

**PERRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES – JULY 6, 2020**

The Perry County Board of Commissioners met at 6:00 p.m. as was duly advertised. Commissioners President Thomas J Hauser, Bill Amos and Randy Kleaving were in attendance. County Administrator, Teresa Kanneberg and County Attorney, Chris Goffinet were also present for the meeting. A representative of the *Perry County News* and Sheriff Malone were in attendance also.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Tom spoke up saying that the County lost an important person on Saturday, Eddie Feix. He worked for the County as Highway Superintendent from 1986 to 2014. He also worked for over 10 years before. He commented that Eddie was valuable and dedicated. He was instrumental in the Multipurpose Building planning. Steve Howell said he was enjoyable and easy to work with. He gave a lot of years to the County. Steve Hauser said he was a great supporter of emergency services. Randy said Eddie would tell you what he was thinking. Tom said the family is planning a Celebration of Life in the Fall.

CARES ACT REIMBURSEMENT – COVID-19

Tom gave an update on the reimbursement amount the County received from the CARES ACT. He said totally the County is allotted \$619,741.00. Our first reimbursement of \$42,648.95 was received four days after the application was applied for the expenses already paid out. We received 100% reimbursement. He commented that the expenses have to be paid out first before you can ask for the reimbursement and this goes until the end of the year. Tom said the Health Department Nurses and Sanitarian have accumulated overtime from COVID-19 and we are looking to pay this time out from when the pandemic started and get reimbursed from the CARES ACT. Auditor Pam Goffinet said she will check on the steps on how to pay this time out. Tom said he and Steve Hauser made a call and received 99.9% reassurance to get the money back. Tom said once this time is paid out, he wants to keep up with this to keep the cash flow going.

CLAIMS

Bill made a motion to approve all claims dated July 6, 2020, seconded by Randy. Motion carried 3-0. The commissioners signed claims dockets in the amounts of \$325,523.20 and \$99,117.00 for County General, \$85,147.28 for Highway and Advances of \$180.71, \$2,083.33, \$1,914.06, \$1,150.00, and Election of \$3,680.00 for a total of \$518,795.58.

PAYROLL

Randy made a motion to approve payroll that was distributed on June 22, 2020 in the amount of \$140,229.71, July 6, 2020 in the amount of \$143,529.63 and Election of July 6, 2020 in the amount of \$7,780.00, second made by Bill. Motion carried 3-0.

COVERED BRIDGE CERTIFICATION

Auditor Goffinet informed the Commissioners that she had a certification from the State that needed to be signed for covered bridges per IC 8-14-1-10. She said they do this every year for the covered bridge that the County shares with Spencer County. Once certified the County will receive a payment for this. Randy made the motion to approve the certification, seconded by Bill. Motion carried 3-0.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS GRANT

Director Traci Fischer came before the Commissioners to ask for approval for the 2021 Community Corrections Grant. She said it is all the same as last year, that nothing has changed in services. The only thing is for the grant to cover more on fringe benefits. The grant is for \$186,930.00 for Community Corrections and \$60,332.00 for Court Recidivism Drug Court. Randy made the motion to approve the grant, seconded by Bill. Motion carried 3-0.

CORONER OFFICE – OFFICE FLOOR

Coroner Warren Taylor informed the Commissioners that the floor paint is coming off to the bare floor in his office. He said it needs to be redone. With performing autopsies, bacteria will settle in the concrete. He said the floor needs to be treated. Warren had someone to look at it and they said the paint needs to be ground off and new paint on treated. It could possibly be around \$3,000.00. Administrator Teresa Kanneberg said the only place in the budget to pay this from is Building Maintenance in the Courthouse budget. Warren said he is working on getting other quotes. Charlie Baumeister said the last time he painted the floor was in 2013 when he was Coroner. Steve Hauser said this could be a CARES ACT invoice. There has been extra traffic in there because of COVID-19. Warren says that after each autopsy, he washes down the floor with bleach water.

UNOFFICIAL DETOUR – BRIDGE REHABILITATION STATE ROAD 145

Highway Superintendent, Steve Howell, presented the Commissioners with an unofficial detour for bridge rehabilitation on State Road 145 over Sulphur Fork Creek. It will be from Sulphur Valley Road to Ashland Road to Atlanta Road to State Road 145. The detour is in accordance with IC 8-23-21. He said State Road will be closed by INDOT for approximately 120 days. Bill made the motion to approve the detour, seconded by Randy. Motion carried 3-0.

