

COMMISSIONERS MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
MAY 17, 2021 9:00 AM

ATTENDANCE:

COMMISSIONERS:	Rick Woodall, President Thomas Helmer, Vice President David Berry
ATTORNEY:	James Ensley, Attorney
AUDITOR:	Kristina Alexander, Auditor
COUNCIL:	Larry Parker Phillip Gick Dave Fuhrman
AUDIENCE:	17 Individuals

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on May 17, 2021, at 9:00 AM at the Putnam County Courthouse. Rick Woodall opened the meeting and the pledge to the flag was given.

MAIN STREET GREENCASTLE (FIRST FRIDAY)

Mike Richmond requested permission to use courthouse area for First Friday. The first would be held June 4, 2021 and go through October. Same concept as they did in 2019. Would like to use the North side steps and stage area for the band. The East side steps they would like to have the DJ set up.

There would be hand washing stations. Recommending masks and social distancing but not a requirement. The Health Department approved the event.

Tom Helmer made the motion to approve. Dave Berry seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Jim Ensley said he would get with Mr. Richmond to get a use agreement for both parties to sign.

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE – TEMPORARY POSITION

Assessor Janet Brown came to the meeting due to an employee that would be gone for three months on maternity leave. She would like to hire someone to work part time for those three months. Ms. Brown would be paying her employee for one month while on leave, this would leave two months of her salary to pay for a part time person. She was not asking for any additional funds.

Rick Woodall made the motion to allow her to hire someone part time for up to 3 months and pay from her current budget. Tom Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

RECORDER - MICROFILM

Recorder Tracy Bridges informed the Commissioners the State wanted to know if the County wanted to retain ownership of the microfilm, they house for us. Or did they want to give the ownership to the State. If we would choose to keep ownership and the State decided they did not want to store anymore then the county would need to find a place for the microfilm. Ms. Bridges said the county did not have the space nor a climate-controlled environment. The Commissioners would review and get back with her. They need to respond by June 30th.

PARKING AROUND COURTHOUSE

Rick Woodall said he added it to agenda because he felt like every year or two it needed to be addressed. He pointed out a county owned vehicle was parked on the East side, Adult Probation. The business owners were rumbling about the loss of business due to lack of parking.

Jeff Boggess stated he was one of the business owners on the square. He has apartments and one tenant said he may move out because he was tired of trying to find a place to park. If he moved out, then he would have a 5-figure income loss for the year. It hurt the local businesses when county employees parked on the square. He also had elderly people coming to his business on the square and they have come in soaking wet because they had to park a block or two away.

When asked, Jim Ensley said it could be a condition of employment; but it was a matter of enforcement. Maybe talk to the elected officials and ask them to monitor their employees.

Commissioner Woodall pointed out most places of work do not allow you to park right by the “front” door. The city was expanding and making more parking on Columbia Street. He had driven through town three times in the past week checking out the parking lot areas. Each time there was 30-40 parking spaces open between them all. So, county employees could not say there was not enough parking for them. He was planning on drawing up a letter to all employees. This was not just directed for the employees at the courthouse.

The Commissioners would be reviewing the problem and addressing further.

DOCUMENT IN CLERK’S OFFICE

Rick Woodall said there was a document in Clerk’s office showing the creation of Putnam County. The museum wants to take the document to preserve and display it. The museum would get an estimate and depending on the cost the museum would cover the full expense. The document would go to the museum, it would not be a loan. The Commissioners would wait to see the estimate to restore.

Jim Ensley said he was checking on the other paintings the museum has from the courthouse.

MORRISON PROPERTY

Donald Richards stated Mr. Morrison continued to go against the Judge’s order. He was pleading with the Commissioners to try and get something done this year to get it cleaned up. To make an example to not allow your property to get in this condition for the rest of the community. He realized it was a process.

Jim Ensley said he would get a current standing on the situation and report back at the June 7th Commissioners meeting.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ORDINANCE 5-17-1

Jim Ensley drew up the ordinance for today’s meeting. No public comments. They would be forming a committee to oversee. Rick Woodall made the motion to approve. Dave Berry seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNITY CROSSINGS GRANT CONTRACT W/ INDOT

Highway Supervisor Mike Ricketts presented the Community Crossings grant agreement for the Commissioners to sign. They would also need to do it electronically. Rick Woodall made the motion to approve. Dave Berry seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

AGREEMENT - ROADS

Jim Ensley drew up the agreement. Dave Berry said they had met with all parties around the end of March and the company was great to work with and will do the county “right”. Dave Berry made the motion to approve. Tom Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

DUST BOWL BIKE RACE

Mike Ricketts said the bridge in question had been closed since 2006. It would cost \$10-20,000 to have a company inspect it properly to determine if it would be safe for bikes to cross. Because of this, the county would need to deny permission to allow this bridge on the bike route.

A new route was proposed. It would be over Bridge 74 on 300 N or Bridge 73. They would also like to put up a tent station. The Commissioners gave consensus of approval. Jim Ensley would make amendment and bring to a future meeting.

HANSON AGREEMENT

Jim Ensley drew up agreement. Tom Helmer made the motion to approve. Rick Woodall seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Dust oil resolution 2021-5-17-2: \$200 homeowner \$100 county. Tom Helmer made the motion to approve. Rick Woodall seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Annual operational report: Mike Ricketts went over it briefly. It would be sent to the State. Rick Woodall made motion to approve. Tom Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Federal aid projects – Bridge 172 closing the road June 7th for approximately 70 days to complete. Projected date to open back up August 31st. Approximate cost of project \$400,000.

CSX road closure N of Fillmore at 550 E between 100 & 200 N: close May 25 & 26

PARKER DITCH

Soil & Water representative said there was erosion. In her opinion the ditch was too steep. The grades should be lessened and have vegetation on both sides of the road. The owner could contact NRCS but the county could not.

Mike Rickett’s recommendation was to design a ditch, buy right of way and put in a water way with stipulation that owner works with NRCS to do his part as well on slowing the water down.

Mr. Ricketts wanted to have an engineer look at it again. Rick Woodall would like to tell Mr. Parker something by the end of the week on a meeting. Jim Ensley said he would need to know meeting date in time to advertise.

CEMETERY BOARD APPOINTMENT

David Heavin to replace Steve Fenwick who resigned. Dave Berry made the motion to approve. Tom Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

CLAIMS

May 6, 2021 – Dave Berry made the motion to approve. Tom Helmer seconded. The motion carried.

May 13, 2021 – Rick Woodall made the motion to approve. Tom Helmer seconded. The motion carried.

May 17, 2021 – Dave Berry made the motion to approve. Rick Woodall seconded. The motion carried.

PAYROLL

May 7, 2021 – Dave Berry made the motion to approve. Tom Helmer seconded. The motion carried.

MINUTES

May 3, 2021 – Tom Helmer made the motion to approve. Dave Berry seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

MAIL

The Board of Commissioners acknowledged their mail.

ADJOURN

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

Rick Woodall, President

Dave Berry

Tom Helmer, Vice President

Attest: Auditor’s Office