

**PERRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES – JULY 6, 2021**

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

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

CLAIMS

Randy made a motion to approve all claims dated July 6, 2021, seconded by Gregg. Motion carried 3-0. The commissioners signed claims dockets in the amounts of \$408,649.06 for County General, \$125,115.17 for Highway and Advances of \$1,595.50, \$2,938.10, and \$408.40 for a total of \$538,706.23. The Vaccine Clinic Grant claims were also approved for a total of \$6,627.19.

PAYROLL

Randy made a motion to approve payroll that was distributed on June 21, 2021 in the amount of \$147,972.94 and Holiday Pay for the Sheriff employees in the amount of \$14,513.76, July 2, 2021 in the amount of \$149,365.49 and Comp Time for the Health Department in the amount of \$1,507.69, second made by Gregg. Motion carried 3-0.

COVERED BRIDGE CERTIFICATION

Auditor Goffinet informed the Commissioners that she had a certification from the State that needed to be signed for covered bridges in the County per IC 8-14-1-10. She said they do this every year for the covered bridge that the County shares with Spencer County. Once certified the County will receive a shared payment for this. Gregg made the motion to approve the certification, seconded by Randy. Motion carried 3-0.

APPROVAL OF 2022 COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS GRANT & BUDGETS

Director Traci Fischer came before the Commissioners to ask for approval for the 2022 Community Corrections Grant and the Court Recidivism Drug Court. She said it is all the same as last year, that nothing has changed in services. She said she is requesting for salaries to be all paid from the grant and no funding from project income. Randy made the motion to approve the grant, seconded by Gregg. Motion carried 3-0.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION – HIGHWAY

Highway Superintendent, Steve Howell, requested an additional appropriation approval for Stone in the amount of \$10,000.00 and \$50,000.00 for Culverts from Motor Vehicle Highway-Restricted fund. He informed them that he has to spend 50% or more in this fund. He said they have put in so many pipes and culverts this year. Randy made the motion to approve the additional, seconded by Gregg. Motion carried 3-0.

**AWARDING OF BIDS FOR COMMUNITY CROSSINGS MATCHING GRANT
2021-1 PROJECTS AND LIT FUNDED PROJECTS**

The bids for both projects were opened at the June 15th meeting. Highway Superintendent Steve Howell reported that C & R Construction was the lowest bidder on both projects. He informed the Commissioners that they have always done a good job for the County and he is happy with them. Attorney Chris Goffinet reviewed the bids to make sure all documents were in order. Gregg made the motion to award the bids for both projects to C & R Construction, seconded by Randy. Motion carried 3-0.

CLOSING OF OLD ST RD 37 BY PERRY CENTRAL SCHOOL

Steve mentioned to the Commissioners that there is a Perry Central tourney on July 17th and 18th. They would like to close Old St. Rd 37 from 6:00 am to 8:00 pm. They want to shut this off for safety reasons so parking can be used on the other side by Joe James residence. Councilman Charles Baumeister asked if this would be marked off. Steve said it would be temporary. If it were permanent, then we would have to do an ordinance. Randy made the motion to allow the closure, seconded by Gregg. Motion carried 3-0.

APPOINTMENT – AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN (ARP) COMMITTEE

The Commissioners had a list of interested individuals that would like to serve on the ARP committee. They are: Adam Evrard, Kelli Harding, Kevin (Nic) Etienne, Lena Goffinet, Dr. William Marcum, Joe Hermann Jr., Tara Damin, and Erin Emerson. Sherri Flynn was appointed by the Council for their appointment on the committee. Gregg nominated Dr. Wm. Marcum to be added to the committee. Randy nominated Erin Emerson from PCDC to represent the whole County. Tom thanked all the individuals who put their name out there to be a part of this. Tom seconded to put Erin Emerson on the committee. Motion carried 2-1 with Gregg voting against.

There also is a joint appointment between the Commissioners and the Council to add to the ARP committee. The Council recommended and voted on Tara Damin at their June meeting to put on the committee. Gregg said that all 6 members on the committee should get to vote on this position. He asked if it was protocol for the Commissioners to do this. Attorney Chris Goffinet said the Commissioners could follow the Council or make their own choice. Gregg said he was concerned that Tara works for an engineering firm. Could there be any conflicts with that? Randy said that her knowledge would be a benefit to the committee. Gregg’s recommendation to the committee for the joint appointment is Tara Damin, seconded by Randy. Motion carried 3-0.

SALARY RECOMMENDATION FOR 2022

Each year according to state statute the Commissioners have to give a recommendation on salaries to the County Council explained by Auditor Pam Goffinet. There was some discussion on this. Randy made the motion to recommend a 4% raise to all employees. Gregg stated where we landed with covid is not even break even until we use ARP money. He said I would like to give them a 4% but we have to rely on the numbers and council. Gregg seconded Randy’s motion and carried 3-0.

SUPPORT LETTER – PORT AUTHORITY GRANT APPLICATION

Administrator Teresa Kanneberg prepared a support letter for the Perry County Port Authority’s Rail Added Capacity Enhancement (RACE) project because the Port Authority is seeking a grant. This project would replace 13.19 miles of 75-pound rail with new 115-pound rail along curves and other critical areas along much of the Hoosier Southern Railroad (HOS). The replacement of the identified aged and worn rail will allow for the industry standard 286,000-pound freight car to move more safely along the HOS, decreasing the risk of derailment while improving efficiency and reducing costs to the HOS and its customers. The existing track is limited to 263,000-pound freight car at the current time. The project is said to be around \$9.8 million. Randy made the motion to sign the support letter, seconded by Gregg. Motion carried 3-0.

