

**PERRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**November 4, 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, First Chief Eric Dickenson, and Attorney Andrew Foster were also present. There was no *News Representative* in attendance.

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

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR PERRY COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY**

Attorney Chris Goffinet, speaking on behalf of the Perry County Port Authority, stated in attendance were Jared Kleeman and Tom Holm with the Perry County Port Authority. Goffinet stated that in 2023, the Port Authority issued the Bond Anticipation Notes (BAN), which could be called the construction financing for the bridge project. This bridge project is now complete as of July, 2024. Permanent financing is needed to be in place to take out the construction financing. That bond is issued by the County and the bond will be from the United States Department of Agriculture, which will be a long-term note at 3.75% interest.

Goffinet stated the process is to have this public hearing to explain what the Port Authority is doing, and to take action on the Ordinance which they introduced at the last meeting in mid-October. The purpose of the Ordinance is to take the proceeds from the bond sale, which they have a maximum of \$1.9 million, however the actual amount will be \$1.428 million, and appropriate those proceeds from the bond sale to pay the BANs which is the construction financing, off. The Port Authority will then repay the bonds over time through their revenue.

RC stated that the County guarantees this bond payment, and Goffinet stated he believes they did back when they did the BANs. RC stated he believes it is guaranteed through tax revenue. Goffinet stated the Port Authority uses Baker Tilly, the same financing consulting firm that the County uses. Goffinet stated he has documentation from Baker Tilly on the payback.

Goffinet stated the Ordinance has not changed since it was introduced. The official notice was published in the paper, and does not have the affidavit of publication back yet. It will be forwarded to the Auditor once it is received.

RT made a motion to approve the Ordinance as presented to buy up the Ports Taxable Revenue Bonds Series 2024, seconded by RK. Motion carried 3-0.

**AGENDA**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- a) None

**MANDY JACKSON, PLANNING AND ZONING CHAIRMAN**

- a) Jackson stated that there has not been a Zoning Administrator since the retirement of Mr. Voges last year. They have been working towards a goal to finalize what this might look like to economically make it more feasible and serve the community.

Jackson provided a handout of what the Zoning Administration duties are for the County's code. The second packet is something they have been working on. Bill Dotson, Secretary of the Planning Commission, created the color-coded chart of the options that Planning and Zoning are looking to implement. Approval has been received from the County Council for the funding portion of this.

The process they have come up with is to put everything online on a link portal to their current website, which is to be updated as well next year. The link would initiate the permit process and explain to the individual what their pre-process would look like, what information they would need to provide for that process, as well as information regarding the fees. There would be a link to upload any of the

property owner's documentation, such as square footage or if they are building a new home. It would also ask questions regarding the Health Department Sanitation portion and making sure that was completed.

Jackson stated the idea would be to streamline to where it is easy access being twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week where the process can be initiated. An email specific for this would give the property owner notification the permit has been submitted, as well as what are the next steps. There would be a link regarding the County codes.

Jackson stated that for those individuals that do not use the internet, printed packets can be provided at potentially two places, the Treasurer's office as well as the Sanitation Department.

Jackson stated that some of the fees required to get this process launched, as to what needs to be on their website, she is under the understanding that most of that cost would be covered under either the current maintenance plan, or in what they are looking to add on to that. Jackson would not like to hold up this process until next year, so possibly Phase 1 would be to go ahead and put this on their website, and then merge this over to what An Island is doing as far as updating the entire County website.

Jackson stated that the planning Commission is looking to stipend the board members, which there are seven, if some sort of complaint is received that would have to be addressed. One of the board members would receive a stipend fee to go out and view the property to see if there actually is an issue.

Jackson is seeking the Commissioner's approval on this step as it is going to redirect from what it is current, a part-time position that was held with an office. They are looking to redesign and restructure this, and get it launched as soon as possible.

