

**COMMISSIONERS MEETING**  
**REGULAR SESSION**  
**FEBRUARY 20, 2023**  
**9:00 A.M.**

ATTENDANCE:

COMMISSIONERS:	Thomas Helmer, President Rick Woodall
ATTORNEY:	James Ensley
AUDITOR:	Kristina Berish
COUNCIL:	Larry Parker Stephanie Campbell
AUDIENCE:	20 Individuals

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on February 20, 2023, at 9:00 AM. Meeting was held at the Putnam County Courthouse. Tom Helmer opened the meeting and the pledge to the flag was given. Dave Berry was ill and would not be able to attend the meeting.

**HAMILTON CENTER**

Monica Wallace came to the meeting to give an update on the services they offer in the county.

**PUTNAM COUNTY AG DAY**

Heather Poynter presented proclamation for March 11, 2023 as Ag Day. Helmer made the motion to approve. Woodall seconded. The motion passed.

**DUST CONTROL PROGRAM**

Lee Hoopingarner came to the meeting and said he had taken over for his father in the business. Taxpayer Gary Broadstreet was at the meeting in support of the county continuing the program. It helped the citizens on gravel roads.

Highway Engineer Jim Peck said he was not sure if the county had money appropriated for the program since it had been discussed to discontinue it when the county thought the contractor they used in past would no longer be in business. Auditor Berish stated there is \$15,000 designated for the program this year. Commissioners will discuss it and decide about the program.

### **EMS – PURCHASE AMBULANCE**

Kelly Russ, Director came to the meeting with two quotes: Fire Service Inc. (\$256,986), and American Response Vehicles (\$258,823.16). Russ's personal preference is Fire Service due to having past history with the company and know they are great to work with and would like the continuity of all of the ambulances being the same.

Commissioners reviewed the two quotes; Helmer made the motion to approve Fire Service. Woodall opposed. The motion did not pass. Woodall could not be in favor of a quote that is 20K more, we are dealing with taxpayers' dollars. The quotes would need to be brought up at the next meeting when fellow Commissioner Berry is present.

### **HIGHWAY**

Engineer Jim Peck said INDOT contacted all the applicants to pay for 100% of engineering and land acquisitions. He asked what happens if the county did not agree with the terms. Would they not be considered for the grant. Response was not necessarily. It would cost the county approximately 600K for the Dunbar project now. Peck said he needed an answer today, Woodall and Helmer replied answer is no. The county did not have the money to obligate.

United on call contract submitted for approval, not to exceed 65K. Woodall said only 50K budgeted. Peck was able to encumber money from 2022. Woodall made the motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion passed.

Local road safety plan allows them access to other funding opportunities. Had a proposal from HWC in the amount of \$34,500. It would be a 4-month project. One time fee. Woodall made the motion to approve for no more than \$34,500. Helmer seconded. The motion passed.

Traffic counter Helmer made the motion to approve. Woodall seconded. The motion passed.

IDEM has found 6 areas of concern during the landfill inspection. Short and long-term improvement plan would be reviewed.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Capital asset ordinance – tabled

Franklin Township advisory board appointment – Ensley said tabled from last meeting and explained why this was being put in front of the Commissioners. Richard Robbins had indicated he was interested in the position. He was not sure if Megan Phipps was interested. Tabled for further research. Since Dave Berry not at meeting, not sure if he has talked to them.

Airport board appointment – had one letter of interest from Gary Lemon. Woodall asked if this had been advertised there was an opening. It had been stated in an article in the Banner Graphic. Tabled.

Opioid Grant – Helmer said they had a special session and a committee meeting since the last Commissioners meeting. Brian Williams secretary of the committee came to the meeting stating it had been decided by the coalition to not try and go after the matching grant which was making for a short deadline. They did not have enough time to do the grant application.

Williams said the committee would like guidance from the Commissioners on how the board would like to disperse the funds since there was no longer a timeline on when decision needs to be made. Woodall felt any organization wanting funding needs to put together a proposal and submit it to the Committee for review. Like we did for the ARPA grant.

Parking on square - Addendum to the policy manual? Discussion, decided to not make addendum to policy.

Firearms training use agreement with Overwatch Firearms. Ensley had reviewed and would work out the legal details. Helmer made the motion to approve. Woodall seconded. The motion passed.

EMS uniform allowance – Ensley said Commissioners should have received a draft before today's meeting. They did not recall receiving one. Ensley would send it to them. Tabled until next meeting.

Ensley said Liberty Trailers in Marion Twp would like permission to cross people pathways trails in two spots to get to their storage lots. They will need to put up signage. Ensley will work it out with them. Woodall made the motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion passed. People Pathways sent this to Ensley, had no problem with request.

Wage study – Woodall reached out to companies to get quotes. Found out very few companies do studies for government, more so private sectors. The county received one quote from Waggoner Irwin Scheele in the amount of \$48,240 plus travel expense. Same company that did our last county handbook. Take 6-8 months to complete. Woodall made the motion to approve the quote, not to exceed 55K, Commissioners and the Council felt this was necessary to equal out the wages of county government employees. Ensley said some of the items built into the quote, the county has already done and company has with them doing our handbook. Hopefully that will shorten the timeframe of completing the study. Woodall asked Auditor to send out an email to all county employees letting them know about the study. Helmer seconded. The motion passed.

Time clock – Woodall said we had one in the past, failed. Auditor has been researching and submitted a quote to the Commissioners. Still researching but wanted to let people know the county was looking at a time clock system again.

Alarm system for Title IVD and Highway – Helmer said they did not have an alarm system. Researching to get them one.

Use agreement for the bike race is completed. Date of race July 22, 2023.

### **PLAN COMMISSION**

Lisa Zeiner said it was found the process of the Commissioners needing to approve plats was unnecessary. The boards review and approve.

Commissioners only need to sign the plat. She found this out during a training session. She reminded the Commissioners of joint meeting with Plan Commission on March 6, 2023 at 5:30 pm at Ivy Tech.

### **CLAIMS**

February 9, 2023 – Woodall made the motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion passed.

February 9, 2023 – Helmer made the motion to approve. Woodall seconded. The motion passed.

February 16, 2023 – Woodall made the motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion passed.

February 20, 2023 – Helmer made the motion to approve. Woodall seconded. The motion passed.

### **PAYROLL**

February 10, 2023 – Woodall made the motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion passed.

### **MINUTES**

February 6, 2023 – Woodall made the motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion passed.

February 13, 2023 (special meeting) – could not make a motion since Commissioners at meeting were Berry and Helmer. Berry was not at meeting today. Tabled.

### **MAIL**

The Board of Commissioners acknowledged their mail.

**ADJOURN**

Woodall made a motion to adjourn. Helmer seconded. The motion passed.

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**Thomas Helmer, President**

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**Rick Woodall**

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**Attest: Auditor's Office**  
**Kristina Berish**