

**PERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
November 21, 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), Paul Malone (PM), and Gale Garner (GG). Auditor Kristinia Hammack was also present. There was no *Sheriff, Attorney or News Representative* present.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA

Kelli made the motion to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by SG. Motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

a) An Island LLC

Anjan Kashyab with An Island LLC stated his company has been meeting with the County for the past month to create a new website for the County. Key points taken away for these meeting is that the County wanted this website to be simple, modern, and easy to use. The overall shell for the website has been built.

Kashyab wanted to share with the Council what has been done so far on this website. He stated that An Island will continue to transfer over data to the new website.

Kashyab presented the main home page. Files can be attached to the pages as well as forms that can be printed out. In addition, forms will be available to be completed electronically and submitted. Each page will be customized according to that office's need. He will be meeting with each office to get their needs and wants.

DE asked when Kashyab expected to have this completed, and he responded the goal is January 1, 2025, and Auditor Hammack stated the rush is to get this on-line for Planning and Zoning. The thought process is to get a lot of the meat from the current website, and get the website up and going. Once Planning and Zoning is complete, the other departments will be worked on to get their page as they need it to be.

Hammack gave an overview of the Board Appointments page. This will include the duties of each board as well as Indiana Codes for every board.

Hammack stated a link to the new website will be sent to all department heads to review at their leisure, and ask for feedback and suggestions.

TARA LUCAS, PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE SUPERVISOR

a) 2025 HFI Budget

Lucas appeared to get the Council's approval for the 2025 Health First Indiana budget. She stated this was emailed out to the Council two weeks prior in order to be reviewed. The 2024 budget is on the Health First Indiana website, as the 2025 budget will be as well. Lucas stated that numbers are provided to the State monthly so that they are up to date with the State, and the requirement is only once per year. This way the State know exactly what Perry County is doing with the dollars.

Lucas asked that for the \$30,000 for the ambulance lease, a core service has to be assigned to this, and Lucas will need assistance from the Council on this. This responsibility does fall on the Council to figure out which core service they feel applies to this.

Lucas stated if the Council approves this budget, she will submit the budget to Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) the following day. Lucas also stated she is working on a report which will show the Council exactly what the Health Department has done in 2024 that will include how many people were serviced, and the programs that were started.

Kelli made a motion to approve, seconded by PM. Motion carried 5-0.

ALYSON WILSON, INTERM CLERK

a) Vacant 2nd Deputy Position

Wilson stated that traditionally the Council would be asked to replace the position. Wilson feels that this position should be either replaced or reinstate the previous person who was in this position. Wilson stated regardless what the Council decides, the person is needed in that office.

DE asked if the previous person wants to come back, and Wilson stated she did reach out to Wilson. PM stated he appreciated that; however, he feels the County has a matter of fact. This person has been gone for a couple of weeks, and feels the job needs to be posted and have this person apply. PM feels this is what needs to be done from a legal standpoint. Kelli asked PM if he contacted the County Attorney or Council Attorney regarding this, and he responded he has not.

Kelli stated a reinstatement would be different than a rehire.

PM wants to see the position posted, as he stated in all fairness to the office, there are two things going on here. Whenever a final decision is made upon who the Clerk will be, let that person have the final call on the position. Kelli stated that the office is two people down right now, so there are two full-time employees and a part-time person currently running the office. Kelli feels this position should be filled by reinstating the previous employee, with this being someone who does not have to be retrained and has experience. Kelli further stated there was a fairness issue, a potential legal liability issue, and in her opinion, she feels the former employee should be reinstated.

SG stated he feels the Council should go into an Executive Session to talk about this. Kelli stated this is not hiring, it is just to open this back up or to reinstate someone. PM stated that this could be tabled to have a Special Meeting and check this out legally, and have a Special Meeting the first of next week. Kelli feels this needs to be done sooner than later due to only having two people in her office that are full-time, plus a part-time person.

GG stated that this former employee could be reinstated pending legal approval.

PM made a motion to approve the request to post the position, and the new Clerk would have final say on that position, with no second. Motion dies.

