COMMISSIONER MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
September 21, 2026
9:00 AM

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 September 21, 2026, at 9:00AM in regular session. The meeting was held at the Putnam County Courthouse. Beck opened the meeting and the pledge to the flag was given.

ANNEX UPDATE

Woodall stated the annex is moving along. It is currently eight days behind schedule due to weather, but they are working to catch up.

EMS REQUEST FOR VENDOR TO BE PAID VIA EMERGENCY CLAIMS

Director Kelly Russ requested if their vendor Mckesson could be paid through emergency claims. There is a short turnaround from the company from when they generate the invoice until they expect to be paid. She has spoken with them on several occasions, and they will not work with the county on how we pay bills and they keep charging them late fees. The board asked the auditor if her department had issue with the requested change. Berish said she did not, they just needed the Commissioners' approval, and they could start paying the vendor through the emergency claims process. Helmer made the motion to approve. Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

STATFLIGHT

Jeff Miller Vice President PHI Cares stated Statflight is one of their vendors. This countywide program would benefit all the residents in the county instead of the first proposed program that was for just the county government employees. If a county resident was in Clay, Montgomery, Hendricks, Putnam and was flown by StatFlight they would be 100% covered by this program and would not have any out-of-pocket expense. The annual cost would be $73,482. This is estimated by a formula using the 12,247 approximate households in the county.

An individual would have the option to pay a $40 upgrade fee and be covered across the country. StatFlight since 2025 has flown 115 patients in Putnam County. If the county was interested, for a small upgrade charge they could broaden the coverage area.
Russ said this would allow for no expenses to residents since EMS has their policy on billing. They request StatFlight first above other companies. Miller said this would be a great benefit for those that have a high deductible and then also must pay a percentage of the cost.

Beck asked what happened if they did not fly the resident. Miller said there would be no coverage for that flight and the bill would need to be paid by the residents. Out of the 180 flights since 2025 they did not cover approximately 40. Which means they flew 80% of the runs.

Woodall asked about the limit of how many times a person would cover in a year. Or is it one person per household a year. Miller said there was not a cap. If someone flew more than once a year, or unfortunate event of a family needing to be flown they would be covered.

They currently have this program in Fountain and Warren County. Commissioners felt this was a better approach than previous presentations. They liked the fact that it was a benefit for the entire county and not just county employees.

Commissioners asked if this could be paid from public safety LIT or hazardous waste fund. County attorney looked up statutes. Ensley did not believe it was an allowable expense from the hazardous waste fund but potentially from the LIT fund. Beck made the motion to approve pending County Council approval of funds. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously. They will draw up an agreement and get it submitted to the county attorney and board for review and approval.

OPIOID FUNDS

Jamie France, JRAC said the committee had met and want to move application process to one time a year. This logistically will help them throughout the process. Whatever funds are available in restricted and unrestricted they would like it appropriated the beginning of each year. The current process takes 2-3 months to complete and get funds to an entity. November 2, 2026, first Monday of November each year. Commissioners approved new process.

WASHINGTON NATIONAL INSURANCE

Kim Payne said they use to work with the county for supplemental insurance until 2019/2020 when they were no longer able to continue the service. They are in the process of trying to rebuild the company and their past relationships.

Berish stated she had come into the Auditor's office, and the payroll specialist had explained since they had left the county a new program had been put into place with Guardian. We had a contract for all supplemental insurance through them. There was no need or want to add another company. Company asked what if they could work with Guardian to be a provider through them.

Berish stated if Guardian decided to use them over the current company being used for supplemental insurance it would not change how payroll/HR handles the insurance so their office would have no problem. The problem only comes if the county allows multiple companies like they did years ago to go around asking employees if they wanted an insurance plan. And then they would have 1 to 5 employees on all these plans. It is a lot of extra work for so few participants. That is why this practice was eliminated at least 15 years ago.

REZONING MAUDIE IVY

Director Lisa Zeiner said the owner has asked for it to be rezoned from A1 to A2. The request is due to wanting to split off property for a family member to build a home on her property. No remonstrators at the meeting and unanimous favorable recommendation. Beck made the motion to approve ordinance 2026-09-21-01. Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

TOWN OF BAINBRIDGE - PLANNING

Zeiner stated the Town of Bainbridge relinquished their planning and BZA and want to turn it over to the county. They could not find individuals to serve on the boards. Interlocal agreement was signed in July, and she just got it. This is something the county already does for some of the towns. Beck made the motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

TOWN OF FILLMORE BUILDING PERMITS

Zeiner said the Town of Fillmore has had some building permit issues with the state. Anything built inside the town limits did not follow protocol. The state came in and told them they needed to have a planning and zoning, or state would be coming in. The town wants to enter an interlocal agreement with the county for the building side of things only. Building permits only. Woodall made the motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

BAKER TILLY CONSULTING AGREEMENTS FOR ANALYZING PROPOSED FIRE DISTRICT

Woodall stated as the county should be aware from prior discussions in meetings the county has been discussing a fire district due to changes in the law. We are in step 4 which is to look at reviewing the financial analysis. It will take approximately six weeks to complete the study. Woodall made the motion to approve not to exceed 20K. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Pay from warchest EDIT fund pending Council approval.

HIGHWAY REPORT

Director Clint Maddox and Assistant Director Robyn Hughes presented:

1) Closing of 500N Shortcut Road this morning. Removing guardrail and start digging tomorrow to remove Bridge 78 and replace with culvert. May be closed through next week.
2) Bridge 167 & 183 have pipes to get them replaced.
3) Bridge 92 Clinton Falls due to start on 10/5 tentatively.
4) Bridge 211 Jefferson Twp closed. Beams are being cut for it. Unsure on start date. Depends on when other bridges are started. Be in October sometime, hopefully.

5) Finishing chip & seal this week.
6) Mark Gubser is retiring next week. Worked for county 45 years.
7) Beck asked about roads that have one house on it giving the road to the property owner. They will work on the list.

COUNTY CREDIT CARDS

Auditor Berish said she had asked her First Deputy to research other banks/companies for a possible change in where we get the credit cards for the county departments. The request was made due to each month having to cut a physical check for each card issued and mail to the current company we use. The current vendor does not have the capability or the inclination to allow electronic payments. This is additional work and expense each month. They are now requesting her deputy make a ledger each month to go along with the checks. It has also been a problem of the checks getting lost in the mail. This has happened more than once. Berish handed over presentation to Williams.

Deputy Evelyn Williams said she had reached out to several companies. The one she recommends to the board is Everwise. This company will allow electronic payments, which makes it far more efficient and cost-savings to the county. The departments will have access to their account (administrator will assign roles), instant access to statements, options to attach receipts, dispute button, automated fraud alerts, the administrator can automatically (with permission from the Board of Commissioners) add new cards, shut-off cards, and order a replacement card. The card also has rewards which would be used to pay balance owed on a card which saves the county tax dollars. This is all at no cost to the county. Woodall made the motion to approve switching to Everwise. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2027 SCHEDULES

Payroll – Woodall made the motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
Claims – Woodall made the motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
Meetings – Beck made the motion to move back to having both of their meetings at 9 am. Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES

September 8, 2026 – Helmer made the motion to approve. Beck seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MAIL

The Commissioners acknowledged their mail.

LITTERING

County resident Rick Beach came to the meeting to discuss littering in the county. He proposed amending ordinance to put more teeth in it for individuals caught littering. The Commissioners took it under advisement.

ADJOURN

Helmer 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**