

**PERRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES – MARCH 16, 2021**

The Perry County Board of Commissioners met at 8:00 a.m. at the Perry County Courthouse as advertised. Commissioners President Thomas J Hauser, Randy Kleaving and Gregg Jarboe were in attendance. Also in attendance were County Administrator, Teresa Kanneberg and Sheriff Alan Malone. There was no media or County Attorney, Chris Goffinet, present at the meeting.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PAYROLL

Randy made the motion to approve the payroll distributed on March 15, 2021 in the amount of \$144,616.70. Gregg seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

MINUTES

Minutes from the meeting of January 19 was mailed to the Commissioners for their review. Gregg made the motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Randy. Motion carried 3-0.

AGREEMENT – GIS LIMITED USE – INDIANA 15 REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Project Director Luke Thomas and Tech Service Director Leah Hawkins came before the Commissioners requesting to use the GIS data. Luke said that Indiana 15 has partnered with Rundell Ernstberger Associates and AECOM to create a region-wide economic recovery and resiliency plan. As part of their data collection, they are looking for GIS data regarding parcels, land use, zoning, transportation and other information made available to download through an FTP site. Luke said the plan will be done in March 2022. Chris has okayed the agreement. Gregg made the motion to approve the agreement, seconded by Randy. Motion carried 3-0.

ROAD CLOSURE-SPRING ROAD – HALF MARATHON

Breanne Walsh with Everybody's Fitness spoke to the Commissioners about the 4th Annual Tell City Half Marathon to take place on April 10, 2021. She said the course is the same as before except where to start and end. It will start at The Depot and end at Sunset Park. Breanne said that with the County, local police and 60 to 70 volunteers will help direct traffic. She said they will clean up Spring Road before hand as before. As of now, they have 240 registrants representing 10 states. Forty percent of them are over the age of 50. She said this is the first event in person for a while. The race starts at 8:00 a.m. and she will be there until the very end. Sometimes it takes 4 hours to finish. They would like to have the road closed until 11:00 a.m. There will be a sign up to make people aware of the closure of Spring Road. Sheriff Malone said there have been no problems in the past. Randy made the motion to close Spring Road from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m., seconded by Gregg. Motion carried 3-0.

AFFIDAVIT FOR PAYMENT

Alvin Evans, Project Manager with the Perry County Development Corporation reported that this is the last of meetings for this purpose. He said this affidavit spends all the funds that remain in final 3 bond issues with funds remaining. With the Steel Road extension LPA project not being approved and the forthcoming 2021 bond issue, it was recommended to close these funds out. With the delay in the bond issue, the funds are being used to pay old past due invoices. He said he has asked the 2021 resolution to be changed to include that Steel Road design engineering would be a project the bond proceeds can be used on.

Alvin presented the Commissioners with an affidavit to authorize Old National Bank to make certain payments from a Construction Fund established by the Trust Indenture dated December 1, 2014 between the County and the Trustee. It was explained

that these invoices will be paid from bond proceeds and that the projects were already approved by the Redevelopment Commission. The invoice for payment is: Exhibit A - \$10,367.82 to the Perry County Development Corp for Switzer Road wetland and stream mitigation site easement, Exhibit B - \$197,523.30 to the Perry County Development Corp for Stream and Wetland Mitigation: Switzer Road, Industrial Park South and Riverview Ind. Park, Exhibit C - \$2,068.30 to the Perry County Development Corp for Riverview Industrial Park Ditch Fill Mitigation.

Alvin informed the Commissioners that if there is still money in these bonds, it could have an affect on the 2021 Bond. Randy asked that for Steel Road, can we make an application for next year. Alvin said we can every year as long as Congress has the funds. He said again that the 2021 Bond Resolution is being redone to add this in case. Randy made the motion to approve the affidavit, seconded by Gregg. Motion carried 3-0.

