

COMMISSIONERS MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
JUNE 5, 2023
AT 9:00 A.M.

ATTENDANCE:

COMMISSIONERS:	Thomas Helmer, President David Berry, Vice President Rick Woodall
ATTORNEY:	James Ensley
AUDITOR'S OFFICE:	Evelyn Williams
COUNCIL:	Stephanie Campbell Larry Parker
AUDIENCE:	16 Individuals

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on June 5, 2023, at 9:00 AM. The meeting was held at the Putnam County Courthouse. Tom Helmer opened the meeting and the pledge to the flag was given.

PLANNING

Lisa Zeiner – rezoning Portland Mills area for a campground, AG2, for insertion of 9 tiny home campsites under 400 square feet. Discussion was made. David Berry made a motion to approve. Thomas Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Surveyor Greg Williams approached Lisa about switching their offices. Lisa stated with his current office she would have room to set up a meeting area which she desperately needs. Greg stated he sees no issues with moving his equipment. Discussion was made. Lisa stated they would need to have DJ with AirLinx move some lines. Rick Woodall proposed checking on what the costs would be before making a motion.

SHERIFF – HOSPITAL RESOURCE OFFICER

Sheriff Baugh presented information on the costs and job duties of the Hospital Resource Officer. He stated this has been in the works since last year when the hospital approached the department. This position would be the same concept as a school resource officer. Sheriff Baugh stated he would like to have 5 floater hours for use at his discretion. The hospital would reimburse the County \$52,000 payable to the County Treasurer. Discussion was made. Rick Woodall made a motion to approve the Hospital Resource Officer. Thomas Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Brian Williams presented a resolution to accept the Legislative enrolled Act for State Public Health Funding. Mr. Williams stated that to opt in a resolution is required. Rick Woodall asked how many additional people they were intending to hire and where they would be housed. Mr. Williams stated currently they are looking for at least two new employees around the year 2025.

Discussion was made. Rick Woodall made a motion to accept the State of Indiana Public Health Agreement. Thomas Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

COUNTY CLERK – LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Tracy Bridges stated she needs a leave of absence approval for an employee that was on FMLA but has utilized the 12 weeks already. Discussion was made. Thomas Helmer made a motion to approve. David Berry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

HIGHWAY REPORT

Jim Peck stated they had some equipment stolen. It was recovered and will be inspected for damage.

Peck presented two proposals for work needed to do repairs that IDEM discovered. Peck stated they would work on plans for repair and a topographic survey. Peck stated that Surveyor Greg Williams was going to look at it to see if he could do the topographic survey. They must report back to IDEM by the end of September on what their plan of action is. The funding source will have to be discussed.

Peck gave the following updates:

- Fueling station spill buckets were replaced.
- Community Crossing Grant bids will be due in June and will open in July.
- Bridge 276 is open.
- Beginning paving projects
- Bridge Inventory – guardrail replacement is critical for several bridges. CSX Bridges 278 & 288.
- Covered Bridge repair – looking at replacing two of the bridge’s roofs.
- Old Lowboy sold for \$18,000.
- Repairing paver that’s been broken for a year.
- Southeastern has a used 2016 roller for \$60,000. Peck signed the quote, and they would need an additional from Local Road & Street. If approved by Commissioners, he will go to Council for additional approval. Rick Woodall asked what would be cut out. Peck stated \$18,000 for Low boy, equipment to be sold, and more from other equipment sales. Thomas Helmer made a motion pending Council additional approval. David Berry seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- Pickup Trucks – Loan payment had to come from EDIT Highway money. Jim stated he must cut over \$240,000 from current road projects. Discussion was made on cutting down on materials and what that equals out in mileage of roads.
- Local Road & Street – Manhattan Road, working with DLZ.
- Right of way mowing complaints. Peck stated it’s getting out of hand how often citizens are threatening and complaining.
- FHWA – Speeding and Speed Management Peer Exchange Conference in Colorado
- Pavement lane marking proposal – Traffic Control Specialist \$25,492

COMMISSIONER ADDITIONAL

Dave Berry withdrew the request for additional that had been advertised to go before the Council for road maintenance.

COUNTY POLICY AMENDMENT

Jim Ensley stated in the current handbook regarding a leave of absence, not FMLA, it states the County will pay PERF. Auditor, Kristina Berish would like it taken out since it does not follow in line with policy for FMLA. And, the individual is not receiving a paycheck during a leave of absence so not contributing the 3% employee portion for PERF. Thomas Helmer made a motion to change the policy under the leave of absence section. Rick Woodall seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Ensley stated the Auditor had also brought up the policy on how to handle travel time and being compensated for it. Some departments are putting traveling time on their timesheets, some are not. Rick Woodall asked for more time to research.

MEETING MINUTES – MAY 15, 2023

Dave Berry made the motion to approve, Tom Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

MAIL

Acknowledged

OLD BUSINESS

Baker Tilly – Engagement letter has never been signed. Tabled.

Three Fat Labs Letter – bridge closing has severely affected their business. They asked for their property tax delinquent charges to be suspended since they could not pay their property taxes. No decision was made.

Capital Asset Policy amendment – April meeting discussed changes. Tabled.

Metronet Bill – Since switching to Gigtel, they are still billing the county for several lines. The Commissioners are the only ones authorized to contact them. Rick Woodall stated he will get in contact with them again.

ADJOURN

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

Thomas Helmer, President

David Berry, Vice President

Rick Woodall

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