

PERRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES – March 21, 2023

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

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

AGENDA

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

MINUTES

a) 03.06.2023

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

KRISTINIA HAMMACK, AUDITOR

a) 03.13.2023 Payroll in the amount of \$162,568.25

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

b) Insurance Benefits: \$43,681.21

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

c) Advanced Claims \$47,203.25

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

d) Auditor Kristinia Hammack reported that she worked with Dossett Consulting on completing the Perry County Cost Allocation Plan based in financial information for the year ending December 31, 2021. The Cost Allocation Plan will be used to recover indirect costs that Perry County spent in 2021 to work on Title IV-D Child Support a Federal Grant. The recovered monies will be reimbursed in quarterly submissions by the Indiana Department of Child Services. She stated she is pleased to report that they were able to identify \$53,641 in cost that will be reimbursed at the rate of 66% for an anticipated general fund recovery of \$35,403.06. The expenses for Dossett Consulting assisting with this report is \$3,000.

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

COMMISSIONERS

- a) RC opened discussion on the matter of 4321 Chestnut Grove Road, reporting that a letter had been sent to both the owner of the property and the resident asking that the property be cleaned up. The next step is to send a letter with a deadline. After that the county has the option to clean it up and add the bill on to their property tax bill. Steve Howell reported that he has observed that they are in the process of cleaning. The ride of way is cleared off now. RK asked what does this mess consist of, trash, etc.? RC responded a little of everything. RC also reported that he has been in communication with the City of Tell City in regard to this property and they state they have no zoning rights, though the city controls 2 miles outside of city zoning. RT asked if you have to have a license to operate a junk yard, and the answer to the question is yes. RK recommended that we get with other counties on how they handle properties like this. He stated I am sure we can drive around the county and find many other properties that are in a since “junked up and trashy”. Where are we as far as addressing these properties.
- b) RC opened a discussion on the Highway Department assisting with cleaning of the boat ramp at Mano Point. Highway Department Superintendent, Steve Howell that the boat ramp had been closed for 6 years prior to 2022. Last year the Commissioners were contacted by the Forestry Service asking for assistance in maintaining the boat ramp. The Highway Department provided this service. Steve Howell reported that the initial cleanup at Mano Point was on April 18 & 19 2022. There was several feet of mud to remove as the ramp had been closed about six years. The cost of this was \$3517.06. Then May 5th, 2022, they cleaned mud from the ramp after high water went down. The cost was \$187.22. May 8th, 2022, they cleaned again after high water went down. The cost was \$284.44. November 30th, 2022, they cleaned again at a cost of \$284.44. Total expense for 2022 in man hours was \$4273.16. RT stated that not only did we have the

expense of labor but also wear and tear on equipment. RT asked if the boat ramp is used? Steve reported that he has been there and see it being used. RT asked about other boat ramps, who maintains them. Steve Howell responded Poison Creek is privately owned and due to the location, it cleans itself, as does the boat ramp at Oil Creek, Derby, and Troy. RK asked Steve if it was a burden to maintain the boat ramp at Mano Point, he stated that it is not a burden, if you tell me to maintain it, that is what we will do. RT suggested we approach the Forestry Service and discuss the expenses we endured in 2022 and see if we can come to an agreement somewhere in the middle. RC and RK agreed and tabled this matter until they talked with the Forestry Service.

- c) RC stated that at the May 15, 2020, Commissioners meeting it was excepted that the Health Department could carry over vacation, sick and compensatory time. This was during the time they were heavily impacted by Covid and working long hours. RC informed that no ordinance was initiated, and RK confirmed that. RC informed that with the review of the Personnel Policy it has been brought to their attention that this acceptance to Personnel Policy Handbook is still being used. RC suggested that we give the Health Department through the end of 2023 to use up accrued time.

RC made a motion to rescind the Health Department's allowance to carry over vacation, sick and compensatory time, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

d) Animal Shelter

- RC reported that we have a contract. All 3 Commissioners and owner of Rivers Edge Animal Shelter, Molly Hagman signed the contract.
- RT reported we have 2 quotes on replacing the guttering and downspouts. BKR Seamless Guttering- \$11,200 and JPS Contracting- \$11602.50.

RC made a motion to accept the lowest bid from BKR Seamless Guttering, seconded by RK. Motion carried 3-0.

- RT reported we have 1 quote on power washing the building from Red Gorilla. The original price was \$4600, but they gave a 30% discount, so the quote is for \$3220.

RK made a motion to accept the quote from Red Gorilla, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

- RT reported we have 1 quote for the security door from JPS Contracting for \$4751.25. RT stressed that having a security door is important and many times there is only 1 person at the shelter. It does happen where people who have lost their pet and find out it is at the shelter, they come in upset. This security set up is needed, it separates the lobby from the dog kennel area.

RT made a motion to accept the quote from Red Gorilla, seconded by RK. Motion carried 3-0.

- e) RC informed that he has met with representatives from the hospital and discussed the problem they are having with staffing to keep ambulances on the road in Perry County. Everyone in the county uses this service. The hospital has additional funding available in July of 2023. They are asking for our assistance until then to assist financially with getting the wages up to solve this staffing problem. RC reiterated the ambulance service is crucial.

RC made a motion to approve additional funding of \$25,000 for EMT Services, seconded by RK. Motion carried 3-0. This will now be turned over to County Council.

- f) RC informed that we have received a resignation letter from Joseph Simpson who is a Cannelton Board appointment of the Animal Welfare Board.
- g) RC reported that a local industry (ATTC) is going to be moving some of their production lines to Jeffersonville, Indiana. This move is due to staffing issues. They have absorbed all avenues. Currently they are bringing in workers from outside of the area. This is an added expense for them and affects their business. RC stressed we need more people that want to come to this area. RK we are not the only county dealing with this issue, it is a work in progress.

Meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m. CST. The next meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be held on Monday, April 3, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

Randy Cole
President

Rebecca Thorn
Vice-President

Randy Kleaving