

PERRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES
November 18, 2025

The Perry County Board of Commissioners met at 6:00 p.m., as was duly advertised. Commissioners: President Randy Cole (RC) and Vice President Pam Jamniczky (PJ) were in attendance. Auditor Kristinia L. Hammack was also present. There was *Sheriff, Attorney or News Representative* in attendance.

The meeting opened with all present reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

a) Cindy Taylor

1. Taylor asked about the Personnel Policy regarding using personal vehicles for conferences, and if that is allowed? RC responded that he believed that a lot of people drive their personal vehicle and then turn their mileage in.
2. With Eagles Bluff, there has been a little problem with overtime, getting it open and shut. It was suggested to leave it open 24/7, which given the nature of that location, would be hard to do. The utilities fall under the Parks Board budget. If that could be separated, it would help some. There are no cameras at Eagles Bluff, and the lighting has a sensor to come on. The bathrooms would be left open 24/7, which would cause a problem being a glass house. Taylor does not feel that it is an option to leave it open 24/7. Taylor added that the board approved at their last meeting to open Eagles Bluff when they come to work, and close it when they leave. This would be from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. It would be closed on the weekends. This is a temporary fix.

Taylor stated she is in the process of looking into an automatic gate to open at 7:00 a.m. and close 7:00 p.m. The bathrooms will still be an issue, but feels it can be all addressed.

Taylor asked the Commissioners to consider this and would like to have it in place by the first of the year.

PJ stated that in her opinion, this is a public park that should be open 24 hours/day 7 days/week. PJ added that when she had spoken to the Sheriff, he would increase patrol. PJ added there is a chance for vandalism, but what park doesn't have that chance? Warren Taylor stated that if the County could guarantee it would cover damage, then he would not have a problem with it staying open.

RC stated that there cannot be a trigger to open the gate from the inside, and when a gate is closed at a parking garage, he can push a button and a camera comes on. It has a picture of that person, and he can tell them what his problem is, and they can open the gate. The cell tower being built next to Eagles Bluff might assist with this giving connectivity. In addition, there can be locks on the restroom which will automatically lock them. RC suggests looking into the cost associated with these. He feels locks and cameras are a solution, as long as there is connectivity at Eagles Bluff.

Taylor stated that Parks and Rec is the only department that gets budgeted a certain amount for utilities. Hammack responded that all the utilities are kept separate by buildings. Taylor responded yes, but they are all paid by the County. Hammack responded that Parks & Rec is paid by the County also, as it is paid out of General. Taylor responded that the actual parks owned by the County are paid by the Parks Board in its budget. Hammack reiterated that this is out of the General fund. The County buildings are under the Commissioner's budget. Warren Taylor responded that Taylor is speaking about the parks, such as Rome where there are lights and they have their own meters.

RC stated that the buildings are under the Commissioner's budget, and the parks are under the Parks and Rec budget, but this is all paid out of General. RC added that if the utilities were switched to come out of the Commissioner's budget, then the Parks and Rec budget would be lowered. If

Parks and Rec are not budgeted sufficiently for the utilities, then that is an issue for the County Council.

3. Taylor stated that at the Parks Board meeting, it was mentioned that it was disappointing to not be able to see the demonstration of Eagle View when it was presenting by those watching from home. RC suggested to Taylor to search on the internet for Eagle View, as it has examples of what it can do. Hammack stated that the YouTube cameras are set and cannot be moved.
4. Taylor stated that with the Parks Board, last month there was a misunderstanding with the Parks Director, and Taylor feels there needs to be a policy in place, where a personnel policy is talked about, that HR would contact the Director or department head in writing, in order to clarify some things. Taylor stated this was regarding overtime. Taylor stated this was done wrong, with Greg Hendershot taking the fall for it.

b) Warren Taylor

Taylor stated that Greg Hendershot checked on getting another fan hooked up in the cooler area at the Coroner's office. This would remove some of the odors. Taylor stated that last week, the smell was pretty nasty. Hendershot checked on a price for a fan, which was fairly high. Taylor would like to try to come up with a cheaper fan. Taylor stated there used to be duct work that went outside, and a fan could be put in one of those to try to help draw that odor out.

RC asked Taylor if he had seals on his door, and Taylor responded yes. RC asked if Taylor has an overhead door in the back, and Taylor responded no, there are double doors in the back.

Taylor would like Hendershot to get another fan to put in the cooler room. RC asked that the cooler room does not smell, does it? Taylor responded that it does when there is a decomposed body, and basically, the whole building does.

RC stated that Taylor can have Hendershot explore some prices, and PJ added to check with other vendors as well.

c) Adam Meyer

Meyer stated that he is an employee for the Highway department. He appeared to make some comments on the proposed change to the Employee Policy Handbook. Meyer would like to see the Monday-Thursday 40-hour workweek stay the same. Meyer stated that he took quite a pay cut to come work for the Highway department, but one of the most attractive things about the job was the four 10-hour work week. Meyer stated that the pay is below average for a CDL professional driver. He stated that if the County takes away the Monday-Thursday work week, then there really are not many things left in the job that are attractive.

Meyer stated that with four open positions, and soon to be five in a couple of weeks, nobody is applying for the job.

RC stated that there is one thing that everybody continues to misunderstand, the proposal is not getting rid of the 10-hour workdays, it is simply four tens. A portion of the employees would work Monday-Thursday, and the other portion would work Tuesday-Friday. Everyone would still be working four 10-hour days. This will just be giving coverage on Fridays.

