

PERRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES
May 20, 2025

The Perry County Board of Commissioners met at 6:00 p.m., as was duly advertised. Commissioners: President Randy Cole (RC), Vice President Pam Jamniczky (PJ) 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 modified, seconded by PJ. Motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- a) Greg Schnarr, Attorney at Rahman Law Office- Petition to vacate a public street in Leopold

Schnarr appeared on behalf of petitioners Kirk and Linda Wheeler, and Charles Gordon and Helen Bower. Wheeler was present on behalf of all four petitioners. Schnarr stated that Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler own property in Leopold and Charles and Helen are their neighbors to the East.

Schnarr provided several documents to the Commissioners, with the first being the petition to vacate part of dedicated Caroline Street, Washington Street, and Rome Street, all public streets in the Plat of the Town of Leopold, Perry County, State of Indiana. This plat was platted in 1842. Schnarr made reference to the visual of the GIS map on the screen.

Schnarr stated that Mr. Wheeler owns property and the other petitioners own lots adjacent. They are requesting to vacate portions of Rome Street, Caroline Street north of the Ohio Street intersection, to the northern edge of the Town of Leopold Plat, and then Washington Street. They are requesting from the southern boundaries of these adjoining landowners to the northern boundary of the Leopold Plat. RC asked who is the owner of the property to the right of Washington Street? Schnarr responded that they are the other petitioners, Charles Gordon and Helen Bower. Schnarr stated that there are three adjoining property owners which he had given notice to. RC questioned that the property owners to the south are all petitioning to vacate the road to the north? Schnarr responded correct. RC asked that vacating this road would not impact any other property owner that is adjacent? Schnarr responded that everyone who is south of Ohio Street, they are not adjoining because they are not vacating Ohio Street. On Caroline Street, Mr. Rainbolt received notice and was present at the meeting, however, he did not join in the petition.

RT asked that these are currently County roads, and Schnarr confirmed this.

Schnarr stated that the portions of the streets they are requesting to be vacated are all undeveloped and unutilized roadways.

Schnarr stated that one of the main reasons for this request is that Mr. Wheeler is wanting to construct a two-car garage to the West of his home, which would be impacted by Caroline Street which is currently preventing that improvement to occur.

Mr. Wheeler presented pictures of his property. Wheeler stated that there is not much of Caroline Road that exists. PJ stated that Mr. Rainbolt appeared at a previous meeting regarding this. Mr. Rainbolt stated that this road is his primary access to his property; approximately 40 feet of undeveloped Caroline Street, there is a 20-foot culvert in the waterway, and the grading is heavy enough that a vehicle can be driven on it. PJ asked Wheeler if the building would block access to Mr. Rainbolt's road to be able to get to his property? Wheeler did not respond. PJ asked if Mr. Wheeler and Mr. Rainbolt have tried to work this out personally to see if Mr. Rainbolt can move his access? Mr. Rainbolt responded that Mr. Wheeler wanted him to sign the petition, and responded why would he sign a petition to block his access?

RC stated that if Caroline is shut down, Mr. Wheeler would receive one half of the road, and Mr. Rainbolt would receive the other half of the road.

PJ stated she can see both sides, and asked if there is a way to give Mr. Rainbolt a different access? Mr. Rainbolt stated that there is an access to his property at Caroline and Ohio Streets. If there is a road that is platted but not developed, the property is split equally with the adjoining property owners.

RC stated that as of right now, it is not known where the property lines fall. RC stated that the County's challenge is trying to meet everybody's needs.

PJ stated she would like to reach out to County Surveyor David Lynch to get his feedback.

RT made a motion to suspend this pending further investigation and possibly a site visit, seconded by PJ. Motion carried 3-0.

MNUTES

a) 05.05.2025

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

ALAN MALONE, SHERIFF OFFICE

a) Jail EDIT Funds

Malone appeared asking the Commissioners if there has been any progress since the Joint Council and Commissioners Meeting regarding the EDIT Plan. PJ asked Auditor Hammack if she met with the Sheriff's office, and she responded yes.

Percentages of what was left was emailed. She advised Malone to go through contracts and see what is left to pay. Hammack spoke with the Sheriff's office on Monday, and they have gone through the budget and there is not a whole lot left to scratch from the budget.

