

**PERRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**January 20, 2026**

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 David Faulkenberg were also present. There was no *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 modified, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- a) Nathan Held, Indiana Region 15 Regional Planning Commission  
Held appeared to discuss the EPA Brownfields Coalition Assessment Grant. They are getting ready to apply for the next round of funding. Since it is a coalition, and Indiana Region 15 serves six counties, for whatever reason they only allow four non-coalition members. Indiana 15 serves as the lead coalition member, and then four of our counties serve as non-lead coalition members. Indiana Region 15 still looks at sights for the brownfields assessment grant funds; the phase one and phase two assessments on sites that could be redeveloped, but there might be some environmental issues there. The assessments tell the property owner what actually is there and what they are facing. Held stated that in the last round, they were awarded \$500,000, with \$108,000 spent in Perry County even though Perry County was not actually a coalition member. Since Indiana Region 15 serves six counties, they look at sights in all six counties.  
By being a coalition member, you are guaranteed one site.  
Held stated that he was at this meeting to ask if Perry County would like to be a coalition member for this round of funding. There is no financial commitment that is being asked for, all that is asked for is the letter that has been included in the application. If this gets funded, Indiana Region 15 only asks for help finding sites in Perry County. RC asked that this is public or private? Held confirmed both. RC added that what it amounts to is if someone is a little concerned that there may have been environmental issues, this funds the first phase and potentially the second phase if something is discovered. Held confirmed this, and added that Phase two is the testing phase where it tells exactly what is there. This does not fund cleanup, but if there is an underground storage tank, they can do clean up as the tank has to be taken out in order to test underneath it. With this funding, the tank gets to be removed even though it does not technically fund cleanup.

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

- b) Mark Lynch-Proposal for plans on campground in Rome  
Lynch appeared to discuss the easements through the property that Camp Rome is currently on, as well as the Health department has asked the campground to find out a way to deal with the easements that are throughout the campground. Lynch stated that there are three parcels with several blocks within those parcels. In addition, there is a road and some alleys that are easements throughout the property that date back several years.  
Lynch stated for a solution to this, the campground needs to either get the County to issue an easement across those properties for the Health department to approve a septic transportation system, or for the County to convey those alleys and road over to the campground so that they can combine all the properties into one parcel. RC asked how does this affect the campground? RC assumed a lot of this happened years and years ago where this was laid out into a city with streets and alleys. Lynch stated that it was a city before, which is where the original roads and easements came from. RC stated whether it came from an accepted plat, he is not sure. RC stated the County attorney needs to look into this, and he believes there is a question as to what the County actual ownership is, or whether it is an easement. RC asked how does this affect Lynch's project? RC added what if the

County has no way to transfer anything that it does not own. Lynch responded that the Indiana State Health department has asked for this so that they can confirm that the owner of the campground is doing things correct. By viewing the plat, the Health department see it as easements, and the campground needs to have conveyance across to be able to put anything on the property, whether it is electric lines or water, septic or anything. Lynch stated this is something they were not aware of when they purchased the property; they are trying to figure out how to navigate.

RC asked Lynch if he has a meet and bounds description of the whole entire parcel? Lynch responded no.

RT asked if anyone has checked with the Recorder's office to see where any of this is or is it too old, or has it never been recorded? Lynch responded that on the Cash Waggner survey, it is kind of hard to read. The original houses that were located in this property prior to the flood was years and years ago. Lynch added that the town was basically leveled and never reconstructed due to being in a floodway. There will never be another town there.

RT asked how many campsites will be on the property, and Lynch responded 40. They will be RV, primitive, some cabins, and everything will be on wheels.

Lynch added that he is dealing with nine different permits.

PJ asked Lynch to explain the chain of title again, if was Rome and County owned, how did Lynch not get clear title in the survey process, or does he have clear title to the property? Lynch responded that he has title to the property, but everything that is seen between the squares on the survey are actually easements.

RC stated he is not sure that this falls like some of the old plats. Lynch actually has the deed to the lot. The separation between them was proposed to be a roadway, and it was never deeded.

PJ stated that the County has been in contact with Attorney Andrew Foster, who represents the County, and he will be contacting Lynch's surveyor. PJ believes there are some questions if it is a road or an actual alleyway, which makes a difference. Lynch responded it is both. RC stated that if the County does not have a clear title to it, it is hard for the County to give it away.

c) Warren Taylor, Parks & Rec Board Member

Taylor stated that Eagle's Bluff is now open 24/7. The board is still working on trying to get a gate. The board will see how this goes until they can get enough funding to get an electronic gate up. They thought they had funding secured, however, part of the funding got cut in half.

