

**PERRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**May 5, 2025**

The Perry County Board of Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m., as was duly advertised. Commissioners: President Randy Cole (RC), Vice President Pam Jamniczky (PJ) and Rebecca Thorn (RT) were in attendance. Auditor Kristinia Hammack, Sheriff Alan Malone, and Attorney Andrew Foster were also present. There was no *News Representative* in attendance.

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

**AGENDA**

PJ made a motion to approve the agenda as modified, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

a) Becky Guthrie, Ride Solutions

Beth Browning appeared for Guthrie who sent to the County an Authorizing Resolution. Browning stated it is time for the grant cycle for 2026. This resolution states that the County would like Ride Solutions to continue public transportation in Perry County. It is not a commitment at this point. It is only the County's desire to have public transportation.

RC asked if this is a Federal grant, and this makes Ride Solution eligible in the event they are provided, and Browning responded correct, and the next steps will be going through funding.

RT made a motion to sign the Resolution, seconded by PJ. Motion carried 3-0.

b) Gary Gruebel, Waupaca Foundry

Guebel appeared to get an update on a few items.

1. Striping of the road that sits in front of the Industrial Park

Gruebel stated he brought this up in July 2024, with RC stating he and Highway Superintendent Steve Howell have had several discussions regarding this. In 2024, Howell had found a vendor that would do this for \$1,000. When they were told to do this, the vendor increased the price to \$3,000. RC stated Howell has been waiting for other quotes all winter. RC stated the County is repaving Old 237, which has striping included. Howell confirmed this, stating there will be striping on Old 37 and Old 237. RC stated the intention is that the County will chase down that striper, and get him to stripe that road. Gruebel stated the previous intention was when striping was done for Brushy Fork/ Troy Ridge Road, the County was going to try to get that done.

Gruebel asked besides the striping, did the County know if the lanes will be marked with arrows and the stop lines? Howell stated it will be marked with arrows.

2. Industrial Park sign

Gruebel stated he does not know where to go with this, but the Industrial Park sign that sits out front by the highway is only half lit. The trucking company drivers use this sign as an identifier as they are approaching Waupaca, which keeps them from driving down Siegman Road, which leads to a mud field.

RC responded that the County will look into this.

3. At the annual Perry County Development Corporation meeting, they deemed their Industrial Park along with the one where ATTC sits as the only State viable locations for expansion.

Gruebel is wanting to know what the County is doing to promote those two areas. He asked if the County is looking at improvements, or looking at highway signage, or at grants?

RC responded that Jonathan with RJL Solutions can get back to Gruebel.

4. Staffed Visitor's Center

Gruebel asked what the status is of getting a visitor center with somebody in it that says "Welcome to Perry County, how can I help you". RT responded that would be with the CVB. Gruebel asked that the Executive Director is a County employee? RC responded he does not believe it is

going to be. Attorney Andrew Foster is working on getting a contract, as that position will be an independent contractor.

Gruebel asked where he should go next regarding this, and RC responded he could go to the CVB. RC gave a background on the CVB.

RT asked Stan Goffinet if they have hired an Executive Director yet, and he responded close, if Attorney Foster gets the contract complete.

### **MOLLY HAGMAN, RIVERS EDGE ANIMAL SHELTER**

#### **a) Quarterly Update**

Hagman presented the Quarterly Financials with the profit and loss. The increase in the contract has certainly helped. Vet expenses have blown their budget out of the water. Hagman stated she budgets for \$1,500 per month, and in January they were at almost \$3,600, which were unexpected emergency expenses. Hagman further stated that some of these emergency expenses were for animals in the County, but not in the shelter.

With looking at the bottom line, she feels they are doing pretty good.

#### **b) Frederick Sheet Metal Invoice**

Hagman stated there have been some maintenance issues with the building/equipment. Frederick's Sheet Metal handles the boiler. The hot water heater went out, and when she came into the building, water was everywhere. That was an emergency situation that had to be fixed immediately they would have had to shut down operations. The shelter is full.