Malone asked the Commissioners where they go from here and how do they move forward? RC referenced a sheet that the Sheriff's office provided, and stated that it has 43% left, meaning they have spent 57%. Malone responded a lot of that is the contracts that have been paid out. RC stated this would take it being spent through July 27th.

RC stated he ran the numbers and it came up to \$133,000 out of Fund 1112 and \$103,000 out of Fund 4927, for a little different total than what Malone had. This would be spending 60% of the funds, taking them to August 6th. RC stated that he does not know where the \$398,000 number came from on the EDIT, but the concerning issue is that he also ran budget for 2025, 2024, 2023, and 2022 actual spending. In 2022, the Jail had \$1,135,000, which was the total expense out of General, Fund 1112, Fund 1170, Fund 4927, and Fund 1114. In 2023, it was \$1,217,000, in 2024 it was \$1,380,000, and this year by using the first three months of what was actually spent, it is \$1,833,000. This is \$450,000 more than the previous year actual spending, with Malone stated he does not know how that is possible. Malone responded that if you look at the last three years, the budget has not changed very much except for the meals and for the medical.

Malone stated he was hoping to get an answer of where to go from here.

Auditor Hammack stated that a lot of the expenses in the first quarter are one-time expenses, so these expenses can not be taken into consideration, divide it out, and think there is going to reoccur. RC stated to Malone that if he spends the time and identifies those annual expenses, then the County can see where it is at financially. Right now, it appears the Jail is \$400,000 or \$500,000 over even using the \$398,000 number. RC asked Malone to go through the line items and identify what is paid up to what date, which will let them know exactly what is going on.

Hammack stated that they have to get something worked out, as it will be getting to the point where the County can not pay bills.

Discussion regarding the revenue for the Jail.

RC asked that if \$123,000 is transferred to the Jail, neither Hammack nor Malone will be back to the Commissioners asking for more money before the end of 2025? Malone stated he cannot say this, due to unexpected repairs/expenses that come up.

Malone would like to move forward and try to solve this. RC stated that Malone needs to know where all the expenses are coming in, and identify all the one-time expenses that are not reoccurring.

Chief Deputy Eric Dickenson stated that the Jail is operated very fiscally responsible. Dickenson discussed meals being a variable that was not taken in consideration. Medical is paid at least one month in advance. Most of the maintenance contracts are annual contracts, and Dickenson believes that is what is throwing the first three month's numbers off.

Dickenson stated that the concern for this date and meeting is that the Jail has \$40,000. They are making the Commissioners, and the Council on Thursday, aware that a fund is getting ready to go in the red. Hammack stated she cannot let a fund go in the red. Dickenson stated that there has to be a remedy soon, as the bills are going to continue to come in.

Discussion proceeded regarding looking at the Jail budget.

PJ asked when detailed information can be done, preferably for the June 2nd meeting, and forwarded to the Commissioners prior for review? That way the Commissioners have an answer for them.

KRISTINIA HAMMACK, AUDITOR

a) Health Insurance Claims: \$113,270.59

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

b) 05.20.2025 Solid Waste Accounts Payable Claim Docket: \$7,601.87

RT asked why there are four phone numbers? RC stated he has this being looked into. Apparently, there is not a static IP for the timeclock, which needs to be remedied. RC has asked Wes Terry to look through the bill to determine if Solid Waste is utilizing all of those phone numbers.

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

c) 05.20.2025 Account Payable Claim Docket: \$997,484.65

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

STEVE HOWELL, HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

a) Howell stated he has two unofficial detours from INDOT where they are going to replace bridge decks on 145; two of the decks are on one detour, and then one is by itself. INDOT is wanting the Commissioners to sign off on this if they are okay with it. RC stated that there are statements on the adjoining roads that will get the traffic.

RC stated that INDOT has the total closure time for the project to be approximately 90 days. Howell responded on the paper from INDOT it states almost a year, but possibly it is 90 days from the time it starts.

PJ stated that her main concern on those roads is that the County is going to run into the same problem as it had with the road that adjoins Spencer County. If the County does not prepare the road for it, then it will run into a complete disaster.

Howell stated it does not say when they are expected to begin. RT responded June 15th. RC stated if summertime, it is much better than starting in Winter.