RT asked Jackson if she has been in touch with An Island, and Jackson confirmed this. Auditor Kristinia Hammack stated she has spoken to An Island as well as the County is in the process of revamping its website. They are hoping to have the new website up in viewable by the first of the year. Planning and Zoning is going to be the first one. Hammack stated she has recurring Friday meeting with An Island and he plans on working with all the departments. Hammack stated it makes more sense to put the Planning and Zoning on the new website and not the current website, as it is not adequate enough. RT asked Jackson if January would fit her timeline, and Jackson replied they have been without someone holding this position since November or December, with Commissioner Cole handling most of this. Jackson stated she has filtered a few of the questions to potential builders who wanted to know what the codes were. This all has been done on a volunteer basis. Hammack stated the Auditor's office has received calls as well and provided applications to get the ball rolling, and has worked with Commissioner Cole.

Jackson stated this new process is not a ten-year plan. She has spoken to her board regarding meeting more frequently. They plan to reconvene after a few months to see if this is working okay, address some issues that may have come up, and try to keep this as user friendly for the community in general. RT stated having hard copies if needed, and Jackson confirmed this. Jackson stated the idea is they would go to a portal, and there would be some sort of virtual filing system. RC stated that he receives a lot of calls from people that live in Perry County and want to get permits, but it is under the jurisdiction of Tell City. RC further stated that people are not aware that Tell City controls the two-mile radius outside of their city limits. He suggests some type of map so when they go onto the site, they can see what group actually is the one to contact.

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

#### **MINUTES**

a) 10.17.2024

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

b) 10.29.2024

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

#### **KRISTINIA HAMMACK, AUDITOR**

a) 10.21.2024 Payroll: \$176,400.81

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

b) 10.21.2024 Payroll W/H: \$37,462.17

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

c) 11.04.2024 Payroll: \$181,451.06  
 RT made a motion to approve, seconded by RK. Motion carried 3-0.

d) 11.04.2024 Payroll W/H: \$38,436.42  
 RT made a motion to approve, seconded by RK. Motion carried 3-0.

e) Health Insurance Claims: \$76,316.06  
 RK made a motion to approve, seconded by RT. 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: \$1,436.54  
 RK made a motion to approve, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

i) Judge Stipend: \$1,345.61  
 RC stated that the County has paid for years an additional stipend to the Circuit Court Judge in the amount of \$5,000 annually. This is a quarterly payment plus the cost associated with holdings.  
 RK made a motion to approve, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

j) 11.04.2024 Account Payable Claim Docket: \$829,029.81  
 RT made a motion to approve the claim docket, seconded by RK. Motion carried 3-0.

k) Additional Appropriations  
 This will go to the Council, and they want the Commissioners to discuss and sign the vouchers that they are in agreement with this.  
**General – Liability Insurance #1000.34200.00000.0068 \$ 1,757.50**  
 RC stated the County budgets for Liability Insurance and then the policy renews in September. At that time, you find it was underbudgeted, as insurance continues to rise. This is the payment for the last quarter which will get the County through 2024. RT asked that this has to go to the Council, and Auditor Hammack stated yes, but since it is out of the Commissioner’s budget, it needed to be brought before the Commissioners first.  
 RK made a motion to submit this to the Council for their consideration, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

**General – Ambulance Services #1000.38700.00000.0068 \$120,339.25**  
 Leonard Hahus with EMS stated the amount he is requesting is for August and September. He provided a profit and loss statement for both months, and it totals \$120,339.25. Hahus stated the EMS had a setback in August. The EMS billing department has several claims that were untimely. RC asked that when Hahus stated they were not timely, does this mean they were not submitted on time so now they are not reimbursable? Hahus responded that some were denied, and they did not get the paperwork in time to get it resubmitted. In addition, some was bad debt which is basically people not paying their bills. The large portion of this was sent to collections and it just has not been collected. Hahus stated every insurance is different, some sixty days and some six months. RC asked if they stand a chance to collect those fees that were not timely submitted, and Hahus stated probably not. Hahus stated the ones that were untimely no; the ones that are still bad debt, they are in collections and there is still a chance they will receive some of that back. He does not know a percentage or an amount. RC asked who does the billing for the insurance, is it done internally at the hospital, and Hahus responded no, it is an outside company called Quick Med Claims. RC asked that they failed to get them filed in time, and Hahus responded yes. RC asked that they are paid for that service, and Hahus replied yes. Hahus stated that they are in the process of working with Med Quick Claims to get reimbursement on the EMS half for their mistake, however he does not know what that percentage is going to look like.  
 RT asked if there is a clause in the contract with Quick Med Claims that stated they have to do this monthly or quarterly, and Hahus responded that he was not sure. RC stated that when a vendor is hired to carry out a task, and they are being paid for that, with Hahus stating they are not happy with this vendor also. Hahus stated the contract with Quick Med Claims is through the end of this year, whether they stay with this vendor or not is still to be determined.  
 Implementation fees would have to be reimbursed to the vendor that were waived at the beginning of the year, which amounts to several thousands of dollars. RC asked if this is the first year the vendor has provided this service, and Hahus responded yes, they started January 1, 2024. RT asked if other vendors have been looked at, and Hahus responded yes. RC stated he believed that with the prior vendor, the EMS was not satisfied with them in 2023. Hahus stated that it was

