

COMMISSIONERS MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
April 1, 2024
9:00 AM

ATTENDANCE:

COMMISSIONERS:	David Berry, President Thomas Helmer, Vice President Rick Woodall
COUNCIL:	Larry Parker Stephanie Campbell
ATTORNEY:	Jim Ensley
AUDITOR'S OFFICE	Evelyn Williams
AUDIENCE:	43 Individuals

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on April 1, 2024, at 9:00 AM in regular session. The meeting was held at the Putnam County Courthouse. David Berry opened the meeting and the pledge to the flag was given.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS GRANT APPROVAL

Jamie France & Garret Nichols – Continue programming for 2025 Community Corrections grant. There is an advisory board meeting on the 11th for final approval. Woodall asked if there were any major changes. France stated he did request a 4.6% salary increase from DOJ. Helmer made a motion to approve. Berry seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

PLANNING & ZONING SOLAR FARM

Lisa Zeiner – Solar rezoning and the Planning Commission suggested denial of it. Cold Spring Solar, Paul Cousins, Project Manager, and several consultants were present to answer questions. A presentation was made. The project will utilize ground mounted panels and be in operation for 30 years with 12 to 14 months of construction time. Cousins stated the land would be leased.

Woodall asked if they are in agreement with local emergency facilities regarding safety. Representatives stated they have been in contact and will stay in contact through the span of the project. Woodall asked about the vegetation and grazing plans.

Helmer stated he spoke with the fire department chief in the area, and they spoke with other fire departments with similar projects that were promised equipment and have yet to receive anything. A representative stated he can't speak for other companies but can say for a fact they will follow through with any promised agreement.

Woodall stated he doesn't believe they have been in contact at all with Putnam County EMS. A representative stated he has spoken with the local fire chief.

Jonie Billman, county taxpayer, stated she sees a problem with taking away 1200 acres of farming land. She stated it should be reserved for farming and not for solar use.

Jeanie Pope, DePauw professor, stated she disagrees with Ms. Billman. She studies several environmental issues.

Laura Scott asked several questions and made some suggestions that included emergency equipment, vegetation, and soil testing.

Berry made a motion to approve the Plan Commission's denial of the rezoning. Helmer seconded. Woodall stated he disagrees. The motion passed two to one.

EMS – MACR SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENTS

Kelly Russ, EMS Chief, stated that MACR contract is up, and she is asking for reapproval. Woodall made a motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

MCGOWAN HEALTH INSURANCE UPDATE

Kevin Cook – Renewal is in August. Claims trending update. Medical claims are down 18% and pharmacy claims are up.

HIGHWAY REPORT

Clint Maddox stated they have a few roads to get prepped for paving. Graders are out every day. 250 miles of gravel roads with 3 graders. The new cold mix is working out well. Culvert in Jefferson Township is replaced, and he would like to speak with county attorney to get compensation for it.

Helmer stated that half of Keightly Road is owned by the city and the other half is owned by the county. The city agreed to buy the asphalt and the county will do the rest.

COUNTY POLICY AMENDMENTS

Berry tabled until a later time.

MINUTES

March 15, 2024, Special Session – Helmer made a motion to approve. Woodall seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

March 18, 2024 – Berry made a motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

March 26, 2024, Executive Session – Woodall made a motion to approve. Berry seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

EDIT Plan – Berry made a motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Timeclock – Berry tabled.

Helmer stated the city is complaining about parking again. Berry stated they want to know how many handicap stickers are currently issued. He stated he will be looking into it.

Annex Committee – Woodall stated he believes they're making progress. They have reached a consensus, they want an owner's rep.

ADJOURN

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

David Berry, President

Thomas Helmer, Vice President

Rick Woodall

**Attest: Auditor's Office
Evelyn Williams**