

**COMMISSIONERS MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
DECEMBER 18, 2023
9:00 AM**

2024000174 MIN \$0.00
01/11/2024 03:09:07P 5 PGS
Heather L. Gilbert
Putnam County Recorder IN
Recorded as Presented



ATTENDANCE:

COMMISSIONERS:

Thomas Helmer, President
David Berry, Vice President
Rick Woodall

COUNCIL:

Stephanie Campbell, President
Phillip Gick
Larry Parker

ATTORNEY:

Jim Ensley

AUDITOR'S OFFICE

Kristina Berish

AUDIENCE:

21 Individuals

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on December 18, 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.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS GRANT APPLICATION

Director Jamie France stated he was asking for re-approval of their 2024 budget since they amended it by changing salaries, giving a 5% raise to each employee after the Council's decision during the budget workshop. The matching taxes were changed due to the salary increases. The remainder of the budget stayed the same. France likes to keep the Commissioners in the loop on any changes to his grant.

CUMMINS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Amy Mace came to give their annual report to the board. She had furnished documentation to the board prior to the meeting to review. Woodall greatly appreciated the information provided; in the past the county had not received anything.

ANNUAL HIGHWAY BIDS

Highway Engineer Jim Peck had reviewed the bids received at the last meeting and provided spreadsheets to the board and went over the results.

Fuel bids: Heritage Petroleum was lower and would save the county 26K a year.

Woodall questioned if the county should switch from Co-Alliance to Heritage Petroleum for the savings. Give them a few months to see how it worked out, if it did not then they could always switch back to Co-Alliance. The bid process does not lock the county into using only one company. In the past the county has not had multiple bids for fuel. Berry asked if there were any current issues with the company. Peck said there are no issues with Co-Alliance. Woodall made a motion to accept all the bids received for the highway department's annual bids. Berry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

HIGHWAY REPORT

Peck submitted report:

- 1) Community Crossings annual grant has been raised from 1M to 1.5M. Peck suggested looking at options to use the additional 500K. Woodall questioned where we would come up with the additional match since we are already short for 2024 paving projects by 800K. Peck said they could switch funding from budget to grant. Woodall questioned the validity of doing that, instead of working on 30 miles of road we would do 3-4 miles? Will have to further discuss, problem is we are short on funding next year's projects without adding this to the mix.
- 2) Radios/AVL – J&K Communications quote is \$98,786.37 and JES & Sons quote is \$53,768.16. The quote from JES is less because they feel we could use part of our existing equipment and not replace all of it. This equipment would integrate with E911.
- 3) Invoices for \$189,234 Asphalt Materials (subject to additional being approved by the Council tomorrow night). Woodall said the Commissioners just found out recently they could get 10% of the January 1st balance of the hazardous waste fund. Since they are short of funding for next year's paving projects, they want to utilize this money. Woodall made the motion to approve. Berry seconded. The motion passed unanimously. \$2,824.90 Epic Insurance. Requested the Commissioners' approval to pay through emergency claims. The department did not get the bill until December 7th. Berry made the motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- 4) Bridge inventory/inspection report – suggested scheduling a joint meeting to go over the report early next year.

EMS – MOBILE INTEGRATED HEALTH

Director Kelly Russ brought up the subject of mobile integrated health which refers to a healthcare delivery strategy that brings together various healthcare professionals, services, and resources to provide comprehensive and coordinated care to individuals within their community, outside of traditional healthcare settings. Russ did apply for a grant and was not awarded due to the county not being a municipality. They are looking to "fight" definition. Today was for informational purposes only but would be providing more information at later dates to try and get the funding and resources out to the community. This would also help with home-based assessments, mental health and substance abuse support, collaborative community efforts, and future directions and expansion.

Nick Green came and gave a video presentation showing their journey in creating and implementing this program in their community. AARP Indiana believed in this so much they funded the video, they are a PILOT program for mobile integrated health to cover the gaps in healthcare.

Russ said she was passionate about this program and the benefits it could bring to our community.

2024 CLAIMS SCHEDULE

Auditor Berish presented to the Commissioners for review and approval. Woodall made the motion to approve. Berry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2024 APPOINTMENTS

CVB Board – Mike Richmond came to the meeting. Wes Kendall & Laura Monnett terms were expiring and needed to be reappointed. They are both open to continuing serving on board. Woodall asked to hold off on the third position open because Page Cotton was retiring. The suggestion had been Alexandra Chamberlain. Woodall asked about the funding of the board and what they were doing to help the county. It appeared that most of the funds were being spent on only one area, concerned with what was the board doing to help promote the county.

