

**COMMISSIONERS MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
January 16, 2024
9:00 AM**

ATTENDANCE:

COMMISSIONERS:	David Berry President Tom Helmer, Vice President Rick Woodall
COUNCIL:	Stephanie Campbell, President Phillip Gick Larry Parker
ATTORNEY:	Jim Ensley
AUDITOR'S OFFICE	Evelyn Williams
AUDIENCE:	14 Individuals

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on January 16, 2024, at 9:00 AM. The meeting was held at the Putnam County Courthouse. David Berry opened the meeting and the pledge to the flag was given.

JUDGE HEADLEY

Timber Arts submitted a plan for security door plans for the courts. He stated they were the company that did the plans for the Magistrate Court. Plans included three options for bullet resistant glass. The Judge stated that he requests the money for the project come from Cumulative Courthouse funds. Berry asked if he thought it was necessary since there were armed bailiffs on the same floor and more downstairs. The Judge stated yes. There was a recent instance where a judge was attacked sitting on the bench. Helmer made a motion to approve level 1 glass and funds come from Cumulative Courthouse. Woodall seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

The Judge stated he wanted to make sure the courts are responsible for paying the Metronet internet bill. Commissioners were under the impression that a grant was paying for it. The Judge stated that the grant was for equipment only and the equipment is fiber optic. Commissioners stated that it is to come out of the courts budget.

JRAC BYLAWS

Dave stated the bylaws were approved but needed signatures.

PURDUE EXTENSION

Contractual services contract in the amount of \$116,100. Berry made a motion to approve the contract between Purdue Extension and Putnam County. Woodall seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Woodall stated that it was brought to his attention that the Extension office was closed the week between Christmas and New Year. Mark Evans came to the meeting and stated that the county employees use their time during that week.

PLANNING – REZONING

Lisa Zeiner presented a rezoning request by Damon Glaze, north side of 240 from A1 to A2. Plan Commission gave a recommendation to approve. Helmer made a motion to approve. Berry sustained. Woodall seconded. The motion passed.

Rezoning request for Bethel Baptist church on Co Rd 50 South. The church has purchased 15 acres. When the Town of Russellville joined the Plan Commission the 2-mile fringe went away. Berry made a motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Lisa stated she was asked to do a presentation at the American Planning Association spring conference. It will be held at Ball State University.

CORONER

Todd Zeiner stated he is asking for approval to do a vehicle transfer from the Sheriff's Department to the County Coroner. The former vehicle doesn't run and has been decommissioned. Parked in front of EOC. Commissioners discussed donating it to the emergency departments for training. 2017 Ford is being offered to the Coroner from the Sheriff's Office. Woodall made a motion to approve the 2017 Ford Explorer transfer to the Coroners Office. Helmer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Todd presented the amount spent last year on transfers of deceased. Presented a handout with credentials for a cot that would fit in the transfer vehicle in the amount \$1295. It would save a tremendous amount in transport because it cuts out the cost of the funeral home charge for transfer. Discussion was made. Todd presented a printout of credentials for body cooler upgrades in the amount of \$1800. He would put the upgrades in himself. Todd presented a printout of quotes for a battery powered low profile lift that would be used for obese bodies. Total amount of upgrades and equipment is a little over \$10335.94. Berry made a motion to approve the purchase from ARPA funds. Woodall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Todd asked permission to get a county credit card. Woodall made a motion to reinstate the coroner credit card to the previous limit. Berry seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

WALNUT TWP FIRE DISTRICT

Berry made a motion to appoint Charles Bolinger to the Walnut Fire District Board. Helmer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ESPY SERVICES

Tony Butz from ESPY gave a presentation of their services. Their services include communication technology. They basically analyze the expenses being paid for the entity's communication services. They can detect errors or a lack of services. No cost for review or reports. The fees are based on the financial results of the findings. He stated it's usually 50%. Discussion was made. Commissioners stated they would consider the proposal and get back with them.

SHERIFF BAUGH JAIL REPORT

Sheriff Baugh stated he would like to transfer 2014 Chevy Silverado and a 2017 Ford Explorer to Adult Probation. Helmer made a motion to approve. Berry seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Sheriff Baugh presented the 2023 Jail Report. He stated he was working on getting programs initiated in the jail. The Sheriff stated he is looking at purchasing a body scanner. The Sheriff stated he is looking at adding a second road crew and purchasing a truck out of the Commissary Fund.

HIGHWAY REPORT

Peck submitted report:

- 1) 2024-1 CCMG – Financial commitment letter.
- 2) NOFA Applications – Dunbar Bridge/Manhattan Road/Sign
- 3) FHWA Bridge Investment Program – Planning grant requirements and application deadline (February 19, 2024). Peck stated they will not be going after that grant because of the type of projects they look for.
- 4) Covered Bridge projects include Rolling Stone and Edna Collins roof replacement, Houck siding and purlin, Cornstalk structural plates and beam replacement.
- 5) 2023-2026 Bridge Inventory and Inspection Report. He would like to bring a consultant in and do a presentation at the February 5th Commissioner Meeting.
- 6) Local Road Safety Plan – February 19th Commissioner Meeting presentation
- 7) Equipment – Cargill brine system quote. Peck stated that it's in the budget to purchase but needs the agreement signed.

Berry made a motion to purchase the Cargill brine system. Woodall seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

- 8) Radios for trucks were agreed to be purchased at the January 9th Road Plan meeting but where the funds would come from was not decided. Discussion was made.

Woodall made a motion to purchase radios from JES and Son's and to take the funds from the Warchest Fund pending Council approval. Helmer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Woodall asked if 2024 Road Plan is still fundable. Peck said yes. He only changed two roads, but it comes out to be the same dollar amount.

Peck stated he has an employee that is injured but it's not work related. He is short on FMLA but plans on returning to work. Helmer made a motion to approve the extended leave. Discussion was made that documentation on time needed will need to be got. Woodall made a motion to second pending receiving documentation. The motion carried unanimously.

Woodall asked if Peck, Maddox, and the President of Heritage Lake Association come up with a list of the worst cul-de-sacs.

MINUTES

January 2nd – Helmer made the motion to approve. Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

January 9th – Berry made a motion to approve the minutes subject to change the location to the Putnam County Highway. Helmer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Solar eclipse – Ensley stated that he spoke with the Judges, and they have already cleared their calendars. Berry stated from his research they should shut down. Woodall made a motion to close County offices on April 8th. Helmer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Berry made a motion to keep the committees the Commissioners are on the same as last year. Woodall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Helmer made a motion to appoint Brandon White as the Weights and Measures employee. Berry seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Helmer stated he has found a vehicle 2015 Ford F-350 for Weights and Measures. Discussion was made to put a deposit on the vehicle but needs County Council approval. Woodall made a motion to approve the purchase of the 2015 Ford F-350 not to exceed \$8500 pending the Council approval. Helmer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Helmer stated the CERT team wants to purchase a drone for \$6,000 that has infrared sensor. It would be used for searching for missing people.

Ensley stated the Commissioners should discuss the 2024 EDIT plan and the entities they want to include.

MAIL

The Commissioners acknowledged their mail.

ADJOURN

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

David Berry, President

Tom Helmer, Vice President

Rick Woodall

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