

**PERRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES - JANUARY 4, 2021**

The Perry County Board of Commissioners met at 6:00 p.m. via zoom as was duly advertised. All commissioners President Thomas J Hauser, Randy Kleaving and Gregg Jarboe were in attendance. In attendance were County Administrator, Teresa Kanneberg and County Attorney, Chris Goffinet. Chief Deputy Eric Dickenson was also present. A *News Representative* was not in attendance.

Tom and Randy welcomed new member Gregg Jarboe to the meeting.

ROBERTS RULES OF ORDER

Gregg was asking how the meetings were handled and how to vote on individuals interested in appointments when there are several. Tom said we have never adopted the Roberts Rules of Order. He said if you do, any detail not followed can make the meeting invalid. Tom said as far as the voting, we take each person separately when nominating. This is the way we have done it in the past and don't see any reason to change it. Gregg said he just wanted to know how it was done.

REORGANIZATION

The first order of business was to reorganize the Board of Commissioners for 2021. Randy made the motion to nominate Tom Hauser as President for 2021, and Gregg seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0. Gregg brought up we may not do Roberts Rules of Order, but each one of them do need to actually vote if in favor or not of the motion. All three voted aye.

Gregg made the motion to nominate Randy Kleaving as Vice-President, and Tom seconded the motion. All three voted aye. The motion carried 3-0.

MEETING TIMES

Gregg made the motion to have the Commissioners meetings the same as in 2020. They will be the first Monday of every month at 6:00 p.m. and the third Tuesday of every month at 8:00 a.m., unless noted. Randy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

STATUS OF CLOSING OF COURTHOUSE/COUNTY OFFICES TO PUBLIC

The Courthouse and County Offices have been closed to public traffic but open for business by appointment due to COVID-19. Tom said with the climbing rate of COVID numbers, his opinion for the safety of workers and to stay working, we keep the same status of being closed until the end of January. He said the vaccines are starting but are a slow process. Randy asked if the offices are making appointments. Auditor Pam Goffinet said she can't answer for the other offices, but her office is. He agreed with Tom on keeping the offices closed. Randy suggested to go month by month for now. Let's go to the first of February and then revisit. Gregg said he approved to open a bit and then asked how do we compare to the Court. They are mandated by the State. Tom said they have no jury trials through the month of January. Randy commented that we need to follow what the Court is doing so there is no confusion for the public. Gregg agreed to be consistent with each other. Randy made the motion to close the county buildings to the public but stay open for business through February 1, 2021, seconded by Gregg. Motion carried 3-0.

2021 BLANKET BOND – HARPENAU INSURANCE CO. – COUNTY EMPLOYEES

Auditor Pam Goffinet presented the Commissioners with the annual blanket bond to cover all county employees with exceptions. The Sheriff and the Treasurer's office are on their own bonds because of the amount of money they handle. She informed them that she had met with Rick Harpenau, Harpenau Insurance, Co., and he said that there

were no changes on the bonds. The total cost for the bonds is \$2,938.00. Gregg made the motion to approve the bonds, seconded by Randy. Motion carried 3-0.

HEALTH INSURANCE ITEMS – DIALYSIS AND PHARMACY BENEFITS

Ron Maines with APEX was before the Commissioners to explain two items to the health insurance plan that need to be decided on. The first item is with dialysis treatments. He commented that the current plan is limited to 50 treatments. He said this number of treatments will go by quickly. Tom said the normal is going three times a week when in renal failure. Ron said any TPA (Third Party Administrator) would recommend to change to unlimited visits. He said dialysis is expensive but it is lifesaving until you can get a transplant. Ron said that even with that, we have stop loss in place. Randy commented that he thought we changed this a few years ago. He is totally in favor of this. It can be a financial burden on the family. Tom said he agreed that the stop loss protects us. Randy made a motion for the unlimited dialysis visits. Gregg asked what the amount was for stop loss. Auditor Goffinet replied it is \$60,000.00. Ron said this is for all employees. Gregg asked if anyone is currently on dialysis and Ron said no. Gregg asked if there would be any additional cost in premium with this change. Ron said he didn't think so. He put them on notice about this. Gregg made a motion to amend the plan with unlimited treatments with no additional costs. Randy said we need to make this change no matter what. Gregg said he wants to know the cost before making a decision. Ron said he would get by the end of the week. He said he needs to get the plan documents together and delaying two more weeks until the next meeting would not be in the best interest. Ron commented that he would get the information to Auditor Pam Goffinet. Randy said that even if there is an increase, he still will vote for it. It is the right thing to do for the employees. Attorney Chris Goffinet said there has been no seconds to the motions yet. Randy said he is staying with his motion for the unlimited visits of dialysis, Tom seconded the motion of unlimited and no restrictions. Motion carried 2-1 with Gregg voting against. He wants to make sure there is no additional cost.

