

**COMMISSIONER MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
January 8, 2025
9:00 AM**

ATTENDANCE:

COMMISSIONERS:	Rick Woodall, President Tom Helmer, Vice President Andy Beck
ATTORNEY:	Jim Ensley
COUNCIL:	Stephanie Campbell, President
AUDITOR'S OFFICE	Evelyn Williams
AUDIENCE:	17 Individuals

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on January 8, 2025, at 9:00 AM in regular session. The meeting was held at the Putnam County Courthouse. Helmer opened the meeting and the pledge to the flag was given.

PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT APPOINTMENT

Helmer made a motion to appoint Woodall as president of the County Commissioners. Beck seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Woodall made motion to appoint Helmer as vice president of the County Commissioners. Beck seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

LIVESTOCK

Ensley stated he believes there were criminal charges filed in the prosecutor's office. The individual who asked to put it on the agenda did not show up to the meeting.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Woodall stated the county is proceeding with the purchase of the old Feld's building. They will have to go before the city for variances and they will have been in contact with architects.

ADULT PROBATION – HEALTH INSURANCE

Teresa Parrish stated she would like to have the county pay for part of the health insurance for two employees at a cost of \$14,322. The grant they have will only pay 62% of it. Helmer made a motion to approve it pending county council approval. Beck seconded. Woodall said no. The motion carried.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Baugh stated there are items they would like permission to remove from law enforcement commissions. They would like to receive \$25 each from those who want them for their UTV's and such and the proceeds go into their road

crew donations fund. 12 door panels, 14 center or other seats. Helmer made a motion to approve. Woodall seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Chief Sutherlin stated Lt. Pettit is retiring after 31 years. After their legal counsel researched the Indiana Code it was found that Merit Sheriff Deputies must receive the County Commissioners permission to retain their firearm. Helmer made a motion for Lt. Pettit to retain his firearm. Beck seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

JT Chadd & Tony Burney – Chadd stated there are significant plumbing issues in the jail. All of it is outdated and now they can't find parts to replace. Chadd stated they are looking at replacing it with an electronic control water system. They received two quotes. Willoughby quote is for parts only. The Sheriff's Department would have to hire contractors to install. Icon quote gives two different options. Burney went into detail on his thoughts on the two companies. Chadd stated they were wanting to get the information in front of them as soon as they could. Woodall made a motion to go with Willoughby for the parts with the Sheriff legal counsel going over the quote and the money to come out of the Cumulative Capital Development fund in the amount of \$116,094.27 pending Council's approval. Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

PLANNING & ZONING

Director Lisa Zeiner presented a rezoning request for a property located in Reelsville, A2 to R1. The Plan Commission gave a favorable recommendation. The property is only 4 acres with two dwellings and is in bankruptcy. The bank wants to split the dwellings. Zeiner stated there was no one at the meeting opposing it. Beck made a motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Zeiner stated that 2024 was a record-breaking year for her office. They issued 644 building permits, completed 1,604 inspections and collected over \$300,000 in fees. Part of that pays the building inspector's salary and benefits. Zeiner stated that their current truck is in the shop because of an internal electrical issue but the part is on back order. They would like to replace the truck. She stated they received several quotes; York will do a trade in for \$21,500. Discussion was made on the quotes and vehicles. Beck made a motion to trade with York and purchase a 2025 Blazer for \$16,383.75 and for funds to come from the Building Department fund. Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Zeiner stated they are looking at reducing some fees for electrical. They have run into storm damage and emergencies where the cost of the repair is less than the permit fee. It will go before the plan commission first and then the Commissioners.

COURTHOUSE BOILER

Woodall made a motion to add Courthouse Maintenance Director Cliff Ross to the agenda. Beck seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Ross stated that the boiler is on a maintenance plan and when doing the winter maintenance there was a crack in the boiler. Since then, the crack has grown. The courthouse is down to one boiler to run the whole building. He received two quotes for two different boilers, one is the same as what we have but has a 12-14 week wait, the other is only 4-5 weeks to receive. Woodall read the quotes aloud. Discussion was made on them. Woodall stated they will present the quotes to Ensley for legal advice and decide at the next meeting.

Ross also presented quotes for two lawnmowers and one snowblower. He is hoping to get a better deal at this time of year. Ross stated he has the money in his budget. Helmer made a motion to approve Keeners quote and all of it to be paid from the custodial budget. Beck seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

HIGHWAY REPORT

Clint Maddox gave report:

- 1) Crews have been plowing snow around the clock the past two days. Very few complaints. Sand and salt supply will need replenished.
- 2) Talking to a company next week about coming out and rebuilding the fueling station.

