

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

The Perry County Board of Commissioners met at 6:00 p.m. as was duly advertised. President Thomas J Hauser, Randy Kleaving and Gregg Jarboe were in attendance. Also present for the meeting were County Attorney, Chris Goffinet, County Administrator, Teresa Kanneberg and Sheriff Alan Malone. A *news representative* was not in attendance.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

CLAIMS & PAYROLL

Gregg made a motion to approve claims dated for September 2, 2021 and Randy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. The claims dockets were approved in the amounts of \$375,705.93 for County General; \$249,799.01 for Highway claims; and advance of \$331.09 and \$1,567.53 for a total of \$627,403.56.

Randy made the motion to approve the payroll dated August 30, 2021 in the amount of \$147,609.39 and Gregg seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

MINUTES

The minutes from the meeting of July 6, 2021 were mailed to the Commissioners for their review. Gregg made the motion to approve the minutes with amendments, seconded by Randy. Motion carried 3-0.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REQUEST ADMENDMENT - COMMISSIONERS

Auditor Pam Goffinet explained that this request is amending the additional request that was done at a previous meeting for computer system maintenance where we first asked for \$18,000.00 and we split it between the Riverboat fund and Cumulative Capital Development fund. She said since then she has been working with Franzman’s insurance to get all our policies up to date and redone. We came into a situation with our Cyber Security policy and with all the changes that are happening everywhere along with ransomware, they are advising that we need to get multi factor authentication put into place for all county employees for their computers to be able to log on. At this point, if we do not do this, they have only found two companies that would even insure us without it. The cost would be astronomical compared to us putting the multi factor authentication on. So, Teresa and I have worked with Anjan, AnIsland, to put this on 100 computers at \$54.00 each. The total is \$5,400 and is a yearly fee. So, if we could amend the additional appropriation request with this extra amount for a total of \$23,400.00 to go before the Council in September where \$8,000.00 is from CCD fund and \$15,400.00 is from Riverboat fund. Gregg commented that this is common practice. Randy made the motion to approve the amended additional appropriation, seconded by Gregg. Motion carried 3-0.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION – HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Highway Superintendent, Steve Howell, presented the Commissioners with an additional appropriation in the amount of \$100,000.00 from the Motor Vehicle Highway Restricted fund for Bituminous. He said this our share of the 50% to meet the match. Randy made the motion to approve the request, seconded by Gregg. Motion carried 3-0.

MISCELLANEOUS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Herbie Landers came before the Commissioners and informed them he sent them a few emails for them to review. He said they would like to make a couple of changes to the ordinance and rewording. One of them is when there is an issue, page 16 of the ordinance states that the animal board has to make the decision on where an animal is quarantined. Herbie said he talked with Dr. Brent Marsh, Indiana Department of Health, that this falls under the Health Department. The quarantine is usually in the residence of the place if that meets the state guidelines, if not, when we have a shelter, the animal can go there. There is no reason for the Health Department to stop when they are investigating a dog bite and call the Chairman of the board and get the other members to vote to decide where an animal needs to be quarantined when the Health Officer is there with the dog, talking to the people and can make that decision. Dr. Marsh agreed that if we revamp wording and put where it says board, put county health officer or agent instead. This would save some of the confusion. Tom said he read it but hasn’t discussed it with Chris to make sure it is legal. Chris would like to look it over also. All three Commissioners want to wait until they get an opinion from Chris first on this change.

Another thing Herbie brought up to the board is getting to use the other van once the coroner gets his going. He wanted to know that if the county will license, insure it, and provide a gas card, they will provide the drivers. He said he found a low cost neuter clinic in Louisville, KY, Loogootee, IN, and one in Evansville, IN. He said if they can get something set up, they are going to schedule the first 10 or 15, you put your dogs or cats in the van and we'll transport them to the clinic and bring back that afternoon. By doing that with the overpopulation of cats, this will help with strays and feral cats. Tom said we would have to work out the details.

Herbie asked about the money that is in the account currently for the shelter, it is earmarked for animal control welfare housing and care. He asked if any of this money can be used to spay and neuter some of the cats in the overpopulated areas back in Cannelton and Tell City. Chris said the animal shelter would use the funds for this. Herbie said they would check with residents before they did it and would keep a log on how many were taken care of. The population is getting bigger and bigger. He said this is not an answer but a lot less burden on the people in the area.

Tom asked how much we had in the animal shelter fund up to date. Auditor Goffinet said there was \$45,626.87. Tom said we have that, a very nice building, \$35,000 budget from the County, and \$35,000 budget from Tell City for animal shelter. Tom said many times that we lack transportation of the animals. We have law enforcement that could take care of but he doesn't want to see law enforcement carrying animals. Tom commented that something has come up this week and Gregg has been talking with them more.