The second item for the plan to talk about is the pharmacy benefit. Ron said we would like to move the County to TrueRX out of Washington, IN. They have unique programs. Ron commented that there are high-cost medicines which are high to the employee and the County. He also said we have two employees on specialty medications which can cost thousands per month. This averages out 25% to 40% cost to the County's plan of the prescription cost for two members on an annual basis. To help combat this, TrueRX offers an advocacy program. If already on medicine or newly prescribed, TrueRX team reaches out to the employee and will request employee to provide income, usually W-2 form. The team uses this to reach out to drug manufacturers for financial assistance program to help pay for the medicine. They will get approval for highly discounted amount or for free. The employee is not responsible for co-pay or deductible. If they don't qualify, the plan processes the medicines as they are doing now. Tom said we are not restricting them, just making sure all resources are used to help pay or get the medicine for free. Ron commented that you are not asking the employee to go back to the provider to get a different medicine. They need to take advantage of this to get a high cost of medicine at a better cost. Ron said TrueRX and APEX are working together on this. The employee's personal information is protected between the employee and TrueRX. This will benefit the plan and the member. Randy asked what if the employee refuses. Ron said first they have to provide information or won't get the medicine and second, TrueRX tries to contact the member. Gregg said he has used these programs in the past and it has reduced the cost a lot for both employee and employer.

Ron said there are two employees on specialty drugs that each quarter is costing \$22,000 to \$40,000. TrueRX keeps 15% of savings the County receives as a finder's fee only if successful with the plan and member. Tom asked if we can do this for awhile and watch how it goes. Ron said you have to do for a plan year. Randy commented that any savings, keeping costs down and keep the premium down, he is okay with it. Ron said there are two ways this can be done. The first is to grandfather the current specialty drugs in and members in 3 months, 6 months or one year. The second is to put the employee on the program from the get go. They would be contacted in a few days. Gregg asked if there is any chance on lapse of medicine. Ron said no there isn't. TrueRX runs the benefit through a month or two until a decision is made on the program.

So, there are two options to consider on the specialty drugs. Tom sees this as two separate motions to keep things clear. Randy made the first motion to include the specialty drugs on the plan, however enforce patient assistance advocacy white glove service on specialty therapies (mandatory for members). Any remuneration found through these programs is excluded from plan benefits, then the remainder comes back to the plan and member for reimbursement. The second was made by Gregg. Motion carried 3-0. Randy also made the second motion to grandfather the current specialty drugs and members for 6 months, seconded by Gregg. Gregg stated this will give the employee time. Still need to go ahead and contact the individual, they may want to start the plan earlier. It is their choice. Motion carried 3-0.

Gregg asked about violating HIPPA laws on asking for employees' information. TrueRX will ask for a phone number to contact the individual and they are provided with documents. Ron said there is a business associate agreement signed between Perry County and TrueRX for this. Makes for a more transparent relationship.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

County Administrator, Teresa Kanneberg, explained that she had received several letters for the different board appointments for 2021. They are as follows:

ADA & Title VI Coordinator: 1 year term, one appt. – one letter received: Teresa Kanneberg (Current). Randy made the motion to reappoint Teresa Kanneberg, second made by Gregg. Motion carried 3-0.

Alcoholic Beverage Board: 1 year term, one appt. – one letter received: Mark Howland (Current after a long vacancy). Gregg made the motion to reappoint Mark Howland, seconded by Randy. Motion carried 3-0.

Convention, Recreation & Visitor Promotion Commission: 2 year terms, 3 appts. – 5 letters received: Dan Adams, (current), Cindi Taylor (current), Breanne Walsh, Beth Hauser and Charles Parker. If there are two for lodging, it is required by Indiana statute to put them on the board. Gregg made the motion to appoint Breanne Walsh, seconded by Randy. Motion carried 3-0. Randy made the motion to appoint Dan Adams, seconded by Gregg. Motion carried 3-0. Randy made the motion to appoint Beth Hauser, seconded by Gregg. Motion carried 2-0 with Tom abstaining.

