

**PERRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES – APRIL 20, 2021**

The Perry County Board of Commissioners met at 8:00 a.m. at the Perry County Courthouse as advertised. Commissioners Thomas J Hauser, Randy Kleaving and Gregg Jarboe were in attendance. Also in attendance was County Administrator, Teresa Kanneberg. There was no media present at the meeting. Also, County Attorney, Chris Goffinet and Sheriff Alan Malone were not present.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PAYROLL

Randy made the motion to approve the payroll distributed on April 12, 2021 in the amount of \$152,152.53 and Overtime wages in the amount of \$5,645.05. Gregg seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

ORDINANCE - PETITION TO VACATE PART OF HERRMAN STREET

Jerry Cottingham came before the Commissioners requesting to vacate a part of Herrman Street which is across Dauby Lane. Tom asked if the attorney has done all the paperwork and all completed. Has there been a public hearing? Jerry commented that the public hearing has been taken care of and all the paperwork is done. Tom said the ordinance states for the Board of Commissioners to hold public hearing on this petition. Administrator Teresa Kanneberg commented that this is the public hearing. The only land owners adjacent to the property is Mr. Ramsey. Randy said this road has never existed on the map. Gregg said just that one piece. Jerry said the title company noticed that part of Herrman Street was going through the barn. Gregg asked if this was just one lot. Randy asked how far does Herrman Street go. Jerry says this follows the creek line. It is across 20 yards or so to Dauby Lane. Tom said we have done this for other properties. He said Attorney Chris Goffinet has reviewed all information. Randy made the motion to vacate and approve the ordinance, seconded by Gregg. Motion carried 3-0. (See Attachment "A" O-C-21-2)

SALE OF CANNELTON CLINIC

President and CEO of PCMH, Brian Herwig, came before the Commissioners on behalf of the Perry County Hospital board for permission to sell the Cannelton clinic. He said it is 2500 square foot. Brian also commented that they have located the services to the Tell City clinic and in the process of expanding the services. They have been moved out of there. Realtor Tony Hollinden said he has an offer from someone local to use as retail. There are no plans to reopen it. Tom said that Mayor of Cannelton Ralph Terry is 100% behind this for Cannelton. His concern is that there are ordinances that the first floor to be retail and not apartments. Tom stated this is between him and the buyer. Brian went on to talk about some other things with the Commissioners. He also wanted to follow up on some old business, they are getting the EMS billing review complete and report that back to the Commissioners. Gregg did ask Brian if they had a use for the proceeds of the sale of the building. Brian commented nothing at this time. Randy made the motion to approve the sale of the building, seconded by Gregg. Motion carried 3-0.

AND TRO – UPDATE ON WATER SERVICES IN PERRY COUNTY

Jackie Hilgartner, General Manager with And-Tro, came before the Commissioners to give an update on the water services. She said currently they service just under 800 homes and businesses, about 4000 residents. They are looking at doing improvements of maintenance projects and expansion of the business. She said they are working on getting costs of the project with their engineering firm. Jackie also wanted the Commissioners to be aware that And-Tro and Troy Township have signed a contract and that And-Tro is going to operate and manage Troy Township water system. There are under 300 homes, about 700 residents. So, between both companies it is about 25% of the population. She said that Troy Twp. has recently worked with an engineering firm and issued a preliminary report that spells out the needs of that system. They need repairs to the booster station, new residential meters installed, a suggested monitoring

system at the tanks and pump houses and a GIS mapping system of the water lines. They would use this to pinpoint the water mains like And-Tro did. Troy Twp. does have the storage capacity to expand their system but due to the age, they are going to have to focus on improvements now in that area. Jackie said that both boards look to improve their systems. They just wanted to make the Commissioners aware of the plans and what is going on with the rural water in the area. She said they will have to seek funding for these projects. So, if there is funding that becomes available to keep them in mind for both businesses. Tom asked if the Troy Twp. board is going to stay as is or become one board. Jackie said they are staying in tact right now. They only have one employee. They are going to move her out to their location to eliminate some expenses. Randy asked where do they look at for funding on a normal basis, possibly the USDA. She said Pat Solbrig has done state revolving and USDA loans as well. They have had trouble getting OCRA grants. She said they are open to all options that are out there. Randy said to keep in touch and we will keep our eyes open.

