

**PERRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
March 2, 2026**

The Perry County Board of Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m., as was duly advertised. Commissioners: President Randy Cole (RC), Vice President Pam Janniczky (PJ), and Rebecca Thorn (RT) were in attendance. Auditor Kristinia Hammack and Attorney Andrew Foster were also present. There was no *Sheriff* 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 presented, seconded by PJ. Motion carried 3-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

a) Marilyn Ewing

Ewing appeared to discuss the number of stray cats in Perry County. She inquired about animal control, and what more could be done about animal control. Ewing stated there are so many cats running the streets and alleys. The shelter can not take them, as it is full. Ewing was looking for solutions on what could be done. Ewing mentioned she could give a little assistance as she has an environment fund.

RT responded that the County has an Animal Welfare, Control, and Education Board, and will provide their names to Ewing. RT added this board meets once a month.

b) Operation Mind Body and Soul Corp – Veterans of Perry County

Boone Taylor, founder and President of Operation Mind Body and Soul, created this entity approximately two years ago in Dubois County. They have had great success with it there. Taylor met Veterans Officer Kevin Herp through the VA, and they are wanting to do the same thing here in Perry County. A facility has already been secured and up and running.

Taylor stated that they have a two-year Pilot Program Proposal/Opioid Settlement Funding Request (see attached). Taylor stated that they are submitting this proposal requesting Opioid settlement funding for a two-year pilot program designed to support veteran's mental health, substance-use prevention, and recovery through physical wellness and peer support.

The proposed program establishes a veteran's recreation and wellness space in Perry County that provides structured fitness activities, peer connection, and direct referral pathways to behavioral health and recovery services. The initiative aligns directly with Indiana's opioid settlement abatement priorities.

They are asking for \$60,000 the first year, and \$40,000 the second year.

They expect to serve 75-150 Perry County veterans and first responders over two years.

Taylor stated that this proposal uses opioid funds exactly as intended, upstream prevention, recovery support, and community resilience while maintaining fiscal responsibilities and transparencies.

Taylor stated 140 to 150 Indiana veterans die by suicide annually.

Kevin Herp stated that the Veterans of Perry County, their chapter's focus is the veteran and first responder community. They set up programs, such as Operation Fitness where they will offer to pay gym memberships for veterans and first responders to get integrated into the gym and get a workout program. If they need a workout program, four personal trainer visits will be paid for at either of the two gyms. There will be spreadsheets to keep track of the veterans and first responders, and these individuals will have to do at least three days a week in the gym for this organization to be able to reimburse their membership.

Operation Hike will be monthly, where they will meet up in the Hoosier National Forest. There will be guides and the first one will be in March. This allows for social networking as well as collaboration.

Operation Cleanup will be monthly, where the group meets up other groups, Key Club, Honor Society, Community Corrections, and get community service hours for people while cleaning up different areas of the community.

Operation Recovery will be run in their office at 140 Highway 66 East, where first responders and veterans' recovery will be offered. Herp stated that veterans and first responders go through the same type of mental health struggles. Herp added that the veterans have the VA Administration to help take care of them when they get out; first responders do not have that. If there comes a time when this organization cannot help someone with their peer-to-peer and they need professional help, there is the mental health coalition that is attached to this nonprofit. It is a 36-person committee. It is all the mental health providers in town, community leaders, police chief, sheriff, probation, etc. That is a resource team that can be used if there is somebody in crisis.

Herp stated that almost 10% population of Perry County is veterans, and adding in the first responder community and their families, that number becomes 30-40% of Perry County population that is being targeted. In addition, if not a veteran or first responder, and need help, that person would not be turned away. Herp stated that they plan to expand to have spousal support groups, elderly support groups, and widow support groups. All around, this is a great organization.

Herp stated the group is making the request for proposal of the opioid funds.

RC stated that law enforcement and first responders were talked about. He knows the County is in the process right now trying to hone the skills of first responders, get them more active and get them involved. RC would like for this organization to reach out to them to see how this could all be coordinated, as he knows the County puts in approximately \$120,000 in mental health currently. RC does not want to duplicate services. He would want to see that the resources are maximized. Herp stated that the \$120,000 that the County contributes to mental health is to professional providers. This organization is doing peer-to-peer, vet-to-vet, first responder-to-first responder technique. He added person-to-person is the best mental health therapy a person can receive. That is their mission.

RC stated that 2026 and 2027 is ugly for Perry County as far as finances are concerned. He was not speaking for the Council, but they did not fund an organization in 2026 that was a nonprofit. In addition, he does not know if they will in 2027. The Council raided some other accounts to make it through 2026. Funding is tight.

