

PERRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES
September 3, 2024

The Perry County Board of Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m., as was duly advertised. Commissioners: President Randy Cole (RC), Rebecca Thorn (RT), and Randy Kleaving (RK) were in attendance. Auditor Kristinia Hammack, Sheriff Alan Malone, and Attorney Andrew Foster were also present. There was no *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 presented, seconded by RK. Motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- a) none

MINUTES

- a) 08.20.2024

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

KRISTINIA HAMMACK, AUDITOR

- a) Health Insurance Claims: \$53,265.23

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

- b) Dental Claims: \$106.41

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

- c) Vision Claims: \$122.13

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

- d) Life Insurance Claims: \$1,463.36

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

- e) 09.03.2024 AP Claim Docket: \$856,529.02

RC asked if it was ever resolved whatever is going on with Wealth Advisor?

Hammack asked the German American account, and RC responded yes.

Hammack stated this is being done correctly. RC stated that the original payments in 2022 and 2020, he suspects related to bonds issued on the Webb Wheel project, and now the County has three invoices. Hammack stated that German American also partners with that. Hammack further stated that Deputy Auditor Kimberly Lasher was the one who spoke to the State Board of Accounts on this.

Lasher stated that during an audit with the State Board of Accounts, the County was taking the interest that it was earning from the banks, the fees that were charged from the banks were being subtracted, and the net amount was the quietus into German American. State Board of Accounts stated the County can not quietus a net amount, it must show receipting in the interest that was earned from different banks, and also has to show expenditures for the bank fees that were being charged from the different banks.

Lasher stated she had originally processed this through Bank 6, which is German American, however the Perry County Treasurer stated that since these were coming out of the Wealth Management account, it had to show that it was specifically coming out of that account.

RC asked what is the purpose of the Wealth Management account, and Lasher responded that the Treasurer could answer that. RC stated when he looked back at the amount in the Wealth Management account, it was involved with some payments and was designated to come out of the TIF District for Webb Wheel. The last three have come out of Fund 1000, which is the General Fund.

Hammack stated this is what her office was advised to do by the State Board of Accounts. RC asked if all the other payments should not have come out of the TIF? Lasher stated this is bank fees specifically to that Wealth Management account. RC asked that the County is being charged \$100 per month, and does anyone know what these fees are? Hammack stated the County has been being charged these fees all along, but due to subtracting them from the interest received, they were not visible. The State Board of Accounts stated the County

needs to show that amount. This is not something new, it has just not been visible. RT stated that is a large amount of money for fees. RC asked if the other financial institutions charge the same fee structure? Lasher stated the County is not being charged anything from Old National or Trust Indiana. The County is being charged fees from Fifth Third Bank and German American Bank.

Treasurer Amanda Lasher stated that the Wealth Management account gives a higher amount of interest. RC stated that this account yields better interest, but with this it also has a fee structure associated with it that the bank charges back. He asked Treasurer Lasher if she knows how this is based, on deposits or based on the number of transactions, and Treasurer Lasher responded both. She further stated that the County is earning much more than it ever has. Auditor Deputy Lasher stated that one month the County earned \$30,993.06 in interest and the fee for that month was \$1,168. RC asked if they are actually managing the money, and Deputy Auditor Lasher feels some of the fees are for that, but reaching out to German American Bank to see specifically line for line fees are for.

RC asked if German American Bank pays more than Trust Indiana does, and Treasurer Lasher stated no, German American Bank is the next one in line. RC asked if Trust Indiana pays more and they do not have fees? Treasurer Lasher stated yes, but German American Bank is the most local account in our County that gives the County the best rate. Lasher further stated she wants to invest mostly in the County, but also earn the County the most money with Trust Indiana. Lasher stated that currently German American Bank does a lot for the County.

RC asked what German American Bank's rate is versus Trust Indiana currently? Treasurer Lasher responded Trust Indiana is 5.33% APY and German American Bank Wealth is 5.22 APY. Treasurer Lasher stated that the German American Bank account allows the County to cover something quickly as well as payroll. RC asked if the German American Bank account is a checking account? Auditor Hammack stated it is an operating account. Hammack stated that Indiana Trust is not an operating account. Hammack reiterated that these are not new fees, it is that the Commissioners are seeing it differently due to the way it is being entered. Treasurer Lasher stated that for the month of August, the County earned \$101,626.85. Year to date earnings is \$755,611.03.

RT made a motion to approve the claim docket in the amount of \$856,529.02, seconded by RK. Motion carried 3-0.

ANDREW FOSTER, COUNTY ATTORNEY

a) Title search for Onyx Road

Attorney Andrew Foster stated the County engaged the new title search company right after last month's meeting. Foster reached out to them last week asking if they would have something for the County for this meeting. Their response was they would have something this week, but not in time for the meeting. He will forward it along to the Commissioners when he receives it.

