

**PERRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES – AUGUST 2, 2021**

The Perry County Board of Commissioners met at 6:00 p.m. as was duly advertised following a public hearing. All three commissioners were in attendance: President Thomas J Hauser, Randy Kleaving and Gregg Jarboe. Also present for the meeting were County Attorney, Chris Goffinet and County Administrator, Teresa Kanneberg. Sheriff Alan Malone and a *News Representative* were not present at the meeting.

**CLAIMS & PAYROLL**

Randy made a motion to approve claims, and Gregg seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. The claims dockets for August 2, 2021 were approved in the amounts of \$341,430.91 for County General; \$68,499.03 for Highway claims; and advances of \$1,602.21 and \$569.90 for a total of \$412,102.05. Randy made the motion to approve the payroll in the amount of \$148,120.03 that had been distributed on August 2, 2021 and approved \$2,158.28 for Health Department Overtime and also \$3,000.00 for Election pay, seconded by Gregg. Motion carried 3-0.

**ADDITIONAL – HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

Highway Superintendent, Steve Howell, presented the Commissioners with an additional appropriation in the amount of \$874,126.95 for Community Crossings to pay the contractor for road work. Randy made a motion to approve the additional, seconded by Gregg. Motion carried 3-0.

**HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT – APPROVAL OF 2022 BUDGETS**

The 2022 budgets for the Highway Department were mailed to the Commissioners for their review prior to the meeting. Highway Superintendent Steve Howell was unable to attend, so Tom presented the Highway budgets for 2022. Tom asked if there were any questions. Gregg commented on the Bridge Inspection line item. He wondered if this was on a cycle since it was budgeted last year and not for 2022. Tom read the totals for each budget of the Highway as follows:

Highway – MVH	\$ 1,052,009
Highway Restricted	\$ 1,012,099
Cumulative Bridge	\$ 326,700
Surplus Surtax & Wheel	\$ 350,000
Local Road & Street	\$ 330,000

Randy made the motion to approve the budgets as presented for 2022 for the Highway Department, seconded by Gregg. Motion carried 3-0.

**QUIT CLAIM DEED – CORRECT CANNELTON ANNEX PROPERTY TO MARK RAMSEY**

Attorney Chris Goffinet reviewed the process of the Cannelton Annex property that went to Mark Ramsey. He said it was put up for sale by Commissioners, had hearings, and had a bid from Mark Ramsey for the property and then a deed was prepared to put into Mark Ramsey's name. Chris informed the Commissioners that Mark had a survey done on the property to correct the property lines. He said he had a quit claim deed for a good description. This will clean up the old description from a prior deed. They knew it had some issues. Randy made the motion to approve the quit claim deed, seconded by Gregg. Motion carried 3-0.

**BIDS – CYCLICAL REASSESSMENT – ASSESSOR**

Mendy Lassaline, County Assessor, informed the Commissioners that she has to advertised for bids for a cyclical reassessment every four years. Currently, Tyler Technologies has the contract with the County. She commented that they were the only bidder the last time and also this time. The bids are State guideline specific. This contract is for the years of 2022 through 2026. Mendy said their bid is for \$343,864.00 for all four years. It is possibly three percent more than the last time. Attorney Chris Goffinet will need to check the bid to make sure they have all the documents required. Mendy told the Commissioners that there were only two companies that she knew of that would submit a bid. Gregg asked if the Notice to Bidders was advertised in the paper. He wondered if they knew we were taking bids if they don't get the local paper. Mendy said the companies call the counties when they are bidding. She said she followed state statute by publishing and posting the notice for ten days in a local newspaper. She said most companies are familiar with counties bid cycles if they are interested. Gregg said it is open now and too late but maybe in three years we can contact the other competitor to see if they are interested if it is legal to do. Chris said he didn't see why you couldn't call them. Chris said the other company are in serious litigation over some of their processes, and we were nervous about

getting a bid from them. It is probably a good thing they did not bid. We need to wait and see how it falls out and if they are still around in four years for bidding then maybe we can. Gregg said he wasn't saying anything was done wrong, he just wanted to get more bids because then you get a better price. Randy made the motion to table the bid until the County Attorney looks it over, seconded by Gregg. Motion carried 3-0.

