

**PERRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**MINUTES – January 23, 2023**

The Perry County Board of Commissioners met at 6:00 p.m. as was duly advertised. All three commissioners President Randy Cole (RC), Rebecca Thorn (RT), and Randy Kleaving (RK) were in attendance. Sheriff Alan Malone, Auditor Kristinia Hammack were also present. There was no *News Representative* or *County Attorney* in attendance.

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

**BOARD OF FINANCE**

County Treasurer, Amanda Lasher, appeared before the Commissioners and asked that they call to order the annual Board of Finance meeting.

It was decided by the board to vote Randy Kleaving as President and Amanda Lasher as Secretary for year 2023. Amanda informed the Board of Finance of a report showing the bank balances for the year of 2022. She explained the County has checking accounts at Old National Bank, Fifth Third Bank and German American Bank. A total of \$73,504.03 was earned in interest in 2022.

RC made a motion to approve, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

RK made a motion to adjourn the Board of Finance Meeting, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

**AGENDA**

Auditor, Kristinia have asked to add to Line 6, item (h) “Covid Policy”.

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

**(4) PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- a) Tony Billow spoke of issues on Oxen Rd. primarily the condition of the bridge on this road. Billow stated it is falling in.  
RC stated that he had looked up property owner and couldn't find Tony Billow. Billow informed that he rents property at the end of Oxen Rd. Also, stated there are 6 families that reside past this bridge on Oxen Rd.  
RT asked when this bridge was installed. Steve Howell informed that this bridge was built in 1988.  
RK asked if it has deteriorated in the last year? Is it on the annual bridge inspection. Steve Howell informed everyone that it is inspected every 2 years. Steve provided the inspection report from 2021 and what all maintenance and repairs had been done to the bridge and Oxen Rd. in 2022. Steve also provide pictures that he took of the bridge on January 2, 2023. In 2022, 192 ton of road was put on Oxen Rd. and bridge.  
RC said they don't have an answer tonight, but Steve will continue to look into options.
- b) Nathan Held with Indiana 15 Regional Planning wanted to introduce himself, as he has been with Indiana 15 for 17 years. He is a resident of Perry County. Lisa Gelhausen was the previous Director. He informed us they have helped bring 24 million dollars of grant funds into Perry County, and they are here to help. Nathan provided a listing of project ideas for 2023. He asked that the Commissioner's review this list, add and remove items. He looks forward to working with everyone.
- c) An Island LLC., spoke to Commissioner's wanting access to GIS mapping to add "layers" of data to help with a program for Tell City called Smart City. He hopes to in the future expand this feature countywide.  
RK made a motion to allow AnIsland LLC. Access to GIS mapping, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.
- d) Julie Dixon with Animal Welfare, Control and Education Boards was not present, but Rebecca Thorn spoke on her behalf. Rebecca informed Commissioner's that Shannon Sturgeon has not attended a meeting since July of 2022. They are wanting to start the process to get her removed so a new member can be appointed.

RC suggested that they notify her at the last known address via certified mail that she is being removed from the board. Once that has been done, post the open position for 6 weeks.

**(5) MINUTES**

a) 01.03.2023

RC stated he did not see where the C& S Bid acceptance was listed in the minutes. Auditor, Kristinia Hammack said she would review and add this item. RK made a motion to accept with C& S bid acceptance be added, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

b) 01.05.2023

RT made a motion to approve, RK abstained, RC seconded. Motion carried 2-0-1.

