

**COMMISSIONERS MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
OCTOBER 2, 2023
9:00 AM**

ATTENDANCE:
COMMISSIONERS: Thomas Helmer, President
David Berry, Vice President
Rick Woodall
COUNCIL: Stephanie Campbell, President
Larry Parker
Phil Gick
COUNTY ATTORNEY: Jim Ensley
AUDITOR'S OFFICE: Kristina Berish
AUDIENCE: 22 Individuals

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on October 2, 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.

REZONING – WARD

Director Lisa Zeiner stated Derrick Ward, who owns pizza place in Floyd township approached the board to get the property rezoned due to sign he put up. Trying to bring the property into compliance. The Plan Commissioner met on September 11, 2023, and voted unanimously to recommend approval. Berry made the motion to approve ordinance 2023-10-02. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Zeiner said they were working on issues with the placement of his business sign.

DRAINAGE PLAN REVIEW – STORAGE UNIT ON US 36

Director Lisa Zeiner said they wanted to add additional units but there is a drainage issue. She asked Christopher Burke Engineering to look at the drainage plan and they found a few issues. Zeiner said the Commissioners could approve pending Christopher Burke approving a revised plan or table it.

The property owner told the Commissioners they were not asking for any special exceptions, they would do everything necessary to comply with the ordinance. Ensley said they could approve it, since they established previously the first meeting of each month could also be for the drainage board. Woodall made the motion to approve the drainage report contingent upon Burke and Align Engineering review and approval of drainage plan and report of the tech committee. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT – GRANTS

Chief Deputy Tom Sutherlin stated deputy Rob Soilleux had applied and been awarded three state grants: DUI enforcement - \$10,000, CHIRP (stop arm) - \$15,000, and speed - \$10,000. This money will be used to pay overtime for off duty deputies. However, the matching taxes are not covered by the grants. The taxes are looked at as part of the county match. The total county match was \$4,579.25. Sutherlin asked if the Commissioners would cover the matches taxes (FICA & Medicare).

Commissioners asked the Auditor if they had enough in this year's and next to cover the additional taxes. Berish replied they did. Berry made the motion to approve the FICA and Medicare to be paid from the Commissioners' budget. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

HIGHWAY REPORT

Engineer Jim Peck report:

- 1) Birt Farms – net 200 loads of asphalt millings/screening operation.
- 2) Federal funding – applications due 12/1/23: Dunbar Covered Bridge construction & inspection \$6,015,750 (20% match \$1,365,150), Manhattan Road \$5,000,000 (10% match \$500,000), and countywide traffic sign inventory and replacement \$1,200,000 (10% match \$120,000).
- 3) Asphalt Materials agreed to hold their current price, no increase. They will roll over their bid. Peck submitted an agreement. Helmer made the motion to approve. Berry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- 4) Wheel tax and excise surtax – Council evaluating rates, for a possible increase.
- 5) Align completed landfill survey. Next step is for them to present a grading plan proposal.

HERITAGE LAKE PROPERTY LINES

Assessor Don Badolato had approached Woodall a few weeks ago about the lot lines in the subdivision. GIS Deputy Robbie Cudnik explained she had seen several deeds coming through and the lot lines were incorrect. Further investigation, she found there were a lot of parcels done incorrectly in the 1970's. Example: Jefferson Valley has 664 parcels, 417 need to be corrected. As time allows, she is going lot by lot and checking the lines. If they are incorrect, she submits paperwork to the Assessor so that he has the correct information for assessment purposes. A lot of them are minor, but she has found a few large discrepancies. Furthermore, she is seeing the assessed values are not what they should be. We are supposed to be fair market value but there are parcels assessed still at 300-400 thousand but sold for 1M. This is a huge difference and should be corrected.

Assessor said he would like to wait and correct all lot lines at the same time, felt this was the fairest way to do it. County Attorney Ensley stated this was a decision not for the Board of Commissioners, but by law, the Assessor. If he wanted to wait and do them all the same year, then that was his decision to make.

ARPA FUNDS

Ensley brought up the documents needed showing expenditures etc. Woodall asked for them to be mailed out and give them 30-45 days to fill out and return. Anyone that has not responded by the deadline, Woodall would personally drive around to each unit with the documents to get the information needed.

PROPERTY

Tabled from the last meeting, Ensley brought Berry up to speed since he was not at the last meeting. Berry said to move forward, Commissioners set price at \$100.

2024 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Helmer made the motion to approve the schedule submitted by Auditor’s Office and to address April 8th for the solar eclipse later. Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES

September 18, 2023 – Helmer made the motion to approve. Woodall seconded. The motion passed.

MAIL

The Commissioners acknowledged their mail.

ADJOURN

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

Thomas Helmer, President

David Berry, Vice President

Rick Woodall

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