

PERRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING MINUTES
January 2, 2024

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. First Deputy Kelli Wilgus was also present. There was no *Attorney, Sheriff, or 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 amended, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

REORGANIZATION OF BOARD

- a) Elect President, Vice-President
 1. RT nominated RC as President of the Commissioners, seconded by RK. Motion carried 3-0.
 2. RC nominated RT as Vice-President of the Commissioners, seconded by RK. Motion carried 3-0.
- b) 2024 Monthly Meeting Schedule
In 2023, the Commissioners met on the First Monday at 9:00 a.m. and third Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. of each month. These days and times will remain the same for 2024.

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

COMMISSIONERS

- a) Courthouse appointed positions
 1. Kevin Herp as Veterans Services

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

- 2. Steve Howell, Highway Department Supervisor

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

- 3. Planning and Zoning

This is an open position due to Junie Voges retiring at the end of the year, and the Commissioners need to have some discussions as to how they might want this position to function going forward. RT stated she would like to speak with the Sanitarian Office as this is interlocked with permits for septic with new builds. It would make the process more streamlined to get all permits in one office and the landowner will know that a septic is an option before getting a building permit to find out a septic is not viable. RC stated he is open to discussions with that office. RK stated this function needs to be in an office that is open every day to accommodate for the residents of Perry County.

Assessor Mendy Lassaline made a public comment that whoever assumes this function, all the job duties need to be performed so revenue for the county is not missed.

RK stated if the Sanitarian would take on this function, it will require more work, and would need to follow through with more finances.

Charlie Baumeister made a public comment regarding the Health Department is paid by the Levy Fund. If you bring on extra duties for the Sanitarian or whoever it is, they are going to be paid out of another fund; there has always been a big issue regarding double pay.

RK would like to request a Council member be included in the discussion of this function as it will be a funding issue. RC stated they might want to reach out to adjoining counties to see how they handle this.

- b) Edit Plan

The county has an additional amount of Edit money that will be coming in 2024. Looking at freezing the amounts close to 2023 levels, RC's proposal sets aside money for what he calls a special project. With that, Steve Howell would get additional funding. If additional money is needed for Community Crossings, or

PCDC comes in and has a special project that needs funding, it would come out of a fund like this. In addition, it will also be a funding source for the Solid Waste \$45.00 fee. It gets the Commissioners involved with the decision making on the tax dollars. There is currently a balance in Edit, and in addition to this money, the county always gets additional supplemental income that varies. RC would like to take that money and put in special projects. They will get with Steve Howell, Highway Superintendent, to get his vision for what roads will be addressed in the next three years.

RC is proposing that those extra monies received be put in a special fund, in the event something comes up, they will have flexibility. RC stated this is the year the County is getting a substantial increase which allows the opportunity to not be cutting into other funds.

RK asked if this is getting away from the old way of getting percentages? RC stated there are percentages in there, but some actually had dollar amounts written in there. RC stated there is going to be a percentage, but states the amount of year one, two and three. The fixed amounts were dropped in the last couple of years. RC stated it is a similar breakdown only allocating a dollar amount, and the excess will drop into the special project fund.

RK asked in regard to the special projects, there have been disasters in the county in past years, flooding and tornados that affected the roads. Would this special fund be a go to should something like this happen again, for instance, if there would be a road slide? RC stated it would provide the County some funding for such things like that. He further stated FEMA would provide for some of that, but it might be a year before the money could be collected. This fund would help with the interim period to get a road open.

RK asked RC if he had spoken to PCDC? RC stated that the County paid PCDC approximately \$188,000, and they weren't fully staffed, so he took that in consideration in this year's plan. Last year, they paid them 20% of the Edit. As wages elevated, so did the Edit revenue. It automatically increased their 20% of the slice. During negotiations last year, they are a non-profit, so the County looked at what it costs to operate their non-profit organization, and provided a portion of the funding the County puts in there. What it did was operate their non-profit with the understanding that if they had projects, they would bring them before the Commissioners with the need for funding and that would be addressed. This is instead of them accumulating the money, the County kept the money and provided them with money in an event it is a project the Commissioners felt was of value to the County. It was a different approach, but that is what was done last year, and they were OK with it. RC stated the county has to get an Edit Plan, and then go talk to the PCDC.

