COMMISSIONER MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
September 8, 2026
6:00 PM

ATTENDANCE:	
COMMISSIONERS:	Andy Beck, President
	Tom Helmer, Vice President
	Rick Woodall
COUNCIL:	Stephanie Campbell, President
AUDITOR'S OFFICE	Jody Cope
AUDIENCE:	26 Individuals

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on September 8, 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.

Public Hearing – County's OCRA Owner Occupied Rehabilitation program grant

- Chris Krueger and Kristy Whitaker from Thrive present to explain the program and the objectives. Funding will be used to pay local contractors to do work for low-income families, Veterans, over 62, and disabled residents. Work may include HVAC, roof work, handicap accessibility upgrades, etc. Electrical work will not fall under this program. There is a radon test requirement before any work can be approved. There are income limits as well that are set by HUD. The county grant request is for a $500,000 and the county match would be $60,000. A decision for the grant approval would be made by January or February of 2027. They suggested a letter from the commissioners accompanying the application and provided the commissioners with a sample letter. The application deadline is November 1st but she would like to get it done by October 31st.
- Betsy Demmings from VA office spoke regarding this program and the benefits for disabled veterans.
- Andy closed the public hearing and made motion to approve. Tom seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Andy read resolution 2026-09-08-1, declaration of intent to apply and match funds. Andy will coordinate with the OCRA liaison for a meeting date/time. Andy made motion to submit application and match the funds. Tom seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Highway Report

Clint and Robyn presented:

- Fuel system cost overrun issue, they are billing for an additional $26,000 that was not disclosed prior to the storage agreement. There were some issues that were not the county's fault. There were things that happened that the highway dept was not made aware of. Andy said he doesn't think it should be paid and they can have the county attorney investigate it.

- Set date for Monday 9-14-26 at 8am at the highway department to discuss budget.
- Community Crossings commitment letter needs signed by all commissioners.
- New excavator request made - cost is $344,620 (after a 26% discount); received interest rates from 3 banks: Caterpillar with 4.99%, FNB at 4.35%, and Tri County at 5.75 %. 3 bids have been submitted so far. Will discuss further at 9-14-26 meeting. This is in the budget for 2027 for $345.000.
- Request of addition of one more operator and reduction of truck drivers by one (5 operators/ 12 drivers); operators are more versatile and the pay would increase this driver by $5,000 annually. Historically, there have been 13 truck drivers and 4 operators. But it makes more sense to have 14 drivers and 5 operators. Council will need to approve additional pay. Andy made motion to go before council for approval. Tom seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Weight limit and speed limit signs placed on CR 700 S.
- Somerset Road: Andy requested additional stop sign at Y due to the current flow of traffic potentially causing issues; Clint will investigate this.
- State Farm Road needs to have road study.
- Covered bridge in Clinton Falls repairs so closing at 231/59 to Bellmore.

Sheriff – Bids for water heater/softener, van at jail, and contract for Axon body cameras

- JT Chadd present to discuss the Sycamore Engineering bid of $149,612.17 for water heater replacement; no other bids received.
- Discussion of where funds can be used for this – war chest or rainy-day funds and Stephanie suggested this will need to be discussed with Kristina (Auditor) as she and Jody did not have access to the current account balances. Tom made motion for council to review and determine what funds can be used. Rick seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- 2nd bid for temporary water heater will need to be used and will cost $70,872.84. It's an outside unit that runs on fuel for an estimated 10-day window. Andy motioned for council to review and approve what funds can be used for this cost. Tom seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- 3rd bid is for the water softener- $12,705.18. Andy made motion to approve using war chest or rainy-day funds pending council approval. Tom seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Sgt. Josh Boller presented information on a 2026 Voyager transport van needed for the jail and a 2026 Traverse for the jail commander. Historically, the vehicles for these positions are not included in budget. If they get vehicles through the 4 yr Enterprise deal, there would be an additional $20,000 per year. These vehicles should be able to be used for more than 4 years. Baugh does not recommend leasing. Public safety funds can be used for vehicle purchases. Rick made a motion to approve 2026 Traverse not to exceed $45,000 and 2026 Voyager van not to exceed $42,000. Andy seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Tom Sutherlin presented bodycam contract. This would be for 36 brand new cameras for merit and reserve deputies. The current body cameras are split under two different contracts. The new contract would be with AXON and begin in Jeff/Feb 2027. Under this contract they would get cameras replaced again in 2 years and once again at the end of the contract which

would expire in February 2032. Andy gives Baugh permission to sign contracts. Funds are already in the budget for this expense. $62,000 for the upgrade and $51,000 per year after this. Tom made motion to approve new contract for body cameras. Andy seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Garmong

