

**COMMISSIONERS MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
NOVEMBER 6, 2023
9:00 AM**

ATTENDANCE:

COMMISSIONERS:	Thomas Helmer, President David Berry, Vice President Rick Woodall
COUNCIL:	Stephanie Campbell, President
AUDITOR'S OFFICE	Kristina Berish
AUDIENCE:	13 Individuals

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on November 6, 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.

K9 SHERIFF DEPARTMENT

Sheriff Baugh came to the meeting to inform the Commissioners about receiving a K9 dog. He had a K9 donation agreement between CK-9 Kennels and the Sheriff's Department. The dog has been added to the insurance coverage. Berry made the motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

HIGHWAY REPORT

Jim Peck and Clint Maddox presented:

- 1) Held a meeting on October 25th to discuss 2024 paving projects. Asked if another meeting needed to be held for further discussion. Berry stated he needed time to review.
- 2) BITCO Insurance – risk control service visit on 9/20/23 and the changes they requested be made are to have a Highway Dept. safety policy manual, safety data sheets catalog, work truck replacement and radio/AVL communications and emergency management. Peck is working on getting all of these items accomplished.
- 3) Federal funding applications, due 12/1/23. Planning submittal on 11/10/23. He has gotten with the County Attorney for the update on the Title VI. It will be for:
Dunbar Covered Bridge (County share \$2,200,600). Berry made the motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Commissioners signed the financial commitment letter.

Manhattan Road improvement (County share \$342,970). Berry made the motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Commissioners signed the financial commitment letter.

Countywide traffic sign inventory (County share \$13,000). Commissioners asked if this could not be done in house. Peck said no, it was too many to try and do with 1 to 2 employees. They are busy with replacing signs that get damaged or knocked over. It will take around 8 months to complete the project.

This is just for the inventory, does not include the cost of the signs. This will be significantly higher cost.

Berry asked how much of a safety issue this is. Peck said it was part of their safety plan as a high priority to do. It was stated that our signs were substandard.

Berry made the motion to approve. Helmer seconded. Woodall opposed. The motion passed. The commitment letter was presented for signature. Peck stated all three Commissioners would need to sign, Woodall questioned it and wanted to see where it stated he was required to sign if he opposed the project. Peck would have to research and get back with them. Commissioners would have liked to have seen this done in-house.

FHWA bridge investment program (80/20, our 20% will be due on 11/27/23). Woodall asked how many vehicle bridges would be included in this, Peck replied one. Berry made the motion to approve. Helmer seconded. Woodall opposed. The motion passed.

- 4) Enterprise fleet management – request to approve EFM agreement: 6 pickup trucks at an annual cost of \$81,995.76. Peck went over the trucks requesting to be purchased. Berry would like to table this until he has time to review. This is a lot to read at today's meeting. Ensley has been reviewing the paperwork and had a question. Berry made the motion to table until November 20th meeting. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- 5) Wheel loader, the department has an annual payment due with a short time to pay it. Asked for it to be paid through the emergency claims process. Woodall made the motion to approve a onetime emergency claim payment. Berry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES

October 16, 2023 – Woodall made the motion to approve. Berry seconded. The motion passed.

October 25, 2023 – tabled, Helmer had to leave the meeting early.

2024 PAYROLL SCHEDULE

Auditor Berish submitted schedule for review for approval. Woodall made the motion to approve. Berry seconded. The motion passed.

BAKER TILLY INVOICE

Invoice for the wheel tax analysis in the amount of \$2,160. Berry made the motion to approve out of the county general fund. Woodall seconded. The motion passed. Auditor Berish will submit it to the Council at their December meeting.

SOLAR COMPANY

Woodall said it went before BZA board a few months ago and it was voted down. The county had to hire financial advisors and attorneys during the process of looking at a solar farm. The bills have come before the county that the solar company was going to pay but now, they will not since it was voted down. And the county does not have a signed contract binding them to pay for the legal services. The invoices total up to \$110,000. If the solar company does come back, we can put it in the new agreement to have them reimburse the county.

MAIL

The Commissioners acknowledged their mail.

ADJOURN

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

Thomas Helmer, President

David Berry, Vice President

Rick Woodall

**Attest: Auditor's Office
Kristina Berish**