RK stated he was always a big supporter of 50% going to the Highway Department, and this is going to be a little less than that, but when he began as a Commissioner, the County was getting approximately \$500,000 out of the Edit Plan, and now it is up to \$640,000. RC stated in 2022, the Highway Department received \$571,000.

RC stated that the increase of wages, and inflation going up with them, plus cost of groceries going up, results in the County collecting a little more revenue.

RT asked Howell if he had applied for the Community Crossing Grant yet, and he stated that application period just opened at 9:00 a.m. that day. RC stated he believes Howell has to have an Edit Plan in place, and Howell stated not unless they changed it. Howell has to know what he will have in Edit, but the only question it asks about is the ADA. Howell mentioned that all other paving money comes from the Edit Plan. RC asked Howell if all the highway and wheel tax money divert back to the Highway exclusively, and he was not sure about that. Howell mentioned the Highway does get gas tax

RK asked Howell in regard to the Distress Road Loan, that comes from the wheel tax, correct? Howell confirmed that it does. The Distressed Road Loan can only be used for pavement, and it is interest-free every ten years. Howell asked the State if they did not utilize the Distress Road Loan, would the county get this money back in another form, and he was told no, if you do not do the application, you never get any of that money.

RK asked the Commissioners if they are comfortable to send the Edit Plan on to Attorney Andrew Foster to write up? RC stated the county received almost \$200,000 in Supplemental last year.

RT made a motion to send the Edit Plan to Attorney Foster to write up, seconded by RK. Motion carried 3-0.

c) Approval of 12.28.2023 Claim Docket: \$356,526.41

RC stated this is to clear up any confusion about the approval of the Claim Docket at the December 28, 2023 meeting.

RK made a motion to approve the Claim Docket as presented at the December 28, 2023 meeting, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

d) Board Appointments for 2024

1) ADA & Title VI Coordinator

RK made a motion to appoint Kevin Herp as ADA & Title VI Coordinator, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

2) ADA Steering Committee

RT made a motion to appoint Kevin Herp to the ADA Steering Committee, seconded by RK. Motion carried 3-0.

A Commissioner should be on this Committee, and records show Tom Hauser is still on as Commissioner.

RT made a motion to appoint Randy Kleaving, seconded by RC. Motion carried 3-0.

3) Airport Authority

There were no applications received.

4) Alcoholic Beverage Board

RT made a motion to appoint Mark Howland, seconded by RK. Motion carried 3-0.

5) Convention, Recreation, & Visitor Promotion Commission (CVB)

Applications were received from Beth Hauser, Kim Hawkins, Cindy Taylor, Carl Clark, Megan Fritchley, Betty Cash, and Stefan McConnell.

RT nominated Cindy Taylor, seconded by RC. Motion carried 3-0.

RC nominated Kim Hawkins, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

RK nominated Megan Fritchley, no second. Motion died.

RC nominated Carl Clark, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

6) Perry County Development Corporation (PCDC)

This is a delegate to the meeting and is a Commissioner.

RC nominated RT, seconded by RK. Motion carried 3-0.

7) Emergency Management Advisory Council

This Council represents the different areas of the county, and needs to be addressed. This was not addressed last year. Some members no longer live in area they represent and this needs to be ironed out so these areas are truly represented. RT mentioned that Smokey Graves needs to be listed in place of Ralph Terry by virtue of being Cannelton Mayor. Steve Hauser will contact Graves.

RK made a motion to continue with current Council until further discussion at a later time, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

8) Health Board

The Commissioner's appointment under the new Health Plan, the Mayor of the largest city in the county submits three names, and out of those three names, the Commissioners pick one as a Commissioner appointment. The three names submitted are Illia Mai Leiberling, Missy Noble, and Charles Baumeister.

