COMMISSIONERS MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
MARCH 6, 2023
9:00 AM

ATTENDANCE:	
COMMISSIONERS:	Thomas Helmer, President
	David Berry, Vice President
	Rick Woodall
ATTORNEY:	James Ensley
AUDITOR:	Kristina Berish
COUNCIL:	Larry Parker
	Wayne Huffman
AUDIENCE:	41 Individuals

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on March 6, 2023, at 9:00 AM. Meeting was held at the Putnam County Courthouse. Tom Helmer opened the meeting and the pledge to the flag was given.

FAMILY HERITAGE

Bridgette Likens stated the company offered supplemental benefits to employees. She was at the meeting to ask permission to speak with employees to see if they were interested in their program.

Auditor Berish stated the county had a contract with Guardian for supplemental benefits. This request was like AFLAC's last year when the Commissioners stated they could talk to employees; however, if an employee wanted to sign up, they were responsible for making payments to the company. It would not go through payroll.

Commissioners told Ms. Likens she could talk to employees but as the Auditor stated, it would not go through payroll deductions if they selected to sign up.

EMS – AMBULANCE PURCHASE

Director Kelly Russ stated this was tabled from the last meeting. She had asked the two companies to re-submit proposals after she gave a more detailed specification to them so the quotes would be apples to apples, whereas before they were not.

Revised proposal:
ARV - $236,329
Fire Services - $238,686

Discussion, Berry made the motion to approve Fire Services proposal. Helmer seconded. Woodall opposed, did not agree with the proposals being changed. Should make sure your proposal is correct the first time you submit. The motion passed.

Councilman Larry Parker asked how they go about getting proposals. Do they advertise or solicit from certain companies. Russ said there were only a few options out there to get a proposal for an ambulance.

OLD JONES SCHOOL – SOCCER FIELD

Samuel Shafer came to the meeting to ask about renting the Old Jones School property to have an event. Set up on May 12, 2023, and event would be held on May 13 & 14. It would be like a mini fair. Jim Ensley said if the Commissioners approve, there will need to be an insurance agreement. Helmer made the motion to approve. Berry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

WATER DRAIN & DITCHING

County resident Greg Dusing presented pictures of water drainage issue on 11823 State Road 42, he had spoken with the State and was told to contact the County Surveyor and the Drainage Board. He had also spoken with his neighbor. Dusing had built a house and moved in last August, it has been since then he has seen the water problems. Last Friday when we received the heavy rain it was like a river flowing across his yard.

Highway Engineer Jim Peck said this was not a regulated drain. He felt a ditch on neighbor's property would help solve the problem, the neighbor had told Dusing he did not want a large ditch on his property. Commissioners asked Peck to look at it and come back with a recommendation.

BAILIFF FOR MAGISTRATE

Judge Bridges came to the meeting requesting a new position be created, a bailiff for the Magistrate court. Currently have two bailiffs which is not enough for three courts. Magistrate court is too volatile to not have a bailiff. The courthouse security is one person, and he needs to manage the 5 entrances to the courthouse. Magistrate court is currently paid from both the Superior and Circuit court budgets, it was their understanding when it was created it could not be its own budget. Berry made the motion to approve the position, pending Council approval of funding. Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

PLAN COMMISSION

Lisa Zeiner said when they had a tornado warning last week people in the courthouse did not know if they needed to seek shelter, and if so, where to go. She had got a copy of an emergency operations manual. Commissioners said there is a draft out there, but nothing was formally adopted. They would review manual, make any necessary changes, and adopt one for the county government. Also need to plan to have drills for fire and tornado.

Zeiner explained the vehicle for her Inspector currently is parked in the lot behind the barber shop. When the Inspector has an early call or emergency call, it takes unnecessary time to drive into town and switch to the company vehicle. She requested allowing the Inspector to take the vehicle home to better serve the county. Woodall made the motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

CHRISTOPHER BURKE ENGINEERING - GIS LIMITED USE AGREEMENT

Mayor Dory presented an agreement to the Commissioners to allow them to have access to the GIS. Helmer made the motion to approve. Berry seconded. the motion passed unanimously.

HIGHWAY

Engineer Jim Peck presented:

1) Federal funding projects – INDOT still reviewing.
2) Bridge 276 work has started today, flagger did not show up.
3) Bridge inventory has started and found an issue with Bridge 154 already. Needing to put up a barricade. To fix the bridge would be a large undertaking, will get with United to see what an estimate to fix would be.
4) Local Road & Safety Plan approved at the last meeting, had documents for Commissioners to sign.
5) Enterprise Fleet Management – meeting today.
6) South County Road 425 East – 2 people have not made payment. Turn it over to county attorney.
7) Annual report – needs to be signed by Commissioners. Woodall made the motion to approve the 2022 Highway Operations annual report. Berry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

PETITION: STOP TOXIC WASTE DUMP

Helmer made the motion to add the petition to the agenda. Berry seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Morgan Myers stated she was surprised this topic was not on the agenda today, it was a pressing and concerning issue for the county. It was only a matter of time before there is a leak at the Heritage Environmental facility.

