

PERRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES – June 5, 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 also present. There was no *Attorney or News Representative* in attendance.

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

AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

a) Stella Vogues stated that her and her husband Matt are here today for our road to be considered for a water line with the ARP (American Rescue Plan) funds. I realize this is in the early stages but we do want and need this along with several of our neighbors. We have been speaking with Jackie at AndTro and she has received our surveys along with our names and addresses. Patoka Water serves our area and Jackie informed us that a portion of the ARP funds will be going to Patoka and that is why we are here. Stella provided a handout of GIS map of their neighborhood, showing at the top of the map notated by the “X,” this is where Patoka Water currently stops. The check marks are all our neighbors that are willing to sign on to Patoka Water. Names and addresses are attached. Right amongst us is the state-owned forest also. For years there have been discussions over improvement of infrastructure in the northern part of the county. The ARP is our opportunity for just this. Patoka Water was installed on Highway 62 over 40 years ago. It services homes about a mile from our neighboring residences and stopped short of us. We know from our neighbors’ experience that if we must drill for a well for our means of water for our homes. They hit sulphur water which is not suitable for drinking or cooking with. Matt and I have a cistern and it is a hassle in every way to get water for use in our home. Other neighbors have cisterns or rain-catch systems which still run dry and they must also haul water in. These are our homes and we do not have plans of moving because of this water inconvenience. Matt’s family alone has owned ground on Adyeville Road for over 150 years. We have growing families that are going to inherit our land and live here as well, hopefully. We are essentially trying to help the future of our families and friends with this request. Stella also mentioned that Anderson Woods Camp, our neighbor, is also requesting Patoka Water. This is only one of about 12 special-needs camps in the entire state of Indiana. During camp season there is a medical doctor and other medical professionals housed on site with the campers. Their water consumption is about 1,000 gallons per day. They have run out of water during camp in the past. We have personally hauled water down to them. This just goes to show the need for water service in our area. Stella added that during dry seasons the Anderson River gets very low and we have a great concern if there is a fire in our area with no hydrants near us. We are concerned.

b) Sylvia Brown and Thomas Foerster stated that they came to speak to the Commissioners in regards to the Cannelton and Branchville Recycling Center. Thomas spoke that he was receiving complaints that the Branchville Recycling Center was closed during operating hours. Sylvia spoke that she was terminated for no reason. RT informed them the discussion of personnel matters would need to need to go before the Solid Waste Committee. RC stated there is an Executive meeting tomorrow June 6, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. to discuss this matter.

c) Dixie Dickerson stated that she also came to speak of the Branchville Recycling Center, so she understands that she did want to say that the Branchville Recycling Center is as clean as it has been in a very long time. RK stated that all 3 Commissioners are on the Solid Waste Committee along with County Council Members and the Mayors of both Tell City and Cannelton. They meet the fourth Thursday of each month

d) Greg Jarboe stated he wanted to donate a desktop PC to Animal Shelter and would like to encourage others in the community help the Animal Shelter as well.

MINUTES

a) 05.16.2023

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

KRISTINIA HAMMACK, AUDITOR

a) 05.22.2023 Payroll in the amount of \$165,193.21

b) 06.05.2023 Payroll in the amount of \$160,923.30

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

c) 06.05.2023 Claim Docket \$416,762.04

d) Life Insurance Claim: \$1,491.01

e) Health Insurance Claims: \$234,602.66

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

f) Auditor Hammack shared in regards to EFT payments that the Auditor's Office has been taking baby steps to get acclimated and ensure all the T's are getting crossed and I's are getting dotted. We started with our LIT fund's recipients, and appreciate them working with us. We are set up to roll out the 6/5 Claim Docket EFT. I commend my staff, as this has been a lot of work setting the foundation for this, but in the long run is more cost efficient for the county and of course more time efficient.

We in the Auditor's Office are running 2 claim dockets a month. Our "regular claim docket" the first of the month. Then we have our "advance claim docket," which is all the invoices that are due prior to the first for the month meeting date. Running this advance claim docket avoids late fees and interest charges.

g) Auditor Hammack shared in regards to Remote Claims that the Auditor's office is going to begin the roll out of selected departments starting to enter claims electronically. Currently all the departments hand writes or type their claim forms, attach their supporting documents, and hand deliver to the Auditor's Office for them to enter. As we did with EFT, we are going to take baby steps on this. I know with change comes concern so I wanted to mention some positives of transitioning to digital/electronic claims. When a department receives an invoice they can enter it at their desk, scan and attach supporting paperwork such as invoice or receipts, and keep paper copies for their records if they so choose.