RT asked the name of the title search company, and Foster responded it is Regional Land Title.

COMMISSIONERS

a) Parking Lot Lighting

RC stated that one of the poles was hit out by the highway. The square type lights that are on all the parking light poles are no longer available. They were placed when the Courthouse was built in the mid 1990's. These lights had corn cob LED light bulbs put in them.

RC is proposing to see what it might cost, now that one of the poles down, for light fixtures that is actual LED and that can be bolted on the existing poles. This way, all these lights can be LEDs that are adjustable and light the parking lot better. Before collecting prices and ideas, he wanted to ensure the Commissioners were okay with this.

RC stated the County is going to have to do something with the light and pole by the road, there is one that is too tall, and then get a replacement that would bolt onto the existing poles, using the same electric that is already there. Then the County can get the parking lot lighting updated.

RK stated he feels this would be a great plan. RT stated she thinks this would be great, as the Courthouse is beautiful.

RC will find out what the costs would be.

b) Letter of Support for Rome Courthouse

RC stated that the Rome Courthouse requested that a letter of support be sent from the County due to the Rome Courthouse is applying for some funding through OCRA (Office of Community and Rural Affairs) and potentially other groups. This letter of support is to the Building Socially Connected Communities Grant Committee. RC read the letter aloud and stated it required the three signatures of the Commissioners. The Rome Courthouse has to have a match for this grant, and the ARP money of up to \$100,000 would be the match.

RK made a motion to sign the Letter of Support for the Rome Courthouse, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

c) Solid Waste

RC stated that Michael's Market is now selling trash tags for the County which takes all of the finances away from the site. The County has vendors that will have the tags and handle all the money.

RC stated that the money, billing and everything has been transferred to Marsh Terry & Associates. They are keeping all tags and these tags will have serial numbers on them, and will keep a record of who has them and where they are, and for billing the vendor accordingly. The County has engaged with Walmart, and they have required the County to create a barcode, which is currently in the process. Walmart stated that they should be back up and selling tags this current week.

RC stated the County appreciates all the vendors who have stepped up to offer this service. RC further stated these vendors make no money from doing this, it is being done strictly as a service to the County.

RC stated the County is in the process of going through some of the finances, get the invoices that have not been billed for some time, and have received numerous invoices that have gone unpaid. Marsh Terry and Associates is assembling this information to see financially where the unit actually stands.

RT stated that the sites are doing business as usual, with most sites open and running smoothly.

RK stated that in the past, employees had to be bonded that handled cash. This will no longer have to be done, plus transition of new employees will be much cleaner.

Auditor Hammack stated she is concerned about the financial responsibility going forward after receiving the budget the past Friday from RC. It is adding over a half million dollars to the County's budget and will be a strenuous thing for the County. The County states it does not have money to fund EMS and Dispatch, yet we are adding over a half a million dollars to the budget for 2025. Hammack did mention that she is glad the Solid Waste is operating well, however the financial responsibility on the County is a huge concern. The County Council will have to raise the budget in the General fund over a half a million dollars in 2025. She further stated that the County does not have the opportunity or funding to raise the County's General fund a half a million dollars. RC stated that will be one of the challenges of the Council to put together some kind of numbers by the end of the August deadline. He further stated what was used was last year's budget numbers, not to say these will not be adjusted during budget time. This will be a challenge the Council will have to address. Hammack stated that last year, the County could only raise their budget \$490,000 and does not expect it to be much different for 2025. RT stated once everything gets straightened out, the amount could possibly come down tremendously.

d) Lucas Devices

RC stated these are the chest compression devices for the ambulance service and those are funded through the ARP grant that the Commissioners approved. What the Ambulance Service actually wants is the Lucas brand, which is slightly higher than the Ferno brand. RC stated he asked for justification as to why go with the higher one, and it was provided by Michael Daum. Lucas is a little more sophisticated and has some options that the other brand does not. As long as the County has cause, it can actually purchase the ones that are slightly more expensive.

Auditor Hammack asked how much was appropriated, and RC stated they are under their appropriation, right at \$70,000 for three of them.

RT asked if they currently have these in the new ambulance, and RC stated no, the County has not had any for approximately twenty years.

RC stated that this device does chest compression allowing the paramedic or EMT to administer drugs and monitor other life saving necessary items. This machine

can be used on adults all the way down to infants. RC feels this is a good addition to the ambulance.

RK stated he is good with this and RC has enough documentation to prove it is okay to go ahead with the more expensive one.

RK made a motion to purchase the Lucas devices for the Ambulance Service, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

e) The next meeting will be Tuesday, September 17, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:31 a.m. CST.

RT made a motion to adjourn, seconded by RK. 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