

COMMISSIONERS MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
APRIL 19, 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 Phillip Gick
AUDIENCE:	12 Individuals

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on April 19, 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

Rick Woodall stated no one from the Health department would be present at today's meeting since they had two people call in sick today. A second nurse had been hired and would start work May 2, 2021.

COUNTY ROAD 550 S

County resident Lynn Rekeweg asked about road improvements to the road. County roads 1000 E to 600 was paved last year. Belle Union residents use it as a cut through to I70. Potholes were filled last week, but they really need the road to be paved.

The county also stopped at County Road 600 but would have been nice if they had extended another half a mile to reach the interstate. Rick Woodall said if the county received the funding applied through Community Crossing the road would be finished. It was being done by phases as they received grant money.

Tom Helmer said he had received complaints on the road, he drove it and said it was in bad shape. Mike Ricketts Highway Supervisor stated County Road 550 S was not on the 2020 road plan. They were working on the 7-year plan.

PLANNING & ZONING

Director Lisa Zeiner addressed Cedar Crest that had been tabled at the last Commissioners meeting. BZA met last week and agreed to give the property owner until May 10, 2021 to clean it up. Jim Ensley was asked to get started on the contract addressing the bid submitted at the April 5, 2021 Commissioners meeting to clean up the property if the owner failed to do so. The knowledge of a tax lien has motivated the owner to be more proactive in the removal of the structures.

Rick Woodall questioned how the county put monies in the unsafe building fund. Jim Ensley said some money could come from when the Commissioners put a tax lien on a property. As the lien was paid off the money would go into the fund.

Ms. Zeiner said there was a company that goes around the county looking at properties for issues with unsafe buildings. They would report those to the county and a fee is assessed yearly to those properties. This money could also go into the county unsafe building fund.

Crest Wood Estates Replat – Planning & Zoning approved. Tom Helmer made the motion to approve. Dave Berry seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Parrish Conservation Subdivision – Planning & Zoning approved. Dave Berry made the motion to approve. Tom Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioners asked how it was coming along hiring a part time inspector. Ms. Zeiner said an ad was going to be in the Banner Graphic newspaper and they have it posted online.

MASKS COUNTY BUILDINGS

Rick Woodall said the topic had been tabled from their last meeting to see what the outcome would be from Spring Break travelers & the NCAA tournament. Dave Berry felt they needed to remove the current requirements. No longer mandatory but recommended.

This would apply to the employees and the public. Masks should be worn if employees cannot practice a 3 feet social distance. Tom Helmer said if the Judges require it in the courts that was up to them.

Tom Helmer made the motion to make masks recommended instead of required. The new rule in county buildings for the public and employees would be effective immediately. Dave Berry seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Signage on county building doors should say masks were optional.

SHERIFF – TRADE IN OLD EQUIPMENT

Sheriff Scott Stockton said they had several old rifles to trade in. They had a tentative agreement to purchase new firearms. Several of their weapons were over 15 years old and missing pieces or deteriorating. He wanted to go streamline on the weapons they have. They will cover the cost of switch from their budget. He was at the meeting today to get approval of getting rid of the old county equipment. Dave Berry made the motion to approve. Tom Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

COUNTY ROAD 800 SOUTH - DITCH ISSUE

County resident Rex Parker came to the meeting to discuss repairs he felt the county promised to him two years ago. He presented pictures and bills from repairs he has made. He felt the ditches were too deep. He was 6' tall and he showed pictures from two years ago where he was in the ditch and most of the areas you can barely see his head. The road was now falling into the ditch in some areas. Utilities lines exposed in areas where they dug the ditch.

Mr. Parker said he had put materials in the ditch to help with the issues he has had in the last two years. At one point he saw Highway Department personnel removing materials he had put in the ditch. Mr. Parker said that was stealing. Highway Supervisor Mike Ricketts clarified if something was put in a ditch that caused an impediment it was the county's right to remove it.

Mr. Ricketts stated there had been a meeting earlier this year with the Commissioners and this issue had been discussed and felt it should go before the Drainage Board.

Mr. Parker expressed his frustrations with the issues he has experienced the last couple of years due to the ditch and drainage issues. He wanted something done and was losing his patience waiting for it to happen.

Mr. Ricketts said there had been another meeting as well to discuss drainage issues in the county. The people who attended the meeting was Lisa Zeiner, Mayor Bill Dory, Commissioner Tom Helmer and himself. They were all in agreement the county needed an active county Drainage Board.

