

PERRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES
May 6, 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 and Attorney Andrew Foster. There was no *Sheriff* 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 as amended, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

a) Becky Guthrie, Director of Ride Solutions

Guthrie addressed the reason for the failure to be included in the 2024 Budget. She was on vacation and had sent an email to Teresa Kanneberg, not knowing she is no longer employed at the County. The email was not returned to her, so she did not know the request was not received.

Guthrie stated that to be included in 2025 Budget for Public Transportation, the State of Indiana requires a resolution by every county that Ride Solutions serves. To continue service, the Commissioners have to sign an authorization. Gunthrie contacted INDOT asking why they were adding this, and their response is this is a requirement from the FTA. Ride solutions has to notify every county to verify if they want to continue the year with the current 5311 Provider through the State. Gunthrie stated the County had a concern due to having a taxi cab in Tell City and SIRS, who they partner with. SIRS get a portion for Ride Solutions' money. Guthrie stated that if the county still wants to have public transportation next year, then the County would have to commit to sign the authorization. Guthrie further stated that if the County wants someone new to come to the County, it is quite a process to get this funding.

Guthrie stated she went to the County Council at their last meeting explaining the situation for not getting a request in the 2024 Budget. Guthrie is hoping there would be something in the 2024 Budget that could be appropriated to Ride Solutions. They have a driver who lives in Perry County, plus several other drivers who come back and forth into Perry County.

RC asked who is eligible for this service, and Guthrie stated anyone; it is public transportation.

RC asked that with not getting funded the \$6,000 for 2024, but he assumed Ride Solutions is getting funded from State or Federal for 2024? Guthrie responded that Ride Solutions has to have match dollars to continue in each county. She is looking for some type of match dollars from Perry County; otherwise, they would have to cut back. RC asked that if the money is not forthcoming for 2024, their services will cease? Gunthrie stated they will not cease; they will have to be cut back.

RT asked if there is a cost for this transportation, and it is \$2.00 in Tell City and \$4.00 in the County each way. Guthrie stated Ride Solutions is a not-for-profit agency, and the taxi is for profit.

RK asked Guthrie that if the County does not give Ride Solutions the money that was not appropriated to them, Ride Solutions could possibly lose their State and Federal funding since it is a matching fund? Gunthrie responded that the State looks at each county to verify they are still supporting their program.

RC asked that the agreement that Guthrie needs signed is for 2025, and has the County been asked to sign one in the past? Gunthrie stated no, this is something new. RC asked County Attorney Andrew Foster if he looked over this agreement, with Foster stating he did not remember seeing it. RC stated his concern regarding the agreement is that it did not impact someone else providing transportation, that it did not turn into an exclusive agreement. Guthrie stated this agreement does not do this.

Attorney Foster stated that after glancing over this resolution, it designates Ride Solutions as a non-profit rural transportation entity for Federal and State purposes. The resolution is not stating that this is exclusive.

RK asked what the response was from the Council when Guthrie asked for an appropriation, and Auditor Hammack stated the Council tabled it. RK asked RC that if the County considers this new funding, not going into the old budget, can the Commissioners request the Council to try to look at some new funding to get Ride Solutions \$6,000? RC stated the County would have to find a source. Hammack stated that the Commissioners could ask for an additional appropriation out of their fund, and it would then go to the Council to approve it. RK stated in his opinion, the Commissioners should do this.

RK made a motion to sign the agreement so Ride Solutions can get grant funding for 2025, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

- b) Megan James and Alexandra May appeared to discuss a roadway in Branchville that is not named. They have had issues with neighbors regarding this roadway. It is the easiest access for their homes. RC asked what road they are referencing, and was showed on a map they brought to the meeting. RT asked Highway Department Operations Manager Jared Hedinger to look at the map to see if it is a County road. Hedinger stated he will have to verify, but he thinks the County has maintained this section in the past. The County partially paved this roadway up to a church. James and May stated they own to one side of the road, and they are having issues of people blocking their access. RT asked who blocks that access, and they responded church individuals. The church has parking spots, but they park there anyway. Hedinger verified with Steve Howell, and this is not a County roadway. Hedinger feels the County possibly helped with the roadway once to assist with the church. The alleyway is County, but from the paved road up to the alleyway, it is not County. James stated that the road already existed prior to the church. RT asked who actually owns this road? RK asked if James and May have met with individuals from the church? They stated no, the church has never spoken to them, however the Pastor is very nice. James stated she purchased the property in 2019, and had no issues with anybody until November 4, 2022. If the church blocks this access, they are cutting off access for emergency vehicles to get to their properties.

