

PERRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES
June 18, 2024

The Perry County Board of Commissioners met at 6:00 p.m., as was duly advertised. Commissioners: President Randy Cole (RC) and Rebecca Thorn (RT) 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 RC. Motion carried 2-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

a) Jonathan James with Bozarth Motors

James asked the Commissioners if the contract for Perry County Dispatching Services with Tell City puts Tell City in control of the County? RT asked James if he is referring to wrecker calls, and he responded in general.

RC stated he has not reviewed the document in some time, but he believes there was a Board established for the Dispatch Center made up of a combination of County and City Officials. RC stated that the County is the primary contributor to the 911 Dispatch Service, and then there are contributions from Troy, Cannelton, Tell City Electric Department, Perry County Memorial Hospital, and possibly others. The Board makes decisions, but he does not remember reading anything regarding towing contracts.

James provided a towing contract with Tell City when it came up for bid. This contract basically states the requirements and legalities of what is needed.

James asked who is in charge to ensure that the companies that are operating within our county and cities are compliant? RC stated he would assume that would be spelled out in the request and contract. James stated there are equipment requirements and he is not sure there is anything in the contract regarding compliance. RT read in the contract regarding insurance requirements. James stated that towing companies have to have more than just a liability policy. RC stated that the contract appears to be between the City of Tell City and a private provider. RT asked if this contract is just for the City of Tell City or is it for the whole county? James responded this is what he is trying to verify.

James stated there have been several instances where his customers have requested he be called, and were shut down. RC stated there is a fee by the State of Indiana that allows the Dispatch Service to charge a fee for calling a wrecker company. James stated he would be 100% okay with that. RC further stated that if James' customer chooses to contact him directly, he does not feel that would be a problem. Any individual has the right to choose what wrecker company they want, but in the case where an accident needs to be cleaned up quickly and James is not readily available, another towing company would be called.

James asked that if there is a contract with Tell City and another private company, but not with Perry County, what steps going forward does he need to take to be put in a rotation instead of a contract? RC stated that Tell City actually runs the Dispatch Service and the County only monetarily provides funding for this.

James stated that everyone he has spoken to regarding this has gotten him nowhere.

James expressed a concern when his own personal vehicle was stolen and found in Spencer County. He was notified by a private company they towed his truck to the Perry County Sheriff's Office and charged \$375 for towing it from St Meinrad to the Sheriff's Department. He never received a call from the Sheriff's Department. James concern also included investigation of the stolen vehicle by the other private company, and Sheriff Alan Malone stated the owner of the private company is a Reserve Officer for the Sheriff's Department.

Sheriff Malone stated the Sheriff's office does not run dispatch.

James mentioned he is investing a lot of money in a location in Tell City, plus has his location in Cannelton.

RT stated that the contract James furnished to the Commissioners stated that sealed bids would be received until 3:00 p.m. June 19th. She asked James if he

submitted a bid, and he stated he did not. He does not meet the equipment requirements. He does not want to bid unless he is compliant with the contract. RT asked if Attorney Andrew Foster could review this contract, and RC stated that Foster needs to review it.

b) Robert Childress

Childress owns a cabin on Attic Road and he and another property owner are looking to chip and seal from the highway to their properties, which is approximately 3700 feet to the second curve. He is looking for permission to chip and seal, as well as the County supply the rock to do this. Highway Superintendent Steve Howell stated that when individuals put down dust control, the County furnishes stone size 11's for that. RC asked the current condition of the road, and Childress confirmed it is gravel. Howell stated that dust control has been applied for several years, similar to a pavement. Childress is going to start at the State Road and cover a little section that is gravel and go across where the dust control currently is.

RC stated Howell provided to him the specification for a County Road, and asked Howell if millings are acceptable as a base? Childress stated that they will not be using millings as the base; J H Rudolph looked at the base that is there and it is good. Childress stated they plan to chip and seal it. Howell stated he does not believe there have been any soft spots on this road.

RC asked other than the rock, is this the only investment of the County?

Childress responded yes, and hoped the County would maintain the road. RC asked what is his expectation for the cost of this, as he gets numerous calls regarding dust, and Childress provided the estimate he received to do this.

RC stated there is a meeting for bid openings on June 24th. He would like to drive this road, plus Howell needs to relate what would be the investment in rock on top.

Kevin Dixon, the property owner across the property of Childress, stated he wanted to ensure that the County would maintain this road once it is chip and sealed. Howell verified it is a county road and it would be maintained.

This will be added to the June 24th meeting at 4:00 p.m. for further discussion.

MINUTES

a) 06.03.2024

RT made a motion to approve, seconded by RC. Motion carried 2-0.

KRISTINIA HAMMACK, AUDITOR

a) Health Insurance Claims: \$21,102.63

RT made a motion to approve, seconded by RC. Motion carried 2-0.

b) 06.17.2024 Payroll: \$181,756.25

RT made a motion to approve, seconded by RC. Motion carried 2-0.

c) 06.17.2024 Payroll W/H: \$39,246.64

RT made a motion to approve, seconded by RC. Motion carried 2-0.

d) 06.18.2024 AP Claim docket: \$12,894,499.38

Hammack stated this amount includes the distribution for the 2024 Spring Settlement, which was disbursed on June 5, 2024. She commended the Treasurer's Office, the Assessor's Office, and the Auditor's Office for working so well together to get this complete. Perry County was the fifth county in the State of Indiana to submit Settlement for approval. Her office has received kind emails from various recipients stating their appreciation for receiving their money so quickly.

RT made a motion to approve, seconded by RC. Motion carried 2-0.

COMMISSIONERS

a) Perry County Convention, Visitor and Tourism Commission Letters of Interest

RC would like to table this at this time. More information is needed. The Commissioners were presented a requirement under Article 11 Membership which states "a simple majority of the members must be engaged in a Convention Visitors and Tourism business, or involved in or promoting Convention Visitors of Tourism. If willing and able to serve, at least two must be engaged in the business of renting, furnishing rooms of lodging or accommodations." This is not from the County's Ordinance, which states "at least one of the members must be engaged in the hotel/motel business in the County and no more than a simple majority of members shall be affiliated with the same political party."

The Commission functions under their requirements and the County functions under Ordinance 32.09, which actually created this Commission.

RC stated a concern regarding the statement in both which is that there cannot be more than a simple majority of any one specific political party. This is something he does not believe has been considered.

RT made a motion to table, seconded by RC. Motion carried 2-0.

- b) RT has spoken with Southern Indiana AT&T representative Pepper Mulherin. Mulherin has been told all the cell sites have been restored. RT stated the day prior, AT&T activated an emergency deployable online, but this is for emergency personnel. AT&T is looking at deploying a temporary cell site for First Net only, with is for Emergency personnel. Sheriff Malone stated that the First Net service is now available. This temporary cell site is only for a three-to-four-mile radius, so it does not reach everyone.
RT stated she knows this is very frustrating for everyone. All she can do at this point is keep in contact with Ms. Mulherin.
- c) The next meeting is Monday, July 1, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p.m. CST.

RT made a motion to adjourn, seconded by RC. Motion carried 2-0.

Randy Cole
President

Rebecca Thorn
Vice-President

Randy Kleaving

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