

**COMMISSIONER MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
December 15, 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:

21 Individuals

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on December 15, 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.

SECOND PUBLIC HEARING FOR ANNEX

Dale Davis with Envoy gave a presentation. They are the owners' representative on the project for the county. Mitch Hannum with Garmong handling construction for the project explained the process of what has transpired in the last year regarding the design and what to expect from this point forward.

Woodall stated the proceeds from the sale of the county home years ago had been put aside to be put towards the cost of a future annex. The county had this seed money and through the years slowly added to it from the economic development income tax they receive. January 1, 2024, the balance in the fund was \$2,272,804.92. This year they utilized some of the funds to pay the upfront costs to get us to this point. Total paid out is \$823,419.81 leaving a balance of \$1,449,385.11. Jason Semler with Baker Tilly acting as the financial advisor for the county passed out paperwork for proposed finance options for the project.

Woodall opened the second public hearing asking for any comments or questions. Hearing none, Woodall made the motion to close the public hearing. Helmer seconded. The motion passed.

Ensley stated now they need to approve both resolutions in front of them: 2025-12-15-1 states a building corporation will be organized for the project. (see attached) Woodall made the motion to approve. Helmer seconded. Beck opposed. The motion passed 2 to 1. 2025-12-15-2 states the county intends to finance the construction of a new county annex. It is a declaration of official intent to reimburse expenditures. Lisa Lee with Ice Miller, bond counsel for the county stated the resolution was necessary to do but it does not mean the county must do the reimbursement, just gives the county the option to do so. Woodall made the motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The Commissioners needed to appoint three individuals to the building corporation. Each Commissioner submitted a name for the board: Woodall appoints Phil Gick. Beck appoints Ron Birt. Helmer appoints Tony Hacker. Helmer made the motion to approve and appoint the three individuals. Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Woodall stated petition of taxpayers in favor of the annex had been submitted to the Auditor this morning. Auditor Berish will need to verify they are a property owner in the county. We need 50 signatures. Berish said they would be verified and verifying affidavits and certificate would be completed by tomorrow night's meeting and submitted to Ice miller.

YMCA

HR Specialist Tera Stevenson asked if the Commissioners wanted to continue the membership with the YMCA that allows a discount for the county employees. This year they have had 46 people request to sign up; this also allows their family to utilize the facility. Helmer made the motion to approve. He felt it was a good benefit to offer. Woodall seconded. The motion passed.

HSA INCENTIVE FOR PHYSICAL

HR Specialist Tera Stevenson stated thirty-one people have taken advantage of the \$100 incentive if they had a physical at the clinic. This money goes into the employee's HSA account. Employees can still participate, they have until December 31, 2025 for this year. Stevenson asked if the Commissioners wanted to offer the incentive for 2026. Helmer made the motion to approve. Beck seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT – REZONE

Office Manager Cheyenne Maddox presented the ordinance petitioning for Shaun Crowder to rezone a parcel of land. No opposition at their meeting. Ordinance #2025-12-15-3. Address 2742 E CR 100 N, Greencastle. Helmer made the motion to approve. Beck seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

VETERAN OFFICER INTRODUCTION

Brian Hopkins came to the meeting to introduce himself to the public as the new Veteran Officer.

PUTNAM PARKS

Will Bartley Executive Director gave a report regarding happenings of 2025. Went over their plans for 2026.

HIGHWAY REPORT

Director Clint Maddox presented:

- 1) Went over the weekend happenings with all the snow the county received. They have used a lot of material so far this winter. Everyone out again today to check the routes.
- 2) Bridge 133 update.