RC asked the condition of Onyx Road, and James replied it is very thin and people block it as well. RC asked Attorney Foster to view the map. This road was put in and there were no easements. James and May have been driving on this road an extended number of years. RC stated that the County maintains this portion of a road to get to their homes, which is not as nice as the roadway in question. RC stated he knows that people can not be locked out of their property, they make the County roadway what they must take, or since the other roadway has been in place for twenty plus years and an accepted roadway, does it get a presumed easement across it where it can be improved and maintained? RC assumes there has never been a survey and/or easement placed there. Foster confirmed with James and May that they do have access from Onyx Road. However, May stated that you would not be able to get any emergency vehicles to their homes using Onyx Road. This is a safety issue. There is a sharp turn from that road which is very narrow. May stated that anything bigger than a small SUV can not negotiate that turn. James stated she has spoken to an attorney, and was told that if this roadway has been used for that long, you should legally already have an easement.

Foster stated that the County does not provide legal advice to private entities. Normally this is an issue between land owners, and if there is an easement, it travels with the property. Foster is not saying this is the situation. Foster feels this might be a private issue in terms of establishing that easement, having it surveyed stating this is a property that James and May have a connection to. From the County's standpoint, maintaining County roads, keeping people from blocking County roads, or potentially making this a County road of some sort so that the property owners have access for emergency services would be something to look at. Foster recommended they talk to an attorney about getting that right formally established. When you have that property right, you have the rights to eject people from blocking it due to depriving James and May from that property right. Foster stated he does not know the full history, and it is marked in some fashion on a map. This survey was recorded in 2022, and RC asked if this is the first recorded survey for this property, and James stated no. This gravel road was in place before the church owned the property. The previous owner paved this roadway.

RC asked if the church owns both sides of this roadway, and James confirmed this. RC stated this is the problem. James stated the church had this resurveyed

and put in one parcel, so the road now shows blocked out. RT asked if you can legally block a roadway? RC stated the problem lies where people have driven on this roadway for the last fifty or hundred years, never got an easement and never got it surveyed, it has just been the standard road. At the time this asphalt road separated parcels of land owned to the left and to the right, it probably was not an issue. Now that the church has purchased both sides, they do not want a road in the middle of it.

RC does not know how the County fits into this, as it needs to provide access, and if that means the County needs to do something with the other roads, Onyx in particular, so the landowners can actually get to their homes. However, if the landowners have a legal right to that roadway, then his assumption is it should be open and unblocked. Foster stated he is not sure of a regulation that would regulate blocking private roads. If you have established some right to that property, such as an easement to travel and it is blocked, then you are deprived of your property right.

RC stated that in the case of a power line crossing someone's property which has been there for years, there is an assumed easement. RC feels like this roadway might fit into this same assumption.

RT asked Hedinger to look at Onyx Road and see what kind of attention it needs. RC suggests the Highway Department find out exactly where the County is on these roads. He encourages James and May, if they have an attorney, to ask him what their rights are in regards to the roadway.

RK suggested James and May sit down with the Church committee face-to-face and voice their safety concerns regarding emergency services. Foster stated there needs to be legal clarity to see if any easements were given.

