

PERRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES –September 5, 2023

The Perry County Board of Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m., as was duly advertised. Commissioners: President Randy Cole (RC) and Rebecca Thorn (RT) were in attendance, and Randy Kleaving (RK) was absent. 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

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- a) Chris Thorton, District Ranger with the Hoosier National Forest appeared to introduce himself. There are 60,000 plus acres of Hoosier National Forest in Perry County. He advised of a couple projects in the next year. There is an act of Congress called the Great American Outdoors Act. This allows them to repair and upgrade facilities in Perry County. They plan to rehabilitate the pavilions at German Ridge Beach, as many of them are historic CCC buildings. They are also looking at putting more maintenance into the Rickenbaugh house. RC asked if this is a competitive grant, with Thorton responding they are very competitive internally among their agency. RC stated there is not potable water at German Ridge and would this be an eligible project? Thorton responded that it would, however it would take a lot of coordination getting a water line there. It is something the forestry is interested in doing in the future. They currently spend time and money filling the cistern there, and this water is only good for animals.
- b) Cindy Taylor with the CVB sent the Commissioners an email back in July regarding the comprehensive plan that was sent out in 2015. She questioned if the Commissioners looked at it, and wanted to insure they had read it or are currently reading it. The plan contained a short-term plan, a mid-term plan, and a long-term plan. Taylor represented the tourism segment of the committee. The plan for tourism was for Exit 79, from I-64 to Tell City, known as the 37 corridor. They feel a Visitor's Center would be a big improvement. Also, the committee would like to see a parking location along this corridor, with possibly bringing in a couple of EV vehicles for a charging station out by the interstate. Taylor would like to see the formation of a committee to get updates and get information out in the county to see what is wanted, where it is going, and where it is at.
RT asked when the CVB promotes activities in Perry County, do they promote outside of the county. Taylor replied, yes, the CVB has hired 2 Ladders, and there is a tool to measure the success.

MINUTES

- a) 08.22.2023

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

KRISTINIA HAMMACK, AUDITOR

- a) 08.28.2023 Payroll in the amount of \$161,401.12
- b) Health Insurance Claims: \$8,510.76
- c) Life Insurance Claims: \$1,474.76
- d) Sheriff's Pension: \$31,293.00
- e) Unemployment Claim: \$1,995.00
- f) Approval of 09.05.2023 Claim Docket: \$295,521.87

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

COMMISSIONERS

- a) Ian Hahus appeared regarding the naming of a creek in Oil Township as Esarey Creek. He listened to the previous meeting's discussion and comments, and wanted to address them directly. The Board of Geographic Names is who actually approves a name. This board prefers a historical name, and the Esarey's

were the first settlers in 1810 to that section of land. Hahus noted that no ownership would change. RT asked should the Commissioners give their blessing, how would that work? Is it required? Hahus responded that the letter of support would help in the naming of the creek. RC asked if no recommendation was made, what would the result be? Hahus responded it would be a slight demerit if no response.

RT asked if they support the naming of this stream, what would stop a line of people coming forward to request the naming of streams? Hahus stated the legwork and research that has to be done to request the name change is extensive.

RC made a motion to approve the naming of Esarey Creek, seconded by RT. Motion carried 2-0.

- b) The PCDC had mitigation work performed at Waupaca Foundry Plant 5 Facility Expansion. The Commissioners are required to approve and sign the PCDC Affidavits for payment due to still having bond proceeds available to pay for these.

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

- c) And-Tro and Troy Township want to apply for a federal grant, which is competitive, that will put generators on their pump stations. When they lose power, they are concerned and want to be able to keep water pressure up within their system. They are potentially eligible for this grant, but it has to be submitted to the State, and if the State approves it, it then goes to the federal government with them being the ultimate decision maker if they supply the funds. The county is required to sign off on a grant of this type for the benefit of And-Tro and Troy Township. The Commissioners have to approve this, with a 25% match to whatever amount is awarded. RT asked if And-Tro has any idea how much this will cost? RC stated prices have been asked for, but they have not gotten back with them yet.

RT made a motion to apply for a grant in the name of And-Tro and Troy Township, seconded by RC. Motion carried 2-0.

- d) The Animal Shelter is in need of a van to transport animals. RT looked at the old coroner's van at the Annex that has not been started for over two years. RT asked what would need to be done to make this van available to the animal shelter? Attorney Foster asked the value of this vehicle, which RT did not know. The question is the county owns it and an entity takes title to it that may or may not be a county entity. It would have to be declared surplus, but do not want to take bids, just give it directly to an entity.

RT stated the Animal Welfare and Control Board along with the Animal Shelter are working together to get information together to present for an Animal Control Officer. Over 500 calls for law enforcement were made last year.

RC questioned Sheriff Malone if he was around when there was an Animal Control Officer? Sheriff Malone responded yes, there have been two maybe three different Animal Control Officers. Malone said those officers had no training and no power authority, so more than likely law enforcement was called. He stated that you cannot just walk on somebody's property without probable cause. If there enough probable cause, they then could apply for a search warrant.

Malone believes an Animal Control Officer is needed but there are many obstacles as far as training and who would give them authority. RT stated there are two places that train Animal Control Officers in southern Indiana but not sure of the locations. One is free and the other costs \$650.00. She is not aware of how extensive the training is. The consensus is that this can be done, it's just working out the details.

Attorney Foster asked Sheriff Malone if this is a position that could be created in the Sheriff's Department? Malone said it has been discussed in the past, but what happens in the event of their absence? RC stated it is his vision that this would be operated something like the coroner's department. You have a main officer, and then deputies who can carry out the same tasks.

RC asked Attorney Foster how the county could make the van available to the shelter? He then suggested getting a group formed to build a consensus as far as the challenges of an Animal Control Officer and how they envision this; the group can then come back and see how it can be put together.

- e) The Health Board has a resignation due to a member taking a new job in Florida. The Commissioners will be taking applications for this board for six weeks, making them due by November 3rd to be presented at the November 6th meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:01 a.m. CST.
RT made a motion to accept, seconded by RC. Motion carried 2-0.

The next meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be held on Tuesday, September 19, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

Randy Cole	Rebecca Thorn
President	Vice-President

Minutes prepared by:
Kristinia L. Hammack, Auditor