Woodall stated the Highway Engineer left, and they had advertised open position. He stated the Commissioners will need to meet and decide on whether to hire another engineer or superintendent.

Executive session – January 14th at 10 am at Highway Department.

MINUTES

December 16, 2024 – Helmer made a motion to approve. Woodall seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

ACKNOWLEDGED MAIL

The Commissioners acknowledged their mail.

OLD BUSINESS

APPOINTMENTS

2025 Commissioners Appointed to Boards

THRIVE	Rick Woodall
Solid Waste	Tom Helmer & Andy Beck
Health Department	Tom Helmer
Greencastle Putnam Co. Development	Rick Woodall

Planning Commission
E-911
Emergency Management
Workforce Development
Child Protection
JRAC

Andy Beck
Andy Beck
Tom Helmer
Rick Woodall
Tom Helmer
Tom Helmer

PARKS BOARD

Darrel Wyatt has left the board. Beck made a motion to appoint Janet Panoch. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2025 EXPIRING BOARD APPOINTMENTS

ABC Board, Joe Ferguson – Woodall made a motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Cemetery Board, Jon Rice – Beck made a motion to approve. Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Cemetery Board, Toni Ford – Helmer made a motion to approve. Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Visitor's Bureau, Alex Chamberlain – Woodall made a motion to appoint himself and remove Chamberlain. Beck seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Visitor's Bureau, Marilyn Culler – Woodall made a motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Visitor's Bureau, Tammy Hunter – Helmer made a motion to approve. Beck seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Floyd Twp. Fire Board, Greg Earnest – Beck made a motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Floyd Twp. Fire Board, Ken Rozelle – Woodall made a motion to approve. Beck seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Greencastle Planning Commission, Emily Knuth – Woodall made a motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Greencastle Planning Commission, Wayne Lewis – Helmer made a motion to approve. Beck seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Greencastle Planning Commission, Doug Wokoun – Woodall made a motion to approve. Beck seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Board of Health, Dr. Elizabeth Kirsch - Woodall made a motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Hospital Board, Matt Headley - Woodall made a motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Hospital Board, Janice Fry – Helmer made a motion to approve. Beck seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Hospital Board, Dr. Keith Landry – Helmer made a motion to approve. Woodall seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Hospital Board, Katrina Lewis – Helmer made a motion to approve. Beck seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Putnam Co. Library Board, Alan Zerkel – Beck made a motion to approve. Woodall seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Roachdale Fire Protection, Larry Windmiller - Beck made a motion to approve. Woodall seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Walnut Creek Fire Protection, Russell Burch – Woodall made a motion to approve. Beck seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Zoning & Appeals Board, Ron Sutherlin – waiting

Roachdale Public Library, Barbara Muse – Helmer made a motion to approve. Beck seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Roachdale Fire Protection, Wendell Underwood – Retiring. Beck made a motion to appoint Terry Tippin to finish Underwood’s term. Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

ANNEX BUILDING UPDATE

Stephanie Cambell, County Council stated at the last meeting they went over layout, one or two levels. The company took all their thoughts and will come back to their next meeting with options. Woodall stated they feel happy and comfortable with the company they hired to do this.

COUNTY EMPLOYEE PARKING

The mayor has done away with the special permits for employees with medical issues to park around the square without being ticketed. Woodall found the original agreement with the city regarding the parking spaces that are partially owned by the county. The county can designate 5 spaces. Four are taken, three judges and one law enforcement, leaving one. Woodall feels they should

ask for 7 spots instead of 5. The county and city attorneys are working through it.

OLD BUSINESS

Woodall stated they have received both appraisals for the property next to the jail. The owner had a medical emergency. Therefore, they will be moving forward later.

Helmer stated he will be meeting with some companies regarding the recording equipment that will be required as of July 1st.

Woodall stated that 911 Director Dave Costin turned in his retirement letter. Commissioners have advertised for the position. Sheriff Baugh requested the salary be added to the advertisement. Beck agreed.

Helmer made a motion to approve the hiring of Elizabeth Newkirk for the part-time security position. Beck seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Woodall stated the legislative session starts today. He is hoping the state will pay attention to the bills presented. They are looking at getting rid of several positions, home rules, etc. The associations are very concerned. Campbell said February 4th and 5th is the dates of the legislative conference.

Woodall made a motion to appoint Helmer as a signee for the Health Department building closing. Beck seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN

Woodall made the motion to adjourn. Beck seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Rick Woodall, President

Tom Helmer, Vice President

Andy Beck

**Attest: Auditor's Office
Evelyn Williams**