

COMMISSIONERS MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
May 20, 2024
9:00 AM

ATTENDANCE:

COMMISSIONERS:	David Berry, President Thomas Helmer, Vice President Rick Woodall
COUNCIL:	Stephanie Campbell, President Phillip Gick
ATTORNEY:	Jim Ensley
AUDITOR'S OFFICE	Kristina Berish
AUDIENCE:	23 Individuals

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on May 20, 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.

PLANNING & ZONING

Zeiner stated the Commissioners had already approved the interlocal agreement with the Town of Roachdale, but it needed to be signed.

Ordinance #2024-5-20 petition to rezone parcels from R1 to A2. And two other parcels from R1 to R2. Zeiner said it was a matter of coding error, needed to get fixed. Helmer made the motion to approve. Berry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Zeiner informed the Commissioners the department's Tahoe would be replaced with a 2024 Blazer. She was able to purchase the vehicle well under the not to exceed amount of 50K.

VISITORS BUREAU

Eric Freeman said they had someone leaving the board, Laura Monnett. Asked to fill the position with Emily Knuth. Term for remainder of the year. Berry made the motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

FY2024 RURAL TRANSIT GRANT

Chris Myers submitted prior to the meeting. Berry made the motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK LEASE

2 dump trucks for the highway department. Putting down 85K, 4-year term of \$90,735. Commissioners signed the lease agreement documents.

ADULT PROBATION – CONTRACTUAL WORKER TO PART TIME

Teresa Parrish requested a contractual position in her department be switched to a part time county position. Ensley felt since the individual worked in the courthouse for liability reasons it should be a county employee. The position is fully paid for through a grant. Not asking for any additional funds. If the grant ever ran out, the position would be done away with. She would follow all rules of a part time employee. Berry made the motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

HUMANE SOCIETY AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY

An agreement had been submitted for a renewal with the county. 3 years with a 30 day out. Berry made the motion to approve. Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNITY CROSSING MATCHING GRANT BID OPENING

Berry opened the two bids received by:

- 1) Milestone - \$1,988,374.15
- 2) Howard - \$2,343,854.94

Commissioners will take bids under advisement. Handed bids over to the Auditor for anyone wanting to review. Peck will get them later and compile all the information and give a recommendation to the Commissioners at a future meeting. Peck said engineer's estimate for the project was 2M.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT REPORT

Peck presented:

- 1) Manhattan Road and traffic sign inventory – selection committee to review and rate RFP.
- 2) Annual paving operation – CR 100 E from CR 1000 N to CR 1100 N – 5/21 completion date. Old US 36/Baker Camp – starts on 5/22.
- 3) Bridge 78 – 2025 construction and have received some proposals.
- 4) Cornstalk Covered bridge – INDOT to review and approve repairs so it can be opened back to traffic. Completed inhouse, took about 2 weeks.
- 5) On call agreement in their budget. It had been appropriated for 2023 but the leftover balance as of 12/31/23, they neglected to get an encumbrance submitted. They will be going to the Council to appropriate the balance not used last year. This would go to pay for bid documents for Houch, Rolling Stone, and Edna Collins bridges. Commissioners questioned why the county would need to pay United Consulting to give us information for the bridges. A contractor would not be able to tell us how much? Peck said he wanted the engineering company to look at each project and then he would have a bid document to present to several contractors.
- 6) 2024 NOFA projects coming up in November. The Commissioners need to start looking and seeing what projects they want to submit. Suggestions: federal funding 80/20 – 2030 construction. Bridge 109 & 112 deck rehabilitation. Bridge 122, 123 & 124 replacement. INDOT HSIP funding 90/10 – 2030 construction. Manhattan Road, traffic sign replacement. And then the county needed to figure out a pool of money to fund the projects. Peck said the Council had been talking about increasing the wheel tax and excise surtax which would get more funding for the department.
- 7) 2025-01 CCMG paving, January 2025 application. This would be for HMA paving, pavement preservation, and bridge projects.

MINUTES

May 6, 2024 – Berry made the motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion passed.

MAIL

The Commissioners acknowledged their mail.

COUNTY POLICY AMENDMENT

Table until June 3rd meeting.

PUTNAM COUNTY HOSPITAL BOARD APPOINTMENT

Berry made the motion to approve Wendell Underwood to replace Dennis O’Hair. O’Hair had submitted his letter of resignation awhile back. Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

COUNTY HEALTH INSURANCE

Woodall said the board will need to have a meeting to figure out what they wanted to do for the insurance renewal. There is another company interested in putting in a proposal. And the board will need to decide if they want to leave the employee premium the same or increase it. It has been years since there has been an increase. The county has paid for the additional expense 100%.

ANNEX COMMITTEE

Woodall said the committee has met several times; they recommend going forward with an owner’s rep. They will accept proposals from companies now through June 14th at 4:00 pm.

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**