not the fact that they were unsatisfied with them, but Quick Med Claims were only charging 5% versus Great Lakes, which was the prior vendor, was at 7%. Hahus further stated that they thought Quick Med Claims would be a little cheaper, however they are finding out they are getting what they paid for. Hahus stated there are talks of the hospital taking the billing back over.

Auditor Hammack stated that the County budgeted \$275,000 for EMS Services in 2024, and all of this has been expended. \$215,000 was out of General, and \$60,000 was out of Public Safety. This full \$275,000 has been expended up to July. Hammack stated the EMS Service sends a Profit and Loss Statement every month, and the only month they have been ahead was in May. Whatever the loss is on the Profit and Loss Statement is the amount that is paid to EMS Services.

There are still five more months of their loss that the County has to make up.

RC stated he researched and at the budget hearings, and the minutes reflect the hospital requested \$400,605 for 2024. This was the amount requested, and it was cut to \$215,000. RC was thinking someone on the County Council reached out to the hospital and asked about the reduction, and they were told it was okay. RC stated he may be mistaken, but that is what he seems to remember.

Since that amount was cut back significantly from what the hospital requested, and in August asking for \$120,000 for two months, RC stated that it makes it difficult to budget if being so far off those numbers.

RC suggested that a meeting with Commissioners, Council and the Hospital be scheduled to discuss this, as this same issue will come up in 2025. Auditor Hammack stated the hospital asked for \$485,000 in 2025, and the Council budgeted \$285,000. RC stated it does not do any good to put something in the budget when it does not reflect what the actual costs are. RK stated it would be good to know if the amount for 2024 was cut down to make budget, and then deal with the additional later; what were their thoughts as a Council.

RT asked Hahus if the \$95,023 was for August and \$25,316 for September, and Auditor Hammack stated those are the amount of the loss. If the County would have had the money appropriated, in August she would have paid \$95,023, and in September she would have paid \$25,316. However, there is no money left in the appropriation. RC stated he assumed in August that the hospital realized they were not going get that big compensation, which was a big hit. RC stated that he believes there needs to be discussions if there is not effective billing and not getting the insurance payments back. Something needs to be done to make sure that occurs.

Hahus stated that in 2024 and 2025, the EMS budget was approximately cut in half of what was requested. RC stated that the purpose of the budget is trying to actually budget so you can plan. Hahus stated that EMS is making sure that they are limiting overtime, not wasting supplies, not doing unnecessary work on the trucks, plus watching mileage. RT stated she would highly recommend finding another service for billing.

RC stated that it might have been this year that Medicare or Medicaid, or both, were going to start compensating more per mile. Possibly someone assumed that would bring additional revenue in that would help offset some of these expenses. Hahus stated they charge approximately \$16/mile or \$32/mile depending on the level of service. RC stated he believes the State Legislature has just passes another compensation, the private insurer has to pay up to a certain amount, and possibly this was taken into consideration when the Council put numbers in the budget.

RC stated that if they approve the \$120,000 at this meeting, then Hahus will be coming back at a later date needing money to finish out the rest of the year.

Discussion needs to happen in order to determine how this can be handled, as well as prevent this going forward.