WASTE WATER ISSUES IN LEOPOLD AREA

Glenn Etienne, member of the Perry Central School Board, gave the Commissioners an update on what is being worked on in the community of Leopold. He gave a bit of history on what brought them to now. He talked about the infrastructure in northern Perry County to attract and increase population. We need to keep the youth in the County to live here and find jobs here. For 10 years, individuals have been getting together to talk of what can be done to help Perry County and its home owners. Things were focused on the interchange at St. Croix. There were talks with PSC, And-Tro, and Southern Ind Power. There have been more services over the last two years for the community. The past year things have been on stand still. They are trying to get things going again. He asked what can we do to increase quality of life and the environment. One idea is to maintain the current infrastructure of the sewer system we currently have with the City of Tell City. They have issues with it. It does not have enough capacity. It needs more users to maintain it. The more flow it has, the less maintenance there is. They need to bring more users on. There were talks of the line going to St. Croix, but there was trouble with the National Forest land. There were not enough land owners. There are other communities such as Derby, Leopold and Bristow. Infrastructure is the main key for the future of the county. We are good now with SIP, PSC, and And-Tro. The next thing is a sewer system. Glenn said he would like to pursue this with public input. How to expand this to the Leopold area. He said he wanted to bring this to the Commissioners. He said he is driven by the community and the residents. He said this is the perfect storm to come together to move forward in a good manner.

Tom said it is time to put something out there for public meetings. We need to invite Tell City since they have the sewer line out there. The line currently ends at Perry Central School – 1.12 miles to the west side of Leopold and the other side of Leopold for residents. Being proactive is the best. We need to have the meeting at Perry Central for social distancing. Glenn commented on the community standpoint. IDEM laws are in place and there may be some businesses and residents not in compliance there. He said a sewer system is the missing key to maintaining a positive manner. Tom said there were talks of advancing the sewer line in the North part of Perry County. PCDC Director Erin Emerson said you don't want residents to build and have to deal with a septic system. Tom said the Leopold area is a good place.

Tom said that Glenn or Jody Etienne needs to present at a meeting. Contact Administrator Teresa Kanneberg with some proposed dates. We need to give a 48-hour notice. The more support the better this will go. Glenn said they are a small group of people that don't have all the ideas or resources. This affects all the county from the resident's standpoint. This is very important and serious from environment and quality of life. Glenn said he is available anytime for questions. Randy said this has been talked about the last eight years since he has been a commissioner. It is time to move forward.

Gregg said he had a couple of comments. We need anything that get people back to the area whether it be our kids or whatever. There are an unprecedented number of people leaving urban areas. He said Stanford University has voted us the #1 Small Best City in Indiana for remote workers. That is something we need to capitalize on fast. Gregg also said that when we want to attract businesses to come here it is the highway we have here, an hour away from Evansville and one and half hours away from Louisville. Our location here gives us logistic possibilities, a really low-cost logistics here which is great for industry. The thing that is happening now is the data highway. With all the

fiber that is going in, we have a huge possibility of this large pipe of data that comes out of this huge island in the middle of sixty thousand acres of national forest. We need to push it. He said to Glenn, the projects you are talking about is key to that too. When people move out in those areas, they don't want to deal with septic systems or anything like that. They want to hook in and go. They want the feel of the rural area but they want the creature comforts too that is included in that. He said anything around that is good.

Gregg also said when we have the public meetings, there are two maybe three people that need to be represented, the Tell City Mayor and maybe some of the others for input, the Tell City Board of Works for sure because we would be connecting onto their utility system, and a Redevelopment Commission representative. They may want to couple this with what they are looking at the ATTC area, possibly looking at putting houses in that area. This would make it even more attractive. Tom said there was discussion at the last RDC meeting of residential TIF areas. He said that may even be an idea that comes from this too. Tom said to have studies done is not cheap but they are important. First you need a Preliminary Engineering report. Identify with thoughts from the group. You need to have parameters. He said there are a lot of boxes checked off. We're fortunate, a lot of communities and counties are trying to get broadband. We are in good shape there. It's in the process, there is a lot of fiber being put down. Randy said we have expanded members outside of the city with PSC and SIP because of the partnership we have together. Lots of other communities and counties are looking at this partnership we're doing here, especially in the state. There are 38 other coops in the state and they are watching we are doing. Most of them wished they had a telecom they could partner with also. Randy said once the citizens got the EMS at the Highway garage, next thing is a sewer system. It is falling right in line. Next step is to work on a date for a public meeting to discuss this with the citizens.

INDUSTRIAL PARK SOUTH ENTRANCE ROAD

Administrator Teresa said she reached out to Alvin but no response. He will be put on the next agenda for the Commissioners. Tom said we will reschedule the talks on the improvements to the Industrial Park South Entrance Road. It was discussed at the PCDC meeting and he was coming to report on that.

