

PERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
July 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 David Etienne (DE), 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.

PUBLIC HEARING-LOCAL INCOME TAX MODIFICATIONS

DE called to order the meeting for the Public Hearing.

DE stated this is a hearing for Local Income Tax Modifications. This was duly published in the Perry County News on July 15th. In addition, as of 2024, the County is required to notify any affected taxing units. The City of Tell City, City of Cannelton, and Town of Troy were also emailed this Notice of Public Hearing, along with a copy of what was presented in the newspaper.

The County is proposing modifying the Local Income Tax Rate as follows:

1. Certified Shares would remain the same at 5.28%.
2. Public Safety going from 0.322% to 0.3520%
3. Economic Development going from 0.5500% to 0.3200%
4. Property Tax Relief is something the County no longer has
5. Special Purpose Rate the County no longer has
6. Correctional or Rehabilitation Facilities going from 0.0000% to 0.1000%
7. Emergency Medical Service going from 0.0000% to 0.1000%

The total tax rate would not be changing; it will remain at 1.4000%. A portion of the Public Safety revenue will be directed to Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP). The existing Public Safety rate of 0.3220% will now become 0.3520%. PSAP will change from 0.0720% to 0.102%.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Several citizens voiced their concern regarding the proposed Local Income Tax Modifications and ramifications that would result from it. Requested was a meeting be held with all entities to collaborate. Consensus was to support Public Safety. Economic development is important, as it drives the growth of the County. EMS was discussed. Public Comments were made by Jody French, David Goffinet, Chris Cail, Gary Greubel, Cody Rhodes, Megan Fritchley, and Larry Kleeman.

Per a representative from Baker Tilley, August 1st is the deadline to notify all the overing taxing if you are making a change, but if you want to make a change and have it effective by January 1, 2025, you have until October 31, 2024.

PM made a motion to table, seconded by KH. Motion dies 5-2.

Chris Goffinet presented Council members with the procedure for first reading, second reading. It stated that unanimous consent of the members present is required to pass an ordinance on the same day, same meeting which it is introduced. If not unanimous, you have to have another meeting.

Kelli asked PM what would he propose to do, and he responded keep the EDIT rate exactly the way it is. The current County General tax is \$1.40 and could raise it to \$1.63. This could be revisited next year. Kelli asked an increase in taxes, and PM stated yes. PM stated these services are needed, but we do not want to pay for them. SG feels if the County wants to raise taxes, this should be put on a referendum for everybody in Perry County, and EW agreed with him.

PM made a motion to advertise an increase in the tax rate to approximately 1.63, seconded by KH. Motion died 5-2.

DE read aloud the Ordinance Modifying the Local Income Tax Rates of Perry County, Indiana. He stated that the second and third reading would be in name only.

SG made a motion for the second and third reading in name only of the Ordinance, seconded by GG. Motion carried 7-0.

Second reading is by title only. DE read aloud An Ordinance Modifying the Local Income Tax Rates of Perry County, Indiana.

Third reading is by title only. DE read aloud AN Ordinance Modifying the Local Income Tax Rates of Perry County, Indiana.

GG made a motion to approve, seconded by SG. Motion failed 6-1.

KH made a motion to close the Public Hearing, seconded by EW. Motion carried 7-0.

COUNCIL MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

AGENDA

PM made the motion to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by EW. Motion carried 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- a) Jenny Brunner, Executive Director of the Oaks Transitional House for Women and Children

Brunner stated they became a 501(c)3 last October. It is incorporated and has a strong board, consisting of two members of the Sheriff's Department, a Public Health Nurse, Lincoln Hill Development, and herself, which she is a social worker, plus Chrystal Moskos, social worker, plus another social worker.

Brunner stated that Perry County has a homeless population. As a Trustee, she sees it far too often. County tax dollars spent to date have been \$3,005, which is for hotels for homeless until they can get permanent housing and drug rehabilitation.

This shelter is ready to go and completely furnished. All this was done by donations, volunteers, and community service workers. This site is zoned properly and they have a lease through the Cannelton Food and Pantry effective September 1, 2024. Insurance has been obtained for liability and renters insurance. They have on-going fund raising.

Brunner read the Mission Statement of the Oaks Transitional House for Women and Children. This transitional house will have Social Workers, Safe Haven staff will be on-site to assist with Medicaid, Wick, training for jobs, and securing jobs. Brunner stated that they feel a portion of the Opioid money that the County receives should be used for this transitional house. She further stated that there is Narcan on the outside of the apartment

EW asked how many at a time can this transitional house take in, and Brunner responded they can take two women now and up to four children or one woman and six children. It all depends on how many children they have. She added that this project was started small, and they plan to expand with more Federal funding, grants, and matching grants. Brunner asked the Council to consider some of the Opioid money to fund their project.