- c) Charlie Baumeister appeared representing the Animal Welfare Control and Education Board. This board was formed from an Ordinance several year ago. This board is approaching the Commissioners due to they revamped this Ordinance; they took some items out that were outdated and want to add some items. Baumeister stated that Attorney Foster reviewed and typed this Ordinance to present to the County with the explanation as to why this was done. Each entity, Tell City, Cannelton and Troy, have their own Ordinances regarding animal control. A County office can enforce a City office and vice versa. The Board's goal was to update this Ordinance, present it to the other entities, asking them to establish a new Ordinance regarding the fines and how they are taken care of. The ultimate goal of this Ordinance is to someday hire an Animal Control Officer, but they need the funding. What they would like to do, with the agreement of all the entities, is they fund the fines through the County Court into the Clerk's Office, and establish a fund that would be set aside for Animal Control Officer, to help fund it.

Knowing this will take some time, the Board is researching to find grants to hire an Animal Control Officer. They realize there is a procedure they have to follow being a Board established by Ordinance; they will have to approach the County Council to get permission.

Baumeister stated that with this new Ordinance, where it establishes their Board, it references the powers and duties of the Board. He stated the section states "we recommend to the Commissioners the terms and conditions of any contracts for the shelter of animals". He acknowledged that the County has a contract with the animal shelter, and they are doing a great job. Baumeister is asking if the Commissioners want this Board to recommend these contracts. Baumeister stated that these Ordinances were written long ago, and what fell through the gap was the Council was supposed to levy a fee for the fines, and it never happened. This Board will be in the same situation by amending the Ordinance. This will be something that will have to be approached to the Council, to see if they are willing to set a fee for this. RC stated that the fees are nominal of what they are trying to collect, and he knows the intent is to make sure the animals have shots. Veterinarians used to have clinics. RC assumed most animals are vaccinated. Baumeister stated one of the biggest issues they face is education to the people. Starting next year, they will start educating the children in grade school in all three schools about responsibility. This is a building block, but there has to be some teeth in an Ordinance, where there is a fine.

The capacity at the shelter is another issue, especially with stray cats. These cats are feral, and the shelter is worried about disease, infecting the whole shelter and then having to put all animals down. There needs to be a solution. Baumeister stated that at their last meeting, it was decided, with the Commissioner's

permission as they oversee their Board, to form a committee on how to handle these calls. Whose authority does this fall under? He further stated that under the Ordinance, they believe it falls under their Board. This committee would consist of Molly Hagman with Rivers Edge, Sheriff Alan Malone, Police Chief of Tell City, Police Chief of Cannelton, Troy Town Marshall, the Health Department and the Prosecutor. Baumeister stated if there is a situation of feral cats, and they are trapped, who makes the decision of what to do with them. If they humanly euthanize these feral cats, who would be responsible for the cost? These are questions this Board needs answers to. This Board has to start at point A, which is to bring this Ordinance to the Commissioners for their approval, and build from there.

RK stated that when Baumeister mentions fees, these are fines, and Baumeister confirmed this. Baumeister stated that in the Clerk's office, it was mentioned that one of their personnel is supposed to be an Animal Pet Clerk.

RT stated that this is not just the \$2.00 for a vaccinated pet only, this is for fines for abandoned animals, people who abuse animals, and so forth. RT stated this money needs to go into this fund.

Baumeister stated that Rivers Edge gets several animals surrendered to the shelter and there is a fee for this to the shelter, which is in the County's agreement.

Baumeister asked Molly Hagman why is it that people surrender? Is it because they cannot afford the animal? If this is the case, there are alternatives as the Humane Society will assist. RT stated that with rabies vaccinations, that is state law that they are vaccinated.

RK asked how would the Board collect these fees? Baumeister stated the answer to that would have to be a brain storming session and hopefully this committee he mentioned might be interested with helping with this. RC suggested possibly the veterinarian or clinic could collect this \$2.00 when the animal is vaccinated.

RC stated he has read this new Ordinance, and does not have a problem with it. If everyone is okay with it, RC would like to give it a tentative approval as he does not want to rewrite an ordinance for the County, and then if there are objections from the cities, that it would have to be changed. If the County is onboard with this Ordinance, then take it to the other cities to make sure there is not something that they would object to. Baumeister stated that if all entities approve this, then the fines will be the same everywhere.

