

**COMMISSIONERS MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
MARCH 20, 2023
9:00 AM**

ATTENDANCE:

COMMISSIONERS:	Thomas Helmer, President David Berry, Vice President Rick Woodall
ATTORNEY:	James Ensley
AUDITOR:	Kristina Berish
COUNCIL:	Stephanie Campbell Larry Parker
AUDIENCE:	15 Individuals

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on March 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.

TRAIL HEAD PARKING SIGNS

Allison Lear appreciated all the support they have received from the county. They are getting ready to open a 6-acre trail called Hamrick Station Trail. It is off Manhattan Road, she requested signs for parking for this trail and the trail by Buzzi. Total of 4 parking signs. She had already spoken with the Highway Department where they wanted to put the signs. Berry made the motion to approve request. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

COURTHOUSE STAIRS USAGE REQUEST

Main Street representative asked for usage of the North side stairs of the courthouse for band for the First Friday of each month like they have done in the past. Berry reminded them of the serious problem with trash last year. They have forwarded that problem on and making changes to correct. Woodall made the motion to approve. Berry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

E911 - FINALIZE RFP RADIO CONSOLE EQUIPMENT

Director David Costin stated it would be approximately 500K for replacement of the radio console equipment. The console controls 46 radios at his department. He submitted an RFP for the Commissioners to review. Current console has reached its limit and cannot get parts ordered for it anymore. He keeps it going with spare parts he has on hand. If this could be approved April/May then hoped to have the new console in December. Woodall asked where the county could pay this from? Auditor Berish said there is 1.5M in adjusted surplus in the PSAP LIT fund. Berry made the motion to approve the RFP. Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Sheriff Baugh said he was looking at turning in 3 pieces of equipment and purchasing 2. He had a quote from Edwards Equipment for a Kubota diesel utility vehicle and a 6-seater golf cart. Amount minus the trade ins left a final balance owed of \$8,300. He was not asking for any money, already had funds to purchase. Helmer made the motion to approve. Berry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Baugh also wanted to trade in old firearms to purchase new firearms. The firearms would bring them up to speed in technology and increase the marksmanship of the deputies. He had a quote from ACME Sports Inc. Final amount after trade in is \$15,560. Again, he had the money in his budget to pay for the firearms. Woodall made the motion to approve. Berry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

CHIP & SEAL COUNTY ROAD 1100 NORTH

Elisha Vance requested the county pave 1100 North in Roachdale, approximately 1.25 miles with around 14 households on the road. Submitted a picture showing what the road looked like before they just came and graded it. Discussion, no decision made regarding the road.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Engineer Jim Peck:

- 1) Dunbar Covered Bridge project – INDOT did not approve our grant application. They had asked the county to pay for more of the project and they had told them no due to lack of funding. INDOT encouraged them to apply again next year. Peck said they could start on some of the engineering now, county pays 100%. If we proceed now, we would be paying 700K. Then in November, reapply for an 80/20 grant for the remainder of the project. The county would pay 700K plus the 20% match. Or wait and reapply for the full project at 80/20 grant. The Commissioners had said no on paying fees upfront due to lack of funding and now it looks like it would cost the county more money if they proceeded as the Engineer presented. Tabled until the next meeting.
- 2) Bridge #276 – concrete pour scheduled for March 29th.
- 3) Bridge #154 & #252 – having a meeting to review the bridges and see what can be done with them.
- 4) Wheel tax/Excise surtax – felt when compared to like counties we were not collecting as much wheel tax. They were getting \$900K plus and our county only 100K. Auditor looked up last year's collection and questioned if he was looking at just wheel tax when he compared us to like counties or did their figures also include excise surtax. She asked because if you add both of those, our county received over 900K in 2022 for the Highway department. Peck was not sure; he would need to do further research.

- 5) Local Road Safety Plan – HWC approved to do the plan. DLZ submitted proposal for 2029 NOFA Manhattan Road in the amount of \$15,000 to be paid from the Local Roads & Streets fund. Submitted a copy of proposal to Commissioners. Helmer made the motion to approve the proposal. Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- 6) Excavator – waiting on serial number to give to First National bank so the lease can be completed.
- 7) Kenworth truck rotation – Palmer Trucks received quote for \$358,504. Woodall questioned if we needed to get more than 1 quote. Did it meet our legal requirements. After discussion, Woodall made the motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- 8) Dusing drainage complaint on 11823 State Road 42 in Cloverdale. Highway went as requested.
- 9) CSX bridge removal – Peck updated Commissioners on discussions with CSX.

CAPITAL ASSET ORDINANCE

Tabled

2023 EDIT PLAN

Approved at last meeting, just needs to be signed.

SURVEYOR CONTRACTUAL WORK CONTRACT

Approved at last meeting, just needs to be signed.

READI GRANT

Kristin Clary wanted to give an update; all projects have been approved. Heritage Lake will receive 1M, Town of Roachdale 100K and the balance to Town of Cloverdale.

OLD JONES SCHOOL

Helmer said the demolition has started, if public would like a brick from it, they are welcome to go and get one on site.

PHONE SYSTEM

Woodall said he has been on phone with Metronet and GigTel several times. Today they will have a joint phone meeting with both companies to hopefully resolve the problems.

SOLAR FARM

Woodall said they are still negotiating. A meeting is set on March 27th with the company.

200 YEAR ANNIVERSARY FOR THE COUNTY

Woodall stated he was working with the museum, looking to have celebration in June.

INTERNET SERVICE

Woodall felt we needed to look at putting this out for bid.

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP ADVISORY BOARD

Berry said person has not called him back.

CREDIT CARD OUTSTANDING BALANCE

Jim Ensley discussed the topic of an office having an outstanding balance on their county credit card. Ensley will reach out to him.

CLAIMS

March 9, 2023 – Berry made the motion to approve. Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

March 16, 2023 – Helmer made the motion to approve. Berry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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

PAYROLL

March 10, 2023 – Woodall made the motion to approve. Berry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES

March 6, 2023 (regular) – Woodall made the motion to approve. Berry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

March 6, 2023 (executive) – Berry made the motion to approve. Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

March 6, 2023 (special) – Woodall made the motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion passed.

MAIL

The Board of Commissioners acknowledged their mail.

ADJOURN

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

Thomas Helmer, President

David Berry, Vice President

Rick Woodall

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