

**COMMISSIONER MEETING  
REGULAR SESSION  
January 5, 2026  
6:00 PM**

<u>ATTENDANCE:</u>	
COMMISSIONERS:	Andy Beck, President Tom Helmer, Vice President Rick Woodall
COUNCIL:	Stephanie Campbell, President Wayne Huffman Kerry Williams
ATTORNEY:	Jim Ensley
AUDITOR'S OFFICE	Kristina Berish
AUDIENCE:	13 Individuals

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on January 5, 2026, at 6:00 PM in regular session. The meeting was held at the Putnam County Courthouse. Woodall opened the meeting and the pledge to the flag was given.

Woodall made the motion to add EPIC to agenda. Beck seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**APPOINTMENT OF PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT**

Woodall made the motion to appoint Beck as President and Helmer as Vice President. Beck seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**CIRCUIT FLOOR REPLACEMENT REQUEST**

Judge Headley requested carpet replacement in courthouse and offices, it is twenty-one years old. He submitted two estimates. \$19,600 Edward Hicks or \$20,362 Hicks & Son. Circuit Juv Court room and jury room and library. Judge does not want the bathroom included. Estimate says maintenance will remove all furniture and bolted down seats. Cliff Ross said no one had asked him about moving seats and furniture. Felt since the carpet would be the squares they should be able to cut them around the seats and not remove. Ross said they would help if needed. Woodall asked about funds to auditor. Auditor cum cap dev current balance 347K. Helmer made the motion to approve estimate from Edward Hicks. Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Request additional from cumulative capital development.

**EPIC INSURANCE**

John Parmley came to the meeting to discuss the county's policies. Workman compensation will increase which is derived from salary increases employees received and past claims history. Had a 2.3M case three years that will fall off this next year. Stay with IPEP. Automotive went up 5% and the average rate across the state went up 10% so that is looking good.

\$1,000 deductible recommended to change to \$2,500. Save 18K. Stay with Bliss McKnight, do not recommend changing carriers.

Hanover in past for property recommended change and save \$3,500 a year. Statement of value passed out. Looking at the value it looks like some of the buildings are undervalued. Suggested raising them over a period. Looking at a 14% increase. If we switch to another company we would have as high of an increase. We would also need to raise the deductible. (look up Rick's email and get information). 791K with raising deductibles. Beck made the motion to approve increase of deductible and go with option 2 submitted by Parmley. Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously. 42K additional to Council.

### **HIGHWAY REPORT**

Director Clint Maddox:

- 1) Bridge 133 update on replacement.
- 2) Tractor back at the department. Been having issues with it. And every 900 miles have to have replacement/repairs. Discussed options.
- 3) Bridge 78 – received pipes for replacement. Waiting for weather to do the work.
- 4) Freightliner trucks – gave update on outfitting.
- 5) Bridge 152 – has not been started yet, contacting company to see what was causing the delay.
- 6) Update on equipment up for sale.
- 7) Cleaning up roadways – brush and trees.

### **MINUTES**

December 15, 2025 – Helmer made the motion to approve with the correction of December 1 to December 15. Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### **MAIL**

The Commissioners acknowledged their mail.

### **AIRPORT BOARD APPOINTMENT**

Woodall stay with Steven. Helmer seconded. The motion passed.

### **FOOD & BEVERAGE TAX**

Beck asked Ensley about this tax for the county. Ensley said he would need to do further research. Beck felt the county needed one. Use the tax for a Putnam County building project fund.

### **JOINT MEETING WITH COUNCIL**

Beck felt needed to have a joint meeting with the Council about the annex and other future projects. January 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm and ask Mitch Hannum Garmong to be there. The resolution is to say Council feels it is needed. It was not locking in the county to definitely do the project or how it would be financed.

### **AIRPORT TAX**

Beck can it be adjusted/done away with. Ensley research.

### **SOLAR MEETING**

Plan Commission having a meeting January 12<sup>th</sup> in Cloverdale. Helmer stated all future meetings needed to be held in the Commissioners room and not offsite anymore. Helmer made the motion to have all meetings and show the need for the annex. Not to pay to have all audio equipment and extra equipment. It is on the January 20<sup>th</sup> meeting for the Commissioners. How will it be conducted on January 20<sup>th</sup>. Solar can present and then the two attorneys speak. Not public speaking. 30 minutes for both sides. Do all other business first and solar last on agenda. Helmer rescinded motion since it is on their agenda and to be held in Commissioner meeting room.

### **ANIMAL SHELTER**

Beck said it cost thousands of dollars each year. How much does it cost to adopt a pet. Sheriff did not know. Beck asked for a two-day community event and give a pet away instead of a fee. Ensley said the board would need to talk to the animal control board. The board has not met in a long time. Humane Society needs to be involved. Woodall stated in 11 years since he has been Commissioner the previous Commissioner Berry handled the shelter and felt Beck should take the torch. Beck said he would research and contact them to get more information.

### **911**

Radio meeting Tuesday at 2 pm Beck said. Clodfelter told him. The meeting would be with Pyramid. Helmer would attend.

### **AMBULANCE**

Ensley said he had talked with Kelly Russ. Woodall said the company had offered one but it was not apples to apples. It is a lesser version. It has been over a year since we should have received the new ambulance and we are at the point of ordering another one. The company has not offered a good explanation for the delay. Ensley will contact Russ tomorrow.

### **SPEED LIMIT NORTH OF ROACHDALE**

Maddox said they have the counters and have figured out how to use it. Highway can get that out in the next week. And get the traffic count to the board.

### **EMA COPIER**

She wants one. If not in budget will need to ask for additional. Question of her quote she received from Cardinal. Helmer will get it clarified.

### **HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Williams asked if they had an updated. Beck said the company is working on numbers and need to get with the board. Beck said he wanted to talk to the department about adding another department with them. Williams said they were happy to have a discussion with him about that.

**ADJOURN**

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

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**Andy Beck, President**

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**Tom Helmer, Vice President**

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**Rick Woodall**

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