

PERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

MEETING MNUTES

April 25, 2024

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

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA

SG made the motion to accept with amendment, seconded by PM. Motion carried 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- a) Coroner Warren Taylor provided copies illustrating the poor-quality print of his current printer. The cost of parts to repair the current printer would cost more than the printer is worth. Taylor stated he is going to begin transferring amounts between line items in his Office Expense so that he can purchase a new printer. After seeking options for purchase, Radio Shack has the best deal, with a two-year warranty and two years of free ink for \$449.00. This is an Epson laser printer.

Kelli asked if Taylor has this amount in his budget for Office Supplies, and he stated he has \$287.00. He can transfer money from other line items in this same category for the remaining amount he will need. Due to this being in-house transfers, Taylor will not need Council approval to move amounts.

- b) Becky Gunthrie, Director of Ride Solutions stated that last year during the budget session, she was on vacation. Gunthrie stated she was not aware that Theresa Kannenberg had left and she had emailed her. She sent her agenda and request to Kannenberg and it did not come back in an email. She further stated her assistant Beth was supposed to attend the budget request meeting, but did not remember that she was supposed to attend to ask for an appropriation for 2024. Gunthrie stated that the authorization she sent to Perry County stating if the county wanted to keep public transportation in the county, then that authorization needed to be signed at the Commissioner's meeting, which she will be attending their next meeting.

Gunthrie wanted to explain what happened last year, and to ask if there was any way there could be an appropriation made for 2024 to continue the public transportation for 2024. She stated that Ride Solutions provides many rides in the county and also, they partner with SIRS with their transportation. Gunthrie further stated that the rides are steady, and they have drivers in this area. Having public transportation helps attract people to the county, plus a lot of grant applications get points for having public transportation available.

Kelli asked Gunthrie if she was requesting \$6,000, and Gunthrie stated that is the amount they have received each year. Kelli stated that the 2024 budget was set in September 2023, and she feels it would be unfair to allow this request, and then if someone else comes forward and states they forgot to come to the budget as well. PM asked if this can be tabled and revisit it again in July or August, when they have more accurate data. KH stated he would like to see the number of how many transports that Ride Solutions does in a month or a week.

Gunthrie stated that 5311 is the funding for public transportation in the State of Indiana. There is no other 5311 provider in Perry County at the present time. A taxi or SIRS, even though they help Ride Solutions with transportation, can not get 5311 funding. The County does have a taxi cab service, but they do not get any funding from the State to perform transportation.

Kelli asked Gunthrie if they bill insurance as well, and this \$6,000 is just a subsidy? Gunthrie stated Ride Solutions has to match 50% of the funds that they receive for each county. If the County loses this service, they will not get it back because there is not any other grantee from the State that is in this area. Ride Solutions service ten counties in southwest Indiana, and they do coordinate services between counties.

Gunthrie stated it was a mistake on her part not having someone at the September budget session.

PM stated he does not want to say no to the \$6,000 appropriation, but he can not say yes right now.

PM made a motion to table this request, seconded by KH. Motion carried 6-0.

RACHEL ROARK, CLERK

- a) Roark stated that her part-time position is vacant and she asked the Council's permission to fill this position. Her office has been very busy, especially with the election, and not having that extra person in her office. Roark stated this position is paid out of the Clerk's Record Perpetuation budget, and that position was budgeted for the year.

Kelli stated she has concerns, not with Roark's office or the position, but with the underbudgeting the Pauper Attorney fees. The County will have to find ways to fund this. She would like to put filling this position on hold, as well as any hiring, until the Council can figure out a closer estimate of what the County is going to need and areas where the Council can look for money. Kelli is not interested in raising taxes, so the Council needs to find efficiencies from within.

SG asked that if the County needs money, can it take salaries out of the Clerk's Record Perpetuation Fund that is currently being taken out of General? He further stated that if you can pay a part-time out of this fund, you can pay a current employee whose salary is coming out of the General fund. Roark stated that it is her understanding that the Clerk's Record Perpetuation fund is money her office earned. No money would be coming out of General to fund this part-time position. Kelli stated that SG is saying to take the current salaries paid out of General and pay out of the Clerk's Record Perpetuation which would free up money in the General; this would help with funding Pauper Attorney.

