

**COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
REGULAR SESSION  
February 5, 2024  
9:00 AM**

<u>ATTENDANCE:</u>	
COMMISSIONERS:	David Berry President Tom Helmer, Vice President Rick Woodall
COUNCIL:	Stephanie Campbell, President Phillip Gick Larry Parker
ATTORNEY:	Jim Ensley
AUDITOR'S OFFICE	Evelyn Williams
AUDIENCE:	36 Individuals

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on February 5, 2024, at 9:00 AM. The meeting was held at the Putnam County Courthouse. David Berry opened the meeting and the pledge to the flag was given.

**HOPE CRISIS RESPONSE TEAM**

James Robertson stated he spoke with the Sheriff, and he supports the idea of the Hope Crisis Response Team. They would deal with mental health situations. He stated he had been working with John Ford. He stated he would stay with a person through their whole crisis event. He stated he would also provide transportation to a facility if needed. He stated he's certified in several categories and is working on getting certified as an EMT. HE stated that so far Putnam County has not used any ARPA money for mental health. Rick stated that Putnam County has given ARPA money for mental health. Helmer stated that officers provide transportation. Robertson stated his program would save money all around by keeping individuals out of jail and helping with suicidal issues. Rick asked what exactly he was asking for. He stated he was wanting the Commissioners to let him work with the Sheriff's department in emergency situations. Woodall asked how many individuals are part of his team. He stated he has 7 or 8 people that can work. Helmer asked where the budget for this would come from. He stated he wouldn't bill the County but would bill the insurance for services. Woodall stated the Sheriff is an elected official and the Commissioners have no control over what he says yes or no to. Robertson stated it was his understanding he had to go through the Commissioners. Robertson stated as far as funding he would get grants and if someone wants to donate, he won't turn it down. Berry asked where his certificates were from. Robertson stated they are from the state of Indiana. Robertson stated they are currently working in Vigo County. Berry asked how long they've been working there. Robertson replied about a year. He stated that his car is marked as Hope Crisis Recovery. He works with homeless as well. Berry asked if he had insurance to cover any incidents. He stated he has a \$3 million dollar liability insurance policy. Berry stated they will speak with the County's EMS Department and 911 Department. Thanked Robertson for coming in.

**EDIT PLAN**

Jim Ensley stated Thrive had asked for more EDIT money than last year. Berry asked if Gick remembered why they were asking for more. Gick stated that the money only

covers 2 of the components and they are looking for more funds to cover the 3<sup>rd</sup> component. Woodall stated they were adding an aging and disabled services component and transportation aspect. Their request was changed from \$18,309 to \$34,932.50. Discussion was made regarding transportation and the difference between them and Rural Transit. Changed county website from \$40,000 to \$6,000 for maintenance, READI project was taken off because it was a one-time deal, Edgelea Project changed from \$29,790 to \$27,150, Rural Transit changed from \$10,000 to \$16,000, Town of Cloverdale \$1,000,000 was taken off, added Area 30 \$20,000, After all the changes \$198,500 is the total amount of request and available amount is \$1,365,563. Commissioners tabled EDIT until the March 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.

### **PLANNING - REZONING**

Lisa Ziner stated the plan was to talk about the solar project. The company wants to table until the first meeting in April to address issues and work on studies they are conducting. The company representative stated they want to give ample time to answer any questions. Berry made a motion to table until the April 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. Woodall seconded. Motion carried.

### **COUNTY ROAD 400 WEST**

Steve Swanson stated he moved here in 2018 and bought his home on 400 West. Presented pictures of road. His address is 9104 N 400 W. Wintertime there isn't any gravel. 4-6 inches of slime and road pulls vehicles all over the road. It's been very hard on vehicles. He is requesting to get chip and seal on the road. His road continually gets worse every year. Woodall asked Peck to look at the road. Peck stated in the past with requests for chip n seal they put three to four inches of chip and seal. Landowners typically kick in money to help pay for it. Berry stated they usually wait until the freeze and thaw is done before doing so. Peck stated dump trucks are out spreading gravel. Since the roads are saturated, the rock is sinking into the ground. Peck stated this time of year gravel roads tend to fall apart. Woodall stated they will need to figure out the length of the road. Swanson stated it's around 2 miles long and around 7 houses are on it. Woodall stated they will research. Most of the time due to county finances homeowners help pay for the chip and seal.

### **HIGHWAY REPORT**

Peck submitted report:

- 1) 2024-1 CCMG – Award announcement April.
- 2) 2029 NOFA Applications – Dunbar Bridge/Manhattan Road/Sign. Historic bridge alternative Analysis and award announcement in April.
- 3) Local Road Safety Plan
- 4) Dump Truck Lease Quotes – First National 3.63%, Tri-County Bank 5.75%

Motion to use First National Bank for \$280,000 for dump trucks. Woodall seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- 5) Town of Bainbridge – Speed reduction traffic signs.
- 6) Road Conditions – Gravel roads are in poor condition. Spreading #8 stone and commence grading. Dura patching/cold mix, road salt (current stockpile 500 tons), County Road 425 E road repair, County Road 1000 N – culvert replacement, road drainage improvement.

Woodall asked about the culvert in Fillmore that caved in. Peck stated they are starting from scratch to repair.

7) 2023-2026 Bridge Inventory/Inspection Presentation – United Consulting

**MINUTES**

January 16<sup>th</sup> Regular Session– Helmer stated Charles Boller should be the Walnut Creek Fire appointee, not Bollinger. Helmer made the motion with the change. Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Board of Finance, January 16<sup>th</sup> – Helmer made a motion to approve. Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Solar Farm – Woodall stated that he was told that the company is going back before the Planning & Zoning Board.

Woodall stated the health insurance plan changed last year and there has been a definite spike. He wants to discuss with Council before August open enrollment. Every department currently has their own budget for health insurance, but they can't budget with the current plan. He would like to change all health insurance to the Commissioners budget.

Security – employees coming through North door with a key card. S-5 Security turned in a quote for \$4,553.60 that includes 300 cards. It can also double as a time system. Berry stated he will get with Auditor on implementing time clocks and make sure it's compatible with the key card system and eventually have cameras. Berry made a motion to approve S-5 Security's quote and fund out of Cumulative Courthouse. Helmer seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Helmer suggested finding only one provider for internet for the Courthouse. Woodall stated he agreed.

**MAIL**

The Commissioners acknowledged their mail.

**ADJOURN**

Berry made a motion to adjourn. Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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**David Berry, President**

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**Tom Helmer, Vice President**

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**Rick Woodall**

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**Attest: Auditor's Office  
Evelyn Williams**