

PERRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES –October 2, 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, Attorney Andrew Foster, and Sheriff Alan Malone were also present. There was no *News Representative* in attendance.

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

AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- a) Sheriff Alan Malone spoke of a plan that was requested by the Commissioners in regards to vehicles for his department. This plan is now complete. RC stated that if he emails it to all the Commissioners, they would have a chance to review it. If they have questions, they can ask before the meeting. Malone requested to meet with one person from the Board to explain this plan prior to presenting to the Commissioners. RC stated send it to the Commissioners, they can formulate questions, and it will be more productive when they meet.

TARA LUCAS, HEALTH DEPARTMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE SUPERVISOR

- a) Tara Lucas appeared to ask for permission to apply for a grant for a newborn safety device, also known as a Safe Haven Baby Box. The grant would cover up to \$10,000 which would cover the box, the alarm, and all that needs to go with it. The potential location would be at the Armory (Annex Building). The grant cycle ends June 30, 2024, so everything has to be completed by then. Applications are being accepted until March 31, 2024.

RC's biggest concern is that these boxes are usually placed at manned fire departments so that there is 24/7 coverage. Placing the box at the Armory (Annex Building) is a concern. He suggested possibly the hospital is a better location. Lucas stated the Annex does qualify as it is one mile from the hospital. Steve Hauser, EMA Director, stated if calls come in to Central Dispatch, they would have law enforcement, rescue, and fire available to respond. In addition, the EMS station is also located at the Annex. RC stated the police department and sheriff department is staffed 24/7 since time after drop-off is critical. Lucas stated you have to respond within four minutes.

Sheriff Malone stated they have researched a baby box in the past, and they are not placed at a police department or sheriff department for fear that people will not use them out of fear.

RT asked Lucas if she feels this is needed in this county. She replied yes. Infant mortality is a huge part of the HFI Funding. She further stated some people have very little options and this will relieve a potential tragedy, so it is worth it.

RK asked how Central Dispatch will be notified? Is there alarms that go off?

Lucas replied there are alarm systems on these boxes.

RC was concerned regarding response times and the medical care immediately needed. He feels the location at the Annex is a problem. RK mentioned having first responders is a bonus. Lucas stated if the box is placed in a heavily staffed area, whether it is the hospital or the police department, she feels you will get people not wanting to use it. The whole idea behind this concept is that it is anonymous and safe.

RC asked when an answer is needed, and Lucas replied the sooner the better. All paperwork has to be completed by June 30, 2024 for this reimbursable grant.

The request to apply for the grant was tabled at this time pending getting public input for a drop-off location.

MINUTES

a) 09.19.2023

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

KRISTINIA HAMMACK, AUDITOR

a) 09.25.2023 Payroll in the amount of \$164,529.56

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

b) Health Insurance Claims: \$3,747.78

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

c) Approval of 10.02.2023 Claim Docket: \$330,523.88

RC stated the county is in the middle of a State Board of Accounts audit and he is one person who has to sign off to make sure everything is OK. He pulled several claims he had questions/concerns about:

1. Forest Service Hours

RC asked if the County has a relationship with the Forest Service and if so, what do we do for them? Sheriff Malone replied yes, there is a relationship. Employees in his department on their day off or time off during certain periods of the year perform service such as patrolling campgrounds, which puts an extra person in the parks. RT asked why the amounts for the six claims were so different, and Malone explained it depended on how many hours each person worked. Auditor Hammack stated these amounts are reimbursed from the US Forestry Service; these are not county dollars. She further stated this is not paid out until the money is received from the Forestry Service.

RC is concerned with the way this pay is being handled as well as the exposure to the county by using county equipment. He stated these are county employees and they would be covered by county insurance if something would happen. RC feels the Forestry Service should be paying these deputies directly and then contracting for the vehicles and whatever else of the county they use.

RC stated this account is currently negative \$2,955. Auditor Hammack responded there was one reimbursement the county did not receive in 2022 and they are working with the Forestry Service on this. She further stated typically these hours are not paid out before the county receives the money.

Auditor Hammack will check with the State Board of Accounts to see how this payment can be handled in the future.

2. Firearms Training

RC questioned Sheriff Malone what this purchase was for, with Malone responding it was for three AR15 rifles. On the claim voucher, this purchase is coming out of Firearms Training and then another amount is coming out of the 50000 account. Hammack verified that this purchase falls under the exempt list she received from the State Board of Accounts for the 50000 account.

RC stated he did not see anything come before the Council or the Commissioners prior to this purchase for approval. It is an unbudgeted item, and no appropriation was made for it. RC stated he does not know how the county can financially control the 50000 fund if anyone can make a purchase from the exempt list and then submit the claim for payment without prior approval. Hammack spoke to Lori Rogers, Government Technical Assistance and Compliance Director with the Indiana State Board of Accounts, who stated these purchases are still getting approved by being on the claim docket, it is just not a budgeted item. RC is concerned what prevents a large purchase and then the account would be in the red. It gets paid out of the 50000 and then reimbursed into another account. Hammack clarified the appropriation is in the red, the fund is not. The cash balance is not in the negative.

