

COMMISSIONER MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
January 21, 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	Kristina Berish
AUDIENCE:	19 Individuals

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on January 21, 2025, at 9:00 AM in regular session. The meeting was held at the Putnam County Courthouse. Woodall opened the meeting and the pledge to the flag was given.

COMMISSIONERS SALE

Kindria Martin, Tax Deputy Auditor's Office presented paperwork for the eleven (11) properties that are eligible to be put on the Commissioners sale. Helmer made the motion to put all the properties in the sale with minimum bid of \$50. Beck seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Whatever properties do not sell, approach adjoining property owners to see if they want the parcel.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Tera Stevenson with Auditor's Office was unable to make the meeting today due to illness. Ensley said they had not received any paperwork from the department the county employee works. Tabled.

YMCA

Representatives from the YMCA came to the meeting per the county's request to explain the corporate partnership tiers for membership for the county employees. There are three locations: Clay, Vigo, and soon to be Putnam County. Any other YMCA that participates, an employee traveling can use that facility with the membership they have in Putnam County. The restriction is that 51% of their visits must be in Putnam. Any employee that goes to the Putnam County facility can run a report showing employee usage. The Commissioners took the information under advisement to review and decide later.

FIREWALL FOR PUTNAM COUNTY GOVERNMENT

DJ Hendrich with KDM IT presented an estimate for a 3-year license for a firewall. The current one is eight years old. Estimate in the amount of \$11,915.72 for a Fortigate firewall. Helmer made the motion to approve and pay it from their budget. Beck seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

BUILDING FOR HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Woodall said they had met with the City of Greencastle and were told the health department being in this building did not meet with their comprehensive plan. They were not in favor of converting the building.

With this information and having an estimate for renovations that was a lot more than what was thought Woodall made the motion to back out of the sale. The county would lose the \$5,000 in earnest money they put down, which he disliked but was best for the county. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Beck felt staying at the hospital was the best option; otherwise include them in the annex. He did not feel it was a good idea to buy a building for the department. Woodall said it was also a matter of getting the hospital to work with the county. They have been trying for months to no avail.

COURTHOUSE BOILER

Rick Fay, Custodian said he was back to further discuss the boiler. It had been discussed at the last board meeting. Fay presented a 10-year limited warranty. It is urgent to get the new boiler ordered since it has gotten so cold, it is overworking the one good boiler they have for the building. If it goes down, the building will have no heat. Woodall made the motion to purchase from Huber for a total cost of \$25,260 and pay it from the cumulative courthouse. Beck seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

EMS NEW VEHICLE

Director Kelly Russ said they needed to replace a 2020 Tahoe, it has 150K miles on it and it is starting to have a lot of maintenance issues. They already have the money appropriated in their vehicle account. Helmer made the motion to approve the bid from York of Brazil to not exceed \$59,000. Woodall seconded. Beck opposed. The motion passed.

TRAIL AT HERITAGE LAKE

Rick Olson came to the meeting to inform the Commissioners they were working on getting a trail made at Heritage Lake. He wanted to make sure they addressed any concerns of the county before embarking on the navigation of the process to get this long-term project started. Woodall cautioned them regarding right-of-way, in some areas they may get into a person's private property. Beck questioned the liability. Ensley said whether it is a trail or how it is now, if a person is injured in a county right-of-way the county is liable.

HIGHWAY REPORT

Clint Maddox gave a report to the Commissioners regarding the highway department.

Woodall said the county needed to rescind two federal aid projects: Des#2301591 Sign Inventory and Des#2301592 Manhattan Road. The county's share would be approximately 500K and they did not have it in the budget to do. Woodall made the motion to withdraw from the two projects. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Woodall wanted to set up a meeting to discuss the 2025 budget and get a plan set for the roads. It was decided to meet on January 28th at 10:30 am at the highway department.

MINUTES

January 8, 2025 – Beck said a correction needed to be made on page 5. Wendall Underwood appointment says hospital board but should be Roachdale Fire Protection. Beck made the motion to approve the minutes with this correction. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

January 14, 2025 – Helmer made the motion to approve. Beck seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ANNEX

Woodall went over briefly paperwork from the last annex committee meeting.

Woodall had to leave the meeting early. Helmer took over the meeting.

COUNTY PARKING

Ensley said the city had told him the county had five parking spaces, and they are utilizing four of them already. The county had asked for two additional parking spaces but were denied. The Commissioners asked the Auditor to send out an email to the departments and let them know any employee who feels they need this parking spot due to health issues they need to submit a letter.

TEN COMMANDMENTS

Beck made the motion to have a plaque in the courthouse rotunda of the ten commandments. Helmer seconded. The motion passed.

SUPERIOR COURT – CARPET

Office Manager Tamila Shrum asked the Commissioners about getting new carpet for their department. The Commissioners requested for them to get quotes and present them to the board.

MAIL

The Commissioners acknowledged their mail.

ADJOURN

Beck made the motion to adjourn. Helmer seconded. The motion passed.

Rick Woodall, President

Tom Helmer, Vice President

Andy Beck

**Attest: Auditor's Office
Kristina Berish**