

**PERRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES – MARCH 1, 2021**

The Perry County Board of Commissioners met at 6:00 p.m. via zoom as advertised. Commissioners Thomas J Hauser, Randy Kleaving and Gregg Jarboe were in attendance. Also in attendance were County Attorney Chris Goffinet, County Administrator, Teresa Kanneberg and Sheriff Alan Malone. There was no *News Representative* at the meeting.

PAYROLL

Randy made the motion to approve the payroll distributed on March 1, 2021 in the amount of \$144,116.77 for all employees and stipend amounts for \$66,675.00, seconded by Gregg. Gregg asked about the stipend that was given out that none was given to grant employees. Was that on purpose? Councilman Luke Thomas was on the meeting and said yes it was. When raises are given, none goes to these employees either. Tom said that grant funds are paid separately. Motion carried 3-0.

CLAIMS

The county claim dockets were sent to the Commissioners for their review. Gregg made the motion to approve the claims in the amounts of: County General \$191,081.87 and \$24,874.41, Highway \$72,769.07, and Advances \$245.95, \$588.55, \$25,521.04, \$1,038.67, and \$764.17 for a total of \$316,883.73. Randy made the second to the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

MINUTES

Minutes from the meeting of January 4, 2021 was mailed to the Commissioners for their review. There were some minor changes made. Gregg made the motion to approve the new version of the minutes, seconded by Randy. Motion carried 3-0.

SEVERE WEATHER PREPAREDNESS WEEK

A proclamation for Severe Weather Preparedness Week scheduled for March 14-20, 2021 was read by President Tom Hauser. A statewide tornado warning exercise will be held on Tuesday, March 16, 2021 for the purpose of testing communication systems, equipment and procedures. Randy made a motion to proclaim the week of March 14th – 20th as Severe Weather Preparedness week, and Gregg seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

STATUS OF REOPENING COURTHOUSE/COUNTY OFFICES TO PUBLIC

Tom commented that in the last week or two, he has been communicating with Judge Lucy Goffinet. She submitted a new plan proposing to open to the public on March 15, 2021. Masks will be required and each office is to determine and control how many people in their offices at one time. The court will continue with court hearings on site and restrict how many people are there. There will be no temperatures taken or survey of people coming in the building. The security officer will be there and can enforce it. Social distance will still be required and use the Commissioners room if need to. The front of the Courthouse is not a gathering point. Individuals need to take care of their business and leave in a timely manner. The drop boxes are outside to utilize. They are checked during the day. We will still close the Courthouse during 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. for additional cleaning and lunch time. Tom said we need the plan approved by the State, Supreme Court and Dr. Marcum. Randy thanked Judge Goffinet and Tom working with her on this. We are opening again and hope this is the final one. Gregg thanked both of them also. Gregg made the motion to approve, seconded by Randy. Motion carried 3-0.

RESOLUTION - 3-YEAR EDIT PLAN – 2021, 2022 AND 2023

Attorney Chris Goffinet gave highlights of the EDIT Plan from the beginning. He said it is set for three years since 1990 for the County, Tell City and the Town of Troy. The plan is per State Statute for Counties to receive certified distributions of funds. Chris said this new plan is similar to the last one. The percentages are:

1. 20% - contract for Perry County Development Corporation
2. 23 ½% - Jail Operations fund
3. 6 ½% - fund Courthouse Security in County General fund
4. 50% - fund Highway Construction and Reconstruction projects

The plan has a list of the projects.

5. Up to \$6,250.00 – from CEDIT Distribution fund to County General Fund for administration fees for COVID-19 Phase III (OCRA). Money can come from other sources also.

Chris said the Resolution changes statutes numbers and authorizes and approves the Capital Plan for the next three years. A copy is available in the Auditor’s office. Gregg asked if the 20% covers the contract signed for PCDC. Chris said yes it does. It is capped.

Jenny Matheis of Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission and PCDC Director Erin Emerson spoke on the COVID-19 Phase III grant. They commented to the Commissioners that putting up the \$6,250.00 for the administration fees gives more points to a very competitive grant. There are 118 applications turned in. The funding still has to be approved by the Council. Gregg said that a couple of entities are looking to help also. We commit that we have it covered. Jenny said it is good to commit and show funding available per Council approval. If funding comes from other sources, that is okay too. Randy made the motion to approve the EDIT Plan as outlined by Chris, seconded by Gregg. Motion carried 3-0. (See Attachment “ R-C-21-1)

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION – DISTRIBUTION OF TIMBER SALES/ EDIT PLAN

Teresa presented the Commissioners with an additional appropriation in the amount of \$78.33 for Distribution of Timber Sales within the County General fund. She informed them that 15% of net proceeds from the sale of timber on State Forest lands goes to the County. From this, 50% of the 15% net proceeds stays in County General and 50% is distributed to rural and volunteer fire departments who qualify by having a cooperative agreement with the IDNR. The total given was \$156.66. Teresa said it can be divided between seven entities with \$11.19 going to each. The amount varies each year. Then the remaining funds would also go to County General. Randy said this is mandatory. Teresa said it is set by Indiana Code.

Teresa also presented an additional appropriation for \$228,615.00 for the Perry County Development Corporation contract for 2021 that was signed on December 16, 2020. It was for fee for services.

Randy made the motion to approve both additional, seconded by Gregg. Motion carried 3-0.

MISCELLANEOUS

There was an update on the animal shelter. It has been presented to ITV to provide services. There have been lots of questions. Herbert Landers is taking care of the questions. It is moving along.

Highway Superintendent, Steve Howell, presented the Commissioners with two additional appropriations to approve. The first one is to replace Bridge #135 in the amount of \$74,150.00. It is the next one on the list. The second one is from the EDIT money in the amount of \$900,000.00 to get paving ready for this year. Randy made the motion to approve both additional, seconded by Gregg. Motion carried 3-0.

The Highway Department emailed the annual report to the Commissioners. They tabled this to the next meeting to give them time to review it.

Council President, Luke Thomas, came before the Commissioners with some items. He said the Council is working on the overtime for the Health Department. He

commented that there is only \$1,500.00 left of the CARES money that was transferred to County General.

Luke said he looked back at the Commissioners May 19, 2020 minutes to see what was said then. He said there was an exception to vacation and compensatory time for the Health Department. He asked if an ordinance should have been passed on this. Tom said he talked with Attorney Chris Goffinet and it allowed the Health Department to accumulate comp and vacation time. Chris said that according to Waggoner, Irwin, and Scheele consultants the Commissioners deal with benefits. It is their authority to do so. It can be revisited at any time. The Commissioners have no authority to spend money, only allowed to accumulate comp and vacation time. There was CARES ACT money to relieve County General to help pay overtime. The rules changed in September. The cash remaining in fund was \$103,000 estimate to be paid out in normal ways. Luke asked about vacation thoughts, not knowing when the pandemic will end. Gregg stated he supported the overtime for COVID for vaccines. There will still be some. Luke commented that the Health fund will drain quickly.

Teresa announced the next Board of Commissioners meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. at the Perry County Courthouse in person and be livestreamed.

The room will be open to certain seats for ones that want to speak. For social distancing there are 14 seats. Teresa said this is because the seats are connecting. They are asking the public to respect that. Gregg motioned for public comments to be placed on the standard agenda. Motion died for second. Gregg made a motion that the meeting be in person with 14 in the gallery and for who wants to speak to sign up by noon the day before the meeting. The second was made by Randy. Motion carried 3-0. Individuals need to notify Teresa or Auditor Pam Goffinet.

The meeting ended in open session at 6:35 p.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*