

**PERRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**MINUTES –September 19, 2023**

The Perry County Board of Commissioners met at 6:00 p.m., as was duly advertised. Commissioners: President Randy Cole (RC), Rebecca Thorn (RT), and Randy Kleaving (RK) were in attendance. Auditor Kristinia Hammack and Sheriff Alan Malone were also present. There was no *Attorney* or *News Representative* in attendance.

The meeting opened with all present reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AGENDA**

RT made a motion to approve the agenda as modified, seconded by RK. Motion carried 3-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- a) Stan & Martha Steckler appeared requesting a road at 12224 N Street, St Croix, IN be vacated. They own all the parcels around this road, which originally were owned by several people. RC asked Steve Howell, Highway Superintendent, if there are any issues with doing this? Howell stated no, the county does not maintain the road.

RT made a motion to vacate the road, seconded by RK. Motion carried 3-0.

- b) Kevin Herp, Veterans Service Officer, appeared asking the Commissioners to approve having the courthouse and concrete around the building power washed. He received a quote from Red Gorilla Power Washing for \$4200.00 which includes a 20% discount. It has a three year no-growth warranty. They will clean all exterior windows and all curbing if both services are accepted. RC was concerned about the expanded foam with acrylic and he is not sure how successful Red Gorilla will be with that. Herp replied they are going to soft wash that. RK asked how much money is in the maintenance Fund? Auditor Hammack responded the Courthouse Maintenance fund has approximately \$8000. RC stated that if the county puts a third compressor in for the air conditioner, that is about \$8000. The courthouse is currently running with two compressors, but if we lose one, we'll be in trouble. We have \$8000 in Courthouse Maintenance, if County uses \$4200 of this and there is more allotted next year, we will be able to fix the compressor before spring. RT asked if money could be taken out of the other Maintenance fund. RC responded that fund is for larger items such as pavement, roofs, windows, or something major. RK suggested taking the \$4200 out of Courthouse Maintenance and at the end of the year take the \$4000 left plus what they get next year. RC stated to get the vendor for the compressor repair to bill \$4000 this year and the remaining next year.

RT made a motion to hire Red Gorilla Power Washing to clean courthouse for \$4200.00, seconded by RK. Motion carried 3-0.

- c) Kevin Herp requested the use of the grass area by the Detention Building for the Veteran's Day Car Show due to no curbing and they will be able to drive right on the grass. In addition, the relay race with Everbody's Fun & Fitness is going to be in that grassy area. Permission was previously given to use courthouse grounds, and now he needs permission to use this ground next to the jail. Sheriff Malone stated he has no problem with this move.

RK made a motion to allow the Veterans Day Car Show to use the vacant lot next to the jail, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

- d) Kevin Herp has received several phone calls from a veteran regarding Catbird Road. This veteran is disabled and in a wheelchair, has a wheelchair van, and driving up and down this road is tearing up his van. RC asked Highway Superintendent Howell where this road is located, which is next to Dubois County and approximately three miles long. The road is currently gravel. RT asked about grading the road, which Howell stated it is graded on a regular basis.

**MINUTES**

- a) 09.05.2023

RT made motion to accept, seconded by RC. Motion carried 3-0

**KRISTINIA HAMMACK, AUDITOR**

- a) 09.11.2023 Payroll in the amount of \$159,499.92  
RK made a motion to approve, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.
- b) Health Insurance Claims: \$48,235.75  
RT made a motion to approve, seconded by RK. Motion carried 3-0.
- c) Approval of 09.19.2023 Claim Docket: \$178,664.14  
RK made a motion to accept, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

**ALAN MALONE, SHERIFF**

- a) Breanne Walsh with Everbody's Fitness appeared regarding the Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Run for the Cops. This event is scheduled for Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. New changes this year include the time of the event. It will be in the evening versus the morning so that the Sheriff's Department, Tell City Police Department, and the Tell City Fire Department can all come together for this event. The distance has changed from 3.1 miles to 3.38 miles in memory of Heather Glenn, whose badge number was 338. This is a point-to-point event, beginning at the Sheriff's Department and ending at Everbody's Fitness, passing the Tell City Police Department in route. A shuttle will be at Everbody's for those who left vehicles at the courthouse.  
RK made a motion to allow the Run for the Cops to utilize county property for this event, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

**STEVE HOWELL, HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT**

- Steve Howell is requesting the transfer of \$100,000 from the MVH fund to the Restricted fund. This is done every year.  
RK made a motion to approve the transfer of \$100,000 from Non-Restricted to Restricted, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.  
RC asked Howell if Brushy Fork Road is on the list for repaving? Howell replied yes, this is the Distressed Road Loan Agreement the Commissioner's signed at a previous meeting. The paperwork takes six to eight weeks to get all the signatures and then two weeks to get the money. A check has to be sent for this. The highway could go ahead and put this project up for bids, however he was advised that if the county did not receive the money this year, the county would have to go ahead and pay for it and then get the money whenever it is sent. If this agreement would have come in earlier, the county could have possibly got the paving done this year, but Howell believes it will be the first thing next spring. RK mentioned part of Brushy Fork Road is Tell city, and Howell stated he has spoken with Tell City and they do not know that they will be able to do their end from VIP Foliage to Highway 37. Howell would have liked to coordinate so the whole road would get done at the same time since equipment would already be there and it would make a better connection instead of a start and stop. Howell would also like to repave Seymour Road. It would have to be paid out of LIT. RC stated a citizen had told him there is a hole in the road and when it rains, water comes out of the hole. He further stated he was told this is only when it rains. Howell stated they may need to look at putting a drain in for this.

