

**COMMISSIONERS MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
APRIL 17, 2023
9:00 AM**

ATTENDANCE:
COMMISSIONERS: Thomas Helmer, President
David Berry, Vice President
Rick Woodall
ATTORNEY: James Ensley
AUDITOR: Kristina Berish
COUNCIL: Stephanie Campbell
Larry Parker
AUDIENCE: 17 Individuals

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on April 17, 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.

HIGHWAY

Engineer Jim Peck presented:

- 1) Received the 1M Community Crossings grant.
- 2) Submitted an "On call" agreement with Align CEC regarding roads. The company is in Greencastle, be a time and material project estimated cost 10 – 12K. They will create a set of specifications to use to go out for bid. The Commissioners questioned the need to spend the money, county has not done this before. Peck felt it was a better tool to use for putting the roads out for bid, if he had AutoCAD, he could do it himself. Berry asked how many projects they would be working on, Peck replied just one for the Community Crossings money projects. He has the money in his budget to pay for it. Commissioners did not want to sign an open-ended agreement, need an exact cost. Peck would meet with Align CEC and see about getting a cost instead of time and material.
- 3) IDEM issued a violation letter regarding inspection of fueling station. The county has 30 days to fix the fuel spill buckets. Peck has reached out to the company to get them replaced, received a quote of \$16,842. He said they did not have money in their fuel account to pay for this expense. Asked the Commissioners to decide where the money would come from to pay for it. Berry made the motion to approve and pay it from the EDIT Warchest fund. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Auditor Berish will draw up the additional to submit to the County Council at their May meeting.
- 4) Landfill by Highway department, he has a meeting this morning at 10 am with IDEM to discuss the findings in their report.
- 5) CSX Bridge – CSX indicated will not be able to fund removal of the 3 bridges. INDOT Railroad Program Manager indicated no funds available to remove bridges.

EMS – ROAD CLOSURES/ALTERNATE ROUTES

EMS Deputy Chief Anthony Taylor said he came to the meeting to voice his concerns to the Commissioners regarding the road and bridge closures. He had attempted to coordinate with the Highway Department but was not getting any cooperation. The closures are causing a huge problem for all emergency services departments in finding alternative routes. Long story short, if they could have a layer on the GIS program it would help them to map out routes. However, the cost is \$2,400 and they do not have it in their budget. Commissioners asked the Auditor where they could pay it from, Auditor Berish suggested paying it from the cumulative capital development fund. Woodall made the motion to purchase the GIS layer for EMS from the cumulative capital development fund in the amount of \$2,400. Berry seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Auditor Berish told EMS to give her the bill and she would get it paid.

CUSTODIAL DEPARTMENT

Andy Mitchell came to the meeting to request a 7% raise (about a \$1 per hour raise) for his employee Mike Phillips. He said Phillips was never late and came in early, he was his second in command. Helmer made the motion to approve pending Council approval of additional an increase in salary. Berry seconded. Woodall denied. The motion carried.

Woodall said the county was in the middle of a wage study that would be reviewing everyone's wages. The study was moving forward, the job descriptions being done already helped cut 2-3 months of work from the equation. Hoped to have the study done in a few months. Auditor Berish said the company had reached out to her and HR was in the process of scanning and emailing them everyone's job descriptions. The process has been slowed down some because they requested a name to be associated with each description, having to reach out to the larger departments to get this information. Woodall asked the Auditor to send out an email to every department letting them know the company (Waggoner Irwin & Scheele) would be contacting them to go over the descriptions and ask questions about their department.

GRANT APPLICATION

Jamie France said they were requesting their 2024 grant application for Community Corrections, Adult Probation and the Jail Treatment Services. Berry made the motion to approve. Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously. France handed them letter of support to sign.

CLAIMS

April 6, 2023 – Woodall made the motion to approve. Berry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

April 13, 2023 – Woodall made the motion to approve. Berry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

April 17, 2023 – Helmer made the motion to approve. Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

FMLA EXTENSION REQUEST

Berry made the motion to extend it another 2 weeks. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Discussed having an executive meeting.

STATFLIGHT PROPOSAL

The proposal was submitted to the Commissioners at their last meeting. Since representatives from EMS were in the audience, they asked for their input. Deputy Chief Anthony Taylor said it was a great theory when she brought it to them originally. Putnam County is the second in demand for helicopter services. Some of that is due to our geographic demographics. We do utilize two other flight companies as well. When there is a call there is not a guarantee they will get StatFlight each time. The Commissioners felt it was a good idea, just a matter of how to pay for it. Taylor felt if you were looking at this service for one then look at doing it for all 3 companies if they offered the same services. Tabled for further investigation.

PAYROLL

April 6, 2023 – Berry made the motion to approve. Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES

April 3, 2023 – Berry made the motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MAIL

The Board of Commissioners acknowledged their mail.

ANNEX (OLD JONES SCHOOL)

Woodall saw that it was torn down. What is the status of clean up. Berry said he would contact the company and get a date when it would be completed.

CYBER INSURANCE FOR THE COUNTY

Woodall asked status. Ensley said there was a meeting, and it was moving forward but John Parmley with EPIC is still gathering necessary components.

SOLAR COMPANY

Woodall said he had a phone call this past Friday. They are getting closer to an economic development payment number that would be paid upfront. However, CFO of the company threw a wrench into it by asking if the proposed 200 megawatt proposed was lowered would the payment number be prorated to reflect the decrease. After some discussion, it was felt there should be a floor to the number that it cannot go below. Woodall felt it would be a good idea to have another joint meeting and ask Baker Tilly to come to the meeting.

ARPA FUNDS COUNTY RECEIVED

Woodall said he has been handling all the paperwork from the start; however, his business is taking up a lot more of his time right now. He does not have the time to continue doing these time-consuming reports. There is another report due April 30th. He would like to hire someone to help him do the reports, person would be paid from the ARPA funds.

AUDIT OF COURTHOUSE SECURITY

Helmer said a representative will be coming to look at our courthouse and then they will move forward with their security plan.

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**