

COMMISSIONERS MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
APRIL 5, 2021 9:00 AM

ATTENDANCE:

COMMISSIONERS:	Rick Woodall, President Thomas Helmer, Vice President David Berry
ATTORNEY:	James Ensley, Attorney
AUDITOR:	Kristina Alexander, Auditor
COUNCIL:	Dave Fuhrman Larry Parker
AUDIENCE:	25 Individuals

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on April 5, 2021, at 9:00 AM at the Putnam County Courthouse. Rick Woodall opened the meeting and the pledge to the flag was given.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Sara Burnett and Brian Williams came to the meeting to update the Commissioners regarding COVID vaccinations and to discuss the Governor orders that take effect April 6, 2021.

Ms. Burnett stated it was the department's position to continue encouraging a mask be worn by everyone. The numbers were dropping but it was felt because we have been so diligent in wearing masks. Also, people have been traveling out of state or country for Spring break and coming back to the county. They could have been exposed while vacationing. Florida as we all know was a popular place for a lot of people to go on Spring break and they have a new strand of COVID.

Brian Williams stated last Friday they had a pod at Depauw University and administered 1,485 vaccinations. As of now they have fully vaccinated 5,815 individuals. The Health department alone has administered 7,850 vaccinations since Jan 11, 2021. This number did not include other facilities in the county giving vaccinations.

Ms. Burnett told the Commissioners they were still interviewing candidates for the second nurse position. They had offered the position to one individual, but she declined due to a better offer.

SHERIFF DEPARTMENT

Sheriff Stockton said they had equipment they did not use; night scope that SWAT teams use and old microphones. He wants to transfer the equipment to the State Police. Dave Berry made the motion to approve. Tom Helmer seconded. The motion carried.

The Commissioners asked status of the new cameras being installed at the jail. Chief Deputy Matt Demmings replied they had received an invoice, but the equipment had not been installed yet. But it was moving forward.

PLANNING & ZONING DEPARTMENT

Planning Director Lisa Zeiner stated one bid had been submitted for the clean-up project at the Cedar Crest property. The owner had been continuing to work on tearing down structures and removing the debris, so their scope of work had changed for today's bid.

Dakota & Dustin Stephenson bid \$38,900. Jim Ensley said the Commissioners should accept and acknowledge the bid to review. Next step was to take the bid to the April 12, 2021 BZA at 7 pm, at that time they would give the Commissioners a recommendation. The Commissioners acknowledged the bid.

Croan Conservation Subdivision – Ms. Zeiner said the Plan Commission approved it at their November 9, 2020 meeting. It was two buildable lots. No objections at meeting. Tom Helmer made the motion to approve. Dave Berry seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

McCammack Conservation Subdivision – Ms. Zeiner said the Plan Commission approved it at their May 2020 meeting. It was reapproved at their February 2021 meeting after it had been

changed to 85% of the land being in conservation. No objections at meeting. Tom Helmer made the motion to approve. Rick Woodall seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

One of their part time Inspectors had resigned. Ms. Zeiner was looking for a replacement. This could cause delays due to time constraints on ability to inspect all properties coming into their department.

AIRPORT BOARD APPOINTMENT

The Commissioners had received interest from three individuals: Dr. Perry Wainman, Gary Lemon and Dillon Sutherlin. Tom Helmer had spoken with some of the airport board members, they had given him a recommendation. Tom Helmer made the motion to appoint Dillon Sutherlin. Dave Berry seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

PAVING COUNTY ROAD 350 S

County resident Fred Cooper said part of it was already paved. He would like the rest of the road paved. Rick Woodall informed him the county does not currently have any plans on paving gravel roads due to current financial stance of the county.

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH AWARENESS

Scott Monnett came to the meeting to present the proclamation. He informed everyone that last year there were 276 fatalities in Indiana. 48 total cases in Putnam County this past February. Rick Woodall made the motion to approve. Tom Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

EMS DEPARTMENT

Director Kelly Russ came to the meeting with the contractor handling the remodel at the EMS building. A change order in the amount of \$28,940 was submitted to the Commissioners for approval.

A representative from Energy Conservation Solutions, Inc. stated during the demo portion of the remodel they discovered several inefficiencies with insulation, windows and the doors. Ms. Russ had calculated the savings each month in their utility bills once these improvements were made to the building. It would take 5.8 years to recoup the cost of this change order with the savings.

Dave Berry stated the big question was where they were going to get the funding to pay for this change order. When did the change order need to be approved? The contractor stated he really needed it approved today so the project was not delayed. The county general fund was suggested. Auditor Kristina Alexander stated an additional would need to be advertised and taken before the County Council for their approval. This would delay the approval process.

Kelly Russ stated there was hail damage on the building that happened before they had taken possession of it (April 2016). They submitted it to the insurance company that would have been responsible at the time and they received a \$2,300 check. This did not cover the expense of the repairs fully; but the contractor said they would work with it.

Rick Woodall made the motion to approve the change order and pay from EDIT Warchest. Tom Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

BIKE RACE

Durin Hendricks & Aaron Worley asked to use County Road 100 N in Fillmore (road where Dixie Chopper was located) for the bike race on May 1, 2021. Last time they had a race in Putnam County was in 2013. Tom Helmer asked about road signage to let people know when they were traveling the road to be aware. They would make signs. They will contact law enforcement as well, so they were aware of the race.

