

**COMMISSIONER MEETING  
SPECIAL SESSION  
January 28, 2025  
10:30 AM**

ATTENDANCE:

COMMISSIONERS:	Rick Woodall, President Tom Helmer, Vice President Andy Beck
COUNCIL:	Stephanie Campbell, President
ATTORNEY:	Jim Ensley
AUDITOR'S OFFICE	Kristina Berish
AUDIENCE:	8 Individuals

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on January 28, 2025, at 10:30 AM for a special meeting. The meeting was held at the Putnam County Highway Department. Woodall opened the meeting; it was held to discuss the 2025 budgets.

**COVERED BRIDGE**

Discussion of not enough money in the fund to properly maintain the nine bridges. The amount of money we get from the state each year is not even close to what it would take to make repairs.

**CUMULATIVE BRIDGE**

Went through each account and marked suggested areas where if needed could submit transfer requests and move money around in the budget. Also, money available to do an additional, estimated 1.6M.

**LOCAL ROAD AND STREETS**

Woodall, we removed the county match for dust control program this year. The highway is still contributing to the labor and equipment like we have in the past.

Discussed weed control. The county hires a company. The county does it this way because there is a lot of training involved, liability issues.

The cost of getting the equipment needed would be roughly \$200,000-300,000. Maddox said they get a lot of brush complaints. He felt the brush cutter was needed the most over a mower. Either way, they did not have enough appropriated in the budget this year.

150K and spent 63K already on rock in December and January.

After review, short in stone, deicer, rock, and equipment accounts.

**HIGHWAY MVH RESTRICTED**

#20215 sand, gravel, stone is for chip & seal  
#20220 road signs – upgrade traffic control signs  
#30449 road reconstruction – 800K in the budget for the roads. However, the proposed road plan will cost 932K. Discussed options for reducing the plan if necessary. There is approximately 600K available for additional request.

Hughes passed out a commitment letter for the CCMG grant needing to be signed by the board. There is 500K in the budget for the county match.

### **MVH**

#30374 repairs, services parts and services – Woodall questioned the Shop Foreman how they had already spent 74K this year from the 250K in the budget. He replied he did not know. Hughes went and got the information for the account expenditures. 40K was to replace an engine long block.

The board went over the needs of the department regarding equipment. There is 545K in the budget, if we do not need all of this for equipment this could be more money for roads.

### **EDIT**

Hughes said they were still working on the bill for the radios. The invoice they received is around 10K more than the original quote reviewed and approved. When they asked the company, there was nothing from the county approving the additional expense.

### **COMMUNITY CROSSING**

An encumbrance in the amount of \$39,754.25 had been submitted to the Auditor. This is the portion the county needs to send back to the state.

### **ARPA**

There was \$8,255.28 left in the account, encumbered it to pay for rock tickets.

### **UNOFFICIAL DETOUR COUNTY ROAD 700 & 600**

The Commissioners and Auditor needed to sign a letter for 78K reimbursement for county roads 700 & 600 when 36 was closed. And 19K reimbursement for county line above 36.

### **MEETING**

The Commissioners set a meeting on February 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am to discuss bridges. It will be held at the E911 center. The county needs to look at the top 20 bridges needing to be repaired/replaced and get a game plan on how to fund it. Currently the county would be restricted to loan of 2M maximum per law. There is a legislation bill to do away with the limit. Before loan, his opinion is to utilize the funds we have and see what happens after legislation. Eventually the county will need to look at loans.

Community crossing grant may increase on what a county can get, so that is also a possibility of potential help in funding.

### **MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE OF THE HIGHWAY**

Woodall felt we needed to decide by the end of the month which direction to go. The board needs to decide.

**ARPA**

At their October 2023 meeting the Town of Fillmore came to the Commissioners asking for help with a stormwater project. The board approved \$92,255 from ARPA funds to help cover the match. However, the town did not submit an invoice for payment until this week, over a year after the fact. The problem is the county obligated ARPA funds for other projects in the interim and there is not enough left in the fund to pay the claim. Woodall made the motion to pay the claim from another fund. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**KEIGHTLY ROAD**

Woodall stated the mayor verbally said the city would pay for material if we provided labor.

**COLUMBIA STREET**

Woodall said apparently there was a verbal agreement with the city regarding this street. Maddox said it is one mile. Being researched.

**COUNTYWIDE FOOD AND BEVERAGE TAX**

Woodall brought it up to the mayor, she was not for it. But it would be a new source of funding for roads and bridges. Researching it.

**ADJOURN**

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

---

**Rick Woodall, President**

---

**Tom Helmer, Vice President**

---

**Andy Beck**

---

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