

COMMISSIONERS MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
May 16, 2022 9:00 AM

ATTENDANCE:

COMMISSIONERS:	Rick Woodall, President Thomas Helmer, Vice President
ATTORNEY:	James Ensley
AUDITOR:	Kristina Berish
COUNCIL:	David Fuhrman Larry Parker Phil Gick
AUDIENCE:	21 Individuals

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on May 16, 2022, at 9:00 AM at the Putnam County Courthouse. Rick Woodall opened the meeting and the pledge to the flag was given.

HEALTH INSURANCE

Eric Dreyfus had come to a meeting back in February and was touching base with the Commissioners again. He felt the company he worked for could save the county money on the health insurance premiums. He approximated a savings of 500K a year. Woodall questioned that kind of savings and the quality of what we would be receiving. Presuming this was not with Anthem. Mr. Dreyfus said he was correct; this change would mean the county would no longer have Anthem.

After some discussion, the Commissioners asked for references for the company. They would review and decide from that point if they wanted to sign a letter of authorization for them to receive information from Anthem.

GIS DEPARTMENT

GIS Deputy Robbie Cudnik presented an electronic map data application agreement to grant permission to purchase and use GIS data from CoreLogic. The county would receive \$250. Helmer made the motion to approve. Woodall seconded. The motion carried.

MORRISON

William and Sonya Morrison came to the meeting concerned because they heard the county's attorney would not be present in tomorrow. He felt there should be representation. He also cautioned no one would be allowed in his bird area due to it being bird flu season. Mr. Morrison also said Richards (neighbor) has done nothing but harass them and due to what he had done it could lead to a criminal case.

Mr. Morrison felt the county's attorney had not pushed the court hard enough to get this finalized. This has been going on for years and it needed to be closed. Woodall advised to Morrison again the county had submitted for it to be done. The Judge denied request.

Morrison also felt the zoning ordinance needed to be clarified more to protect the county.

PLANNING & ZONING – HWC CONTRACT

Planning Director Lisa Zeiner presented the contract needing to be signed. Approved at a prior meeting. The strike outs on the contract were due to County Attorney Jim Ensley asking those areas to be removed due to not pertaining to the county.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Highway Engineer/Supervisor Jim Peck gave an update:

Milestone contract approved at previous meeting had been forwarded to INDOT. They were preparing an LPA/INDOT contract for Woodall to sign via docusign. Contract would then be signed by the State Attorney General and returned to the county. Then Milestone would get notice to proceed with project.

2021 Operations report – reviewed, approved, and signed. Report uploaded to LTAP DMS.

Bridge 276 – White construction updated the railroad demolition plan and submitted to CSX railroad. Project was still on schedule.

Evaluating existing equipment regarding remaining service life, maintenance expense, usefulness, rotation, and current resale/trade-in value.

Bridge inspection report – RFP has been posted by INDOT. Consultants required to submit by June 10th.

Bridge improvement plan – request Commissioners to approve USI Consultants for an “on-call” contract not to exceed 50K agreement. Currently there is 25K appropriated in the 2022 budget. Discussion, Commissioners tabled to get more information.

Personnel evaluations – conducted interviews with internal personnel to replace a person retiring in July. Peck needs to discuss the restructure of the management and administrative staff. Commissioners will have an Executive meeting at the Highway department on May 19th at 10 am.

Credit card for Peck with a limit of 5K. Woodall made the motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion carried.

Woodall brought up situations when a driveway caves in. The county addresses certain situations but it had nothing in place for this. It happened on 700N (Waterworks Hill). The drive was at the bottom of a half mile hill, so all the water comes down and it causes an issue. The homeowner had hired someone to come and look at it. They cautioned that it could cause a problem for the county regarding the pipe and road. After some discussion Woodall said he would discuss further with fellow Commissioners and Peck and get back with homeowner. They will have a Special meeting on May 19th at 10:30 am.

VAN BIBBER LAKE – SECURITY

Tabled from last meeting. An updated resolution had been submitted. Woodall questioned it, original resolution had 6 signatures, the new one has 4 and a letter from the Secretary of the amendment. Jim Ensley read it and said from the resolution there was nothing for the Commissioners to vote on. Tabled for further research.

US 231 RIGHT OF WAY

Tabled from last meeting. It was in front of the EMS building. Ensley had the agreement, but he would need all 3 signatures of the Commissioners. Woodall made the motion to approve and sign at later date. Helmer seconded. The motion carried.

EASEMENT

Tabled from last meeting. Ensley said he was waiting for GIS Deputy Robbie Cudnik to approve and then he would bring it to meeting for signatures.

COUNTY WIDE EMAIL PROPOSALS

The county had received 3 proposals: Air-LINX, Synergetics and Distinct Web Design. After review, Helmer made the motion to approve Air-LINX. Woodall seconded. The motion carried. Commissioners were paying it for 2022 out of the EDIT funds.

SECURITY IN COURTHOUSE

Commissioners are having an ongoing discussion to tighten up security.

BOND FOR COURTHOUSE DEPUTIES

Auditor Kristina Berish told the Commissioners the courthouse deputy had been informed by his department head he could no longer take money for the offices to the bank since he was not bonded. This was a liability. Would the Commissioners approve of this deputy and their part time courthouse deputy to be bonded to eliminate the problem? Woodall made the motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion carried. Ensley said he would check to be sure if they were not covered somehow by the county already before purchasing a bond for them.

ARPA PLAN

Woodall stated his contact at Barnes & Thornburg had quit. He was now working with a new person.

Woodall said the departments had submitted paperwork to him for the premium pay. He had been questioned over the weekend about the Coroner's office being included. The consensus was that they should be. No volunteers would be eligible. He was hoping to have it included in the June 3 payroll.

Woodall had been asked if this would be a separate check. Auditor Berish said the precedence from past “extra” pays for an employee were not split out. And it was incorrect per their payroll software company that it makes an employee go into a higher tax bracket when they make more money on a certain paycheck. That was not how the Indiana tax tables were created. More taxes were taken out for the simple fact you were making more money on the check.

CUMULATIVE CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

Ensley had given the Auditor a no remonstrance certificate to fill out. The 30 days had passed. We are getting all the documents lined up to submit to the State to establish the new fund.

COUNTY VEHICLES BEING LEFT RUNNING

Helmer stated he wanted to send a notice out to department heads to quit leaving county vehicles running. Gas prices are too high to be wasting fuel.

CLAIMS

May 2, 2022 – Woodall made the motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion carried.
May 12, 2022 – Helmer made the motion to approve. Woodall seconded. The motion carried.
May 16, 2022 – Woodall made the motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion carried.

PAYROLL

May 6, 2022 – Woodall made the motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion carried.

MINUTES

April 26, 2022 – Woodall made the motion to approve. Helmer seconded. The motion carried.
May 2, 2022 – Helmer made the motion to approve. Woodall seconded. The motion carried.

MAIL

The Board of Commissioners acknowledged their mail.

ADJOURN

Woodall made a motion to adjourn. Helmer seconded. The motion carried.

Rick Woodall, President

Thomas Helmer, Vice President

**Attest: Auditor’s Office
Kristina Berish**