

PERRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES
March 18, 2025

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

AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

a) Beth Hauser

Hauser appeared in support of the Perry County Economic Development Corporation, also known as the PCDC. Hauser stated she understood that the Commissioners have reviewed all the applications for the economic development, and have chosen to go with RJL Solutions out of Indianapolis.

Hauser provided the Commissioners with information regarding Spencer County, which also employs RJL Solutions for their economic development.

Hauser mentioned highpoints from the handout.

Per RJL's suggestion, Spencer County formed a not-for-profit organization, and the Indiana Secretary of State has officially accepted the Articles of Incorporation of the Spencer County Economic Development Authority (SCEDA), formed to serve as the leading Economic Development organization in the county. The newly formed SCEDA will work to facilitate job creation, promote growth and development, collaborate with government entities, private stakeholders, and organizations on behalf of the county. Hauser asked the Commissioners is this not what RJL should be doing with the \$144,000 that they are charging Spencer County? Is this what RJL is planning on doing with Perry County? Perry County already has an economic development team together.

Hauser stated that it appears that the main job of RJL is that they are a watchdog for the READI I and READI II funding; they want to make sure Spencer County does not lose their READI funding. Hauser asked is this not what Perry County's ARP committee was for? Also, ARP was a volunteer board, not a paid board.

Spencer County is paying RJL to be a watchdog for the ARP funds.

Hauser stated that Spencer County is yet to get an economic plan from RJL.

Their proposal was in February, 2024. They will possibly have it in May, 2025.

The survey that RJL sent out to a select area netted a 2% population response, with a typical survey response being 20-30%. Hauser stated 2% is a failed survey.

Hauser stated that with Perry County's agreement with RJL, they are starting at ground zero and recreating the wheel. The PCDC has already done this. Hauser asked why the County would spend \$96,000 to have RJL do this? Hauser asked if there is a year two cost, as she did not find one. Year one is Phase 1-4, what is the cost for Phase 5, which is the actual execution of the plan?

Hauser questioned if the Commissioners have sat down with the PCDC Board and asked them for what the Commissioners want and are not getting it? Is that the reason for the different direction?

Hauser stated that the three PCDC employees live in Perry County. RJL is a for-profit company, and PCDC is a not-for-profit company. Hauser questioned how many hours will RJL spend on Perry County per week? Hauser further stated that RJL has multiple clients that they work with, where PCDC's concentration is only one, Perry County.

Hauser questioned if there is a conflict of interest with Spencer County utilizing RJL? In the proposal for Spencer County, it is mentioned the Ohio River is one of Spencer County's biggest assets. Hauser asked which part of the Ohio River is RJL going to promote, Spencer County or Perry County?

Hauser encouraged the Commissioners to read her handout and to talk with their constituents, asking them what they want. She believes the majority will be to keep it local.

b) Megan Fritchley

Fritchley asked the Commissioners what date the contract was signed with RJI Solutions? RC responded this is public comment, and the Commissioners are not into public debate. Fritchley can state what she wants, it is public comments. Fritchley stated she has emailed RC and can not get a response for public records. Fritchley stated that since she is getting no response, her next step was the public meeting.

RC stated that the Commissioners refer everything to the County Attorney, which Fritchley stated he does not answer either. RC stated the county wants to make sure everything is done properly.

Fritchley made a statement that it is illegal to not be able to get information about county tax dollars that are being spent.

Fritchley stated that over 200 signatures were collected in favor of PCDC, however, the contract with RJI Solutions has already been signed, so these signatures were futile.

Fritchley stated PCDC has already analyzed workforce availability, housing trends, industry needs, identified growth sectors, business clusters with the highest potential, etc.

NATHAN HELD, INDIANA 15 REGIONAL DIRECTOR

- a) Held appeared to give updates on what Indiana 15 has worked on in 2024. See attached (bottom of page 4).

GREG HENDERSHOT, PARKS & REC

- a) Fire Alarm Dialer

Hendershot appeared along with Dan from TSD Technologies, who is the company that handles the County's fire alarm system, and the dialer at the Courthouse.

RC asked where the Courthouse switches from copper to fiber. Hendershot stated that currently coming out of the dialer, it goes over an old nest which goes to two little old phone boxes. Out of there, it goes over to the copper lines, the old AT&T lines are what he guesses, and then it goes from there into the fiber. From there, Hendershot does not know whether it goes back into fiber and copper between the Courthouse and Security Central.