Malone stated he understands and going forward he will get approval before purchases are made.

3. C&S Claim

RC asked Sheriff Malone if fuel receipts have the vehicle identification listed. Malone stated names and badge numbers are listed on all receipts.

RC asked Steve Hauser if he could verify signatures on receipts. He stated he would check on two. He also stated Rescue 1 and Rescue 4 are on the VISA statement.

4. Coroner Meal Claim

A new employee was sent to training in Indianapolis for the Coroner's office. He purchased food to take with him so he would not have to eat out and be able to stay in his room and study. RC stated there is a conflict in the Employee Personnel Handbook stating receipts are to be submitted of actual itemized meals after returning from the event. Hammack stated the claim was submitted and it was within the per diem daily amount. The handbook states it is reimbursable for the actual cost with the specific amount per day.

RC stated the employee handbook may need to be modified. RK suggested changing the handbook to state a flat per day amount. RC stated that some events provide meals which is part of the original fee paid to attend. With getting a new handbook, the Commissioners need to look at this before it can be approved.

5. Ohio Valley Towing

RT asked about the six claims for Ohio Valley Towing. RC stated they were for oil changes as well as service.

6. B&B Exterminating

B&B Exterminating performed work at the Annex and it appears it is being paid out of the Cumulative Capital Software Maintenance fund. He feels this should come out of another account. Hammack stated the wrong account number is listed on the claim.

7. Animal Shelter

RC questioned the Ohio Valley Gas bill for the Animal Shelter.

Hammack stated she questioned this, and the Animal Shelter stated the county was to pay these until the shelter is fully opened.

RC stated the animal shelter is in the red. Hammack stated this is due to not enough money was appropriated for 2023. Only \$22,000 was appropriated, and the county's portion of the contract is \$35,000. There is an additional appropriation set for the Council meeting. Tell City's portion of the contract has been received, and Hammack has reached out to Cannelton for their portion.

RC stated he needs answers before he can sign off on vouchers. He will not sign off until he knows the claims and funds are correct. Auditor Hammack responded that appropriations were not approved at the September 28th Council meeting. This results in appropriations running negative if the Commissioners pay the claims.

RK made a motion to pay the whole claim docket, with no second. Motion died.

RT made a motion to table the claim docket, seconded by RC. Motion carried 2-1.

COMMISSIONERS

- a) RC has written to the insurance company who was in charge of replacing and repairing the parking lot pole. They have not responded. Apparently, the pole is five feet too tall and looks nothing like the others in the parking lot and the color does not match. RC is not comfortable with the appearance in the parking lot. Attorney Foster will write a letter to the insurance company.
- b) Steve Hauser sent his resignation for the 911 Coordinator as of December 31, 2023. This position pays \$10,000/year. This position needs to be advertised and hopefully secure somebody for this position to work with Hauser for an interim period. RC stated at the same time, the county needs to look at the 911 Dispatch Service and the EMA, as they may want to consider how it may want to change the duties and the process.

RT made a motion to advertise the 911 Coordinator position, seconded by RK. Motion carried 3-0.

- c) With Junie Voges' resignation in Planning and Zoning by the end of December, 2023, there has been some discussion to potentially move this part-time position to one of the other offices in place of hiring another individual. In the budget sessions, it was mentioned that this might be a good fit in the Auditor, Assessor, or Recorder's office. Auditor Hammack feels there should be investigation as to

what exactly the Planning & Zoning should be doing to make sure things have not been missed.

- d) Erin Emerson, President and CEO of the Perry County Development Corporation sent BAT Mitigation for Troy that is less than an acre. RC has no problem with this as long as both parties are on board with this. There were promises made in the 1990’s and he wants to make sure they are fully supportive of mitigating BATS on their property. Attorney Foster stated he was included on an email, and this calls for the Commissioners and Redevelopment Commission to sign off on the restrictive covenants.

RC will email Emerson to verify this is Troy property and there are no covenants that the county is not fully fulfilling.

- e) Poles were set last week on Sycamore Road. RT spoke to an IT Specialist regarding the specifications of a camera she found and he verified it is the best you can get and is the best for the money. It is good for outdoor use and runs on solar power. It has a SD card that captures 1,000 videos before needing to write over the old videos. If there is a dumping incident, the card can be pulled. RC asked who will be responsible to pull the card if needed, and RT will talk to the City of Cannelton since they are the entity responsible for this area and have been picking up everything that has been dumped.

This camera cost \$200 each from Amazon. RC will look at the county accounts to find appropriations to purchase the cameras and will report back.

RK made a motion to approve the purchase of two cameras not to exceed \$500.00 pending approved suitable funding, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:56 a.m. CST.

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

The next meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be held on Tuesday, October 17, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

Randy Cole	Rebecca Thorn	Randy Kleaving
President	Vice-President	

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