MISCELLANEOUS

Tom reported that the OCRA grant, COVID-19 Phase III of \$250,000 for small businesses, that the County received notification that we were not selected at this time. He said they have reached out to see why we didn't score enough. They base the grants on a scoring basis. Tom thought by using Indiana 15 and all the hard work that Jenny Matheis, Indiana 15, Erin Emerson, Director of PCDC, Wendi Rich with Chamber, Betty Cash with CVB and Teresa put in on this grant, it was just disappointing. Erin said she had a good feeling about it especially with the testimonies on the need for it. There were 117 applications submitted and only so much money. We were competing against non-entitlement counties also. Tom said he thought one advantage we had was when they changed the criteria from the low to moderate income for the employees of the small businesses and which gave us advantage, we didn't have before. Erin said the first two rounds of money were very strict and you would need really low-income employees to take the money. That is why we didn't pursue them but this one was more flexible. We need to get feedback for the next time. We will look for another round if there is one. Erin said they are already looking for other funding opportunities. Gregg said typically those stores are light weighted so is the unemployment rate. Erin commented that it was broken down into sections or just like data or demographic based kind of and then there was more on your actual plan to use the money once you got it and we were drilled on that. They wanted to see if you were awarded the money you were prepared to move so we had a draft application ready for the businesses. Gregg commented on the past grants, the LMI included the owner of the business too right so that's why it really hurt us when it came to that. Erin said before they did count the income of all sources and this time it was only the income of the business they worked. She said she is going to keep asking for our scoring so we can be prepared the next time and give them exactly what they are looking for. Some things we won't be able to change, how they score the unemployment or the population. We will do the best to make our case.

Greg Linne, representing the City of Tell City Waste Department, appeared before the Commissioners about the street vacation on part of Herrman Street that was discussed earlier in the meeting. He said he agreed with some of the comments that was made about the system by Jerry Cottingham. His concern is that when they do vacations for city streets they are always at those meetings and give input beforehand. He said there is a large sewer running down that portion of Herrman Street that was vacated that does serve basically from here to the rest of the county. They want to make sure "Will the city have access to Herrman Street and then 25th Street is where the sewer follows once that's vacated. Will they have access to get back there if there is a clog blockage or if they need to do maintenance on it." He said that is probably something that should have been asked before the meeting but he said they are not familiar with county meetings. On the city level, they do have to ask these questions. He said he doesn't know if the city attorney needs to look at the vacation. Tom said maybe Attorneys Chris Goffinet and Jeff Hagedorn can communicate with the city on this. Randy said it probably would be some sort of deed restriction. Greg said it is always in the city's vacation when there is an existing utility to have some access to that right of way.

Greg informed the Commissioners that for the future, the sewer that actually serves basically the rest of the county it was put in during the Branchville line and it turns to from force to gravity starting at Stone Road. He said they have manholes on it so they can do maintenance on it. At this time, Teresa handed Tom a copy of the recorded petition to vacate and he read a section of it. "There are public utilities existing along over and or under said dedicated street, this petition for vacation shall not deprive any public utility of the use of all or part of said public way to be vacated."

Randy asked Auditor Goffinet what the Council meant by the email that was sent out about overtime verses compensatory time for the vaccine clinics. Auditor Goffinet said she was just giving the notice to send out and has no idea of their intentions on this. He would have to talk to the Council about this. He said in his opinion employees deserve compensatory time if work past 4:00 p.m. The Commissioners have the call on compensatory time unless it goes into paying. No one exceeds the policy on compensatory time. Tom said only the Health Department was approved for payment for overtime. He said they encourage the department heads to send employees out to the vaccine clinics to help. The pandemic is not over yet. Gregg said we are not changing the policy. There is no reason for the Councils involvement. He said this is the same as election time, they will not be paid for it.

Gregg mentioned about moving the next meeting to the Tell City High School or to Perry Central School. He would like to look into it. Tom said we need to check with Attorney Chris Goffinet on this. Randy said in the past the only way was if something was wrong with the Courthouse or under construction. The reason why we did it before because it was education for the students. Tom said he will ask Chris to share the information again about public meetings. Gregg said the Council was able to do it pretty easily, I don't see why we can't follow that unless they did it wrong. Auditor Goffinet replied that the Council had their special meeting at the Tell City school because it was after the RDC meeting and they had to approve the bond. Gregg said it shouldn't matter. It was a public meeting.

Alvin Evans with PCDC attended the meeting late and came before the Commissioners to talk about the entrance road into ATTC. He said it has a couple of pot holes and one was repaired before. Nothing has been done since it was built in 1996 and it needs to be resurfaced. He said it will cost around \$75,900. It was built with EDIT bonds when Perfect Fit came in. It was done with and included in the EDIT plan at the time. Alvin said he wondered if this could be done with the EDIT dollars and include in the EDIT plan to be accomplished. He said it is on county property, it just has never been accepted onto the county's road list. Randy asked if he was talking about the regular Highway EDIT money or the supplement we receive in the year. Alvin said that this is the Commissioners decision where to take it from. Auditor Goffinet is to get the balance of the supplement EDIT fund for the next meeting. It was said this road will be used for future access for any future development that comes out there. It needs to be maintained. They said Chris can amend the plan. Tom mentioned they are trying to market that area across from ATTC. Alvin said if there is an element in that part of doing the approaches that would be ATTC's responsibility to pay for that portion. Alvin did mention that with

this project being over \$50,000.00 they will have to get 3 quotes and submit them to the Commissioners.

Teresa announced the next Board of Commissioners meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 3, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. with location to be announced.

The meeting ended in open session at 9:05 a.m.

Minutes approved this 15th of June, 2021.

Thomas J Hauser
President

Randy Kleaving

Gregg Jarboe

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