

PERRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES – April 3, 2023

The Perry County Board of Commissioners met at 9:00a.m. as was duly advertised. All three commissioners; President Randy Cole (RC), Rebecca Thorn (RT), and Randy Kleaving (RK) were in attendance. Attorney Andrew Foster, Sheriff Alan Malone and Auditor Kristinia Hammack were also present. There was no *News Representative* in attendance.

The meeting opened with all present reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA

RT made a motion to approve the agenda with addition, seconded by RK. Motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- a) Attorney Chris Goffinet spoke representing Dr. Labhart and Dr. Sisley who are asking for a Tax Abatement for Invision Eyecare Properties LLC. Currently Dr. Sisley and Dr. Labhart have taken over for retired optometrist Dr. LeClere and Dr. Burris, whose business has been a staple in the community. Dr. Sisley and Dr. Labhart have purchased a \$1.6 million parcel of land located on Hwy 37, where the old Ponderosa was located. The reason for this purchase is their current location doesn't allow for expansion. They are looking to add advanced eye care services that would allow for services to be provided here in Perry County that currently people must get elsewhere. Their plans are to add another optometrist and 4 more employees. RK stated that he had a conversation with Dr. Labhart, and they are going to work with Perry County Memorial Hospital on providing services, so residents don't have to travel out of the county. RK also stated that he is happy to see residents investing in their county, and we need to support local businesses. Attorney, Chris Goffinet informed the law requires Commissioners approval due to the property being in a TIF District (#1). RC agreed and added that state statutes have a lot of rules in place for TIF Districts. RC and Attorney, Chris Goffinet both agree that the statute is not very clear as to which act should come first, approval from Commissioners or County Council. They both also agreed that they understand that if abatement is initially approved, it is subject to an annual approval. RC stated that if the other two Commissioners agree, he is ok with passing this on to the County Council and being compliant with what they decide. Thus, they are the ones that make the decisions regarding financials, the only reason the Commissioners are involved is because the property is in a TIF District.

MINUTES

- a) 03.21.2023

RK made a motion to accept, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

KRISTINIA HAMMACK, AUDITOR

- a) 03.27.2023 Payroll in the amount of \$165,363.88

RK made the motion to accept, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

- b) 04.03.2023 Claim Docket \$419,277.03

RK made the motion to accept, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

- c) Insurance Benefits: \$133,616.77

RK made the motion to accept, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

ANDREW FOSTER, ATTORNEY

- a) Attorney Andrew Foster stated that Ice Miller Consulting, the Redevelopment and Planning and Zoning Commissions have been working together to expand the TIF District. Attorney Andrew Foster presented this Resolution to the Commissioners for approval.

RK made the motion to accept, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

STEVE HOWELL, HWY DEPT. SUPERINTENDENT

- a) Steve Howell presented additional appropriations.
- Cumulative Bridge Fund 1135; for Bridge Inspections. #1135.31209.000.0531-- \$119,440.00. 85% of this amount will be reimbursed by the state.
 - LIT Fund 1112; for county road improvements. #1112.44501.000.0534-- \$700,000.00.
 - MVH Fund 1176; additional funding for a part time mechanic. #1176.11308.000.0533 \$3,754.00

RT made a motion to accept, seconded by RK. Motion carried 3-0.