Dan with TSD Technologies stated that what is happening, fire alarm technology has not kept up with Teleplan technology. He further stated that a lot of fire alarm dialers are looking for POT (plain old telephone lines). Somewhere they are converting copper to fiber, and then back from fiber to copper. The old DAX (digital alarm communicator) transmitters get corrupt data. The dialer sends a 24-hour test every day, and it checks the phone lines, as it is a life safety system. However, sometimes when it sends the 24-hour test, the signal does not go through.

When TSD Technologies has ran into this scenario in the past, they had to install a module. The phone lines are plugged into the module, which makes the panel think it has tip and ring voltage. On the other end of that module, it plugs into the Courthouse network, and it has a cellular so that it is on a network constantly, 24/7. It could be Verizon or AT&T, being the two options with this module. Cellular can be put as primary and then ethernet would have to get to the switch in the records room, which is where the equipment is and plugging it in. This way, the County will have primary and backup.

RC asked what the cost of this module would be? Dan stated that currently the County pays \$325/year, and Alarm Net will increase the price to \$420/year. In addition, the County will not have to have the two phone lines.

RT made a motion to approve TSD Technologies proposal, seconded by RC. Motion carried 2-0.

ALAN MALONE, SHERIFF

- a) Citizens Police Academy, TCPD, and Everbody's Run for the Cops 4/12/2025
Malone appeared on behalf of the Citizens Police Academy and Everbody's who will be hosting the Run for the Cops again this year. Malone stated that last year, the Commissioners allowed the street in front of the Detention Center to be closed down, which is where the race will start. It will end at the Tell City Police

Department. Malone is seeking to have that road shut down again this year as the race is started, and then will be immediately opened back up. RT made a motion to approve, seconded by RC. Motion carried 2-0.

WARREN TAYLOR, CORONER

- a) Removal of old cooler

Taylor stated that the old cooler needs to be gotten rid of. It has not worked for three years and taking up space.

RT asked what is needed to remove it, and Taylor stated someone will have to come in with a forklift to remove it.

Taylor stated he has been contacted by a couple of people who have asked about the cooler and wanting to scrap it out. RT responded it is County property. RC asked Taylor if he had any idea what the cooler is worth? Taylor responded he had no idea. RC stated that the cooler has to be declared as excess and bid it off, that way the public has an opportunity. RC further stated he does not have a problem with getting rid of the cooler, but needs to find out legally what the County needs to do.

RT made a motion to determine that the cooler is excess material that needs to be disposed of, seconded by RC. Motion carried 2-0.

Beth Hauser asked RC when he stated he needs to get with the County Attorney regarding this, where is the County Attorney? RC responded that he attends their meetings once a month, as they always have for years. RC further stated that the attorney comes to the Monday meetings. Hauser asked just once a month, and RC responded yes, the way it has always been.

MINUTES

- a) 03.03.2025

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

KRISTINIA HAMMACK, AUDITOR

- a) 03.14.2025 Payroll: \$198,193.59

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

- b) 03.14.2025 Payroll W/H: \$42,441.24

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

- c) Health Insurance Claims: \$54,678.73

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

- d) PERF Claims: \$729.03

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

- e) 03.18.2025 Account Payable Claim Docket: \$734,449.65

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

- f) 03.18.2025 Solid Waste AP Claim Docket: \$11,209.07

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

COMMISSIONERS

- a) PCDC Affidavit for Payment

RC stated this is from the company that is doing the remedial work on one of the sites. The County has a contract that was signed some time ago and they regularly send the County a bill. This comes out of the Bond appropriations of that project. RT asked what is the amount, and RC stated he believes the contract is \$200,000 plus. Hammack stated that the current invoice is for \$900.00

RT made a motion to approve the PCDC Affidavit as presented, seconded by RC. Motion carried 2-0.

The next meeting will be Monday, April 7, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 p.m. CST.

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

Randy Cole
President

Pam Jamniczky
Vice-President

Rebecca Thorn

Minutes reviewed by:
Kristinia L. Hammack, Auditor
Minutes prepared by:
Leisa M. Ecker, Deputy Auditor