Roark stated that it is her understanding that the Clerk's Record Perpetuation is money her office earned. No money is coming out of General. Roark further stated that she has already given up a full-time position, and her office is struggling to keep up. If you want the Clerk's office to run efficiently and the Courthouse to efficiently run, she needs to be fully staffed in her office by being down two people.

Kelli asked KH if he has any ideas where the underfunding for Pauper Attorney could come from? She further stated she does not want to cut employees, services, or contracts but the Council is going to have to come up with funds somewhere. KH pointed out that Kelli stated that she does not want to cut employees, but basically just told Roark no. Kelli stated it is easier to not replace employees than to eliminate current employees. Kelli further stated not replacing an employee can be temporary until the Council figures out the Pauper Attorney underbudget.

Discussion proceeded regarding underbudget of Pauper Attorney and EMS. Kelli stated that the entire budget for Pauper Attorney has been used in the first four months, and there is still eight months left in the year.

Auditor Hammack asked the Council if they use LOW software? She stated she understand the whole budget, but she feels it is important to also look at the fund balances, which are the cash balances. Hammack further stated that the Council has their appropriation in budget, but there is also cash. The County was projected to end 2023 at \$1.4 million and ended with over \$1.5. Hammack feels it is important each month to look at the financial report as far as what the beginning balance is, the expenditures, and the ending month balance. She further stated that the Council looks at appropriation and budget, and this doesn't mean the County does not have the cash to support it. Kelli stated the State Board of Accounts wants the County to have the recommended 25-35% cash balance, and the County was close at 24.89%. Hammack stated that Baker Tilley can help the County look at other funds because they are more knowledgeable of what the County can spend, and if there are items that can be paid out of these funds to take relief off the General.

Kelli stated Baker Tilley mentioned the County should not be spending more money than it brings in. Hammack stated the County does not spend more than it brings in for any fund. Kelli stated the County is currently doing this. Hammack reiterated that if you add up the entire expenditures out of General for 2023, the County did not spend more than it brought in. Kelli stated the numbers look like

the budget was balanced, but it was not. Hammack stated she is speaking about revenue to cash. The County did not spend more than it brought in.

GG asked that with the election coming up, can someone be hired for a period of time and not the rest of the year, being a temporary part-time person? Roark asked what happens on December, 31st? They are fired? She further stated that she is an elected official, it is the Clerk's office budget, it's the Clerk's office money, and it is not affecting anybody. She does not understand why this is such an issue. It is not pulling any money out of the General fund, there is no insurance and there are no benefits.

Roark stated that she was given \$4,000 in budget for An Island at election, and she was able to obtain a three-year grant from the State to cover this expense.

This is \$4,000 that she will freely give back to General to help so that she can have a part-time.

KH made a motion to approve hiring a part-time employee, seconded by GG. Motion carried 5-1.

GREG HENDERSHOT, PARKS & REC SUPERVISOR

- a) Hendershot stated he needs to hire someone, as he does not have an assistant any longer. Kelli stated she is in the same situation as she mentioned with the Clerk for rehiring for her position. With all the grass mowing that needs to be done, she was thinking as requests come in for maintenance, the Commissioners could look at outsourcing some of it, as it would still be cheaper than a full-time employee with pension and insurance benefits. Hendershot disagreed with this.

Hendershot stated he agreed to take the Maintenance duties when he was asking for a full-time position just for Parks and Rec. Hendershot stated he took on the Maintenance position to help the County, and the County agreed to give him a full-time employee. He further stated the grass is growing, the weeds are growing, and things are breaking. Hendershot does not feel it is fair to take away the full-time position, and stated that if the County is going to make a cut, then take away the Maintenance duties and put them back to where they want to put them.

Kelli stated the County is in a difficult position with Pauper Attorney fees. Hendershot requested to be put back to Parks and Rec only, and KH stated he would rather make a motion to hire a full-time position. KH does not feel it would be cost effective to outsource maintenance. Kelli asked Hendershot if he has a list of what he takes care of for maintenance, and he responded he does not but he takes care of all maintenance unless he does not have the equipment or the expertise to do it. He further stated that the Jail is approximately 75% of his work orders.