Tom gave credit to the Highway Department for getting the Community Crossings funds again this year on the first round. With the pandemic going, the state is stopping the second-round applications. He said we were awarded one million dollars. The Community Crossings is good program for getting roads done in the County.

ORDINANCE-EXTENDING TERM OF AGRICULTURE EXTENSION EDUCATOR ON PERRY COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

County Attorney, Chris Goffinet, explained to the Commissioners that as of July 1, 2020, the law changed that the County Agriculture Extension Educator is required to be on the Planning Commission according IC 36-7-4-208. They have to be a resident of Perry County to be a voting member. This person can serve until October 1, 2020 without being a resident unless the Commissioners pass an ordinance and continue the term to be a voting member not later than October 1, 2021. Thereafter, the Commissioners shall comply with the IC code by replacing any non-resident Agriculture Extension Educator on the Planning Commission. Randy made the motion to approve the ordinance, seconded by Bill. Motion carried 3-0. (See Attachment “A” O-C-20-4)

CANNELTON ANNEX BUILDING

Attorney Chris Goffinet informed the Commissioners that the Notice for sale of the Annex Building in Cannelton had been published by law. He said that bids were accepted as an auction. Bids had to be received by 4:00 p.m. on June 23, 2020. He said the objective is to put the building back on the tax rolls. Chris said that two bids had been received by the County Auditor. They were:

1. Mark Ramsey - \$16,000.00
2. Dr. Sheldon McCullum - \$15,900.00 (he was made aware of the higher offer by Auditor Goffinet)

Chris said this way, the County avoids cost of demolishing the building. He said the Commissioners are bound if they accept the offer, it has to be the highest. Dr. McCullum spoke up saying he was led to believe the language of the bidding would not be the highest bid, that purpose could be a factor. He said he is investing in a medical facility and it should be taken into effect other than turning the building into apartments. He said this would be a long-term investment and he wants to make an impact on the community. Dr. McCullum also said he would be bringing in jobs and plans to live in Cannelton. He told the Commissioners he would like the bids to be put on hold, relook at the language and look into rebidding. He said Cannelton don't need just housing, they need jobs. He wants to make Cannelton a better place. He would like for the Commissioners to consider their intentions. Chris said that legally Mr. Ramsey did not have to state what he intends to do with the property. He said it did not state the usage in the notice. Chris informed the Commissioners that if they rebid, the language will have to be changed on the notice of what they are looking for. Now it says the best price. He said they do have the right to rebid and change the language. The Commissioners have the right to reject all bids.

Mayor Ralph Terry asked if tonight's meeting was the final on the bid process? It was said it was on the agenda to take action tonight. Chris said they cannot accept anymore bids. That closed as of June 23, 2020. Mr. Terry recommends the Commissioners to extend the bidding with the language changed for economic development of the city. Attorney Goffinet said the Commissioners have three choices to take no action, accept or reject all bids. Randy asked Chris if one public entity can give to another entity. He said they can give to Cannelton if didn't get the amount as to what they thought they would. Ralph said if the amount came in low, give the building to Cannelton and see what they can do. Tom commented to Mr. McCullum that he corrected the information that was given to him and that it was a matter of opinion as to what is best for Cannelton.

Bill said they need to ahead with the bid they have. The building will go back on the tax rolls. He said he didn't know if Cannelton could support what needs to be done. It was said that both bids would be assessed commercial. Tom commented that there is no guarantee that Mr. Ramsey's plan would have a higher assessed value than Mr. McCullum's medical facility. Randy asked that if they rebid and get no bids, would Cannelton take the building? Mayor Terry said yes, they would. Bill said he is not for it. Randy asked the Council members present what they thought. Charlie Baumeister said he agreed with Bill. Luke said to rebid because of jobs it could bring. Randy made the motion to table until the first meeting in August, seconded by Tom. Motion carried 2-1 with Bill voting against.

SALARY RECOMMENDATION FOR 2021

Each year according to state statue the Commissioners have to give a recommendation on salaries to the County Council. Randy said that since the Council wasn't taking a raise, he suggested the Commissioners didn't either. He also said he would like to see the other elected county officials not to take a raise either so all other employees can have one. Bill made the motion to recommend no raise for all, seconded by Randy. Motion carried 3-0.

It was announced that the next scheduled meeting of the Board of Commissioners is scheduled for Tuesday, July 21, 2020, at 8:00 a.m.

The meeting ended in open session at 7:10 p.m.

Minutes approved this 18th day of August, 2020.

Thomas J Hauser
President

Randy Kleaving

Bill Amos

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