Jim Ensley asked about the waiver of liability for each person involved in the race. Bruce Burke at DePauw was helping them with the liability. Mr. Ensley asked for his contact information and to see the documentation. Mr. Hendricks said Depauw had sanctioned the race.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Highway Supervisor Mike Ricketts said the lease on the three graders would be up this fall. The two quotes he received to lease three graders for five years were the following:

Westside Tractor Sales	\$40,956.07 per grader
McCallister Caterpillar	\$39,782.58 per grader

The lease amount jumped significantly. With the amount the department had appropriated this year for the lease they were looking at a shortfall of \$46,945.49. Mr. Ricketts said the payments currently come from the R&S fund. He wants to take the shortfall from the MVH fund. He would need to go before the Council to get the additional approved.

Mr. Ricketts said something else they would have to factor in was replacing tires during the lease. To replace tires would be \$15,000 per grader. When you turn a grader back in after the lease the tires need to be at least 50% tread. The lease basically covers everything else on the grader.

Tom Helmer made the motion to approve quote from Caterpillar. Dave Berry seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Wabash Power is putting a high voltage power line in that was affecting County Road 900 E, 825 E, 900 N & 1100 N. They have agreed to pay for repairs to the road, temporary repairs have been done until they were finished with their job this fall. Afterwards they would grind and do a double chip and seal. However, it would be too late in the year to do it, so the road would have to be finished next year.

Community Crossing Grant bids: 12 miles of road (approximately)

Milestone Terre Haute, IN: Item 1 \$302,234.37; Items 2-5 \$474,457.39; Item 6 \$307,079.90; Items 7&8 \$169,249.90. Grand Total: \$1,253,021.56

Rieth Riley Indianapolis: Item 1 \$337,150.84; Items 2-5 \$515,885.04 Item 6 \$353,409.81; Items 7&8 \$190,896.38. Grand Total: \$1,397,342.07

DC Construction Noblesville: Item 1 \$316,046.17; Items 2-5 \$486,241.96; Item 6 \$322,131.09; Items 7&8 \$173,898.91. Grand Total: \$1,298,318.94

Midwest paving Noblesville: Item 1 \$304,803.51; Items 2-5 \$479,846.58; Item 6 \$315,330.40 Items 7&8 \$172,182.67. Grand Total: \$1,272,163.16

The Commissioners took the bids under advisement. The county should hear if they received grant in the next week or two.

MASK POLICY IN COUNTY BUILDINGS

Rick Woodall said they heard the recommendation earlier in the meeting from the Health department. The Commissioners had a few options: Policy stays status quo, modify it or completely get rid of it.

Tom Helmer said Judge Bridges had already told him anyone coming into his court he would be requiring them to wear a mask. Commissioner Helmer felt the county should follow the Governor's order. Commissioner Woodall said he spoke with two other counties to see what they were doing. He was told those counties were leaving it up to each office to decide their own policy. Commissioner Berry felt that would be very confusing to the public. It needs to be standardized for all county buildings.

The concern was brought up about all the Spring break travelers. A lot of them usually travel to Florida where the new strand of COVID is prevalent. The Commissioners decided to keep the policy "as is" until their next meeting, April 19, 2021.

The Commissioners discussed for the public walking into the building to no longer make it a requirement to wear a mask but still to encourage them to do so. And to practice social distancing. For the county employees they discussed mask being required only when they were interacting with the public or could not practice social distance with fellow employees.

PEOPLE PATHWAYS

Joy Marley came to the meeting in case the Commissioners had any questions about the transition of who would be taking over since she was stepping down from her position. Commissioner Woodall stated he had attended the last Council meeting to talk about creating a County Park Board to enable us to go after DNR grants.

COUNTY WEBSITE UPDATE

The current site was now a functioning old content website while they work on it. The company recommended to replace old site with new content. Would like to get the new site accessible ASAP and work on updating. Wanted to see how the Commissioners want to proceed with getting it up and running and who and how to get new content for website. Commissioners want

it running as quickly as possible. It can be put live immediately. They do need to get the address domain so they can have it going to the new website.

Jim Ensley will send out a mass email to department heads to get a point of contact from each office to send updates for the website.

CLAIMS

March 18, 2020¹ – Dave Berry made the motion to approve. Tom Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
March 25, 2021 – Rick Woodall made the motion to approve. Tom Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
March 31, 2021 – Rick Woodall made the motion to approve. Tom Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
March 31, 2021 (1 claim) – Tom Helmer made the motion to approve. Rick Woodall seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
April 5, 2021 – Rick Woodall made the motion to approve. Tom Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

PAYROLL

March 26, 2021 – Tom Helmer made the motion to approve. Dave Berry seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

MINUTES

November 23, 2020 – Rick Woodall made the motion to approve. Dave Berry seconded. The motion carried.
March 15, 2021 – Dave Berry made the motion to approve. Tom Helmer seconded. The motion carried.

MAIL

The Board of Commissioners acknowledged their mail.

ADJOURN

Tom Helmer made the motion to adjourn. Dave Berry seconded. The motion carried.

Rick Woodall, President

Dave Berry

Tom Helmer, Vice President

Attest: Auditor’s Office