RT nominated Illia Mai Leiberling, seconded by RC. Motion carried 3-0.

9) Hospital Association (PCMH)

The Commissioners have two appointments open and two applicants, Lee Chestnut and Pam Jamniczky. RK asked RC if that board has to be politically affiliated, and RC stated he did not think so.

RK made a motion to appoint Lee Chestnut to the Hospital Association, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

RC made a motion to appoint Pam Jamniczky to the Hospital Association, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

10) Hospital Board of Trustees (PCMH)

There are several applicants for this board. This is not a normal appointment, and was talked about in September. There is usually six weeks of advertising and this requirement has not been met yet. It was approved to be posted in the early December 2023 meeting, and the time is not up.

RK made a motion to table the Hospital Board of Trustee appointment, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

11) Parks and Recreation Board

There is one appointment and two applications were received, Warren Taylor and Cindy Taylor (not husband and wife). Warren Taylor stated his application was to go to the Council for appointment.

RT made a motion to appoint Cindy Taylor, seconded by RK. Motion carried 3-0.

12) Plan Commission (Perry County Zoning and Planning Board)

There are two open positions, and no applicants.

13) Port Authority

There are two positions open, and applications received from Tom Holm, Jeff Tunks, and Betty Cash.

RT nominated Tom Holm, seconded by RK. Motion carried 3-0.

RC nominated Jeff Tunks, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

14) Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals

There are 3 appointments by Commissioners, and applications were received from Kourtney Casebolt, Megan Fritchley, Lee Chestnut, Mandy Jackson, and Pam Jamniczky.

Assessor Mendy Lassaline made public comment that she prefers people with real estate knowledge be kept on the board.

RC made a motion to appoint Mandy Jackson, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

RT made a motion to appoint Lee Chestnut, seconded by RK. Motion carried 3-0.

RC made a motion to appoint Kourtney Casebolt, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

15) PSAP Advisory Committee

The Commissioners have two appointments on this committee, and applications were received from Tracie Young, Jim Alexander, Roger Smith, and Holli Dawson.

RT nominated Roger Smith, seconded by RC. Motion carried 3-0.

RC nominated Tracie Young, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

16) Public Library Board

The Commissioners have one position open, and there are two applicants, Patsy Alvey and Pati Hoskins.

Charlie Baumeister made a public comment that Patsy Alvey is a Council appointment.

RC made a motion appoint Pati Hoskins, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

17) Redevelopment Commission

The Commissioners have three appointments, and there are three applicants. They are David Etienne, Carol Hagedorn, and Sherri Flynn.

RC made a motion to appoint David Etienne, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

RK made a motion to appoint Carol Hagedorn, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

RC made a motion to appoint Sherri Flynn, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

18) Zoning Board of Appeals

No one applied. This needs to be readvertised.

19) Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission

One Commissioner serves on this Board, and there are two from the general public. Currently serving are J.R. Flynn and Balaji Kashyab, and RC was serving as the Commissioner representative.

RK made a motion to appoint Randy Cole, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

RC made a motion to appoint Balaji Kashyab, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

RK made a motion to appoint J.R. Flynn, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

20) Courthouse Security Committee

This is an internal committee.

RT nominated RK, seconded by RC. Motion carried 3-0.

21) Financial Committee

One Commissioner serves on this committee with the Treasurer.

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

22) Personnel Policy Committee

There is one Commissioner on this committee.

RK nominated RC, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

23) Solid Waste Management District Board

RT questioned the members listed. Further information will need to be obtained. RK stated this Board has the three Commissioners, a Council representative, the two Mayors, and a Council member from Tell City.

RC stated that possibly there was an Advisory Board at one time, and that is where the list of names they are seeing is coming from.

24) ARP

RK asked about this committee, and RC stated this is an Advisory Committee where the current members continue to serve and do not reappoint. There are two Commissioners, two Council Members, and three people from the general public. The Commissioners do not have any vacancies.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:11 a.m. CST.
RK made a motion to adjourn, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

Randy Cole
President

Rebecca Thorn
Vice-President

Randy Kleaving

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