

**PERRY COUNTY COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
March 23, 2023**

The Perry County Council met on the above date at 4:00 p.m. as was duly advertised. Council members in attendance were President David Etienne (DE), Lynn Fulkerson (LF), Paul Malone (PM), Stan Goffinet (SG), and Kelli Harding (Kelli). Chief Deputy Eric Dickenson, and Auditor Kristinia Hammack. County Council Attorney was in the audience. There was no News *Representative* present.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AGENDA**

President David Etienne stated we do have an additional to the agenda.

Council d) additional funding for EMT.

PM made the motion to accept as amended, seconded by EW. Motion carried 5-0.

**MINUTES**

a) 02.23.2023

SG made a motion to accept, seconded by LF. Motion carried 5-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments

**KRISTINIA HAMMACK, AUDITOR**

a) Auditor Hammack reported that she worked with Dossett Consulting on completing the Perry County Cost Allocation Plan based on financial information for the year ending December 31, 2021. The Cost Allocation Plan will be used to recover indirect costs that Perry County spent in 2021 to work on Title IV-D Child Support a Federal Grant. The recovered monies will be reimbursed in quarterly submissions by the Indiana Department of Child Services. She stated she is pleased to report that they were able to identify \$53,641 in cost that will be reimbursed at the rate of 66% for an anticipated general fund recovery of \$35,403.06. The expenses for Dossett Consulting assisting with this report is \$3,000.

b) Auditor Hammack stated we have 2 Additional Appropriation requests.

- Courthouse TIF #1 Fund #4401--\$9,320.69

This additional appropriation is for engineering expenses for the Forest Canton Heights Subdivision.

Kelli made the motion to accept, seconded by SG. Motion carried 5-0.

- Statewide 911 Fund #1222--\$23,500

38103.000.000	\$10,000.00
38104.000.000	\$ 3,000.00
44100.000.000	\$ 2,500.00
44500.000.000	\$ 8,000.00

This additional appropriation is to upgrade the backup center (Armory Annex) with computer aided dispatch (CAD). The requested generator will replace the existing nonfunctional generator at the North Ridge radio repeater site.

PM made the motion to accept, seconded by LF. Motion carried 5-0.

c) Ordinance temporary transfer to Cumulative Capital Development Fund  
FROM: FUND #1114: LIT – SPECIAL LEGISLATION  
TO: FUND #1138: CUMULATIVE CAP. DEV. FUND \$ 100,000

Auditor Hammack said she is asking for a transfer as a temporary advance for the Cumulative Capital Development fund from the LIT-Special Legislation fund in the amount of \$100,000.00. This is something we have to do almost every year for our levy funds. With the Cumulative Capital Dev. Fund, we only get the money twice a year at tax settlement time. According to the Ordinance, it will be paid back with spring or fall settlement this year.

PM made the motion to accept, seconded by SG. Motion carried 5-0.

d) Auditor Hammack stated that she was bringing the topic of getting all department heads their own credit cards. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> time bringing it to the council as she feels this is necessary. We have a credit card policy in place. The Personnel Handbook Committee is currently reviewing the handbook and the policy can be updated with listing all department heads that have a credit card for

their department's use and are responsible to oversee use of their card. She also stated to trust the Auditors Office to do their job and communicate to the council if there is unauthorized purchases. Kelli mentioned that she felt we needed to wait until the Personnel Policy Handbook was updated. Auditor Hammack pointed out that is not up to date currently because there are employees that have a credit card and it is not listed in the handbook. The Auditors Office has a list of all employees that have a credit card, can we take that list and add it along with all department heads to the credit card policy in the handbook. Kelli said we could make a motion of intent. SG stated he is in support of getting each department head a credit card.

SG made a motion of intent to get each department head a credit card and update the credit card policy in the handbook, seconded by LF. Motion carried 5-0.

### **COMMUNITY CORRECTION PAYROLL AMENDMENTS**

- a) Auditor Hammack presented on behalf of Traci Fischer. It has been discovered by Community Corrections Director, Traci Fischer that the 5% raise to be given was not reflected in the pay of the Community Corrections Administrative Assistant. This is no additional funding as this position is grant funded.