- This is more time efficient for them.
- This is more time efficient for us in the Auditor's Office. Currently right now each department brings all claims over once a month. We will audit claims as they are received.

During the months of June and July the Auditor's Office is working with LOW to grant access to departments, then will gradually convert departments over. The planned schedule is:

- Courthouse Offices in August
- Sheriff Offices in September
- North and South Annex Offices in October
- Prosecutor and HWY Dept. in November

Auditor Hammack shared some benefits to the county in implementing remote claims.

- Looking up claims will be easy. Attachments will be just like an attachment to an email. You will not have to look through paper files.
 - i Papers will not get lost.
 - ii Accountability
- Transitioning to Digital/Electronic Claims and going "paperless" in the Auditors Office, we will see a significant decrease in our SBOA Audit expenses. The more they can do off-site the better.

This is the same if we transition to a Time and Attendance Software from the current paper pencil timecards.

h). Auditor Hammack then discussed the need for a time and attendance software as the county is now using paper/pencil timecards for about 148 employees. Auditor Hammack recommended the purchase of LOW Time and Attendance Software as we currently use their Payroll, Financials and Property Tax Software's, as they come highly recommended by other Indiana Counties. Auditor Hammack stated that in January of 2023 the Auditors Office absorbed the duties of the Administrator position, saving the county in wage expenses, along with insurance expenses. The wage expenses for the Administrator were

already budgeted for 2023. The Commissioners approved to spending of those budgeted dollars on LOW remote access/remote claims with LOW, leaving \$26,405 available in the Commissioners 2023 budget. Auditor Hammack asked the Commissioners if the remaining appropriation of \$26,405 could be transferred and put towards the purchase of LOW Attendance on Demand Software. Then she will go to the County Council and request an additional appropriation of \$12,095.

Auditor Hammack's goal is to have the Attendance On Demand all set up to roll out in 2024. She stated this is going to take a bit to set up, and as you know the approval to purchase the Remote Financials/Claim Access was done the end of February, we are just now getting that rolled out. I feel we need to go ahead and get "on the list" with LOW to begin set up the end of 2023 to implement January 1, 2024. RK asked department heads in the audience their feelings on this? Accessor Mendy Lassaline said she sees this as a positive, though it does come with a big price tag. Mendy added the departments will work together to work through the set-up process.

All three Commissioners gave verbal support for the transfer if the County Council was able to find the additional funding.

i). Auditor Hammack provided the Council Members with the 2023 Budget Calendar for 2024 budget preparation, for them to mark their calendars for these meeting dates.

President Randy Cole asked Auditor Kristinia Hammack to share some good news she received. Auditor Hammack shared that the Auditor's, Treasurer's, and Accessor's offices worked diligently through 2023 Spring Tax time. She stated that the spring tax deadline was May 10th and Perry County submitted their Spring Tax Settlement to the DLGF for approval on May 18th, and we were informed we were the first county in the state of Indiana to submit their Form 22 for approval. Auditor Hammack stated how proud she is to be a part of a team that is working diligently together. RT along with the other Commissioners and audience stated thank you to all involved.

COMMISSIONERS

a) RC began the opening of the bids for Highway projects, stating we received 3 bids for 2 projects. The bids received were:

- C&R Construction
 - Boundary Way to Old SR 237 \$239,241
 - Boyd Rd. to Deer Creek Rd. \$782,032
 - Starlite Rd. to Boyd Rd. \$226,637
 - **Total: \$1,247,910**
 - Thrifty Rd. to Tide Rd. \$115,030
 - Tide Rd. to end of pavement \$111,230
 - Taupe Rd. \$99,984
 - **Total: \$326,244**
- E&B Paving
 - Boundary Way to Old SR 237 \$226,852
 - Boyd Rd. to Deer Creek Rd. \$717,288
 - Starlite Rd. to Boyd Rd. \$207,060
 - **Total: \$1,151,200**
 - Thrifty Rd. to Tide Rd. \$102,081.50
 - Tide Rd. to end of pavement \$103,860
 - Taupe Rd. \$87,758.50
 - **Total: \$293,700**
- JH Rudolph
 - Boundary Way to Old SR 237 \$240,238.80
 - Boyd Rd. to Deer Creek Rd. \$776,384.70
 - Starlite Rd. to Boyd Rd. \$228,645.65
 - **Total: \$1,245,269.15**
 - Thrifty Rd. to Tide Rd. \$109,990
 - Tide Rd. to end of pavement \$116,690
 - Taupe Rd. \$107,837.50
 - **Total: \$334,517.50**

RK made a motion to award to the lowest bidder E&B Paving, pending review by HWY Superintendent Steve Howell and Attorney Andrew Foster, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

- b) RC opened discussion on PCCVB Board Letters of interest, we received 7 applicants; Lori Hammel, Beth Hauser, Stan Goffinet, Mary Wood, Michelle Powers, Megan Fritchley, and Samantha Reid.

