

**PERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
October 17, 2023**

The Perry County Council met on the above date at 5:00 p.m. as was duly advertised. Council members in attendance were President David Etienne (DE), Earla Williams (EW), Stan Goffinet (SG), Kelli Harding (Kelli) and Gale Garner (GG). Sheriff Alan Malone, and Auditor Kristinia Hammack were also present. There was no *Attorney* or *News Representative* present.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sheriff Alan Malone stated that the Perry County Sheriff's office wants to start a canine program soon. This would be funded by grants, as well as donations, and wanted the Council's approval before moving forward with it. There are currently zero canines in Perry County, which is not good. He has spoken to the county's insurance, and it will not cost the county any additional money. A VET will do all the work for the entire canine program for free, and Malone has this in writing. He is asking the Council for their support to start this program in the Sheriff's office. With no canines in Perry County, every time there is a call out, they have to rely on other counties or Branchville to assist.

DE asked Sheriff Malone how he plans on utilizing the canine? Malone stated he is looking for a utility dog. It will do narcotics, building searches, aggression, as well as additional protection for the officer. GG asked if it would also do search and rescue, with Malone stating that it depends on what type of call it is. Malone is asking for the utility dog mostly for narcotics. He feels that it is needed due to possibly missing narcotics in traffic stops.

Kelli would like to see a plan put together showing the expenses outside of training, such as officer training, equipment for the vehicle, and just the financial plan. Malone stated Tara Damin is trying to put together a grant request from the Community Foundation for all of the supplies. This grant is due next Monday (October 23rd). Malone has samples of other county's SOP (Standard Operation Procedures). He was also involved with the City of Tell City's canine plan when it was started.

Sheriff Malone feels this program is necessary for Perry County especially with its drug problem.

GG asked how long it would take to get this program up and running? Malone stated he would have to look for a dog first to see if they can get one located that will fit with whatever handler he gets.

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a) Solid Waste Budget

Auditor Hammack spoke with Robert Norris with the DLGF (Department of Local Government Finance) and due to the Budget Adoption meeting being adjourned on October 12th and the Solid Waste Budget was not accepted, the budget needs to be resubmitted in Gateway and the DLGF will respond within 48 hours with approval for a public hearing date; then the County will have 48 hours after DLGF's approval to advertise the change in the Form 3. Hammack stated she contacted Council President Etienne in regards to this. She asked Robert Norris if she needs to be present for the meeting as she is out of town at a conference in Indianapolis next week, and he responded yes as she has to attest. October 30, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. CST would have to be the date, as it has to be submitted October 31st. DE stated the Council's concern was that income was \$481,000 for 2023 and again for 2024 income. The Solid Waste Board meet prior to this meeting and made changes in the budget, increasing the income from \$481,000 to \$544,500, with expenses remaining the same. The expenses no longer exceed the income, and it is now a balanced budget.

Auditor Hammack stated that back in September when she spoke to Robert Norris, she was told the Solid Waste could enter last year's budget or put all zeros in Gateway and would have to get additional appropriations. Currently additional appropriations are not brought before the Council. She questioned if this is something that should be done, as the Solid Waste and Airport do not make the Council aware if they make changes in their budget.

SG stated the Council has no say, as they are just an oversight.
Hammack stated there needs to be clarity with what the County is required to do
with non-binding budgets, with Kelli agreeing.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:21 p.m. CST.
SC made a motion to adjourn, seconded by GG. Motion carried 5-0.

Minutes approved this 16thth day of November, 2023.

President, Perry County Council

Minutes prepared by:
Kristinia L. Hammack, Perry County Auditor