RK stated that he is okay with everything except the fees as the County did this approximately thirteen years ago. The Trustees were not in place to do the assessment, plus he saw the opposition against the fees. Baumeister stated that possibly there should be a public meeting regarding the fees.

RC stated that the fee of \$2.00 would be nominal, but the idea is to force registration so that a cat or dog can be identified to a certain family, and that they have the rabies shot.

TARA LUCAS, HEALTH NURSE SUPERVISOR

- a) Lucas stated there are some Legislative changes on July 1, 2024. All contracts need to be signed by the Commissioners. The Health Department currently has two contracts in place; one is for the Baby Box and the other one is for the existing agreement with Perry County Memorial Hospital. She is asking the Commissioners to sign a new contract so the Health Department is ready to go on July 1st.

The current Perry County Memorial Hospital has a service agreement for discounted mammograms, and once a month an education course, as well as some TB services. If there is someone with an active TB case, the Health Department wants to ensure they get the care they need. The Health Department would like to add that CPR classes could be given through Perry County Memorial Hospital at no cost. This would start with CNA students at all the high schools, community members, 4-H members, etc. This falls under the HFI grant approved funding, being trauma and injury prevention.

RC stated he was told the hospital had offered to provide an instructor at no cost, as this was in conjunction with the first responder initiative. He would like to see the Health Department, First Responder, and Ambulance Service would have access to the training. If the hospital is on board with not only the Health Department's group, but also these other groups, would be his only concern. He would want the contract to cover all that training. Lucas said that Leonard Hahus volunteers his time, and this would be basic CPR/AED training. There would be a \$15.00 cost per person that would cover a book and a card once they pass the

course. RC would like Lucas to reach out to the group that would be involved with this to see who needs to be added or if another portion needs to be added, then a contract can be signed that would cover everything. Lucas asked RC that he preferred this to include First Responders, and RC responded yes, First Responders, fire departments, police officers, and community members. Lucas stated that the original idea for the CPR/AED training was for the community. She asked who currently provides funding for first responders? RC stated he believes they are looking at expanding that. RC stated that in the past, the cost of the book for \$140 was an issue, but once they are purchased for the first class, they can be reused for future classes. Lucas stated she was not a part of that conversation. Lucas stated that if including all these other groups is the intention, the Health Department will have to definitely change their funding amount.

RK asked if the first responders would require more training than this class offers? RC stated they would, and Lucas is presenting more fore community members. RK stated that if this program includes first responders, their training would come from the first responder training program; it would be more intense. Lucas stated this is just basic CPR/AED training. RC was thinking the hospital would set up a time they would provide instructors at no cost, and the County's obligation would be to buy books. Lucas asked who these books are for, and RC stated for First Responders, and admitted he does not know what that actually involves.

Lucas asked if there are meeting where the Health Department can be pulled in, as \$15 per person is a lot different than a \$140 first responder course. RC stated he would have to check on this.

Lucas stated she wanted two things. One was to see if the Commissioners would co-sign or resign the contracts that Attorney Foster approved, and then secondly, to see if the Health Department could pay for the basic CPR/AED training for students in a CNA class or community members. If this is expanded to other groups, then Lucas will have to meet with the Health Board. That would reshape the entire budget. RC stated the Baby Box is something they could sign. RK feels the Commissioners could sign the other as well, just build off of it if more information is obtained. RC asked Lucas if this would impact her if they waited until the next meeting, and Lucas stated no. Lucas stated that if RC is wanting HFI funding to pay for first responder training, that would be something she would have to check on.

RK made a motion to sign the Baby Box agreement and the contract with Perry County Memorial Hospital on providing training to local residents for CPR/AED, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

STEVE HAUSER, EMA DIRECTOR

- a) Hauser stated in regard to the Baby Box, they are prepared for the installation as far as the preparation that was needed to the building. Tony Thomas with Thomas Glass & More was the only person they could find that would give an estimate for the store front to be installed at the armory. Thomas gave a quote that was within \$20 of being \$5,000 total. This includes the little wall and installing the door with a keypad. Hauser stated he reached out to one other contractor, and they were not able to give the County a quote on this.

