

PERRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES – August 7, 2023

The Perry County Board of Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m., as was duly advertised. Commissioners: President Randy Cole (RC), Rebecca Thorn (RT), and Randy Kleaving (RK) were in attendance. Auditor Kristinia Hammack, Attorney Andrew Foster, and Sheriff Alan Malone were also present. There was no *News Representative* in attendance.

The meeting opened with all present reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- a) Brian Herwig, President and CEO of Perry County Memorial Hospital appeared before the Commissioners to recommend the appointment of Tim Harding and John Land to the Hospital Board.

Motion to suspend current meeting and open meeting for a hearing on bond issuance. RK made the motion, and seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0

Open meeting for hearing on Port Authority Bond Issue that will cover additional expenses on the bridge.

- b) Chris Goffinet representing the Perry County Port Authority appeared to introduce three ordinance drafts to the Commissioners. The 2021 Bond Anticipation Note for bridgework is ready to become permanent financing. In addition, issue an additional Bond Anticipation Note for the overage of the first bridge as well as the second bridge. Goffinet introduced the three drafts with respect to new bonds (BAN) as follows:
 - 1. BAN, which is the issuance of additional bonds in anticipation of those being taken out by future federal financing but they cannot finance until the project is finished.
 - 2. Ordinance which amended 2021 Bond Anticipation Note ordinance to change the payment schedule because the RDA (Rural Development) wanted to change it.
 - 3. Authorization from Commissioners to pay off the original Bond Anticipation Note which will be paid off with the Rural Development funds and will be closing in late August.

The purpose of this hearing is to see if there are any members of the public at the meeting who would like to speak, as well as if the Commissioners have any questions. There were no comments.

RK made motion to affirm last meeting's approval of the Bond Issuance for Bridge Project, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0

RK made a motion to close bond hearing, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0

RT made a motion to reopen the Commissioner's meeting, seconded by RK. Motion carried 3-0.

MINUTES

- a) 07.18.2023
- b) 07.18.2023 Joint meeting with County Council
- c) 07.27.2023 Joint meeting with County Council

RK made motion to accept, and RT Seconded. Motion carried 3-0

KRISTINIA HAMMACK, AUDITOR

- a) 07.31.2023 Payroll in the amount of \$167,194.64
- b) Health Insurance Claims: \$142,213.41
- c) Life Insurance Claims: \$1,507.26
- d) Quarterly Federal Excise Tax Form 720 \$357.00
- e) Approval of 08.07.2023 Claim Docket \$359,235.49

RK made a motion to approved, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0

KEVIN HERP, VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER

- a) Kevin Herp appeared requesting permission to use the courthouse grounds for a Veteran’s Day Car Show. The VFW and American Legion will be providing food, and Detail Shop will be taking care of the car show. County Attorney Foster will put together a blanket contract to protect the county for liability. RC said he checked with Franzman Insurance in anticipation of this being on the agenda, and Franzman said there is no issue to use the courthouse grounds. This is covered under our current policy. This event will be 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., with a run at 10:00 a.m. More details on the run will be available closer to the date.

RK made motion to approve use of the courthouse grounds on November 11, 2023, seconded by RK. Motion carried 3-0.

- b) On August 18th, the VET Center RV will be at the Courthouse parking lot. They offer counseling services, register any veteran that does not have veteran care, as well as suicide prevention. The event will be from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

RK made motion to approve use of courthouse grounds on August 18, 2023, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

ANDREW FOSTER, COUNTY ATTORNEY

- a) The Carrollton Road paperwork is complete and sent to the offices affected, the recorder has gotten back with him, and all forms meet the need to vacate public waterways or roadways. This form will streamline the process.
- b) The two-mile radius zoning by the City of Tell City is not to give the city full control of the two-mile radius. The purpose is to allow what types of things come into that two-mile areas in order to protect their corporate boundaries. It allows zoning as residential or agricultural. It does give the City the authority to enforce leads or trash. This radius is mostly a planning type of extra territorial jurisdiction.

The property in question is being used as a business but is zoned residential. The City was under the impression this was trash on the property, and not being used as a business. There are county enforcement regulations, but they are only health related. The county could pass an ordinance that trash is not permissible unless in containers. RC felt there is already an ordinance for this and needs to be located; then the county can proceed as violating the ordinance with trash. Foster said both the person buying this property on contract as well as the property owner are responsible.

Foster will contact other counties with this two-mile radius to see how this has been handled. Foster will also reach out to city attorney to see how they are going to handle this. He hopes to have a response by the end of the week.

STEVE HOWELL, HWY SUPERINTENDENT

- a) Howell was asking for an ordinance to get interest money that he feels the highway should get. RC stated if do it for one, they must do it for all. In the past, twelve departments got a percentage, and where that percentage came from is not known. This interest money is needed for a rainy day fund for unexpected expenditures. RK does not agree. This is INDOT and Federal Highways funds and feels it is okay that this money should be for highway only, and the others go in the pool. Howell mentioned INDOT and Federal Highway funding could be at risk for not using in highway. RC stated that the INDOT and Federal Highway funds are used for highway, but the interest earned is a different thing.

