

**PERRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES – OCTOBER 3, 2022**

The Perry County Board of Commissioners met at 6:00 p.m. as was duly advertised. All three commissioners were in attendance: President Thomas J Hauser, Randy Kleaving and Randy Cole. County Attorney Chris Goffinet and Chief Deputy Eric Dickenson also attended the meeting.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA

There two items added to the agenda:

1. READI Program Update
2. Minutes – June 6th and June 21st, 2022

Randy K made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Randy C. Motion carried 3-0.

MINUTES

The minutes of June 6 and June 21, 2022 were mailed to the Commissioners for their review. Randy C made a motion to approve the June 6th minutes, seconded by Randy K. Motion carried 3-0. Randy K made a motion to approve the June 21st minutes, seconded by Tom. Motion carried 2-0-1 with Randy C abstaining.

CLAIMS & PAYROLL

Randy K made a motion to approve all claims and Randy C seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. The claims dockets for October 3, 2022 were approved in the amounts of \$384,917.66 for county claims; \$1,439,769.54 for highway claims; and advance for \$1,467.58 for a total of \$1,826,154.78. Randy C asked if the one million was for road funding of the Community Crossings grant. Steve said yes.

The payroll docket was approved in the amount of \$147,579.10 for payroll distributed on September 26, 2022. Randy C made the motion to approve the payroll docket, seconded by Randy K. Motion carried 3-0.

The payroll benefit claims were approved by Randy K in the amount of \$87,823.38, seconded by Randy C. Motion carried 3-0.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION – HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Highway Superintendent, Steve Howell, is requesting an additional appropriation in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 for County Road Improvements within the Community Crossings grant fund. This is the amount from Indiana Department of Transportation for Community Crossings paving. He said we received the funding later this year. The roads are already paved. Randy K made a motion to approve, seconded by Randy C. Motion carried 3-0.

EMA – RADIO TOWER – OHIO VALLEY GAS

EMA Director Steve Hauser informed the Commissioners the radio tower on North Ridge Road belongs to Ohio Valley Gas company. We have been leasing this site for 15 years. They are offering to sell the radio tower, structure and fixtures to the county for \$1.00. This is also with the easement that is recorded on record. OVG no longer uses this site for their own radio communications. It is a very good site. It has been inspected and found be in good shape. He gave three cost comparison options and went over them with the Commissioners. They are:

1. Existing tower site deeded to Perry County from OVG for \$1.00
2. New tower construction on County property provided site can be found with needed coverage area. \$100.00 upfront and \$2,100.00 per year
3. Leasing tower space/building (providing a tower can be found with adequate needed coverage area. \$1,380.00 per month - \$16,560.00 per year

Steve said there will be an extra \$120.00 per year for insurance for tower, generator and building. He said the generator needs work. It is 20 years old. Randy C asked about the

lease amount. Steve said it was \$500.00 to Ohio Valley Gas but they don't want to continue the lease. Steve stated if we don't take it, they will tear it down. Randy C talked about the bans we have. There will be a liability there if we take it. He asked what is the plan for the future. Steve said to go with 800 radios with law enforcement. Each vehicle has two in them. The radios are \$2,600 for each one. Steve said there are 80 members on the Rescue and 20 for the EMS plus the fire department and volunteers. He said he would like to check the 800 radios to see where they don't work in the county. Keith asked who owns the land. Chris said there is a permanent easement on it. Steve said 911 funds are eligible for the generator cost. This will go before the committee. May look into repairing it. Randy K made a motion to approve 911 system up and communication with all, seconded by Randy C. Motion carried 3-0.

EMA GRANT STATUS UPDATE

Steve Hauser, EMA Director, gave the Commissioners a status report on the grants he has applied for. They are:

1. 2021 EMPG (performance grant) - salary reimbursement \$32,827.63 - been approved
2. FFY 2022 SHSP – for 800 radios \$148,893.00 - been approved
3. FFY 2022 SHSP – rescue tools \$42,790.50
4. 2022 EMPG (performance grant) – salary reimbursement \$32,827.63
5. 2022 EMPG (competitive grant) – computers, monitors and platter \$14,421.94

Steve wanted to keep them informed of the grants. He will present this to the Council also.

READI (Regional Economic Acceleration & Development Initiative) PROGRAM UPDATE

Perry County Development Corporation Director, Erin Emerson, came before the Commissioners to give them an update on the READI program. She gave each of the members a handout and went over and gave an overview of the project. She said the IDEC (Indiana Economic Development Corporation) announced \$500 million in state appropriations to fund READI, an initiative designed to promote strategic investments aimed at making Indiana a magnet for talent and economic growth. They said they would also award \$50 million per region to be invested in projects included in a regional economic development plan with specific criteria. She said they require the investment to be matched by the private sector and local community. Jon Scheer, President of the Redevelopment Commission, spoke up saying that the RDC's project, the homes are the match. Erin stated they took part in SWIDC, Southwest Indiana Development Council, and Indiana First Region to help with projects. Their purpose is unifying promotion and communication between business and government for the purpose of creating and maintaining jobs and attracting investment in Southwest Indiana; population/skilled workforce focus added in recent years. The voting membership equals single organization engaged full time in field of economic development from counties of: Crawford, Daviess, Dubois, Harrison, Knox, Martin, Orange, Perry, Pike and Spencer. She said there was a region created to ensure SWIDC counties not included in any other eligible region had the opportunity to apply for READI funding. The counties in the region are: Harrison, Knox, Perry, Pike and Spencer. These counties are called Indiana First Region. They have by-laws of the five counties and the money is kept separately. Randy C asked if there was a time frame the money is to be used by. Erin said it has to be allocated by 2024 and spent by 2026. She talked about what they are doing as a region. Our region was awarded \$15 million. Perry County received 2.2 million and hoping for \$300,000 more. She said the amount was not based on counties share but the project. Tom said this was very informative and a complicated program.

RECORDS FORM APPROVAL

Attorney Chris Goffinet, spoke about public records requests. They are legal. The county does not have a form when the departments receive them for how long to get the information and who is to respond. Chris had a form prepared and went over it. It is a good way to keep track of the requests received. Even if they receive the request by email, the form needs to be sent to them and filled out. Tom said this is a good way to make sure all requests are handled the same. Randy C made the motion to approve the form for all departments, seconded by Randy K. Motion carried 3-0.

MISCELLANEOUS

Randy C commented the Council approved part of the EDIT tax for maintenance of county buildings. He said the EDIT plan will have to be modified. This will bring in money for the maintenance needed. We will start getting the money in 2023. It is estimating to be \$200,000 a year with a .05 rate. An amendment to the plan will need to be done.

Tom stated they have applications for the administrative position. They will hold an executive session for interviews. They will have a public meeting to announce. Chris will prepare the notice for the executive session on October 18, 2022 at 8:00 a.m. to review applicants.

Coroner Warren Taylor informed the Commissioners of a discrepancy in two departments regarding payroll. He has turned it over to the State Board of Accounts. He said they will until an audit is done.

Auditor Goffinet announced that the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be held on Tuesday, October 18, 2022 at 8:00 a.m.

The meeting ended in open session at 7:15 p.m.

Minutes approved this 3rd day of January, 2023.

Thomas J Hauser
President

Randy Kleaving

Randy Cole

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*Minutes prepared by:
Pamela L. Goffinet, Perry County Auditor*