

PERRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES
September 17, 2024

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 was also present. There was no *Sheriff, Attorney, or News Representative* in attendance.

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

AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- a) Steve Howell, Highway Superintendent

Howell stated that the A/C and Heating unit on the EMS side of his building stopped working. He has an estimate from Service Pro in the amount of \$5,980 to replace both units inside and out, and they will be much more efficient. The highway does not have the money in their budget to replace this.

The Commissioners asked among themselves if the EDIT money for set aside for County properties could be used for this. RC stated that the County has set aside \$125,000 per year for the last two years. He stated that the County was not going to use it for minor repairs, however, if they do not have the money to fix it, it can be used.

RT made a motion to pay for the repair at the North Station for the Ambulance Service out of the set aside EDIT repair money, seconded by RK. Motion carried 3-0.

RT asked Howell how quickly the repair can be done, and Howell stated a week or two.

MINUTES

- a) 09.03.2024

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

KRISTINIA HAMMACK, AUDITOR

- a) Health Insurance Claims: \$41,341.84

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

- b) 09.09.2024 Payroll: \$186,558.91

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

- c) 09.09.2024 Payroll Withholdings: \$40,412.39

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

- d) 09.17.2024 AP Claim Docket: \$1,967,546.80

RC stated that the largest amount of this claim is going to E & B Paving, \$800,000 plus, and buying the equipment from Zoll Equipment for the ambulances, as this company gave the County the opportunity to save 2% on the cost if they were paid within fifteen days.

RT made a motion to approve the accounts payable as revised, seconded by RK. Motion carried 3-0.

- e) Internet Service-Increase MBPS

RC stated that this will increase the speed of the internet at the courthouse. Deputy Auditor Kelli Wilgus stated that Greg Jarboe suggested that the courthouse up the speed from what it currently has. Currently it is 100 download and 25 upload. The next level would be 300 download and 50 upload. Jarboe stated this would be smoother and clearer.

RT asked if this will include the Prosecutor's office coming here, and Wilgus stated she was told this will be a good level to be at when the Prosecutor's office relocates. RC asked what the cost difference is, and Wilgus stated \$80.00. The County is currently paying \$119.95, and the next level is \$199.95. This is with a \$20/month credit.

RC asked if this is budgeted out of Utilities, and Auditor Hammack stated that there is a line item in the Commissioner's budget for phone and internet. RC stated that the Council needs to be made aware of an increase for 2025.

RT asked if this can be paid by the year, and Wilgus stated it is paid by the month. RT is wondering if there is a discount for paying by the year, and Wilgus said they will check.

RT made a motion to increase the internet speed, seconded by RK. Motion carried 3-0.

f) United Way Can Drive

RC stated that during the month of October, the United Way is carrying out a can drive, and additionally there will be decorating with cans and judging of the best decorations. The beneficiary of this food drive is the food pantries in Perry County.

Hammack stated the Courthouse is going to collect food cans and build its structure. RC stated to remember not to block fire exits.

RK made a motion to approve building a sculpture in the atrium of the Courthouse, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

COMMISSIONERS

a) ARP Advisory Committee Matching Grant Recommendations

• Leopold Conservation Club	\$ 5,000.00
• Perry County Council on Aging	\$ 5,000.00
• Tell City Historical Society	\$ 4,500.00
• Oaks Transitional House	\$ 1,354.00
• Perry County Fairgrounds	\$ 5,000.00
• Cannelton Food Pantry	\$ 2,634.00
• Central Perry Fire Department	\$ 5,000.00
• Perry County Indiana Habitat for Humanity	\$ 5,000.00
• Perry County Museum	\$ 2,500.00
Total dollar for dollar match	\$35,988.00

RC stated the Leopold Conservation Club is going to renovate their restrooms to be handicap accessible. Perry County Council on Aging will be getting some software to be able to interact with people that visit and get them more active. The Tell City Historical Society is putting on locks that are broke, and scanning equipment to scan old documents into electronic format. The Oaks Traditional House is for laptops and internet service provided for the building in Cannelton. The Perry County Fairgrounds are looking to put up an electronic sign. The Cannelton Food Pantry needs work to be done on a truck they purchased in order to go to Evansville to pick up food. The Central Perry Fire Department wants to replace a large group of hoses that are aged. Habitat for Humanity is building another house. The museum is renovating another room which will cost approximately \$5,000, so the Committee is proposing putting \$2,500 from ARP funds.

