

**COMMISSIONER MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
May 5, 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:	29 Individuals

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on May 5, 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.

Beck made a motion to amend the agenda to add Cloverdale Town Manager. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MENTAL HEALTH PROCLAMATION

Karen Martoglio stated that May is Mental Health Awareness month, and they are very happy with the support the county has given them. May 19th at 6 p.m. there will be an awards and celebration event. Woodall made a motion to declare May Mental Health Awareness month. Beck seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

COUNTY PARKS BOARD - TRAILS

Will Barlett stated they have been developing the trails throughout the county. Putnam Nature Trail has been developing in two phases. They are looking at adding property from Limedale to the DNR Fish & Wildlife preserve and looking for the Commissioners approval before moving forward. Discussion was made. It was decided to have them come back to the following meeting.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Joni Young stated that the Putnam County Hospital is looking for the Health Department to move forward with moving sooner than later. She stated she has run figures for the large budget cut that was made by the state in the 1161 health services fund. Discussion was made about moving vehicle insurance to the Commissioners budget. She has been talking with the Auditor about raising new money to help with the deficit. After running the figures, she believes they will need \$140,000 to float their budget out of the Health Department 1159 fund. She believes if the health insurance was moved to the Commissioners' budget her levy fund will work.

Discussion was made about purchasing the property next to the hospital and funding it. Young stated the hospital threw out the date of July 1st to have the Health Department move out. They have also suggested the department take over the loan they have for the building they are looking at moving to.

Woodall stated his concern with all the projects the county has going on and the county's funds are already stretched thin. Young stated she has spoken with Lisa Zeiner, Planning Director, about using her inspector to look at the building. Discussion was made about possibly raising the LIT rate and the short timeline for the ability to do so.

CLOVERDALE WASTEWATER

Jason Hartman, Cloverdale Town Manager, stated cooperation between Commissioners and Town of Cloverdale about a wastewater connection between state prison and South Putnam school. They are hoping to upgrade their wastewater treatment facility to be able to do so. They have recently finished a project with Leiber State Recreational Park and the Town of Cloverdale. Hartman said they are looking for partnership with the county. They will be doing a feasibility study to determine if it is even possible. Commissioners agreed they would be interested in looking into it further.

HIGHWAY REPORT

Director Clint Maddox reported the following:

1. On Call Agreements received – RQAW, HWC, CivilCon, RGI, DLZ – Beck made a motion to accept all the agreements. Helmer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Excise figures received over the past two years are presented. Discussion was made on the increased rate.
3. Bridge 133 – \$191,748 for bridge repair. Discussion was made on the cost to tear it down and additional work.
4. Construction on 231, South of Raccoon – Eventually closing 236, July 11th – September 8th. Detoured traffic will go to 1200 North and 50 West.
5. Bridge 152 – waiting on quote
6. Paver – parts ordered, should receive back within a month
7. Stoops Freightliner, Clark Truck Equipment – quotes for trucks,

Woodall stated legislation changed from road miles to lane miles and they will need to discuss.

MINUTES

April 21, 2025 – Beck made a motion to approve. Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ANNEX

Woodall stated there is a large rock or boulder they ran into at the property for the new Annex. It will cost \$7,500 to remove. Woodall made a motion to approve the additional cost and to take it out of the annex fund. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Garmong submitted a disbursement request for \$72,500 for the first payment of work completed. Woodall made a motion to approve. Helmer seconded. Beck opposed. The motion passed.

EMERGENCY CLAIMS RESOLUTION

Woodall asked what the difference in the original emergency claims resolution was to the new one. First Deputy Auditor Williams stated that bonds, leases or rent and jurors were added to the list. Helmer made a motion to approve. Beck seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

LIVESTREAMING OF MEETINGS

Helmer stated it would be \$1,515 for the equipment to start livestreaming meetings. The equipment will be purchased and installed by TechRyan. Woodall made a motion to approve the purchase. Beck seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

EMA DIRECTOR

Helmer stated they would be opening the application process up again for the EMA Director position. The ad on the Indeed site was misleading with living requirements. Discussion was made on whether the director's position should require county residency. Helmer made a motion that the EMA Director must reside in the county. Beck seconded. Woodall opposed. The motion passed.

WRECKER SERVICES CONCERNS

Beck was approached by wrecker service owners for the county to have a plan for abandoned vehicles or trailers on the side of the road for compensation. He stated they must pay out of pocket to have them destroyed or taken apart. Ensley asked if other counties have similar agreements. Discussion was made.

TOWN RUSSELLVILLE SIREN

Ensley stated the Commissioners needed to decide on Russellville's request for the county to help pay for the replacement of an emergency siren. Woodall believes if they pay for theirs, they inherit everyone's in the county. Helmer is concerned because the hazardous waste landfill is there and if there is an emergency with it. Helmer made a motion to give \$10,000 to the Town of Russellville out of the Hazardous Waste fund. Beck seconded. Woodall opposed. The motion passed.

JAMES BAUGH MEMORIAL BRIDGE

Helmer stated that legislature passed to honor fallen officer James Baugh. INDOT will name the Big Walnut Creek bridge on US 231 the James Baugh Memorial Bridge.

KEIGHTLY ROAD PROPERTY

Woodall spoke with the property owner representative and received a signed purchase agreement.

AIRPORT BOARD APPOINTMENT

Helmer made a motion to table the appointment until the next meeting. Beck seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MAIL

The Commissioners acknowledged their mail.

ADJOURN

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

Rick Woodall, President

Tom Helmer, Vice President

Andy Beck

Attest: Auditor's Office, Evelyn Williams