Emergency Management Advisory Council: 2 year terms, 4 appts. – 4 letters received: Dave Briggeman (current- Troy Twp. not City), Phil Schuetter (current – Clark/Oil), Carl Joe Flamion (current – Leopold/Anderson), and Steve Howell – Union/Tobin. Gregg made the motion to appoint Tom Hauser for the Commissioner appt., seconded by Randy and Gregg made the motion to appoint the 4 current members, Dave, Phil, Carl Joe and Steve Howell, seconded by Randy. Motion carried 3-0.

Health Board: 4 year term, 1 appt – 2 letters received: Eric Dickenson (general public-current) and Monica Weissling-Stutsman. The party affiliation is still in place. It is fine to appoint either with the makeup currently of the board. Tom said Eric is doing a good job. Randy made the motion to reappoint Eric Dickenson, seconded by Gregg. Motion carried 3-0.

Hospital Association: 4 year term – 1 appt, 2 letters received: Sean Risse (current) and Monica Weissling-Stutsman. Attorney Chris Goffinet informed the Commissioners that the Hospital Association's role is that they own the Hospital and lease to the Board of Trustees. They meet 1 time a year for organization and go over the finances. This could change. There is no day-to-day operating authority. Chris said it would be fair to table this until find out the party affiliation of Monica. Gregg made the motion to table appointment until the next meeting, seconded by Randy. Motion carried 3-0.

IN 15 Regional Planning Commission: 1 year terms- 3 appts; (generally one is a Commissioner) - 3 letters received: Tara Damin (current), Joe Hermann (current), and Chris Axton. The makeup of the commission is two thirds elected officials. It was said that Tara and Joe are active on this board. Randy made the motion to appoint Tara, Joe and Tom, seconded by Gregg. Motion carried 3-0.

Perry County Development Corporation – Delegate: 1 year term, 1 appt.– Randy made the motion to reappoint Tom, seconded by Gregg. Motion carried 3-0.

Personnel Policy Committee: 1 year term, 1 appt. – Commissioner appt. Gregg made the motion to reappoint Tom, seconded by Randy. Motion carried 3-0.

Plan Commission: 4 year term, 2 appts. – 2 letters received. Tara Damin and Eric Martin. Pat Tempel did not want to be appointed. Teresa said she is not sure of Eric’s party affiliation and she also cannot find that he owns property in unincorporated area, which is a requirement in order to serve on the board. Gregg made the motion to appoint Tara, seconded by Randy. Motion carried 3-0. It was decided to wait for the second appointment until the next meeting.

Port Authority: 4 year term- 1 appt. – 4 letters received: Jason Brown (current), Joe Hermann, Chris Axton and Eric Martin. Gregg made the motion to appoint Chris. It died for a lack of a second. Randy made the motion to reappoint Jason, seconded by Tom. Motion carried 2-1 with Gregg voting against.

Redevelopment Commission: 1 year terms –3 appts.- 14 letters received: Paul Malone (Current), Jared Kleeman (Current), Joe Hermann, Adam Evrard, Bill Amos, Philip Simpson, Keith Huck, Carol Hagedorn, David Etienne, Tony Thomas, Chris Axton, Tom McCart, Kelli Harding and Sherri Flynn. Gregg made the motion to appoint David Etienne, seconded by Randy. Motion carried 3-0. Gregg made the motion to appoint Carol Hagedorn. It died for a lack of a second. Randy made the motion to reappoint Paul Malone, seconded by Gregg. Motion carried 3-0. Gregg made the motion to appoint Tony Thomas. It died for a lack of a second. Randy made the motion to appoint Bill Amos, seconded by Tom. Motion carried 2-1 with Gregg voting against.

Solid Waste Management District: All active Commissioners are on this board by virtue of office.

Zoning Appeals: 4 year term – 1 appt. – 1 letter. Tara Damin (current) Randy made the motion to appoint Tara, seconded by Gregg. Motion carried 3-0. There is still one vacancy with term ending 2021.

MISCELLANEOUS

Administrator Teresa Kanneberg informed the Commissioners that the County was chosen to present the Steel Road project to INDOT at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday virtually. This is to present support on the project.

Teresa announced that the next regular meeting of the County Commissioners would be Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 8:00 a.m.

The meeting ended in open session at 7:20 p.m.

Minutes approved this 1st day of March, 2021.

Thomas J Hauser
President

Randy Kleaving

Gregg Jarboe

*Minutes prepared by:
Pamela L Goffinet, Perry County Auditor*