

**COMMISSIONER MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
February 17, 2025
9:00 AM**

ATTENDANCE:

COMMISSIONERS:	Rick Woodall, President Tom Helmer, Vice President Andy Beck
ATTORNEY:	Jim Ensley
COUNCIL:	Stephanie Campbell, President Wayne Huffman
AUDITOR'S OFFICE	Kristina Berish
AUDIENCE:	35 Individuals

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on February 17, 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.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR CREATION OF A REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION BOARD

Economic Development Director Kristin Clary explained what responsibilities this board would have for the county. Once formed it would allow the county to form TIF districts. She briefly explained what a TIF district was. The county has a property tax cap and this would allow the county to have a different source of revenue for infrastructure and it would not be raising property taxes. The revenue is captured when a property's assessed value increases. The county would receive the property tax dollars only on the portion of the increased assessed value, not the original base AV.

Woodall opened the public hearing for comment. Beck said he had researched and felt it was a great idea. Great way to get additional money for the county and does not raise taxes. Helmer said this is something a lot of counties do already and felt it would be good for our county.

Jefferson township trustee asked how it would impact their budget. Clary explained the process of how it would work. It does not take away the base assessed value an entity has already. It only captures the increase in assessed value, and only the property -s identified in the TIF district.

Ensley said this creates the opportunity to investigate TIF. Does not mean the county will do it. Clary said you would need to appoint people on board and research and see if it is best to have a TIF district. The Commissioners would approve the district. The board would be made up from individuals the Commissioners and Council appoint as well as a school board member.

Woodall said, hearing no further comments from the public, hearing is now closed. Beck made the motion to approve ordinance #2025-2-17-1. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING 2025 EDIT PLAN

Woodall explained what the EDIT plan was and that the Commissioners create a plan each year. Once the plan is approved by their board it then goes to the Council requesting it be appropriated to spend. This year the county will receive \$1,502,541. Woodall opened the public hearing.

A representative from the Mental Health of America asked if they would be included in the plan. Woodall said they received their request and will review. Woodall said the Commissioners each make a list of recommendations and then make final decision of the plan.

Woodall asked for Beck's recommendation: Thrive 35K, Economic Development 55K, Senior Center 20K, Edgelea project annual payment \$29,380, Edgelea debt 10K, Rural Transit 40K, Beyond Homeless 20K, Food Pantry 20K, People Pathways 20K, Area 30 30K, Mental Health of America 10K. All this totals \$289,380, leaving a balance of \$1,213,161. Propose dividing the remaining amount in two and put half in the EDIT warchest and the other half to the Highway to be used for roads and equipment.

Woodall asked for Helmer's recommendation: he said he had pretty much the same figures for each entity but wanted to add 10K for EMA to purchase a bus to be used for community.

Woodall explained Edgelea must be in the plan to pay for a bond. The current balance in the EDIT warchest is \$1,542,000. Hearing no comments, the public hearing was closed.

After discussion, it was decided to:

Thrive – WCED	\$ 35,865
Economic Development	\$ 60,000
Senior Center	\$ 20,000
Edgelea Project bond	\$ 29,380
Edgelea Debt	\$ 10,000
Rural Transit	\$ 40,000
Beyond Homeless	\$ 20,000
Food Pantry	\$ 25,000
People Pathways	\$ 20,000
EMA – School bus	\$ 10,000
Area 30	\$ 30,000
Mental Health of America	\$ 10,000
Warchest	\$327,296
Highway - bridges	\$500,000
Highway – roads	\$300,000
Highway – mower	\$ 65,000
Grand Total	\$1,502,541

Woodall made the motion to adopt the 2025 EDIT plan. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

PUTNAM COUNTY AG PROCLAMATION

Presented proclamation making March 8th Ag Day. Helmer made the motion to approve. Beck seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

CUMMINS MENTAL HEALTH REPORT

Amy Mace went over the report.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS AND PROBATION ANNUAL REPORT

Jamie France and Garret Nichols presented reports. Woodall made the motion to approve both reports. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

