

Vermilion County Mayors' Council

Quarterly Meeting

Thursday, October 27, 2011 - Minutes

PRESENT: see sign in sheet

- Council Chairman Mayor Dennis Lucas called the meeting to order; introductions were made; it was noted Senator Frerichs had contacted several people to convey his regrets that he was unable to attend
- Minutes from the previous meeting were approved on a motion by Mayor Ferber and second by Mayor Eisenhauer
- L Bolton gave brief update on previous Council discussion item: proposed changes in the city of Danville's MPO status; the proposed federal change was not made and the city kept its MPO status and that will allow the city and its MPO area that include Catlin and Georgetown to move forward for the next 10 years with planning opportunities
- The evening's presentation was with Keep Vermilion County Beautiful;
 - Lynn Wolgamot, Melody Ehrlich and Jason Toellner gave a power point presentation about changes in the local volunteer organization, now in its 10th year; Ms. Wolgamot continues to coordinate the KVCB program as a volunteer; she talked about the founding of the group and its focus on recycling, community litter and cleanup efforts, and beautification projects; based on data they collected, the KVCB group says every \$100.00 membership invested in their program returns \$503.00 to Vermilion County; the KVCB organization has given out over \$44,000 in grants to nearly every community in Vermilion County; however, as KVCB moves forward they are looking at their long term sustainability; their budget is \$25,000, with all of that money spent on projects and materials, since there is no paid staff at this time; moving forward, they want to build on their existing programs, while shifting their focus to include the development of partnerships with business/industry to grow opportunities to enhance economic development within Vermilion County; they will be seeking business partnerships to work on finding ways to develop creative recycling opportunities; improve the exteriors of business/industry, and grow pride in the community; membership renewals will be going out soon, and Ms. Wolgamot says she hopes all communities in Vermilion County can stay involved in and benefit from, the new plans to grow Keep Vermilion County Beautiful; Ms. Ehrlich and Mr. Toellner joined Ms. Wolgamot in noting that by working together, we can get things done;; Mayor Ferber asked about tire pickups - they used to be held but we have not had one, or is there someplace in county that takes tires - Ms Bolton noted Rodney Rogers' J & R Used Tire Services, that is relocating to the old FMC Building in Hoopeston from Potomac does tire shredding. Mr. Rogers is mayor of Potomac; Mr. Toellner says he also has some contacts through

Carmack, and they also take used oil; Mayor Eisenhauer noted that it is clear from the data that the dollars invested in beautification are well spent and can pay off by making a huge impression on residents and visitors; Ridge Farm Trustee Steve Spurlock suggested it might be useful to find a way to tie recycling to the casino bill - perhaps show the opportunities that could be created for green environment

- The guests invited those present to their Annual Meeting to be held on December 8, 2011
- Mayor updates
 - Mayor Ferber said his village is still working on their new fire station - and they are looking to community volunteers to help them complete the project - he says volunteer help could mean saving about \$25,000
 - Ridge Farm Trustee Steve Spurlock says with groundbreaking for their new town hall - which flooded, but they did not qualify for funding help - they also are looking for volunteers to help complete the project
 - Mayor Lucas says the sewer project for Georgetown has been ongoing for some time now, and he has hopes they will get the grant funding they need once they take their plans to IEPA; and they were hosting a Senior Fair in Georgetown the day after the meeting
 - Mayor Eisenhauer says he has been working on numerous issues with the Illinois Municipal League; there was an attempt to take corporate personal replacement tax dollars away from local communities to pay the back salaries owed to Regional Superintendents of Schools; the mayor says he respects the fact these individuals deserve the money they are owed, but not at the expense of desperately needed local dollars; and while the effort was voted down in the first veto session, he believes there is a good chance that when they are back in session again, the issue will come up once again, trying to take this tax money or local income tax; he says even though the office is created by state statute, these are elected offices, and it is overseen by education, somehow legislators have gotten comfortable with having local government pay the freight; there has been discussion about placing restrictions on raising taxes in non-home rue communities; a bill put forth would have limited the ability of communities to raise property taxes if the EAV does not go up; this legislation is opposed by the IML, and the bill is likely to come back up in the second half of the veto session; there is some new effort to collect money owed - the Comptroller has proposed if someone owes \$100 to a municipality, they would have a lien placed against them and they would not be able to collect their income tax return, etc without the owed money coming out of the total - thereby ensuring local governments could get money owed to them; Mayor Eisenhauer encourages local officials to contact him about legislation that could benefit or impact their communities - he says even if you are working with Representative Hays or Senator Frerichs on something, let him know and he can marshal the resources of the Illinois

Municipal League to assist; and finally, there is work underway to change how communities receive their distributive funds so that they are sent direct deposit to prohibit any future attempts by state to sweep them

- In discussion about future topics for Council, Mayor Lucas suggests he would like to see future conversation about problems with residents who pile garbage and store it on their property; he says he is having a great deal of trouble with that in Georgetown; some folks have stored garbage and junk items in their garage - neighbors know about it, but city workers have not seen it themselves and he is unsure about their legal ability to access the property; Spurlock says the health department might be able to help with that, since they do have the court authority to enter premises and inspect; city of Danville uses administrative warrants to do the gain access; Mayor Lucas thanked others for ideas and says he will look into options
- Meeting adjourned until:

6pm, January 26, 2011

1st floor conference room

Vermilion Advantage

28 west North Street

Danville IL

Please join us then, and bring your aldermen, trustees and board members!