Keli made a motion to reinstate the former employee pending legal counsel approval, seconded by SG. Motion carried 4-1.

JANE JAMES, RECORDER

- a) James stated that she will be retiring at the end of the year, and with Tracy Schroeder being elected as the next Recorder, this will create a vacancy for the second deputy position. James is asking permission and approval to get this position filled. Kelli asked if this is already in the budget for 2025, and James confirmed this.

PM made a motion to allow, seconded by Kelli. Motion carried 5-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) 10.24.2024

GG made a motion to approve, seconded by PM. Motion carried 4-0-1 with Kelli abstaining.

- b) 10.28.2024

PM made a motion to approve, seconded by SG. Motion carried 4-0-1 with Kelli abstaining.

KRISTINIA HAMMACK, AUDITOR

- a) Approval of 2025 Holiday Schedule

Hammack stated that when the Holiday Schedule was presented in July or June, there was discussion regarding the Highway Department and President's Day. This Schedule was never approved.

SG made a motion to approve, seconded by GG. Motion carried 5-0.

- b) Approval of 2025 Salary Ordinance

Hammack stated the Salary Ordinance was emailed to the Council for review, and there have been some amendments. The Judge made some mandates. Once the Annual Financial Report is filed, then additional appropriations will be made for the SAPS fund.

GG made a motion to approve, seconded by SG. Motion carried 4-1.

- c) Requesting end of 2024 balance of all remaining health insurance appropriations to be transferred into Health Fund #5110.

Hammack stated that this is something that has been done in years past. It was missed last year. This helps build the County's Health fund up. By being self-

insured, the first \$60,000 on every person, the County pays. DE asked how much this would amount to, and Hammack responded she did not have the number yet. Kelli made a motion to approve, seconded by PM. Motion carried 5-0.

d) Additional Appropriations

- Riverboat Fund-Consulting Services-County Council
#1191.31101.00000.0061 \$881.50
This invoice is back during the LIT Modification. Hammack stated there is no appropriation left in Consulting.

PM made a motion to approve, seconded by Kelli. Motion carried 5-0.

- General Fund-Office Supplies-Coroner
#1000.21100.00000.0007 \$800.00
Coroner Warren Taylor stated that back in the budget session, he mentioned he needed a new computer. Currently he is using a computer owned by An Island. Taylor is asking to replace that computer and get a refurbished laptop so the deputies can take it to training with them to use when they go for certification.

GG made a motion to approve, seconded by PM. Motion carried 5-0.

- General Fund-Liability Insurance-Commissioner
#1000.34200.00000.0068 \$17,557.50
Hammack stated this amount is for the additional cost for 2024, which is due to the Cyber insurance.

PM made a motion to approve, seconded by SG. Motion carried 4-1.

- General Fund-Janitorial Cleaning Services-Commissioner
#1000.31402.00000.0068 \$2,681.50
Hammack stated that Glenn's Cleaning Service cleaned and waxed the floors in 2023, and the County only budgets for the cleaning expense of \$2,500 per month. 2022's wax and cleaning that was done in December was paid in January, 2023, and 2023's wax and cleaning came out of the 2024 budget. Therefore, this is short due to not budgeting for that additional service. Hammack stated that the County is not doing a waxing this year, but the appropriation is short due to not budgeting for the 2023 waxing.

SG made a motion to approve, seconded by GG. Motion carried 5-0.

- Cumulative Bridge Fund-Bridge Inspections-Highway
#1135.31209.00000-0531 \$157,059.00
Highway Superintendent Steve Howell stated this is for Phase 2 of the bridge inspection. This is Federal reimbursed at 80%, but it has to be paid all up-front.

GG made a motion to approve, seconded by PM. Motion carried 5-0.

e) Transfers

- Highway-Cash Transfer
FROM: 1176 MVH \$50,000.00
TO: 1173 MVH Restricted \$50,000.00
Howell stated this is to get the restricted fund out of the red, and this is done every year.

PM made a motion to approve, seconded by GG. Motion carried 5-0.

