

**PERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
November 27, 2023**

The Perry County Council met on the above date at 12:00 p.m. as was duly advertised. Council members in attendance were President David Etienne (DE), Keith Huck (KH), Stan Goffinet (SG), Kelli Harding (Kelli), Paul Malone (PM), and Gale Garner (GG). Auditor Kristinia Hammack, Sheriff Alan Malone, and Attorney Rod Acchiardo were also present. There was no *News Representative* present.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA

KH made the motion to accept as amended, seconded by PM. Motion carried 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- a) Perry County Sheriff Alan Malone stated he had approached the Council previously regarding a K-9 Program. He was asked to present a plan. He stated he has given a good update as well as presenting a plan. He is not asking for any money, only the Council's support. This County is in need of a K-9 Program. He feels he gave the Council a lot of information, as well as there are some unknowns. Malone had a K-9 Program with the Tell City Police Department. DE stated that initially Malone is receiving donations, and he asked Malone if those donations will continue forever into the future? Malone stated in the future he would ask for donations and grants. He further stated this will not cost the County any money for the initial start-up. DE asked what about sustaining the program? Malone stated he can not speak for another Sheriff who would come in, but he does not foresee this costing a lot. Malone wants to get this program started soon as he could lose the vendor he is looking at, or secondly, he may have the possibility of partnering with another agency to move forward with this, and they might save some costs. PM stated the biggest cost is the initial cost of acquiring the animal and equipping the vehicle. Malone confirmed this. PM stated that Dr. Labhart has offered to cover all veterinary services, and Malone stated yes, that is all free. Malone states there are unknowns, such as the possibility of needing special dog food for this dog. SG asked Malone if he knows if Tell City is going to start up their K-9 Program, and Malone stated he knows they are in the process. KH stated he is 100% in support of the K-9 Program due to the County needing two dogs. Malone stated he does not want to speak for Tell City, but he knows they are looking. SG stated he is aware that the Sheriff's office has to patrol out in the county versus just Tell City. Kelli stated she is still waiting on the full plan just to see what all the costs are. Malone stated he sent this to the Council. Kelli confirmed she received an email from Malone, but there were a lot of unknowns in it as far as far as overtime for the officer who is the handler. Malone stated the plan he sent to the Council addresses the overtime. Malone stated with the County giving the Sheriff's Office two extra deputies allows him to give comp time and time off. He feels he has addressed this. Kelli stated she was not aware that Malone would be coming to this meeting asking for support, or she would have brought her questions she has with her to the meeting. Malone stated he is wanting to just give the Council an update. Kelli stated she appreciated the update, but still needs to see the full plan. Kelli stated the cost for overtime she needs to see due to certain laws requiring the County to pay. She is looking for overtime to have the canine. Kelli asked Malone if he spoke to Tell City as how they would have to pay overtime? Malone stated yes. He started the program at Tell City. Kelli asked what was the cost for daily overtime? Malone stated the officer can work ten hours per day instead of twelve; the two hours they get allotted maintenance to keep up on the dog. KH stated with the two new deputies, it will help eliminate overtime. Malone stated he feels the Council does not want to support him. Kelli stated he is incorrect. She reiterated she can be supportive of a program; she just needs to see a plan. She does not want to enter into something without knowing what the

reoccurring costs are. She needs more information. Malone stated he just wants the Council's support, and Kelli replied she can not support something that she does not know what the costs will be. She further stated that had she been aware that Malone was going to ask to speak at the Special Meeting for the Council, she would have brought her information and questions with her to the meeting. PM stated the bottom line is that Malone came before the Council to just get support that does not commit the Council to anything, and Malone stated yes. Kelli reiterated that there are costs and the Council needs to know these costs. PM stated that he is only wanting a commitment, and Kelli asked a commitment to what? There are still reoccurring costs and she is not willing to say go for it and deal with those costs later. She stated that is not how she manages money. She further stated if Malone wants to be put on the agenda to discuss in a public setting, with all being on the same page, everyone having the same information, and the public needs to be made aware of this. It is not that she is not supportive of the plan, but it can not be sprung on a meeting and ask to be added to the agenda.

Kelli mentioned that a special account needs to be set up for donations to be in compliance with the State Board of Accounts, and this has to be approved by the Commissioners; it has to be a dedicated fund.

