

PERRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES
June 2, 2025

The Perry County Board of Commissioners met at 9:00 a.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, Sheriff Alan Malone, and Attorney Andrew Foster were also present. There was no *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) Gloria Rahman-Petition to vacate portion of public street in Leopold
- Rahman appeared on behalf of Greg Schnarr, who attend the prior meeting regarding the request to vacate some streets in Leopold. This was tabled at the previous meeting. The request is to vacate parts of Caroline Street, Washington Street, and Rome Street. Kirk and Linda Wheeler were present, who own some lots in the area, and are requesting this to be vacated. Half of Washington Street would go to the Wheelers, and half would go to their neighbors to the East. Half of Caroline Street would go to the Wheelers, and half would go to their neighbor to the West. Rome Street borders where the Town Plat is located, so that part not in the Plat would go to the Wheelers and their perspective neighbors. Rahman stated the request remained the same as at the previous meeting.
- RC stated that the Commissioners reached out to David Lynch, County Surveyor, and he had actually surveyed the area prior, and he was able to find his pin. This way, the actual corner of the property can be located. The Commissioners physically went and looked at the road, and where this would fall within the scope of this. RC and RT believe that the concern of a neighbor is that there is a pipe on Ohio Street, a culvert that is already there, and approximately 100-150 feet up the road, there is another area where it appears people would have been going into his property. RC stated that they did not see a culvert in that area, however, it is flat, and for some reason they are driving through that. RC further stated that getting there is partially on both sides of their properties.
- The gentleman to the West should have sufficient roadway if he chooses to continue to drive up to where the current street lies, to access both the upper section and also access it by Ohio Street. RT stated that it is a little difficult where the fire hydrant is on that corner.
- RT suggested that since it is 50 feet, being 25 feet to each landowner, and have the County put in a culvert where Mr. Rainbolt is wanting one put in so that he can have access that way to his property. Rahman asked on Caroline, sand RT confirmed this.
- Wheeler would like to see Ohio Street open up so that Rainbolt can make the turn to access his property versus Caroline Street. Wheeler feels that due to the water table rises when it rains, the ground is saturated until the water table goes down. RC stated that possibly Rainbolt will not want his 25 feet to be vacated, so that the 25 feet becomes a platted road. This has been done previously. If it is vacated, both parties will gain more acreage. RC suggests vacating half of the road that impacts Wheeler, and then the County can either vacate the other half of the road or leave as it is, a platted city street in Leopold. Rahman asked that the county would vacate the half on the East side, and RC confirmed this.
- RT stated that Mr. Rainbolt has to have access to his property, as the trailer or pile of gravel will have to be moved by Wheeler.
- Mr. Rainbolt will be notified by a letter.

PJ made a motion to vacate the property for the Wheelers and the Bowers, Rome to the North, Washington, and half of Carolina to the East, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

b) RJL Solutions

Jonathan Blake presented a copy of the monthly report that was sent out via email last week.

Blake stated he presented this to the County Council on May 22nd. On that date, he also met with the Perry County Chamber of Commerce, and Gary Gruebel at Waupaca Foundry, just to talk about some of the issues and concerns that they have with the former LETO, where they see the County going in the future, from infrastructure needs to workforce development. Blake is scheduled to tour the Waupaca Foundry on June 26th.

From the LETO transition standpoint, RJL has filed the Articles of Incorporation based on the Resolution that was passed by the Commissioners last week at the Special Meeting. This meeting officially incorporated the Perry County Economic Development, Inc., the nonprofit that will lead economic development work for the County moving forward. They have received the Certificate of Incorporation from the State. RJL will now work on getting a meeting of that board setup, so that they can move that group forward.

From the Project Falcon standpoint, RJL was in communication with the site selector last week. He informed RJL that they have received all the information they need from RJL and the County, as well as the final incentive letter from IEDC. All this information has been turned over to their client for review.

Regarding business recruitment and attraction, RJL is evaluating two projects currently for the County. One is Project Locksmith Two, which is an existing building search, which would be approximately a \$25 to \$30 million investment in capital and would create approximately 35 new jobs, with wages ranging from \$20-\$22 an hour.

RJL is also evaluating Project Big Bin, which is a textile manufacturer, and is another existing building search. This would be approximately a \$10 million investment. Both of these came to RJL through IEDC.

RJL is currently scheduling meetings with local businesses to facilitate business retention and expansion. They have also been in contact with Mayor Cail and Mayor Graves, and are coordinating meeting with those gentlemen as well.

Blake stated that during the County Council meeting on the 22nd, there was some conversation from the Sheriff regarding some equipment replacement needs. One thing Blake had suggested to Councilman Harding following that meeting was to potentially put together a capital improvement plan that would outline capital improvement needs or asset replacement needs for the County moving forward. Blake felt this would align really well with the Commissioner's desire for focus on infrastructure. This is everything from water and sewer, to roads and connectivity. This would be providing that strategic tool for long-term planning related to infrastructure. This supports economic development by ensuring that improvements are made where they are needed most and made in a timely manner.

