

**PERRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES – APRIL 5, 2021**

The Perry County Board of Commissioners met at 6:00 p.m. at the County Courthouse as was advertised. Commissioners President Thomas J Hauser, Randy Kleaving, and Gregg Jarboe were in attendance. Also present were County Administrator, Teresa Kanneberg, County Attorney, Chris Goffinet, and Sheriff Alan Malone. No *News Representative* was present for the meeting.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

CLAIMS & PAYROLL APPROVAL

Randy made a motion to approve all claims. Gregg seconded the motion, and motion carried 3-0. The commissioners signed claims dockets in the amounts of \$375,371.61 for county claims and \$154,504.53 for highway claims, and advance payment claims of \$64,391.96, \$1,295.00, \$1,607.63, and \$701.62 for a grand total of \$ 597,872.35. Gregg abstained on claim #161 (JCW, LLC). The payroll docket was approved in the amount of \$147,061.59 for payroll distributed on March 29, 2021. Gregg made the motion to approve the payroll, seconded by Randy. Motion carried 3-0.

MINUTES

The minutes of February 1, 2021, February 16, 2021 and Public Hearing meeting on February 16, 2021 for COVID-19 Phase III Response Program were mailed to the Commissioners for their review. Randy made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Second was made by Gregg. Motion carried 3-0.

FORMING COMMITTEE FOR ARP (AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN) FUNDING

Tom said we need to form a committee with relevant people. Tom also said that the committee needed to have members of Commissioners and Council if legally allowed. Attorney Chris Goffinet said they will be public meetings so it doesn't matter how many members. There just has to be a 48-hour notice given. Tom said he wouldn't be opposed to having all three Commissioners on the committee. Gregg said he wouldn't want the committee to get any larger with 3 Commissioners, 3 Council and 3 outside members. Somebody besides the two group members. Randy mentioned that someone from the Perry County Development Corporation would be great on the committee. They could get grants and give advice. Gregg said that we should keep them on as consultants but not on the committee. Tom said the committee should be two-thirds Commissioners, two-thirds Council and two-thirds appointed by the boards. Gregg said this is a good idea. Tom said he will talk with Council about this. Next is the timing of the meetings. Chris said there is a public meeting of the Council on April 12th at the Tell City Troy Twp. High School. Gregg made the motion for the Commissioners to be on the Council agenda for the discussion of forming committee for the ARP funds. Second made by Randy. Motion carried 3-0.

Tom asked Chris about the funding. Chris replied that we approve an ordinance with a plan attached to it. It may not be the exact plan. We have to set up a separate account in the ordinance that the State Board of Accounts has designated and the funds will go into this new account. Then the Council has to appropriate funds from that account. The ordinance and plan are done by the Commissioners. Gregg said with the webinar they gave that the money is coming so fast and know that we will not have a plan yet and the ordinance sets up the account. We need to get this done before May 11, 2021 because the first installment should be coming by then.

Tom said this ordinance needs to be done at the first meeting in May. Gregg said the plan can have a specific name and no detail at this point Chris said the same thing and it can be amendable also. Chris said the information he has at this time is coming from the State Board of Accounts.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT FUNDING

Randy informed the Commissioners and anyone else that they need to walk thru the Health Department on a clinic day. He was impressed of how it is working. They have gone through a lot and are still upbeat and still doing what they are for the county. He does have some concerns. One is that they do shut down to clean, some rest time, and for lunch. There are several volunteers, employees and public working out there. He is glad about that and thanked them. He said we need to set up a fund for lunch so they don't have to bring food in or figure how to get food for the workers during the vaccine clinic time. The second thing is the disposable needles. They are piling up. The Health Department has gotten \$1,000.00 from the Solid Waste that took care of the needles for the whole year. This is not a normal year and probably have more in two weeks than they would in a year. They need funding to get rid of them properly. The state says the vaccine clinic may be for the rest of the year. And can we find any funds for overtime also. Randy asked Auditor Goffinet is she was able to find any funding available to help with some of this. He was hoping some Council would be in attendance but they are not. Auditor replied that she has talked with Council President Luke Thomas and knows they are looking into some things. She said she has gone over the financial statement closely and the only two funds that has any spare funding at this time are the Rainy-Day fund and the extra EDIT money we have. Gregg mentioned that there is \$40,000.00 grant coming through the Health Department that they worked to get and gave that to the Council to spend. He said he believes that they can use these funds for these items. Auditor Goffinet said this grant will be discussed at the April 12th meeting. There are a lot of questions on who manages the grant and who administers it. The grant money has to be spent by June 30, 2021. There is not much time left. Gregg said the key is that this fund is out there.

