

COMMISSIONERS MEETING
SPECIAL SESSION
JULY 31, 2023
11:00 AM

ATTENDANCE:

COMMISSIONERS:	Thomas Helmer, President David Berry, Vice President
COUNCIL:	Stephanie Campbell, President Larry Parker Wayne Huffman
ATTORNEY:	James Ensley
AUDITOR:	Kristina Berish
AUDIENCE:	3 Individuals

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met in Special Session on July 31, 2023, at 11:00 AM at the Putnam County Courthouse.

DUNBAR COVERED BRIDGE (BRIDGE #105)

Highway Engineer Jim Peck said he had asked for this meeting to discuss the bridge project. Earlier in the year they had applied for a federal grant. INDOT asked at that time if the county would pay the cost of the engineering and land acquisition since they found themselves short on funds. The county had denied the request. INDOT did not award us the grant.

Peck had asked representatives from United Consulting Engineering to the meeting. This company does bridge inventory for the county. They had found 2 critical findings: 1) hole in roof causing deterioration and 2) bridge bearing rotted and crushed. To bring this bridge up to where it should be for vehicles would be in the millions. They proposed making it a pedestrian bridge which would be far less than building another bridge for vehicles. The county's portion for the engineering and land acquisition, according to their numbers, would be 750K.

Auditor Berish said there was money in the cumulative bridge fund to cover the expense. Peck asked the Commissioners if they wanted to move forward with the project and get a contract.

Helmer made the motion to move forward with the land acquisition and engineering pending Council approval. Berry seconded. The motion passed.

The bridge letting would not be until 2029. Completion of the project would be late in the summer of 2030.

County Attorney Jim Ensley asked if the Commissioners would be available this Friday, August 4th for an executive joint meeting with the County Council. Berry could not make it. Helmer said he could. Woodall had already told Ensley he could make a Friday meeting. The meeting is set for August 4, 2023, at 2:30 pm.

ADJOURN

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

Thomas Helmer, President

David Berry, Vice President

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