Taylor stated he found out from the Parks director that since it has been opened up, the board has to pay to take the trash from the park to the Solid Waste disposal area. If the County is controlling the Solid Waste, should the Parks board have to pay to get rid of its trash from Eagle's Bluff? RC responded that the County transferred some property at the end of last year. Payment was required from the Auditor and Recorder to record the deeds and the fees. RC added each entity is independent and they operate, and that is how it has been. Taylor responded that with the funding in the budget for 2026, they are going to run out of money really quick, especially if they start using that at night. Taylor added that the Sheriff department and Cannelton Police stated that if they have someone available in that area, they might run up through the park at night.

Taylor stated that the additional electricity cost will have to come from additional funding from the Council, as there is not enough money in the budget for utilities for those lights. There are two sets of lights in the parking lot, a light at the entrance of the walkway to go up the walk. There are four other lights going up the walkway, plus lights in the building where the restrooms are at.

RC asked how this was handled with the previous Parks director, and Taylor stated the lights were all shut off at night. RC asked if this was done manually, and Taylor responded yes. RC stated that by not opening and closing the park daily, the Parks & Rec are saving money. Taylor responded that they received comp time for that.

RC stated that with leaving the park open 24/7, and having trash containers up there, it will start becoming the trash depot for everybody. Being open all night long, vandalism can happen. That is why the park was closed and opened during certain specific hours. The solution to this is the gate, that way the Parks department does not have to worry about filling up with so much trash. In addition, they would not have to worry about the electric bill and can manage open hours remotely without having the employee.

Taylor state the electronic gates will be approximately \$15,000. Taylor added that the CVB stated that they would possibly help with half of the cost. Until a gate can be secured, the Parks board decided they will try being open 24/7 for three months, and see if they have any problems up there. If they do encounter any problems, it will be shut back down. Taylor added that there were a lot of people upset over it being closed and not having access to the park on weekends. Auditor Hammack stated that what was brought to the Personnel Policy Committee was the fact that the position having to open and close that park 365 days. The committee took the request from the Parks & Rec individuals to the Parks & Rec board. Hammack added that it was the Parks & Rec board's decision to close the park. RT asked if the employee could open the park at 7:00 a.m. when he starts his work schedule, and Hammack stated that is what had been done, and left work at 3:00 p.m. in order to close the park later in the evening. RT stated that this could continue until the gate is figured out? Taylor responded that an employee would still have to open and close on weekends. The Parks board made their decision and will try it for three months, hoping to have the gate by then, which will eliminate all the problems.

- d) Taylor stated that he received notice that day from Indiana Donors Network that Perry County was ranked number six again in the State for referrals. Taylor commended his staff for making the referrals.

**DAVE FAULKENBERG, SHERIFF**

- a) Faulkenberg stated that once they received the new vehicles, the department did not trade in any vehicles based on the opinion of the amount of value that would be given for trade was nil. Faulkenberg suggested having Dixon & Dixon to put these vehicles up for auction, and was seeking verification that is way the Commissioners wanted to go. RC suggested to possibly put these vehicles on eBay to see what people are willing to pay, and let them bid for a certain period of time. RC does not know if that would generate any interest versus taking them to auction and depending on who shows up, the County may get a decent price or if nobody is there they would not. Faulkenberg stated he does not use eBay as the Sheriff's department takes reports from people who got stiffed from eBay. RT asked what does the Tell City Police Department do with their vehicles? Faulkenberg stated when he was involved with the department, they would try to sell them straight out or get them auctioned. Faulkenberg stated that the markings will need to be removed before selling them. In addition, Faulkenberg stated that his department will look at these vehicles to see what can be stripped off them that would be good to transfer to a current vehicle. RT asked if there are any auctions for used police cars? Faulkenberg responded yes, he has seen some on different sales brochures. Faulkenberg stated he thought possibly Dixon and Dixon might have a better contact area and state that they could advertise that. PJ asked if the County for sure has the titles to these vehicles before trying to sell them, with Hammack responding that she will verify that the County has them. PJ stated that Kevin Herp had mentioned needing another vehicle for the Veterans department. She suggested that the County may want to look internally first before buying a new vehicle, if it can actually utilize one of these vehicles in a different department. Faulkenberg mentioned that there are some vehicles at the Armory annex that possibly could be used internally. In addition, there are a couple of vehicles, possible more, at the Annex that are basically surplus. RT asked Faulkenberg if any of his Durango or trucks would be suitable for the Animal Shelter? Faulkenberg responded there is a truck, with RT stating that she believed that truck was purchased for the animal shelter. Faulkenberg stated he believes it is the same truck.
- b) Faulkenberg notified the Commissioners that they had off-road vehicular damage to one of the vehicles. He is still compiling information regarding this. The insurance company has been contacted and they are getting a report from ISP (Indiana State Police). RT asked if there was a lot of damage, and Faulkenberg responded that it is possibly totaled due to the undercarriage. RC asked if it was in pursuit, and Faulkenberg responded no, the issue was driver distraction and a little too much speed on the tight curves out by Dexter bank at night time.
- c) Discussion was held regarding the disposal of equipment that is outdated. He went into detail about a taser. Faulkenberg was approached by another agency that stated they did not have anything, and asked if the County would lend the old

ones or let them use them? Faulkenberg told that agency that there are almost no cartridges for them, and they can not be replenished. RC responded the County does not want to give any false statement with another department that these tasers might even work.

