

**PERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
MINUTES – March 26, 2015**

The Perry County Council met on the above date at 4:30 p.m. as was duly advertised at the Perry County Courthouse. Council members in attendance were: Steve Goodson, Jim Adams, Dianne Rudolph, Jody French, Ron Crawford Sr, Danny Bolin and John Taylor. A media representative from the *Perry County News* was also present along with Council Attorney, James Tyler.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the meeting of February 26th, 2015 had been emailed to council members for their review. Jim made the motion to approve the minutes as presented and John seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-1 with Ron abstaining due to not being at meeting.

UMBAUGH PRESENTATION – PUBLIC SAFETY TAX

Gary Malone, Umbaugh & Associates, came before the Council to give a presentation on Public Safety Tax, new local income tax that if adopted, would generate money for public safety. At this time, Perry County has three local income taxes that are paid by residents through their paychecks. The County Option Income Tax, the County Economic Development Income Tax, and the Special CEDIT tax that funds bond payments on the new Perry County Sheriff Office and Detention Center.

A new public safety tax could be set at a maximum of one-quarter of one percent but would have to be adopted with a separate income tax designed to provide relief to property taxpayers, either through a levy freeze local option income tax or a property tax relief option income tax. The maximum rate for the levy freeze or property tax relief is one percent or can be set lower as long as it is not lower than the public safety tax rate. Gary stated that most counties choose to approve a property tax relief if adopting a public safety tax.

The property tax relief would be used to provide credits to property taxpayers. Local officials decide to whom the credits would go to. The options include more homestead credit to primary residences, other residential property, including rental homes, or extend credits across all property classes, including businesses and industry as well. This tax would lower the amount of money lost due to the circuit breaker tax credits. With the County being more than 50% of the tax base, the County Council would be the one that adopts the tax.

By adopting the public safety tax, there are certain eligible expenses that this can be used for including police/law enforcement, firefighting, ambulances and emergency medical supplies, probation programs, community corrections, jail, communications systems or enhanced emergency telephone systems and pension payments for police, firefighters, and sheriff department.

Also if adopted, the revenue collected from the tax would be distributed to the county and to cities and towns in accordance with the applicable distribution formula now used for EDIT and COIT. Cities and Towns could use their share of the money for the same purposes.

One benefit noted for the public safety tax is that it would allow the county to pay public safety expenses from this fund and free up money in County General where items are currently being paid from.

Gary also reported that the State allowed counties to adopt new local income option income taxes to help reduce local dependence on property taxes.

There was no action taken by the Council at this meeting. Steve stated that he hoped the public would provide some input on this. Ron did suggest to the other members to contact other counties that have adopted this tax to see how it is working for them. He gave each member a list of counties to call and report back at the next meeting.

ADMENDMENT TO SALARY ORDINANCE-HIGHWAY

Steve Howell, Highway Superintendent, came before the Council asking to amend the Salary Ordinance for a three percent (3%) raise for the road foreman, truck drivers, operators and mechanics. Council Attorney, Jim Tyler, explained that the same process done by County Council last month was done incorrectly. Jim stated that Steve H had not gone through the County Commissioners before presenting the request to the County

Council, so they would need to start over this month. Steve H stated that he had called the State Board of Accounts and was told it didn't matter what order it was done in, they just needed to state a start date. Jim informed the Council that it didn't matter what the SBOA said, his opinion still stands. The Council said they were going by what their attorney said.

Ron informed the Council that at budget time, they said no raises, the appropriation was just left in the line item to be able to do transfers later if needed. It was not left in there to be intended for raises. Ron made a suggestion that the Commissioners change the EDIT plan to take away from the Highway share and give the County 10% to help give everyone a raise. It is not good to give a raise to just one group. He then stated he would like to recommend for the Commissioners to change the EDIT plan.

Randy, Commissioner President, stated that the Highway money comes from gas tax. It is different money. He said the EDIT money the Highway receives is for paving the roads, and they don't have enough to do what is needed now.

Steve H said he has the appropriation in his budget. He feels that his employees deserve it, that they do more with less people.

Ron stated that if the Council wouldn't have left the appropriation in the budget, this wouldn't even be an issue.

