

**COMMISSIONER MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
April 7, 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:	22 Individuals

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on April 7, 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. A moment of silence was held for the passing of former Commissioner Donald Walton.

REZONING

Lisa Zeiner stated there was a rezoning of an 80-acre parcel in Bainbridge that was tabled from 2 weeks ago going to A1 Natural. There is a road use agreement in place with the county. Beck stated they have been in discussions with the owners. Beck made a motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

IDOC JUSTICE REINVESTMENT GRANT

Jamie France stated he was present to request approval for submitting a grant application for fiscal year 2026. The grant has been renewed since 2017. He stated he asked for a 9% increase but doesn't expect to receive it. If that's the case, they will redo the budget. Helmer made a motion to approve. Beck seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

ADULT PROBATION – PRE-TRIAL GRANT

Teresa Parrish stated that Court Services informed them to get in more compliance with the grant. Therefore, they have moved things around in the department. She stated they have 5 employees that work through the grant. Parrish stated that any time used for the grant will be compensated through the grant instead of accumulating comp time. She stated she does not have to have their approval but wanted them to be aware of it.

GRANITE MONUMENT – LEE CREED

Lee Creed stated that there are at least six decedents at 300 South and 900 West at the county line that don't have markers. They are seeking permission to get a monument put in place. He stated they have had it surveyed and it's in the county's right of way. Discussion was made.

Ensley stated there are strict laws in place for such a thing. He would need to research. Woodall made a motion to approve pending Ensley's research outcome. Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

JAIL WATER CONTROL SYSTEM BIDS

No bids were received for the water project at the jail. JT Chadd stated he was under the impression it was just a formality. They have companies in mind. Ensley stated they should have submitted bids when it was advertised. Chadd stated it was probably miscommunication on his part. Ensley stated he will need to check on the legalities. Willoughby and LSI are the two companies that they received quotes from. Woodall made a motion for the jail to proceed with Ensley researching to move forward. Beck seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

SHERIFF - CONTRACT

Tom Sutherlin, Deputy Sheriff, presented a psychological evaluation agreement with Cummins Mental Health. It would allow up to 4 evaluations a year. Helmer made a motion to approve. Beck seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

CIRCUIT COURT CREDIT CARD REQUEST

Judge Headley asked for a credit card in the amount of \$2,500 for the department. He currently uses his personal card. Helmer made a motion to approve. Beck seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT – PCH PARTNERSHIP

Joni Young stated they have had several discussions on where the Health Department will end up. Dennis Weatherford at the latest meeting threw out the idea of purchasing the medical building next to the hospital. The building was purchased 5 years ago for \$550,000. She would ask that it be brought up to standard before they would move in. The Health Department has funds to assist. The cut that was made by the federal government did not affect them.

Young stated they held a special session with their board. They agreed to move forward with the purchase contingent on the council and commissioner's approval. Beck stated he told Mr. Weatherford they would want an additional acre of land for future use. They would need parking and storage of their vehicles and trailer. Several questions were asked. Lisa Zeiner stated the property is not within city limits so they would not be involved.

Young stated they have a meeting with Weatherford on April 23rd for further discussion. Woodall made a motion to approve the Health Department to proceed with exploring the idea of purchasing the building. Beck seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

HIGHWAY REPORT

Highway Supt. Clint Maddox reported the following:

- 1) With all the rain received (6-9 inches), they are waiting for the water to recede to see what damage has yet to be seen to roads. They are using snowplows to push debris from the roadways.
- 2) Bridge 152 had a hit and run with substantial damage. Currently closed. United Consulting advised to close the bridge.
- 3) Received quotes for Dunbar and Cornstalk Covered Bridges for damage received from storms.
- 4) Laura Scott Heritage Preservation Society – will hold a Covered Bridge festival. They would like to have temporary road closures for the two bridges they plan on going to. Beck made a motion to approve temporarily closing May 17th for 650 North & 900. Woodall seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
- 5) Collin Excavating – replace abutments.
- 6) Due to revisions with state 600 N/775 W and 900 E, signatures from the state changed due to changes in administration.
- 7) Paving Bids for Community Crossings were acknowledged. Howard Companies - \$1,879,394. Milestone Contractors – \$1,830,008.80, DC Construction Services – \$1,912,090.92.

Woodall stated that Robyn Hughes from the Highway Department took it upon herself to do the Community Crossings Grant application since it was an oversight of the Commissioners to get it completed by the deadline. Woodall would like to compensate her. Woodall made a motion to give a bonus of \$12,000. Beck seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Woodall stated they have come up with a plan for administration at the Highway Department and proposed salaries. He made a motion to the following:

Director of Operations – Clint Maddox with a salary of \$74,063
Assistant Director of Operations – Robyn Hughes with a salary of \$69,000
Systems Manager – Mary Nichols with a salary of \$55,000
Operations Foreman - Stacy Chadd \$61,000 paid hourly.

Beck seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

MINUTES

March 17, 2025 – Helmer made a motion to approve. Beck seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

March 26, 2025 – Helmer made a motion to approve. Woodall seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

March 27, 2025 – Helmer made a motion to approve. Beck seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

COURTHOUSE ROOF

The only bid received to replace the roof was from First Due Co. from Danville, IN in the amount of \$346,840. Woodall made a motion to approve the bid and to come out of cumulative courthouse fund or cumulative capital development fund. Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously. An additional will be submitted to the Council at their May meeting.

RUSSELLVILLE TORNADO SIREN

Beck stated he got a letter from a Councilman in the Town of Russellville asking for the county to pay for a new tornado siren. They received a quote for \$20,000 for a new one. Discussion was made on where to take the funds from. Beck made a motion to approve the purchase and take it out of hazardous waste if allowed by statute and not to exceed \$25,000. Woodall seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Ensley will research to see if this is allowable.

SOLAR FARM

Ensley stated there was a judicial review scheduled for the BZA Appeal on the Solar Farm that's been going on since December of 2023. The case was dismissed.

BZA APPOINTMENTS

Lisa Zeiner stated that the appointment they made two weeks ago declined to take it. Discussion was made on the stipulations that apply to the position.

ANNEX

Woodall stated a joint Commissioner meeting was held to discuss the Annex. They will have a legal discussion meeting next week.

REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Woodall stated they started a Redevelopment Commission last month. The Commissioners have three appointments for it. Helmer made a motion to appoint Commissioner Woodall. Beck seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Woodall made a motion to nominate Phil Gick and Mark Fordice. Beck seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

MAIL

The Commissioners acknowledged their mail.

ADJOURN

Helmer 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