

**PERRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**MINUTES – May 16, 2023**

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 and Sheriff Alan Malone were present. There was no *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 with addition, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- a) Gary Gruebel, Human Resource Director at Waupaca Foundry introduced himself and asked the Commissioners the status of the Economic Development contract with Perry County Development Corporation. RC informed that himself, David Etienne, County Council President; Jon Scheer, Redevelopment Committee; David Goffinet, PCDC Chairman; and Erin Emerson, PCDC Director had meet and made good progress. The PCDC was getting some financial information to Jon Scheer for him to compile information and that is currently where they are. Gary Gruebel spoke of the importance of getting this contract completed as we are almost half way into 2023 with no contract still. Keith Huck came forward and stated that at the Commissioner and County Council joint work session on April 13, 2023 there was a deadline of 30 day. RC stated that they had met and the last discussion was that PCDC was going to get financial information to Jon. RC also mentioned that Jon Scheer was on vacation during this time period.
- b) RC opened that the Commissioners had invited members of the Perry County Convention and Visitors Bureau (PCCVB) to the meeting tonight to discuss the dismissal of two Commissioner appointed members due to being absent to 3 meetings. RC invited PCCVB President Joan Hess to speak in regards to the issues. Joan shared that they have their monthly meeting the third Thursday of the month at 8:30 a.m. RC stated that these two members cannot attend due to having full time jobs that do not allow them to leave to attend the monthly meeting. Joan Hess stated that monthly meeting date and time is voted on by the board and majority rules. RT asked if a mission statement and schedule can be provided to the Commissioners, so in the future when they are making appointments for the PCCVB they can have this information to inform the applicants of the requirements? Casey Stutsman, PCCVB Director stated that at the first meeting each board member is given a handbook with mission statement, ordinances, budget, etc. Steve Simley introduced himself as a new member to the PCCVB board and suggested the possibility of zoom meetings. RC stated that we as Commissioners follow state statue and there is nothing saying you can't have zoom meetings. As far as the PCCVB board meetings offering "zoom option" is a board decision. RC questioned the PCCVB as to the reason for having two boards made up of the same members. Joan Hess stated that the Commission Board receives the Innkeeper Tax and the CVB Board handles the operations/work. Councilman Stan Goffinet spoke that we as elected officials provide oversight on county dollars. We need to be informed of where and how county dollars are being spent. Heather Wathen spoke next, informing that she is one of the members being voted off. Heather informed that she is an active member of the Library Board, along with being President of the Tell City Strong Committee here in Perry County. She wants to be involved with the PCCVB but is an educator, therefore cannot attend the monthly meetings that are held at 8:30 a.m. Linda Mattingly spoke as a current member of the PCCVB Board, stating that she in the past has been on other boards, one being the School Board. Linda feels that before committing to a board one should find out what is going to be asked of you if appointed to a board and find out when the meetings are, to make sure you are going to be able to fulfill the duties. RC responded that we as Commissioners voted to make an adjustment at the beginning of this year due to the conflict of the Tell City Council Meetings being the day and time of the

evening Commissioners Meeting. This decision was what was best for the citizens so they could attend both meetings if they chose to. Linda answered, like Joan Hess stated we as board voted as well, and majority stated that the meetings be the third Thursday of the month at 8:30 a.m. Megan Firtchley stated that she had applied before but was not appointed. She questioned if she was interested, did she need to reapply. RT responded yes.

### **MINUTES**

a) 05.01.2023

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

### **KRISTINIA HAMMACK, AUDITOR**

- a) 04.10.2023 Payroll \$174,160.43
- b) Quarterly Sheriff's Pension \$31,293
- c) Insurance Claims \$314,312.20
- d) Advanced Claims \$158,789.94

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

### **STEVE HOWELL, HWY DEPT. SUPERINTENDENT**

- a) Steve Howell presented an application to cut Right of Way from PSCI to run more Fiber Optic cable out in the County. Steve stated this had been a great thing for the community, and all Commissioners responded in agreeance. Steve also stated that they have been good to work with.

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

### **COMMISSIONERS**

- a) RC stated the last meeting Prosecutor Samantha Hurst had presented a lease agreement for the Prosecutor's Office from Tell City Electric. The lease that was presented was a 5-year lease agreement and the Commissioners asked if they would be willing to go to a 1-year contract. Auditor Hammack received a revised lease agreement, stating the only thing that had been changed is the term from 5 years to 1 year.

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

- b) RC stated at the last meeting Gregg Jarboe had asked the plans for disposal of the 104 old phones, and it was decided to surplus them. It was added to this agenda to surplus the 104 old phones.

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

- c) RC stated that we have 3 letters of interest from Danny Thomas, Jeff Tucks, and Neal Warner for the Commissioner appointed seat on the Port Authority Board. These letters were sent to the Commissioners to review.

RK made a motion to appoint Danny Thomas, stating he has experience. Motion died with no second.

RT made a motion to appoint Jeff Tunks, seconded by RC. Motion carried 2-1.

- d) RC stated the next item on the agenda is the trailer on Coon Club Rd. RC asked Steve Howell if it had been removed, Steve replied that it is still there. RC stated that at the last meeting Kim Roberson and Andrew Foster worked together and were to send a letter to the property owner giving them 10 days to remove the trailer. Sheriff Alan Malone stated he would get in touch with Kim Roberson tomorrow and assist with contacting the property owners. Councilman Keith Huck informed the Commissioners that he is hearing from the surrounding landowner that they are tired of cleaning up trash out of the creek and there is also a burn pile where they are burning trash.

- e) RC stated the next item on the agenda is the Invision Eyecare Abatement. Auditor, Kris Hammack stated that the County Council had a special meeting on Monday, May 15, 2023, where they approved a 5-year Abatement. She said she received an email from Attorney, Chris Goffinet this morning stating it needed to also be approved by the Commissioners due to the property being in a TIF district. Attorney, Chris Goffinet was not able to attend tonight, but Auditor Kristinia Hammack informed him she would bring it to the Commissioners as this is something the Commissioners are already aware of due to discussion at prior meetings. RC stated he believes there is paperwork to be signed.

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

- f) RT reported updates on the animal shelter building maintenance; Kieser Electric and Kenny Simpson met to see what is needed to bring the building wiring up to code. RT wanted to publicly thank Kenny Simpson for volunteering his services,

that is much appreciated. Keiser Electric is going to submitting an estimate for the wiring updates. RT met with the roofing company Monday, the roof is still under warranty and they are going to reseal the enter roof with a silicon sealant. RT reported the guttering is down, Red Gorilla has power washed the outside of the building, and SHE Paints is starting to paint this coming Monday. RT reported that Andrew Foster had put together a form for Volunteers and Visitors to sign for liability reasons. RC suggested the Auditors be sent a copy of this as well, it may be able to be revised and in other offices. Animal Shelter Director Molly Hagman informed that she had received 2 quotes for cleaning the inside of the building The best quote was from C&C cleaning for \$1200, which she feels is very generous.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m. CST.  
RK made a motion to accept, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

The next meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be held on Monday, June 5, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

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Randy Cole  
President

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Rebecca Thorn  
Vice-President

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Randy Kleaving

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