RT made a motion to table, seconded by RK. Motion carries 3-0.

**Cumulative Bridge – Bridge Inspection #1135.31209.00000.00531 \$157,059.00**

Highway Superintendent Howell stated this is for Phase 2 of the bridge inspection which is Federal reimbursed at 80%. This is done in phases, this being Phase 2. Phase 1 and Phase 1A have already been completed.

RC stated that this is based on the four-year contract of \$317,237, which began January 2023 and expires at the end of 2026. RC asked Howell that the County is not above this amount, as this request is basically one-half of the money, and Howell responded no, Phase 1 was a small amount and Phase 2 is a larger amount. Phase 2A will be approximately \$38,000.

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

- 1) Highway Superintendent Howell stated he has asked County Attorney Andrew Foster to draw up a contract for the Community Crossings work. Last year, the contractor was over 25,000 on shoulder stone, and this year it is over 66,000. RC asked Attorney Foster if the County is obligated, as quantities is listed when bid, and Howell confirmed this, but the contract is marked more or less. Howell has spoken with INDOT in Vincennes and they stated that if the County has a problem with contractor and document, which this is being documented at this meeting, the County does not have to take the low bid. The County can accept the next lower bid. Howell does not want this to happen a third year in a row. RT asked Attorney Foster if this can be drawn up, and Foster responded that it can, but he does not know if the County wants him to draw this up, or a lot of communities will have engineers that will have more or less standard contracts that are more specific as to roads regarding the additional and overages. RC stated that Howell comes up with the quantity for shoulder stone, and Howell interjected that the estimate has the quantity on it. RC asked if there can be a clause added “not to exceed”? Howell stated he does not think that would work due to if it stated a specific number of tons, and it came up short, the County would have to come up with the rest. RC stated it needs to be clarified that it is the County’s intention that shoulder stone will be placed upon both sides of the road for the extent of the asphalt not to exceed X number of tons. This way there would no be no adding 500 tons to deal with. RC asked Attorney Foster if the contract is a uniform State contract, and Foster responded engineers will have uniform contracts. He believes the contract the County has is more or less the bid packet; it is kind of a quasi-contract quasi bid packet that is not separate. It is not a formal contract. Foster further stated there are model engineering contracts that can be used but that is more complicated. Foster stated the County could create its own separate contract and have it a little more detailed. The only question he sees is would he be missing something since he does not have the technical expertise that engineers would when they do these contracts. RC suggested that Howell have documentation that he notified, such as in writing, that based on prior contracts going over on the stone for shoulders, and should they charge the County more than what was estimated, it might reflect on future awards.

### **COMMISSIONERS**

a) Hospital Board of Trustee Appointment

RC stated that the County received several letters of interest and wanted to thank all those who stepped up and offered to serve on this board. Those that submitted interest in this appointment were Dawn Kleaving, Rebecca Hubert, Dr. Joseph LeClere, Cheryl Morton, James Alexander, Bradley DeHart, Eric Martin, and Dr. William Marcrum. RC stated that the Commissioners need to put a doctor back on this board, and the other one is pretty well open.

RT nominated Dr. William Marcrum to the Hospital Board, seconded by RC.

Nomination passed 2-0-1 with RK abstaining.

RT nominated Eric Martin to the Hospital Board, seconded by RC. Nomination passed 2-0-1 with RK abstaining.

b) Health Board Appointment

RC stated this needs to be readvertised. Under IC 16-20-2, the Board consists of seven members, four persons knowledgeable in public health, with at least two who are licensed physicians. The other two may be in health and education related fields, plus two members of the general public.

RC stated that at this time, there were three doctors listed, James Rogan, Adam Brockman, and Thomas Bailey. Bailey is the one who submitted his resignation. Corey Filley is related to healthcare, as is Kelly Connor and Illia Leiberling. There are three listed as Democrats, which included Dr. Bailey, one listed as a Republican, and one listed as an Independent. The two who do not have a party affiliation, and speculating that Corey Filley due to the fact he is running as a Republican would be classified as the Republican. There cannot be any more than three of any one specific party. RC stated it needs to be advertised that it could be a Democrat, Republican, or Independent. Hammack asked that it was advertised to fill a Democrat, and RC confirmed this.