RT made a motion to proceed with Thomas Glass & More to proceed with construction work for the location of the Baby Box storefront, seconded by RK. Motion carried 3-0.

- b) Hauser stated the County has the opportunity to apply for a Homeland Security Grant, which is two grants, two portions, for a total of \$300,000. These are \$150,000 each. He would like to proceed with what was applied for last year, which was the upgrade of the generator at the Perry County Courthouse as one project, and the second being the 800 Radio Project, which would complete the upgrade of the existing radios plus purchase additional radios for first responders. Hauser stated the generator project last year was \$133,850, and he assumes the price could increase slightly. The radio project was \$136,467. He is asking the Commissioner's permission to apply for this grant.

RC asked Hauser what is the limit, how much can the County ask for? Hauser responded \$150,000 per grant, for a total of \$300,000. Both grants have to be tied to Homeland Security and have specific criteria.

RK asked Hauser that with the generator at the Courthouse, would it be large enough for the expansion of the Prosecutor's office, and Hauser stated it would

be. Hauser stated that with updating the prices for these items, they will be pushing the \$150,000 for each.

RC stated he has a letter from Michael Daum, and he is asking for a SHSP Grant, and asked Hauser if this is similar to Hauser's grant? Hauser responded yes, it is the same grant that Hauser would like to apply for. RC asked if the County could ask for a third grant, and Hauser stated no, there are only two. RC stated that Daum was asking to apply for \$150,000 for primary instructor hours, books for emergency medical responders, perishable goods, etc. for the EMR classes and programs. Hauser stated he does not see where this would fall under either of these grants, but he could check into it. RC feels this program would be a county-wide service and would be utilized a lot making a difference in people's lives versus already having a generator. RC does not know how all these things interact. RC stated he would like to see this first responder program off the ground.

RT asked what was the deadline to apply for these grants, and Hauser responded May 30th.

RK stated the question might be is if Dr. Daum has the fire departments on board for buying them equipment already, since there is already a first responder program in place. Hauser stated the County already has a lot of this first responder equipment. Hauser would like to see this program enhanced. Hauser further stated there have been meetings, but he has not been invited to them. RC asked if no one ever reached out to him, and Hauser responded no sir.

RT asked if Hauser would like to apply for radios and a generator, and Hauser verified this. Hauser stated the County is going to be meeting a deadline, or the County is going to have to fund them, or shutting off existing radios. Hauser stated to find the funding, he feels it is a great opportunity to look at the grants to see if Perry County can get them. RT asked that the radios and the generator would eat up \$300,000, and Hauser confirmed this. This is a no match, 100% grant. RC stated that the only issue is that the generator was turned down last year, and Hauser stated that most of the grants were turned down last year.

RK stated that it is mandatory to go to 800, and Hauser stated the police are already on 800. It is not mandatory yet, but they will be shut off. RC stated the County has challenges with the VHF frequency due to all the hills in Perry County. RC stated that State Police are all on 800 now.

RC would like to reach out to others, and include Hauser in a discussion, as he is not really involved in this. RC stated he is concerned that Hauser was not included in meetings. RC stated he wants to make the right decision for the County.

RK stated he feels that Hauser can start to work on the radios grant, and then the Commissioners can look at the other two. RC stated he is not familiar with the grant as far as what is eligible and what is not. RC plans to schedule a meeting in the next couple of days to decide what direction the County is going. He further stated that the County needs to apply for these grants, whether it has success or not. RK reiterated that he feels Hauser can start on the radio application, and RC stated he prefers to get the details and then have a brief meeting to approve that grant request.

Tabled.