RC clarified that this is not a normal water heater due to the volume of hot water used to wash the kennels and sanitize everything within that system; it is looped into a boiler system.

RT stated this will not come out of taxpayer money, it will come out of the restricted fund for the Animal Shelter.

RT made a motion to approve the bill for repair of the water heater, seconded by PJ.

Motion carried 3-0.

#### **c) Quote for AC Unit**

Hagman stated that the AC unit that feeds the isolation area for the dogs, the isolation area for the kittens, and several rooms down the hallway has been struggling, and Greg Hendershot suggested calling Valley Supply. Hagman called Valley Supply and asked them to service all of her units. This particular unit is not keeping up and it is not moving air.

Valley Supply priced a new part, with it being a Lenox system, for \$8,500, which is just the part. Valley Supply suggested not going that route. They suggested putting another part in, not a Lenox but another brand, which will retrofit into that system. This is what the \$3,250 quote is for. It is not to replace the whole system. A new unit would cost \$6,580. RC stated that the quote includes a heat pump, and he does not know if the existing one is a heat pump. Hagman stated they do not get heat through the unit; they get heat through the floor from the boiler in those areas. RC stated that if it is AC only, then a heat pump is not needed, but is quoted in the price. RC stated a heat pump will cool and heat both. RC suggested getting another quote or two, and confirm if it actually needs to be a heat pump, or whether it is just an air conditioning unit.

### **CHARLIE BAUMEISTER, ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD**

#### **a) Animal Ordinance**

Baumeister appeared on behalf of the Animal Welfare Board. They have been working with the Commissioners for one and one-half years on this Ordinance, with trying to get passed throughout the County.

Baumeister stated he had the opportunity to meet with Sheriff Alan Malone and Tell City Chief Derrick Lawalin to see if they had any concerns.

Baumeister stated there were two things that came up in that discussion and he needed to bring to the Commissioners. Throughout the Ordinance, it talks about an Animal Control Officer. Everything is based on an Animal Control Officer. Baumeister would like to see in the definition on the Animal Control Officer, it would have slash Enforcement Officer. That would give the law enforcement officer the same authority as the Animal Control Officer. There is currently not an Animal Control Officer, and it is not known when or if there will ever be an Animal control Officer. RC's concern is the law enforcement officer would need to be properly trained. RC would not want to subject a police officer to an issue

with an animal without any of the tools and any of the training. Baumeister responded that as of right now, there is no one that can enforce the Ordinance. Baumeister stated that each department is supposed to designate an animal officer. RC asked Sheriff Malone if that is part of the Ordinance, and Baumeister responded that is State law.

Attorney Andrew Foster will check as to what the Ordinance could state to include a law enforcement officer.

RT asked Baumeister how much training and what does it cost to send an Animal Control Officer to school? Baumeister responded that he has that information, but not with him.

Baumeister stated that second item that came up in the discussion is that the Ordinance states that the Animal Welfare Board has the right, after due process, of determining an animal is dangerous and needs to be put down. The Ordinance ends there. It does not state who is going to pick up the animal, who is going to pay for the euthanization, and the burial. Baumeister feels this is another point that needs to be addressed and to try to come up with a solution.

RT asked how much is the budget, and Baumeister responded \$5,000.

Baumeister asked if the County could set aside a separate line item to help with the animal shelter budget? RT asked what is the cost to put an animal down, and Hagman responded it goes by weight. In addition, the animal is then cremated, as she is not going to bring the animal back and bury it. With a Pitbull that had to be put down and cremated, it cost approximately \$220, and that is with the animal shelter discount.

RC asked Attorney Foster who has the jurisdiction on determining if a dog needs to be euthanized? Foster responded it could be under different statutes, but he believes the way the Ordinance is supposed to read is that if they find it dangerous, they have an authority through the Ordinance to euthanize. RC stated that once this Ordinance is passed, then they would be granted that authority. Baumeister responded there is a due process. There has to be a hearing with the owner and go over it. Baumeister added when do you decide a dog is dangerous? When it bites the very first time, the second time, and so on. Baumeister stated each case is different.

