

**PERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
MINUTES – JUNE 23, 2022**

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, Danny Bolin, Charles Baumeister, Keith Huck and Paul Malone. Lynn Fulkerson and Earla Williams were not in attendance. Sheriff Alan Malone was in attendance for the meeting and so was a *News Representative*. Attorney S. Rod Acchiardo was not present.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA

There were several items added to the agenda. They were:

1. Auditor Pam Goffinet – Request of fill Deputy position and a position change
2. Consulting Services (Baker Tilly) for ARP Committee
3. Discussion regarding Compensation time on transfers of employees in the county

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

TRANSFERS

The Highway Superintendent, Steve Howell, requested a transfer of \$74,402.08 from Radio Repair/Maintenance to Equipment Repair within the Motor Vehicle Highway fund. Steve said this needs to be done because of a change in the line-item title when the Auditor switched software company. Charlie made the motion to approve the transfer, seconded by Danny. Motion carried 5-0.

TRANSFER APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE

CC-22-05

WHEREAS, IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED THAT IT IS NOW NECESSARY TO TRANSFER MONEY FROM ONE MAJOR BUDGET CLASSIFICATION TO ANOTHER MAJOR BUDGET CLASSIFICATION IN THE FOLLOWING NAMED BUDGET; NOW THEREFORE:

SEC. 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF PERRY COUNTY, PERRY COUNTY, INDIANA, THAT THE FOLLOWING TRANSFERS BE MADE IN THE FOLLOWING MADE BUDGET:

HIGHWAY FUND

TRANSFER	<u>\$ 74,402.08</u>	
FROM:	ACCOUNT #1176.36300.000.0533	\$ 74,402.08
	RADIO REPAIR/MAINTENANCE	
TO:	ACCOUNT #1176.36200.000.0533	
	EQUIPMENT REPAIR	
WITHIN:	PERRY COUNTY HIGHWAY BUDGET	

ADOPTED THIS 23rd DAY OF JUNE, 2022.

NAY

AYE

DANNY BOLIN	/S/
CHARLES BAUMEISTER	/S/
KEITH D HUCK	/S/
PAUL J MALONE	/S/
DAVID A ETIENNE	/S/

ATTEST:

PAMELA L. GOFFINET /S/
PERRY COUNTY AUDITOR

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

Highway Superintendent, Steve Howell, requested an additional appropriation in the amount of \$100,000.00 for Health Insurance within the Motor Vehicle Highway fund. Auditor Goffinet explained that with the new payroll system, the employer share of each employee is withheld from the fund they are paid out of. The Highway department have health insurance budgeted in their Surplus Surtax and Wheel fund and thru payroll; we will not be able to pay from there because there is so salaries taken from this fund. Paul made the motion to approve the request, seconded by Keith. Motion carried 5-0.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE NO. 22-CC-07

WHEREAS, IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED THAT IT IS NOW NECESSARY TO APPROPRIATE MORE MONEY THAN WAS APPROPRIATED IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET; NOW, THEREFORE:

SEC. 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF PERRY COUNTY, PERRY COUNTY, INDIANA, THAT FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE TAXING UNIT THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL SUMS OF MONEY ARE HEREBY APPROPRIATED OUT OF THE FUNDS NAMED AND FOR THE PURPOSES SPECIFIED, SUBJECT TO LAWS GOVERNING THE SAME:

PERRY COUNTY HIGHWAY FUND	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	AYE	NAY
<u>PERRY COUNTY HIGHWAY</u>				
#1176-12300.000.0533	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	5	0
HEALTH INSURANCE				
PERRY COUNTY HIGHWAY FUND TOTAL:	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00		

ADOPTED THIS 23RD DAY OF JUNE, 2022.

NAY

AYE

DANNY BOLIN	/S/
CHARLES BAUMEISTER	/S/
KEITH D HUCK	/S/
PAUL J MALONE	/S/
DAVID A ETIENNE	/S/

ATTEST:

PAMELA L GOFFINET /S/
PERRY COUNTY AUDITOR

REQUEST TO FILL FULL TIME POSITION – PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Jason Hoch, County Prosecutor, came before the Council to inform them that employee Kelli Wilgus resigned from her position to take a job at the Courthouse in the Auditor’s office. Keith questioned why do department heads need to come to the Council to ask to fill a position when the job is allocated. He asked why can’t they be filled. Charlie informed him the Council did a hiring freeze some years before. Now, any department that loses an employee has to come to the Council to ask to refill it. David said this keeps them more informed and know what is going on. Charlie and David said it seems to be working pretty well. Keith said it has the potential to handcuff that department to not be able to post that job. David said if it doesn’t work with our regular meeting to ask, we try to have a special meeting. Charlie made the motion to approve filling the office manager position in the Prosecutor office, seconded by Danny. Motion carried 4-0-1 with Paul abstaining.

DETENTION CENTER BOND UPDATE

David gave the board an update regarding the Detention Center bond. He said the Perry County Redevelopment Commission met on June 8, 2022 and discussed the redemption of the Perry County Redevelopment Authority Economic Development Income Tax Lease Rental Bonds of 2012. They signed the initial paperwork to start the redemption process as of August 1, 2022. Auditor Pam Goffinet will be paying the final

lease payment a little early to save some money. Auditor Goffinet said it will cost a little more in interest, about a week of interest. This will be paid in July along with the other bonds. David commented that we will still collect the income tax for the rest of this year but not sure about next year even though we collect in arrears. David said it is being checked into.