- c) Hauser had quotes for AED for the Courthouse. Hauser stated he is speaking on behalf of the Courthouse Security Committee which have asked for three. Hauser received a quote on the ones the County currently have for the Sheriff's Office, Tell City, and currently the first responders are using from Cardiac Partners. It is the Heart-Start brand, and he also received a quote on the LifePak brand, and they are considerably higher, \$287 with the discount price higher. The pads for the LifePak are higher at \$118 more than the current AEDs the County has, and batteries for the LifePaks are higher at \$127 each. RC stated that LifePak is what is on the ambulances, and Hauser stated it is the AEDs and it is just the same brand, not what they have on the ambulance. RT asked with being the same brand, are the pads interchangeable? Hauser responded it is, but it makes a whole lot more sense to him to purchase four adapters to put on the ambulance that would match the County's current AEDs. He further asked why spend all this extra money to go with the brand they have on the ambulance to save a few dollars on that set of pads? Hauser feels this makes no sense.

RC stated that the equipment on the ambulances is getting dated, and maybe the option needs to be is to get the adapters, or go to whatever first responders use. Hauser stated this was done years ago and the monitor on the ambulances were a

different type so they did not match any longer. Hauser further stated that ambulances used to have an adapter to match with the AEDs, and this is the simple fix; buy four adapters for the ambulances. RC stated going forward, there is no way to approach the fire departments to get something consistent. The decision needs to be made as to what is the County is going to do and how does the County get there? RC stated that eventually the County is going to get on the same page. He further stated that whenever involvement does not get done, somebody purchases something and next thing you find out is that it is not compatible with what the police are carrying. Hauser stated that with the price difference, he would not recommend going with the same type. He does not feel any money will be saved and will actually lose money. The number of pads being used and thrown away is not going to be worth what RC thinks the County will be saving. RK asked if Hauser is speaking of the one the hospitals have now, and Hauser stated that the County will probably be spending more money even though the pads will connect. RC stated that maybe the hospital needs to go to this brand the County uses if they replace all of their equipment, which is all dated, so everyone is on the same platform. Hauser stated that what the hospital has is a large monitor, it is not the same as an AED.

RC stated that what might need to be done is take some of the older AEDs out into the county if the boxes get developed, and put new ones in every police cruiser. This needs to be discussed to be uniform and consistent.

RC will reach out to others to have this discussion and will share with the Commissioners what he finds out, and then schedule a meeting to approve whatever the County is going to apply for. RK asked RC if he plans to run the AEDs through the grant, and Hammack stated she does not think they can as they are to used for the Courthouse. RK asked about being funded through the ARP, and Hammack stated this would not be funded through ARP. With the evaluation the County had and be in compliance, these AEDs are needed.

RT asked Hauser if extra batteries are purchased or purchased when needed, and Hauser responded buy as needed but keep a few in stock.

RK asked if there needs to be a motion to purchase the three for the Courthouse, and RC stated he would wait until he has this discussion as he would like to get uniformity. Hauser asked who would be in this discussion, and RC stated he does not know yet. Hauser stated he works with Leonard Hahus, he is the EMS Director, and is looking at some First Responder classes and he worked with Tara Lucas on the CPR classes. Hauser stated he has already made trips in the county trying to find locations for those boxes, and he stated that if we get another group working on this, he will stop. RC stated he will find out.

Hauser stated that if he is going to ask for funding, and the County has another group asking for funding and not on the same page, not at meetings together, he has an issue with this. RC agreed and stated that everyone who has an involvement with this needs to be brought together.

JARED HEDINGER, HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS MANAGER

- a) Hedinger stated that with the bridge on Athens Road that was closed down, pictures were sent to Lochmueller Group and they have okayed the Highway Department to repair. Hedinger stated it was just a beam, not the main structure. RK stated the hole came on the outside of the bridge where the pavement meets the concrete. By appearance, it looked like it was the surface outside of the bridge. RT stated that this bridge was inspected in March 2023 and asked Hedinger that nothing was seen? Hedinger stated if it was falling through, it should have been able to be seen. RC stated that from a picture he received, there was a lot of deterioration that would not have happened overnight. RC stated when the County has to shut down a road that is not planned, it becomes critical to those people who live on it. RT asked Hedinger how long he believes this repair project to take, and he replied a couple of days.
- b) Hedinger presented the River Road Final Plans for signatures for the August 2024 letting. Also, Lochmueller Group need a signature for the City/County Utility Reimbursement Agreement. Hedinger believed in the grant there was up to \$800,000 of State funding for moving utilities. The only utility that had to be moved for this project was the Tell City Electric Department. They need a signature for that, and there is not cost to the County. RC stated he assumes Tell City is going to abandon the sewer line to Cannelton, and Hedinger confirmed this. Hedinger stated that in a quarterly meeting, Texas Gas stated it is going to

leave their gas line and let them work around it. This is the road that will lead to the Port.