Later in the meeting, Tara Lucus, Public Health Nurse Supervisor, sent Hammack a text stating both Connor and Leiberling are Republicans, so the appointment can not be Republican. RC stated if that is the case, then the County’s document that

is online is incorrect. It has Kelly Connor is Democrat. RC stated this needs to be verified, and if correct, the appointment would be either a Democrat or Independent to be eligible.

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

c) Extension Contractual Service Agreement with Purdue University

RC asked Hammack that the Council did allocate the same amount of money that is in the contract, and Hammack confirmed this.

RK made a motion to approve the 2025 contract with Purdue University, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

d) Evapar Contractual Agreement for Services

RC stated this company comes in and start up the generators to make sure the fuel has not gelled, and the switches switch over. RT asked if it costs \$910, and RC stated yes. RC stated that the Council budgeted for this, and Hammack confirmed they did.

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

e) PCDC Affidavit for Payments

RC stated that this is for the service that monitors weeds at the monofil at Troy. This is for the Waupaca Foundry Plant 5 Expansion Stream Migration Project. This needs to be done in order to pay this out.

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

f) Notice to Bidders for 2025 County Supplies

RC stated this is done every year to make sure bidders are notified and open the bids the first of the year. RT asked Howell how rock prices are looking, and he responded he does not know until they bid, but he is expecting them to go up again. RT asked about culverts, and Howell stated that the Commissioners reject all bids and he purchases them from whoever is cheapest, and has saved money by doing it this way.

RT made a motion to issue bids for County supplies for year 2025, seconded by RK. Motion carried 3-0.

g) Asphalt Bids

RC stated that they have talked about getting the first base coat of asphalt on the new parking lot, which is on the west side of the Courthouse building, prior to winter so that lime dust is not drug into the building on a regular occurring basis. RC reached out to two different firms, JH Rudolph responded with a bid price of \$29,492 and C & R Construction provided a bid of \$22,944. The parking lot will be graded, put the base down, and then somewhat open up the parking lot. Next year it has been discussed reshaping the current parking lot so that it actually drains to the catch basins, and then resurfacing the entire parking lot plus restriping it. This is just for the area where the expansion is, and then next year the entire parking lot will be repaved.

RT made a motion to except the low bid from C & R Construction, seconded by RK. Motion carried 3-0.

h) Capital Projects Fund

RC stated that Attorney Foster drafted an Ordinance that is setting up a Capital Project Fund. This has to do with the State Legislature that has passed the Bill that allows the County to take what was the County's funds from the Jail Bond Project, and put them into the Capital Projects Fund. Hammack asked which funds, and RC responded this will come out of the Special Legislation, and this will establish a Capital Projects Fund. Hammack asked that the County will be moving all the money that is in Special Legislation to Capital Projects, and RC responded to this specific fund. Hammack asked if the County will be okay doing this after the Audit Review, and RC responded yes. RK asked that this fund will still be used for the Detention Center when it needs to be, and RC responded that when this is moved to Capital Projects, it is basically any County entity. Hammack asked if the Commissioners are creating the fund or are they transferring the money, and RC stated the fund is being created right now with the Ordinance.

RK made a motion to create the Capital Projects Fund, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

i) Solid Waste

RC stated that Attorney Foster drafted an Ordinance to dissolve the Perry County Solid Waste Management District. RC asked Foster if he drafted another Ordinance establishing another County department, or is this necessary? Foster responded in the Ordinance it states that everything is transferred to the Perry County Solid Waste, and is not sure it is creating the department. Foster asked if

the County provided notice of the plan, as it has to be at the Courthouse for 10 days prior to the Ordinance being passed.

RK made a motion to table the Solid Waste Ordinance until proper advertising has been completed, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

j) The next meeting will be Tuesday, November 19, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:22 a.m. CST.

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

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Randy Cole  
President

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Rebecca Thorn  
Vice-President

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Randy Kleaving

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

*Minutes prepared by:  
Leisa M. Ecker, Deputy Auditor*