**(6) PAYROLL**

a) 1/16/2023 Payroll in the amount of \$159,697.76

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

b) Insurance Benefits: \$121,080.34

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

**(6) ADA & TITLE IV COORDINATOR**

c) Kristinia stated that at the 1/3/2023 Commissioner's Meeting it was decided that the Auditors Office would take over the "administrative duties" of the Administrator position. Kristinia was to investigate the details of the ADA and Title IV Coordinator. She discovered the ADA Coordinator needs to be an internal employee. She reached out to Kevin Herp, the Veteran Services Officer, to see if he would be interested in this duty. Kevin was interested and jumped right into researching and has already done a lot of work on the ADA and Title IV compliance. Kristinia asked if the Commissioner's would consider giving Kevin a \$1,000 stipend for taking on duties of the ADA & Title IV Coordinator. RT did ask if Kevin was committed to his current position for the future, he informed that he had 18 years left to work and had no plan to leave anytime soon. Randy Cole said we needed to also account for an additional 20% to cover taxes and benefits and modify his job duties.

RT made a motion to appoint Kevin Herp as the ADA & Title IV Coordinator and pay him an annual stipend of \$1,000 plus 20%, seconded by RK. Motion carried 3-0.

**(6) LOW QUOTE**

d) Kristinia presented a quote from LOW to give Commissioners, County Council Members, and all department heads "View Only" access to financials. She informed this would allow them access to information without having to wait on the Auditors Office to get it to them. Also, this would allow department heads to manage their offices budget independently.

RT made a motion to approve this expense to be taken to the County Council, seconded by RK. Motion carried 3-0.

**(6) IMPALA INSURANCE CLAIM**

e) Kristinia informed Commissioners that Greg Hendershot had turned in a quote to her for repair of damages the impala had sustained in a wreck. Stating the total cost of the repairs would be \$1,656.40, and the county would be responsible for the \$500 deductible. RC stated that he has looked at the vehicle and the damages are minor. RK asked if it was possible for us to fix it ourselves. RC informed it is just cosmetic with no mechanical damage. RK asked the year of the impala and mileage, Kristinia informed a 2014 with 88,160 miles.

RT made a motion to not fix the cosmetic damage to the impala, seconded by RK. Motion carried 3-0.

**(6) ADMINISTRATOR OFFICE COMPUTER**

f) Kristinia asked permission to either move or be set up with remote access to the computer located in the Administrator's office. With the Auditors office taking over those duties, it would save time not have to run back and forth from office to office. No Commissioner's had an issue with that. Also, the Treasurer's office would like to move the copier in the Administrator's office to the Treasurer's office. The copier they have is a 2007 and is on its last leg. No Commissioner's had an issue with that.

**(6) CLEANING CONTRACT (PROSECTORS OFFICE)**

- g) Kristinia stated that at the 1/3/2023 Commissioner's Meeting the cleaning contract from 2022 was extended through the month of January to allow time to investigate liability issues with her being a full-time employee. Kristinia informed that she had found out that currently Caitlin receives a W-2 for her full-time wages and a 1099 for the \$200 a month/\$2400 annually she is paid for cleaning. Randy Cole said we needed to also account for an additional 20% to cover taxes and benefits and modify her job duties.

RT made a motion to pay Caitlin Stewart annual \$200 a month plus 20%, seconded by RK. Motion carried 3-0.

**(6) COVID POLICY: RE PAID TIME OFF**

- h) Kristinia brought to the Commissioners attention that currently we have 2 employees out due to Covid, one is a salary employee, and one is an hourly employee. She was asked if they get paid without requiring the use of sick or vacation days. She looked into it and according to Resolution R-C-21-1, which was approved January 19, 2021; regarding employee absence due to Covid receive a maximum of 80 hours off paid. This Resolution has never been rescinded. RC stated he sees this as a housekeeping issue, that the severity is not the same as it was during the early times of the pandemic. He feels that since this is an oversight on the Commissioners, that we should honor the current cases. RK suggested we table it until we get advisement from an attorney. RC opened a discussion asking if we are going to consider Covid a special disease? If an employee is out with the flu; they have to use sick days, vacation, or FMLA. If an employee is out with Covid they get up to 2 weeks off paid with no use of sick days, vacation, or FMLA.

