

**SPECIAL COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
WORK SESSION – FEBRUARY 12, 2021
VIA ZOOM**

The Perry County Council met on the above date at 2:00 p.m. via zoom. Council members in attendance were: President Luke Thomas, David Etienne, Charles Baumeister, Earla Williams, and Danny Bolin. Paul Malone and Lynn Fulkerson were absent.

The first topic at hand was the Health Department Overtime. It was said at the last meeting with a motion of intent to pay the overtime, Auditor Pam Goffinet would figure the Overtime for the Health Department from December 27, 2020 to January 30, 2021. It was stated that \$11,415.00 will be needed which includes salary, social security and retirement benefits out of the approximately \$13,000.00 that is left from the CARES ACT after doing additional for the EMS. This will not be paid out until after the meeting in February and the additional appropriation is approved.

Information from other counties was given to each member that Orange County is not paying overtime and they have one part time nurse and a sanitarian that does no extra duties for COVID. Pike County has one part time nurse, one part time sanitarian and an environmental specialist. They are working overtime with the vaccine clinic and testing center but paying it for the nurse. Pike County is using money from an additional grant that was available to all counties in the amount of \$140,000.00. Auditor from Pike County said all counties were eligible for this money. It was noted that our Health Department, Health Board and Health Officer said that after much consideration, they did not apply for this grant. Spencer and Crawford Counties did not apply either. This grant would have paid for supplies, salaries and more. It was stated that 75 out of 92 counties received this money. It is in the job descriptions to respond to health emergencies.

Luke said that after the overtime is paid to January 30th, we only have around \$1,500.00 left of the CARES ACT money. He said we need to find a solution on how to handle paying overtime from January 31st and on. David said we need to do same path as other counties. We can't continue to pay this out. David asked if the overtime has slowed down. Luke said no it has increased. It takes awhile to catch up. He said they are working and we don't know where to pay them from. He commented that we were paying the overtime with the CARES ACT and now there is none left to pay. Luke said he is going to check the Commissioner minutes on the verbiage of the Health Department overtime. David commented that he hoped the Commissioners and the Health Board figure something out. Luke provided the Council with a spreadsheet that he worked up on the overtime and a possible solution to help the situation. It would be to hire two temporary positions for as long as necessary and no longer approve overtime for Sara, Tara and Kim. He said with two employees at \$13.50 per hour and each one working 21 hours a week, it would save the County around \$2,602.77 every two weeks compared to what we are currently paying out. Luke said he talked with Sara and Tara, nurses at the Health Department, in January, and they said they would take on some help. The contact tracing still needs to be done. David said it would be like doubling the workforce. Danny said it was a good plan. David commented that it is still going to cost us. Charlie said we need to do this program of Luke's as proposed and cut the overtime with the Health Department. There would be no extra pay and if there is overtime then it would be compensatory time. David, Danny and Luke agreed with this plan.

David asked that knowing they are going to have overtime, why didn't they apply for the grant. We have already been paying it out. Charlie commented that one of the responsibilities of the Health Board is to do grants.

It was asked if there will be any other funding this year. Auditor Goffinet responded that the Association of Indiana Counties said there could be. They are not sure of the amount at this time or the parameters on it.

Paul Malone joined the meeting.

Danny asked how do we present this to the Health Department. Luke said he would talk with Sara and Tara, then meet, and then decide at the February meeting. Administrator Teresa Kanneberg found the minutes that Luke was looking for. The minutes stated: May 19, 2020 - Health Department talked to the Commissioners about exception to the Compensatory time.

July 6, 2020 - Health Department nurses and sanitarian accumulated overtime and to pay out with the pandemic

August 3, 2020 - First payout of the overtime

August 18, 2020 - There is \$90,000 left and looking at extra overtime payout

The second topic for discussion is the EMS funding. Luke stated there was a meeting with the Perry County Hospital and County officials. He said this meeting did not help to make any decision concerning the EMS. Danny commented that we didn't get to the root of the problem. There were some questions raised. We are still over \$200,000 away from the budget from what the Hospital wants. Danny said we need to find someone totally unattached to analyze this. We need someone outside looking in. Public Safety is very thin on money. Charlie said other departments need help also. David said we need more income tax dollars coming in. Luke said we need to find more revenue and spend less. There was lots of discussion among Council members. Charlie commented that we need to stand by the contract with the Hospital on the EMS. Only pay out what is budgeted. He said we went beyond the contract by doing the additional appropriation for the extra funding.

There being no further business, Danny made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Charlie. Motion carried 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

President, County Council

Minutes prepared by Pamela Goffinet, Perry County Auditor