CHANGE IN LOCAL INCOME TAX RATE

David informed the Council that once this bond is paid off, the tax rate will drop by .50%. We will go from 1.81% to 1.31% total income tax rate but want to amend it by adding .02% for Public Safety-PSAP fund, .02% to Certified Shares and .05% for EDIT fund to establish a permanent building fund for maintenance of all county buildings in the future. David said that Jason Semler from Baker Tilly consultants has offered to help us institute this tax rate change. After all is said and done, the rate will drop from 1.81% to 1.40% for the total county rate. If it is done by November 1, 2022, it will be effective January 1, 2023. Paul said this will be a good thing. We have been looking for years to have a building maintenance fund. David said it should add around \$200,000.00 a year to the fund. David will keep the Council updated on this.

2023 TAX ABATEMENTS – ATTC AND IMPA

These are the same abatements the Council has approved in prior years and have not added any on since 2018. Both companies filed their form CF -1 with the SB-1's with the County Auditor by May 15th to be in compliance with the original abatements filed. David read off each abatement with the year we are in with the abatement and the percentage that is being allowed. There is a copy of these in the Auditor's office. Keith said he had one question regarding the Indiana Municipal abatement. He said when they gave their proposed total cost, how accurate was that to the original paperwork submitted. There were issues with the assessed value didn't match up. David said that was all straightened out in 2019. Keith made the motion to approve all the abatements, seconded by Paul. Motion carried 5-0.

AUDITOR – REQUEST TO FILL A FULL TIME POSITION AND A POSITION CHANGE

Auditor Pam Goffinet came before the Council asking to fill another vacancy for the split position in her office that will be vacant in the next two weeks with her employee transferring to another office. This position is currently shared with the Assessor's office. She also informed them that she has a fourth employee interviewing for a position outside of county government. If this happens, this will only leave two in the office to do the training going forward, along with their own work and deadlines to meet. These openings have snowballed since there were two openings in other offices that took place earlier with people leaving. At this point, Auditor Goffinet asked to change the split position that she has with the Assessor office back to a full-time position in the Auditor's office. She said at budget three years ago, she offered to cut one of her full-time positions down to help the county out with the assumption that if it didn't work, she would like to have the full-time position back. She asked for the position back at budget time last year and was turned down. She said with the work load in her office, she needs this position back full time immediately. She said the main reason the employees are leaving is because of the work load versus the pay that these positions are paid. The Auditor's office is very crucial to county government. There are major jobs that require a lot of responsibility and time such as payroll, HR, claims process, budget process, receipting in all county money, tax deductions, deed transfers to name a few. There are so many of their jobs that are demanded by the state with accountable deadlines that have to be met. She said she would for her two requests to be granted and the permission to hire and fill the other position if it becomes open before the next meeting. There was a lot of discussion among the members. Charlie made the motion to change the part time position in the Auditor's office to full time, Keith seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0. Charlie said his second motion is an intent from County General to cover the difference for the rest of the year salary, Danny seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0. Keith made the motion allowing Auditor Goffinet to fill the positions of whatever openings there are before the July meeting, Paul seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

CONSULTING SERVICES FOR ARP COMMITTEE

David commented that the Commissioners need to approve this first. Charlie stated that the Council need to do a tentative approval of this request depending what the

Commissioner's decision is at their July 6th meeting. This will speed it up, otherwise it will not come before the Council until the July meeting. He said we have been dragging our feet too long. ARP Committee member, Tara Damin, commented that the money is still sitting there and it has been put on hold. Some businesses have shut down because of COVID. She said other communities, cities and other clients have gotten their money out the door to people already even after their second tranche of money. The County has received their second tranche also and it is still sitting there. She said we need to get this out and into the hands of the people that really need it. Tara asked if the attorney reviewed the agreement prepared by Baker Tilly consultants for the grant applicants to sign. Auditor Goffinet said yes it was. David said that Attorney Rod Acchiardo had the opportunity to review the proposed agreement provided by Baker Tilly with respect to the ARP funds usage. Rod said it is in order and with benefit and evaluation, perhaps a specific amount of no more than 20 to 25 thousand over the course of the year might be helpful. Tara said by hiring them would help the Auditor's office out also. She said we need to get this going. Charlie commented that we do not call them every time and that we should pull questions together with Tell City when contacting Baker Tilly. Paul made the motion on intent with Commissioners approval. Second was made by Keith. Motion carried 4-0-1 with Charlie abstaining. The motion was amended by Paul that the amount cannot exceed one percent of the total ARP amount, seconded by Keith. Motion carried 4-0-1 with Charlie abstaining.

Coroner Warren Taylor asked if the county offices would be able to apply for the ARP money. Tara Damin said it would be a separate request. Charlie stated this would be in stage 3 where they would look at infrastructure and county business.

COMPENSATORY TIME – TRANSFERRING OFFICES

Charlie brought up the compensatory time that an employee earns in one office, then transfers to another department, that compensatory time follows them. He said this came up with the lateral transfers. He said the first department should take care of the time that was earned in that office. He made a motion that this needs to be taken before the handbook committee and this be a priority thing to do. Charlie said the department they are leaving should take care of it because it is already in their budget that even if they take the time off before the transfer, it is paid out of the original salary from that office they left of where it was accumulated. Auditor Goffinet questioned on how is the office to take care of that because if the person is already needed, how can they be left off. She asked if that is paid out then because then it puts that department in delaying in hiring someone. There was a lot more discussion on the topic. Danny seconded Charlie's motion to take to the handbook committee. Motion carried 5-0. Keith said all aspects need to be looked into, such as vacation time also.

There being no further business to come before the council, Paul made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Charlie seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0, with adjournment at 5:50 p.m.

Minutes approved this 17th day of November, 2022.

President, Perry County Council

*Minutes prepared by:
Pamela L Goffinet, Perry County Auditor*