Rudy Guerrero stated he humbly asked for the Commissioners to give an update at the next meeting how the county is resisting the waste being brought to our county. He presented an online petition of 1,175 signatures against the waste being brought to our county. What they are proposing to bring to the county from the Ohio train derailment is the most toxic man-made substance. The facility here is not equipped to handle this substance. It could seep into the IPS water system. It has apocalyptic capabilities. Citizens urged the Commissioners to please act.

Raymond Modglin stated Heritage Environmental had around 1,100 acres. He asked how much of it is still zoned for agriculture versus rezoned for industrial. Planning Director Lisa Zeiner said she did not have the zoning map with her at the meeting. However, he could get with her later and she could tell him how the acreage was split. Modglin felt the county could help control the size of the business by how it is zoned. Do not let it grow.

Modglin also questioned why the State received 75% of the revenue and the county 25%. He felt that should be reversed since the landfill is in our county. He felt if the county did not stop this type of material now, then who knows what substances we will get in the future from all over the country. We have no idea what is in there now.

Citizens asked for the thoughts of the Commissioners. Helmer said the Commissioners cannot say what they can or cannot do because Heritage Environmental is a private company, they must meet EPA requirements.

Modglin agreed, the Commissioners are very limited on what they can do. If they tried to shut the company down, the company could sue them. Citizens said let them sue. We need to stand strong against the toxic substance being brought into our county.

County Attorney Jim Ensley stated last week they had several conversations behind closed doors. From what we have been told, the county does not have any authority over the facility. IDEM regulates the permits and EPA has requirements they must adhere to.

Citizens asked if they collected money to pay for it, would the Commissioners commit to asking the company to do further testing. Ensley said he felt the Commissioners could ask but they don't have authority to dictate over the company. The county already pays someone each month to go to the site to do testing.

Citizens want the Commissioners to state publicly they are against the substance coming to our county. To take a strong stance.

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP ADVISORY BOARD

Berry made motion to table. Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

COVERED BRIDGE CARE

Woodall said last couple of years the county paid a company to take care of the growth around the covered bridges. Sheriff Baugh has agreed to take it back over, which will save the county $4,000-10,000 a year.

However, they would need some equipment: 3 weed eaters and a push mower. They had submitted to quotes to the Commissioners: Humphreys $656.35 and Keener's $399.99. Highway would help with chemicals and fuel needed. Woodall made the motion to approve and pay it from covered bridge fund. Berry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

BAKER TILLY – COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL PLAN

Woodall completed comprehensive financial plan. They submitted it at the last Council meeting.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Woodall said they had a meeting tonight at 5:30 pm with Plan Commission Board. Meeting will be held in the library at the Ivy Tech building.

AIRPORT BOARD APPOINTMENT

Dr. Gary Lemon interested in position. Helmer made the motion to approve. Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

CAPITAL ASSETS ORDINANCE

Woodall made the motion to table. Berry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

SURVEYOR

Greg Williams wants to enter a contract with two individuals to do work for the Surveyor's office. Woodall made the motion to approve. Berry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2023 EDIT PLAN

Amount to receive in 2023: $1,246,181
Discussion, decided on:

Thrive – WCED	$ 18,309
Greencastle Putnam County Economic Development	$ 55,000
Putnam County Senior Center	$ 20,000
Edgelea Project: Annual payment	$ 30,000
Edgelea Debt Contingency	$ 10,000
Rural Transit	$ 10,000
Beyond Homeless	$ 15,000
Food Pantry	$ 15,000
People Pathways	$ 20,000
Courthouse Annex Project	$443,866
Warchest	$111,006

Warchest: Highway Equipment/Roads	$300,000
County Website	$ 40,000
Countywide Email	$ 21,000
Mental Health Association of P.C.	$ 12,000
Town of Cloverdale: move utilities for POET project	$100,000
Housing Project with Economic Development	$ 25,000

Woodall made the motion to approve. Berry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

54 LAFAYETTE ST - TOWN OF CLOVERDALE

Jim Ensley said the Town of Cloverdale has a large lien on the property. It is a vacate lot. They had to do a demolition of a structure and put a lien on the property for the expense. The town is asking for the Commissioners to take title to the property and then deed it over to the Town of Cloverdale. No one wants to buy it because of the lien. Woodall made the motion to approve deeding the property to the town. Berry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

CLAIMS

February 23, 2023 – Woodall made the motion to approve. Berry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
March 2, 2023 – Berry made the motion to approve. Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
March 6, 2023 – Helmer made the motion to approve. Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

PAYROLL

February 24, 2023 – Woodall made the motion to approve. Berry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES

February 13, 2023 – Berry made the motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion passed.
February 20, 2023 – Woodall made the motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion passed.

MAIL

The Board of Commissioners acknowledged their mail.

ADJOURN

Berry made a motion to adjourn. Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Thomas Helmer, President	**David Berry, Vice President**
Rick Woodall	**Attest: Auditor's Office** **Kristina Berish**