

# PERRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

## MINUTES – February 21, 2023

The Perry County Board of Commissioners met at 6:00 p.m. as was duly advertised. All three commissioners President Randy Cole (RC), Rebecca Thorn (RT), and Randy Kleaving (RK) were in attendance. Sheriff Chief Deputy Eric Dickenson, Auditor Kristinia Hammack were also present. There was no *News Representative* or *County Attorney* in attendance.

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

### **(1) AGENDA**

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

### **(2) PUBLIC**

Logan Day and Katie Pappano spoke of all the great successes that the Ohio River Scenic Railway has had over the years in lieu of challenges such as Covid and issues with work relations with the Port Authority.

- The pandemic nearly decimated our startup business with **50%, and eventually 25% capacity restrictions** going into our first holiday season - BUT we survived.
- Nearly all federal and state **pandemic relief programs were unavailable to our business**, either due to the age of our business, or lack of revenue history. But again, we persisted and survived.
- To date, we've attracted more than **19,000 visitors** from around the U.S. and the world, to Perry County.
  - Contributed to an estimated **\$1.4M** in direct **local economic impact**. (*based on a conservative \$1 : \$2 secondary spending ratio*)
- **CVB** saw the **highest** innkeeper's tax **revenue year** in its history, **during 2020**. The rest of America saw a **42% decrease** in travel & tourism GDP. *Source: World Travel & Tourism Council* <https://bit.ly/TrainExhibit1>
- Our team became the masters of pivoting around challenges. (*Cinco De Mayo, Valentines, Nightmare Express, etc...*)
- We managed to achieve and maintain a **4.6 out of 5 star rating** from customers on Facebook. <https://bit.ly/TrainExhibit2>
- We managed to service thousands of wonderful **repeat customers** due to our variety of ever-changing themed rides and our Endless Adventure Pass program. <https://bit.ly/TrainExhibit3>
- Our success NEVER occurred in a vacuum. If **visitors** rode our train, they were **contributing to the local economy**. <https://bit.ly/TrainExhibit4>
- **River-to-Rails** event co-hosted with Paddle Perry, Inc. was one of the most successful prototype events we ever hosted, and **only the start of what we could do going forward**. <https://bit.ly/TrainExhibit5> <https://bit.ly/TrainExhibit6>
- **OUR OPERATIONS WERE FREQUENTLY OBSTRUCTED BY THE PCPA CEO AND TRACK CONDITIONS**
  - We were NOT perfect, and accordingly, failed to live up to our commitments on occasion. But it was our practice to make a good faith effort to acknowledge our errors, correct them, and move on. <https://bit.ly/TrainExhibit8>

- **Port CEO**
  - The operations of this scenic railway seemed to be most severely **restricted and obstructed** by the actions and statements of the former **Perry County Port Authority (“Port”) CEO** (now a consultant to the PCPA).
  - July 10, 2020 email from **Port CEO** stated that my **family’s decision to move to Spencer County**, from Indianapolis, was the **reason why access was being withheld for the train to operate in Spencer County**. <https://bit.ly/TrainExhibit7>
  - A former Port employee met with a Perry County Commissioner and other stakeholders, describing the **Port CEO’s actions** towards us as **“putting handfuls of sand into our gearbox** until our “machine” (business) eventually breaks down.”
  - A rail industry professional reported that the Port CEO stated in a private lunch meeting, that he **“didn’t care if we kept running empty trains and went out of business.”**
  - Port CEO stated he was withholding access to the railroad, initially agreeing with our comment that it was blackmail of our organization.  
<https://bit.ly/TrainExhibit9> <https://bit.ly/TrainExhibit10> <https://bit.ly/TrainExhibit11>
  - Erratic and arbitrary communications overall.  
<https://bit.ly/TrainExhibit12> <https://bit.ly/TrainEvidence13>
  - Third stoppage of access to Spencer County.
    - Prevented from operating in Spencer County reportedly due to conditions uncovered during ultrasonic track testing.
    - 3 track issues were identified in Spencer County, 70+ were identified in Perry County.
    - We were told that we were only allowed to operate in Perry County, without any reassurance that track issues would be resolved.

RC thanked Logan for the information and advised they would read the information given to them tonight and look into this.

### **(3) MINUTES**

- a. 01.23.2023
- b. 02.06.2023

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

### **(4) KRISTINIA HAMMACK, AUDITOR**

- a. Approval of 2-13-2023 Payroll

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

- b. Approval of Benefit Claims

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

- c. Approval of Advance Claims

RC questioned a bill from State Board of Accounts for \$36,395. Kristinia informed that this is a past due bill that was received in January 2023 for audit period 07/01/2019-06/30/2021.

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

- d. Life Insurance (Monthly Invoice)

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

- e. Sheriff’s Pension (Quarterly Invoice)

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

- f. LOW Time and Attendance software quote

Kristinia presented President RC, a quote for LOW Time and Attendance Software. RC explained that currently the county is doing paper and pencil timecards for approximately 150 employees. This is very time consuming. If the county would use a software the Auditors Office would be more time efficient. The cost is a one-time expense of \$5,000 for Basic Attendance on Demand Implementation and Services, and a one-time expense of \$35,000 for 250 hours of “Pre-Post Implementation Workgroups. Department Head

Training, Integration Set-up. There will be a monthly fee of \$950 based on 150 employees and 40 department heads. RC feels that getting away from the paper pencil times cards is positive move, but the 250 hours of training for \$35,000 is excessive and suggested we look into this a little more.

**(5) STEVE HOWELL, HWY SUPERINTENDENT**

a. Additional Appropriations Perry County Highway Dept to replace bridge on Urban Road that fell in. Bridge #100 CO RD #7-- \$ 71,1000  
RT made a motion to approve the agenda seconded by RK. Motion carried 3-0.

**(6) COMMISSIONERS**

a. Bid received for Commissioner's Room video recording system, RC reported that we receive 1 bid. RC opened the bid, it was from JCW LLC. Live Stream Integration Materials: \$6976.52, Labor: \$5060, Total: \$12,036.82  
Projection System--Projector option: Materials: \$2029.29, Labor: \$780, Total: \$2809.29  
TV option: : Materials: \$1499, Labor: \$780, Total: \$2239. RC opened discussion on which option we preferred a Projector or TV. Gregg Jarboe informed the TV would be clearer.

RT made a motion to approve JCW LLC bid with the TV option for \$14,275.52, seconded by RK. Motion carried 3-0. Gregg Jarboe was asked how long it would take and he said about 30 days from him receiving the equipment.

b. EDIT Plan  
RC informed everyone we need to table this item, that he had spoken with the Andrew Foster, County attorney, Andrew is working on the wording to make sure it is complaint with Indiana Code.

c. Animal Control Board opening  
RT reported that a certified letter was sent to the inactive member, notifying them that due to lack of involvement they were to be removed from the Animal Control Board, and no response was heard. RT asked to advertise this opening for 10 days, interested applicants needs to submit a letter of interest to the Auditor by 4pm CST on 3/3/2023.

RT asked to give an update on progress at the Animal Shelter. She informed everyone that the roof has been re-sprayed, it was under warranty. It was in bad shape and was only 3 years old. Also, the Regional Arts Association is going to paint a mural on the building. RT also brought up all the work that Molly has been doing without any pay. She was informed to get together an invoice and present to the Commissioners.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m. CST

Kristinia Hammack announced that the next meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be held on Monday, March 6, 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*