

**COMMISSIONER MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
January 20, 2026
9:00 AM**

ATTENDANCE:

COMMISSIONERS:

Andy Beck, President
Tom Helmer, Vice President
Rick Woodall

COUNCIL:

Stephanie Campbell, President

AUDITOR'S OFFICE

Kristina Berish

AUDIENCE:

22 Individuals

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on January 20, 2026, at 9:00 AM in regular session. The meeting was held at the Putnam County Courthouse. Beck opened the meeting and the pledge to the flag was given.

EMS – VEHICLE PURCHASE

Director Kelly Russ presented information to the board. This is part of their ten-year capital purchase plan. It is for a 2026 Chevrolet Tahoe. They did attempt to get three bids but were only able to receive two: Christi Hubler Chevrolet Crawfordsville \$74,548.25 and York Chevrolet Greencastle \$65,826.80. The lighting package from JTN is \$13,799.75. The money to purchase is in their budget. They would be able to receive the vehicle immediately, both have one ready to go. Woodall made the motion to approve the bid from York Chevrolet for the vehicle and JTN for the lighting package. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Russ updated the board on ambulance situation at their department. And the truck that was in a collision on November 29th is already in the shop getting repaired and the Auditor just received the insurance check for it.

ROAD NORTH OF ROACHDALE

Maddox passed out information from the traffic count the highway department conducted. It is from the Town of Roachdale to the county line. Date started 1/9/26 and ended 1/12/26. Vehicles analyzed 1,707. Based on lowering speed limit to 35 mph there would have been 1,328 enforceable violations with an average speed of 40 mph. Fastest speed being 69 mph.

Maddox stated that Bliss McKnight said it was up to the Board of Commissioners if they chose to change the speed limit. It would then be up to the Town of Roachdale police department and the county Sheriff's Office to enforce it.

Beck felt for safety reasons it needed to be lowered; he made the motion to change it to 35 mph. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

HIGHWAY REPORT

Director Clint Maddox presented:

- 1) Working on quotes for tractors. Have only received one so far.
- 2) Update on roads from weather this past weekend.

MINUTES

January 5, 2026 – Helmer made the motion to approve. Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT – BUILDING

Administrator Joni Young, Asst. Administrator Brian Williams, and Dan Dobson with R & D Builders came to the meeting to discuss the remodel estimate for 308 Medic Way. Williams went over the sketch in front of the board. Dobson went over the estimate. If you do everything it would be \$410,577.44. Dobson questioned needing to install new service panels which is 20K. Woodall made the motion to approve the estimate not to exceed \$420,000. Beck seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Pending approval of the funds from the Council.

Board discussed when Dobson could start on the remodel and how long it would take to be completed. Also discussed was when the county would be taken possession of the property. The Commissioners have a meeting scheduled with the hospital board on February 3rd at 9 am. They will start making phone calls today to local banks about financing the purchase of the building.

Young brought up the discussion of possible having the coroner department in the building with them. Beck asked her to explain their position. Young felt they needed the entire building for their department to allow for future growth. By moving the coroner with them it would not allow them any room for future personnel growth, which they already know they need but right now do not have the funds to hire. They would be moving into a building that would already be too small for them.

TECHRYAN HARDWIRE MICROPHONES FOR THE MEETING ROOM

Beck asked the Auditor to contact TechRyan to get a quote on hardwire microphones instead of the movable battery operated ones we currently have.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Beck said the stone tax did not make it out of the reading committee since this is something that needs to be discussed during the budget year which would be next year. They have also been talking with Beau Baird about the tipping fee. They want the county portion increased on the fee we receive from the landfill in Roachdale. This would bring in more revenue to the county instead of the state.

Woodall said there is a bill introduced to eliminate township trustees. One thing being discussed is the townships with less than 6,700 population. To merge townships together. There is a caveat of if they have a fire department in their township. It is also being discussed to get rid of them altogether and the Board of Commissioners would be over it.

Woodall said the board also needed to look at the fire departments countywide. Be proactive and with all the potential law changes.

COPIER FOR EMA

Helmer said the purchase price is \$2,890 for a refurbished copier. It is not in the budget. Helmer made the motion to approve purchasing a copier pending the Council approval of funding. Beck seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MAIL

The Commissioners acknowledged their mail.

ADJOURN

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

Andy Beck, President

Tom Helmer, Vice President

Rick Woodall

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