

COMMISSIONERS MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
OCTOBER 17, 2022 9:00 AM

ATTENDANCE:

COMMISSIONERS:	Rick Woodall, President Thomas Helmer, Vice President David Berry
ATTORNEY:	James Ensley
DEPUTY AUDITOR:	Evelyn Williams
COUNCIL:	David Fuhrman
AUDIENCE:	14 Individuals

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on October 17, 2022, at 9:00 AM at the Putnam County Courthouse. Rick Woodall opened the meeting and the pledge to the flag was given.

Rick Woodall made a motion to add Extension homemakers to the agenda. David Berry seconded. Motion carried.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Lisa Zeiner stated the next step is October 25th Big Ideas Open House with the community to discuss residential and business opportunities. Staff and members of the consulting firm will be there. After the open house they will do a draft plan and a public presentation. It will be refined and then presented for approval by the Commissioners.

EMS

Kelly Russ – Credit card policy – EMS received a line of credit through Wayfair with a \$10,000 line of credit without prior approval by the Commissioners. Kelly stated Wayfair sold their invoiceable accounts to Capital One. She stated she reached out to them and received a response. They call it a loan (see email printout). Discussion was made. A claim was submitted to be paid and rejected due to no prior approval by the Commissioners. Commissioners stated for Kelly to use their county credit card to pay the Wayfair bill and not use the “Proflex Plan” with them.

Rick stated the EMS’s sewer problem has been researched. The line was scoped, and the company stated they don’t think the line is collapsed. They believe the problem might lie in the parking lot. They also found out that the plumbing was done with hot water. This has been fixed.

Kelly stated the help they have received from the trustees with the jail have done an excellent job.

Rick stated the floors of the ambulances are rotten and will not withhold the weight of the new power load cots. Discussion was made. They are waiting for a quote for replacement.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

Diana Brumfield – wreaths can be sponsored for any veteran’s plot via their website. She stated they have 8 ceremonial wreaths they would like to put on the Courthouse lawn starting December 17th. Discussion was made. The Commissioners agreed to allow this.

EXTENSION HOMEMAKERS WEEK

Stated there will be hearts around the county to support kindness starting today. Rick made a motion to approve the week of October 17th to be Indiana Homemakers Association Week. Tom Helmer seconded the motion. The motion passed.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Jim Peck Highway Engineer gave updates:

- 1) Paving projects – 775 West finished. Looking at next year's paving program and funds. Rick stated he would like to meet up in the middle of November to look at this year's expenses and budget for next year. Jim stated they are still running short on milling.
- 2) Bridge 276 – pier 3 foundation was poured. Continue pile driving on pier 2
- 3) Bridge preservation presentation is coming due, funding being the main issue.
- 4) Bridge inventory – state has reviewed contract for federal funding. Now needs to be signed by Commissioners and Auditor. Will start March 2023. Discussion was made. Tom Helmer made a motion to approve the contract with United Consulting for \$799,311.46. David Berry seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- 5) Jim asked for permission to start negotiating with CSX regarding closing bridges 288 and 289. Discussion was made.
- 6) Received quote from J & K Communications for leasing.
- 7) An energy audit will be done at the Highway Department at a no cost fee.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

David Berry stated two of the crab apple trees on the South lawn have been removed. They will be replaced with something more appropriate.

Tom Helmer stated they are almost done cleaning out the storage in the Annex.

Karen – Mental Health America, they have found more funding through the state. Macy from Indiana Mental Health - The program runs for 18 years. Two different shares, unrestricted and abatement. It will be broken out by county and then town.

Jim Ensley presented two ARPA plans that have already been approved but need signatures.

Rick stated he has had a conversation with a company about presenting a proposal for conducting a salary study for county employees. Hopes it will get started within the next month or so.

A joint meeting was conducted with the Council and Commissioners regarding the solar farm.

Rick stated they have the results of the space study regarding an annex. They will discuss it during a regular session.

Bonds – Rick stated the Commissioners budget pays for all the bonds for officials. Everyone seeks out their own right now. Looking at having all the bonds under one company for streamlining. Discussion was made.

Rick stated the buzz bomb memorial needs work. Jim suggested checking with the foundation.

CLAIMS

October 4 – Berry made the motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

October 6 – Woodall made the motion to approve. Berry seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

October 13 – Helmer made a motion to approve. Woodall seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

October 17 – Woodall made the motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

PAYROLL

October 7 – Berry made the motion to approve. Woodall seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

MINUTES

August 16 Joint Session – Woodall made the motion to approve. Berry seconded. The motion carried.

October 3 – Helmer made a motion to approve. Woodall seconded. The motion carried.

MAIL

The Board of Commissioners acknowledged their mail.

ADJOURN

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

Rick Woodall, President

Thomas Helmer, Vice President

David Berry

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