PERRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
May 4, 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 Jamniczky (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

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

a) None

JONATHAN BLAKE, RJL SOLUTIONS

a) Update
   Christy Powell appeared as a follow-up to the Joint Special Meeting with the County Council to see if the Commissioners has any questions from that meeting. The Commissioners had no questions.

MINUTES

a) 04/21/2026 Regular Meeting

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

KRISTINIA HAMMACK, AUDITOR

a) 04.24.2026 Payroll: $177,309.85

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

b) 04.24.2026 Payroll W/H: $37,461.80

RT made a motion to approve, seconded by PJ. 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

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

f) Medical Insurance: $35,183.29

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

g) 05.04.2026 Solid Waste Claim Docket: $3,271.23

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

h) 05.04.2026 Accounts Payable Claim Docket: $253,073.97

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

i) Appropriation for Alpha Quote to replace failed compressors at the Courthouse
   RC stated that more money has been spent than was even anticipated out of the budget. So far this year, the County has spent $8,202.87 out of a $10,000 budget. Hammack added the budget was cut for 2026. RC stated that the cost for the two compressors is $18,000, and would have to come out of the Major Building Maintenance fund. RC added that fund was set up for larger items, such as a roof. RC stated that the system is not that old, and two or three compressors have been replaced so far. RC believes there are six total. RT stated that they are not holding up. RT asked if it is known what kind of a warranty these compressors have on them? RC responded that was checked the last time, and it is past the warranty. RT stated that before long, the Commissioners need to look at a whole new system. RC agreed.

RT made a motion to pull the funds out of the Major Building Repair fund, seconded by PJ. Motion carried 3-0.

STEVE HOWELL, HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

a) Highway Additional Appropriation request
   - 1173 MVHR Bituminous $400,000.00

Howell stated that this amount has to be appropriated before the Highway department can get ready. RC asked that it is coming out of the MVHR, the Restricted fund, and Howell confirmed that. Howell added that part of this amount will be the County's match on Community Crossings.

- 9141 Community Crossing Road Improvement $781,988.00

RT made a motion to approve these additional appropriations out of Motor Vehicle Highway Restricted into Community Crossings grant fund for payment, seconded by PJ. Motion carried 3-0.

COMMISSIONERS

a) Health Department Message Board Quotes

RC stated that the quotes are all right there together, and one electrical quote. Hammack stated that Sanitarian Kim Robertson had mentioned to her that since the quotes were so close, and that one of them was local, that she wanted to get the Commissioners feedback. RC asked Attorney Andrew Foster if the County is not required to take the lowest, and Foster responded that the County is required to take the lowest responsible responsive bid. However, if there is a bid that is low but is not responsive to the County's needs, or the County does not believe that provider is responsible, as in the County made a finding in the past where they were behind or their workmanship, the lowest bid does not have to be accepted. Foster added that if the County finds the company responsive and they are responsible, then the County has to use the lowest bid.

Robertson appeared for questions. RC stated that Robertson had previously stated the sign was being purchased with some funds out of the Health First Indiana grant. There will not be a burden on the County. The Health department will manage to make sure that the sign gets all the necessary information and keep it up to date. Robertson confirmed this. She added that this is a way to educate the community, and using the funds as they were meant to be used, as education is a big part of that. This is an opportunity to reach a group that they may not be able to reach otherwise.

PJ stated that there were two quotes, Visual Harmony and Sign Command. Robertson responded that there are three, one also from Husk as well. Husk was the original quote that was given. Robertson stated that there was only one company that did not come in person, and that was Stewart Signs.

PJ stated that Sign Command's bid was at $34,970.69. Visual Harmony was $34,075.00. Robertson felt that Husk has the best price.