Rick Woodall said they had two options on Drainage Board: 1) 3 Commissioners served as the board or 2) create a 5 member board, one being a Commissioner. He was in favor of option 2. County Surveyor by code was automatically the board secretary. The other 4 members would need to be researched to see who would need to serve. Jim Ensley said it had been discussed 3 years ago and it would be expensive to get an engineering firm hired to go across the county to look at all the drainage issues. And there would be a drainage tax assessment added to property tax bills. Mr. Ensley did not have the paperwork with him today. He would need to get it all together and bring at next meeting or at a special meeting to discuss.

Bill Dory said with the complexity and expense of setting it up he suggested brainstorming together to see how to create a Drainage Board and how to proceed.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Mike Ricketts presented Bridge 276 LPA Consultant contract from Clark Dietz. The bridge was located by 3 Fat Labs. The contract was for construction inspection. Bid letting set for October 2021. Rick Woodall made the motion to approve. \$228,500 not to exceed. Tom Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Paving bids from last meeting: \$1,253,021.56 was the total amount by Milestone who came in as the best bid. This was under the estimated amount by \$123,776.11. The county portion would be \$313,255. This would leave room to hopefully do some more wedding. This can not be awarded until after the county finds out if they received the grant.

Mr. Ricketts asked for approval to submit a paver, distributor truck and dump trucks in a surplus sale. The cost to repair them was more than they were worth. Rick Woodall made the motion to approve. Tom Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

BIKE RACE

Jim Ensley stated he had been working with Mark O'Leary and the insurance company. Each participant would be signing a waiver. The county would be covered if there was an issue. Tom Helmer said he would call to make sure Mr. O'Leary knows they cannot cross the bridge that was closed in the proposed route for the race.

CEMETERY BOARD

Jim Ensley said Steve Fenwick had turned in a letter of resignation. His last day was April 7, 2021.

EMS BUILDING

Rick Woodall said it was discussed at their last meeting with the contractor. He received a call since that meeting about issues with the HVAC system. He was waiting to get an update.

OCRA PHASE III GRANT

Rick Woodall said he had received an email that morning: Putnam County, City of Greencastle and the Town of Bainbridge had been awarded \$250,000 each to help businesses that were adversely affected by COVID. The county currently has 23 applications. They want to hit 25 which would give each qualifying business \$10,000. Kristin McClary said they could get applications at her office and return them to her by May 1, 2021.

WAYFINDING SIGNAGE

Mayor Bill Dory brought up the Phase I wayfinding signage being installed. They would like to place a sign on the southside of the courthouse lawn. Dave Berry made the motion to add Mayor Dory to agenda. Rick Woodall seconded. The motion carried. Dave Berry made the motion to approve signage. Rick Woodall seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

PLAN AMERICAN RELIEF ACT FUNDING

Mayor Dory said the City had been approached to help assist some of the not-for-profit organizations with the funding. They were exploring the option or helping them with Community Foundation. He wanted the Commissioners to be aware.

He wondered what the county plan was for the funding. Rick Woodall said the county Commissioners and Council need to discuss and see what board made the decision of expenditures. And it had not been clarified as to what they could use the funding for yet. Mayor Dory would like the city and county to work together to maximize the funding.

CLAIMS

April 8, 2021 – Dave Berry made the motion to approve. Tom Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

April 15, 2021 – Rick Woodall made the motion to approve. Dave Berry seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

April 19, 2021 – Tom Helmer made the motion to approve. Rick Woodall seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

PAYROLL

April 9, 2021 – Dave Berry made the motion to approve. Tom Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

MINUTES

April 5, 2021 – Tom Helmer made the motion to approve. Rick Woodall seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

HENDRICKS POWER

A county resident that lives in Heritage Lake questioned an article he read in the Banner Graphic about roads related to work being done by Hendricks Power. The Commissioners explained the company was not currently working on roads in Heritage Lake. The roads would be announced at a later date.

INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDS

A county resident from Heritage Lake asked when the county received the \$7M to consider using it towards a water system at HL. They were all currently on wells. Rick Woodall stated they had received several suggestions for the money and were sure to get a lot more. Once they have a clear guideline on what the money could be used for; they will be discussing options and creating a plan.

MAIL

The Board of Commissioners acknowledged their mail.

ADJOURN

Rick Woodall made the motion to adjourn. Dave Berry seconded. The motion carried.

Rick Woodall, President

Dave Berry

Tom Helmer, Vice President

Attest: Auditor's Office