Kelli stated this would be a temporary freeze on hiring until the Council can work through the current financial situation. Hendershot stated in the last two pay periods, he has worked 95 hours in one pay period and 110 hours in the other one, while waiting to come before the Council with his request to replace his full-time employee. Hendershot stated he is not going to continue putting in this many hours. Kelli asked Hendershot if he could get by with a part-time employee, and he responded no.

Hendershot stated that when he took on the maintenance duties, he thought he would be doing the same work that the previous person in that position did. That position prior to Hendershot never visited the Jail for maintenance work.

Hendershot does maintenance for all the County buildings. He cannot continue to do all the maintenance and all the mowing. If they do not approve this position, Hendershot stated he will need a phone number from the Council for to call when things are not getting fixed or mowed.

SG stated that this is part of bigger problem with the General fund. The Council is going to have to come together at a later date to possibly make hard decisions. He feels that this position needs to be filled. GG agreed, and stated that if maintenance was outsourced, it would not be done in a timely manner and it will cost the County a lot more than to hire a full-time employee.

KH made a motion to hire a full-time employee, seconded by PM. Motion carried 5-1.

TARA LUCAS, PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE SUPERVISOR

- a) Lucas stated that in the current 2024 HFI Budget that the Council approved, there is a contract with Perry County Memorial Hospital that covers certain educational components. Lucas has approached the Hospital, the Health Board, and will be

approaching the Commissioners regarding a cavoite to include CPR and AED training for the community, and the cost would be covered. Lucas does not need any additional appropriation into this fund, but felt it appropriate to make the Council aware of this.

SG asked that in the original contract with the Hospital, did the Commissioners sign the contract? Lucas stated with the original contract, the Commissioners were aware of the contract and she worked closely with the County Attorney to get it approved. Lucas further stated that with SB158, there are changes beginning July 1st where the Commissioners could make an official change or process for who can sign grants. She has spoke to the Health Board, and they support this. The County Attorney was very heavily involved in all the contract processes. This addendum will be taken to the Commissioners.

SG made a motion to add the Red Cross training classes to the Perry County Memorial Hospital Contract, pending approval of the Commissioners, seconded by GG. Motion carried 6-0.

ERIC DICKENSON, CHIEF DEPUTY

a) Dickenson stated he has sent the Council a couple of emails explaining what the ICJI Traffic Safety Grant consists of and the impact this grant would have.

Dickenson is asking permission of the Council to apply for this grant and to use the Inmate Housing fund for the impact in terms of the matching portion of this grant. Kelli asked if this is the \$8.625, and Dickenson stated yes.

Kelli stated that in his email he was looking into extra duty mileage. The Sheriff's office reached out to C&S concerning some data. They looked at the last three years and the pump prices are sometimes unpredictable, but based on this data the Sheriff's office can see how many gallons were consumed and what that total cost was. 2021 was a Traffic Safety Grant year, and part of 2022, but they did not participate in 2023. In 2022, it was approximately two-thirds of the year due to their fiscal year runs from October 1st through September 30th.

The number of fatalities that the Sheriff's office is investigating have doubled from 2022 to 2023. Dickenson stated that his office believes that between education and enforcement, the Sheriff's office can address the six fatalities in 2023. In 2022, there were three, and in 2021 there was one.

This is a Comprehensive Highway Injury Reduction Program that supports project safety projects that are proven to reduce fatalities and severe injuries. Some things his office looks at are alcohol impaired crashes, speed related crashes, and occupant safety belt usage. Between enforcement and education, a DUI task force can saturate an area to reduce alcohol induced driving. The Sheriff's office did not participate in 2023, and fatalities doubled.

Dickenson stated a potion of the grant funding would be used for stop-arm violation enforcement, DUI task force enforcement, and the other would be for aggressive driving/hands free device usage/safety belt usage, and speed.

Kelli stated that the \$8625.00 match was proposed to come out of Inmate Housing, and she asked if this amount could be taken out of Commissary, just in case there are any issues where this is a needed for jail operations money from Inmate Housing? Sheriff Alan Malone was not sure that would be allowable. Malone also stated that the Commissary balance is down due to purchasing a vehicle. Kelli stated she would appreciate if they could consider this at the time this grant is ready. Dickenson stated that since the grant runs grom October 1st through September 30th, only one-third is of the match would come out of the 2024 budget. Perhaps the two-thirds for 2025 could be looked at to take from Commissary.