RT made a motion to approve the matching grant recommendation, seconded by RK. Motion carried 3-0.

b) ARP Advisory Committee Government Grant Recommendations

• Perry County Parks and Rec	\$25,600.00
• Perry County Highway	\$20,000.00
• Perry County Solid Waste	\$23,412.00
Total County Government	\$69,012.00

Parks and Recreation will be for two new lawnmowers and two backpack blowers. Perry County Highway requested salt beds, and the Committee recommended purchasing one salt bed. These are not matching grants.

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

c) ARP Advisory Committee remaining funds recommendation to fund Solid Waste Capital Projects

RC stated the Committee recommended that any remaining funds in the ARP prior to the end of the year be transferred into the Solid Waste Capital Project.

RK made a motion to accept the transfer of the remaining funds to Solid Waste Capital Projects, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

d) Termination of Waste Management dumpster use

RC stated that whenever the County finally got numbers, there were tonnage tags, operating costs, and things that did not really add up to make sense on how the Solid Waste was functioning.

Some items discovered included approximately \$30,000 in cash and undeposited checks. Two of the three office computers are not working. Services that have

been provided to customers have not been billed. These things are positive to the cash amount.

There is approximately \$50,000 in unpaid bills, and RT stated that some of these bills are from 2023. Maintenance has not been carried out on the equipment. RC stated that the Solid Waste has not been efficiently managed, and as an example of that, Cannelton has no compactor so everything leaves that site in bulk form. This causes many more trips and expense for the Solid Waste. The bins for recycling are way too small. Constantly the bobcat comes to the dumpster at the location, and then bringing it back. This should be one trip, not five trips. At Branchville, there have been instances where the compactor was not full. RC stated the main cost for taking the waste is the transportation. If it is hauled to the landfill and it is half empty, it is expensive. There has been vandalism at some sites that needs to be addressed. In addition, there are ten dumpsters the Solid Waste has been paying for since 2008, and are at odds as to why this is being done. RT stated she has a list of these dumpsters, and went around to each dumpster site, and one she could not find; the address is an empty lot. She further stated that these are supposed to be eight-yard dumpsters, and two of them are four-yard dumpsters.

RT has gone to the businesses where these dumpsters are and asked how often they dump them. She was told they do not know, as they do not use them. These dumpsters are just sitting and costing a thousand dollars per month. RC stated that an invoice he has from April is \$1,936.14 for these dumpsters.

RT stated Solid Waste has trailers they can take to businesses for cardboard. RC stated he pulled out an invoice from Branchville where they picked up the compacted material on the 7th, 14th, 21st, and the 28th, meaning they were just picking up every week regardless of whether the tube was full or not. The cost every time this cycles through the system is approximately \$600. If trips are cut in half, then it will cut the cost to Solid Waste by 40%.

RC stated that Cannelton needs a compaction system, and that Solid Waste probably needs to own one at Branchville, which he believes will lessen the waste management charges.

RT stated that the County trash tag sales have been high.

RC would like to cut off the dumpsters, as there is no revenue is being brought in from them.

RT made a motion to terminate dumpsters that are randomly placed, seconded by RK. Motion carried 3-0.

e) Perry County Memorial Hospital Board of Trustee

RC stated this appointment be advertised for six weeks.

f) Health Board Resignation

RC stated this needs to be advertised for six weeks, and asked if this is party affiliated? Auditor Hammack stated yes, and this is a democrat.

RT asked Tara Lucas, Health Nurse Supervisor, what the qualifications are for this position, and she responded to her knowledge, the Health Board has fulfilled all the requirements that were changed on July 1, 2024. Lucas feels this appointment would be open to anyone.

g) The next meeting will be Monday, October 7, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:36 p.m. CST.

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

Randy Cole
President

Rebecca Thorn
Vice-President

Randy Kleaving

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

*Minutes prepared by:
Leisa M. Ecker, Deputy Auditor*