

**COMMISSIONER MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
November 18, 2024
9:00 AM**

ATTENDANCE:

COMMISSIONERS:	David Berry, President Tom Helmer, Vice President Rick Woodall
COUNCIL:	Stephanie Campbell, President Larry Parker Phillip Gick
AUDITOR'S OFFICE	Evelyn Williams
AUDIENCE:	22 Individuals

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on November 18, 2024, at 9:00 AM in regular session. The meeting was held at the Putnam County Courthouse. David Berry opened the meeting and the pledge to the flag was given.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT – SEPTIC ORDINANCE

Brian Williams stated they received a model ordinance from the State. They are changing the county ordinance verbiage to match the states. Discussion was made. Helmer made a motion to approve. Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ER11 – RADIO RFP'S

Dave Costin stated they received bids from ECS, JES, J & K for the radio RFP's. He stated that RFP is for the VHF simulcast system. The Radio Committee will open the bids and score them.

ASSESSOR – NEXUS CONTRACT ADDENDUM

Don Badolato stated he was requesting approval of the addendum for the final year of the Nexus contract. It adds residential, agricultural, utility and exempt parcel reassessment beginning in January 2025. Badolato stated he is meeting with the Council tomorrow to get permission for the salary changes. Nexus would do what Kevin and PJ currently do. Berry made a motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

SHERIFF DEPARTMENT INTERNET AND PHONE CONTRACTS

DJ Hendrich and Tresha Clearwaters – Clearwaters stated the new bills will be around \$250 less a month and the money is already in the budget. Hendrich stated it's the same system that the courthouse has gone to. He stated the internet contract would be with Metronet with more speed, service and lower cost.

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

Woodall made a motion to approve the contract and move to Metronet for internet at \$251.25 a month. Berry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

PUTNAM COUNTY VISITORS' BUREAU

Eric Freeman presented the 2025 budget for the PCVB. It shows a 6% increase. They will pull \$62,000 from savings to pay for a matching grant they receive. Freeman stated that their savings account has a little over \$300,000 balance. Woodall asked what outdoor recreation support was. Freeman stated it was for maintenance on People Pathways, and they have created county parks in two different places.

Freeman asked the Commissioners' opinion to put holiday lights next year on three or four Covered Bridges. They would be solar powered and PCVB would cover all costs. They believe it would bring in a lot of tourism. Freeman stated he has had pressure to focus on the colors of the four school districts. Berry and Helmer think it's a good idea.

HIGHWAY REPORT

Clint Maddox, Highway Supervisor presented:

1. Dunbar Bridge – accident last night. The car hit the northeast corner of it. Found to be structurally sound and the bridge was reopened. They will reclose in the future to repair the damage that can do in-house.
2. Signal faults on fire alarm system at the highway department truck barn. Met with B&R Fire Systems. Narrowed down to a wiring issue underground between the two barns that's over 25 years old.
3. ULD 600 N & 775 W - \$176,000 approved for repairs on damage done from detour.
4. State approved \$19,054 on the east county line.
5. 225 E – marked for utility locates and improve the safety of the road.
6. Carpet and painting done in the office.

MINUTES

November 4, 2024 - Berry made a motion to approve with change. Woodall seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Helmer stated he had a change to make. Purdue Extension Educator Mark Evans went to Elkhart County instead of Hamilton.

MAIL

The Commissioners acknowledged their mail.

OLD BUSINESS

Woodall – Annex update – 21st & 22nd of this week. Architects will be meeting with all department heads. There is time set aside for the Commissioners.

Ensley – contract with Garmon, Annex Developer. Failed to put that the designs are owned by the county in the contract. Woodall made a motion to enter a contract with Garmon for a total of \$815,000 to be taken out of the county annex fund. Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Woodall stated there is a Council meeting tomorrow. Keightly Road is on the agenda, and he will ask them to approve. He will also give them Health Department building updates. Woodall stated he will also discuss the 2025 budget for an IT position to see what the expectations are.

Woodall stated that the Vending Machine Fund is falling short on funds for the Christmas lunch for employees.

Mike from Madison Township asked what the decision is for replacing the bridge over the railroad track. Woodall stated there is no decision at this point. He is hoping to have one made in 2025. Mike stated that when it floods there are about 9 families that have no way out. He would like to know if they will maintain the road better. Woodall stated it's a county road so it will be maintained.

ADJOURN

Berry made a motion to adjourn. Woodall seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

David Berry, President

Tom Helmer, Vice President

Rick Woodall

**Attest: Auditor's Office
Evelyn Williams**