- Community Corrections- Grant Fund; Appropriation Transfer
FROM: 9117.32201.00000.0232 Travel/Training \$136.34
TO: 9117.21201.00000.0232 Drug Testing Supplies \$136.34
Hammack stated that they will not be able to use their remaining funds in the amount of \$136.34 in travel/training, however they can use the funds to purchase additional instant drug tests. This transfer has been approved by the IOCS Great Authorities.

SG made a motion to approve, seconded by PM. Motion carried 5-0.

- Veteran Services Officer-General Fund; Appropriation Transfer
FROM: 1000.32000.00000.0012 Registration Fees \$ 50.00
TO: 1000.32100.00000.0012 Postage \$125.00
TO: 1000.21100.00000.0012 Office Supplies \$175.00
This is for the new box for retired United States flags.

SG made a motion to approve, seconded by PM. Motion carried 5-0.

- Coroner-General Fund; Appropriation Transfer
FROM: 1000.31800.00000.0007 Morgue Fees \$225.00
FROM: 1000.32201.00000.0007 Training \$ 50.00
FROM: 1000.36201.00000.0007 Vehicle Repair \$ 30.00

FROM: 1000.32100.00000.0007	Postage	\$ 4.00
FROM: 1000.32200.00000.0007	Travel	\$ 91.00
TO: 1000.24301.00000.0007	Cadaver Bags	\$400.00

Kelli made a motion to approve, seconded by SG. Motion carried 5-0.

- Coroner-General Fund; Appropriation Transfer

FROM: 1000.23101.00000.0007	Gas/Oil	\$.61
TO: 1000.12100.00000.0007	Social Security	\$.61

Hammack stated that due to rounding in budget, this is needed to keep the fund from going negative at the end of the year.

PM made a motion to approve, seconded by GG. Motion carried 5-0.

- Auditor-General Fund; Appropriation Transfer

FROM: 1000.39108.00000-0002	Printer Maintenance	\$.20
TO: 1000.12200.00000.0002	Retirement	\$.20

PM made a motion to approve, seconded by GG. Motion carried 5-0.

- Courthouse-General Fund; Appropriation Transfer

FROM: 1000.22400.00000.0161	Janitorial Cleaning Supplies	\$2,406.00
TO: 1000.35104.00000.0161	Utilities-Armory Annex	\$2,406.00

This is due to the utilities have increased in 2024. In 2023, there were extra janitorial supplies purchased due to storing in different areas. These are now stored in one location.

PM made a motion to approve, seconded by SG. Motion carried 5-0.

WARREN TAYLOR, CORONER

- Taylor stated he applied for a grant the prior Friday and will receive it Monday. It is for \$190.00 from the State Board of Health for equipment. Last year his office received two grants for the State Board of Health, and he is hoping there will be yet another grant before the end of the year. Kelli asked what Taylor is going to purchase with this, and he responded a backboard, a camera case to carry one of their cameras, and metric L-shaped scales to assist when taking pictures of wounds.

COUNTY COUNCIL

- Capital Projects Fund Ordinance—1114 Special Legislation Fund

Hammack stated this fund number is 4800. DE stated that the Council wants to ensure that the transfers from 1114 and 1112 are to this new fund 4800. Hammack stated she has to wait to do this until after Fall Settlement is complete, which should be by the end of next week. Hammack stated with the payback to Cum Cap of \$200,000 after Settlement, there will be approximately \$38,000 left in the fund. DE stated that the County will have to borrow to fund Cum Cap expenses again next year, and Hammack stated this is correct, unless the County waits to pay out contracts until after we receive Spring Settlement in May. DE stated that the balance in fund 1114 needs transferred to fund 4800, plus the \$380,000 in 1112 that needs to go into this fund 4800. This was the supplemental distribution that got divided.

