

COMMISSIONER MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
May 4, 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:	22 Individuals

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on May 4, 2026, at 6:00PM 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 said there has been rumors going around the county verbally and on social media regarding the annex and building for the health department that he wanted to address. The county was not raising property taxes to pay for either building. Both projects are money well spent.

If you question if the county needs to build an annex, come to the courthouse and go through it. You will see that we have outgrown the building. That it is past time to move some of the offices out of the courthouse to give those departments more space and the departments left at the courthouse.

The health department building was purchased from our percentage of the tipping fees we receive annually. No property taxes. It did not cost the taxpayers a dime. The health department is currently located in the hospital, and they had to move out, we must provide them with space. Ensley said the tipping fees can only be spent on certain things, and this is one of them.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT – BIDS FOR VEHICLES

Sergeant Boller said it had been advertised to submit bids for vehicles seized or not used anymore. Boller asked to add a Tahoe to the list of vehicles. Woodall made the motion to add. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The county received one bid from Gordon Curtis located in Stilesville, IN. The bid for all vehicles is \$5,400. Beck made the motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

POLICE OFFICERS REMEMBRANCE DAY PROCLAMATION

Sheriff Baugh presented proclamation making May 15, 2026, as Remembrance Day. Beck read aloud. Beck made the motion to approve. Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

JRAC OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDING RECOMMENDATION

Jamie France said the sub-committee had reviewed applicants and made recommendations to the full JRAC board. It was the following: \$600 Cloverdale High School for clubs and \$10,000 Cummins Behavioral Health Systems (renewal application). Helmer made the motion to approve. Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

France also gave a summary report, total awarded thus far is \$407,889. He also completes an annual report to the state.

COURTHOUSE BIDS FOR CHILLERS

Head Custodian Cliff Ross presented quotes from A.A. Huber & Sons. They gave three options:

- 1) \$36,371 chiller circuit #2 compressor replacement (fixes it to run at 50%)
- 2) \$26,104 chiller circuit #1 condenser coil replacement (fixes it to run at 100%)
- 3) \$175,051 Daikin chiller replacement (full replacement)

Ross felt it was not necessary to do a full replacement. He recommended going with option 1 & 2. Woodall asked if the air conditioner would need to be shut down while doing option 1 & 2. Ross said yes. He could ask them to do it over a weekend. \$62,475 total quote. Woodall made the motion to approve options 1 & 2 and not to exceed 65K from cumulative capital development fund pending Council approval. And to request the work be done on a weekend. Beck seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

HIGHWAY REPORT

Director Clint Maddox presented:

- 1) Oakalla covered bridge sent out a request for quotes to Civilcon, CLR, and ECS. Received no reply. Collum Excavating did submit something that includes repairs to make it structurally sound. Quote of \$296,435. Woodall made the motion to approve bridge 121 quote and to pay it from the cumulative bridge fund pending Council approval. Beck seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- 2) Huffman covered bridge – told the lean can be corrected. The bridge does have structural issues. Similar fix to Oakalla to open to normal weight traffic. No cost yet.
- 3) Community crossings funds, spoke with Milestone possibly start on roads this week depending on weather. This month for sure. 2027 can be submitted on September 1, 2026. Maddox has started on the road list to submit to the board for review.
- 4) Dust control will start after school is out. Great Lakes Chloride is another option, but they are higher \$471 per 300 feet. The highway department would still need to prep road.
- 5) Fuel station the pumps are out of regular gas, but they do have diesel fuel left. After a day or two, demolition will start on their facility.
- 6) On May 11 they will start 4-day work week. This is a consensus of the highway department to continue doing as their summer hours. They realize there are three holidays that will

affect their total hours worked: Memorial Day, July 4, and Juneteenth. Beck felt county was better off working 5 days a week.

MINUTES

April 20, 2026 – Helmer made the motion to approve. Beck seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MAIL

The Commissioners acknowledged their mail.

FLEET MANAGEMENT FOR SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Sergeant Boller and Jake with Enterprises:

Boller dug deeper into their fleet. They feel this would help them with their future budgets for vehicles. Jake went over the updated information. Commissioners asked questions as to how the program would operate and how it would change the budget each year for the sheriff.

Commissioners asked the sheriff if this was what he wanted to move towards to which the answer was yes. Woodall made the motion to approve. Beck seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Jake said there are three vehicles approved last year to be financed with First National Bank, they want those vehicles transferred to the Enterprise program. Jake said he could work with the bank. Ensley will have to look at the agreement with the bank.

FLEET MANAGEMENT FOR HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Jake went over the information for the highway's fleet. The change would generate 21K of annual savings. Maddox would like to run the numbers with him again and have a better understanding of the program before they say yes. Maddox also stated they want to do their own maintenance.

THRIVE PROGRAM

Woodall said he sits on this board as the Commissioner representative. THRIVE is beginning a new program and the grant is up to 500K. The grant would help low-income families to do renovations on their home such as a roof, air conditioning, heat, windows, and a ramp for a wheelchair. This helps maintain the value of homes in the county. This would be a 10% local match; the county could potentially need to match a maximum amount of 50K. THRIVE does all the necessary paperwork and leg work. Once he has more details, he will convey the information to the Commissioners and Council.

BUZZ BOMB

Woodall said community foundation had started the process of transferring the money to the county. The money can only be used for maintenance of the buzz bomb. Ensley said he would set up a meeting between the foundation, Auditor, and himself to get the money transferred to the county.

ARPA FUNDS

Woodall said he is still doing the reporting on the funds the county received several years ago. He would like to spend the remaining balance left, which is approximately 26K, so the fund can be closed out. Baker Tilly helps with the reports so we will need to leave money to pay them their final bill. Since the county received under 10M the money can be spent on anything. Beck suggested maybe it could be put towards the expense of fixing the chillers in the courthouse.

FUEL BUDGET

Woodall is concerned with departments fuel budget. The price of fuel went up significantly. Department heads should be looking at their fuel budget and see if they will run short for the year. If they are, how much additional money will they need so that the county can see how to fund the shortage.

CLINTON TOWNSHIP

Beck asked for help seeking someone that lives in Clinton Township to serve on the Walnut Creek fire board. Anyone interested needs to contact one of them.

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