RC stated that the County has expended money out of opioid to Perry County Memorial Hospital in the sum of \$25,316, \$26,335, \$32,186 and \$96,524. This was all related to EMS Services to make sure they were compensated for what they carried out. This was the Restricted fund.

In the Unrestricted fund, a storm siren was replaced in the Rocky Point area that was mounted too low and was flooded this past spring. The siren was replaced to serve those people. In addition, one new Sheriff vehicle was pulled from this fund. Herp asked what amount is left in the Opioid fund? RC responded the Unrestricted has \$57,000 and the Restricted has approximately \$100,000. RC added he does not know what the Council's plan is as far as the Sheriff department vehicles. Taylor asked if that is Restricted funds or Unrestricted? RC responded that Unrestricted is where they bought the car out of. Herp stated that the Restricted fund is for mental health, and RC responded that the Restricted fund has a lot more rules. It has to be health related. RC added that when they are talking about first responders, the County can get, through charitable donations like Narcan, a program looking to put those out into the community in different boxes in different areas. RC can see working together with this organization, so that if they have someone trained, they can get access to the box to help the person in that area.

Taylor stated that Operation Mind Body and Soul gave out suicide prevention packs to the police department and all the surrounding counties. These packs contain a gun lock, Narcan, and a drug deactivation kit to get rid of prescription drugs quickly.

c) Nathan Held, Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission

Held stated that they service six counties, and he is making his rounds to update each of the counties specifically on what Indiana 15 has worked on in 2025.

Held's hand out was for a period of 2015 through 2025, Perry County specific projects. Held stated that the total funded each year is listed, but the projects can last one to four years after. (See attached)

Held stated that for the period 2015 through 2025, Indiana 15 has worked to bring in over \$25 million in grant funds to Perry County.

RC asked Held if the \$350,000 housing grant was being managed by Indiana 15, and Held responded yes. It is for the City of Tell City. It is homeowners who

qualify for the program, which it is low to moderate income residents. This will fund roof repair, HVAC, accessibility, and electrical work in their home. RC asked if someone wanted to apply for those funds, they would contact Held, and Held confirmed this. Held added that they have had the first round of application go out and they are receiving them back now. Held believes most of the funds are spoken for at this point. However, if costs come in under, there could potentially be another release and could do a few more. RC asked who an individual would contact, and Held responded the Mayor's office in Tell City. Mayor Cail is the contact. The applications were collected by the City, and then forwarded to Indiana 15 for their review.

RC asked what was the current status of the pier down at the Port? Held responded that they are putting together some final design. It should be going to bid later this summer. This project has been going on since 2021, with a lot of federal bureaucracy going through an environmental review and people changing.

### **TRACI FISCHER, COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS DIRECTOR**

a) Community Corrections Grant

Fischer appeared to get the Commissioners' approval and support for the Community Corrections and Drug Court grants for 2027. The applications are due April 1<sup>st</sup>.

RC stated that this is the reoccurring grant that funds their operation, and Fischer confirmed this.

Fischer stated that State Statute requires that approval of the Commissioners.

RT made a motion to approve the application for the Community Corrections Grant, seconded by PJ. Motion carried 3-0.

### **KRISTINIA HAMMACK, AUDITOR**

a) 02.27.2026 Payroll: \$168,949.66

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

b) 02.27.2026 Payroll W/H: \$35,336.40

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

c) Vision Insurance: \$287.69

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

d) Dental Insurance: \$357.10

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

e) Life Insurance: \$1,404.70

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

f) Medical Insurance: \$47,366.78

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

g) 03.02.2026 Solid Waste Claim Docket: \$6,294.04

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

h) 03.02.2026 Accounts Payable Claim Docket: \$220,903.31

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

i) PSC Reimbursement check

Hammack stated that this check has to be deposited, or it will be voided on March 19<sup>th</sup>.

RC stated Attorney Andrew Foster reached out to the State Board of Accounts regarding setting up an account in order to temporarily set these things aside. He is still waiting on a response from them.

RC asked Hammack that she has a holding account that she can put these funds in for 30 days, and Hammack responded yes.

PJ made a motion to deposit the check in a temporary fund for 30 days, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

### **COMMISSIONERS**

a) Updated Animal Shelter Contract

RC stated that the Commissioners just received this and have not had a chance to review it.

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

b) Open Board Appointment

- Letter of Interest – Perry County Airport Board

RC stated that Ken Roland sent in a letter of interest to continue on this board, and has served on the board for eight to ten years. Roland was unaware that his term had expired.

PJ made a motion to reappoint Ken Roland, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

The next regular meeting is Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.  
The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m. CST.  
PJ made a motion to adjourn, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

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Randy Cole  
President

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Pam Jamniczky  
Vice-President

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Rebecca Thorn

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