RK made a motion to rescinded Resolution R-C-21-1 as of January 24, 2023, honoring the 2 current employee covid cases under Resolution R-C-21-1, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

**(7) RACHEL EAST, CLERK**

- a) The Election Board presented to the Commissioner's the need for more room for storage for election equipment, as the election is growing, and the State has added more required equipment. Currently the election room is too small. Also, election equipment that is not required to be kept under dual lock is being stored with Christmas decorations and cleaning supplies. The Election Board asked the Commissioners with the administrative office now being unused if they could use it for additional storage and Election Board Meetings. RC asked how many people early voted in this past election. Rachel informed him that more people early voted than waiting until election day. RC stated the idea for us to possibly look into shrinking the number of polling sites and setting up more sites for early voting. RC also stated that we are in a trial period with the auditor's office over administrative duties, he doesn't feel we are ready to give up the office yet until we are certain that this set up is going to work. RC also mentioned that he feels there are other areas in the courthouse for us to look into more options for more room for the election Board. Kevin Herp suggested to putting a wall in the current administrative office, as it is a large area, so split it in 1/2. RC asked the Election Board to get them an itemized inventory list so that more options could be explored, but currently the Commissioners are not ready to let go of the office.

**(8) COMMISSIONERS**

- a) RC provided information that he has got together to set up a new audio/video system for the Commissioners Room. This system would have mounted cameras, a ceiling mounted projector, and a secure cabinet with all equipment. The camera view will be easily adjustable to the needed width. RC also stated that he would like to see all board/committee meetings to be held here. RT said that would be a plus for county members to be able to view all meetings, allowing for complete transparency. RT asked if we were going to require all board/committee meetings to be held here? Keith Huck from the public stated he thinks it could be if taxpayer's dollars are being used. RC asked for support from the other Commissioners to advertise for RFQ.

RT made a motion to proceed with RFQ for audio/video system for the Commissioners Room, seconded by RK. Motion carried 3-0.

b) RC opened discussion on possible hire of Andrew Foster as the County Attorney. Andrew has a background in government. He is concerned of the amount of time needed but is willing to try it for a year.

RK made a motion to hire Andrew Foster as the County Attorney, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

c) RC opened discussion on the Advertised distribution of ARP funds:

- Forest Canton \$300,000.00 (used for development of sub-division)
- Derby Community \$50,000.00 (use for updates to Community Building)
- Perry County HWY \$300,000.00 (use for equipment upgrades)
- Cannelton Schools \$120,000.00 (use to repair flooring @ elementary school)
- And-Tro \$500,000.00 (use to get water to areas in county that are currently not served)
- Perry Circuit Court \$57,000.00 (use for correcting ½ doors that are currently installed, enhance security)
- Girls' Softball \$81,000.00 (funding for a practice facility)
- Tell City School Corporation \$100,000.00 (use for transportation needs)
- Perry County Prosecutor \$25,000.00 (use to upgrade computers and copiers in the office)
- Perry County Memorial Hospital \$150,000.00 (use for building 3 rooms at the clinic)

Total Distribution: \$1,683,000.00

RK asked if Perry Central requested funding. RC informed that they requested and received funds the first round but did not request the round. RC also mentioned that Tell City Schools and Cannelton Schools did not request funds first round.

RK made a motion to approve all distributions, seconded by RT. Motion carried 3-0.

d) RC opened discussion on reopening the courthouse from 12-1 daily starting February 1, 2023. RT stated that the only concern with that was security and Sheriff Alan Malone verified he has that covered so we are good to move forward with that. RT also made mention that the courts will continue to be closed from lunch from 12-1, as the operate by appointment only.

RT made a motion to reopen courthouse from 12-1 and office will implement staggered lunch hours on February 1, 2023, seconded by RK. Motion carried 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m. CST

RK made mention that he will not be in attendance at the next meeting.

Kristinia Hammack announced that the next meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be held on Monday, February 6, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

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Randy Cole  
President

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Rebecca Thorn  
Vice-President

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Randy Kleaving

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