Gregg said he has been working on the animal shelter issue since he was elected. Right now, he would like to propose a temporary solution. While trying to find help with vet services for the animal shelter, he has talked to a ton of people locally and in different counties. Recently, he was put in touch with another county shelter. They have established agreements with other counties to provide animal control services. After hearing about the program, he asked if they would be willing to enter into a similar agreement with Perry County while we worked on getting the shelter up and running. Just recently, we confirmed that they would. This is not a long-term solution, but we need something now. This agreement gives local police another set of tools to supplement what they already have.

1. If the officer needed help with sheltering a stray they would help.
2. If the officer needed them onsite to take over an incident, then they would come.
3. If an animal needs to be quarantined for 10 days, then they have those services as well.

Animals they take in for us will have vet services provided as to not take away from what we have already secured. Cost for the services is reasonable. Onsite incidents cost \$275.00. If this is 1 dog or 5 cats, the cost is the same. It's by the trip not by the number of animals. 10-day quarantine services are a flat \$100.00. Also, if we update and roof the current outside runs as was suggested, we would have a place to temporarily house animals to be retrieved and taken to the shelter. He realizes this is not a perfect solution, but it's a step in the right direction. It doesn't replace our local officers, but it gives our local officers another set of tools to use. As for our own shelter being opened, we need three things:

1. Volunteer base which we have
2. An organization to run the shelter which he thinks we have
3. Vet services because you can't run a shelter without someone to spay or neuter the animals

This last item is the roadblock. After scouring all the surrounding counties, he has found 5 vets spread out from Princeton to Corydon that are willing to help the best they can. Unfortunately, even utilizing vets over an hour away, this still leaves us short by about 2-3 surgeries a week. He thinks to overcome this long term, we must attract a vet to Perry County. So, to that point, he is working with several people from Cathy Boerste, Wendi Rich, Erin Emerson, Mayor Cail and others. We have found a local citizen that has graciously hired a headhunter to look for a vet to relocate here. We are working with the Indiana State Vet to make Perry County an area of need. This would allow a vet who worked here to get student loans forgiveness. We are looking into setting up low interest loans. Dr. Labhart is actively looking for someone to join his business as well and has offered a \$10,000.00 signing bonus. He thinks the county should figure out how to setup an additional \$10,000.00 to any vet that relocates to Perry County as well.

Randy thanked Gregg for finding this. The key point is we need volunteers. Herbie Landers questioned about the rumor of the shelter auctioning off the assets and cages. Gregg said that is the clinic of Dr. Decker's. Tom said we can't auction off the shelter, it is not legal. Jim Carter applauded Gregg's effort for a short-term solution. Jim talked of using the funds to fix up the outside of building with a roof over the kennels to protect everybody. It can be done for less than \$3,000.00 and with volunteers to do it. Jim also talked about page 16 of the ordinance. He says the animal board should make the decision of where an animal is placed. The health department has to report the bite and not the location. The board should determine if an animal is dangerous or not. The health department has enough to do. He does disagree with Herbie on this matter. There was more discussion on the outside kennels and having the animals quarantined.

Tom said the other thing he wanted to bring up was the mask mandates. We currently passed a resolution that we require masks in all public areas of the Courthouse while we were in

red status. He would like to amend the resolution when we go to orange status, we make it a strong recommendation. Gregg said we are not getting rid of the requirement, just making it a recommendation. Randy asked Chris if we do this and one office still wants to require people wearing mask, can they do this to enter their office? Chris said he will need to check on this. He said the Commissioners have control of the Courthouse and what they put in place is rule. Tom said offices can put up sign to say "please wear a mask." Auditor Goffinet questioned about the working from home when the county goes to orange. Tom said each office holder still has to run their individual offices and Chris agreed. Gregg stated that currently the requirement is in public spaces because in the offices the employees do not wear masks. He said to make it across the board to please wear a mask. Tom said we need to make it simple as possible. Gregg made a motion to change requirement of mask to please wear a mask and be strongly encouraged starting tomorrow, don't matter which color we are, and also close from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. for lunch and cleaning, seconded by Randy. Motion carried 3-0. Randy said then we can go back to some kind of normal when everything settles down.

Teresa announced that the next Board of Commissioners meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 21, 20 at 8:00 a.m.

The meeting ended in open session at 6:45 p.m.

Minutes approved this 16th day of November, 2021.

Thomas J Hauser
President

Randy Kleaving

Gregg Jarboe

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