

PERRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES
July 15, 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 Deputy Leisa Ecker was also present. There was no *Sheriff, 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 with modifications, seconded by PJ. Motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

a) Jim Carter

1. Carter stated that last year, the Troy Council appointed Adam Hoffman to be the Troy representative for the Animal Welfare Board. Carter asked if Hoffman now has the ability to set in on the Animal Welfare meetings? RT responded that if he was appointed to the board, she would assume he would be able to.
2. Carter stated he is attempting to find a new way to address the cat problem in the county and the cities. Carter is trying to secure funds to tackle the cat situation. The Humane Society has spent so much money trying to spay and neuter cats, that it is running out of money. Carter stated that the Humane Society cannot continue to give out money without help. In addition, Carter does not want the Humane Society responsible for a fund that would do this. He would like it to be county-wide and all entities. Carter requested that a fund be created specifically to be used for cat spay and neuter programs. These funds would be controlled by the Commissioners through the Animal Control Board. RC asked Carter if he is asking for a specific fund to accept donations for different entities that would be held by the County, and for the exclusive use of spay and neutering cats, and Carter responded yes. Carter stated this fund would be used so that hot spots can be found and addressed.
RT stated that she believes there is an animal fund through the Clerk's office where fines are paid, and asked what is that money used for? Carter stated that money is used for whatever they decide. RT asked what things and who decides? Carter responded that the Animal Control Board can decide through the Commissioners. Carter is asking for a specific fund. RC stated that he feels there should be a letter asking for such a fund, which is a consensus from the Animal Welfare Board that this is something that they are requesting. Carter responded that the Board is still in the process to be organized, which will be another 30-60 days. Carter wanted this fund created as soon as possible. RC responded that as a general rule, the County would like the entire board, by consensus, to come and ask for something. If every individual member from the board would come in and make requests, such as set up an exclusive fund for a given purpose, the County needs to know the entire board is on board with the request.

b) Brian Herwig, Democratic Party Chairman

Herwig appeared to talk about political affiliations for appointees, and to work with both the Commissioners and the Council, so that there is a consistent interpretation of the State Statute.

Herwig had a portion of the Statute, and reached out to the Indiana Election Board for further interpretation. Herwig read aloud a portion of the Statute.

Herwig stated that on the Health Board, it appears there are two Independents.

Herwig feels, based on the State Statute, this needs to be addressed, to have a common interpretation of how the County is going to move forward. Per the interpretation from Matthew Kochevar, Co-Counsel at the Indiana Election Board, there can not be Independents, only Democrat or Republican. RC stated that the County has spoken to the State regarding voting one primary as Democrat and the other as Republican.

RC stated that if he remembered correctly, the Party Chairman only plays a part if possibly they had only voted once, then the Chairman could certify for the second. RC stated that his interpretation of the law, the Political Chairman does not play a significant role in the appointment of board members.

RC does not feel that the County can necessarily, unless an individual belongs to a Republican and/or Democrat party, eliminate any individual from serving because they are not necessarily affiliated with one of those two major parties.

KRISTINIA HAMMACK, AUDITOR

- a) 07.15.2025 Solid Waste Accounts Payable Claim Docket: \$7,811.19

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

- b) 07.15.2025 Account Payable Claim Docket: \$169,106.87

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

- c) Partial Payment to Boyle Construction Co: \$9,006.03

RC stated they are in the process of clearing woods and installing fence at the Cannelton Solid Waste site.

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

COMMISSIONERS

- a) Buzzard Roost Road

PJ stated that at the last Commissioner meeting, it was discussed there is a slide on this road. Steve Howell, Highway Superintendent, stated he contacted someone with Lochmueller Group, and someone is going to go there and look at it, along with three other slides, and make some recommendations. Howell was still waiting on a phone call as to when that person would be coming.

RC stated he believes this will be quite expensive to repair. RC mentioned that he does not know if it would be possible for the County to secure additional property to purchase. If the County had the ability to purchase 10 or 15 feet to move the road, it might be substantially less and then possibly try to stabilize it. This might be an option to look at.

RC stated that this is an issue of safety. The County needs to get some guardrail or something there in that area because if a person went off the road in that section, they would be down to the river. Howell stated that there are concrete barriers along the road right now. RC stated that there has to be sufficient area on the side of that to protect so people do not drive off that.

RT asked Howell how many families live on that back side, and Howell responded there is a place where someone has a camper in the summertime.

Howell does not feel there are any actual residences through this Buzzard Roost area.

Howell stated that the main traffic on this road is the people who work at Cape Sandy.

Howell stated he should have more information at the next Commissioner meeting. He will have Lochmueller Group at Tide, Boyd, and by the Country Club as well.

Howell stated that he expects to hear from FEMA in August regarding the slides.

RC responded even then, it takes years to get any money. RC asked Howell if the County cannot do any repairs to the slide on Boyd until they come in, and Howell responded he was told by FEMA that the County should not work on it until it is declared by FEMA if the County wants FEMA to participate.

- b) Board Appointment – Health Board

RC stated that only one letter of interest has been received, which is Erika Hollinden.

RT made a motion to appoint Erika Hollinden to fill the vacant position on the Health Board, seconded by PJ. Motion carried 3-0.

- c) Request to close road

RC stated Howell received a request from St Augustine Church to close the road for the church picnic on July 29, 2025. This has been done every year.

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

- d) PSC Authorization

RC stated this is for the Solid Waste telephone lines, as there are too many with some needing to be removed. RT stated she believed that John Roach should take care of that.

PJ made a motion to appoint John Roach to give him the authority to act on behalf of the County Solid Waste to interact with PSC, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

The next meeting will be Monday, August 4, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m. CST.
RT made a motion to adjourn, seconded by PJ. 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