

COMMISSIONERS MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
July 15, 2024
9:00 AM

ATTENDANCE:

COMMISSIONERS:	David Berry, President Thomas Helmer, Vice President Rick Woodall
COUNCIL:	Stephanie Campbell, President Larry Parker Phil Gick
ATTORNEY:	Jim Ensley
AUDITOR'S OFFICE	Kristina Berish
AUDIENCE:	16 Individuals

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on July 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.

Banning Engineering asked to be added to the agenda for an easement. Berry made the motion to add them. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

BANNING ENGINEERING

Jeff Banning presented easement to the board. Hendricks Power is planning to build sub-station NE of town, north of CR 300 E. Easement to cross the trail underground. Berry made the motion to approve. Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

HAMILTON CENTER

Monica Wallace came to give an update on the center.

E911 - REQUEST TO CREATE A NEW POSITION IN DEPARTMENT

E911 Director Dave Costin asked to create a Senior Dispatcher position. He was not asking to add another person, but to change a position from dispatcher to Senior Dispatcher. This would give him a Senior Dispatcher for each of the department's shifts. He needs someone to train before he retires next year. They need to work on cross training. He does not have the manpower currently to allow for the training. Helmer made the motion to approve changing the current position to Senior Dispatcher. He would need to go before the Council for the funding. He has submitted a transfer to cover the additional expense this year but is increasing his department's expenses for next year's budget. Both requests must be approved by the Council. Berry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Health Dept. Administrator Assistant Brian Williams requested getting two appraisals for a piece of property on 316 Medic Way to potentially purchase. Woodall explained the department has outgrown their current space and there is no room for growth. The annex is at least a year and a half away and they need the space sooner than later. They are out of space already and have nowhere to expand in their current location. They have looked at several locations. This one is the most viable they have found.

The procedure for the county to purchase property is to get two appraisals and pay the average of the two. We were told by the realtor we did not have to make an offer on the building. The current asking price is 750K. Woodall felt we should submit an offer, pending appraisal allowing for the purchase price. The building would be purchased through grants the health department receives. Woodall made the motion to get two appraisals on the property located at 316 Medic Way. The appraisals do not exceed \$3,500 to be paid from a health dept. grant. If the appraisals come in favorably, the next step will be an inspection. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The Commissioners will contact the appraisal companies. Berry will call after the meeting.

HIGHWAY REPORT

Jim Peck, Highway Engineer presented:

- 1) CCMG paving – Start on August 19th Milestone Contractors South
- 2) Paving CR 550 W – 1.5 miles
- 3) Bridge 45 – 2030 NOFA application for replacement
- 4) Houck, Rolling Stone, and Edna Collins covered bridges – present quotes on August 5th meeting. Three contractors to provide a quote. Site visit with all three contractors. Peck said he had an additional with the Council for 35K that was tabled at the last meeting, the Commissioners told him they were not in favor of the request. Pulled the additional.
- 5) Gave equipment update – freightliner trucks #19 & #65 would like to sell on auction. Only use in the winter as a back-up. Transmission and fluid issues, there is a “laundry list” of things Maddox said. This would leave them with two trucks that are serviceable. Any funds made on it would like to put it towards parts and repairs since this account is almost depleted this year.
- 6) Bridge 288 – critical findings on guardrails, determined by Peck. Peck said it was in the INDOT book of standards and this does not meet the criteria. Woodall asked if INDOT could come and look at it before spending money the county did not have. Peck clarified it was not him but the bridge inspection company.
- 7) July 15th start date for FBI Buildings
- 8) Currently being audited by SBOA

MAXIMUS AGREEMENT

Auditor Berish presented a renewal service agreement effective January 1, 2025 – June 30, 2028. Berry made the motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

HANDBOOK CHANGES

Woodall said the Commissioners felt it was past time to increase the monthly stipend for cell phones. An eligible employee currently receives \$30 a month, increase it to \$50. Berry made the motion to approve increasing it to \$50. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Effective September 1, 2024. Ensley will draw up an ordinance to amend the handbook.

Compensatory time – Woodall felt the county needed to remove the language. If someone works over, need to pay them. The way the county currently has it set up it is an unfunded liability in most departments.

Ensley said they could draw up the language and get it changed at the same time as the PTO section of the county handbook.

ARTWORK AT MUSEUM

Auditor Kristina Berish said the department heads are asking again when we would expect to get the artwork loaned to the museum years ago back. It was discussed the artwork that has been in the possession of the museum since 2018. The agreement was renewed to 2022. It is now 2024 and we still do not have the pieces back. Helmer made a motion to contact the museum and plan for the artwork to be returned to the county. Berry seconded. Woodal abstained. The motion passed.

COURTHOUSE SECURITY JOB DESCRIPTION

Tabled for further research. Auditor Berish said once her office had the description, HR can make any necessary changes and have the employees review and sign.

HOSPITAL BOARD APPOINTMENT

Tabled

MINUTES

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

July 10, 2024 – Berry made the motion to approve. Woodall seconded. The motion passed.

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**