

COMMISSIONERS MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
May 2, 2022 9:00 AM

ATTENDANCE:

COMMISSIONERS:	Rick Woodall, President Thomas Helmer, Vice President David Berry
ATTORNEY:	James Ensley
AUDITOR:	Kristina Berish
COUNCIL:	David Fuhrman Larry Parker Stephanie Campbell Phil Gick
AUDIENCE:	29 Individuals

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on May 2, 2022, at 9:00 AM at the Putnam County Courthouse. Rick Woodall opened the meeting and the pledge to the flag was given.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

Director Jamie France presented a grant application for the Commissioners to review and approve. Woodall made the motion to submit a letter of support for the grant application for 2023. Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

US 231 RIGHT OF WAY PROPOSAL

Jim Ensley said in front of where EMS building was located, they need a construction easement to widen the area. Need a temporary easement not to exceed 3 years. The county would receive \$3,000. Ensley said there was some clean up work needing to get done regarding deeds, etc. If no problem, he would present paperwork to the Commissioners at their next meeting. Commissioners advised to proceed and bring paperwork to next meeting.

VAN BIBBER LAKE – RESOLUTION FOR SECURITY

Attorney Jeff Boggess came to the meeting to discuss private contract with Sheriff Deputies for security. The Sheriff's Office wanted it to be run by the Commissioners to make sure there was not an issue before proceeding. Woodall questioned the signatures on the resolution. After discussion, it would be researched and corrected. Helmer made the motion to approve. Berry seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

FARM ISSUES

Morrison wanted to bring up some issues to make sure the Commissioners were made aware of. Richards at last meeting said there was run off from their property killing fish and causing contamination. IDEM came out and checked. Findings were zero violations. Richards committed a federal offense by coming to Commissioners and IDEM making these unfounded allegations.

Another topic was bringing in farm items onto the property. The ordinance says no items can be brought onto the property except for items allowed per the ordinance. Ordinance gives a large allowance to what can be brought onto the property. Morrison felt Richards, the Judge and attorneys were not reading the full document to see that other farm items were allowed.

Jim Ensley said Trudy Selvia had said Morrisons complied. However, the Judge was stating otherwise. Morrison said there has defamation by the Richards and wanted the Commissioners to have the truth of what was happening.

Woodall said it was on the books for May 17, 2022, to go before the court again. Morrison wanted the Commissioners to know individuals representing them had lied, he had documentation with him proving that statement. He did not want the Commissioners unbeknownst to themselves being complacent. Before now they were not able to give their side, they had been silenced for eight years.

Ensley said on more than one occasion the county has said Morrison was complying and did not take issue with the property. It was the Judge stating they were not. Selvia had filed to the court the county's position.

Morrison gave documentation to the Woodall to read.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

Helmer made the motion to approve and designate May as mental health awareness month. Berry seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Woodall read aloud the proclamation.

PROCLAMATION FOR FALLEN OFFICERS POLICE WEEK

Berry made the motion to approve the proclamation for May 11 – 17, 2022. May 15, 2022 is set for the Peace Officer's Memorial Day. Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Woodall read the proclamation aloud.

PLANNING & ZONING

Planning Director Lisa Zeiner presented the easement request in Limesdale for Boswell. Need the easement for drainage issues property owner is wanting to fix. Zeiner had spoken with Jim Ensley regarding the request. If it ultimately caused an issue later then the county could revoke the easement. Woodall made the motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Ensley will draft something to record.

Contract with Christopher Burke for stormwater. Zeiner needed signatures only, contract had already been approved at a previous meeting. Commissioners signed.

Woodall asked about Solar Ordinance. Zeiner is currently working on updates to make us more in line with the law.

Contract received from HWC, reviewing it before she presents to the Commissioners. Be at next meeting.

ANNUAL CONGRESSIONAL SCHOOL REPORT

Woodall made the motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

MOWING COVERED BRIDGES

Bids were requested by the Visitors Bureau. One quote received. Newgent Lawncare Service submitted in the amount of \$6,702.50, Berry made the motion to approve and pay from the covered bridge fund. Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

DLZ PROPOSAL STUDY

Laurie Christie with DLZ had submitted an agreement to do a study to see the space needs for the county for an annex. Contract in the amount of \$7,500. Woodall made the motion to approve pay it out of the annex fund. Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

HIGHWAY

Rick Woodall made the introduction of Jim Peck the new Highway Supervisor/Engineer. Peck went over report he submitted. Contract for Milestone for Community Crossings. Woodall made the motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Ensley presented resolution for authorizing President to sign for INDOT contracts. Berry made the motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Highway Department additional \$400,000 for fuel to be appropriated. Additional \$40,000 for total patcher.