RT stated that not long ago, the State was asked for money to help with Copper Road. She asked Howell if they have helped, and Howell responded not yet.

Howell further stated he sent an email the other day, and INDOT was going to drive that road and video it again once the State Road was reopened. The State Road has been opened but he has not heard anything back from INDOT.

RT stated that this detour will go to Sinai, Cedar, Cardinal, Cattail, and then Bristow Road to 145. Those are all County roads, and will have to be maintained.

RT further stated that the State needs to step up and pay all the cost of this.

Howell stated the only other option was to send them through Blue Ridge, which would have been a little closer, however, he knew the County could not do that.

PJ responded that by human nature, drivers are going to take the closest route.

People are not going to take the route specified. Howell stated there is a spot by the cemetery on Blue Ridge that is bad; it is almost dangerous to drive through there.

RT reiterated that the State is going to have to come up with some money to take care of these roads.

PJ asked if there is any way that the County can push back and ask for some type of written agreement on what type of money the County will get back, or what happens when they do damage Blue Ridge Road? Howell stated they will video the roads before they start construction, and when completed, they drive and video them again. Howell stated the County will be able to submit documentation, such as rock tickets, etc. to the State. Howell does not know if they will pay all of it, part of it, or what the State will agree to.

RT stated that anytime a State Highway is shut down and have to detour on County roads, that is not the taxpayer's responsibility. RC instructed Howell to get a letter signed by the State committing to fix the roads.

RC asked if the Commissioners are okay with signing the contracts, and PJ stated she is not okay signing it, as people are not going to use the specified detour as their route. RC asked PJ if she wants to change it? PJ responded people are

going to use Blue Ridge Road; people are not going to take the extra long route around. RC asked Howell if it can be changed and put the detour on Blue Ridge? Howell responded that it can not be put on Blue Ridge, if the detour is put on there, accidents will definitely happen. RT asked if it runs into a one lane, and Howell confirmed this, where the cemetery is located.

PJ feels that the County is going to have to reach out to the State to make Blue Ridge drivable, otherwise INDOT will have to postpone shutting down the highway. PJ asked if the County has been in this situation before, and wonders if the State is willing to help in any way. PJ suggested that all the Commissioners drive this road if they never have before.

RC asked Howell how big the bridges are that will have maintenance? Howell responded that they are fairly short. RC asked if there would be any way to drop a culvert and gravel around the bridge, and Howell responded that would be up to INDOT. RC asked if it would be possible to leave one lane open while they do the other one? Howell responded he can check with INDOT.

b) Perry Central Baseball Tourney

Howell stated that Perry Central called asking to close Old 37 on June 28th and June 29th for their annual tournament. This is done every year.

RT made a motion to allow this, seconded by PJ. Motion carried 3-0.

c) Community Crossings

Howell stated he has received the Purchase Order for Community Crossings. As soon as the County receives the money, he will be doing an additional appropriation. RC asked if the County has to wait for the money before scheduling C & R Construction, and Howell responded yes.

RC stated he has spoken with Rusty from C & R Construction regarding the lines down at the foundry. RC was told that he would make a note. RC stated he does not know what is the easiest way, as he did not know who the striping is, as to whether C & R Construction has the striping done and sends the County a bill, or whether they put the County in contact and pay the striping company directly.

d) SR 166

RT stated she has spoken with INDOT regarding SR 166 right past Rocky Point. Once the road stops sliding, INDOT will begin work to repair it, which would take approximately one week.

COMMISSIONERS

a) Mowing Contract

RC stated that there is an old landfill that an individual wants to mow, get it in shape, and take the hay off of it. This agreement is to have something in writing so that the County is not liable for any kind of accidents or things on the property.

RT made a motion to accept the mowing contract, seconded by PJ. Motion carried 3-0.

b) Vanderburgh County Youth Care

PJ stated that currently in the jail, or in the County in general, when the youth become incarcerated, they are taken approximately three hours North. In addition, it can take two Sheriff Deputies, sometimes just one, depending on the circumstances. The County is tying up two officers at a minimum of seven hours to transport.

PJ stated that at one time, there was a proposed contract, but she looked back and was not able to find anything. PJ further stated that what the County wants to do is reopen this and find out what the County can do to make this better for the youth. The County needs to look at possibly getting a new contract and what that would cost, along with how the changes need to happen. RT added that it is very expensive to send juveniles up North.