Personnel appointments:

Planning Director, Lisa Zeiner – Berry made the motion to reappoint. Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Courthouse custodian, Michael Phillips - Berry made the motion to reappoint. Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Part time custodian, Jenny Kersey – Woodall made the motion to reappoint. Berry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Veterans officer, David Heavin – Berry made the motion to reappoint. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Highway Engineer, Jim Peck – Helmer made the motion to reappoint. Woodall seconded. The motion passed.

Highway Administrator, Robyn Hughes - Berry made the motion to reappoint. Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Highway Secretary, Mary Nichols – Woodall made the motion to reappoint. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

EMA Director, David Costin – Berry made the motion to reappoint. Helmer seconded. The motion passed.

E911 Director, David Costin – Helmer made the motion to reappoint. Berry seconded. The motion passed.

County Attorney, Jim Ensley – Woodall made the motion to reappoint. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

EMS Director, Kelly Russ - Woodall made the motion to reappoint. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Weights & Measures Inspector – tabled.

GIS Director, Robbie Cudnik – Helmer made the motion to reappoint. Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Appointments:

Darrell Wiatt, Park Board – Woodall made the motion to reappoint. Berry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Dylan Sutherlin, Airport Board – Woodall made the motion to reappoint. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Jayne Bray, ABC Board - Woodall made the motion to reappoint. Berry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Joe Ferguson, ABC Board – Helmer made the motion to reappoint. Berry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Larry Tippin, Cemetery Board – Berry made the motion to reappoint. Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Marilyn Clearwaters, Cemetery Board – not reappointed.

Malachi Taylor, Cemetery Board - Woodall made the motion to reappoint. Berry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Laura Monnett, Visitor's Bureau – Helmer made the motion to reappoint. Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Wes Kendall, Visitor's Bureau - Helmer made the motion to reappoint. Berry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Stevie Baker-Watson, Board of Health - Berry made the motion to appoint. Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Keith Landry, Hospital Board of Trustees – Berry made the motion to reappoint. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Rob Mann, Hospital Board of Trustees – Woodall made the motion to reappoint. Berry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Richard Cope, Walnut Creek Fire Protection - Berry made the motion to reappoint. Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Samantha Cooper, Thrive - Berry made the motion to reappoint. Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Randy Bee, Zoning & Appeals Board - Berry made the motion to reappoint. Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Raymond McCloud, Zoning & Appeals Board - Berry made the motion to reappoint. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES

December 4, 2023 – Woodall made the motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

December 6, 2023 (financial meeting with Ice Miller) – Berry made the motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion passed.

December 6, 2023 (salary study) – Berry made the motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion passed.

MAIL

The Commissioners acknowledged their mail.

OPIOID SETTLEMENT MONEY

Under old business, tabled from the December 4th meeting was the request for JRAC to manage the requests for the opioid money the county received and make recommendations to the Commissioners.

Karen Martoglio said she had done some research since the last meeting. She is on the JRAC Board and serves on the committee set up by the Commissioners to make recommendations to the board. There are several uses for money, and justice is one of them. But it is not the sole purpose of the money.

The Commissioners determine where the money is spent. Many counties have set up a committee for recommendations to the Commissioners. It had been mentioned at the last meeting that it was stated JRAC gave recommendations in several counties but in her research, she did not think this was factual. And she did not see the purpose of adding more members from the JRAC Board to the committee. Her recommendation, she felt the Commissioners should keep it as is and to not make any changes.

After discussion, Berry made the motion to make JRAC the advisory committee to the Commissioners with also having a representation from Board of Health and Board of Education. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

TITLE IVD LEASE

Ensley said it was a three-year lease but can be terminated after two years with a 60-day notice. \$1,900 a month. The lease is the same as in the past that the county has approved. Woodall made the motion to approve with South Property Management. Berry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ARPA FUNDS

Ensley said he had been working with the Auditor regarding getting the necessary documents required by receiving the ARPA funds.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT BILL

Berish stated there had been a motion at the November 20th meeting to pay the bill from the cumulative capital development fund if allowable. If not, the county general fund. Ensley researched and did not feel it was allowable from cum. cap. development. Auditor Berish will submit an additional next month for the Council to review for approval from the county general fund.

HEAD CUSTODIAN POSITION

Berry made the motion to offer the job to Corey Westgate. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Helmer will call him.

WEIGHTS & MEASURER POSITION

Will be holding interviews for this position. The county may need to purchase equipment and a vehicle.

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**