

PERRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES
March 19, 2024

The Perry County Board of Commissioners met at 6:00 p.m., as was duly advertised. Commissioners: President Randy Cole (RC), Rebecca Thorn (RT), and Randy Kleaving (RK) 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.

RC began the meeting by announcing the new ambulance, which is a 2024 model, was delivered on March 14th. He thanked Perry County Memorial Hospital and the EMS Service, as well as the Council and Commissioners who allowed the use of Tribal Funds in order to pay the majority of the cost of this ambulance. He also thanked Dr. Michael Daum, who has played a key role since he first accepted the job as the Medical Director and began his duties on February 1st, met with the Commissioners, the Council, fire departments, and Sheriff Alan Malone. He has also spoken to Dr. Marcum concerning some issues.

RC stated Daum has taken an active role in trying to expand the County's health services. He further stated that the County met with Jared Stimpson, Perry County Memorial Hospital CEO, in January regarding some financial issues, and he stated that they needed an ambulance. Stimpson checked with Deaconess, and it would take 18 months to two years to get one. Daum had people he could contact, and they found an ambulance in Tennessee, which was a remount. This was in the beginning of February, and it was delivered March 14th. The County had an ambulance in 45 days. RC thanked Daum for his effort.

RC announced that the Governor signed the piece of Legislature that frees up the Special Legislation that was restricted for its use, which can now be used for several other projects that the County is looking to move forward with.

AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

a) none

TARA LUCAS, PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE SUPERVISOR

a) Lucas gave an update on the baby box which was first presented to the Commissioners in October, 2023. On that date, she asked for permission to apply for a \$10,000 Homeland Security Grant that would partially fund a safe haven baby device for the County. She asked the Commissioners first as it would require a building modification at the Armory Annex. She is proud to say that they did receive approval for the grant with the location being at the Armory Annex. The additional cost of the device contract fees and any alarm fees would be fully covered by the Health Department using other means of funding. This project would cost the County zero additional dollars.

Lucas provided statistics of baby boxes in Indiana, as well as infants that are dropped off and discarded by other means. She also stated that most surrenders do not occur in the county which the mother resides.

Once the location is determined at the Armory Annex, she is asking that the County will proceed with this. She is presenting this at the Council meeting on March 28th.

RC stated that this is time sensitive, and Lucas confirmed that funds have to be expended by June 30, 2024 or else they lose the grant.

Lucas stated that the box will not be built until the County pays the invoice for it. Once construction begins, it takes 8 weeks to complete before it is ready to be put in the wall.

RT asked who will be doing the construction work at the Armory Annex, and Lucas stated that bids will be obtained and local construction companies can be utilized.

RK asked if the box has to be in place and working by June 30th, and Lucas responded that the invoice has to be paid by that date, as the grant from Homeland Security is a reimbursable grant. Hammack asked Lucas if she has her approval letter for the grant, and Lucas confirmed this. Hammack will need this letter to set-up the grant before the invoice can be paid.

RC asked that in the event that a child is dropped off in the box, what is the legal requirements and how is it handled? Lucas stated that the Safe Haven Law in Indiana relinquishes the mother or caregiver from any sort of legal ramifications as long as the baby is placed unharmed and they are thirty days or less old. RC asked that if there is then an adoption agency that steps in? Lucas stated that the infant would be sent to the ER for evaluation, and then DCS would be contacted to take placement of the child.

RK asked Lucas how the public is notified that the County has a box, and Lucas stated that the Safe Haven company lists the box on their Indiana map.

RT made a motion to accept the baby box as part of the Health Department initiative, seconded by RK. Motion carried 3-0.

MINUTES

a) 03.04.2024

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

COURTHOUSE SECURITY

RK stated that the Courthouse Security Committee met last week to go over findings from the March 8th Courthouse training. This training was a success. There was discussion for future plans for security, and the committee would like to have an Executive Session meeting with the Commissioners to get the Commissioners up to speed with the security of the courthouse. The reason for the Executive Session is that it is security. RK is requesting an Executive Session meeting following the next Commissioner's meeting on April 1, 2024. This meeting will consist of the three Commissioners and the Security Committee. RK stated that this is mainly informational to the Commissioners and what the committee is looking at, plus feedback from the Commissioners.

ANIMAL SHELTER

RT stated the outside pen is complete. The contractor went to the planning and Zoning Board to check lines so that it was not being built on city property. The pen went further back toward the creek, and this additional cost is \$600. RT has the revised estimate and it is paid out of the Animal Shelter Restricted Fund.

RK made a motion to approve the additional \$600 funding for the fence expansion, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

KRISTINIA HAMMACK, AUDITOR

a) 03.11.2024 Payroll: \$182,359.72

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

b) 03.11.2024 Payroll W/H: \$39,289.00

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

c) Health Insurance Claims: \$83,799.24

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

d) 03.19.2024 AP Claim docket: \$148,558.93

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

COMMISSIONERS

a) Courthouse Bids

Bids were accepted at the last meeting. RC stated that he had reviewed the initial bid proposal, and the primary bid is for the revision on the Court side of the building. It eliminates the split doors. This funding was already approved through ARP. The other items were putting key fobs on the remainder of the doors at the Courthouse, putting glass protection in the Clerk's office, and expanding the cameras for the remainder of the Courthouse. As of now, there is no funding for the additional three optional parts of the bid.

RC thinks the Commissioners would be approving this subject to the Security Committee approving what is being done on the Court side; it is part of security and they need to be active in that decision. RC stated when the Security Committee meets next time, they can review the proposals and if they have no problem with it, then the County can move forward with Court side.

RK stated that the County will look at other funding to try to do the rest of the Courthouse. RC stated that the County now has a general idea of the cost to do the remainder, which helps with securing funding for this. RK made a motion to approve the \$56,018.00 for the Court's renovation subject to the Security Committee approving what is anticipated to be done, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

- b) RC stated there have been a rash of problems with county vehicles. The Impala has some mechanical issues plus the age of it. He is not sure it would be a wise use of County dollars to even repair it. In the last week of two, the Tahoe was involved in an accident in Carmel, IN. RC believes it has substantial damage. They are older vehicles and not reliable. They sit unused, and when someone tries to use one, the battery is dead. RC stated there should be some payment from insurance on the Tahoe. RC recommended switching to a per mileage and let individuals submit their mileage. RK asked about when the Assessor goes out to assess property, they need a vehicle? Hammack suggested keeping one vehicle for in-county use. RT asked if the Tahoe was drivable, and Hammack stated it was cosmetic damage. RC suggested they find out the cost to repair the Tahoe. He is requesting a list of what the Tahoe is used for. RC stated that possibly one of the Sheriff vehicles that has age on it might be suitable for this purpose rather than trading it back in. RK asked if the Impala should be declared surplus, and RC confirmed this. RC stated in the past, vehicles were taken to Dixon & Dixon Auction Service to have them auctioned. RK stated that whatever amount the Impala sale would bring in, it can be used to fix the Tahoe. Hammack stated that gas purchases for the County vehicles is discounted at Circle S. By using personal vehicles, the county will have a higher expense on travel with mileage reimbursement. RC wants to confirm the County has liability insurance coverage when individuals drive their personal vehicles for County business.

RK made a motion to declare the Impala as excess and take it to Dixon & Dixon Auction Service to get what he can out of it, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0. Additional information will be obtained on the Tahoe, and a decision will be made at the April 1st meeting.

- c) The next meeting is April 1, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. CST.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:32 p.m. CST.

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

Randy Cole
President

Rebecca Thorn
Vice-President

Randy Kleaving

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