Malone asked again if the Council will support a K-9 Program for the Perry County Sheriff's Office? Malone polled the Council with GG stating if the County can afford it, he feels the County definitely needs one.

SG stated the County can afford zero if that is what it is going to cost. He supports a K-9 Program. He further stated if the Sheriff can get a plan with all the costs; it doesn't hurt to look into the program.

DE's concern is Malone is relying on donations to get started, but all the things paid for by donations, will this continue into the next year? Malone stated yes, it will be paid out of Commissary.

Malone stated this county has a drug problem that is not being addressed, and he wants to move forward on this program. He feels he gets zero support from some of the Council members.

KH feels it is irrelevant what Tell City is going to do; it is time the County steps up and gets a K-9 Program up and running. Kelli stated she would be supportive of tabling this and having a Special Meeting so the Council can have all their information. Malone stated he is running out of time and is just asking the Council for their support. Kelli stated it is much more than support, the Council has to have funds and know for the taxpayers of Perry County the reoccurring costs. Her job is to look over the finances for the County.

DE asked Malone if he has a worse-case scenario if Malone gets the grants and donations, what would the costs be? Malone stated he already has the grants, and DE asked what are the amounts of those grants he has obtained? Malone stated he has for the equipment, and DE stated the Council is not seeing any of this information. DE asked if Malone had the dollar amount, and he responded yes, that information was included in his email. Kelli stated she remembers seeing Grant names but not specifics.

Kelli would like further discussion, and Malone stated he is going to lose a spot if he does not act quickly. He further stated if he does tell this vendor, yes, he is all in, he could lose this dog as well as the vendor. PM asked Malone if he tells the vendor he is all in and something happens where he can not do this program, what will happen? Malone stated there are so many wanting dogs that they will move to the next in line. PM again verifies this is only approval for support and not a money commitment, and Malone confirmed this.

PM made a motion the Council shows their support with no money commitment for the K-9 Program, seconded by KH. Kelli stated it is not that she is not supportive of the program, she just wants to have all the financials as it is the Council's job to have all this information and make sure everything is lined out. It is their job for the finances and the reoccurring costs.

DE stated if the Council votes to support this with no money commitment, he feels there is still opportunity to discuss this at another meeting. Kelli asked with this vote of yes, will he go ahead and purchase the dog and move forward because that starts the program? Kelli also asked if this program could be started without first getting Commissioner's approval? Malone asked why it would need to go to Commissioners first, and Kelli stated they are the Executive of the County, and the Council is the Fiscal of the County; they make those type of decisions.

Auditor Kris Hammack stated that she was told that as an elected official, you have the ability to run your office as you see fit without constantly coming to the Commissioners for approval. She does not understand where, if he is not asking for any money nor asking for anything else, he has to have any additional approval to do this. All he is asking for is the Council's support. An elected official is asking for something to be done in his office that he runs and has to ask permission from someone else. Malone stated he has started programs in his office without going to the Commissioners. Kelli stated she does not know what has been done in the past, but she feels this is the appropriate thing to do. PM made a motion to support the K-9 Program with no money commitment, seconded by KH. Motion carried 5-1.

a) **ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS**

- **PERRY COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT-COMMUNITY CROSSINGS GRANT**

#9141.44501.00000.0534--\$863,400.00

Steve Howell, Highway Superintendent, stated this is the money received from the State for paving.

KH made a motion to approve, seconded by SG. Motion carried 6-0.

- **GENERAL FUND-COMMISSIONER; DEDICATED TO PSAP 911-DISPATCH**

#1235.38000.00000.0068--\$46,555.00

KH made a motion to approve, seconded by PM. Motion carried 6-0

- **GENERAL FUND-COMMISSIONER; CARE OF PATIENT INST**

#1000.39106.00000.0068--\$55,026.24

Auditor Hammack stated she did an additional appropriation for \$30,000 to pay in December's invoice.

KH made a motion to approve, seconded by PM. Motion carried 6-0

- **RIVERBOAT-AUDITOR; CONSULTING FEES**

#1191.31101.00000.0002--\$8,000.00

This amount was incurred for consulting services received during budget.

PM made a motion, seconded by SG. Motion carried 6-0.

b) **TRANSFERS**

GENERAL-COMMISSIONER:

From: 1000.11401.00000.0068 Administrator Salary \$20,000.00

TO: 1000.36500.00000.0068 Software \$20,000.00

This is for the Time and Attendance Software.

