

Health and Education Committee Meeting

Thursday, January 19, 2023

Vermilion County Health Dept. 5:00 P.M.

MINUTES

Agenda Item 1- Call to Order and Roll Call

Committee Chairman Jerry Hawker called the Health & Education meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

Roll Call, the following members were present: Jerry Hawker, Christine Lamar, Timothy McFadden, and Phearn Butler. Kevin Green and Phillip Jackson were excused. 4 present, 2 absent

Also present were: Larry Baughn Jr. – Chairman, County Board, Marla Mackiewicz - County Board Member, Steve Brandy – Neuhoff Media, Aaron Hird - Regional Office of Education, Jim Russell – VCMHB, Jana Messmore – VCHD, Mr. Miller – Westville School District, Mr. Cox – Salt Fork School District, William Donahue- Risk Consultant, and Jennifer Jenkins- County Board Office Manager.

Agenda Item 2- Adoption/ Amendment to the Agenda

Motion made by Butler, second by McFadden to approve the agenda. Motion passed by acclamation.

Agenda Item 3 – Approval of Minutes from December 15, 2023

Motion moved by McFadden, second by Butler, to approve minutes presented. Motion passed by acclamation.

Agenda Item 4 – Audience Comments

Phil Cox (Salt Fork School District) introduced himself, and Seth Miller (Westville School District).

Both are here to discuss the increased sales tax, if any questions, etc.

School Districts within Vermilion County are facing the dilemma of aging facilities and much needed improvement. The problem that they are facing is a broken funding system for the State of Illinois which in turn puts the burden on taxpayers for increased property taxes. They would like to see a better system that in an alternate form of revenue to break this reliance on property taxes.

Hawker explained that this item will be discussed once presented and he encourages their participation. Mr. Miller would also be happy to provide answers or assistance once this is discussed further on the agenda.

Agenda Item 5 – Regional Office of Education- Aaron Hird

- A. Hawker explained that Aaron Hird will be providing the committee with the mechanics of the increased sales tax and does not endorse it in either way. Hird provided a handout of how the process actually works. He also provided the ages of the school facilities within Vermilion County. When these building show aging, or need improvements, this is work that must be done.

Hird explained that this item comes up on the ballot because the school boards pass a resolution amongst themselves. It has to be in school boards that represent more than 50% or more of our students. There is not a single school in our County, including Danville, that represents the 50%. So it is multiple schools. Once there is enough then this resolution goes to Hird and he certifies them, after tabulating them, and then he moves it along to the Clerk's office. Which then will be on the ballot on April 4th. Danville chose not to pass the resolution. They represent 42% of the students. The other districts chose to pass the resolution.

Lamar asked about possible consolidation. It seems that there is such a waste of money to put into these schools that are in disrepair. Hird advised that even if consolidation was something to consider then it would be moving from one building in disrepair to another. The newest facility in Vermilion County is Southwest that was built in 2000 or 2001. However, the amount of

money you receive from the State of Illinois would not change because the number of students doesn't change. The EAV of the property would still be worth the same thing.

- B. Hawker asked Mr. Hird to provide a brief overview of the Regional Office of Education. Hird provided a handout to the committee. He explained that within his handout is an annual report that is sent out each year. It provides the Regional Superintendent's Message, mission statement, Duties and Responsibilities, etc. He also explained some of the challenges that the school districts are currently facing, such as a lack of availability of teachers, and substitute teachers. Butler spoke to being a part of the substitute teachers and advised that she encourages anyone available to please help. Hird agreed and advised that without substitute teachers the doors couldn't remain opened.

Hawker made a motion for the resolution presented. Second by Lamar. Upon the call of roll, the following members voted yes, to-wit: Hawker, Lamar, and, McFadden. Butler abstained. 3 -yes, 2 absent, 1 abstain. Resolution passes and will go to the County Board meeting on February 14th.

Agenda Item 6 – Mental Health Overview- Jim Russell

Mr. Jim Russell provided the committee with an overview of the Mental Health Department and the Mental Health Board. He advised that the IT Dept does the Mental Health website. The Mental Health Dept takes a small portion of the County property taxes, determined by the County Board, and that is allocated to agencies and individuals that provide services for mental health, substance abuse, and individuals with developmental disabilities.

Agenda Item 7 – Health Department Overview- Jana Messmore

Mrs. Jana Messmore, interim administrator, provided the committee with an overview of the Health Department. There are four main departments within the Health Department. They are as follows; Vital Records, W.I.C. (Women, Infants, and Children) in which they are really trying to get their numbers up within this program, Immunizations- shots to children, adults, TB tests, etc., communicable diseases, and Environmental Health- Water, Sewage, Food, and Solid Waste, and in the summer is the West Nile surveillance.

Agenda Item 8 – Animal Regulation Overview- Kasey Snyder

Hawker advised this item will be removed and will be addressed at the next meeting.

Agenda Item 9 – Executive Session

None needed.

Agenda Item 10 – Committee/Audience Tour of Facility

Hawker suggested to adjourn and then tour the facility.

Agenda Item 10 – Items of Information

Hawker advised that the Health and Education meeting for February will be held at the Department of Animal Regulations. Hawker also encourages all members, Dept Heads of committees to attend committee meetings, even if they do not have an agenda item.

Baughn announced Karen Rudd's retirement.

Agenda Item 10 – Adjournment

Motion by Lamar, seconded by Butler to adjourn the meeting at 6:22 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Jennifer Jenkins, Office Manager- County Board