MISCELLANEOUS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Teresa informed the Commissioners that Jan Schiller Hicks will be at the Courthouse on Wednesday, July 14th to represent Senator Mike Braun’s office. You have to make an appointment to attend. She will be doing a press release.

Alvin Evans with PCDC gave an update on the EDA grant for construction of the south pad at Riverview West. He said the first step is requests for qualifications for engineering. You have to have 3 submissions. He said only 1 company submitted. Alvin stated that we either have to do over again or come up with another option. Alvin said he will be at the next meeting about this.

Cecelia Ferrand came before the Commissioners about the ARP money that is available. She said that some funds need to be designated for substance abuse and mental health. She read a prepared statement to the board. She talked about solutions. She said

it is a community problem not individual. We need to help the drug addicts after leaving jail. They need to be in sober living homes with routines and expectations. We need to have ARP money earmarked for this.

Cindy Taylor spoke up saying that small businesses need to be represented on the ARP committee. She said there is no one on there to help. Tom stated that is why Erin Emerson is on the committee. Cindy asked is there is a conflict of interest with her and Tom also being on the PCDC board. Gregg read off the list of individuals that applied for the position. He said that Adam Evrard was from small business sector. She asked the board on how many individuals did you reach out to for this appointment. Randy said we did that when it was put in the paper. These meetings are public meetings. There was much discussion on what the funds are for and if the public will have a say. Tom said at this time there has been no decisions on the ARP money. Cindy also commented that it is always the same people on the boards. She is not seeing the outreach of the Commissioners. Tom said we need to see what qualifies for the funds. Cindy then asked Gregg what qualifications did you have to run for Commissioner? Gregg stated that he was on the School Board for five years, involved with the RDC. He wanted to make a change and hope he is doing that. He said next time we have a board appointment, maybe we can do something different. Cindy said someone from small businesses. She said go for the unknown. Beth Hauser spoke up saying that last year did hurt bad. She found grants and loans through the Small Business Loans. Cindy said most of them are already doing loans. Tom commented that a lot of these loans are forgiven. There was still more discussion on appointments to boards among the board and members of the public.

Kelli Harding asked about the decision with the 911 Dispatch. There is a subcommittee on the financial part. Gregg said he is working with Mayor Cail on the contract. There is another meeting coming up with Mayor Cail, Derrick Lawalin and Roger Smith.

Gregg spoke up saying there needs to be a joint meeting to discuss the contract between the Commissioners and the Tell City Council. He said the contract needs some fine tuning to it. Gregg said we need to make sure the County owned equipment is in there. If this contract is terminated, the equipment comes back to the County. This is pretty standard. He asked Tom and Randy if they had any conditions that should stay in it. Tom said his opinion is that it is the County's responsibility for dispatch services. We need to step up and take that responsibility. What we contract out needs to have clear lines. He said 911 is the responsibility of the County and we contract with Tell City to do dispatch. If this can continue, he will sign the contract. If there is other option, he will look at it. It was stated that all other counties but one, the County does the dispatch services. Councilman Charles Baumeister asked if this has been turned over to the county attorney to look over. Gregg said absolutely. Charlie asked with Jeff Hagedorn being the city attorney, he will get a chance to look it over as well. Greg said actually I thing they are using Ice Miller but I don't want to put words in their mouth. You can't go through legal though until you have a framework for them to review. Chris asked about oversight committee. Gregg stated that existed in the contract but the most important thing is who serves on it. The City of Cannelton and Troy have something to do with this budget and they need representation as well. He said we cannot have a contract unless we three Commissioners agree on it. Gregg stated that the City of Cannelton, Town of Troy and others are an important part to contributing funds. Randy said to the Council members present, we have looked at all options of what it would cost for us to operate it for a fair decision. Charlie said we need a backup plan. Gregg said yes the contract has a statement in it that says "Tell City can stop service with just 6 months notice. We need to know that if that happens, we are capable of continuing service. This is a big responsibility and we need to have every degree covered. Tom said it is the County's responsibility and have say on how it is done.

Coroner Warren Taylor informed the Commissioners that he attended a conference with volunteer Joe Adkins. Joe was keeping up his certification. Warren said he turned in room and meal claims for the both of them. He was informed that Joe's meals would not be covered because he was not a county employee. Warren said he feels the County needs to look at this and make changes to the policy. He said there have been meals paid for other volunteers before. The Sheriff paid for those out of his commissary fund. Warren said he had the money in his budget to cover this. For four days the amount was \$90.70. Tom said they need to review the policy and discuss at the next meeting. Warren commented that he took time to help the County. He said he has talked with the Coroner Association on volunteers, they are legal as long as they don't do death investigations. Volunteers can be used to transport bodies. He said they have three

people who volunteer. He is not asking them to be special deputies. Randy said if we commit to this, can we override it. They take the time for the County and it is an important job. We need volunteers. Gregg made the motion to table this until the next meeting, seconded by Randy. Motion carried 3-0.

It was announced that the next scheduled meeting of the Board of Commissioners is scheduled for Tuesday, July 20, 2021, at 8:00 a.m.

The meeting ended in open session at 7:15 p.m.

Minutes approved this 2nd day of September, 2021.

Thomas J Hauser
President

Randy Kleaving

Gregg Jarboe

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