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

- b) Auditor Hammack presented on behalf of Traci Fischer. It has been discovered by Community Corrections Director, Traci Fischer that the pay for the Community Corrections Field Officer pay for 2023 was not raised from \$17 an hour to \$18 hour. This is no additional funding as this position is grant funded.

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

### **COUNCIL**

- a) 2023 Salary Ordinance Amendments
- Community Correction Case Managers (2 positions) switching from non-exempt to exempt.
  - CASA/GAL Director switching from non-exempt to exempt.
  - Court Administrator/Court Reporter 1 switching from non-exempt to exempt. DE stated that Judge Goffinet has stated she would like these positions changed to exempt. Kelli stated that the Judge mandates the judicial county government, and this is her decision.

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

- Public Health Initiative Nurse switching from exempt to non-exempt. DE stated that the health department has requested this change. Auditor Hammack followed with information that back in January when reviewing the Personnel Policy it stated under the list of exempt employees "Public Health Nurse". We changed both nurse positions (Public Health Nurse Supervisor and Public Health Initiative Nurse) to exempt. After looking into this more, that list of exempt employees were supervisor positions. Kelli stated that prior to the change the Public Health Initiative Nurse was non-exempt, so we are just changing it back to what it was, correct? Auditor Hammack answered yes that is correct.

PM made a motion to accept, seconded by LF. Motion carried 5-0.

- b) Attorney, Chris Goffinet spoke representing Dr. Labhart and Dr. Sisley who are asking for a Tax Abatement for Invision Eyecare Properties LLC. Currently Dr. Sisley and Dr. Labhart have taken over for retired optometrist Dr. LeClere and Dr. Burris, whose business has been a staple in the community. Dr. Sisley and Dr. Labhart have purchased a \$1.6 million parcel of land located on Hwy 37, where the old Ponderosa was located. The reason for this purchase is their current location doesn't allow for expansion. They are looking to add advance eye care services that would allow for services to be provided here in Perry County that currently people have to get elsewhere. Their plans for the future are to add another optometrist and 4 more employees. DE stated he believes this is in a TIF district, PM agreed. Kelli stated she feels she needs more time to review statutes as there are a lot of rules that need to be followed before awarding tax abatement and she wants to make sure the council is following the rules. Kelli asked if renovations have been started already? Dr. Labhart replied that yes there was a lot of water damage, so they ripped out drywall and put a new roof on the building. PM asked what are our next steps? DE replied if we approve the abatement, it then goes to the Commissioners since it is in a TIF district. Kelli reiterated that she feels we need more time to review statutes. SG said he agreed with Kelli, as they just received this information last Friday and need more time to review.

Kelli made a motion to table the tax abatement request, seconded by SG. Motion carried 5-0.

DE announced that the AIC Southwest District Meeting is Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at the Huntingburg Event Center. This is something that Council, Commissioners and Elected Officials attend. Auditor Hammack stated that she will check into registration. Stan, Paul, and David stated that plan to attend.

- c) Commissioner Cole informed that he has met with representatives from the hospital and discussed the problem they are having with staffing to keep ambulances on the road in Perry County. Everyone in the county uses this service. The hospital has additional funding available in July of 2023. They are asking for our assistance until then to assist financially with getting the wages up to solve this staffing problem. Commissioner Cole reiterated the ambulance service is crucial, and the Commissioners approved this and it is now being passed on to the County Council to decide on the funding. Auditor Hammack stated that the Tribal Funding we received we have to report back what the monies was spent on, and it is supposed to be used for the benefit of the County as a whole. She feels this is an ideal use of Tribal funds. DE stated the opioid grant would be another option. Kelli suggested we make a motion of intent to fund the additional \$25,000 for the EMT, but look into options of funding. DE asked if that was a motion?

Kelli made a motion of intent to fund the additional \$25,000 and look into all options of funding and table until the next meeting, seconded by SG. Motion carried 5-0

There being no further business to come before the council, PM made a motion to adjourn the meeting. LF seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0, with adjournment at 6:14 p.m. CST.

Kristinia Hammack announced that the next meeting of the County Council will be held on Thursday, April 18, 2023, at 5pm CST.

Minutes approved this 18th day of April 2023

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President, Perry County Council

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