- 3) K & W for fuel tank system. Turnkey system. Longevity of the bid, waiting for response.
- 4) Contract with Wrought Iron Bridge Works to fix bridge 152 due to a vehicle striking it and causing damage. Estimated start date January 1, 2026. Already approved, it just needs a signature.
- 5) People Pathways trail there are spots where brush is getting out of hand. Commissioners approved of working with them to take care of the brush.
- 6) Bid for dump trucks \$665,825 approved but hydraulic tank and box cover changed since approved by board. The bid date was 6/17/25, since costs have changed resulting in an increase of \$14,203. The new loan payment amount will be \$130,483. Hughes said she would need to do an additional next year to cover the increase. Woodall made the motion to approve the increase. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES

December 1, 2025 – Helmer made the motion to approve. Beck seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS FOR 2026

Personnel:

Planning Commission Director	Lisa Zeiner
Courthouse Head Custodian	Cliff Ross
Courthouse Custodian	Shawn Grimes
Part – time Custodian	Jenny Kersey
Veterans Officer	Brian Hopkins
EMA Director	Sarah Owens
E911 Director	David Clodfelter
County Attorney	Jim Ensley
EMS Director	Kelly Russ
Weights & Measures Inspector	Brandon White
Highway Director	Clint Maddox

Helmer made the motion to approve the appointment of the above listed individuals for 2026. Beck seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS FOR 2026

Joe Ferguson, ABC Board: Helmer made the motion to appoint. Beck seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Cathy Tipton, Airport Board: Beck made the motion to appoint. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Stephan Wise, Airport Board: Helmer made a motion to table. There is a difference of opinion on date of appointment. They need time to research. Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. John Scamahorn, Health Board: Helmer made a motion to appoint. Beck seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Ruth Ralph, Health Board: Woodall made a motion to appoint but clarified this should be a 4-year term not 3. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Jordan Vaughn, Cemetery Board: Woodall made a motion to appoint. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Emily Knuth, Visitor's Bureau: Helmer made a motion to appoint. Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Wes Kendall, Visitor's Bureau: Woodall made a motion to appoint. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mike Hildebrand, Floyd Twp Fire: Beck made a motion to appoint. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Debbie Sillery, Hospital Board: Beck made a motion to appoint. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Terry Tippin, Roachdale Fire Protection Board: Beck made a motion to appoint. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Kayla Birth Flegal, Library Board: Woodall made a motion to appoint. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Samantha Cooper, Thrive Board: Woodall made a motion to appoint. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

EMS AMBULANCE SITUATION

Woodall stated the department is down on working ambulances. One was involved in accident and had over 200K of damage due to a vehicle running into it. Backup ambulances used did not last, had mechanical issues. Had a neighbor county loan us an ambulance. We have been waiting for 8 months since we were supposed to be in possession of a new ambulance we ordered and still do not have it. It is nearing time to order another new one and we have not received the previous one. when new ambulance was to be received and we do not have it. They asked the county attorney to start looking into legal ramifications.

NORTH PUTNAM – APOLOGY TO KIDS CAROLING AT COURTHOUSE

Beck said he wanted to give a formal apology to the kids who came to sing Christmas carols at the courthouse. The Commissioners had given them permission. However, shortly after they arrived it seems someone from the courts thought they had the right to ask them to leave the building. Said it was disturbing the courts. This should not have happened, and the board is sorry that it did.

GREENCASTLE PUTNAM COUNTY DEVELOPMENT

Director Kristin Clary gave an update regarding the readi grants. The majority of the first grant went to projects in the county; the next one will mainly go towards projects in the city. Clary also gave an update regarding the county TIF district created and two new redevelopment commissions.

COMMUNITY CROSSINGS GRANT

Woodall said it was a very competitive year for receiving the grant. Legislators had removed 200M from the grant leaving 247M for everyone in the state to vie for. Unfortunately, Putnam County was not awarded the grant. They will try again in July 2026.

SEA1 BILL

Woodall said they had learned more about the impact of the bill during their recent Commissioner conference. A couple of items they are concerned with and hoping to get changes are: 1) the EMS/Fire rate. Make it separate and not part of the county rate. 2) elimination of township trustees being discussed. If this happened the responsibilities would then go to the Commissioners. He felt it would serve the community better by combining townships and not having as many trustees but not eliminating all of them. 3) they also need to research and investigate the fire districts.

MAIL

The Commissioners acknowledged their mail.

ADJOURN

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

Rick Woodall, President

Tom Helmer, Vice President

Andy Beck

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