RK made a motion for an ordinance for the highway only to get the interest earned from Federal and State money. RC feels the highway department should increase their 2024 budget request in the County General Fund for the \$14,000.00, which will go before the council for approval. RK withdrew his motion until after budget to see if additional \$14,000.00 gets approved in the 2024 budget.

COMMISSIONERS

- a) The personnel committee has been working on the Personnel Policy Handbook with County Attorney Foster as well as Waggoner, Irwin, and Steele on some revisions to job descriptions. The positions at the Health Department were updated as to who they report to. This was brought to light by the State Board of

Accounts after reviewing them. RC verified that an actual person is responsible to review the hours at the Health Department.

Beginning in 2024, employees will start gaining 1/12 of personal/vacation time each month, instead of having to work an entire year before having any leave time. For employees who worked in 2023, at the start of 2024 they will still have their earned time from 2023 and also transition to earning the 1/12 per month in 2024. Revisions to the Administrator description as it was absorbed by the Auditor's office, and now will be HR/Payroll Administrator. Updates were also made to the exempt/non-exempt descriptions that were approved in January. Updates for the use of county vehicles were made so those using them do not need commissioner's approval, the verbiage was cleaned up.

The personnel committee met and did the legwork in order to save the county money. Personnel Policy Handbook was then sent to County Attorney Foster for review and also spoke to Waggoner, Irwin & Steele.

RT made motion to accept the Personnel Policy Handbook as written, seconded by RK. Motion carried 3-0.

- b) Mitigation was tabled due to not completed yet.
- c) The appointment for the Perry County Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees must be advertised for six weeks prior to the appointment. The Purpose is to make available to the public the responsibilities and compensation. Anyone who chooses to apply should send a letter of interest. Appointment will be made at the September 19, 2023 meeting.
- d) There was only one applicant for the Middlefork appointment, Nicholas Kleaving. This appointment is for less than a year until Middlefork has their annual meeting. He will be filling out the term of Gilbert Kleaving.

RT made the motion to approve to fill the vacancy by Nicholas Kleaving for the Middlefork Conservancy position, seconded by RK. Motion carried 3-0.

- e) RT updated the commissioners on the AT&T service issue that was brought before the commissioners at the last meeting. RT called the Governor's office and spoke with Tyler Worman, liaison to the governor. He put RT in contact with Southern Indiana AT&T representative Pepper Mulherin. She informed Mulherin that it was brought to the commissioner's attention by a concerned citizen at the last commissioner meeting about the cell phone service being spotty in the county. Those with medical devices in their homes and emergencies are not able to call out. Mulherin requested obtaining names and addresses of the people who constantly are having problems. The affected problem address is very important. Mulherin will try to attend the next commissioner's meeting and is hoping to have some addresses. She stated that if this is in a certain area, maybe something can be done to this affected area. Auditor Hammack stated the Auditor's office can put a google survey form on the Perry County website, and can compile the data into a spreadsheet. Mulherin will be asked to attend the September 19th meeting. RK spoke to Verizon who said they have lost a little service due to the switch from 3G to 5G service at this time. Verizon has no knowledge of any new towers going up, but suggested that a booster can be put in the home to increase service.
- f) Auditor Hammack requested feedback on using funds in 2023 from the Administrator's budget for a time and attendance software. Presentations were made on July 18th by An Island, and on July 27th by LOW. She is needing a decision as to where the county is planning to go. RK asked about the cost of the software. Hammack stated the initial set-up by LOW is \$38,000 and An Island is \$18,000. Both are comparable with the monthly pricing. LOW is \$12,000 and An Island is \$8,000 and each would have a yearly contract. Auditor Hammack mentioned that the State Board of Accounts does not like the pencil system we currently use. They want something they can actually audit and this software would in turn lower audit costs as it could be off-site.

RK asked when we will have the employee insurance cost that will come in at the end of the year. RC said that is still unknown, but looking at some options.

However, we do not have any numbers yet. RK does not like the timeclock for exempt employees as well as highway employees. RC stated that the State Board of Accounts wants a system, as the county has a Corrective Action from earlier this year due to their findings. If a Corrective Action is not addressed, we will have a bigger issue. Efficiency is a plus and will save the county money.

Hammack feels LOW is already developed and is being used by approximately 50% of counties. The sooner we can get a time and attendance software in place, the better. If we do not start this in January 2024, we will have to wait until 2025.

RC stated that An Island is local and we need to support them and give them an opportunity to deliver, plus they are more cost effective. By keeping local, we keep money in the county which will provide more jobs. Perry County would be the first county to use An Island. Hammack said she does not have the spare time to devote to An Island. This software needs to be in place in January 2024. The commissioners need to make a decision at the August 22nd meeting so that it can go to the council at their August 25th meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:29 a.m. CST.

RT made a motion to accept, seconded by RK. Motion carried 3-0.

The next meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be held on Tuesday, August 22, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

Randy Cole
President

Rebecca Thorn
Vice-President

Randy Kleaving

*Minutes prepared by:
Kristinia L. Hammack, Auditor*