Hammack stated the equipment is currently in inventory, so they would have to be treated as surplus. RC stated he would not want to put this equipment out there, as he thinks that is irresponsible on the County's part. Hammack added that if Faulkenberg would request to surplus these items, the Commissioners would have to approve it. She asked Faulkenberg to get a list, and once it is approved, they will be removed from the County capital asset list.

Faulkenberg asked the Commissioners if they wanted to set a dollar amount so that as he is going through equipment can determine what is worth less than \$250 or \$300? RC responded that if it is not serviceable any longer, then it might as well be moved out. Faulkenberg stated that if there is an item that is serviceable, but not within their department, for instance the body armor, which now has a shelf life. By Statute, roughly five years it has to be replaced due to this expiration date. When there is a new hire, the body armor is custom fitted to that individual for a carrier as well as the panels themselves. As five years go by, they start to accumulate these panels and/or the carriers. The department has one that is still within the time period of the five years, and is custom fitted. There is absolutely no one else that is going to wear it except the person who got custom fitted for it. In this type of situation, the individual goes to another department and leaves, which they normally leave the body armor behind, but it is still in the parameters and they go to another line of job where they would need the body armor. Faulkenberg suggested seeking out the new employer and offering to sell this custom body armor to them. RC responded that is a worthwhile discussion, as some of the officers who transfer takes a while to get them fitted. It is of zero value to the County being a custom fit, and to the department they go to, the individual could go to work immediately. RC compared this to the EMS where the ambulance equipment has an eight-year life span and was replaced. EMS Director Leonard Hahus found a company that purchased the old equipment, giving more money than what would have been given at trade-in, who refurbishes it and sells to a third world country. That may be an option for the Sheriff department.

d) 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Contract for SOP update

Faulkenberg stated this contract for SOP is called Company Policy 360. Chief Deputy Eric Dickenson looked into this and got this started. There is a company called Lexipol, who is a very recognized organization that looks at departmental policies and guidelines, and what are current best practices.

Faulkenberg and Dickenson looked at the policies and guidelines internally within the Sheriff's department and they are very dated. Lexipol is nation-wide, and deal with broad spectrums which adhering to a good standard. This company is very specific state by state with their research. The court cases are the summaries or judgments that has caused policy to become in effect is from Indiana. Lexipol is a driving force regarding going back over department policies and guidelines from almost square one. They look at what a department already has, and will quickly pitch out those things that are outdated, and are open to how the department would want to move the policies forward. These policies or guidelines are standard operating procedures. If something should happen or come up, they would want to know if the department has anything that remotely touches on that policy. Are the policies up to date and are they within the guidelines of the Indiana courts and the Indiana Supreme Court?

Faulkenberg stated that funding for this was in the 2025 budget, and it was encumbered. Hammack stated that \$430 was encumbered and was for work done in 2025. Faulkenberg stated there was also \$11,000, and Hammack confirmed this. If the County gets in contract with Lexipol, the paragraph that states termination of this contract would be within the time notice of 30 days prior to the anniversary date, either by them or the County, and get out of the contract. RT asked if this is a yearly contract, and Dickenson responded on the contract it states it is for 60 months. RC asked what the initial cost is and then what is the annual cost, and Dickenson responded \$11,430, and the contract provided the cost for 2027 and 2028.

Faulkenberg asked the Commissioners to look at this service really closely, and even to get them in the area of what his department is going to do in 2026 and 2027, she believes this is well worth it. PJ stated she is big on policies and

procedures; if it is not in writing, then you have nothing. Dickenson stated that this company will train, plus train on a reoccurring basis. They will pick random policies, and the Sheriff personnel will have to log in and read them, then answer some questions about it. It is more than just signing an acknowledgement. Dickenson stated the deputies will have access to 24/7 support, and can type in questions they have out in the field. Faulkenberg stated that this contract is being submitted to the Sheriff's Merit board as well to see if they have any questions. The Commissioners will review the information.

