

**PERRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**December 30, 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 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.

**AGENDA**

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

**COMMISSIONERS**

- a) Council-Cash Transfer—Reimbursement of County Health Insurance Expenses

FROM: 8950.12300.00000.0000      ARPA-2021 Fund      \$377,463.33

TO:      1000.12300.00000.0000      General Fund      \$377,463.33

RC stated this has to do with the ARP funds that needs to be utilized that were earmarked for Perry County Government, to assure there is not a question that the County has properly obligated them. This action will be used to reimburse for health care costs for group health care for 2024.

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

- b) Final AP Claim for 2024: \$117,643.31

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

- c) Community Crossings Support Letter

RC stated that Highway Superintendent Steve Howell is asking for a support letter that states the County will provide matching funds for the Community Crossings program. It is \$1.5 million again, making the commitment by the County, if successful to receive this money, in the amount of \$500,000.

RC stated this has been a very good program for the County with the State paying 75% of the cost.

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

- d) Dissolution of Solid Waste

RC stated the County has been running Solid Waste and has established a plan. Attorney Andrew Foster has drawn up an Ordinance that will have to be added to it if this passes. What this essentially does is it dissolves the Solid Waste District and the County reestablishes it as a County unit. It is transitioning at year-end and January 1, 2025, the new entity will take over the operation. RK stated the citizens will not see any change in the day-to-day operations. RC confirmed this and stated it is a transition on paper. The Commissioners have been running it since July or August. RC further stated the Commissioners will continue to run this.

RT stated she is the courier of the trash tags to the places who sell them, with no money changing hands, as it is all handled through the accounting firm. She further stated that in December alone, she has delivered 7,240 trash tags. Walmart is now selling tags, which makes four places throughout the County selling these trash tags. These locations are Walmart, the Tinker Shop in Cannelton, Michael's Market, and Nobles IGA. RC stated that these locations make zero dollars on every tag they sell, strictly providing a community service.

RK stated that prior to the Commissioners taking over Solid Waste, it was probably the worst ran Solid Waste in the State. It is now sustaining itself and running efficiently.

RC stated the County needs to order trash tags sometime soon, and RT added this is due to going through a lot of tags. RK stated that 50,000 is the quantity that has to be ordered, and RC confirmed that this is the amount that was purchased in the past. RK stated they cost \$.04 per tag, so this will cost \$2,000.

RK made a motion to purchase 50,000 trash tags for the Solid Waste, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

RT made a motion to dissolve the Solid Waste District and transfer it to the County, seconded by RK. Motion carried 3-0.

e) Pareto Health Insurance Proposal

RC stated that the County met with the insurance provider two or three weeks ago. One of the County’s big expenses is the reinsurance. What the current provider does is they laser out any individual that has a substantial cost, and the County has to pay this over and above the normal premium.

RC stated the Firm renewal has two lasers in it, one for \$260,000 and the other for \$200,000. An offering from the company Pareto Health does not laser individuals out. This is a type of Mutual Fund, mutual ownership, that has a slightly higher premium by about \$30,000.

RC stated that the way the lasers work, if the County has someone at a \$200,000 laser, the County pays the first \$200,000 of those health expenses, rather than the \$60,000 that is paid on everyone else. This continues on as long as the individual has health issues, which can be substantial funds. With the new company, the County will no longer get lasers, but will potentially have increases in insurance, but not to the extent a laser would be.

To join the group, the County has to make a capital contribution to the group, and in this case, they have sent an invoice for \$44,504. This will have to be paid in 2025 and in 2026. In the event the County chooses to stop participating in this group, that funding will be returned to the County. It is just a capital contribution to the organization.

RC stated they are asking for a signature and approval. The insurance committee made up of David Etienne, RC, Kris Hammack, and Kelli Wilgus determined that because of the age of the County’s workforce, this would probably be a good move so the County does not have these additional lasers that affect the County’s budget. The Commissioners will have to be on-board with this and the County Council will have to come up with funding for this capital contribution.

RK asked that this is a recommendation from the insurance committee, and RC confirmed this. The County will have to hold on to the current lasers it has, so they are projecting the \$200,000 and a \$125,000. Once those go away, then there will not be any new ones. RT asked when those will go away, and RC responded it is anybody’s guess. If the people who currently have lasers health would improve, or they would pass away, they will go away. RC stated this starts in 2025 and the County will get no additional lasers going forward.

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

- f) The next meeting will be Thursday, January 2, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. in the Courthouse Meeting Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 a.m. CST.  
RK made a motion to adjourn, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

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| _____<br>Randy Cole<br>President | _____<br>Pam Jamniczky<br>Vice-President | _____<br>Rebecca Thorn |
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*Minutes reviewed by:*  
*Kristinia L. Hammack, Auditor*

*Minutes prepared by:*  
*Leisa M. Ecker, Deputy Auditor*