### **DISPATCH SERVICES**

There was a lot of discussion over the dispatch services. EMA Director Steve Hauser spoke up saying he has had a few people question what type of 911 do we have. When you actually call 911, we have an enhanced 911 service. It is pretty complex as far as the start of the call to how it comes to dispatch, how it gets to the first responders at the end. He will do a brief power point at a future meeting that explains the flow of a call to 911. Gregg said maybe he and Roger Smith can work on it together. Randy commented that he would like to see it too.

Steve said he was asked by the Commissioners and some Councilmen to get figures together if the County retains the dispatch service for what it would cost. He said we have been working on it and have those figures together. We found most of the cost for dispatch is in the personnel. He said they tried to compare salaries when putting the figures together, so if the County retains dispatch, we would be able to be competitive with the existing salaries. We felt this was the only fair way and it would not be fair to the current dispatchers to look at a large reduction in their salaries. In doing that, we have totaled everything up and came up with \$730,696.00. That is in the area of \$60,000.00 under what Tell City was projecting. He informed them that he does not think this is a large enough difference for the county to stand up at this point and say they are going to save a lot of money. I do not feel that way. He said it is his recommendation as the 911 Director to the County Commissioners that they consider signing an agreement back to Tell City as long as their terms and conditions are understood. I feel at this time it would be the proper thing to do. Tom commented that enhanced 911 is a chain and dispatch is a viable part of it and so are all the other pieces to it. He said he is a firm believer that don't fix it if it isn't broke. The dispatching services provided by Tell City has been great. The only thing wrong with that was with the funding. This is a fiscal amount, so Councilmen Luke Thomas and David Etienne sat down with the City Officials and they negotiated an amount. He said there are a few things in the language of the contract and then we are ready to move forward. Roger Smith said he has been involved with several meetings for dispatch and has looked at some rough drafts that Commissioner Jarboe has put together as far as the wording and the interlocal agreement. There have been six versions at this point. He feels like there is progress being made. He said there will be some fine tuning in the wording still as who does what. Need to know where some of the responsibilities fall. He said Steve is very knowledgeable and resourceful in what he does. They all agreed the first interlocal agreement was missing a lot and not defined well. Tom commented that the service Tell City gives is top notch. It is one of the best groups around. The one thing that was broken was the funding. He said that Councilman Luke Thomas has come up with a plan for the funding that he thinks makes sense. He has put a lot of time into this. Tom said it would be a shame not to move forward. He said he asked Luke last week for a figure to put in the budget for the dispatch service. Tom said the budgets have not been approved because they were waiting on this figure. For 2022, the amount to put in for dispatch service to go to the Council is \$281,000.00.

Gregg spoke up saying that he is with Roger that this is the sixth or seventh revision on the contract. He said it has taken two months and I have struggled with this a lot because basically I knew I had to get certain things in the contract in order to get it signed and so I fought for those things to be in the contract. I'm pretty positive before last week, that contract was solid. It was basically there. The contract that we finally agreed on at the Annex was when Roger Smith, Alan Malone, Derrick Lawalin, Steve Hauser, Mayor Chris Cail and I were there. We basically looked at each other and shook our head yes. We've got two or three things we need to fix in here that we can't fix them at this table. We got to fix them somewhere else probably in a setting like this but it was solid. But, I saw the demands basically that came out to be added to the contract and that you might as well throw gasoline on that work that we did. You might as well put a fire to it because and I'm not going to sit here and argue about it because I am not your negotiator anymore. I can tell you that right now because we tried to make it to where it would work but if you try to do those other things that you've got in there, I don't think its going to work. Randy said the demands came from himself. He said I wanted them in this contract not for us but for the future Commissioners to know exactly where we stand no matter if it's the county or the city on dispatch. Some of the items I put in there is who does what, and when they need to do it. Once we are gone, we need to have a contract if it's a five year or a thirty year contract for the next generation of leaders to know exactly what we meant at that time when we signed that contract. He said everything that was put in for what he requested is not any different than what we have been doing, but it is in the contract. Kelly Harding asked what the demands were? Randy replied, when we bring it to the Commissioners meeting which it is not here now, then you guys can see it. He said we are not ready to pass it yet, at least I am not. Randy wants to work with the Mayor more on this contract. He said he knows Gregg at the last meeting said the Commissioners made a request for him to take care of the contract, and I did not do that. That was a false statement on my part, and if I said that in a meeting I don't remember it. I'm not saying I didn't and I am glad you did. There are a lot of things in it that are good but I just