KH made a motion to allow applying for this grant, seconded by SG. Motion carried 6-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) 03.28.2024

PM made a motion to approve minutes as presented, seconded by GG. Motion carried 6-0.

KRISTINIA HAMMACK, AUDITOR

a) Auditor Hammack stated that once the County gets through June, she will be able to provide better numbers to the Council due to getting Spring Settlement in. She further stated this is one of the reasons the Auditor works diligently to make sure

the Settlement is done in a timely manner due to so many things are expended before this money is received. When looking at funds, you need to look at month to month, but also need to look in quarters, halves, and then annually. Hammack accessed information to hand out to the Council and stated she will be providing this information monthly in the future.

Hammack stated that she understands what Kelli is talking about as far as budget. The County is having additional appropriations which is basically adding money to the budget. Hammack stated there is a cash balance also, revenue to expenditures, that needs to be looked at as well, to where the County is not cutting into its cash balances. Hammack stated the County did not cut into its cash balances in 2023, nor did they in 2022. Hammack further stated that in 2023, the County received in \$7,038,455.73, which is money that was brought in for 2023 only. The County expended in 2023 \$6,682,048.61. Revenue was more than expenditures. The County ended 2023 with a cash balance of \$1,616,540.84. The County was projected in June of 2023 to end the year at approximately \$1.4 million.

Hammack stated that working with Baker Tilley will explain that the county is limited on the amounts the budget can be raised from year to year until after the Annual Financial Report is filed. Additional appropriations that are approved by the Council requires the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) approval as well. DLGF approval is based off the information that is submitted on the County Annual Financial Report, the estimated revenue that the County will be bringing in, and the current budget.

Hammack reiterated that the County did not spend more money than was brought in.

a) Additional Appropriations:

- General Fund: Commissioners-Consulting Services
#1000.31101.00000.0068 \$1,377.50

Auditor Hammack stated this amount is to pay the Waggoner, Irwin, Scheele and Associates bill out of General. The County has already used all the money that was originally appropriated for consulting in General. PM asked if this is the last bill from them, and Hammack stated she just spoke with them the prior day addressing questions the County is receiving regarding the Personnel Policy and upcoming changes July 1st regarding salary caps and changes, along with the Fair Standard Labor Act that is changing in January 2025. Hammack does not want to make the small changes for July and have to come back and make changes for January 2025. Hammack has spoken with Waggoner, Irwin, Scheele and Associates and informed them that the County is to be billed quarterly. These are 2023 charges only.

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

- Riverboat: Commissioners-Consulting Services
#1191.31101.00000.0068 \$19,305.74

Hammack stated this amount will bring this current with all invoices she has received for consulting services.

SG asked what is the balance in Riverboat, and Hammack responded approximately \$148,000 to \$168,000.

PM made a motion to approve, seconded by EW. Motion carried 5-0-1. KH abstained.

- Fund 8961 Transfer/Additional Appropriation for Pauper Attorney Fees
Hammack stated that prior to the establishment of this fund, reimbursement for Pauper Attorney was being put in General. Hammack contacted another Auditor in early 2023 and asked where this money should be put. She was advised to either put this reimbursement into General or into a fund for Pauper Attorney reimbursement. This fund was created in March of 2023, so the money the Council thought was in General was actually in this new fund. There were no expenditures from this fund. With last year's reimbursements for all four quarters, the County received \$146,918.15 for Pauper Public Defender, and \$5,637.82 for Juvenile. So, there is approximately \$150,000 that was thought to have to be deposited into General Fund in 2023, and it is in Fund 8961. Hammack stated she sent the Council a request from Judge Lucy Goffinet that Hammack received on April 18th. Goffinet is needing \$75,000 to pay current bills for April and May. Goffinet stated to Hammack that this amount will cover until June, based on the cases that are coming up.

Hammack stated that currently Pauper Attorney expenditures are paid out of the General fund. The County has this \$150,000 sitting in Fund 8961. Hammack does not feel that the County should expend from this fund, due to expending from multiple accounts would not give a clear view unless both are looked at. Hammack suggests paying all expenditures from General and doing a cash transfer out of 8961 into General. However, Hammack stated by doing it this way, it will be a wash but it will show more income into General than you really have.

