

**COMMISSIONER MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
March 2, 2026
6:00 PM**

ATTENDANCE:

COMMISSIONERS:

Andy Beck, President
Tom Helmer, Vice President
Rick Woodall

COUNCIL:

Stephanie Campbell, President

COUNTY ATTORNEY:

Jim Ensley

AUDITOR'S OFFICE

Kristina Berish

AUDIENCE:

24 Individuals

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on March 2, 2026, at 6:00 PM in regular session. The meeting was held at the Putnam County Courthouse. Beck opened the meeting and the pledge to the flag was given.

Beck made the motion to add DJ Hendrich with KDMIT to the agenda. Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

AG DAY PROCLAMATION

Beck read the proclamation making March 14, 2026 ag day. Woodall made the motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MENTAL HEALTH OF AMERICA

Helmer made the motion to approve the request to put green light bulbs in the outside porch areas of the courthouse as we have done in the past for mental health awareness. Beck seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

SERVICE OFFICER ACCREDITATION STANDARDS

Josh Toland District Service Officer of the IN Department of Veterans Affairs went over the set of standards that was enacted per Indiana Code 10-17-1-9. Putnam County does meet all the standards. Brian Hopkins Veterans Officer gave an update on what he has done since taking the position.

VETERAN OFFICE COUNTY CREDIT CARD REQUEST

Brian Hopkins requested a county credit card with a limit of \$1,000. He would use it for expenses related to training. Woodall made the motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

COUNTY EMAIL SYSTEM

DJ Hendrich said there were some changes that needed to be made regarding the county email system. He needed the county's permission. Helmer made the motion to approve. Beck seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

TOWN OF RUSSELLVILLE REQUEST FOR TORNADO SIREN FUNDING

Daniel Justiniano was at the last meeting regarding the siren. The county had approved 10K towards it last year. Unfortunately, he has only been able to raise between 2-3K from other sources towards the purchase. The new quote is just shy of 33K. They still need 20K. He came to the meeting to see if the county could pay the remaining amount needed.

The Commissioners' concern is that if they pay for a tornado siren for the town it sets a precedent to pay for all the sirens across the county. The county has limited resources. Discussion. Beck made a motion to table. Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

EMA COUNTY CREDIT CARD REQUEST

Sarah Owen Director requested a card for her department \$1,000 limit. It would be used for fuel for the department's vehicle until the fuel station at the highway department was replaced and working. Helmer made the motion to approve. Beck seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

E911 TOWER REPAIRS

David Clodfelter Director received a quote for \$22,650 from Electronic Communication Systems, Inc. Asking for approval to get it fixed. It would be paid from the LIT PSAP fund. He has already submitted an additional to the Council pending approval of the Commissioners. The board asked if he had requested any other quotes. Clodfelter said he had, waiting on a response. Woodall made the motion to table. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

HIGHWAY REPORT

Director Clint Maddox:

- 1) United contract for the bridge inspections 2027-2030. Beck made the motion to approve. Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- 2) United contract for pedestrian bridge inspections/bridge 125 pedestrian trail/Old CR 550S over Big Walnut Creek for \$1,100. Paid from the covered bridge fund. Beck made the motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- 3) Resolution authorization for execution of INDOT agreements#2026-3-2-1. Beck made the motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- 4) Broom - 2 quotes 1) Southeastern \$93,734, 2) Brandeis \$81,800. Current one is 15 years old and broken down. Discussion of fixing current one vs. purchasing new. Helmer made the motion to approve Brandeis quote of \$81,800 and pay it from the money they received from selling equipment pending Council approval. Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- 5) Grinder quote \$79,300.
- 6) Tractor quotes. Ran into some problems with getting quotes. Looking at around 190K.
- 7) Bridge 107 has been converted into a culvert pipe and removed from the bridge inventory.
- 8) Bridge 148 – depending on the weather they will start on this bridge next week. It is being converted from bridge to a culvert pipe.
- 9) They have received one of the tandem trucks and hope to have the other one soon.
- 10) Annual operating report to the State is complete and needed Commissioners' signature.

MINUTES

February 16th – Helmer made the motion to approve. Beck seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

February 16th executive – Beck made the motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

SECURITY

Sheriff Baugh researched and put together proposed draft budget to implement security through his department for the courthouse. Beck said the Commissioners had met with the Sheriff to discuss him taking over the security.

Beck questioned a vehicle for the full-time position. Baugh stated all his deputies had a vehicle and felt this one should too. This position would be an acting full-time officer. There could be an incident where this individual would need to transport someone to the jail from the courthouse. Also need a vehicle for training purposes.

Baugh said they were still working on the proposed schedule. But after talking with several counties looking at one full-time officer and three part-time. Once they have the rest of the information, they will have another meeting with the Commissioners.

PURCHASE OF MEDIC WAY PROPERTY

Ensley said there was a meeting this past weekend, he had researched and the county could take the full purchase price for the property out of the hazardous waste fund. Woodall said the county had thought originally, they were only able to utilize 10% of the balance as of January 1st of each year, which is why they had sent out a request for bids to get a loan. They will no longer need a loan. Beck made a motion to request 700K from the hazardous waste fund. Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Auditor Berish will submit additional request to the council.

The second thing that needed to be decided was the proposed remodel cost. They had approved an amount not to exceed 420K at a previous meeting. Woodall made the motion to approve 200K from the hazardous waste fund. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Woodall asked how much the health department could contribute towards the remodel cost. Administrator Assistant Brian Williams stated they could utilize 128K from the local public health services grant. Woodall asked about the vaccine fund. Williams said each year that money goes towards the operation of the department. Woodall said they were still left with a potential balance of 92K needed for the remodel cost. He asked Williams to go back and sharpen his pencil and either find other funds available to their department and/or reduce the remodel price.

MAIL

The Commissioners acknowledged their mail.

ANNEX

Woodall said they have received some preliminary rates from local banks and the open market. Campbell said Baker Tilly had furnished her with some preliminary numbers. Woodall said they would work on having funding mechanisms and payment options to present at the next Council meeting. The plan is to try and keep it minimal or off the property taxes.

TRUSTEES MEETING

Beck said they have a meeting set up on March 10th at 6pm. It will be held in the commissioner meeting room. Woodall said he has a call into Barnes & Thornburg to get the synopsis of the bill regarding township trustees. DLGF will have to grade every township and have until 2029 to merge.

TREE REMOVAL ON NORTH SIDE OF THE COURTHOUSE

The county had received three quotes. Tabled until they talk to Cliff Ross further. The county was looking at them due to safety concerns.

MILESTONE BILL

Ensley said somehow, he had been put in the middle of the county highway department and the city of Greencastle on trying to get this bill paid. The city has been ignoring all attempts to contact them. Discussed the bill. Beck said he felt after this debacle, he does not feel the county should get involved in the future with the city regarding highway work. Robyn Hughes said she would pay it and then go after the city to reimburse the county.

AMERICAN LEGAL - ORDINANCES

Ensley said this online version of ordinances was very helpful to him when he is researching items for the county. Helmer made a motion to approve the continuation of the services. Beck seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURN

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

Andy Beck, President

Tom Helmer, Vice President

Rick Woodall

Attest: Auditor's Office
Kristina Berish