Randy asked the Auditor to explain how the cash balance came about from 2020 into the year 2021. She said the cash balance in the General fund for January 1, 2021 was \$855,000.00. She said she has to work up a financial worksheet for the Council every month for the unappropriated funds available. The Council cannot spend on what is in the cash balance. To get the unappropriated funds you have to take into consideration all the revenue coming in for the year minus any encumbrances and total budget amounts set by the Council for the year. Next you have to minus off the circuit breaker amounts set by the State. This is money we have lost for the year. After all this, you have an unappropriated amount the Council works with for additional appropriation requests. The Council has been watching closely what they are doing throughout the year to keep the cash balance up for the beginning of the next year. Also, the County General fund is part of the levy funds. One of these funds affects the others in the levy. Pam said it is like a puzzle she has to put together so the Council knows how much more they can spend and stay within the State limits. She will supply the Commissioners with a copy of the financial statement each month also. Randy said he asking because of us being in the pandemic and keeping the Health Department going. We need to support them 100%. Tom agreed for them to be funded. Tom asked if it is the Commissioners place to ask for additional appropriations to help them. He asked if they can ask or should it be the Health Department. Gregg commented that the right person to ask would be the Health Department. He said with all them giving their support is within their bounds toward that appropriation. Randy said they need to watch the amount left in the overtime line item and having the grant to pay for the other items. Also, if they could find some money for lunch, the Health Department has not asked for this. He did not like them asking restaurants for the meals after the year they have gone through also. He feels like the Commissioners need to do at least this much. Gregg commented then that there are individuals, churches and others helping to donate the lunches for them during the vaccine clinic days. They are getting donations outside of the restaurants. The community is aware. Randy said then we may not have to fund as much. Gregg asked if there is a fund we could use for lunches. Auditor Goffinet said it would have to be appropriated from County General or the Health fund. It was said to work with the Council on this and discuss at their meeting.

BOARD APPOINTMENT – REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Tom stated that Bill Amos resigned from the Perry County Redevelopment Commission. He said he agreed to stay on until there is a replacement. It was said to give a 6 week notice and the appointment will be made at the May 18, 2021 meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS

It was questioned about the mask mandate at the Courthouse. It has gone to strongly encouraged to wear a mask. The power of the mask mandate is the Commissioners. Tom said he has talked with Dr. Marcrum. His recommendation is to go with strongly recommended and get vaccinated. Dr. Marcrum said if continue with the mandate, it takes away from getting the shots. Tom's opinion is to continue with social distancing, leave up to the departments on the mask wearing. He said before this started, we put up plexiglass in every department. Randy said that what Dr. Marcrum, Health Officer, recommends is fine with him. Gregg asked Attorney Chris Goffinet, if not county wide, a store can still mandate wearing a mask. We are not keeping them from doing it. Chris said yes that is right. Chris said by taking no action, you have taken action. The Governors executive order will cover the county unless you do something better (more restrictive). Tom said Judge Lucy Goffinet gets direction from the Supreme Court and they are going strongly encouraged. Gregg agrees as long as we stay consistent. The Extension office will follow the rules of Purdue. Gregg made the motion for all County buildings move to strongly encourage face coverings starting April 6, 2021, seconded by Randy. Motion carried 3-0.

As of now the Courthouse is closed for all departments from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. for deep cleaning and lunch. There was discussion on this. Tom said before the Courthouse was open all day for service to the public during lunch, now it is closed for one hour for all. Tom said we need to continue using the drop boxes. There haven't been any complaints. Randy said we are here to serve the public from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. We need to go back to the way it was. Gregg said he is good with it. Randy made the motion to go back to normal hours before the pandemic, seconded by Gregg. Motion carried 3-0. This will start on April 19, 2021. Social distancing practice will continue. This will give the Sheriff time for scheduling for the security officer.

Gregg made a motion to add a public comment section to the agenda for speaking 3 to 4 minutes. Most boards he has served on have a section for this. Tom said the subject matter needs to be approved. Gregg said you will have a limited number of people to speak and ask them what it is about. Sometimes you will group people together if it is on the same subject. He said they do this at the Tell City High School board. Tom said we always allowed and encourage public input on current issues. Chris said miscellaneous can be changed to public comment. There was no second to the motion.

Tom brought up a previous subject that there has been some concern about. It has to do with the CARES ACT reimbursement on what was given to the County and how those reimbursements were decided on. This money was handed down from the State for reimbursement of expenses directly related to COVID. He said Director Christopher Johnson's letter laid out what Governor Holcomb said the CARES ACT funds can be used for. It cannot be used to offset loss revenue but only used for expenses of COVID-19. It could be for preparation of COVID or incurring cost going forward. Also with the Governor's Order, the Chief Officer of the County could make these decisions for expenses because we were in an emergency and still in one. The process was that the Chief Officer could sign off on expenses and then approve at the next Commissioner meeting. With that said, Tom prepared a statement and he read it.

He says one of the most important functions of local government is public safety and preparedness. When the pandemic began, Perry County, was projected to lose 400 plus lives. With this impending doom looming, we felt the best way to spend the CARES ACT reimbursement monies was for Public Safety and Preparedness. The CARES ACT reimbursement was distributed in many different ways. Not to all counties and towns.

