

COMMISSIONERS MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
September 7, 2021, 9:00 AM

ATTENDANCE:

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

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on September 7, 2021, at 9:00 AM at the Putnam County Courthouse. Tom Helmer opened the meeting and the pledge to the flag was given.

MORRISON PROPERTY

Tom Helmer stated this was an ongoing litigation so they could not discuss it at the meeting today. Don Richards (county resident and neighbor to the property) started to discuss the topic and Attorney Trudy Selvia stated the Commissioners could not discuss and their attorney could contact her.

ZONING ISSUES

William and Sonya Morrison came to the meeting asking if zoning is grandfathered in when you purchase a property. Attorney Trudy Selvia said this would be an issue for the Planning and Zoning department and boards.

AIR LINX PROPOSAL

John Hendrixson and DJ Hendrixson came to the meeting to further discuss proposals on a county wide e-mail, network maintenance and battery back-up. It would take around a couple of weeks to convert everyone. Employees would be able to access their emails from their phones as well. Discussed firewall protection and back-up system for the telephones. It would be a high-end system that alerts if there was an issue with the system. Also suggesting an external battery due to shorter back-up time when there was a power outage. The Commissioners took it under advisement.

MENTAL HEALTH OF PUTNAM COUNTY

Presentation given on what they do for the community. They were seeking \$100,000 from the county to help them continue their services. They left a packet of information for the Commissioners to review.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Administrator Joni Young asked permission to contract nurse services when necessary. They had an incident last week where they did not have a nurse since one nurse had a death in the family and the other nurse had resigned due to getting another job. She wanted the ability to hire a nurse contractually if the situation arose. Jim Ensley reviewed the contract and there was some language he would want to add/change. The Commissioners would approve the contract itself when a situation occurs, and you need to hire someone then the Health Department and Board could sign the contract with the individual. Tom Helmer made the motion to approve pending changes needing to be made to meet the insurance company requirements. Dave Berry seconded. The motion carried.

HICOM BATTERY BACK-UP SYSTEM

Hicom submitted an estimate for a back-up system for the telephone system. Commissioners took under advisement.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Highway Supervisor Mike Ricketts submitted two change orders needing to be signed for Bridge 172: 1) no cost increase just switching where funds would be used for project. 2) changing time schedule on project. Commissioners signed.

Also submitted contract between the county and CSX railroad for Bridge 276 in the amount of \$276,967. This would be reimbursable through INDOT.

PEDAL PUTNAM BIKE RIDE

Jim Ensley said on October 2, 2021, there was a bike race scheduled and they had come before the Commissioners for permission on county road use at the last meeting. Dave Berry made the motion to accept. Tom Helmer seconded. The motion carried.

COUNTY COVID POLICY

Mike Ricketts Highway Supervisor said he has tried to control exposure in his department. Tom Helmer said he had people coming to him complaining. Saying spouse of an employee had COVID but employee was still coming to work. The county cannot question if family members have COVID. The Commissioners have received telephone calls complaining about not paying for time off any longer. However, they researched other counties before passing their policy. The county could not just keep paying employees when they were off work due to COVID.

2-MILE FRINGE

Someone asked about right to farm in the 2-mile fringe. Planning Director Lisa Zeiner said within the 2-mile fringe property owners go by the zoning laws of Greencastle City and not the county. If they need a permit, then you would go to the county Planning Department.

CLAIMS

August 19, 2021 – Tom Helmer made the motion to approve. Dave Berry seconded. The motion carried.

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

September 2, 2021 – Tom Helmer made the motion to approve. Dave Berry seconded. The motion carried.

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

PAYROLL

August 27, 2021 – Dave Berry made the motion to approve. Tom Helmer seconded. The motion carried.

MINUTES

August 16, 2021 – Tom Helmer made the motion to approve. Dave Berry seconded. The motion carried.

August 26, 2021 (Executive) – Tom Helmer made the motion to approve. Dave Berry seconded. The motion carried.

August 26, 2021 (Special) – Dave Berry made the motion to approve. Tom Helmer seconded. The motion carried.

MAIL

The Board of Commissioners acknowledged their mail.

ADJOURN

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

Thomas Helmer, Vice President

David Berry

Attest: Auditor's Office