KH made a motion to approve, seconded by PM. Motion carried 6-0.

GENERAL-CORONER:

From: 1000.32200.00000.0007 Travel \$ 20.00

From: 1000.32201.00000.0007 Training \$ 130.00

From: 1000.36201.00000.0007 Vehicle Maintenance \$ 20.00

From: 1000.36204.00000.0007 Cooler Maintenance \$ 165.00

To: 1000.24301.00000.0007 Cadaver Bags \$ 335.00

Coroner Warren Taylor stated he is down to one box of heavy-duty bags which is six, and one box of the medium bags which is ten. He stated there have been fifty-four cases this year where body bags were utilized. The body bags purchased in July costs \$560.00 for 2 boxes of six, and one box of ten. He will need to do an appropriation next month as well. He also stated that body bags are hard to find.

KH made a motion to approve, seconded by GG. Motion carried 6-0.

Taylor made a public comment regarding the benefits of a K9 Program in the County.

GENERAL-AUDITOR:

From: 1000.22100.00000.0002 Official Records \$ 700.00

To: 1000.32200.00000.0002 Travel \$ 700.00

Auditor Hammack stated she took her First Deputy to conferences due to so much HR information at these meetings. This has not been budgeted in the past, but is for 2024.

SG made a motion to approve, seconded by PM. Motion carried 6-0.

GENERAL-JAIL:

From: 1000.31207.00000.0380 Medical for Employees \$ 400.00

To: 1000.45300.00000.0380 Inmate Clothing \$ 400.00

PM made a motion to approve, seconded by KH. Motion carried 6-0.

SEX & VIOLENT OFFENDER-SHERIFF

From: 1192.44500.00000.0005	Equipment	\$	249.00
To: 1192.21100.00000.00005	Office Supplies	\$	249.00

KH made a motion to approve, seconded by PM. Motion carried 6-0.

c) Approval of 2024 Salary Ordinance

Auditor Hammack presented the ordinance to the Council. HR is needing to get this approved in order to start entering wages into the Time & Attendance software. Taking all the salaries that were awarded at the 2024 budget were converted from an hourly wage to an hourly rate based off the budgeted amount, and all the salary amounts to a bi-weekly amount.

DE read the Salary Ordinance (attached).

Kelli asked if this is something that has to be approved at this meeting, as she would like time to review it? Auditor Hammack stated that is OK as long as she has the Council's permission to begin entering this into Time & Attendance.

Kelli stated she would like to review this before voting on it. SG stated he does not have any supporting documents in order to vote. Hammack stated this can be approved at the December 14th meeting, but she is going to begin entering the information. Hammack further stated this is taking the budget the County approved and dividing it.

Hammack spoke directly to the Council regarding the micromanagement that is received from the elected officials. The past is the past and they need to move forward. Elected Officials have offices to run. Hammack stated she is trying to follow procedures that have been done in the past as well as seeking out knowledge from the State Board of Accounts and the State Comptroller's Office. She is asking for the same respect that the Council has asked for.

Kelli stated she is trying to follow the correct policies and procedures. She felt that the payments out of Commissioner's budget needed Commissioner approval before coming to the Council, so that procedure was changed.

Hammack stated her job is to balance the funds and pay the bills. The Council's job is to make sure that the funds are not spent without appropriation. The Commissioner's job is to make sure every claim warrant payment. Their job is not to balance the funds, that is her job. She further stated if the Council wants to change something, that is fine, but if you want the respect of not being blindsided, then stop doing it to the them.

Kelli stated it is not blindsiding, it is in a public meeting. Other Council members as well as Kelli felt things were being done incorrectly. SG stated this is their Council meeting, their Council, and they make decisions in public forum. DE stated the Council and Auditor need to work together.

KH stated the Council has approved the 2024 budget, and he sees no reason why they should not approve the Salary ordinance.

KH made a motion to approve the 2024 Salary Ordinance, seconded by PM. It can be amended if needed. Motion died 4-2.

d) Discussion was held regarding encumbering 2023 funds for payment in 2024. These will be approved at the December 28th meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m. CST.

PM made a motion to adjourn, seconded by SG. Motion carried 6-0.

A Special Meeting of the County Council will be held on Thursday, December 14, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. CST.

Minutes approved this 14th day of December, 2023

President, Perry County Council

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