Hammack stated that in the State Board of Accounts (SBOA) audit, it stated that the balance as of when the jail bond was paid off, was supposed to be moved to jail operations. Hammack feels the County needs to talk with the State Board of Accounts due to her conversation with them during the audit, and informed them this was taken to Legislation and got this changed. SBOA stated they would address this in 2024. Whatever that balance was when the bonds were paid off in 2022, that balance should have been moved to jail operations out of Special Legislation. According to Jamie Neaveill, SBOA, anything received after the bond payoff from Special Legislation could remain in Special Legislation; this is the amount that the County would have had when it was taken to Legislation. Kelli believes to transfer it all because House Bill 1121 states “provides that the funds accumulated from the Perry County Special Purpose Tax Rate to construct and improve the County jail after the redemption of bonds issued, or final payment of the lease rentals due under a lease, shall be transferred to a County Capital Projects fund to be used to finance capital projects with Perry County”. It then went into what the current law was until it changed. The current law stated that t was specified for remaining funds to be transferred to the County jail operations to be used for that. In Kelli’s opinion, the prior law was supposed to

be for jail operations, but it has now been changed where it gets transferred to the uses for County capital projects to finance capital projects in Perry County, which includes the jail.

DE stated that when this tax was brought to the citizens of Perry County, it was presented that none of this money would be used for jail operations.

Hammack stated she will move the \$389,000 from 1112 to 1114 as a correction of error. The loan will then be paid back, being \$200,000, from Cum Cap to 1114, which will give an accurate balance in one fund. The everything will be transferred from 1114 to 4800.

Kelli made a motion to approve what the Auditor will do, seconded by GG. Motion carried 5-0.

b) LIT Funds

Hammack is wanting to set up separate line items for the LIT fund in order to monitor the amounts for each area.

c) EMS 2024 Funding Shortage

DE stated that at the joint meeting with the Commissioners, it was decided that the Council needed to do an additional appropriation for \$186,000 for Ambulance Service to get them through the end of November. The Commissioners approved this at that joint meeting, and now the Council needs to decide where they want to fund this from.

Kelli stated she is interested in the Opioid fund, due to those can be used for saving lives and emergency response. She also stated that Scott County is using their Opioid fund to pay salaries. By using this fund, it would not have to be taken out of the General fund. DE agreed with Kelli, and this meets a lot of the criteria. Kelli would like to see using the restricted fund first, as she feels this is qualifying under the restricted.

Kelli made a motion to take this out of the Restricted Opioid fund for the full amount of \$186,000, seconded by SG. Motion carried 5-0.

d) Perry County 2025 Comprehensive

DE stated this was for the 2025 budget. Hammack stated that the last invoice that was paid was for \$8,000. Hammack did not realize that some of that invoice was for part of her regular budget work. Baker Tilly did not keep the comprehensive plan separate. Kelli asked if the next bill will be for \$30,000, and Hammack stated yes, she has received it. The comprehensive plan was supposed to be \$35,000, so of the \$8,000 bill, only \$5,000 was for the comprehensive plan. Hammack will pay \$3,000 out of her budget when the \$30,000 invoice is paid. A work session is needed to go over the comprehensive plan to ensure that everyone understands it and that it is right. It did not take into account the \$380,782 correction that had to be made. The work session can be the first of the year, with Kelli asking if that invoice can wait until then. Hammack stated no, as the County had a contract with Baker Tilly.

Hammack asked if she is good to pay the \$30,000, and was told yes.

e) Set 2025 Organizational Meeting, and approve posting Open Board Appointments

Hammack stated the Council typically has its organization meeting on January 2nd to set the meeting schedule and board appointments. Hammack's office has a list of all the openings, being Commissioner appointments and Council appointments, as well as internal appointments. This needs to be advertised on the County website so that the County can receive letters of interest, and allow Hammack time to organize it. The meeting will be at 4:00 p.m. on January 2, 2025.

f) The next regular Council meeting is Thursday, December 19, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. at the Courthouse Meeting Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:23 p.m. CST.

PM made a motion to adjourn, seconded by GG. Motion carried 5-0.

Minutes approved this 19th day of December, 2024.

President, Perry County Council

Minutes reviewed by:

Kristinia L. Hammack, Perry County Auditor

Minutes prepared by:

Leisa M. Ecker, Perry County Deputy Auditor