COMMISSIONERS MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
SEPTEMBER 5, 2023
9:00 AM

ATTENDANCE:	
COMMISSIONERS:	Thomas Helmer, President
	David Berry, Vice President
	Rick Woodall
COUNCIL:	Stephanie Campbell, President
	Larry Parker
COUNTY ATTORNEY:	Jim Ensley
AUDITOR'S OFFICE	Kristina Berish
AUDIENCE:	13 Individuals

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on September 5, 2023, at 9:00 AM. The meeting was held at the Putnam County Courthouse. Tom Helmer opened the meeting and the pledge to the flag was given.

REZONING OLD HICKORY GOLF COURSE CLUB HOUSE

Lisa Zeiner on August 14th the board met to change the zoning from agricultural (A2) to commercial general (CG) for the property located at 1626 N US 231. The board gave a favorable recommendation. The office has not received any calls, letters nor anyone at the meeting against it. Woodall made the motion to approve Ordinance 2023-09-05-2. Berry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION CONSTITUTION WEEK

Diana Brumfield came to the meeting to ask permission to put wreaths again on the courthouse square. They would also like to put a vinyl sign in front of the courthouse that would state "remember (or observe) constitution week". This was something passed by President Eisenhower, it is a school requirement to have a lesson that week. Berry made the motion to approve the sign on the lawn. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Helmer read aloud the proclamation, Woodall made the motion to approve, Berry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

HIGHWAY REPORT

Jim Peck gave update:

1) Community crossing road project. INDOT US 321 operation damages to CR 700/CR 800 S. Commissioners said to go above the INDOT rep head to seek reimbursement of damages estimated 40-50K. Floyd Township fire department change order $24,111 submitted. This would be paid for by the county. Money is in the budget. Berry made the motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
2) 2023 paving projects
3) Bridge replacement/rehabilitation plan – projects list. Had a meeting with United Engineering to go over the list.
4) Dunbar Covered Bridge – moving forward with trying to get this ready to submit for grant.
5) Enterprise fleet management – said the board needs to go before the Council to get their consensus before moving forward. And the excavators, the

Commissioners had approved them at the March 20, 2023 meeting, but need to go before the Council now. Woodall questioned if the fleet needed to be done now with everything else needing to be purchased. Need to prioritize.

6) 2030 NOFA – Dunbar Bridge construction and inspection (80/20 grant). Manhattan Road intersection and curve correction improvements (90/10 grant). Countywide traffic sign inventory and replacement (90/10 grant).
7) 2024-1 CCMG project selection
8) Engineering – request to purchase 2019-wheel excavator ($99,745.48), will request an additional appropriation from Council at their September 19th meeting. Request approval for emergency claim if they want to purchase. 2013-wheel excavator – rebuild transmission ($19,492.60). Woodall made the motion to purchase the 2019-wheel excavator, Peck said he had been told last week by Robyn Hughes she thought they had the money in the budget. She was out of the office today. Advertise an additional just in case, can always pull it. Berry seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Can be paid by emergency claim.
9) Request hiring summer engineer/GIS intern – needed permission from the Commissioners to create a position. Woodall questioned the need to hire someone. Helmer made the motion to approve, pending Council approval. Berry also questioned; did we not have enough staff currently. Berry seconded. Woodall opposed. The motion passed.
10) Wheel tax & excise surtax – presented the Council with a report last month to consider increasing rates to generate more money for the highway department.
11) LRSP stakeholders meeting is set for September 13th.

COUNTY HANDBOOK

Auditor Berish said she had been asked to add this to the agenda because of all the issues arising with credit card bills. The handbook is very vague. The Commissioners need to update this section of the handbook. It was also brought to the attention of the board that the county does not have a policy in place for out-of-state travel.

PHONE BILLS FOR THE COUNTY

Woodall voiced his frustration with both Frontier & Metronet. The Commissioners are the point of contact for the accounts, he has called numerous times trying to get the accounts fixed. Each time he calls the customer service representative says they will get it fixed, then the county receives a bill, and it is not. It has been a vicious cycle. He did not know what to do at this point except stop making payments altogether since the companies are not correcting the errors. After some discussion, county attorney Jim Ensley said he would contact both companies and see if he could get it resolved.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES POSITION & EQUIPMENT

Woodall said their current Weights and Measures Inspector Wilborn is retiring at the end of the year. He has had an individual, Brandon White shadowing him that would like to take the job.

The county will also need to purchase equipment, have a quote from Seraphin in the amount of $11,741. White does have his own equipment; the county could rent it instead of purchasing. The equipment is only used twice a year.

Wilborn has asked to train someone before the end of the year and pay them. Auditor Berish said there is not money in the budget. To pay someone to shadow Wilborn they would need to submit an additional to the Council. Helmer made the motion to table. Berry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES

August 21, 2023 – Woodall made the motion to approve. Berry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

BAKER TILLY CONTRACT FOR HELP WITH ARPA

Woodall had a meeting with Baker Tilly, and they submitted a contract for time and material to help the county do the reports and meet the State requirements. This would be paid for by the ARPA funds. Berry made the motion to approve. Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MAIL

The Commissioners acknowledged their mail.

ADJOURN

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

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