

**COMMISSIONERS MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
OCTOBER 16, 2023
9:00 AM**

<u>ATTENDANCE:</u>	
COMMISSIONERS:	Thomas Helmer, President David Berry, Vice President Rick Woodall
COUNCIL:	Stephanie Campbell, President Larry Parker Phil Gick
AUDITOR'S OFFICE	Evelyn Williams
AUDIENCE:	10 Individuals

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on October 16, 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.

FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

Sheriff Baugh stated they would like to use the courthouse on December 16th for the annual Santa gift giveaway. Helmer made a motion to approve. Berry seconded. The motion passed.

TOWN OF FILLMORE – GRANT

Kristy Jerrell stated she is the grant administrator for the town of Fillmore. Monica Bray, town of Fillmore representative, stated they were looking at getting a grant to help with water utilities. New meters have started to be installed and customers will now be able to be billed by the gallon. The north side of Fillmore is hazardous because of drainage issues. Kristy stated they have set out a road map for the town to reach their goals. They will tackle the storm water issue first. Then in 2024/2025 they will address the water lines. Town received a grant from OCRA for the storm waters. \$796,255 cost of project, \$196,255 local match. Town will be able to do the partial match. They are \$92,255 short of the match needed. Discussion was made on the dire need to fix the town's water issues.

Woodall asked if this project would bring down the cost for Greencastle treating the water. Monica stated they wouldn't know the outcome for some time. They will be working on a maintenance plan in coordination with the water project. Kristy stated they would like an answer by next month due to application deadlines. Discussion was made on the balance of the ARPA Grant fund. The three Council members present weighed in their opinions as requested by the Commissioners. They seemed in favor. Woodall's concern was not having the county attorney present. Woodall made a motion to approve the \$92,255 from ARPA contingent on Ensley researching and making sure everything is legal and a continuous update from the town of Fillmore on the project. Berry seconded. The motion carried.

PUTNAM COUNTY HOME EXTENSION WEEK

Request was made for the County Commissioners to recognize the Putnam County Home Extension week. Berry made a motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion passed.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Lisa Zeiner presented the Comprehensive Plan to the Commissioners for approval. Discussion was made. Ensley had told Lisa that once the plan is adopted, he will do the ordinance or resolution. Berry stated he thought it was very thorough. Woodall made a motion to adopt the Putnam County Comprehensive Plan. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

HIGHWAY REPORT

Engineer Jim Peck report:

- 1) Need to schedule a meeting to discuss paving plans for the Community Crossings Grant. They will not be able to use millings but rather hot asphalt mix.
- 2) Federal funding plan for 2029, applications due by the first of December. Has been working with INDOT for highway safety plan funds.
- 3) Enterprise fleet management. Once the budget has been approved, they will get the agreement signed.
- 4) Engineering – wheel/surtax
- 5) Local Road and Street meeting is in November.
- 6) Bridge 45 – repair/rehabilitation
- 7) Thrive West Central – Traffic analysis, GIS, sign, culvert inventory and guardrail inventory.
- 8) Dump Trucks – the last two will be ready for delivery by the end of the first quarter of 2024.

CEMETERY BOARD OPENING

Berry made a motion to appoint Toni Ford to finish David Heavin's vacancy. Helmer seconded. The motion carried.

2024 BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING SCHEDULE

Berry made a motion to approve. Helmer seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

MINUTES

October 2, 2023 – Woodall made the motion to approve. Berry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MAIL

The Commissioners acknowledged their mail.

OLD BUSINESS

Helmer made a motion to hire Elizabeth Brush at \$12/hour for the last opening for Courthouse security. Woodall seconded. The motion carried.

Lisa Zeiner brought up the problem of evening meetings and not having anyone to man the doors. They are propped open. Tom stated he would like to have security, but they can't afford it. Discussion was made.

Tom stated they have started installing security cameras.

Woodall stated the first meeting in November they will be discussing financing for bridges and an annex.

Helmer stated he has had complaints about the lights on the second-floor balcony.

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
Evelyn Williams