TECH RYAN PROPOSAL

Ryan Gruenholz presented a proposal for live streaming for the county with the new requirements they must meet by July 1, 2025. The county would need a Facebook and/or Youtube account which would be no charge to the county. And it would keep a record of the meetings for you. Estimate \$1,515 – one pan camera which would be adequate for the size of the meeting room. And 2 additional cameras to help with the live stream, hearing. It includes network drop but if one in the room already then would reduce the cost. No monthly cost after. They would assist in creating the accounts and train how to do the livestream. Commissioners thanked him for the proposal and will review.

RIVER SYSTEMS PRESENTATION

Presentation regarding livestream meetings. Gave background of the company. Focus strictly on video conferencing. Approved vendor of the State of Indiana. HB1167 gives a deadline of July 1, 2025 to have this enacted. Archive for a minimum of 90 days. Proposing zoom or teams for government. He went over the options they offered. Commissioners will review.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Assistant Director Brian Williams presented a contract for community health assessment countywide. It will give them an idea of what is working and what is needed for the county. This study is done every 3 years. The base package is 87K. They will create an improvement plan based off this assessment. The health department has the funds to pay for the contract. Helmer made the motion to approve. Beck seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

HIGHWAY REPORT

Highway Supervisor Clint Maddox presented:

- 1) Quotes on tractor/mower – received quotes. Briefly went over them. Beck made the motion to approve 150K and purchase the 2023 New Holland. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- 2) Fuel system card reader 14K – have a company coming this week to get a second quote.
- 3) Paver employees are being sent to a one-day seminar.

- 4) Salt supply is dwindling due to the weather we have had this winter. Looking at options to get more.
- 5) Clinton Twp freeze/thaw issue with roads. Had an incident. Ensley said they could advertise for a freeze/thaw ordinance.

MINUTES

January 28, 2025 – Helmer made the motion to approve. Beck seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

February 3, 2025 – Woodall made the motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MAIL

The Commissioners acknowledged their mail.

BOILER UPDATE AND DOME FOR COURTHOUSE

Cliff Ross said the boiler was not under warranty for the repairs. Water and installation were not done by an authorized dealer. \$2,500 a year to maintain water, he has the money in his budget to pay for it. Recommending putting in a softener. The city water is too hard and causes problems with the boilers. The second boiler has a crack in it and will need to be replaced as well. It will cost \$25,260. Waiting for the first one to be installed, should be here anytime. Ross is trying to get a discounted rate since purchasing two boilers now.

Dome repairs – tentative start week of March 17, weather permitting.

911 BOARD

Beck said they had 28 applications submitted for the Director position. It has been narrowed down to 6 applicants. Doing background checks now and then will get with members to set up interviews.

ANNEX

Beck not against the building but against spending 15M. He wants to see if there are ways to cut the expense.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Sheriff said Council had approved two new deputies for the department during the budget process for 2025. He hired the deputies and brought them to the meeting: Cody Latham introduced himself (born and raised in Plainfield). Tanner Nicholson introduced himself (born and raised in Putnam County).

CEMENT PLANT ROAD

Tom Grassick came to the meeting to register a complaint with the Commissioners. He was driving on this road recently and was pulled over by a deputy. The deputy pulled him over for driving across a bridge with a posted weight limit of 6 tons. Grassick stated his vehicle was not over the limit. And, if there was a danger of the bridge collapsing due to weight, why did the deputy wait until after he drove across it to pull him over. The deputy issued him a citation which goes against his CDL and stated the county was running a campaign to raise money for roads and bridges. The sign posted says semi not a truck. Woodall stated the county did not have a campaign. The money from citations does not go towards roads and bridges. And he directed Grassick to speak with the Sheriff since the Commissioners are not over the Sheriff's department personnel.

ADJOURN

Woodall made the motion to adjourn. Beck seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Rick Woodall, President

Tom Helmer, Vice President

Andy Beck

Attest: Auditor's Office
Kristina Berish