Kelli asked what amount are they requesting, and Brunner stating with this being a start-up, the amount needed is hard to budget, but possibly \$50,000. Kelli asked if they have a plan for what this money would be used for, and Brunner stated yes, they could provide this to the Council.

Brunner stated that the residents will pay a fee, and they will get a job. Domestic violence victims will not be housed in this facility; they need to be at a shelter where they will be safe.

PM asked if these women can live there until they can get on their feet, and Brunner stated they anticipate six to nine months, depending on the women and where they are coming from.

Chrystal Moskos spoke regarding obtaining some of the Opioid money. She stated that with Opioid money, they ask that for support of evidence-based prevention, treatment, recovery, harm reduction, and services to expand Behavioral Health. Their plans to meet those requirements is to become NARR (National Alliance for Recovery Residents) certified. This will qualify them for Federal funding. Not only will they be functioning at a high-quality level to meet these needs, it will stabilize their funding sources. Safe Haven will provide Peer Recovery Coaches which will get individuals to the health services they need; this assessment is for individual treatment. Moskos further stated that what comes with homelessness is substance abuse issues, criminal justice, and mental health. Kelli suggested that a committee be formed for Opioid, much like the ARP Committee, with members possibly consisting of the Circuit Courts, Probation,

Community Corrections, Prosecutor's office, or other who are deemed to be in that committee. This committee could then make recommendations to the County. The Council will speak to the Commissioners to see if a committee can be established.

PM made a motion to form a committee, seconded by EW. Motion carried 7-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) 06.27.2024
- b) 07.08.2024

GG made a motion to approve minutes as presented, seconded by KH. Motion carried 7-0.

JANE JAMES, RECORDER

- a) James appeared to request approval for her two part-time clerks who work 42 hours per pay period, or 21 hours per week for 2025. James gave a progress report of the back indexing project. Since her report in July 2023, her part-time clerks have indexed another 11,800 documents. Two years ago, their hours were increased from 28 hours per pay period to 42 hours per pay period. Since increasing their hours, they have back indexed 24,000 documents in the last two years. These clerks are back to 1915 in deeds, and in Miscellaneous they are back to 1932. James stated that the other half of the back indexing project is completed by the full-time staff which does the auditing of everything the part-time clerks do. Every book is verified with the computer entry to ensure every page and document has been scanned. This project started out with 128,220 documents. Kelli asked if there is five years left on this project, and James stated that it would be five to seven years due to getting into the cursive handwriting and calligraphy. James stated they will back index to 1815, which is when the records began.

KH made a motion to approve the two part-time clerks which comes out of the Recorder's Perpetuation Fund, seconded by EW. Motion carried 7-0.

- b) James stated that in 2019 a law came into effect that they could spend their Recorder's Perpetuation money for general supplies and expenses, which takes that burden off the County. In order for her to use this fund to pay for supplies and expenses, she must prepare a sworn statement for \$5,025 that they will pay. James stated out of this fund they pay for their computers, printers, scanners, all equipment, and software. James read aloud the sworn statement.

Kelli made a motion to approve the sworn statement, seconded by PM. Motion carried 7-0.

MENDY LASSALINE, ASSESSOR

- a) Lassaline stated one of her full-time deputies has submitted her resignation to further her education. She appeared to ask for approval to post and fill this full-time deputy position.

KH made a motion to post and fill the full-time deputy position, seconded by PM. Motion carried 6-1.

MANDY JACKSON, CHAIR OF PLANNING AND ZONING

- a) Jackson stated part of their duties is to appoint the Administrator position. Hubert Voges retired in 2023. Currently, Randy Cole is taking care of building permits. Jackson stated that in 2023, there were approximately eight permits per month, and this position also does variances; there were two variances in the last twelve months. There are other duties that come with this job, but these are the larger ones. Jackson stated that in their last meeting on April 29, 2024, some options were discussed, such as incorporating this into another office. Suggestions for this were the Health Department, try to put in the City official office which was nixed, Assessor's office, and a variety of suggestions. The general consensus was and they voted to proceed forward as the position was and just replace the position. That was the goal for what the Board had voted on. They quickly found out that they needed approval to do that, which she did not realize that. The position was posted and they have received eight or nine resumes. Jackson has looked at these, and she feels these were blanketed to apply for every job that the County has.

