

**COMMISSIONERS MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
April 15, 2024
9:00 AM**

ATTENDANCE:

COMMISSIONERS:	David Berry, President Thomas Helmer, Vice President Rick Woodall
COUNCIL:	Stephanie Campbell, President Larry Parker
ATTORNEY:	Jim Ensley
AUDITOR'S OFFICE	Kristina Berish
AUDIENCE:	26 Individuals

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on April 15, 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.

Helmer made the motion to add Big Walnut Water Corporation to the agenda. Berry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MAY MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

Karen Martoglio gave an overview of what has been happening and upcoming events for mental health awareness. Berry made the motion to approve lights on the courthouse. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Berry read aloud the proclamation May Mental Health Month. He made the motion to approve the proclamation. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

SIGNAGE/PEOPLES PATHWAYS

Mike Richmond came to the meeting to discuss signage on roads for Peoples Pathways. Presented information.

PLANNING & ZONING

Lisa Zeiner Plan Commission Director presented an ordinance to rezone SRC Rentals property from A1 to A2. Helmer made the motion to approve Ordinance #2024-04-15. Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Zeiner presented an ordinance to rezone Gregory Hammond property from A1 to A2. Berry made the motion to approve Ordinance 2024-04-15-1. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Zeiner presented an ordinance to rezone Jerry Munns property from A1 to A2. Berry made the motion to approve Ordinance 2024-04-15-2. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Zeiner asked for approval to replace the 2009 Tahoe used for her department. She would use her own department's funds to purchase a new vehicle. Presented options she had found. Woodall made the motion to approve purchase of a new vehicle not to exceed 50K. Berry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

EMS

Kelly Russ Director of EMS stated after the Commissioners had just recently passed a rate change for her department, HB1835 was passed which will require them to change rates. The rates go into effect July 1, 2024.

Ensley stated we would need to advertise the ordinance to be heard and approved at a Commissioners meeting. Russ will send him the information. Ensley said he would get it drawn up and advertised.

OPERATION LIFE BOARD

Woodall said when they created EMS, they had wanted the operation life board to continue for 2-3 years. Time has come to dissolve the board. There is approximately 47K left in the account. The board made the decision to take 5K to pay for the expense of the 50-year celebration of ambulance service. The remaining balance will go to the Putnam County Community Foundation.

HIGHWAY REPORT

Highway Engineer Jim Peck presented the unofficial local detour for the bridge replacement on US 36 near Union Chapel Church. INDOT is replacing the existing bridge with twin box culverts. INDOT official detour is located on State Roads and United States routes. INDOT understands that traffic will utilize local roads to detour around construction projects. The route shown on the ULD agreements allows INDOT to reimburse the county for damage to the existing roadway.

The Commissioners are concerned that CR 600 N is a narrow gravel road with two small culverts in poor condition. CR 775 W is a narrow-paved road with two sharp curves.

After discussion, Helmer made the motion to approve the detour. Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Big Walnut Water President Jeff Mace came to the meeting to request funding from the county due to water lines for the company are near to being exposed along the bank of Big Walnut Creek.

Mace said recent floods have caused erosion on the northwest bank just upstream from Dunbar Covered Bridge. It has exposed a six-inch water line that serves customers to the north of that location. If the creek breaks the water line, it would knock out water service to nearly all of the 223 meters, plus the Madison Township Fire Department.

Big Walnut is already working with Midwestern Engineering on an overall upgrade. Engineer Scott Seipel said the project at hand would mean replacing and relocating between 900 – 1,000 feet of pipe at an estimated cost of \$250,000.

The Commissioners were unsure of the funding they could help provide since the county is already looking at funding issues of their own. There may be around 100K they could put towards the project from the American Rescue Plan funds.

Once the water company is ready to look at proceeding and has a plan of action, come back to the board and we can see what we can do to help.

MINUTES

April 1, 2024 – Helmer made the motion to approve. Berry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ANNEX

Woodall would like to enter into an agreement with Ice Miller to help us move forward. Ensley asked if the board had decided to finance it through BOT procedure. Woodall said that had not been decided. Ensley said the contract submitted by Ice Miller is stating BOT. Woodall will contact the company and have the necessary revisions made to the contract.

TIME CLOCK COURTHOUSE

Berry said they had a quote from LOW Associates for a timeclock system in the amount of \$43,650.00 It would be just at the courthouse at this time. The money for the system is already in their budget. Berry made the motion to approve the quote. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Auditor Berish will get the agreement to Jim Ensley to review and submit for approval at the next meeting.

POLICY AMENDMENTS

Auditor Berish said there were several topics that needed to be discussed for amendment. Commissioners decided to have a special meeting on April 23rd at 11 am.

MAIL

The Commissioners acknowledged their mail.

ADJOURN

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

David Berry, President

Thomas Helmer, Vice President

Rick Woodall

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