RT asked Robertson if she will be the one in charge of putting the information on the sign, and if not, then who? Robertson responded that she will oversee ensuring that it is taken care of. She would like for all the employees at the North Annex to have the ability to input, as they all do different jobs and have different things to educate about. EMA, Soil and Water, and anybody who is at the North Annex would have the potential to use it. Robertson added that there would be a laptop, and she would foresee putting it in a general location at the North Annex, and giving access to employees, with department heads making sure it is information that should be on the sign.

PJ stated that Husk's quote was $33,938.79. Robertson stated that with Husk, they are local and she would have immediate access to him. PJ asked that it would be Husk, and also the electrician fees of $2,851.40? Robertson responded yes. That is the only electrical quote she has received back. She requested a quote from two other electricians approximately two weeks ago, and they have not responded yet. RC stated that he would prefer that if the Commissioners would approve the sign company, that they also approve the electrician at the same time since the price has now been shared. He added it would be unfair to the person who was prompt and got the quote when asked.

PJ made a motion to approve Husk as the vendor and Jackson as the electrical company to hook it up, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

b) Updated Animal Shelter Contract

Foster stated that he believes that he has done this, but not sure if he sent it to the Commissioners. This can be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

PJ made a motion to table.

c) Health Board Composition

RC stated that he and Attorney Foster had a discussion regarding what the makeup needs to be, and that the County needs to find a physician that lives in the County. One other area of concern that has come up is that the current Health Officer, and if there is a requirement for that individual to also live in the County?

Foster responded that he believed so. RC stated that needs to be clarified, as he is going to cease his practice also. Hammack responded that this was looked into with the Hospital Board, as the individual had to reside.

RC stated that if a physician is practicing at the hospital and does not live in the County, would they be eligible to serve? Foster responded he would have to look into that for the Health Officer, as there might be different rules.

Foster stated for the Health Board itself, there has to be a physician living in the County. When Foster asked the Department of Health if the County has no one that qualifies, they responded leave it vacant. That was their guidance at this point. For a Health Officer, because they are the technical executive of the Health Department, Foster is wondering if the Department of Health has a different procedure, as it is a necessary position. They have to reside in the County or keep a contract. Foster was going to double check regarding their guidance concerning that.

Foster asked if RC had received his email regarding that he went through those that had applied? RC responded yes. Some are eligible and some are not. Foster added that he feels there are some people on the board who are technically ineligible. As far as Foster understands, the representative from Branchville does not have any technical qualifications. He is not a doctor or Nurse Practitioner. He is on there due to being a confined population where disease can transfer quickly. Foster stated that the County Council has a slot for the general public, and they could appoint this person. RC stated that in other words, the Commissioners made the appointment in error, with Foster responding yes. Foster added that Cory Filley would qualify due to his profession and could be appointed by the Commissioners.

PJ made a motion to table until more information is received, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

d) Ordinance for Donation Funds

Auditor Hammack stated she had sent an email regarding the donation funds that were set up, as the County does not have an ordinance. Hammack wanted to get these all cleaned up.

The only response was received from the Veterans office, and Foster confirmed that. Foster was trying to ascertain what the Commissioners and those department heads wanted going into that line item, and what they want going out. Foster added that there is SBOA (State Board of Accounts) guidance on not just paying individuals out or directly donating. Foster tweaked the Veteran ordinance, taking travel out due to having a travel line item in the budget. PJ asked Foster if he could put the travel back in, and RC added that it referred to State mandated or Federal mandated, travel could be paid out of the Donation fund. Foster responded that he will get with SBOA. Unlike the K9 Donation fund for training, which is specific to the dog, but the Veteran would have two line items to pull from. Foster will follow up on this.

RC asked Hammack how many ordinances did she need, an Hammack responded Health, Sheriff equipment, Coroner, and Veteran Service.

PJ made a motion to table until more information is obtained, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

e) Courthouse Security

PJ stated that there was a Courthouse Security meeting with the committee, and had some recommendations.