PJ would like to reopen the conversation.

RC stated he thought there was a center in Knox County, however, Sheriff Malone stated it is closed right now, with looking to reopen in approximately one year.

RC stated that from memory only, the County would have to buy a bed and pay for it 365 days per year. PJ responded that is what they could not find; a contract could not be found. RC stated he could not find it either, this is just something he seemed to remember. It would be less money per day, possibly in the \$150 a day range, which the County was paying \$230 or \$240 at the other location.

RC ask Sheriff Malone how many juvenile days does the County have normally, and Malone responded he could not answer that. RT stated that the Courts should be able to provide that information.

RT stated it would be nice if this could be housed in Perry County, and then house other counties. RC responded that the biggest challenge is that in the wintertime, there are a lot of vacancies; in the summertime, they are packed to capacity. PJ will look into this.

c) Meunier-Carrolton Road Driveway

David Meunier stated he has been working with Highway Superintendent Steve Howell to get a driveway put in. Meunier stated he has put together a set of plans that validates everything the County has in its records.

Howell stated he has spoken to the other property owner who stated he never received anything from the County closing that road. This means it is still a County road. The other property owner stated he would like it to be closed, however, Mr. Meunier does not want it closed. Mr. Meunier added he needs this for access to the property. His previous access was removed when the property was logged. The other property owner states this is on his property. Howell stated it is close to his property, but it is a County right-of-way. Howell is not seeing why a driveway pipe could not be put in, as this is on the County right-of-way.

RC asked Meunier if he has had a survey? Meunier responded it had a boundary survey from the subdivision of the parcel when it went from 80 and split it down 145. Meunier added it was flagged when he purchased the property. Meunier spoke with Surveyor David Lynch, and the 20-foot right-of-way was an unplotted right-of-way. The only Ordinance he could find was a 20-foot right-of-way.

PJ stated she believes that the other property owner thought a change happen, and it never did, as no records could be found of any change. Howell stated nothing was received from the County to vacate that road. RT asked Howell if the County is still maintaining Carrolton Road, and Howell confirmed this.

Discussion on Carrolton Road never being vacated.

RT asked Howell that Meunier wants the County to install a culvert, and Meunier responded he does not care if the County installs it or he will install it. Meunier was wanting to make sure this is a clean process. RC asked Meunier if he is going to keep this clean and do the ditches there, with Meunier responding it cleans itself out when it rains.

RC stated that no action is needed as the road was never vacated, and installation of a culvert is a normal occurrence.

RT made a motion to install a culvert, either by the County or Mr. Meunier, seconded by PJ. Motion carried 3-0.

d) Evapar Conract

RC stated that this contract is a maintenance contract. RC asked Hammack, since there are three generators, if this contract could be put all together into one for a little cost savings. Hammack will check into this.

Tabled.

e) Solid Waste

RC stated that they are removing the vegetation at the Solid Waste in Cannelton. They will then be moving the fence down, adding some at the end of the property and also an additional gate. This will give an approximate 40 to 50 feet of additional ground to the south which the County already owns. RC stated there is other work to be done at this site, but this will get them started.

RT made a motion to approve the movement of the fence and vegetation by Boyle Construction Company, contingent upon he can get on this, seconded by PJ. Motion carried 3-0. Auditor Hammack asked how this is being funded, and RC responded ARPA dollars, but it is not out of the ARPA account.

f) Ambulance Service

RC stated that all the Commissioners received some information on the Ambulance Service. The old original contract was written back in the 1980's. RC feels it is the reasonable thing to do for the County to possibly put this out for bids to see if there is some interest; get an idea of where the County is and what the costs are, and what to expect going forward.

RT made a motion pursue this further, seconded by PJ. Motion carried 3-0.

The next meeting will be Monday, June 2, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m. CST.
RT made a motion to adjourn, seconded by PJ. Motion carried 3-0.

Randy Cole President	Pam Jamniczky Vice-President	Rebecca Thorn
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Minutes reviewed by:
Kristinia L. Hammack, Auditor
Minutes prepared by:
Leisa M. Ecker, Deputy Auditor