

PERRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES – July 18, 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 Chief Deputy Sheriff Eric Dickerson were also present. There was no *County 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) Cindi Taylor spoke to the Commissioners regarding the status of the AT&T phone service in Perry County. She asked for an update of what the county was doing about this. Commissioner Randy Cole stated that we are limited as to what we can make a private company do. Calls have been made by Commissioners. Notifications are received by the county and they can respond to areas that are underserved. Those are areas that can be addressed. Taylor requested to have a status update at every Commissioner meeting.
- b) Pat Sage spoke about the condition of property on Chestnut Grove Road. The person is running a junk yard and the house appears unsafe. The resident continues to bring more items to the property. RC stated initially there were health issues there and the Sanitarian addressed the situation, and it is cleaner than it was. Tell City claims a 2-mile jurisdiction outside of the city limits for zoning purposes. Zoning does not allow a residential area to accumulate those types of material. The City stated it will not or cannot enforce their zoning in that 2-mile radius. Both county and city attorneys are in process to determine who can actually enforce zoning. If the county can get the 2-mile radius back from the city, then the county can gain responsibility and enforce.
- c) Jason Semler with Baker Tilly and Tom Held with the Port Authority spoke about an additional bond request of \$1.5 million for a bridge being built which will be paid by the Port Authority, not county funds. The current bond is soon to be fully used, and the project came in higher than anticipated. Their purpose is to introduce the bond ordinance and the additional appropriation for it. The actual approval will be asked for at the August 7, 2023 meeting.

MINUTES

- a) 6.20.23
- b) 7.03.23

RT made motion to accept, RK Seconded. Motion carried 3-0

KRISTINIA HAMMACK, AUDITOR

- a) 07.17.2023 Payroll in the amount of \$186,429.17
- b) Health Insurance Claims: \$17,932.59
- c) Life Insurance Claims: \$39,565.26
- d) Approval of 07.17.2023 Claim Docket \$226,312.60

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

- e) The county sent out insurance bids, and Franzman Insurance was the only bid we received, which is who our current policy is with. The renewal rate for August 2023-July 2024 will see an approximate 11% reduction in rate. RC requested a printout of each vehicle to review to ensure county still owns or should they want to change coverage on a specific vehicle.

ERIC DICKERSON, CHIEF DEPUTY SHERIFF

- a) Sheriff Alan Malone is requesting permission to trade-in a 2018 pickup truck that has close to 100,000 miles, and they are being offered \$20,700.00 for trade-in. We only paid \$25,436.00 for the vehicle. It had 18,000 miles when purchased and now almost 100,000 miles. Funds would come out of the commissary fund. When the 2018 Dodge Ram was purchased, it was paid for out

of the commissary fund as well. RT feels it helps to overturn equip a little sooner and if they have a way to fund it, then you have a new vehicle and a warranty, and it helps the county.

RC wants to see a plan and numbers from the Sheriff's office as to where they are today and where they want to be in five years. RC would like to see older vehicles with more miles traded-in.

RK made motion to approve trade-in, seconded by RT with plan to be received in 60 days. RC denied. Motion carried 2-1

STEVE HOWELL, HWY SUPERINTENDENT

- a) The Highway requested bids for the purchase of a Purpose-Built Boom Mower and three were received.
 1. Wright Implement in the amount of \$272,210.13 for a 6155M (155 hp) with a 28-foot Tiger Boom Mower. This is for the tractor and the boom.
 2. Hudston in the amount of \$290,000.00 Alamo Mantis 155B for tractor and the boom.
 3. Atmax Equipment Company in the amount of \$229,697.50 Mower Max Boom Gen 3 26' Boom Arm, not a tractor specific, looks more like a loader.

Howell would prefer to get away from the tractor mounted mowers and to get specialty built for this purpose.

RT made a motion to accept the low bid from Atmax pending legal review and Howell's review of available options on equipment, seconded by RK. Motion carried 3-0.

- b) Leopold will be having their Church Picnic on July 30th and would like to close the street in front of the church.

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

- c) Howell asked about account set up for Building Repairs. This account was set up for larger repairs. Highway has money for their repairs currently.
- d) Discussion was brought up regarding interest on highway funds. Auditor Hammack explained the State Board of Accounts states that all county interest is to go into the General Fund unless there is an ordinance stating where the money is to go. RK stated we need to look into an ordinance.
- e) Update on Community Crossings, talked to INDOT last week and should have notice to proceed later this week. E&B will set up schedule when the INDOT notice is received.

Distress Road loan went to central office four weeks ago, and they are working on processing the loan.

GREG HENDERSHOT, PARKS & RECREATION

- a) While mowing at Wilkerson Park in Rome, he was approached by a citizen regarding land that was purchased. The new owner is going to put in a new campground for 128 sites. Old and new roads being developed, and trees are being ripped off. Planning & Zoning is not aware of anyone coming in to get a permit for this. RT said this property is in flood zone and zoned residential. RC stated if it is a big development, the State Board of Health has to issue permits. Best Oak LLC owns the property. The county attorney needs to send a certified letter so the owner is made aware of what they need to do in order to stay in compliance.

TARA LUCAS, PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE SUPERVISOR

- a) Lucas is asking for blessing or permission to opt in to the Governor's Public Health Commission which is now titled Health First Indiana. This will expand public health in our county. RC is concerned about how this will roll-out, it is not specific. He is concerned the county will lose about \$50,000 we currently get for Trust & Maintenance, and if we lose approx. \$50,000 that from the federally funded Vaccine Grant in at the end of 2024, which we do not know if it would go away.

We would get \$189,000.00 with this initiative. We are currently doing many of these requirements plus funding could go up with this program after year one. Key Performance Indicators have to be met in order to receive this funding. RC would like to get participation from hospital, schools and the health board. Lucas said community partners have already been contacted and budget needs to be completed by September 1. This funding has a specific use.

RK asked if once we opt in, can you opt out, and Lucas responded yes after 1 year.

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

AIC/SRI Scholarship Award Presentation

- a) The director of AIC and a SRI representative recognized Kelby Glenn with a scholarship. Only four are awarded in the state of Indiana. Glenn was presented with the check. The commissioners congratulated Glenn.

COMMISSIONERS

- a) BAT Mitigation is still pending at Webb Wheel site.

Tabled until next meeting as we are waiting on information for Andrew Foster.

- b) AIC Annual Conference in French Lick on September 25-September 28. Early Bird registration discount ends on August 18th, and the discount for rooms ends on August 30th.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 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, August 7, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

Randy Cole
President

Rebecca Thorn
Vice-President

Randy Kleaving

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