PM asked Hammack if she had spoke to Baker Tilley regarding this, and Hammack responded no. Kelli would like it to be clean and expenditures come from one account. PM would like Baker Tilley's opinion as to what would be the best way to handle this. Kelli stated that the State Board of Accounts might have a recommendation and it would not cost anything to talk to them.

Hammack stated this will be on May's agenda and just wanted to get some information to the Council in advance.

Kelli stated that since there is \$146,000 in the fund, possibly Judge Goffinet would be interested in moving the full amount over to General.

Hammack stated this fund could be added to the budget book so it is looked at each year.

COUNTY COUNCIL

a) Baker Tilley Scope for assistance with 2025 budget

Auditor Hammack spoke to Baker Tilley to get clarification regarding a contract they submitted to the County. Section "A" is the full comprehensive plan for 2025 and it is not to exceed \$30,000. This is due to having to look back at several years to gather information. Section "B" is if the county continues in 2026 to utilize them and annually it would be \$20,000/year. Section "C" is for services outside of the comprehensive plan. This would consist of meeting with departments one-on-one and would be billed at an hourly basis. If they are asked to refigure or revisit something after receiving the comprehensive plan that they provide, it would be billed at an hourly rate but has a cap of \$12,000. Baker Tilley would not bill over the \$12,000, but would allow the County to go over that amount if needed.

Kelli asked where the Council would propose to get the funding for this? SG stated it makes sense with turn-over of Council and Auditors to have consistency. Hammack stated that many counties use Baker Tilley fully to perform budget preparation.

KH made a motion to accept Section "A" for Baker Tilley to be paid out of River Boat, pending Commissioner approval of the contract, seconded by PM. Motion carried 6-0.

b) Approval of TIF Management Annual Report of the Redevelopment Commission
Auditor Hammack stated she worked with Jon Scheer and Jason Stemler, and she then provided all the information to Baker Tilley, who they put this report together. The Council is required to have a reading of the report; it has to be reviewed by the Council and documented in the minutes that it has the Council's blessing.

c) Ordinance for applying for Grants has not been completed by the Council
Attorney as of this meeting. KH stated there also needs to be an Ordinance that lowers the dollar amount on projects that need to be bid. PM agreed with KH. Kelli stated she feels that \$5,000 is a good amount. She further stated that the State sets the amount at \$50,000, which for some communities that would be like \$5,000. However, \$5,000 is a lot for Perry County.

Auditor Hammack stated that what came out of the District meeting, the County needs to get a plan of action. Starting July 1st, each County has to start uploading every contract into Gateway, and from the date it was signed, it has to be uploaded within ten days. Hammack wants to have a Plan of Action as to when these contracts need to be in the Auditor's office. Grants will also have to be uploaded into Gateway as they are approved, versus at the time the Annual Financial Report is completed.

Coroner Warren Taylor he understands if the grants have matching funds, but if they are fully funded, which he has received six grants in the last four years, he stated he did not ask for approval of these grants. Taylor further stated that with the deadlines that are put on grants, he cannot wait to come to the Council to get approval. He understands if the grant requires matching funds, but why should a

grant that is fully funded have to come before the Council for approval to apply for it? Kelli stated that the idea of this process is when an office is purchasing, the Council wants to know what the item is so they can plan for the future for replacement. KH stated he is in agreement with Taylor, if it does not cost the County any money, apply for it. He further stated that an office can notify the Council at the next meeting that they applied for the grant. Taylor stated that the County tells departments to look for grants, but now they are saying you have to get approval before you can even apply for them. Kelli replied the reason for this is for planning purposes. The intent of this process is so the Council can know what is being applied for, what the matches are or if no match, and what the Council has to look at for replacing in the future.

SG asked with this Ordinance, is the County strengthening a State Statute or is this a completely separate Ordinance? Kelli stated this is strictly for planning. The County has an Ordinance for grants, but it is not signed from 2021. David Etienne asked Hammack to research this, and she could only find a Resolution copy that was in the the December 16, 2021 Minutes book.

Taylor stated that if the purpose for planning, he feels that offices will end up getting their budgets cut because they have grant money, and Kelli stated not necessarily.

- d) The next regular meeting is Thursday, May 23, 2024 at 5:00 p.m., which will be held at the Courthouse Meeting Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m. CST.

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

Minutes approved this 23rd day of May, 2024.

President, Perry County Council

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