RT made a motion to appoint Lori Hammel, seconded by RC. Motion carried 3-0.

RK made a motion to appoint Mary Wood, died with no second.

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

- c) RC opened discussion on Planning and Zoning Board Letters of interest, we received 1 applicant; Mandy Jackson, who is a local real estate agent.

RT made a motion to appoint Mandy Jackson, seconded by RK. Motion carried 3-0.

- d) RC opened discussion on TIF Districts-Courthouse TIF, Tell City 1 and Tell City 2, stating that Perry County Redevelopment Commission voted to dissolve these TIF districts due to not having projects scheduled. RC stated there are accounting fees that come with having these TIF districts. RK asked when was the Courthouse TIF set to expire? RC answered, the Courthouse TIF was set to expire in 2025. RK asked what the balance was in the Courthouse TIF fund? Auditor Hammack answered, \$261,479.13. RK stated that these funds could be used if we would have a maintenance expense such as a chiller or something go out here at the Courthouse. RC responded that TIF funds cannot be used for maintenance, he knows they have in the past, they have litigated it now to where it must be used for infrastructure and such. RK stated he understood they can be used for improvements, such as resurfacing the parking lot. RC stated he feels that would fall under maintenance. RC followed that there are still funds available to use if needed within the TIF districts. RK then asked PCDC representatives in the audience their thoughts on dissolving Tell City 1 & 2? PCDC Director Erin Emerson stated there are not any current projects within these TIF districts, but her only concern would be if any projects would arise you would have to go through the hassle and expense to reestablish these TIF districts. Erin Emerson also stated she does not believe there are any fees if there are not any projects running through them. RC answered he has not seen the invoices as the Redevelopment Commission receives them. RT asked what area does Tell City 1 and 2 cover? Erin Emerson responded the new apartment and hotel location, and the Swiss Plywood Building. RC pointed out that the Invision Eyecare just asked for an abatement, it is in a TIF district and TIF's and abatements do not play well together. TIF's mean we are going to collect property taxes and use them for infrastructure and abatements mean they are not going to have to pay those taxes. So, if we cannot collect the taxes to support the TIF district because we gave an abatement, we can't do anything with the TIF district. RC stated that over the last few years he has seen that the abatements are more popular then the TIF districts. RK said he feels theses are tools that are already in place to help with community growth, and if we take them away, we do not know what the future holds for development in these areas. RC replied if we have any area where a project arises and if it meets the state requirements, we can pass a TIF when it presents itself. RC stated he does not feel we are taking the tool away, we are just following state statue where if not for this TIF the project would not occur.

RC made a motion to dissolve Courthouse TIF, seconded by RK. Motion carried 3-0.

RC made a motion to dissolve Tell City TIF 1 and Tell City TIF 2, seconded by RT.

Motion carried 2-1. RK voted against because he feels it would be a positive to keep the Tell City TIF.

- e) RC opened discussion on health insurance, informing everyone that to date in 2023 we have spent \$200,000 more than anticipated on insurance, and that it 25% of our reserve funds. It has been discussed to look into the eligibility of part-time elected officials and retirees. Part time elected officials would include Commissioners (3), County Councilman (7), Coroner (1), and Surveyor (1). The first item RC opened discussion on was retirement benefits for past employees that have 20 years of service are offered insurance benefits at a 50% reduction from the age of 55-65 if they so choose to participate. Currently a family plans premium is \$27,000 a year, so the retiree would be responsible for \$13,500 (50%) and the county would pay the other \$13,500 and up to \$60,000 per individual of medical expenses because the county is self-insured. RC stated he as looked into it and the state requires us to offer insurance benefits, but not at a subsidized rate.

RC made a motion to remove retirement the subsidized of 50% that the county provides for full time employees and 12 part time elected officials. Died with no second.