wanted clarification on some things. Gregg said it wasn't said in a meeting but it was stated that I was assigned to it so that's what I was going off of. Gregg said one of things is going to be the word PSAP (Public Safety Answering Point). That word is going to go through the roof. Just talking between our two groups, PSAP is not gonna be one of those things that's gonna fly in that contract the way you (referring to Randy's request for PSAP to be County) got it written. Roger Smith spoke up saying that the term PSAP is very important. If it wasn't important, it wouldn't be defined by state statute. This is how law enforcement determines and deciphers and reads the law. Most statutes are very lengthy. He said this statute is short and direct to the point defining PSAP. PSAP is a Public Safety Answering Point (36-8-16.7-20) that operates on a 24 hour basis and whose primary function is to receive incoming requests for emergency assistance and relay those requests to an appropriate responding public safety agency. Roger thought it is very important to determine PSAP and thought Tell City would be determined as the PSAP because we meet every element of the statute at the Tell City Police Department. We are staffed 24/7. 911 is answered and picked up there and dispatch is relayed to the appropriate agency by certified operators. We meet all this to be considered the PSAP. Tom said there are other aspects to it as well. The County provides a lot of the stuff needed to be able to do your job, and the city is in the County. The County provides the 911 equipment, radio equipment, and the GIS mapping and the County then contracts the dispatching services with Tell City Police Department. He said in a sense, the County does provide that by contracting it. Tom said I'm not saying anyone is wrong, but there is more to the PSAP, if you look at the County providing the resources to be able to get that job done. Steve has offered to do a presentation at a future meeting and I think that all together we will win if the County and Tell City work together on this. He said he would like to see the presentation before going forward. Roger commented that the statute is pretty defined. He said for years we have been Tell City's Central Dispatch and that we should maintain that title for the public safety answering point criteria. Randy asked Roger why is it so important to be the PASP? Roger said PSAP is defined and I think it goes back to the 911 funds and what they are designed to do. When you talk about the Statewide 911 funds whether it is the hold harmless or the 90/10 split funding surrounds the word PSAP. That is what it is for. The Statewide 911 funds is a substantial amount of money and I think it all surrounds the word PSAP. Tom said he doesn't want to tie the Council's hands on where they get the funding because they have to go through the whole budget and decide to pay not only dispatch services but everything to do with the County. Tom said Tell City needs to be paid for the services that they provide. It is the most important thing and to retain the services that we are getting.