Baumeister stated that Tell City and Troy have already given Baumeister the okay for the Ordinance, but the Commissioners need to remember their Ordinance will not be word for word as the County Ordinance. The County Ordinance outlines a County Animal Welfare Board. RT asking Baumeister how does Cannelton feel about the Ordinance, with Baumeister responding they are fine with it.

### **STEVE HOWELL, HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT**

- a) Howell appeared asking for an additional appropriation for \$398,850. This is money received from INDOT. This needs to be appropriated before Howell can get the purchase order. This is for Community Crossings; the second award for last year.

Auditor Hammack stated it will be advertised on May 12<sup>th</sup> and then approved at the Council meeting.

RT made a motion to transfer the \$398,850, seconded by PJ. Motion carried 3-0.

- b) Howell stated he was contacted regarding Albany Road by an individual from Waupaca. There is a slide on the end of the rail before you get to the Forest Service portion. No one has any property there beside the Forest Service and Waupaca. They had an agreement when this was closed where they had access to that. RC asked if this is out by Derby, and Howell responded it is out by Gatchel. Waupaca wants to fix this road at their expense. It will not cost the County anything.

RT made a motion to allow this to occur, and let the Foundry work this out with the Forest Service to keep maintaining the road, seconded by PJ. Motion carried 3-0.

- c) Howell asked if the Commissioners have any questions regarding Carrolton Road? This is the road that an individual wanted to close last year. Howell has spoken to the individual that petitioned to have it closed. This individual stated to Howell that he never received anything from the County to have it closed. After that individual asked to have it closed, a Meunier purchased this property. He does not want it closed. Howell stated that if he does not want it closed, then as far as Howell is concerned, this is a closed matter.

## **MINUTES**

### a) 04.07.2025 Meeting

RT made a motion to accept as presented, seconded by PJ. Motion carried 3-0.

### b) 04.10.2025 Joint Commissioner and Council Meeting

RC stated that at the Joint Meeting with the Council, at the end of the minutes Auditor Hammack was going to meet with the Jail and go through some of the spending. RC was trying to get an update as to where this is and was told by Hammack that she has not done this yet. Hammack responded on the Commissioner's side, the Commissioners adopt the EDIT Plan which gives the revenue to the Jail. The current issue is the fact that the budget that was adopted for the last two years has been in excess of the revenue that is coming in. A discussion needs to happen as to how this is going to be addressed. Although Hammack stated at the end of the meeting she would meet with the Jail, in the end, it is going to be the Council where they need to make sure that we are not adopting a budget that is in excess of the revenue.

RC stated that in the minutes, it states that \$133,000 roughly has been spent out of the fund for Jail in the first three months. He also noticed that there are multiple payments coming out of 4927 that are to be approved later in this meeting. With the Jail only receiving out of Edit currently around \$23,000, how is Hammack paying for that much expenditure out of that account? RC stated that if there were four months in the fund, there would be \$100,000, but they already spent \$133,000, plus the Commissioners are going to approve the Accounts Payable. Hammack stated she has instructed Deputy Auditor Lasher that in fund 4927, the Jail can only spend the cash that is in there. It cannot be negative. Hammack further stated the Jail has to pay their bills, she cannot not pay the bills. The issue that has to be addressed is the negative balance in 1112, which was from the over excess spending in 2024 and the three months in 2025.

RC stated that in 2025, they had spent \$133,000 out of EDIT, and they only received \$274,000 a year. We are still spending out of that fund for the month of April. Hammack confirmed this, stating fund 4927. RC stated that if the 2025 money was transferred to 4927, the amount spent is way beyond and will be spending \$50,000 to \$60,000 in the red. RC asked if the account reflects a negative balance, and then where is that money coming from? Hammack asked if RC is referring to 1112, and he responded 4927. Hammack responded that 4927 is not negative right now, and RC asked how Hammack came up with the \$133,000 to pay the first three months bills of 2025? Hammack stated it was paid out of 1112, and fund 1112 was a big pie piece of a lot of different funds. In addition, the budget that was adopted by the Council allowed them to spend that money.