Blake stated the report contained a comment regarding grant opportunities. He has been in contact with Commissioner Cole and Councilman Harding regarding some projects that could benefit from grant funding.

Blake stated the current project of current funding opportunity is the T-Mobile Hometown Grant, which would offer approximately \$50,000 per awardee for community-based projects. Through Councilman Harding, RJL has been in contact with the Derby Association, and he believed they will be voting this week on whether or not they want to pursue that funding for a project they have.

RJL is also working on a project that Commissioner Cole had identified, creating a cultural trail, highlighting some of the assets and cultural features of the County. This would include places such as Lincoln Ferry Park, the Nestor House, and the Cannelton Locks. RJL is working through a project description and narrative for that grant opportunity. RT asked if the 4-H would qualify for this T-Mobile Hometown Grant, and Blake responded it could.

Blake stated that this T-Mobile Hometown Grant is limited to one grant per community. The County could receive one and then the Derby Association could get one, and that would not be considered the same community.

RT asked what is the deadline for this grant, and Blake responded there is not a deadline, it is a rolling grant. Blake stated that RJL is going to help the Derby Association if they want to pursue this grant, and obviously pursue one for the Commissioners as well.

RC asked Blake, with the discussion earlier regarding identifying water and sewer resources here in the County, and the critical nature because when these projects pop up and so many gallons of water per day is needed, the County needs to know that it is available, along with the sewer capacity to handle it. RC asked if RJL has gotten this sorted out, or are they still waiting for it? Blake responded that RJL has been in contact with the utility providers, and are working on getting meetings set up. They have not been successful to get actual dates yet.

RT asked on the projects that the IEDC is looking at, would they be willing to build on property? Blake responded RJL needs to go back and look at those.

They have classified them as existing building searches, but Blake will check into this and report back to the Commissioners.

c) Steve Howell, Highway Superintendent – Bridge Inspection

Howell stated that he needed the Commissioners' signature on the Phase 2 Bridge Inspection that was just completed. RC asked that this is submitted to the State, and Howell confirmed this.

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

MINUTES

a) 05.20.2025 Meeting

RT made a motion to accept as presented, seconded by PJ. Motion carried 3-0.

b) 05.28.2025 Special Meeting

PJ made a motion to accept as presented, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

KRISTINIA HAMMACK, AUDITOR

a) 05.23.2025 Payroll: \$194,453.39

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

b) 05.23.2025 Payroll W/H: \$41,649.44

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

c) Dental Claims: \$130.61

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

d) Vision Claims: \$139.31

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

e) Life Insurance Claims: \$1,644.40

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

f) Health Claims: \$68,775.41

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

g) 06.02.2025 Solid Waste Claim Docket: \$7,071.50

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

h) 06.02.2025 Account Payable Claim Docket: \$995,417.76

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

COMMISSIONERS

a) Plymouth Van

RC stated this is the former Coroner's van. Coroner Warren Taylor has stated that the County does not have the title to this van and it is not of significant value.

RT reiterated that the title cannot be found. RC stated a title can be obtained from the BMV, which will be needed even if this van is taken to the salvage yard.

RC stated it was parked five or six years ago, and Taylor responded two and a half years ago. RC does not know what value, and how the county wants to go about disposing of this vehicle. If there was another agency within government that needed the van, he does not know if it would have any value to them. RC

further stated that at one time the Commissioners talked about potentially the Animal Shelter using it, but he does not know what their current situation is. RT stated Taylor had said this vehicle did not have very many miles on it, and Taylor responded it has less than 100,000 miles. However, Taylor stated those have been really rough miles, over some rough terrain. It was driven through fields and creeks, whatever the terrain to get to the location the Coroner needed to go.

PJ asked if the van is running, and RT responded no. Taylor responded that it will not start. RC stated that the battery is probably dead, and it may start.

RC stated that they need to find out if anyone would be interested in the van before the County spends a lot of money on it, just to take it to the junk yard.

RC asked if the Commissioners want to send some type of email out to the different groups, and see if anybody responds that they have an interest in this

vehicle? PJ responded at the same time, she believes they need the title.
Hammack asked if the Commissioners want her to send an email to all the County departments, and RC responded yes, and also to include the Solid Waste and the Animal Shelter, and even anyone in a charitable function within the County.
RT made a motion to approve, seconded by PJ. Motion carried 3-0.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, June 17, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:36 a.m. CST.
PJ made a motion to adjourn, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

Randy Cole	Pam Jamniczky	Rebecca Thorn
President	Vice-President	

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