

**PERRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**March 4, 2024**

The Perry County Board of Commissioners met at 6:00 p.m., as was duly advertised. Commissioners: President Randy Cole (RC) and Rebecca Thorn (RT) were in attendance. Auditor Kristinia Hammack and Sheriff Alan Malone was 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, seconded by RC. Motion carried 2-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- a) Auditor Kristinia Hammack gave an update on the County insurance and County Wellness Plan. She had a conference call with Jim Franklin, USI, who is the County's insurance broker, in regards to some concerns she has. He is coming to her office on Tuesday to discuss these issues.
- Hammack stated that with the County changing insurance carriers so late in 2023, both broker and insurance provider, the County has not been able to get on-line with a wellness plan. She stated that the County has had issues of not getting answers quick enough. With the previous broker, a wellness plan was already in place for 2024 before changing to USI. She has reached out to Jim Franklin on multiple occasions. A representative from USI responded to Hammack and asked what the previous wellness plan consisted of. Hammack replied she wanted USI to tell her what their wellness plan offered. Hammack received an email on February 23<sup>rd</sup> that there would be an additional cost for having the wellness program, as their reward is done differently than the previous insurance. Prior, the deductible was decreased if the employee would participate in certain programs; you could get up to a \$250 credit back on your deductible. The new insurance provides gift cards. Upon research, Hammack ascertained that the County did pay for the \$250 deductible decrease employees received. She feels it is too late to implement a wellness program for 2024 as the health screening, etc. would have already taken place. Jim Franklin agrees with this. We will have to look at 2025 to implement this program.
- Franklin is looking into some issues with prescription drug charges. Hammack stated they are still receiving claims from 2023, so in the next couple of months, she should be seeing savings for 2024 to the County.

**MINUTES**

- a) 02.20.2024

RT made a motion to approve, seconded by RC. Motion carried 2-0.

**KRISTINIA HAMMACK, AUDITOR**

- a) 02.26.2024 Payroll: \$173,555.66

RT made a motion to approve, seconded by RC. Motion carried 2-0.

- b) 02.26.2024 Payroll W/H: \$37,086.19

RT made a motion to approve, seconded by RC. Motion carried 2-0.

- c) Health Insurance Claims: \$50,286.62

RC asked if this amount is for a whole month, and Hammack responded this is paid weekly so it varies depending on the weeks billed.

- d) Life Insurance Claim: \$1,447.10

RT made a motion to approve, seconded by RC. Motion carried 2-0.

- e) Dental Insurance Claim: \$118.51

RT made a motion to approve, seconded by RC. Motion carried 2-0.

- f) Vision Insurance Claim: \$130.73

RT made a motion to approve, seconded by RC. Motion carried 2-0.

- g) Flex Claim: \$680.89

RT asked Hammack if this is the last month for claims, and Hammack verified this. Hammack stated the Auditor's office made contact with every employee that has a balance on their flex account making them aware of the process to use their balance.

RT made a motion to approve, seconded by RC. Motion carried 2-0.

h) 03.04.2024 AP Claim docket: \$413,195.30  
RT made a motion to approve, seconded by RC. Motion carried 2-0.

**STEVE HAUSER, EMA DIRECTOR**

a) Hauser presented the 911 Equipment Lease with AT&T. This lease is for five years; in the past they have been for ten years. With technology changing so rapidly, AT&T will only go five years. Hauser stated the County does not own the equipment, this is a lease, but they will come in and redo all the computer and software that will be compatible with the software that is now running and extend it another five years.

The price actually is lowered from what the County has been paying; a few thousand dollars per month. This was known at budget time as to what it was projected to be. The County Council appropriated the amount that is in the agreement. RC asked if this amount is fixed for five years, and Hauser confirmed this.

RC asked Hauser that it would be AT&T's responsibility to provide all the equipment, all maintenance, and everything associated with this, and Hauser confirmed this. Hauser stated this includes equipment that is not on-sight in Perry County; he believes it is located in Bloomington and Evansville.

RT made a motion to approve, seconded by RC. Motion carried 2-0.

b) 2024 Dispatch Agreement between Cannelton and Troy

Hauser presented agreements and stated they were the same as the prior year's agreements. The City of Cannelton will pay \$12,500 and the Town of Troy will pay \$3,000. Both entities have already signed these agreements. RT asked about the City of Tell City, and Hauser stated that was all approved in the Dispatch Agreement at the Joint Dispatch Session.

RT made a motion to approve the agreements between Cannelton and Troy with the County for the 911 Dispatch Service, seconded by RC. Motion carried 2-0.

**STEVE HOWELL, HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT**

a) Howell presented the Highway Annual Report. RC questioned that in debt, there is not an amount, but does the County owe \$600,000 under the Distressed Road? Howell stated he will be asking for an appropriation of this \$600,000. RC asked if this \$600,000 is still a debt, and Howell confirmed it is a ten-year interest free loan. Hammack stated she does believe the funds were received until 2024. RC stated he has investigated traffic counts, to approach to put on a twenty-year plan to look for grants and start paving some gravel roads over a period of time. RC stated he checked with Region 15 about counters, but they stated what they do not work well on gravel roads due to hoses getting busted. Identifying gravel roads that connect to other paved roads would be a place to begin.

