

COMMISSIONERS MEETING
SPECIAL SESSION
JANUARY 12, 2023
8:00 AM

ATTENDANCE:

COMMISSIONERS:	Thomas Helmer, President David Berry, Vice President Rick Woodall
ATTORNEY:	James Ensley
AUDITOR:	Kristina Berish
AUDIENCE:	5 Individuals

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met in Special Session on January 12, 2023, at 8:00 AM at the Highway department.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Auditor Berish said when she was crunching the numbers to see where the Highway department's operating balance was after ending 2022 budget year she found the departments funds were in better shape than anticipated for 3 reasons: 1) last 6 months of 2022 revenue came in higher, when doing a budget you are always smart going in with conservative numbers so this was not a surprise the revenue was higher than Jacque Clements had projected 2) between 1173 & 1176 budgets almost 500K was "turned back in" to the funds because what was appropriated for 2022 was not all spent. 3) when the June 30th balance was imported into gateway for the 2023 budgets it did not pull in the correct funds balance.

After subtracting operating balance, the surplus left for potential additional is \$1,311,561. The department is short 250K for health insurance since the budget was submitted by the department with only half of what is needed to pay their portion of the premium. If you subtract another 630K to balance out for proposed road projects and another 60K the department wants for a trimmer that leaves a balance of \$371,561.

2023 Paving Projects – Community Crossings grant application is due January 27, 2023. A financial commitment letter must be signed by the Commissioners to go along with the application. Jim Peck said he would have the documents ready for the January 17th meeting.

The application would be for Heritage Drive (Ex 30 & Ex 67) 4.26 miles, County Road 900 South (SR 243 & US 231) 3.50 miles. After some discussion it was decided to also add Blackhawk Road (1050 S) in Cloverdale Twp. The road has a lot of hills, traffic, campground and would be getting an RV park as well. Receive a lot of complaints.

Helmer made the motion to have Peck draw up a financial commitment letter. Berry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Bridge Preservation – Peck said Bridges 109 & 112 were in the worst condition, both located on West Walnut. With the preservation it would extend the lives of the bridges by 25-30 years. Berry made the motion to have Peck draw up a financial commitment letter for these 2 bridges. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Track Excavator – Peck had checked with Caterpillar on a 6-year lease program. Cost of excavator is \$286,924. He proposed the annual payment to be paid out of the cumulative bridge fund. Currently budgeted for leases is 30K a year. This would increase the amount needed to be appropriated each year. If allowed, looking at a delivery date in April or May.

Woodall questioned why the county would do a lease plan with Caterpillar. What was presented today did not make financial sense. The cost of the equipment is 286K. But what Peck had presented showed 5 years of paying \$51,884.77 each year and the last year a final payment of \$83,840 which would be a total paid of \$343,263.85. That is 57K in interest. Woodall directed Peck to check with local banks to get better finance options.

Lowboy – Peck said they currently have 100K in budget and the actual cost for equipment is 81K. They would make the payment and have the title put under PC Commissioners/Highway.

Enterprise Fleet Management – Peck would like to have a meeting to discuss the current fleet. And if they went with Enterprise what would be the cost and make a comparison. He will gather information and present it to Commissioners.

Kenworth Truck Rotation – Peck would like to look at possibly rotating these out. Wants to look at options.

200 S – section of road Hendricks County resurfaced, and Putnam County owed a small portion to them for material. They were approached in lieu of payment transferring a travel loader to Hendricks. Woodall made the motion to approve the transfer of equipment. Berry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

BOT funding options – Peck would like to research this funding option for bridge and road work.

Green OshKosh title – This was done through the Sheriff's department and the title cannot be found. Peck has asked to look at files at Sheriff's department to try and find it. If it cannot be found, they would be left with giving it to another government entity.

2023 Dust Control – The contractor the county has used will no longer be offering dust control services. The dust control is done in the height of busy season. Options were discussed.

2024 – will need to look at different alternatives for roads such as millings. Peck would like a committee, so all departments are all on the same page and have the same GIS access. Peck will research.

Office improvements – Peck would like to get quotes for updating some of the light fixtures, carpet for the short term. He had gotten a quote for carpet already (10K). And, for long term look at shop and overhead doors. He asked if there was money in the Commissioners budget. Berish stated there was not a line item in their budget for improvements. And reminded Peck he had money in his own funds to request an additional if the Commissioners approve any improvements. Berry asked for a report and to list items according to priority.

ADJOURN

Woodall made a motion to adjourn. Berry seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Thomas Helmer, President

David Berry, Vice President

Rick Woodall

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