RK asked if we could grandfather in the current retirees who are receiving the 50% subsidized benefit? He hates to jerk it away from them, and does not believe that represents who we are. RC replied, yes, we can choose to do whatever. RT stated that I am a part-time elected official and she does not feel the tax payers are responsible for her health expenses, now full time is a different story.

RK made a motion to eliminate retirement eligibility from the age of 55-65 for part-time elected officials, which includes Commissioners (3), County Councilman (7), Coroner (1), and Surveyor (1), seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

RK made a motion for retired county employees who are currently receiving 50% subsidized retirement benefits and any employee who retires by 12/31/2023 can will be grandfathered in until age 65 or they choose to no longer participate, after January 2024 there will no longer be a 50% subsidized benefit offered to fulltime employees. The motion made by RK was second by RC. Motion carried 3-0.

RC opened discussion on the eliminating health care coverage for the same group of 12 part-time employees, which includes Commissioners (3), County Councilman (7), Coroner (1), and Surveyor (1). RK commented that a lot of times elected officials are small business owners and it takes both the husband and wife to run the business. If we offer the insurance, he does not feel it is a bad thing to get good, quality people. Also, he stated we are one of the lowest paid counties and he knows most of us do not do it for the money, but the insurance is not a bad thing to get good quality leaders. RC replied he came from the background of the school board, and he would hear that if you pay the teacher more, they will be a better teacher and I do not agree with that. A teacher is either a good teacher or a not so good teacher, now we might lose them to another school corporation for more compensation. I think this is reflective of elected officials, we are not here for the money, we are here for the betterment of our community. RC stated that he feels that with our limited resources, that we have areas we need to address and I for one am looking for sources.

RC made a motion to eliminate health care coverage effect January 1, 2024 for the same group of 12 part-time employees, which includes Commissioners (3), County Councilman (7), Coroner (1), and Surveyor (1). Seconded by RT. Motion carried 2-1.

RC stated that the next item on the agenda is the Perry County Development Corporation (PCDC) contract. RC commented this has been a process, and we dropped the ball back in October of 2022 when we did not make necessary changes to the EDIT Plan to reflect the additional money that was set aside for building maintenance. Also, with the change of a new county attorney the first of the year, it has been a task. RC stated that himself, David Etienne, Jon Scheer, David Goffinet, and Erin Emerson have come up with a contract. RC followed with this contract is a little different as it is going to included more active county involvement as far as direction on projects. With this contract the county will pay the PCDC for a portion of their operating expenses for them to work on projects for the county, and if additional funding is needed for projects they will come to the county with those requests. RC stated that the not exceed price on the 2023 contract is \$188,292, and opened the floor for questions or concerns. RK asked how will that work as far as these projects, because the practice of being discrete is necessary? RC answered, we are going to meet quarterly and PCDC will keep us informed on projects they are working on and give us the necessary information and positive impact the project will have on the county, and any needs they have to assist with the project without disclosing names. RC stated the Redevelopment Committee will be the main point of contact with the PCDC, and the Commissioners will be on the sideline. RT asked if the attorney had reviewed the contract, and RC answered yes. RK asked The PCDC Executives in the audience if they were good with contract, and they answered yes.

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

RC stated that next item on the agenda was Carrolton Road inquiry. Auditor Hammack stated that both she and Commissioner RK received an email, she did not know if there was anything to report. RC stated that it is a dead-end road that ends at a stream, and GIS has it listed on the county road map. Attorney Andrew Foster is working on the paperwork to eliminate this road. RC will follow up with Attorney Andrew Foster on this inquiry.

RC state the next item is discussion on mitigation of PC Board of Commissioners property, that he understands that property has been mitigated for bats. This property is located in the Riverview West Project and the county entered into an

agreement with Webb Wheel that once the bonds were paid off this would be transferred to them. RC stated his concern is to make to all the contractual duties of the county for the bat mitigation are met before we transfer this property to Webb Wheel. RC stated we are waiting on the paperwork to show this and the PCDC, Webb Wheel and the county are in the process of making sure everything is in line.

RC stated the next item is an update on the Animal Shelter. Molly Hagman stated the outside is painted and they have started painting the inside. The cleaning company has not shown up in a week and 3 days with no communication so we will need to look at a different option. Molly thanked the City of Tell City for donation of furniture. Molly stated they are still only open to law enforcement but things are moving forward and hopes to be open fully soon.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:17 a.m. CST.

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

The next meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be held on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

Randy Cole
President

Rebecca Thorn
Vice-President

Randy Kleaving

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