1. Changing the access code to the building from a PIN to a FOB access. It would be the same throughout the whole building. Currently there are two different systems that the County is operating on. The request is to get pricing for the FOBs. The Court side has FOBs, as well as the Prosecutor. RC stated that they might want to look at converting the North Annex to FOBs as well, depending on pricing.
2. Working on the front doors, as they are original doors, and there have been issues with it. They are asking to get pricing for the doors.

PJ stated that it was also discussed that any after hours meetings, besides the regular scheduled Commissioner or Council meetings, to be located at the North Annex.

PJ stated that the Committee is looking for pricing, as well as exploring any grant options that may be available for upgrades for security.

RT made a motion to ask PJ to seek pricing on security updates/upgrades, and also look at what could be done with the front doors at the Courthouse, seconded by RC. Motion carried 3-0.

f) Addison Road
RC stated that this road has been taxed, the ground underneath it, as the County uses it as a roadway.
RC stated he was provided an old deed with a number on it. He asked Foster if he had a copy of it? RC stated that Dan Dupont's family had been graciously paying taxes underneath the county road for a number of years.
RC stated that the deed is the actual description of the road. If a deed is created and he donates the property to the County, that specific parcel number will take the tax bill off of that property. County Surveyor David Lynch can get the proper drawing into the County GIS that reflects the road. The property tax charge will be removed from Dupont's family, and the County will take title to the ground underneath the county road. Foster asked if it is just the description on the deed, and just that owner on the deed, and RC responded correct.
RC stated that the next step is for Foster to draft the deed, it will have to be signed, and the Donation Agreement will have to be executed. Foster stated that at the next meeting, the Commissioners will have a Resolution to accept the donation and the property. RC asked to have this ready for the May 19th meeting.

g) Steve Howell, Highway Department
1. Binding Agent
Howell stated he had spoken to 15 surrounding counties, most being their engineers or the superintendent.
Four or five years ago, Dubois County used something called dust pods. They stated that it did not work very well.
In Gibson County, their engineer Matt Holden, found something they used last year. They applied it themselves, and it cost $8,000/mile. This was applied last September, and there has been no maintenance on that road since then. It eliminates dust. It is six inches deep, which is recommended. This is supposed to have a 10-to-15-year life on that chemical. Holden told Howell that it is like driving on a concrete road. Howell gave details regarding the process for the road application.
RC stated that $8,000/mile versus every time the Highway department has to take rock out to the road, regrade them, and go through all that.
RT asked about dust, and Howell responded that there was hardly any dust at all; it is almost gone when doing this.
RC asked Howell what equipment he would need if he took that on, or is there some piece of equipment that would make it easier, possibly a group of counties would invest a little in it. RC added that he would not be opposed to Perry County and five other counties sharing the cost of some specialized piece of equipment.
Howell plans to schedule a visit in the next week to look at the road in Dubois County, and will come to the May 19th meeting and report back.

h) Approval of Advertising Bids on the following roads: Cattail, Bell Hollow, Scarlet, Shady Lane, and Starbright
RC asked Howell if he had the descriptions ready to go so that they can be advertised? Howell responded possibly that day, and RC responded the sooner the better. Hammack stated that they have to be advertised twice, 10 days apart. RC would like to have a Special Meeting to move this along. RC asked Hammack that if Howell has the paperwork coming in, could she reserve a slot in the paper for that Thursday? Hammack responded she would have to have it by noon that day (Monday), to have it in the Thursday paper. This could advertise on May 7th and May 21st, and open the bids on May 22nd. Bids will be due Friday, May 22, 2026 at 9:00 a.m., and a Special Meeting at 10:00 a.m. to open bids.

PJ made a motion to approve the advertisement of this group of roads, and accept bids the 22nd of May, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

The next regular meeting is Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.
The meeting was adjourned at 9:59 a.m. CST.
PJ made a motion to adjourn, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

Randy Cole President	Pam Jamniczky Vice-President	Rebecca Thorn

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