council would prefer the funds to pay for the repairs come from a different location.

d. Amended Salary Ordinance 2025-19: CASA – Request for Staff Advocate Positions

Director of Vigo County CASA Glenna Cheesman approached the Council and explained her request for positions to be added to the salary ordinance. She said VOCA funding will end on September 30, 2026 leading to the loss of a full staff member. She said this would increase the workload for staff members. She said she is requesting 1 full-time staff advocate and/or 2 part-time staff advocates to be added to the Juvenile Court budget. Glenna gave an overview with the process of losing funding for this position. Glenna said Vigo County CASA has a high case load and summarized the amount of cases CASA employees are responsible for. She said minimum one part-time position would help the office. She said case load has increased from last year. Randy Gentry asked how this request would interact with the Budget Committee's duties due to this position losing funding in 2026. There was discussion about the process of requesting positions through the Budget Committee versus requesting them through regular Council meetings. Brenda Wilson asked for clarification about the request of part-time employees versus a full-time. Glenna said 1 full-time or 1 part-time would keep the office at status quo. Randy compared this positions' loss of funding with other similar situations across county departments and said he thought these grant-funded positions would not be replaced if the grant funding was no longer available. Glenna noted if CASA is unable to spend grant funds, the position could be ended sooner than 2026. Randy expressed his concerns with funding these positions before the grant-funding was cut off. There was discussion about the history of funding these CASA positions, and the process of applying for the grants that funded these positions. Randy said he believed this request should have gone before the Budget Committee. Steve Ellis asked Glenna

about the potential for doubling up on positions if this request is granted. Glenna explained this request was a preventative measure meant to ensure CASA did not lose staff once grant-funding was lost for this grant-funded position. She said this could potentially happen in September 2026, but possibly sooner due to the inability of CASA to spend the funding. Steve Ellis asked about CASA's inability to spend the funding. Glenna explained a previous Council granted two positions, but there was no way to provide for benefits. She said the position was then rewritten as a part-time position which spends less of the funding. Glenna said the only other expenditure she could use these funds for was mileage. Glenna gave another brief explanation of the grant application process.

Ordinances Related to Appropriations – First Reading

a. Additional Appropriation 2025-46: CASA – Request for Staff Advocate Positions

This request for an additional appropriation of \$152,543.65 to Juvenile Court from the County General Fund would fund the request outlined above.

b. Additional Appropriation 2025-47: Commissioners – Residential Treatment Facility Study

This request was withdrawn.

c. Additional Appropriation 2025-48: CASY – Substance Use/Misuse Prevention Initiative Grant

Chances and Services for Youth Chief Operating Officer Brandon Halleck approached the Council and explained the organization's request for \$150,000 to be appropriated from the Opioid Restricted Fund. He said CASY is applying for a grant that requires a 1:1 match from these funds. He said the grant and these funds would be funding counseling programming in local schools and at the Booker T. Washington Community Center. Brandon gave a brief overview of counseling services and programming provided by Chances and Services for Youth. Brandon said he believed these services would qualify as a rightful use of Opioid settlement dollars. Randy Gentry expressed his trepidation over using these Opioid settlement funds legally. Michael Wright said, in his opinion, this request would be a legal use of the settlement dollars as the grant CASY would apply for was designed to match these settlement funds. Brandon Halleck said he believed spending these funds on prevention would be among the best uses of these funds. David Thompson asked if there were more Opioid settlement dollars incoming to the County. Mark Clinkenbeard said he had checked with Commissioners' attorney Terry Modesitt and confirmed there would be additional opioid settlement dollars paid out to Vigo County, but he was unaware of the amount. Steve Ellis asked how long this programming had been active. Brandon said the programming had been going since January 2024.

d. Additional Appropriation 2025-49: Terre Haute Regional Airport – Rainy Day Fund Request

Terre Haute Regional Airport attorney Scott Craig approached the Council and explained this request for \$414,514.80 to be appropriated from the Airport's Rainy Day Fund to support the purchase of two tractors needed for operations. He explained the full cost would be paid up front,

but the airport has secured a grant that will reimburse 25% of the total cost. Scott said the airport had close to \$800,000 in the Rainy Day Fund. Steve Ellis asked how many acres the airport was responsible for mowing with these tractors. Scott said he believed close to 600 acres. Randy asked if these purchases would be local. Scott said one was from a dealership in Rockville, but he was unaware of where the other was going to be purchased from.

Public Comment

There was none.

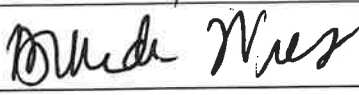
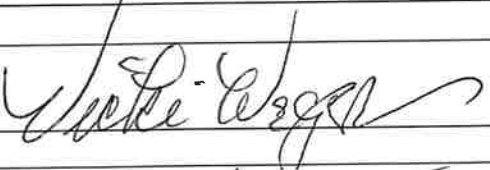
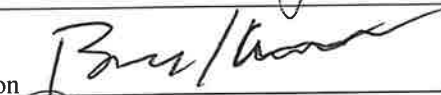
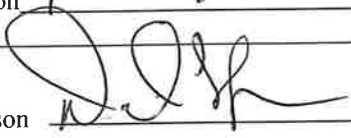
Adjournment

Vicki Weger made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Steve Ellis seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 7-0 the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

[Signature Page to Follow]

MINUTES OF THE VIGO COUNTY COUNCIL SUNSHINE MEETING SEPTEMBER 2, 2025

Presented to the Vigo County Council, read in full and adopted as written this 14th day of October, 2025.

Aye	☒	Absent	☐	Randy Gentry	
Nay	☐	Abstain	☐		
Aye	☐	Absent	☐	Nancy Allsup	
Nay	☐	Abstain	☐		
Aye	☐	Absent	☐	Brenda Wilson	
Nay	☐	Abstain	☐		
Aye	☐	Absent	☐	Steve Ellis	
Nay	☐	Abstain	☐		
Aye	☐	Absent	☐	Vicki Weger	
Nay	☐	Abstain	☐		
Aye	☐	Absent	☐	Brad Anderson	
Nay	☐	Abstain	☐		
Aye	☐	Absent	☐	David Thompson	
Nay	☐	Abstain	☐		

Attest:



Larry T. Hutchings, II
Auditor