

**COMMISSIONER MEETING
SPECIAL SESSION
February 18, 2025
9:00 AM**

ATTENDANCE:

COMMISSIONERS:

Rick Woodall, President
Tom Helmer, Vice President
Andy Beck

COUNCIL:

Stephanie Campbell, President

AUDITOR'S OFFICE

Kristina Berish

AUDIENCE:

17 Individuals

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on February 18, 2025, at 9:00 AM for a special meeting. The meeting was held at the E911. Woodall opened the meeting; it was held to discuss the bridges in the county. He passed out paperwork regarding the bridges and indicated they wanted to focus on the top twenty bridges needing to be repaired/replaced.

Commissioners had invited companies to come to the meeting to help brainstorm how we can better attack getting the bridges where they need to be in our county.

Woodall asked how up to date the traffic counts were. Clint Maddox said they need updated, 2016 was the last time it was done. The department has the equipment, it is a matter of getting trained in how to use it and can do it internally. Woodall asked if a traffic count would be a good consideration when looking at the bridges needing to be done. Do we need to rate. Consensus was yes.

Woodall asked if some of the bridges could be converted to a culvert or a different type that would be cost inducive. The county is looking for all avenues of revenue sources for the bridges. The smaller structures, if you can do in-house, would save the county a lot of money. Any bids over 150K would need to be bid out.

The county has applied again for the 1M Community Crossing grant. At yesterday's Commissioner meeting they put 500K in the 2025 EDIT plan to be put towards bridges. They have also spoken with Baker Tilly regarding loans to do bridges. Understanding is 2M cap per loan.

United representative said the county has 60 bridges less than 60'. These bridges could be looked at and be cost effective. With a long-term plan, the county could most likely complete 40-50 of the bridges (10 years)

Helmer felt the bridges that were partially closed should be put to the top of the list. Maddox said that would be bridges: 133, 154, and 191 which are one lane bridges.

Beck suggested maybe due to the location of bridge 45, Hendricks County would share the cost for a new bridge. The county's past engineer estimated it would cost 870K. Beck offered to talk to Hendricks further.

Maddox said on Cement plant road bridges 122, 123, and 124. Discussed how we would go about replacing the bridges and not boxing in people that live on the road.

Woodall asked if the county was too late to get on the companies' book for bridges to be worked on in 2025. Are you booked out already? Several companies said it was not too late.

Woodall asked if a company was interested in doing so, what is the timeline for being able to put together a list of bridges and a long-term plan to start being more proactive in getting bridges done. The companies would need to know an estimated amount of how much money you would have each year to put towards the plan. They need that to form a good workable plan.

As a side note, the cumulative bridge fund is obligated for the next few years due to putting money back for the Dunbar covered bridge.

Woodall said the county had to opt out of two federal aid projects this year due to finances. Hopefully it will not hurt their chances of getting other federal aid projects approved. But they felt the money needed to be put towards bridges.

It was suggested to hold meetings on March 26 & 27 to talk individually to the companies. More information would be sent out later.

Woodall closed the meeting and thanked everyone for coming and their input.

Rick Woodall, President

Tom Helmer, Vice President

Andy Beck

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