

**COMMISSIONER MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
August 4, 2025
9:00 AM**

ATTENDANCE:	
COMMISSIONERS:	Rick Woodall, President Tom Helmer, Vice President Andy Beck
COUNCIL:	Stephanie Campbell, President
ATTORNEY:	Jim Ensley
AUDITOR'S OFFICE	Kristina Berish
AUDIENCE:	17 Individuals

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on August 4, 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.

Beck made the motion to add Jeff Brooks to the agenda to discuss radios. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

Director Jamie France presented a revised 2026 budget for the grant. The program suffered a 7M cut. France briefly explained how the cuts were trickling down. 271K revised to change it to 247K. Commissioners approved the resubmission due to reductions.

AIR EVAC PRESENTATION

Andy Yenchochik gave a presentation on a membership to the air evac life team. He works with Clay County. He wanted to introduce himself and the company, and to see if this is a benefit they would be interested in adding for county employees as part of their employee benefit package. If not, the employees could still opt for the membership on their own. This is membership and not an insurance program. If an employee left, they could take the benefit with them. Helmer asked what happened if another company came to pick up an individual. Yenchochik said unfortunately if that happened then this benefit would not cover it. If you are a member, you pay the monthly price and if you need to use the services, you will not receive a bill. They would file with our insurance company and assume the liability. The board took it under advisement.

EMA PROCLAMATION

Sarah Owen presented the proclamation for August to be national emergency management awareness month. Helmer made the motion to approve. Beck seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Woodall introduced Owen to the audience as the new full-time director. He also asked Owen to start giving a report to the board three times a year. An ambulance from EMS is being outfitted for the department.

HIGHWAY REPORT

Director Clint Maddox gave a report:

- 1) Community crossings grant road plan is coming right along on getting accomplished
- 2) Gave an update on the roads the highway department is working on
- 3) Update on bridge projects
- 4) He looked at the grinder and felt it was worth holding a demonstration to see how it worked and see if it would be beneficial for the county to purchase. Commissioners asked him to set one up.
- 5) Update on mowing across the county. And spraying of the weeds.
- 6) Stop sign on 650, now a yield. Beck felt it needed to be reviewed to put it back to a stop sign. He has been told of several near miss collisions and vehicles in a resident's yard. Maddox will contact the insurance company and have it reviewed.

RADIOS

Jeff Brooks came to the meeting with some numbers and a possible way to get emergency radios for all the agencies in the county. Brooks had two quotes for 997 radios: Kenwood 3.5M quote (including programming). Motorola 5.8M (did not see programming in the quote, typically runs 30-40K). He suggested finding a grant writer to help apply for a grant to cover part of this cost. This would be if the county purchased radios for all emergency responders in the county. Beck asked what entities the county was responsible for. Woodall said the county was not obligated to pay for any unit that was not a county department. However, they have been discussing the radios for years now and wanted the entire county to be on the same radio for emergency response.

Woodall asked if it was best to proceed before or after the new towers are put up. Sheriff Baugh felt it was better to get them beforehand. Baugh said later this month he has some deputies getting trained to program radios.

Commissioners will review the quotes.

MINUTES

July 21, 2025 – Helmer made the motion to approve. Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

July 31, 2025 (special meeting) – Helmer made the motion to approve. Beck seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MAIL

The Commissioners acknowledged their mail.

BILLBOARD ON COUNTY ROAD 125 E

Woodall made the motion to allow the Town of Cloverdale clean the brush etc. and use the billboard. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ANNEX

Woodall said the committee was a little frustrated and expressed that to Envoy who is the county's manager. We are currently 3M over the budget at the last meeting, which is unacceptable.

Garmong assured him we would get to the number the county does not want to go over, 16M.

Beck said what happened if we can not get it to down to the price the county wants it to be. Would this need to be put on the ballot in the spring. Woodall said this would need to be researched and figured out. If the building could not get to the price they want, then the project would need to be scratched.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT BUILDING

Woodall said they are waiting for two appraisals, one for the south and one for the north. Also, waiting on numbers for necessary updates on the building. Once he has all the numbers, then he will compile them all and have a joint meeting between the Commissioners and Council to discuss. Beck had also suggested building a new one by the highway department.

CONVENTION VISITORS BUREAU

Woodall said Freeman had stepped down in May as the director, the board held interviews and hired Jared Jernagan and he started on August 1st.

WEATHER RADIOS

Jeff Brooks stated they did receive a grant to purchase weather radios that residents could receive and county departments.

ADJOURN

Helmer 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