Roger said as time grew and technology growth, we knew it started out lopsided years ago and it became more and more lopsided. We all knew it was going to reach this point at some time and it was going to be a bigger number than what we wanted to see. He said the last thing he wants to see out of all of this is funding to come between the working relationship of the Perry County responding agencies from the Sheriff's Department to EMA or anything else. It is important we get this resolved and continue to work together. If you call anytime in the night, Steve is going to pick up the phone to help and I don't want that to stop. Gregg said the key that I had when talking through the contract with people was one we had certain equipment that's owned by the County and remain owned by the County. The second piece of it was that it's got to be maintained somehow or another, we've got to pay that money. The third is it has to be and stay serviceable which you can do via a service center audit, whatever you need to do. The word PSAP doesn't change any one of those three factors to me because if you look at the way they did the budget, it is 1.1 million dollars and that \$150,000.00 roughly is there to maintain that equipment in that budget. So, if the County pays the \$150,000.00 or if the City pays the \$150,000.00, it is in the budget, the money is there. The word PSAP doesn't affect our ability to do the three factors mentioned by Tom. You've got to have a contract to get this done and so if one word is a separation point for my signing the document, I cannot do it. (referring to previous comment of negotiating/stating the PSAP is not dispatch) Randy thanked Steve, Alan and Eric for working on these numbers. I was one of the ones who requested these numbers for the main reason of doing my job. When I saw a 150 percent increase, we had to look at what it would cost. This will benefit the Commissioners and the Council when they go to the public hearing. It is going to benefit Tell City also. They spent a lot of time getting these numbers. I wanted to make sure Tell City was honest with us and they are. It's a good thing going forward for what we can use these numbers with. The Council will with going into the public hearing. Anytime you raise taxes even though there's going to be some tax cuts, it is going to be ugly. They have something to go by. It's going to cost no matter who runs it. We just have to do our jobs, that's what we are elected for. Again, Randy said he stands strong for what he wants in the contract because we are doing it for everybody for the future. I want everyone down the road to know what we were really doing here so we didn't have these hidden things. Tom said with the amount we agreed on, we can move forward on that and the City can do their budget and the County can do theirs also. The most important things are that we continue dispatch and the City gets compensated properly

There were more comments made from the public concerning the funding of the County Courthouse with the TIF district and understanding the PSAP and where the 911 funds should go. There was more discussion back and forth with the Commissioners.

**2022 BUDGETS FOR COMMISSIONERS, COURTHOUSE, CUMULATIVE CAPITAL DEV., LIT PUBLIC SAFETY AND RIVERBOAT FUNDS**

The budgets were sent to the Commissioners for their review at their last meeting. The budgets were tabled because they did not have a figure for the dispatch services. Administrator Teresa Kanneberg said a few items were clarified and were given to them to go over. Gregg made a comment to remove the 4% increase of pay for the Commissioners like the Council in the County General budget. The amount of \$281,000.00 was put in for dispatch services within the LIT-Public Safety budget. No other discussions on the budgets. Gregg made the motion to approve the budgets with the 4% taken out of salary, seconded by Randy. Motion carried 3-0. There was a question brought up to make sure the amount put in for dispatch service was the amount that Luke had before. Tom said he contacted Luke to make sure it was clear as to what to put in the budget. Gregg said the good thing about the way the budget was written is the word PSAP doesn't affect the total number because it's 1.1 million regardless of how that all works out. Auditor Goffinet spoke up that the email she received from Luke was \$200,000.00. Luke clarified that we are talking about two different amounts. In the LIT Public Safety fund, there should be a line item for \$200,000.00 and then there is the additional \$81,000.00 that \$49,000.00 of that was already budgeted out of LIT and we increased that to \$81,000.00. He said we were going to create a separate department for the \$200,000.00. Pam said we can do that but we need to put in the whole \$281,000.00 then the Council can move it around at budget time but we have to make sure to put the total in here right now. She said since the Council is looking to change the income tax to bring more money in strictly for dispatch, we would make a separate department so we knew what the money was solely for dispatch.

Commissioners	\$ 2,389,904
Courthouse	\$ 135,700
Cumulative Cap. Dev.	\$ 217,422
LIT-Public Safety	\$ 401,287
Riverboat	\$ 23,400

**BOARD APPOINTMENT – HOSPITAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Teresa informed the Commissioners that there is an upcoming board appointment for the Hospital Board of Trustees. It is Grant Taylor's position which is a republican position. It is a four year term that expires on September 30, 2021. As Indiana Code 16-22-2 states, the existing board shall submit a list of at least one but not more than three candidates to fill that and then you have the option to appoint from that list, request another list or appoint one of your choosing. The appointment date would be at the September 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.

**PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT FOR COURTHOUSE AND ARMORY ANNEX GENERATORS**

Teresa also presented the Commissioners with preventative maintenance agreements with Evapar for our generator at the Courthouse and for the one at the Armory Annex. We have been doing this for the last few years. The one at the Courthouse gets a major PM and a minor PM maintenance, so they come twice a year. The generator at the Armory Annex gets a PM once a year because it is relatively new. The amount for the Courthouse is \$647.00 annually and the Armory Annex is \$637.00 annually. This is in the budget for mechanical maintenance agreements. Gregg made the motion to approve the agreements, seconded by Randy. Motion carried 3-0.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Tom stated that Perry County is in the orange status with COVID-19 now and could go to red. He said he met with the department heads to go over things. As of now, propose face coverings in common areas for the public and the employees. Close from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm for lunch and extra cleaning. He said this is for the Courthouse, as far as the other buildings, the Armory Annex goes by the Health Department, South Annex by Purdue Extension and the Highway Department is shut down to the public already. This will start on August 3, 2021. We want to be ahead of things. Randy commented that we are under the Governor's orders. The President of the Commissioners can make the decisions and the board approves within 7 days. He said we are still under a state of emergency. Gregg made the motion to approve the decision, seconded by Randy. Motion carried 3-0. Tom did say that the Health Officer, Dr. William Marcrum, does encourage for everyone to get the vaccine and to social distance. We need to follow the CDC guidelines. Tom said we are doing what we can not to shut the Courthouse down again.

Herbert Landers informed the Commissioners that David Boyer with Representative Erin Houchin's office is trying to get more veterinarian support for us and the surrounding counties. He said only three states have restrictions on vet technicians and we are one of them. They are looking into possibly getting the law changed. He said that IC Code 25-38.1-4-1 goes through what a vet tech can do and has to be under the supervision directly or indirectly of a veterinarian. So indirectly a veterinarian from around would be overseeing the vet tech that would open Dr. Decker's building back up and as long as they communicate somehow, possibly through zoom,

we might be able to get someone in that building. Herbie said they are going to look into the schools that have vets, vet techs and vet assistants and try to get some interest in coming to Perry County or other rural areas. He said it is hard for kids just getting out of school to start a new practice when they are already in debt. They are going to go where the best deal is. Gregg said he talked to Dr. Marshall, State Veterinarian, who said this fall he is going to make sure that we are on the application list for what is called “an area of need” and what that does is the USDA will actually pay a vet who still has student loans anywhere from \$10,000 to \$25,000 a year just to be here. Herbie said the Feds have come out with a program and put up a 8.15 billion dollars and this is getting more people to sign up to take the veterinarian classes. They predict we will be in good shape by the year 2030. He just wanted to tell them this might be one more possibility we have.

Beth Hauser spoke up and said we have an animal shelter and funding. We just don’t have anybody to take it to them. Herbie commented we have an animal shelter building. Gregg said the key to Herbie is the vet. If we just had someone that would spay and neuter them. Gregg said any animal shelter in Indiana, they can’t allow you to adopt a dog or cat unless it is spayed or neutered. This passed in June. This used to not be a rule. It is pretty common that was the case but not a rule. He said he looked into a voucher program that you would have so many months to get that done. We can’t even do that now because they cannot let the dog leave the premises unless it is spayed or neutered. You have to have a vet to do this and our vets are consumed. Chris VanNote said what about using the four outside kennels outside the Cannelton site to take dogs to until they are claimed or rehomed. You could have people to help to take care of the animals while they are there. There was lots of discussion on this and the liability involved. Jim Carter said he would work with Gregg on contacting universities about vet students. Someone mentioned that the outside kennels can be lifted up and the dogs will be loose again. It was said what if four more cages were purchased, secure them and put a cover over them. This would cost around \$10,000 to \$20,000 to do. Kelli Harding said someone should write a letter to get the law changed on vets. Gregg said he will do. Herbie said the Animal Control Board is regulatory. They don’t get involved unless the Health Department calls them.

Teresa announced that the next Board of Commissioners meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 17, 2021 at 8:00 a.m.

The meeting ended in open session at 7:50 p.m.

Minutes approved this 18<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2021.

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Thomas J Hauser  
President

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Randy Kleaving

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Gregg Jarboe

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