

COMMISSIONERS MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
November 1, 2021, 9:00 AM

ATTENDANCE:

COMMISSIONERS:	Rick Woodall, President Thomas Helmer, Vice President David Berry
ATTORNEY:	James Ensley
AUDITOR:	Kristina Berish
COUNCIL:	David Fuhrman Larry Parker Phillip Gick
AUDIENCE:	37 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.

VAN BIBBER LAKE – LAW ENFORCEMENT

Residents from Van Bibber Lake came to the meeting to voice their growing concern about the law enforcement for their community. They do not feel safe in their homes, their community. A letter from Eads Murray & Pugh, P.C. had been mailed to the Commissioners prior to the meeting. Attorney Jacob Lawrence stated due to the Association being under the jurisdiction of local law enforcement, they requested the Commissioners to instruct law enforcement officers to not disregard any calls or requests they receive for assistance.

A resident said they were here today because Deputy Brian Helmer had advised them to. Tom Helmer said he believed it was due to a new law passed by the legislature giving the Board of Commissioners authority to grant access through a resolution. Jim Ensley said he would have to research.

Residents at the meeting stated law enforcement personnel have told them they could not do anything unless a felony happened where they visually saw it. This was due to VBL being on private roads instead of county roads. They cited several incidents of escalating violence/crime and they needed help getting the law enforcement needed to protect the citizens. This has been a problem for 12 years but recently the violence had escalated and were seeking a remedy.

Rick Woodall felt the Sheriff or representative for him should be at the meeting. He called the Sheriff and asked him to come to the meeting. The topic would be tabled until he arrived.

MCCULLOUGH REALTY & COX CONSERVANCY SUB REZONING 2021-11-1

Plan Commission Director Lisa Zeiner presented rezoning for Mccullough. It had gone before Plan Commission in October and received a favorable recommendation. Rick Woodall made the motion to approve ordinance 2021-11-1. Dave Berry seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Cox rezoning - Dave Berry made the motion to approve. Tom Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSIONERS SALE 2022 - RESOLUTION 2021-11-1-1

Dave Berry made the motion to set minimum bid \$50 per parcel. Tom Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

MORRISON PROPERTY

Don Richards brought pictures to show the Commissioners where Morrison had brought more items on the property. He was trying to turn it into a junk yard in his opinion. Richards wanted to know if Commissioners were on board to enforce the Judge's order. Commissioners have sent the second request to Morrison property for a visit.

COUNTY ROAD ENTRANCE TO HERITAGE LAKE

Shannon McCullough said the entrance from Groveland they were wanting to see it widened. How do they start the process for grant money or funding? Highway Supervisor Mike Ricketts said it had not been done in the past because the grant was not enough to purchase right-of-way and pay for the widening of the road. Another problem was the lack of land to do it. They will do further research and look at traffic count.

TOWN OF RUSSELLVILLE – OLD STRUCTURES

The structures the county was demolishing was moving forward.

AUCTION

Mike Ricketts said they would be selling equipment at an auction; with the money he anticipates receiving he wants to purchase a mower and extra attachments. He wants to purchase one and see how it works, if all goes well, he would then purchase second one. The department also needs to purchase a dura-patcher.

AREA 30 FIRE TRAINING

Jim Ensley said he needed them to sign document authorizing use of the fire/emergency training facility. Rick Woodall made the motion to approve. Tom Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

COUNTY ROAD 280S & 285S

Tabled from last meeting. Highway Supervisor Mike Ricketts said half of it was county road and the other they could not find any record showing it was a dedicated county road. The county had maintained them and received a small amount of funding each year for these roads.

Rick Woodall stated 280 S was not a county road, but 285 S was. Jim Ensley they would have to notify the State and the property owners on whatever decision was made. The City of Greencastle would also have a say in it since it was in their 2-mile fringe.

Property owners Kayla Brennan and Scott Williams stated they did not want it to be a county road. Rick Parrish, another property owner, wants it to be a county road. The county had maintained and thought it to be a county road for decades why would it be changed now.

Tom Helmer's concern was emergency vehicles getting to the property owners. After some discussion, Commissioners said 280 S would remain a county road. 285 S was already a done deal and did not need to be addressed by them. 285 S would stay the same and it would dead

end at Kayla Brennan's property. It is a county road. They would look at 280 S to dead end as well.

Rick Parrish felt this decision did not make sense. He felt it would cause a problem. Where would be turn around? Why after all these years would you limit the access. The Commissioners have discussed it and felt it best to make it a deadend road.

ARP COMMITTEE

Rick Woodall said committee had made a recommendation to come before them at their November 15 meeting.

EMS AMBULANCE

Rick Woodall wanted to inform everyone the county had purchased a new ambulance. A different type and since received it had overheated 4 times. The county does have back-up to cover.

VAN BIBBER CONTINUED

Rick Woodall said it was time to circle back to earlier topic now that the Sheriff was at the meeting. The conservancy was here to get an ordinance from Commissioners to back up their resolution. Jim Ensley said 2 issues. The streets they cannot write an infraction. But they can write others on private ground. The second issue was if there was a problem whether private or public the Sheriff's department can enforce the law. He questioned why the residents were before the Commissioners. They do not have jurisdiction over the Sheriff's Department.

Sheriff Stockton was not aware of the topic being on today's meeting. Angela Jones said they had communicated since 2018 with him. She had also been in contact with Matt Demmings, attorney Todd Smith and Jeff Boggess. Sheriff said he needed names of deputies telling them they could not enforce the law. The Commissioners and Jim Ensley would need to further research the matter regarding the law that the Commissioners would need to pass a resolution.

CLAIMS

Emergency October 22, 2021 – Dave Berry made the motion to approve. Tom Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Emergency October 29, 2021 – Rick Woodall made the motion to approve. Dave Berry seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Regular November 1, 2021 – Rick Woodall made the motion to approve. Dave Berry seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

PAYROLL

October 22, 2021 – Tom Helmer made the motion to approve. Dave Berry seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

MINUTES

October 18, 2021 – Tom Helmer made the motion to approve. Dave Berry seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

IAC

Kristin Clary said mass layoffs in December. They have confirmation it would done December 10 and 31.

MAIL

The Board of Commissioners acknowledged their mail.

ADJOURN

Rick Woodall made a motion to adjourn. Tom Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Rick Woodall, President

Thomas Helmer, Vice President

Dave Berry

**Attest: Auditor's Office
Kristina Berish, Auditor**