COMMISSIONER MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
April 6, 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:	25 Individuals

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on April 6, 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.

ROACHDALE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT – ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH CUMULATIVE FIRE

Tiffany Deer presented information for the request to establish the fund. They had a hearing last month with the County Council. Tonight is the formal adoption. Submitted an ordinance requesting approval and signatures. It would establish a proposed rate not to exceed $0.0333 on each $100.00 of assessed valuation. It would bring in an estimated $62,000 a year in new revenue that would be put towards purchasing a new fire truck. Beck read ordinance aloud. Helmer made the motion to approve ordinance #2026-04-06-1. Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

AREA 10 AGENCY ON AGING RESOLUTION TO FILE CY2027 GRANT APPLICATION

Helmer made the motion to approve resolution #2026-04-06-2 authorizing the filing of a CY2027 application for a grant. Beck seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

COUNTY PARKS BOARD

Will Bartlett attended the meeting to discuss a piece of land that is the old freight depo. The property is owned by the City of Greencastle and the building by PC Visitors Bureau. Neither entity has any use for it. The city has said they would have their attorney draw up paperwork to transfer it to the county parks board if the Commissioners would accept the transfer. Bartlett said the building would be utilized as their office. The county already owns land to the south of it. The trail by this property would remain the property of the city. The parks board would be responsible for maintaining the property and building. Bartlett said there would be no cost to the county for the property.

Woodall made the motion that if the property qualified the county would accept it from the city. And to have the city and county attorney draw up resolutions to transfer the property. Beck seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Bartlett said he was looking to the future of county parks. The board has been in existence for five years now. His contract with the Visitors Bureau will expire in 2027. Before his contract ends, he wanted to explore potential funding options. They currently survive on $50,000 annually that they receive from partnerships. To expand they would like to increase their annual budget to $200,000 to enable them to purchase land, make improvements, and for staff.

Potential funding mechanisms: property tax rate, local option income tax, or innkeeper's tax. Commissioners asked Director Jared Jernagan what percentage the innkeeper's tax could be dedicated towards county parks. He replied 3% and this should be enough to generate the funds Bartlett is looking for annually. The Commissioners asked Bartlett to do further research on potential funding and come back to them with the information.

COUNTY ROAD 1100 N GRAVEL ROAD

County resident Rex Cloud stated there were approximately 16 houses on the road. It is a gravel road. They are asking if it could be chip and sealed. 1.8 miles. The dust is thick and they cannot open their windows. It is a cut through road, and they have a lot of traffic, and it is like a racetrack. Beck said it was in his district. He wanted to be upfront and tell them he knew it would not get done this year. They do not have the funding in the budget (approximately $100,000). Soonest it could be considered is 2027. Cloud appreciated it and just asked for the road to be reviewed and considered for future road plan.

MAIN STREET GREENCASTLE – USAGE OF COURTHOUSE STEPS

Katie Knaul asked about the usage of the courthouse steps for First Fridays May through October. Ensley said he has gotten the agreement and has filed the waiver and release. Helmer made the motion to approve. Beck seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

FLEET MANAGEMENT FOR SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Sheriff Baugh came to the meeting regarding fleet management for vehicles in his department. Their vehicles are titled under the Board of Commissioners, so he wanted to present an option to them to consider. They have been trying to think outside the box. The maintenance cost to the county continues to rise for them. It is not cost effective.

Baugh handed it over to Sergeant Boller who took the responsibility of fleet manager for the department. Boller passed out information. The proposed change would potentially save 50K on maintenance. They currently have four loans outstanding on vehicles. Changing to fleet management with Enterprise would cut their expenses. They owe 74K for the four vehicles. They have money in their budget to pay off the loans.

A rep from Enterprise broke down how the fleet management would work. Instead of keeping vehicles for eight years, they would lease vehicles for three to four years. The cost savings on maintenance alone make this program more viable for the county financially. According to the projection starting in 2026 through 2030. he estimated a savings of 155K. No mileage restraints on the vehicles. No wear and tear penalties. They also offer unparalleled maintenance oversight. They also empower clients through actionable data: comprehensive fleet list, order status updates, maintenance insights, operator insights, and fuel spend.

Woodall questioned the usage of Enterprise because this is what they utilize in the highway department and it has not gone well. The company had told the county they were done at the end of the contract which is in two years. They will then have five vehicles they will have to purchase. Jake said he had done some research on this situation, and it sounded like miscommunication between the company and the county. Poor communication.

Woodall is not opposed to this option but wants to make sure we know exactly what we are getting into and what to expect so we avoid the problem they had at the highway department. Jake said they would make sure communication is set up correctly from the start if they proceed.

The funding is in this year's budget for the plan. And what they were estimating for 2027 budget, they would be under the 2027 amount as well.

RADIO RFP

This was tabled due to Terry Burnsworth, Pyramid having a death in the family.

HIGHWAY REPORT

Highway Assistant Director Robyn Hughes presented:

1) Bridge 211 – company awarded the project is now not able to do it. Ensley said they should bring the bids back that were submitted for review
2) Oakalla Bridge – $296,435 to reopen this bridge
3) Huffman Covered Bridge – asked for estimates, waiting
4) Credit card requests – Helmer made the motion to approve credit card for Lonnie Morlan with a credit limit of $1,500 and to increase Robyn Hughes to $2,500 from $1,000. Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
5) Dust oil program – did not budget for it. Lee Hoopingarner is asking if the county wanted to offer it. The residents would pay for it upfront to Lee, but the highway would help with equipment.
6) Bridge 45 – received four bids. Hughes felt they would need to look at federal aid project since it is estimated to cost 3M. Kurdziel Barker $3,127,400, United $3,065,690, DLZ $3,769,510, and Civilcon $2,135,000 (bid does not include utility coordination, hydraulic, or RW). Civilcon rep explained why that was not included in their bid. Beck felt this bridge needed to be started on.

If funded locally looking at 2028 or 2029 before it was started. Hughes said the county would need to look at coming up with 3M unless they did federal aid then 20%. Woodall pointed out that not all the bids included the price of disassembling the current bridge and removing it. Hughes said the only option of funding is the cumulative bridge fund. The design portion of the bid. Beck made the motion to approve the bid of 185K from Civilcon for design work and to pay from the cumulative bridge fund. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

EMS AMBULANCE BIDS

Director Kelly Russ suggested going with proposal from PennCare. Beck made the motion to approve proposal #1 from PennCare in the amount of $306,015. Delivery January 2027. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The Commissioners asked Ensley to add a penalty clause in the agreement if not delivered by this date. He will add it and submit it to the company for review.

ANNEX BAKER TILLY PAPERWORK

Agreement for investment advisory services - Woodall recommended waiting until we see if we need it. The other two agreed.
Preliminary official statement – Beck signed the document.

MINUTES

March 16, 2026 – Helmer made the motion to approve. Beck seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
March 26, 2026 – Helmer made the motion to approve. Beck seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MAIL

The Commissioners acknowledged their mail.

OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS

Woodall said there is another round of funds available, he will submit application.

VFW BUZZ BOMB FUND

VFW asked the Commissioners to take over this fund. They no longer want to be the administrator. It is being held at the community foundation. Woodall will get the paperwork to get that transferred over to the county.

ADJOURN

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

Andy Beck, President	**Tom Helmer, Vice President**
Rick Woodall	**Attest: Auditor's Office** **Kristina Berish**