- Mitch Hanam presented commissioners with a shovel and a clerical cleanup of legal entity associated with a GMP on the annex. He stated that there are no changes to the contract/no dollar impact- just some clerical cleanup on their side; the PPA amendment is simply because there was a change in the legal name and the amendment must be done as a result; the new name change will be inserted for future payments. Rick made motion to change documentation to include new name for payments to be made. Tom seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Extension Center

- Jenna Nees brought in the new lease: cost is $2,010/month or $6,030/quarter; she also brought a report showing numbers for extension center/4H enrollment for review. Rick made motion to approve the lease. Tom seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Humane Society

- Barbara South presented the estimate for $8,629 to replace the air ducts at the animal shelter. This would include a monthly service membership of $18 per month. This fee can be cancelled after 4 months and really is just to get the discounted price of $8,629.
- This is not a local company but the other 2 quotes from local companies were not as extensive in their assessment. The quotes were considerably more expensive.
- Funds could be taken from county general or rainy day, but Kristina (Auditor) will need to review and report back. Tom made motion. Andy seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
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Terry Burnsworth- Towers

- Need to check with county attorney on whether Bainbridge approved the new location site as Stephanie was not sure this had happened yet.
- Two simu cast system with VHF channel. 6 licenses from FCC and utilizing 3 right off the start. 2 phase system but we are under phase 1. The equipment is finished and the Tower material should be done soon but process slowed down due to flooding in Kentucky
- Once Tower is completed, they will do many months of testing that could last through spring of 2027 to get the required testing done (fall/winter brings lack of trees/leaves and testing will not be complete without these)
- The system will run alongside the State, but this system will be better
- The system can be used with the current system

County Fire Feasibility Study

- Envoy: $20,500 for first phase eval and additional fees outside of 15 hours initially charged at several hourly rates
- DCCM: $36,000 and additional fees of $2,500
- DLZ: $42,700 for the 1st phase/ $80,500 for the second phase
- Rick pointed out that each proposal has different components but realistically they are close in costs, but Envoy has a lot of what-ifs and more difficult to nail down on the costs and his opinion is to eliminate them.
- Many steps involved in this process and if fire district approved by end of 2026, the funds can begin to be collected in 2028. There will be 8-10 phases of the study and should be able to determine in the early phases if this is option for the county.
- Meetings will be conducted with each fire department in the county and whatever firm is chosen will be helping to determine if this can even be done in our county; Andy pointed out this process will be very costly initially and does not want to put the burden on the taxpayers as he would prefer to put it on the households countywide
- The goal is not to eliminate volunteers
- Rob Frank, Greencastle Fire Chief, spoke and wanted to know if the study will include staffing models and operational costs. Commissioners confirmed it would be included and stated that 911 reports would be used to determine the areas that departments would be placed. He inquired about the high costs and Beck stated this was the worst-case scenario for start-up.
- The study results will be shared with all departments in the county.
- Andy and Rick both feel the study will be thorough and accurate in costs and projection.
- Rick stated he is good with either DCCM or DLZ as he feels very strongly about the need for this system. Rick made motion to go with DLZ. Helmer seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Holiday Schedule and Leave of Absences

- Holiday schedule read by Andy. Tom made motion to approve. Rick seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Both leaves approved. Andy made motion to approve. Rick seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Weights and Measures

- Helmer found a potential vehicle but unsure of all the details. Rick made a motion to approve the purchase of a vehicle once they can find a suitable one and funds to come out of county general pending Council approval. Andy seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Firearms trade in

- Baugh purchased 30 Glocks @ $361.90 each. This was a great deal, and he took advantage of it. He can now trade in the Sig Sauers for $225/each. He needs the board's approval. Helmer made motion to approve. Rick seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes

August 3, 10, and 25 (executive & regular) - Rick made the motion to approve all meetings. Tom seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Mail

The Commissioners acknowledged the mail.

Korean War Vets

- Tom made a request for a plaque for 7 Korean War vets from our county to be put up and this will be paid for by the 3rd floor. Rick said he is good with that and Andy confirmed he is as well. No formal motion made.

County Attorney Interviews

- Set dates and times: 9-21-26, 9-25-26, and 9-28-26 from 11am – 1pm. Beck made motion to interview all applicants. Rick seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Drainage Board

- Discussed needing to set a follow up meeting to discuss the need and how the board will be set up and established to handle many current drainage issues throughout the county. However, the date was not set due to commissioner schedules.

Drainage Issues

- Larry Davis in to speak about a culvert at 231 W CR 1000 S that was put in October 2021. Since then, it has gotten worse. Clint with highway has done all they can at this point; need to have a hydrology study done so they can figure something out. They will follow up with Larry in a month or so.

Adjourn

Andy made the motion to adjourn. Rick seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

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Andy Beck, President **Tom Helmer, Vice President**

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Rick Woodall **Attest: Auditor's Office, Jody Cope**