Bridge 276 update – they had met with representatives from engineering firm and construction company. Right of way had been cleared. Finalizing demolition plan. Project still on schedule for substantial completion of September 15, 2022 and final completion on September 30, 2022.

Gravel roads and culverts – Peck said they need to do further research and have discussion. He felt the county may want to look at enacting a policy to address these types of issues.

Bridge inspection – Peck will complete RFP next week for the 2023-2026 inspection/inventory report. Anticipated posting by INDOT on May 16, 2022. Due date of June 17, 2022.

NOFA bridge projects – Peck reviewing the current reports. Prioritizing bridge projects to take advantage of the Biden/Harris infrastructure funding. He planned to recommend several structures for the 2027 fiscal year bridge funding availability.

ROOFING CONTRACT

Berry problem with roof and it was still under warranty. They are coming Wednesday. In around 2 weeks there will be some work on the sidewalks to make them more even.

SECURITY CAMERAS COURTHOUSE

Helmer said cameras will be placed outside the courthouse. Commissioners will be looking at other things to do to tighten security.

HWC CONTRACT

Jim Ensley stated he needed some direction from the Commissioners. The company has offered while they were out doing the county, they could do the towns as well. However, there would be an additional fee for part of the work. Did the Commissioners want to pay this fee or offer it to the towns, and they would pay it themselves? After some discussion, it was decided they should approach the towns and give them the option. If they did decide to have it done by HWC the county would pay the bill. Woodall made the motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

EDIT AMENDMENT

Ensley asked if Baker Tilly contract was being paid from EDIT? Yes at 3/21 meeting motion said EDIT.

FAIRGROUNDS

Ensley where was Commissioners paying the \$12,900 they agreed to pay. Fairgrounds had dropped the MOU, what does the Commissioners want to do? The MOU does not have a charge for usage if building needed for county emergency. Berry asked if the county needed an MOU. Ensley said the county could not make the board let them use it. Would need an agreement. Commissioners felt they needed an agreement drawn up. What changes did they want? Ensley said we need a rate spelled out per day charge. Once Ensley has changes submitted to him, he will draw up an MOU and submit to fair board.

ARPA

Woodall said they went through remainder of items:

Premium pay Woodall had contacted the departments (Health, E911, Sheriff & EMS) and will be meeting with all 4 of them to get a number.

Putnam County Library – approved technology up to 40K last week. Woodall wants to get with them and go over the other requests

Berry meeting with homeless shelter

Hospice 21K

EMS approved part of their requests

Fire depts 50K each exception City of Greencastle

Tabled Putnam food pantry

Woodall said some will get it all in one payment, others will be two. He will contact the entities.

READI GRANT

Kristin Clary our region received 20M. Currently working through the requirements and see what projects could be done. Heritage Lake is one of the first projects they are working on.

She also brought up abatement from last Council meeting.

PROPOSALS FOR COUNTYWIDE EMAILS

Woodall would like to decide at the next meeting what direction they were going to go.

JUDGE CLAIM

Woodall said a claim in the amount of \$440 had been submitted to reimburse for a stereo damaged due to water from heating/air unit in Judge's chambers. Discussion. Helmer made the motion to deny request since it is personal equipment. Berry seconded. The motion carried.

EXECUTIVE JOINT MEETING NEEDED

Ensley said there was a personnel matter needing to be addressed by a joint meeting of Commissioners and Council. Meeting set for May 17th at 6:15 pm.

CLAIMS

April 21, 2022 – Berry made the motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

April 29, 2022 – Woodall made the motion to approve. Berry seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

May 2, 2022 – Berry made the motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

PAYROLL

April 22, 2022 – Helmer made the motion to approve. Berry seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

MINUTES

April 18, 2022 – Helmer made the motion to approve. Berry seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

ARPA CLAIM – FIRE DEPARTMENT

Signed and approved fire department claims for Bainbridge, Floyd, Cloverdale and Fillmore 25K each.

MAIL

The Board of Commissioners acknowledged their mail.

ADJOURN

Berry made a motion to adjourn. Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Rick Woodall, President

Thomas Helmer, Vice President

David Berry

Attest: Auditor's Office
Kristina Berish