COMMISSIONERS

- a) RC opened a discussion on the matter regarding our current asset management organization system and plans for more efficiency. RC asked Auditor Kristinia Hammack to explain. Kristinia explained that there is a need to improve our current system as it is all manual data entry with multiple inventory spreadsheets. We are currently paying for a program through Data Pit Stop that we are not utilizing and feel this would be a more efficient way to track our inventory. Kristinia informed that the first step would be for each department to designate a suitor for their office to enter their office inventory into the Data Pit Stop software. This is cloud bases software, so once they enter information it will notify the Auditor and it will be imported into the Counties Assets. Then as time goes on, if an office gets rid of an item, or adds an item they will fill out the proper documentation in Data Pit Stop and the Auditor will be notified of any changes to their inventory electrically. This will be a more organized, accurate way of tracking inventory. Kristinia stated she has a representative lined up to come present a training the end of April for all department heads and their designated suitor. RC recommended the Commissioners pass and ordinance to implement the use of this software within the county office. RC stated that he also recommends we set the threshold at \$250 for all inventory. Kristinia said she would have the ordinance ready for the next meeting.
- b) RC opened a discussion regarding monthly checking account interest and what fund it is being receipted into, and asked Auditor Kristinia Hammack to share more information. Kristinia Hammack stated that currently interest is broken down between certain funds based on a percentage. Kristinia stated she has spoken with other counties and most of the counties receipt the interest into the general fund. The State Board of Accounts states: IC 5-13-9-6 states that interest is to be posted to the General fund, unless otherwise provided by law or the governing body designates the interest to be deposited to other funds. If your County has an investment policy, check to see if it addresses how interest is to be deposited. You would need to follow that policy. If there is no policy, the interest would be deposited to the general fund, unless otherwise stated in law. Kristinia informed that she has not located an ordinance stating the reason for the breakdown of bank interest into designated funds. Kristinia feels this is a way for us to build up the general fund and opens us up to investment opportunities, as interest is not budgeted funds. RC agreed that setting up an interest account within the General Fund is a good opportunity, RT and RK agreed.
- c) RC stated that the County Council had approved a new EDIT Plan at the 03.23.2023 meeting. The new EDIT Plan has .05 allocated for maintenance. RC stated with this a restricted fund needs to be established, RC entertained a motion. RK made the motion to accept, seconded by RK. Motion carried 3-0.
- d) RT reported updates on the animal shelter building maintenance; she is working on scheduling the installation of the new guttering and downspouts, along with power washing of the building. RT also reported that we are still having roof leaks. We had 6 leaks and are down to 2. She will contact the roofers as this roof is only 2 years old and believes the entire roof needs resprayed. RT informed everyone on behalf of the Animal Welfare Board there are four different ordinances. RT would like to work with our

Attorney, Andrew Foster, and combine those into one ordinance. This will make it easier for law enforcement.

- e) RC opened a discussion on zoning enforcement, informing everyone that there is a 2-mile perimeter outside of the city limits that the city of Tell City has control of. Yet they say they have no authority. RC stated the issue is someone needs to enforce zoning, if they are not going to enforce it, the county will take back the 2-mile perimeter. Attorney Andrew Foster stated he will get with the City Attorney and have more information at the next meeting.

- f) RC opened a discussion again on the Highway Department assisting with cleaning of the boat ramp at Mano Point which was initially discussed at the 03.21.2023 meeting. Last year the Commissioners were contacted by the Forestry Service asking for assistance in maintaining the boat ramp. The Highway Department provided this service. Steve Howell reported that the initial cleanup at Mano Point was on April 18 & 19 2022. There was several feet of mud to remove, as the ramp had been closed for about six years. The cost of this was \$3517.06. Then on May 5th, 2022, they cleaned mud from the ramp after high water went down. The cost was \$187.22. May 8th, 2022, they cleaned again after high water went down. The cost was \$284.44. November 30th, 2022, they cleaned again at a cost of \$284.44. Total expense for 2022 in man hours was \$4273.16. RT stated that not only did we have the expense of labor but also wear and tear on equipment. RT asked if the boat ramp is used? RT spoke with the Forestry Service about the expenses the county endured in 2022 and see if we can come to an agreement somewhere in the middle. RC informed that the Forestry Service stated they had no funding available, but they would continue to oversee the upkeep of the grounds. RC stated this is a nice park that can be utilized by more than just boaters. RC informed everyone that he had reached out to the Derby Association, and they have seen no change in revenue from when the park was closed for six years to it being open in 2022. Betty Cash, a former employee of the Perry County Visitors Bureau, along with Warren Taylor a member of the Perry County Parks & Recreation Board, both spoke of the initial steps the PCVB and the Parks and Recreation Board took in working with the Forestry Service to get Mano Point opened for Perry County residents. All 3 Commissioners agreed to continue the upkeep of the Mano Point boat ramp for 2023 and revisiting in 2024.

RT made a motion to accept, seconded by RK. Motion carried 3-0.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m. CST. The next meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be held on Monday, April 18, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

Randy Cole
President

Rebecca Thorn
Vice-President

Randy Kleaving

*Minutes prepared by:
Kristinia L. Hammack, Auditor*