RC reiterated that \$133,000 was taken out of 1112, which is the big pool of all the funds, and paid that in 2025, plus transferred the four months of \$23,000 into 4927? Hammack responded that is why she was trying to get it figured out what needs to be moved back.

Deputy Auditor Lasher stated that currently the cash balance in 4927 is \$49,506.22. With the claims that are to be approved at this meeting, they total \$40,809.57. Hammack stated that RC has a valid point in that the County paid \$133,000 worth of claims out of 1112. The reason for identifying the negative is because the money was being separated. There is a negative portion in fund 1112 for the Jail.

RT made a motion to accept as presented as Commissioners, seconded by PJ. Motion carried 3-0.

### c) 04.15.2025 Special Meeting

PJ made a motion to approve as presented, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

### d) 04.21.2025 Meeting

RT made a motion to approve as presented, seconded by PJ. Motion carried 3-0.

## **KRISTINIA HAMMACK, AUDITOR**

### a) Dossett Consulting 2023 Reimbursement: \$52,417.62

This is for informational purpose only. It is a two-year process to get the reimbursement. RC asked where this reimbursement is deposited into, and Hammack responded it is broken down between the IV-D funds

### b) Dossett Consulting Contract Renewal

Hammack stated that the cost for the last three years has been \$3,000/year, and this is paid out of the \$52,417.62 reimbursement. The new contract for the Commissioners' signature is a three-year contract for \$4,700/year.

RT made a motion to renew a three-year contract, seconded by PJ. Motion carried 3-0.

c) 04.25.2025 Payroll: \$194,302.02

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

d) 04.25.2025 Payroll W/H: \$41,462.78

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

e) 05.09.2025 Payroll: \$199,249.88

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

f) 05.09.2025 Payroll W/H: \$42,891.65

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

g) Health Insurance Claims: \$128,305.51

RC asked Hammack how the County handles health claims in the Jail? Is that billed into the County, or is there a separate process? Hammack responded no, not billed in the County.

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

h) Dental Claims: \$130.61

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

i) Vision Claims: \$139.31

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

j) Life Insurance Claims: \$1,644.40

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

k) Sheriff Pension 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter: \$38,050.25

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

l) BMV: \$75.00

Hammack stated this is not on the claim docket. RT asked which vehicle this was for, and First Deputy Kelli Wilgus stated this was for the title transfers for the vehicles when they came off the lease with Sternberg. RC stated that these had to be transferred to the Commissioners, and Wilgus responded they had to be transferred to the Sheriff Department since they came through as the Sheriff Department. RC asked how are these insured? Wilgus stated it is all County, and there are titles for all departments, and are all insured under Commissioner. Kelli stated this was paid out of the Commissioner's budget.

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

m) Solid Waste Claim Docket: \$12,376.93

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

n) 05.05.2025 Account Payable Claim Docket: \$432,416.23

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

### **COMMISSIONERS**

- a) Ditch Project 2025
- PJ stated she works with Highway Superintendent Howell and his supervisors, and she wanted to let the community know that the Highway department will be working on ditches to help the county roads with the drainage problems. They will probably not get to them all, but it is definitely a good start.
- PJ is asking the public to work with the County if they are contacted with drainage issues on their property to take care of them as well.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 20, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:22 a.m. CST.

RT made a motion to adjourn, seconded by PJ. Motion carried 3-0.

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Randy Cole  
President

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Pam Jamniczky  
Vice-President

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Rebecca Thorn

*Minutes reviewed by:*  
Kristinia L. Hammack, Auditor  
*Minutes prepared by:*  
Leisa M. Ecker, Deputy Auditor