Jody said that the raises have always been done at the same time for everybody. We need to get creative and think outside of the box. We may need to start giving raises to some now and others later.

There was much more discussion with the audience on suggestions for finding the money to give raises for everyone.

Ron then asked Randy if they would wait another month and for the Commissioners to look into the EDIT money to help. Randy replied that this was looked into last year. He stated that the Council was okay with the decision last month for the raise, so just go with a vote.

John made the motion to allow the 3% raise for the highway workers effective February 26, 2015, Jody seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-2, with Dianne and Ron voting against.

TRANSFERS

Perry County Sheriff, Lee Chestnut, asked for a transfer of \$32.00 from Janitorial Maint/Supplies Prisoners to Utilities in the Jail budget within County General Fund.

Highway Superintendent, Steve Howell, requested the following transfers: From Truck Driver to Road Foreman of \$2,208.00 within the Motor Vehicle Highway Fund and \$98.25 from Distressed Road Fund to Distressed Loan Repayment Fund.

Dianne made the motion to approve the transfers as requested, seconded by Jim. Motion carried 7-0.

TRANSFER APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE

CC-15-3

WHEREAS, IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED THAT IT IS NOW NECESSARY TO TRANSFER MONEY FROM ONE MAJOR BUDGET CLASSIFICATION TO ANOTHER MAJOR BUDGET CLASSIFICATION IN THE FOLLOWING NAMED BUDGET; NOW THEREFORE:

SEC. 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF PERRY COUNTY, PERRY COUNTY, INDIANA, THAT THE FOLLOWING TRANSFERS BE MADE IN THE FOLLOWING MADE BUDGET:

COUNTY GENERAL FUND

TRANSFER \$ 32.00

**FROM: ACCOUNT #1000-380-2000.31
JANITORIAL MAINT/SUPPLIES PRISONERS**
**TO: ACCOUNT #1000-380-3000.51
UTILITIES \$ 32.00**

WITHIN: JAIL BUDGET

MOTOR VEHICLE HIGHWAY FUND

TRANSFER \$ 2,208.00

FROM: ACCOUNT #1176-531-1000.11
TRUCK DRIVER
TO: ACCOUNT #1176-530-1000.12
ROAD FOREMAN \$ 2208.00

WITHIN: PERRY COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

DISTRESSED ROAD FUND

TRANSFER \$ 98.25

FROM: ACCOUNT #1218
DISTRESSED ROADS FUND
TO: ACCOUNT #4912
DISTRESSED LOAN REPAYMENT FUND \$ 98.25

WITHIN: PERRY COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

ADOPTED THIS 26th DAY OF MARCH, 2015.

NAY

AYE

STEVE GOODSON /S/
RON CRAWFORD SR /S/
DIANNE G RUDOLPH /S/
JOHN J TAYLOR /S/
JAMES K ADAMS /S/
JODY FRENCH /S/
DANNY BOLIN /S/

ATTEST:

PAMELA L. GOFFINET /S/
PERRY COUNTY AUDITOR

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

The Perry County Commissioners requested \$3,000.00 for Animal Handling Fees within the County General Fund. Ron stated that he feels this cost should be shared by the Cities and Town of Troy, not just the County. It was said this money is to help out the Animal Control board for individuals transporting animals. John made the motion to allow the request. The motion died for a lack of a second.

Lee Chestnut, Sheriff, requested \$2,500.00 for Equipment & Maintenance Police Cars from the Vehicle Inspection Fund. Ron made the motion to allow the additional, seconded by Jim. Motion carried 7-0

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE NO. 15-CC-02

WHEREAS, IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED THAT IT IS NOW NECESSARY TO APPROPRIATE MORE MONEY THAN WAS APPROPRIATED IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET; NOW, THEREFORE:

SEC. 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF PERRY COUNTY, PERRY COUNTY, INDIANA, THAT FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE TAXING UNIT THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL SUMS OF MONEY ARE

HEREBY APPROPRIATED OUT OF THE FUNDS NAMED AND FOR THE PURPOSES SPECIFIED, SUBJECT TO LAWS GOVERNING THE SAME:

COUNTY GENERAL FUND	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	AYE	NAY
<u>PERRY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS</u>				
#1000-068-3000.65 ANIMAL HANDLING FEES	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -0-		
COUNTY GENERAL FUND TOTAL:	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -0-		
<u>VEHICLE INSPECTION FUND</u>				
<u>PERRY COUNTY SHERIFF</u>				
#1208-005-3000.62 EQUIPMENT & MAINTENANCE POLICE CARS	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	7	0
VEHICLE INSPECTION FUND TOTAL:	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00		

ADOPTED THIS 26TH DAY OF MARCH, 2015

NAY

AYE

STEVE GOODSON /S/
 RON CRAWFORD SR /S/
 DIANNE RUDOLPH /S/
 JOHN J TAYLOR /S/
 JAMES K ADAMS /S/
 JODY FRENCH /S/
 DANNY BOLIN /S/

ATTEST:

PAMELA L GOFFINET /S/
 PERRY COUNTY AUDITOR

TEMPORARY TRANSFER ADVANCE ORDINANCE

Pamela L Goffinet, Perry County Auditor, requested a temporary advance in the amount of \$100,000.00 from Distressed Loan Repayment Fund to Cumulative Capital Development Fund. She explained this is like the temporary advance that was allowed for County General and Health funds, it will be paid back when tax dollars are distributed. Jim made the motion to approve the Temporary Advance and John seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

**TRANSFER FOR TEMPORARY ADVANCE
ORDINANCE**

CC-15-2

WHEREAS, IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED THAT IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO TEMPORARILY ADVANCE MONEY FROM MAJOR FUNDS WHOSE REVENUES ARE DERIVED FROM THE LEVYING AND COLLECTION OF TAXES ON PROPERTY, THE LEVYING AND COLLECTION OF SPECIAL TAXES, AND FROM OTHER REVENUE DERIVED FROM ANY OPERATION OF THE COUNTY IN ACCORDANCE WITH 36-1-8-4.

WHEREAS, AN EMERGENCY EXISTS IN WHICH CASH FOR THE COUNTY GENERAL FUND AND HEALTH FUND MAY BE NEEDED TO COVER THEIR BUDGETS UNTIL TAXES ARE COLLECTED AT WHICH TIME THE LOAN WILL BE RE-PAID IN THE 2015 SPRING SETTLEMENT OR THE 2015 FALL SETTLEMENT;

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF PERRY COUNTY, PERRY COUNTY, INDIANA, THAT THE FOLLOWING TEMPORARY ADVANCE (LOAN) BE MADE AT SUCH TIME WHEN THE CASH IN THE COUNTY GENERAL FUND IS DEPLETED, IN AN AMOUNT UP TO, BUT NOT EXCEEDING, THE AMOUNT ESTABLISHED HEREIN:

TRANSFER \$ 100,000.00
FROM FUND #4912: DISTRESSED LOAN REPAYMENT FUND
TO FUND #1138: CUMULATIVE CAPITAL DEV. FUND \$100,000

ADOPTED THIS 26TH DAY OF MARCH, 2015.

NAY

AYE

STEVE GOODSON /S/
RON CRAWFORD SR /S/
DIANNE RUDOLPH /S/
JOHN J TAYLOR /S/
JAMES K ADAMS /S/
JODY FRENCH /S/
DANNY BOLIN /S/

ATTEST:

PAMELA L GOFFINET /S/
PERRY COUNTY AUDITOR

DEPUTIES SALARIES – RECORDER & TREASURER OFFICE

Recorder Mary Lee Smith and Treasurer Judy Pund came before the Council to explain the duties of their offices and responsibilities their deputies have. They wanted to let them know they feel their employees deserve the extra pay as other departments deputies in the Courthouse are receiving because they have worked just as hard as other employees. Both departments informed the Council that they would be submitting an additional appropriation request next month for the increase which is \$1779.00 each for two deputies including salary of \$44.00 extra with social security and retirement.

There being no further business to come before the board, Jim made the motion to adjourn the meeting, and John seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0, with adjournment at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes approved this 23rd day of April, 2015.

President, Perry County Council

Minutes prepared by:
Pamela L Goffinet, Perry County Auditor