This is a part-time position. Voges was historically working fifteen hours per week at a rate of \$13.57 per hour.

Jackson stated that it was mentioned that the County was missing some revenue from permits, but she is not aware as to how you would nail this information down.

Jackson stated that currently anyone building has to go to the Health Department first to obtain a Sanitation permit. Once a Sanitation permit is obtained, the next step is to go to the Courthouse to obtain a building permit. Jackson personally spoke to Kim Robertson regarding this duty, and she was willing to entertain the idea of putting it in her office. She further stated that this job should be a Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. or at least someone to call. Also, the County website should have a quick link, as many are technology savvy, where this permit can be downloaded, completed, and sent back, which will make the process more streamlined.

Jackson stated that Robertson will have to fill out the permits, visit the job site to view certain steps, soil samples, and other things have to be done. Jackson feels that to go the route with Robertson completing permits makes more sense as she would already be there, looking at the property, and streamlining the process.

Jackson stated the pay scale of \$13.57 per hour is not enough to entice an individual for fifteen hours per week to do this job.

Kelli stated she liked the idea of Kim Robertson taking on this duty since she is already doing septic permits and available five days per week, plus it would eliminate travel both to her office and then the Courthouse.

DE asked if Robertson would be willing to take on this duty, and Jackson stated she had spoken to her previously, and Robertson's only concern was that she did not want to have to clock out of one job to go to another job. Jackson stated she told Robertson they would be looking at a different tier at the point and would have to get with the Commissioners to approve even adding this to her job description. She further stated Robertson was willing to entertain this. Jackson does not know the pyramid of things, who she reports to, but Robertson stated she herself as the Health Department was willing to so this. Jackson further stated that Robertson now has an assistant, so this might alleviate some of the concerns with time constraints.

Kelli stated that if Robertson would be willing to do this, then her job description would have to be reworked. Kelli requested information from Commissioner Cole, as he has been doing this for free this year, and he has had 48 permits and brought in \$5,700. If the County continues as it has for 2024, this will not even bring in enough revenue to pay the \$15,000 a year.

Jackson stated there were other options presented at their meeting to put this in other current offices.

SG felt it makes sense to put this with Robertson since she is already doing the sanitation permits.

Auditor Kristinia Hammack stated she attending the meeting in April. The whole point to put this is an office with more than one person is where you can cross-train. She feels there is so much more to this job that is not being done. The people who come into the Courthouse are coming in to inform and obtain a permit. Hammack stated this position needs to be in an office that is not going to have a sign on the door half of the time that they are out and about. The Courthouse recommendation was to put this position in an office that is already staffed and could have cross-training. There would be one main person who takes care of Planning and Zoning, but if they are out and about, there would somebody in the office who could begin the paperwork.

Hammack stated she does not know Robertson's situation with being out of the office for her current position, but she is currently already at a 40-hour work week. She further stated that if that office is open Monday-Friday 8:00 am-4:00 pm, then by all means, putting it there is a great idea.

Kelli asked if the Council could ask Robertson to attend the next Council meeting, and KH stated this is something the Planning and Zoning Board needs to talk to her, as they are the ones who will be hiring this position.

Kelli made a motion for Mandy Jackson take the recommendation for Kim Robertson to the Planning and Zoning Board, seconded by SG. Motion carried 7-0.

STEVE HOWELL, HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

- a) Howell stated he had an Operator retire, and he asked for permission to post the position and hire an Operator.

KH made a motion to hire an Operator for the open position, seconded by GG. Motion carried 7-0.

- b) Howell stated that due to the Community Crossing bids coming in less than the estimate they received, with the County being awarded \$1.5 million, and the County is only going to use \$1,101,150. That left \$398,850 left that that he can apply for in the second round.

Kelli made a motion to approve applying for the second round of Community Crossings, seconded by KH. Motion carried 7-0.

KRISTINIA HAMMACK, AUDITOR

- a) Additional Appropriations

- Riverboat; Commissioners: Consulting Services
#1191.31101.00000.0068 \$4,237.50

SG made a motion to approve, seconded by Kelli. Motion carried 6-0-1.