Alvin also gave a report of the 2014 TIF bond projects. They were:

1. Relocation of roads and grading work for Waupaca facilities.
2. Raw waterline work including:
 - a. Relocation of line required for current or future pad construction
 - b. Construction of connecting loop line between water tower lines
 - c. Painting of water tower
3. Grading work for pad at Industrial Park within the Economic Development District in support of Waupaca activities.
4. Waupaca supply, logistic & customer needs, including:
 - a. Grading of Troy Site
 - b. Warehouse construction
5. Construction of Rail Spur
6. Construction of new facilities at Port, including:
 - a. Loading Dock
 - b. Warehouse extension
7. Repairs to Waupaca R/R spur and spud tracks
8. Fund to buy down interest for spec homes – This was not done due to all bond funds being used to accomplish projects 1-7.

Proposed 2021 Bond will fund Riverview Hoosier Energy power line relocation necessary for the ditch fill, stream and wetland mitigation monitoring and maintenance for Switzer Road, South and Riverview, maintaining erosion control features for Riverview and fund preliminary engineering for Steel Road extension.

Original Projects funded by TIF funds not necessary to pay Bond payments.

9. Reconstruction of Anderson River RR Bridge
10. Widening of Waupaca entrance road, Improved traffic flow, emergencies
11. 7th Street Warehouse
 - a. Replace old flat roof
 - b. Expansion of building
 - c. Parking area improvements
 - d. Reconstruction of 6th Street NBL
12. Seed money for Innovation/Vocational Training Center
13. Grading work for Pad at Industrial Park within the Economic Development District in support of Waupaca activities i.e. Riverview Industrial Park
14. Second entrance into Waupaca off relocated county road

Alvin said all the 50% matches helped to do all the projects. He said the spec building at Troy sold to Automated Routing. This money was used for grade work at Industrial South. There is a pad there now. He also commented that there are 800 to 1000 railroad cars a year that run through at one time in the County. It takes 4 cars a month to make the payment for the Reconstruction of Anderson River RR Bridge. Alvin said the bonds did their jobs. Tom commented that there is a lot of work behind the scenes. This is good for the county.

HIGHWAY ANNUAL REPORT

The Commissioners reviewed the 2020 Highway Annual Report that was presented to them. Randy made the motion to approve the report, seconded by Gregg. Motion carried 3-0.

MISCELLANEOUS

Tom said he had several items to discuss. First was an animal shelter update. He said the City of Cannelton approved \$2,300.00 for the animal shelter. We are still in negotiations with a company to take over the shelter. There is a board meeting coming up. We hope to get a proposal from them, then start talking about an agreement. We need to make sure the County needs are met. Get input from the community. We want to do this correctly in a timely manner. Jim Carter wrote a letter to the Commissioners to do this in a transparent manner and to get the Humane Society on board also. Tom said Tell City tabled their funding because they want more details. It is offered for all entities to tour the building.

Next, he said there seems to be confusion and misconception on the overtime for the Health Department. He gave the role the Commissioners had for this. He commented at the May 19, 2020 meeting, the Health Department was to go beyond compensatory time hours than the personnel policy allowed. They were to look at it every month and pay overtime up to a point. They try to minimize comp time accumulation by paying out the comp time. They did not authorize for other overtime, that is up to the department heads. The Commissioners set policy on how much to accumulate.

Gregg stated that \$51,000.00 of overtime was paid out from the CARES ACT and the Indiana Finance Authority reimbursed the County for expenses for COVID-19. Tom said they made several applications and some of them were denied. We were to treat this as a grant that was already awarded. He said we had 13 applications that were approved. He commented that there are questions on what was approved. It was confusing in the beginning on how to pay out. We utilized the whole amount for the county. Tom then read the list for all 13 applications on what was approved.

