

PERRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES
January 13, 2025

The Perry County Board of Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m., as was duly advertised. Commissioners: Vice President Pam Jamniczky (PJ) and Rebecca Thorn (RT) 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 as presented, seconded by PJ. Motion carried 2-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

a) Animal Welfare Board – New Ordinance

Charlie Baumeister appeared representing the Animal Welfare Board. They have been working on the County Ordinance that has been in effect since 2012, which they have been having many issues with. A County Ordinance cannot be enforced by a City Officer. The Board wants to get something that is generic that the cities could adopt.

The Board went over the old Ordinance, and came before the Commissioners approximately last June with the Commissioners tentively agreeing on it with the stipulation that Baumeister presented this to the other entities, being Troy, Tell City, and Cannelton. The first stumbling block was in the Ordinance, where it still contained a section on licensing animals. In 2000 or earlier, the State of Indiana enacted a dog tax, and in the State Statute, it also stated that if the dog tax was not adopted, an Ordinance to license animals could not be adopted.

Baumeister stated that the dog tax was not adopted in Perry County. The Animal Welfare Board came back and deleted everything regarding the license, not to say that later on it could be added. Baumeister stated there is a movement in the State to try to do away with the dog tax, as there are only a few counties that adopted it. If the State removes this, then the County can go back and amend its Ordinance to have a license.

Baumeister stated the Animal Welfare Board is made up of five members. There is a representative from Cannelton, Tell City, and three appointments with one by the Council, and two by the Commissioners. Troy would like representation, and the Board decided to go to a seven-member Board. It would consist of a representative from Troy, Cannelton, and Tell City. For the other four members, two will be appointed by Commissioners and two by the Council who are residents of Perry County. RT stated that the requirements to serve is that individuals have to be a member of some certain organizations, animal organizations, or animal sporting organization. RT further stated that this requirement will be removed as this restricts individuals that want to serve on the Board.

Baumeister stated the new Ordinance was sent back to County Attorney Andrew Foster, and he has prepared an updated Ordinance. Baumeister would like the County to approve this Ordinance to be put into effect, and then he will reach out to the other entities who stated if these changes were made, then they would be onboard.

Baumeister stated that future plans are that fines would come to the Clerk's office, where a special fund would be, so that some day an Animal Control Officer can be hired. Sheriff Alan Malone asked if a City officer writes a fine, it would go to the City Clerk or where, and Baumeister responded it would come to the County Clerk's office. RT stated that there is a fund already set up; it is called a pet fund. PJ asked if the Board would establish all the fines, and Baumeister responded yes. RT stated that the Board will also issue permits for those individuals who set up along the highway selling animals. Baumeister stated that if this is set up within city limits, individuals have to have a permit to sell from the City.

RT made a motion to adopt the new Ordinance, pending the other three entities accepting it, seconded by PJ. Motion carried 2-0.

CHARLIE BAUMEISTER, CLERK

a) Postage Meter

Baumeister stated that the reason the meter has to be changed is due to the current meter being ten years old and does not meet the standards of the United States Postal Service. The current meter cannot be upgraded.

Baumeister spoke with Southern Business who gave quotes. Baumeister spoke to the Spencer County Clerk and they use Southern Business. Dubois County uses Pitney-Bowes.

Baumeister has spoken with a salesperson from Pitney Bowes, and Baumeister received a quote. Pitney Bowes has a lease agreement.

If the County would purchase the machine straight out, technically the County does not own it. A lump sum is paid, and then there is a monthly fee, as well as a yearly maintenance fee. The County has been paying this yearly maintenance fee for ten years, due to the contract signed back in 2014 has been renewed every year automatically. The County has been paying for a maintenance fee that it did not need and that was not used.

Baumeister stated that when he has spoken to both of these companies, he was told that if the County would buy the meter out, then they do recommend that County pays the yearly maintenance fee. He was told if the County had two things happen to the meter in one year, it would cost more than the yearly maintenance fee would cost.

Pitney Bowes presented a lease agreement where all these fees are built into a monthly rate. Baumeister was quoted sixty months at \$199.78, forty-eight months at \$207.18, and thirty-six months at \$233.00. Baumeister feels it makes more sense to go with a lease agreement. He is proposing the forty-eight-month lease, which is \$207.18. Baumeister stated he will not have to ask for an additional appropriation. He has money in the Clerk's budget to pay this, which is billed quarterly at \$621.64. Baumeister further stated that the Clerk's budget may run short at the end of 2025 due to still paying Southern Business their monthly fee until it can get switched over. RT asked Baumeister what happens to the postage that is left on the current meter, and he will contact Southern Business to see if a check will be written back to the County for what is left on the meter.

RT made a motion for a verbal approval to lease the postage meter from Pitney Bowes, with the stipulation that a contract needs to be reviewed by the Commissioners, seconded by PJ. Motion carried 2-0.

MINUTES

a) 12.17.24

RT made a motion to accept as presented, seconded by PJ. Motion carried 2-0.

b) 12.23.24

RT made a motion to accept as presented, seconded by PJ. Motion carried 2-0.

c) 12.30.2024

RT made a motion to accept as presented, seconded by PJ. Motion carried 2-0.

d) 01.02.2025

RT made a motion to accept as presented, seconded by PJ. Motion carried 2-0.

KRISTINIA HAMMACK, AUDITOR

a) 01.03.2025 Payroll: \$188,775.18

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

b) 01.03.2025 Payroll W/H: \$40,897.49

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

c) Health Insurance Claims: \$172,904.14

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

d) Dental Claims: \$106.41

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

e) Vision Claims: \$279.51

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

f) Life Insurance Claims: \$1,436.54

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

g) 01.03.2025 Account Payable Claim Docket: \$1,743,335.38

Auditor Hammack stated this amount does include just over a million-dollar payment for the River Road Project.

RT made a motion to approve the claim docket, seconded by PJ. Motion carried 2-0.

COMMISSIONERS

- a) The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 21, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 a.m. CST.

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

Randy Cole
President

Pam Jamniczky
Vice-President

Rebecca Thorn

Minutes reviewed by:

Kristinia L. Hammack, Auditor

Minutes prepared by:

Leisa M. Ecker, Deputy Auditor