

SPECIAL PERRY COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES – April 12, 2021

The Perry County Council met on the above date at 6:00 p.m. at the Tell City Jr/Sr. High School Auditorium. Council members in attendance were: President Luke Thomas by phone, David Etienne, Charles Baumeister, Danny Bolin and Lynn Fulkerson. Paul Malone and Earla Williams were not present. A representative of the *Perry County News* was in attendance. Sheriff Alan Malone and Attorney S. Rod Acchiardo were not present for the meeting.

The meeting started with the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Luke Thomas was absent from the meeting in person but was able to attend by calling in. Vice President David Etienne was chair of the meeting.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Luke made the motion to adopt the agenda as presented, seconded by Danny. Motion carried 5-0.

COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public.

ORDINANCE - APPROVAL OF TIF #3 BOND

Lauren Tieman from Bakertilly Municipal Advisors attended the meeting to talk to the Council about a proposal of the Waupaca TIF bonds for area projects. She presented the Council with a prepared tax increment analysis report. The purposes of this new bond are to: 1) fund new projects in the Waupaca area, 2) refinance two Waupaca bonds (2014B & 2016C), and 3) approval of new 2021 bond. Lauren talked about the financing and the debt service schedule for the next six years. She explained that the final debt service payment would be \$535,381.25. She did say that at the last Redevelopment Commission meeting, they were asked to check the rates with our local banks. Old National Bank and German American Bank were the only two to submit their rates for the Taxable Economic Development Revenue and Refunding Bonds, Series 2021 of \$5,485,000.00. Old National Bank had the lowest interest rate. Lauren then went over the savings for each year with the result of refinancing the two bonds. It would amount to be over 3% increase. She read the amount for the debt service of the bonds we have and the amount of the new bond. With both of these, we will still have around \$100,000.00 of revenue remaining each year. Lauren also informed the Council that Waupaca agreed to the tax payment agreement with a minimum amount of \$685,175.00. There is no pledge of County funds. This new 2021 bond will go to the year of 2027. David read the ordinance in full to the public. Luke made the motion to approve the ordinance in full, seconded by Charlie. Motion carried 5-0. (See Attachment "A" O-CC-21-1)

HEALTH DEPARTMENT COVID-19 VACCINATION GRANT

Health Officer, Dr. William Marcrum, came before the Council to say he was aware of a grant for the Perry County Health Department in the amount of \$40,230.00. This money is to be spent providing vaccines and setting up a clinic. The grant has to be expended by June 30, 2021. He also said it can be used for sharps containers and more needles. Dr. Marcrum also commented that they won't be able to spend the money on payroll in this amount of time left. He did say the Health Department approached him to sign the grant. He stated to the Council that they have been to the point of harassing the Health Department employees on this matter and others. So, he asked the Council to sign off on the grant and be responsible for administering it. Charlie asked if it is retroactive since it started January 1, 2021. Dr. Marcrum didn't know. He said the money is to be spent when the grant is accepted. He commented that he hates the Health Department has to get grants to run the office. David asked when did you first learn of the grant. It was the third week in March. Doctor said Indianapolis is bad about getting the information out. David said other counties knew about this grant in December of 2020. Dr. Marcrum said he doesn't open all email on the Health Department because that is all he would do. Luke said he reached out to the State because he didn't know the Council could administer a grant. He said we could because we fall under the same Federal ID number. It is no problem of the Council doing it.

Commissioner Gregg Jarboe said to use 100% of salaries now and reserve the other funding back. Dr. Marcrum suggested to pay salaries of the Health Department and other county employees working on vaccine clinic days. He said this grant is an opportunity for the County. He said the Health Department doesn't have time to do the math to figure this. Charlie mentioned about the sharps and finding funding. Dr. Marcrum said possibly to buy sharp containers for the future. Commissioner Tom Hauser asked Auditor Pam Goffinet how much would it take to figure the salaries. Pam informed them that it would take a lot of figuring but her office will get the job done. Luke said in the grant agreement it reads "Although the IDOH does not restrict or limit the funding to be spent on vaccine clinic staffing. It is the primary purpose and ultimate goal of the grant should there be a local need. The LHD may use funds to pay for any staff required at the vaccine clinic site."

After more discussion on the salaries, Lynn made the motion to accept the grant, Luke will be in charge with assistance from the Auditor and the Health Department for reports, seconded by Charlie. Motion carried 5-0.

COMMITTEE FOR ARP (AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN) MONEY

Commissioner Tom Hauser spoke up saying the ARP (American Rescue Plan) money is to be handled similar to the EDIT money we have now. The steps are that a plan has to be developed, Commissioners do an Ordinance, and the Council appropriate the money. Tom suggested for the committee to consist of two Council members, two Commissioners, and members outside. He said both boards to appoint other members. He thinks seven would be good number of members. This would be an advisory committee. Tom also said that there are still no guidelines on how to spend the money. It was stated that if the meetings are public meetings, then two Commissioners would make it a quorum. Tom said we need to start this conversation of forming a committee within the next couple of meetings. The non-reverting fund needs to be established by May 11th. Also, the Commissioners need to approve an ordinance with a plan referenced in it. The plan can be amended to be detailed on how the money will be spent. Commissioner Gregg Jarboe said the ordinance needs to be passed by the Commissioners at the first meeting in May. Commissioner Attorney Chris Goffinet stated that the plan doesn't have to be done by then. Tom commented that half of the three million dollars has to be spent by December 31, 2021. He said this is only interpretation of the plan. He said we need to be prepared. We need to do what is best for the community. Luke said the plan can be amended. Chris said the ordinance doesn't have to be specific. Luke commented that not only ARP money is coming in, there are other buckets of money coming also.

TEMPORARY ADVANCE TRANSFER ORDINANCE

Auditor Pam Goffinet explained to the Council that this advance is needed until tax dollars come in from June settlement to help with the revenue. Luke said this is why we are building up the cash balances in county funds. We need to be cautious on how we are spending. Charlie made the motion to approve the advance retroactive to February 1, 2021, seconded by Danny. Motion carried 5-0.

OTHER

Commissioner Randy Kleaving was not on the agenda but he said he still had concerns for the Health Department. The issue is still the funding of meals as the clinics go ahead. We need to have the County step up on this. He said the other two problems he was concerned with were addressed in the grant. We need to keep this in mind. Can it be funded in the grant? It was mentioned possibly.

There being no further business, Lynn made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Charlie seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0, with adjournment at 7:15 p.m.

Minutes approved this 27th day of May, 2021.

President, Perry County Council

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