1. The CARES ACT provided stimulus payments in three different distributions
2. The USDA, as part of the CARES ACT, recognized that there were goods that were not being purchased from farmers and distributors. The USDA developed contracts with distributors to put goods in to be delivered to charitable organizations for distribution to those in need. Perry County has had several of the distributions to help those in need.

3. Small businesses were afforded the opportunity to apply for PPP (Payroll Protection Program, and the EIDL (Economic Injury Disaster Loan) which was a forgiveness loan if all the paperwork was properly filled out. There were several businesses that took advantage of the programs to keep their doors open. They were also offered a small business loan with a very low interest rate repayable over a 30-year period.
4. In addition to the State and Federal levels, the local government distributed PPE and cleaning supplies to local businesses.
5. Our distribution came through Indiana Homeland Security and EMA offices for direct cost due to COVID-19 because of the Health emergency and was spent on Emergency supplies and preparedness.
6. In the end, Perry County is now better prepared for any type of pandemic, mass disaster or catastrophic injury/disaster. He said personally he is very glad we are prepared and hope that we never have to use this for such a disaster.

Tom also answered several questions from Kelli Harding that was directed to the Commissioners over the spending of the funds. They were questions from test kits purchased, enclosed trailer, generator, police vehicle, and high-end computers necessary. Tom said the CARES ACT funding was discussed in the Commissioners and the Council meetings as to what was being purchased. He said being proactive and preparing for the worst was our #1 concern when this reimbursement came down. He also said they plan on forming a committee for the 3.7 million that is supposed to be coming. We will form a committee of relevant people once the parameters and guidelines are given.

Gregg went up front to talk about the computers question as a consultant and not a Commissioner which he wasn't at the time. The question was "Were multiple high-end Apple computers necessary to perform the daily functions or could you have purchased standard computers with office or DELL hp. He said the short answer is: No matter what you are doing with a computer, there is always a range in cost structure. He would typically spell out the range in terms of life spans. The more you pay out up front capital, the longer the computer will last. Most businesses buy mid-range. This is a life span of about 4 to 5 years. The reason they don't buy higher is because on a WindowsPC, the cost can triple or quadruple if you start to add more years on. You have to be ahead of technology. So, the long answer is: The purchase of the Macs over Windows desktops at the Health Department was made mainly over non-financial reasons that were given to him for better security and lower maintenance. He said he would have to agree with this. This is true statement across the board. The State prefers the Macs for some of their databases. Also, for the familiarity of use. They were already using them. There was also conversion costs and license transfers. Most time they do not transfer to a PC. The other reason why it was done because Macs have twice the life span of 8 to 10 years. If you look at cost spent verses how long they should last, we were in the break even point. He said he did answer all the specifics of the question and they also asked. How do these purchases help the Community? Tom said it is effective for the vaccine clinics. Today's fight against the pandemic does require technology. We couldn't have 300 people a day be vaccinated without the advancement in technology.

Tom also talked more about outfitting a police vehicle purchase with the reimbursement. He said at the time, the Sheriff only had 2 vehicles available and we couldn't afford to take one out of service for COVID-19 positive transports to decon the vehicle and person each time. If the pandemic ends, we keep the vehicle. We always move to the protection of the people in Perry County. Tom said the money was spent wisely. Randy said he was shocked at the number of people we could have lost. How serious this could have been. We had 2 coolers secured to hold bodies if needed. Randy thanked Tom on his leadership of this. He also thanked PCMH, doctors, nurses, EMA, First Responders. We need to keep the families of the ones lost remembered. Gregg said this will have a long-term affect on people. He just learned of the 400 people predicted and it is a scary thought it could have been that bad. Tom said they did what they did as a team. The purchases were a life saver. Hopefully have these things for a long time.

Tom commented on what Luke said that he would like to consider the subject closed. Gregg said we need to focus on the new money. We are headed in the right direction. Tom said the other money can be used for infrastructure. How it is disbursed makes a big difference. Gregg said we did a lot of learning on this one.

Sheriff Alan Malone announced that David Faulkenberg, Jail Commander, is retiring in May. He has served 10 years with the Sheriff Department and 30 years with the Tell City Police Department. He will be hard to replace. It is an important position to name someone. With his dedication, Sheriff said he can't thank him enough. Sheriff said he has thought a lot about this position and announced that Ron Gibson is the new Jail Commander. He has over 30 years' experience with Branchville Training Center. He has started as an Assistant Jail Commander to train under David. Tom commended him for staying during the pandemic.

An update on the Animal Shelter is that they are working on securing veterinarian support to open the shelter.

Teresa announced the next meeting of the Perry County Board of Commissioners is scheduled for 8:00 a.m. Tuesday, April 20, 2021, at the Perry County Courthouse.

The meeting ended in open session at 7:30 p.m.

Minutes approved this 7th day of June, 2021.

Thomas J Hauser
President

Randy Kleaving

Gregg Jarboe

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