RC asked Alvin Evans if Texas Gas has a line, and Evans confirmed this. An agreement has been worked out and the attorneys at Texas Gas have it now. Evans hopes to have this agreement back within the next month. RC stated this is a high-pressure, high-volume line, and Evans stated this is the line that serves all of Tell City. Evans stated that Cannelton gave the Port Authority the old sewer line, as well as the new section.

RC verified with Evans that this is all done without cost to the County and Evans confirmed this. Any additional not covered by the grant will be funded by the Port Authority. Evans stated there will be a sidewalk from the Riverwalk to State Route 66, but that expense is being covered by the City of Tell City through a grant.

RT made a motion to sign the River Road Project, which moves this project into the bid stage, seconded by RK. Motion carried 3-0.

c) RT asked Hedinger what happened to the paving bid that had to be sent back? Hedinger stated that one of the contractors went through something with the State. The County always bids it intermediate for projects. The contractor called and stated the State changed it about a month ago, and it has to be surface. The Highway Department did not know about this. RT stated there were three bidders, two of them knew this. Auditor Hammack stated that two bid off of what the County advertised, the one the County accepted bid off of this information that they got from the State. The tonnage was different.

RC asked if E&B Paving bid off the State specs, and Hedinger stated no, they bid it off the old spec, which was intermediate. RC stated that is a former State spec, and Hedinger stated the other two bid it off the new State spec. RC stated he has never known a bidder to base a bid from an advertisement, they always get the bid packets, which would mean there were two different bid packets. Hedinger stated he was not sure and Steve Howell could answer that.

Hammack stated she was told by the Highway Department that the two who did not get the bid, they bid from what the County advertised and bid packet that was given out. There was something different, a quote was done, and E&B Paving bid off of that quote information. Hedinger confirmed this, and stated the quote information was the old information. Hammack stated the tonnage was different with the old information, so it would be less. Hedinger stated intermediate is 1 ¾ inch, and surface material is what the State requires to be used now, or else you do not get payment.

RT asked what is the procedure now, and Hedinger stated the bid package has been redone and sent to the Auditor along with the advertise notice that is put in the paper. Hammack stated the bid packet is put on the County website, as well as provide copies if requested. RC asked that someone could visit the website and download the bid packet and Hammack would not be aware of this, and Hammack confirmed this. RC recommended to Hedinger that if a change is made to a bid packet, pick up the telephone and make each company aware. This wasted the time of the contractors, wasted the time for the County opening and awarding bids, plus pushed the project back further.

RK stated this has been done, it is the fault of the County, but the County awarded that bid in a vote, should that be rescinded? Attorney Foster stated that by formal action, the Commissioners have to do this. Foster stated that the contract does not state anything about a post award change order, which is something the County needs to look at in the future. Foster recommends to review the contractual language in the County contracts.

RT made a motion to rescind the contract to E&B Paving for the Brushy Fork resurfacing project, and rebid this project, seconded by RK. Motion carried 3-0.

MINUTES

a) 04.16.2024

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

KRISTINIA HAMMACK, AUDITOR

a) 4.22.2024 Payroll: \$180,163.93

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

b) 05.06.2024 Payroll: \$176,317.78

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

c) 04.22.2024 Payroll W/H: \$38,984.80

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

d) 05.06.2024 Payroll W/H: \$37,629.78

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

e) Health Insurance Claims: \$41,004.26

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

f) Dental Claims: \$106.41

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

g) Vision Claims: \$122.13

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

h) Life Insurance Claims: \$1,447.10

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

i) Sheriff 2nd Qtr. Pension Claim: \$31,214.50

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

j) Judge 2nd Qtr. Stipend: \$1,345.61

RC stated that the County provides a \$5,000 payroll amount in excess of what the State of Indiana mandates what the County pays the Circuit Judge. This is the quarterly amount. The amount is higher than the \$1250 due to Social Security taxes.