RT made a motion to approve the Annual Operating Report for Local Roads, Streets and Bridges, seconded by RC. Motion carried 2-0.

b) Equipment Rental Rates

Howell stated that some rates are raised from last year. RC stated that Howell does not rent this equipment out, it's just what Howell charges due to some of their grants have a price. Howell stated the Highway gets money back every year from the Cum Bridge account; bridge work that the Highway department does gets paid back using these rates.

RT made a motion to approve the County Rental Rates for the year 2024, seconded by RC. Motion carried 2-0.

c) Howell informed the Commissioners of transfers that he will be taking to the Council.

d) Additional Appropriations

- Distressed Road: Highway County Road Improvements  
#1218.44501.00000.0534 \$600,000.00

RT made a motion to approve, seconded by RC. Motion carried 2-0.

- LIT: Highway County Road Improvements  
#1112.44501.00000.0534 \$700,000.00

RT made a motion to approve, seconded by RC. Motion carried 2-0.

- Cumulative Bridge: Highway County Road Improvements  
#1135.31209.00000.0531 \$ 26,736.00

RC asked Howell what is the condition of the County's bridges, and are there any to be built in 2024? Howell responded that they try to build one per year. RC asked if the County bridges are on two-year inspections, and

Howell confirmed this, also stating that some are on a four-year inspection.

RT asked if this is where 80% comes back to the County and put back into this same fund, and Howell confirmed this.

RT made a motion to approve, seconded by RC. Motion carried 2-0.

**COMMISSIONERS**

a) Additional Appropriations

- Riverboat: Commissioners – Software Maintenance  
#1191.36500.00000.0068 \$17,048.49  
RC asked Hammack about the five years of maintenance, and Hammack responded that An Island stated that was for the warranty. RC stated he does not know if this is an annual charge or for five years. Hammack feels that at the Council meeting it was presented as a warranty. Hammack also stated that she spoke to An Island that day, and was told the server has been ordered but no delivery date has been provided.

RT made a motion to ask for an appropriation from the Riverboat fund for \$17,048.49 for replacement and service on new server, seconded by RC. Motion carried 2-0.

- Riverboat: Commissioners-Consulting Services  
#1191.31101.00000.0068 \$1,954.50  
Auditor Hammack stated that this is a Commissioner line item in the General Fund for Consulting Services, which has an appropriated amount of \$3,000, and have already spent \$862.50. Hammack received a bill for \$4,092, and there is only \$2,137.50 left in the line item. RC stated that this is the line item where legal fees are being paid from, and Hammack confirmed this. She stated the Council wanted this brought to the Commissioners to pay the remaining \$2,137.50 out of General, and the remaining amount of \$1,954.50 be an additional appropriation for consulting services out of Riverboat. Any additional invoices received will have to be appropriated.

RT made a motion to approve an additional appropriation of \$1,954.50 to Consulting Services, which is being used for legal fees, seconded by RC. Motion carried 2-0.

b) Approval of the Surety Bonds

Auditor Hammack stated that there is a blanket bond plus for some individual departments. The Prosecutor, Treasurer, Sheriff, and the Clerk have their own because their offices handle money. Hammack stated there is no place for the Commissioner’s signature, but information from the Recorder’s office stated that the Commissioners must be formally informed.

RT made a motion to approve 2024 Surety Bonds for County employees, seconded by RC. Motion carried 2-0.

c) Opening of Courthouse Renovation Bids

The County received one bid from Thomas Glass and More. This is for some security improvements on the Court side, along with some other options. The funding for the Court side came from ARP funds.

Project 1: Perry County Courthouse Judicial		
Material \$39,578.00	Labor \$16,440.00	Total \$56,018.00

Alt 1: Courthouse		
Material \$1,107.00	Labor \$300.00	Total \$1,407.00

Alt 2: Courthouse		
Material \$6,755.00	Labor \$2,200.00	Total \$8,955.00

Alt 3: Courthouse		
Material \$14,390.00	Labor \$10,758.00	Total \$25,148.00

RC stated he is going to have to look over the bid documents, as some were for a new key system plus to improve security behind counters. RC stated that the County needs to take these bids under advisement, and have County Attorney Andrew Foster review them. Afterwards, there will need to be a discussion as to what will be approved and not approved, and where to fund it from. RC stated he believes \$57,000 was appropriated through ARP. RT stated that for everything on the bid, it comes to a total of \$81,428.00.

RC reviewed the bid, and Alt 1, 2 and 3 would be putting up cameras in the remainder of the Courthouse.

Tabled.

d) The next meeting will be March 19, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:42 p.m. CST.

RT made a motion to adjourn, seconded by RC. Motion carried 2-0.

---

Randy Cole  
President

---

Rebecca Thorn  
Vice-President

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