**COMMISSIONERS**

- a) Hubert Voges, Planning and Zoning Administrator, submitted his letter of retirement. He is willing to retire now or work until the end of the year. There has been discussion on how this position will be handled. RK asked if this is a joint effort with the Planning Commission and Commissioners, or is it the Commissioner's appointment? RC stated he believes it is the Commissioner's appointment and he serves not only for the permits but also is a member of the Plan Commission. There has not been much building activity. The Plan Commission has only had a couple meetings this year. RC stated the Commissioner's need to look at the volume and how they might handle this going forward.  
Tabled at this time.  
RT wanted to thank Junie for all of his years of service to the County.
- b) The Commissioners have received four applicants for the appointment to the Perry County Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees: Michele Howard, Earla Williams, JB Land, and Tim Harding. RC stated he knows the hospital is struggling for funds and the ambulance service is critical, so he would like to ask anyone on the board including the new appointees to consider waiving their salary

that they are paid for each meeting to the operations of the ambulance service. It will be in the neighborhood of \$36,000 and it is a critical need in our county. He further stated the County General is going into other boards and eliminating their 2024 pay unless it is statutory, and in that case, they are paying the statutory amount. RC believes it is crucial the ambulance service operate with two ambulances full-time and it is a service the county provides. It is important that they are there timely and with professional individuals operating it. RC would appreciate all those to consider his request.

RC thanked all four individuals for putting their names in to serve their county. Terms expire September 30<sup>th</sup> and are for four years terms.

RK nominated JB Land, mainly because he has been Chairman of the Board, with his experience of building the hospital and now the partnerships with Deaconess. He feels his knowledge would do the county well for another four years.

RK made a motion to appoint JB Land to the Perry County Memorial Hospital Board for a four-year term, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

RC made a motion to appoint Earla Williams. She has been a forever part of our healthcare community where she has been active and always professional. RK agreed and seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-0-1 with RT abstaining.

- c) RT stated Cindi Taylor approached the Commissioners about what they could look into as far as cell service in the county. RT contacted the Governor's Office, and his liaison put her in contact with Pepper Mulherin, External Affairs Director with AT&T, and she suggested getting a survey done. There were over 500 responses, but it included all carriers. Mulherin purged out AT&T and Cricket and sent those to their analyst to have them preview and identify what was going on. There have been some changes due to the county's report; changes in their spectrum and essentially in their radios. If individuals are using 3G devices, that is a problem due to AT&T typically maintains software to provide two-fold generations, which would be the 4G, 4G LTE, 5GE, 5G, and 5G PLUS. People using older devices will not have service.

RC asked if 5G provides better coverage, and Mulherin stated it provides better, faster coverage speed for data. She does not know as far as the circumference from the cell site if that coverage is the same or different with technology purposed for a 3G versus a 5G. She will have to ask.

RC mentioned Cannelton has horrible service, it sits on a hillside, which blocks signal. Mulherin mentioned that Cannelton is just a problem as it basically sits in a bowl, the shape of the city with the rock and the ability to bring in a signal. She mentioned the Mayor of Cannelton has contacted them regarding their coverage. AT&T is looking at bringing on-line a new cell site which is ideal and to do a spectrum swap to be able to deliver from the Hawesville cell site to the Cannelton area. It should help but it is not a fix. Everyone has trouble in Cannelton, all providers. There needs to be a macro site in the area and it's been a matter of it gets funded, and then something else will bump it. Even though it's been a project that's been funded in the past, it has not been billed out. Mulherin is pretty confident that one of the two fixes is going to come to fruition pretty quickly.

RC mentioned that Perry Spencer Communications is building a lot of fiber in the county. Is there a way to utilize the fiber of theirs for tower building to provide more service? Mulherin responded small cell technology has been reserved for high population areas like airports, skyscrapers, arenas, etc. It could be a possible solution that is being discussed but the reports came back that the better solution for that area is just a well-placed macro site, which is a big tower.

Mulherin hopes to have an update in approximately one week.

- d) Steve Hauser submitted his resignation of 911 Coordinator. He is willing to step down when a replacement is found or by December 31, 2023.

RK thanked Hauser for developing the 911 system.

- e) RC spoke regarding the court side of the Courthouse. The building is extended back approximately 20 feet farther than the legislative side of the building. The County has looked at potentially moving the Prosecutor's office into the courthouse building which would make their operation more feasible to walk to courts and back to their offices between cases. He is proposing using the funding available from a study on sewers at the interstate a few years ago, and would like to approach Kenny Simpson to do a floor plan and get estimates to make the legislative side match the court side.

RC stated the Prosecutor currently pays \$20,000-25,000 in lease payments, and if we could pay off the cost of construction in a reasonable time, it will be a saving back to the county.

- f) RC stated that as the 911 Dispatch is continuing to get costly, he would like to see what options are available, possibly contacting the USDA and Region 15 for funding. He is looking outside 2024, and maybe wanting to look at creating a position for dispatch. He will report back as things mature.
- g) RK gave an update on the Sycamore Road dumping issues. Right-of-ways have been checked and two places have been identified where poles can be set for cameras. Southern Indiana Power will take a couple used poles and set them. The Commissioner's need to have discussion on what type of cameras to install. In addition, they will need to determine who will track them.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:13 p.m. CST.

RT made a motion to accept, seconded by RK. Motion carried 3-0.

The next meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be held on Monday, October 2, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

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Randy Cole  
President

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Rebecca Thorn  
Vice-President

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Randy Kleaving

*Minutes prepared by:  
Kristinia L. Hammack, Auditor*