- HVAC Ionizations – kills all viruses including COVID-19. The systems work in controlling the virus in the buildings
- Transport Vehicle – 1- Sheriff and 1- EMA. The one for the Sheriff took place of a patrol vehicle to buy. The one for the EMA freed up two vehicles for other departments to use, Sanitarian to go on site and other for any department to be used for trips. It is also a 4-wheel drive for Assessor to use when assessing.
- Ambulance – they were using an older one during the pandemic because an engine blew in one. It was around a \$20,000.00 repair. The County would have had to budget for one, so this relieved the County.
- Did not allow for loss of revenue- they tried to get this passed. Example would be for EMS losses.
- Health Department Overtime - changed from month to month
- Generator – if need the building for future test site
- Temperature Kiosk – take temperature freely for everyone coming in Courthouse
- Transport Tow Vehicle – will be used by multiple agencies, mostly by the Coroner. This was a relief for County General. It had to be designated as EMA multi vehicle to get approved.
- Laptops – able for departments to work remotely. Keep business going and for the Highway also capable to operate at home.
- PPE Supplies – masks, gloves, cleaning supplies

Tom said once the Courthouse shut down to the public, offices kept the work going. The Court was able to continue functioning. Around September 29th, rules changed. The State allowed for additional expenses. They wanted the budgeted costs of payroll for employees of Public Safety which included the Health Dept, Sheriff Dept and the EMA Dept. We got the numbers approved. It was more than the total amount allocated that was left. So, the rest of the CARES ACT money of \$102,893.91 was sent to the County. During this period, Hazard Pay for the Sheriff office approved, Health Department Overtime and other expenses in the amount of \$22,000.00. Auditor Pam Goffinet said at this point we couldn't pay straight from the CARES ACT fund anymore. Tom said that

the \$102,000.00 fell under the control of the Council. He said they paid out other overtime to the Health Department.

Tom commented that he wouldn't have done things different. Randy said we make decisions with what information we have. We were turned down on some requests. We were doing it for the County. He gave examples that they wouldn't pay for EMS loss but would for a new ambulance. This was to get the County back on their feet. He said we have taken criticism from Luke Thomas and the Council. He also commented that if he had to do over, nothing would change. Tom said we did a good job. The CARES ACT paid for a lot of stuff that would have had to be done down the road. The money had to be spent by December 31, 2020. He also said he supported what the Council did with the \$102,000.00. Randy said they used equipment during the ice storm and going forward. He stands by his decision. Gregg commented there are obviously some expense here that anybody would have done, ionization, PPE, rapid covid test, health department overtime, and ambulance. Those items plus the 100 thousand passed on to Council are 400 thousand. The other items I can't comment on since I wasn't really there in your shoes at the time.

Councilman Luke Thomas said the Council raised questions that needed to be. They have legitimate concerns. They were not involved in the process. The Commissioners had full authority. There are some items that could have been done differently. He said that on May 24th, some of the money could have been used for small businesses. He said he will address this at the next Council meeting. He is here on behalf of his work.

Tom said he did come to the Council on what was spent. Luke said the Council only had control of \$22,000.00 that was transferred to County General and not \$102,000.00. He wanted to clarify that. Tom said numbers is not as important as what the job is. Luke commented that he hoped we learned from this. We are about to have \$3.7 million dollars to spend wisely. We need to be open about it and transparent. Tom said yes when we are told how to spend it. Luke said from the US Treasury, we should receive the first half of the money 60 days from last Thursday, March 11, 2021. Then one year for the second half. This is not a reimbursement process; we send off certification on what the money is spent on. Tom said we will make a better effort to make the public aware and be transparent.

Gregg said regardless of who is in control, all individuals need to be involved in this. Even if one entity is in control, as a County we can add other individuals. Tom said the deadline to spend this new money is December 31, 2024. He said this is over and let's move on. We are not going to fix it and go back on what was before. Randy said he hears praise on what they did. They will explain it more if need to.

EMA Director, Steve Hauser, commented on the \$102,000.00. He said they were scraping to get enough pay to match the \$102,000 to get the rest of the money. He said they couldn't have done it with any more money than that left.

Teresa announced the next Board of Commissioners meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 5, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at the Perry County Courthouse.

The meeting ended in open session at 9:25 a.m.

Minutes approved this 18th day of May, 2021.

Thomas J Hauser
President

Randy Kleaving

Gregg Jarboe

*Minutes prepared by:
Pamela L Goffinet, Perry County Auditor*