### **MINUTES**

- a) 12.16.2025 Minutes  
RT made a motion to approve, seconded by PJ. Motion carried 3-0.
- b) 12.31.2025 Minutes  
PJ made a motion to approve, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.
- c) 01.05.2026 Minutes  
RT made a motion to approve, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

### **KRISTINIA HAMMACK, AUDITOR**

- a) 01.16.2026 Payroll: \$184,757.74  
RT made a motion to approve, seconded by PJ. Motion carried 3-0.
- b) 01.16.2026 Payroll W/H: \$39,327.89  
PJ made a motion to approve, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.
- c) Quarter 1 Sheriff Pension: \$39,218.50  
RT made a motion to approve, seconded by PJ. Motion carried 3-0.
- d) 01.20.2026 Solid Waste Claim Docket: \$6,814.84  
RT stated that there were over 75,000 trash tickets sold in 2025 from January to November.  
RT made a motion to approve, seconded by PJ. Motion carried 3-0.
- e) 01.20.2026 Accounts Payable Claim Docket: \$894,134.30  
PJ made a motion to approve, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.
- f) Highway Overtime Funding  
Auditor Hammack stated this is not included in the 2026 budget. There has already been some overtime in 2026. Her office needs to know where the Commissioners plan to ask the Council to budget and pay for that out of. A line item needs to be established. With this not in the budget, that line item would have a negative balance until after the Annual Financial Report (AFR) is approved.  
RC stated that currently there are four truck driver positions open, with now four operator positions open, so there are funds for those wages. Hammack asked if she is to do a transfer from Fund 1176? Appropriation can be moved from the salary line items to overtime, but overtime cannot just be paid out of a salary line item; there has to be a separate line item.  
PJ made a motion to transfer from the existing wage account into an overtime account to meet whatever needs are required at this time, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.
- g) 2026 Comp Time Balances  
Hammack is seeking clarity from a discussion at a prior meeting regarding beginning in 2026, the highway would begin being paid overtime and not earning comp time. The discussion mentioned possibly paying out comp time, and it was also stated that by the Personnel Policy Handbook, they can use what comp time they have now which has to be used within a year of earning it.  
PJ stated she believed in the discussion that the County was not going to pay out unless that has changed. The comp time already earned can be used following the guidelines of the Personnel Policy Handbook.  
PJ made a motion to use existing comp time according to the current handbook, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

### **COMMISSIONERS**

- a) PCDC Affidavit for payment  
RC stated this in on the different environmental issues. It is a signed contract that is paid for out of the bond proceeds. Hammack stated it is \$4,000.  
This is the Riverview west area.  
PJ made a motion to approve, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.
- b) Health Board Appointment

RC stated that the Commissioners have one. In addition, he believes there are several people that resigned. This is a political affiliation board, where there can not be more than a certain number of any one party.

RC wants to readvertise the Health Board, and determine what is an acceptable party affiliation. Hammack stated this appointment is currently posted. RC stated he believes there are two or three openings. Clarification is needed on make-up of the board.

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

c) Port Authority Board Appointment

RC stated this opening needs to be readvertised. The Commissioners appointed Paul Brockman, and this is a lucrative job. He would then have two lucrative jobs in the eyes of the State of Indiana.

d) PTABOA Board Appointment

RC stated that the Commissioners need to have County Attorney Andrew Foster clarify to make sure that current members serving on this board are in compliance with state law.

e) Perry County Bid Process

PJ stated that when bids are submitted, some are being submitted to direct departments. The Commissioners feel all bids should go through the Auditor's office. RC stated this office is the record keeper.

PJ made a motion to make it mandatory that all bids are delivered to the Auditor, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

f) 12.18.2025 Executive Session follow-up

RC stated that the Commissioners have had an executive session on an issue for quite some time and it has not been resolved. Legal counsel drew up an actual motion that it wants the Commissioners to pass, and RC read it aloud (see attached).

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

g) RJL Solutions Representation at Legislation

RC stated that RJL Solutions is currently representing the County at the Indiana Legislature. The commissioners need to approve the fact that they are actually doing this and make it official.

RT made a motion to engage RJL Solutions for the County's representation at the State Legislature this year, seconded by PJ. Motion carried 3-0.

h) County Fuel Bids

RC stated that the County has current fuel bills as of this date and the County was given the option whether to have a fixed rate for the entire year or if it is going to take a flex rate. It is \$2.50 fixed or \$2.40 flex price. The flex price is cheaper, but it could go up at any time over the next eleven months. The County has gone with the fixed price for several years. RT stated she would like to stay with the fixed price.

RT made a motion to accept the fixed rate for 2026, seconded by PJ. Motion carried 3-0. Steve Howell will call in the morning and get the fixed price, and notify the Commissioners of that amount.

The next regular meeting is Monday, February 2, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m. CST.

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

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Randy Cole  
President

Pam Janniczky  
Vice-President

Rebecca Thorn

*Minutes reviewed by:*

*Kristinia L. Hammack, Auditor*

*Minutes prepared by:*

*Leisa M. Ecker, Deputy Auditor*