- LIT; Detention Center: Maintenance Contracts
Sheriff Malone stated this amount is needed for a maintenance contract that he failed to include in his budget for 2024. Kelli asked who had the Johnson Controls contract, and Sheriff Malone stated he has been in charge of his contract for years. With the law changing in the beginning of the year, he has not signed a new contract. Kelli asked if Malone has an existing rolling contract, and he confirmed this.
Malone stated that every five years, this company does all the testing. The invoice comes first, and by the first of the next month the work is performed. Since it was not included in his budget, he is asking for the \$3,000 for this contract.
DE asked if money was not already appropriated in the \$350,000 in his budget, and Malone stated not for this contract. This contract is for the wet sprinkler system testing and inspections of all wet sprinkler system. Kelli stated that there is a budget for \$350,000, and asked Malone if he has already used all this amount? Malone stated all \$350,000 is spoken for. Kelli stated that she does know if the Council can do an additional appropriation when not all of the \$350,000 has been spent. All this amount needs to be expended, and then ask for an additional appropriation. Kelli stated that Malone would have to come back at the end of the year when he needs additional money.

No action taken.

- LIT; Detention Center: Janitorial/Maintenance Supplies
#1112.23100.00000.0380 \$10,000.00

Sheriff Malone stated that due to the inmate population being up, and he needs this amount to cover additional janitorial needs for the detention center. This includes trash bags, toilet paper, cleaning supplies for the kitchen, as well as for the water softener.

The appropriation for this has been exhausted.

PM made a motion to allow, seconded by KH. Motion carried 7-0.

- b) Appropriation Transfer: Parks and Rec

From:	1000.11801.00000.0803	Facility Maintenance	
		Assistant	\$2,000.00
To:	1000.36200.00000.0803	Equipment Repair	\$2,000.00

SG made a motion to approve, seconded by PM. Motion carried 7-0.

- c) The 2025 Holiday Calendar approval.

Hammack stated she has spoken to Steve Howell, Highway Superintendent, he stated that the Highway Department has never received President’s Day as a paid holiday. KH stated that the Highway works four ten-hour days versus the seven-hour day. Kelli would like to verify with Waggoner, Irwin, Scheele and Associates, Inc. that the County is not doing something that will come back on the County at a later date.

Hammack verified with Howell that the Highway Department does not get a floating holiday for this day. Hammack will email Waggoner, Irwin, Scheele and Associates, Inc to verify if the Highway Department should get this holiday. Hammack stated that 2025 is not an election year, so there would not be holidays for this. However, Cannelton City Schools have spoken with their attorney, and

the school wants to do a questionnaire next November. Their questionnaire cannot be done this November, as it has to be done every eight years. KH asked if this is on the school tax rate, and Mary Kay Elder, Election Board Member, stated yes.

KH asked when it is a non-election year, employees are given a floating holiday or they just do not receive it? Hammack stated employees do not get the holiday. Kelli asked what has been done previously, as they have had this in the past. Hammack stated at that time, the County had an election. Hammack stated she was told the school will have to pay for this election, with the County paying for it upfront, and the school will have to reimburse the County.

Hammack stated November 4, 2025 was added to the 2025 Holiday Calendar.

KH made a motion to table the 2025 Holiday Schedule, seconded by PM. Motion carried 7-0.

COUNTY COUNCIL

a) ARP Funding Approval

PM asked for clarification on Clarity Audiology Hearing Equipment. He asked if it is a business starting up? KH stated it is a new business. PM asked if this can qualify, and Kelli stated this round was for healthcare. She further stated that in the last round, APR funded Invision Eye Care for a new piece of equipment.

DE read the list for funding:

• Coroner for Cooler	\$ 25,000.00
• Federal Audit	\$ 30,000.00
• PC Council on Aging Van Wrap	\$ 5,000.00
• Girls Softball Barn	\$ 35,000.00
• Legion Field Resurface Track	\$ 38,500.00
• Clarity Audiology Hearing Equipment	\$ 44,000.00
• Perry Central Pickleball Court	\$ 44,000.00
• Rome Courthouse Repairs	\$100,000.00
• Derby Walk Path	\$ 70,000.00

	\$391,500.00

Kelli stated that the Rome Courthouse Repairs was a dollar for dollar match up to \$100,000. They have until December 1st to come up with their match up to the \$100,000. If they do not come up with this full amount by December 1st, then there would still be time to do something with the remainder of the funds so they are not lost.

KH made a motion to approve the ARP funding for \$361,500.00, seconded by PM. Motion carried 7-0.

Kelli mentioned that if the ARP money is not expended by December 31st, the County will have to send money back to the Federal government, or will need contracts to encumber. The final checks have to be written by 2026.

- b) The next Council meeting is Thursday, August 22, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. at the Courthouse Meeting Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m. CST.

PM made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Kelli. Motion carried 7-0.

Minutes approved this 29th day of August, 2024.

President, Perry County Council

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