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

k) 05.06.2024 AP Claim Docket: \$295,960.16

RC stated that the County is paying out of the 50,000 account. RC stated apparently there was some property sold at a Sheriff's Sale that was redeemed by an attorney and John Haunstein purchased the property. RC questioned payment being made to Kim Bryant. RC stated that the paperwork Hammack sent out has three parcels listed and Kim Bryant is the vendor for approximately \$3,400. RC stated it appeared as he looked back on this, it was a Sheriff Sale and sold, was redeemed, and sold to John Haunstein. RC asked how Kim Bryant plays a part in this? Hammack stated Kim Bryant bought these properties at the tax sale. The amount she paid was in the Tax Sale fund. Hammack stated Bryant basically bought these properties, but the property owners have one year to redeem them, which they did. RK asked that the County is paying Bryant her money back, and Hammack replied yes.

RC stated he pulled up Tax Sale Surplus, and it has Savvy Inc., Dixie Inc., Sabre Investments, etc. He stated these are people who got money back, but he did not see where Bryant had purchased anything? Hammack stated this can be tabled and she will look into this. RC stated he is concerned at an audit where you would not see the in and out.

RT made a motion to approve, except table the three transactions from Tax Sale in the amount of \$3,400.00, seconded by RK. Motion carried 3-0.

COMMISSIONERS

a) Baker Tilley Budget Agreement

Baker Tilley came to Perry County and offered their services to help with the budget process. They would provide some guidance to the Council. The Council has approved payment for this. RC stated he thinks Baker Tilley will bring some professionalism into the budget process. Hammack stated this agreement is for \$30,000 for the 2025 budget, and Baker Tilley agrees that if the County chooses to do this annually. The cost would be \$20,000 per year. The first year is higher due to having to go back multiple years to get information to see where the County can adjust in their budget. The Council decided not to go with Section 3 of this agreement which consisted of Baker Tilley meeting with Department Heads. Baker Tilley will put this comprehensive plan in place, and the County can not ask them to come in and do different scenarios. RC stated that the Council did pledge to follow this plan. This \$30,000 fee will be taken out of River Boat.

RK made a motion to approve the agreement with Baker Tilley, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

b) PCDC Affidavit

RC stated this is done periodically. There are still some bond funds left from the issuance of bonds. This is to pay the company that is doing the monitoring of the streams and vegetation. The County has to approve payment out of that bond fund for their services, which is an Affidavit that the Commissioners need to approve and sign.

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

- c) The Alpha quote for a compressor is in the amount of \$8,800. RC looked back at the quote approximately a year ago and it was \$8,100 or \$8,200. Prior to that, it was \$7,900 or \$7,800. RC stated this is the third compressor of the air conditioning system in the Courthouse that hasn't been repaired for approximately two years. The County did not have funding last year, and the Commissioners talked about possibly having a portion of this to carry over from last year. RC stated he believes the County now has sufficient funding. Later in the year, the County may not have it.

RC stated this is a back-up compressor. RK stated the Commissioners almost pulled the trigger and use part of last year's maintenance funds and some of this year's maintenance funds, and that this probably need to be done. He further stated that what is going to happen is the Courthouse is going to lose one of the other units and this 3rd compressor will be the bridge. RK feels this needs to be done to buy the County some time, as this will be the next project in five to ten years down the road to look at the heating and air in the Courthouse.

RK made a motion to engage Alpha in repairing the third unit at the Courthouse, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

- d) Auditor Hammack had a reminder to register for the June 19th golf outing. RT and RC will be going to the dinner afterwards at Mulzer Camp.
- e) The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 21, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the Courthouse meeting Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 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 prepared by:
Kristinia L. Hammack, Auditor*