MINUTES

a) 11.03.2025

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

KRISTINIA HAMMACK, AUDITOR

a) 11.07.2025 Payroll: \$181,468.58

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

b) 11.07.2025 Payroll W/H: \$38,614.90

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

c) Health Claims: \$135,541.51

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

d) Sheriff Pension (4th Quarter): \$38,050.25

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

e) 11.18.2025 Solid Waste Accounts Payable Claim Docket: \$335.00

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

f) 11.18.2025 Account Payable Claim Docket: \$941,063.08

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

g) Additional Appropriation: General Fund—Commissioners; Liability Insurance
#1000.34200.00000.0068 \$23,384.00

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

h) LIT Transfer

RC stated that the County has an EDIT plan that determines where the money goes, which is split into approximately five or six categories. There is some money in a general pot that did not get distributed for some of 2023, 2024, and 2025. In order to balance this out, the Commissioners came up short \$76,872.38. The only thing the County has flexibility with is the Special Projects fund. RC suggested it is pulled out of that fund, with the stipulation that the overpayment went to Jail Operations, therefore, if any additional revenue that remains in the Jail account at the end of the year, December 31, 2025, it will transfer back into Special Projects.

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

i) Cash Transfer with intent to appropriate: Highway

FROM: Fund 1173 MVHR	\$200,000.00
FROM: Fund 4923 LIT/EDIT Highway	\$200,000.00
TO: Fund 9141 Local Road/Bridge Matching Grant	\$400,000.00

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

COMMISSIONERS

a) PCDC Affidavit for payment

This is for mitigation related to the Riverview West project. This is on a contract and has been ongoing. This is paid out of the bond proceeds from that project.

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

b) Bid information for hauling rock

RC stated this bid has been published and will be opened at the December 16th meeting.

c) Ride Solutions-requesting a letter of termination the Authorizing Resolution R-C-25-2

RC stated he is confused, as the letter states for 2026, and the Commissioners signed one for 2025. There has been no discussion about this and now they are wanting a letter for 2026. Hammack responded that Ride Solutions stated that even though the County was not giving them funding, they needed this letter for a grant with INDOT. Hammack added that it was her understanding that Ride Solutions will not be providing services to Perry County in 2026.

RC stated he is confused, and that Ride Solutions never came to the Commissioners to discuss this with them. RC asks that they come to a Commissioner meeting and give some clarity on this issue.

PJ made a motion to table until additional information is received, seconded by RC.

Motion carried 2-0.

d) Personnel Policy Handbook updates to go in effect January 1, 2026

RC stated that the Commissioners received the whole entire handbook, and Hammack interjected that the changes were in yellow.

PJ made a motion to table until the next December meeting, seconded by RC. Motion carried 2-0.

e) Commissioners and County Council are now accepting letters from residents who are interested in serving on any Local Governing Board for 2026. Applicants must submit their letter of interest through a link on the County website homepage titled: *Submit 2026 Board Appointments*. Letters of interest will be accepted through December 26, 2025. Board Appointments will be made at the 2026 Organizational meeting.

RC stated that residents can also submit these letters to the Commissioners or Council if that makes them more comfortable.

- The Commissioner Organizational meeting is on Monday, January 5, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.
- The County Council Organizational meeting is on Monday, January 5, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

f) Steve Howell, Highway Superintendent

1. Howell stated he has a transfer request from gas to equipment rentals for \$7,500.

This is to pay Dorcholz Excavating for busting tout the rock ledges on Apricot Road. Hammack stated this is on the Council agenda.

2. Howell stated he has an additional appropriation for Phase 2A on the bridge inspection for \$24,372. This will begin on January 1, 2026. 80% of this will be reimbursed from INDOT.

RC stated that the County cannot appropriate money for 2026. Hammack stated that the Highway would have to encumber it, but asked if Howell will be using 2026 funds? Howell stated he had to submit a request for funds, and they should come out in December. RC stated that if the funds are received in the County in December, then Howell would need to encumber those funds, and then it can be appropriated in 2026.

3. Howell had an additional appropriation for \$161,000 for the new trucks. Howell asked if there are any new updates on this? RC responded that he thinks the Highway department is in the comfort phase, as when it is short five people. Howell responded it is six people now. RC stated that he feels that the truck issue needs to be worked out. RC asked if the older trucks leave the fleet, and Howell stated that his department strips parts off these trucks until they get everything off of them that can be used.
There was a discussion regarding the older trucks and their uses, along with the salt beds.
PJ stated she has a hard time with purchasing three new trucks, especially due to the need for drivers. Howell stated that his department was trying to pay for these trucks out of the 2025 budget. RC asked Howell if he was going to lose the money, and Howell responded no. RC added that the Highway budget does not get zeroed out. Hammack responded that the cash does not go away, the appropriation goes away.
4. Howell stated he has the application to board at Girl Scout Road. RC responded that it was from Comcast. PJ asked if they fixed the road whenever they are finished, and Howell responded that they would sleeve it.

PJ made a motion to approve the boarding of Girl Scout Road by DSM Group, who is working for Comcast, seconded by RC. Motion carried 2-0.

5. Howell stated that the paving on Branchville Road started the day prior to the meeting.
6. Highway Department Scheduling
PJ stated that the whole idea behind this scheduling is because the County was behind on work. PJ stated that the Highway department has been knocking work out, and gave kudos to the employees at the Highway department.

g) The next meeting is December 1, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 p.m. CST.

PJ 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