

**PERRY COUNTY COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
January 23, 2025**

The Perry County Council met on the above date at 5:00 p.m. as was duly advertised. Council members in attendance were Kelli Harding (Kelli), David Etienne (DE), Keith Huck (KH), Stan Goffinet (SG), Paul Brockman (PB), Gale Garner (GG) and Cory Filley (CF). 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**

DE made the motion to accept as modified, seconded by GG. Motion carried 7-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- a) None

**CHARLIE BAUMEISTER, CLERK**

- a) Baumeister stated that he received a resignation in his office effective January 31, 2025. With this being a very busy office, he was seeking approval to advertise this position in order to get the position filled and back at full staff. SG stated that the position can be advertised, but it cannot be filled until the person is physically out. Baumeister stated he understands this, but does not want to wait until the person physically leaves to then advertise the position. Baumeister would like to begin interviewing as soon as possible.

KH made a motion to advertise the position, and hire once the position is vacant, seconded by SG. Motion carried 7-0.

**TARA LUCAS, PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE SUPERVISOR**

- a) Lucas appeared asking for permission to post, advertise, and fill the position at the Health Department for the Sanitarian Assistant. The position is 100% funded by Health First Indiana (HFI) dollars. It is not a County paid position. There are no benefits. It is a contracted full-time position Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. There was a resignation/termination which left this spot open. The salary was already included in the 2025 HFI budget, which was approved by County Council in 2024. KH asked that this is a full-time position with no benefits, and Lucas responded correct. She further stated this position went to full-time contracted as of January 1, 2025. Previously it was part-time. DE asked that there are no benefits, and Lucas responded no, it is contracted only and it clearly states that in the job description. This position is not technically a county employee, as there are no benefits, and they are responsible for their own tax withholding. Kelli asked if this was the same with the part-time employee, and Lucas confirmed this.

KH made a motion to allow to be advertised and hired, seconded by PB. Motion carried 7-0.

**MINUTES**

- a) 01.02.2025

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

**KRISTINIA HAMMACK, AUDITOR**

- a) Hammack provided an update for 2024 year-end of the funds. General ended at \$2,934,604, which is 43.21% of the County's estimated 2025 expenditures on reserve. Hammack addressed the Levy funds. The estimated revenue for 2025 and the estimated expenditures were provided on a spreadsheet (see attached). Hammack stated that if it is in the black, this means the County is bringing in more money than it is expending. There are some funds where the County is expending more due to one-time purchases. Hammack stated that General in 2023 was 16% of the County's estimated annual revenue for 2023 on reserve. In 2024, it was 24%, and in 2025 it is 43%. DE

stated that interest is the reason for the increase. Hammack agreed, as interest was changed in 2023 which allowed for revenue to be built up in General.

b) Community Corrections – Cash Transfer

FROM: 9116 Community Correction Project Income \$390,651.48

TO: 1122 Community Correction Project Income \$390,651.48

Auditor Hammack stated that transfers do not have to be advertised. Only the meeting schedule has to be advertised. Hammack stated that by doing this transfer, instead of Community Corrections cutting a check to the County and then turn around and cutting a check to them, they subtract off of what is left. This is transferring from the old 2024 Community Corrections Project Grant Fund 9116 to the new fund which is 1122. Hammack stated these fund numbers are issued by the State. DE asked if this is something that would occur each year, and Hammack responded yes, a new fund number every year.

DE made a motion to allow the transfer, seconded by GG. Motion carried 7-0.

c) Temporary Loan Transfer

FROM: Fund #4800 Capital Projects \$200,000.00

TO: Fund #1138 Cumulative Capital Development \$200,000.00

Auditor Hammack stated that there are many expenses the first of the year. Most incoming money to the County comes in with Spring Settlement and Fall Settlement. These first of the year expenses have been minimized as much they can be. She has managed to get every contract that she can into a bi-annual or quarterly payments. Those with a huge discount for paying in a lump sum remained annual.

Hammack is requesting a transfer for \$200,000 from Capital Projects, which is where the Special Legislation money was transferred. As long as this is paid back within the year it was borrowed, it can be from Capital Projects. This fund can not be used for anything else, but it can be used for a loan. This loan will be paid back with Spring Settlement.

GG made a motion to approve the transfer, seconded by SG. Motion carried 7-0.

**COUNTY COUNCIL**

a) Rules of Decorum renewal

Kelli stated this passed in October, but with new members she wanted to get input and opinion on this to see if this is something that is to be continued. Consensus was it needs to continue.

PB made a motion to approve, seconded by DE. Motion carried 7-0. Kelli stated this will be posted on the two bulletin boards by the entrances to the meeting room, as well as being posted on the County website.

b) PSAP payments

Kelli stated an email was sent by Auditor Hammack as to how the County wanted to pay for PSAP. The previous year, the budgeted amount was divided by twelve and that was how it was paid. DE stated this method of payment should be continued.

Hammack feels the County needs some type of agreement as she is concerned not having something in writing. Hammack also stated that she compares this to EMS, and feels the County needs to get on the same page with how each are being paid. Kelli stated that she would like to see EMS being done the same way; what was budgeted divided by twelve, and pay up to that amount. This way it is equal payments, but she wants to continue to receive receipts.

GG asked what the annual budget amount is for PSAP, and Hammack responded \$340,000 is what is budgeted. The County is receiving \$359,000 for PSAP.

Hammack stated that last year, the County received \$345,000 and the budget was \$340,000. DE stated the amount budgeted was \$634,060, and Hammack stated she is only looking at the actual PSAP, and then there are other budgeted amounts.

Kelli asked if the Council wanted to pay EMS the same way as PSAP, or did they want to have a different discussion on it at later date. Kelli feels they should be paid the same way. There is a budgeted amount, receipts are provided, and the County pays up to that amount every month. KH stated that in prior years, there was a reserve account for EMS, and it was never set up. EMA Director Steve Hauser confirmed this. Kelli stated that in 2022, the County had an overpayment of \$159,145 and in 2023 \$69,574, if her information is correct. This should have been the reserve account money, so that if something happens, they have funds. KH stated there is no reserve account with money in it, and Hauser confirmed

this. Hauser further stated that Tell City has kept the money, and DE stated that is technically in violation of the agreement. GG made a motion to pay PSAP by taking the budgeted amount divided by twelve, and pay up to that amount based on receipts, seconded by SG. Motion carried 7-0. KH made a motion to pay EMS the budgeted amount divided by twelve, up to that amount, to the Hospital, seconded by SG. Motion carried 6-0-1. CF abstained.

c) Department Liaison Schedule

Auditor Hammack stated that the offices would like to invite the Council and Commissioners to visit and get to know the offices. It was suggested last year to have a rotation versus a specific Liasson per office. Hammack presented a schedule when each Council member will visit these offices to gain knowledge of what goes on in each office. This will open the doors for camaraderie and teamwork. Kelli stated that if an office is more comfortable with another Council member, they can reach out to them.

SG stated that last year he opted out of this, and is doing the same for 2025. He does not want to be on this schedule. Hammack will remove SG and send out a new schedule.

d) Conflict of Interest Statements

Kelli stated this is done every year. If a Council member has any conflict, it needs to be completed. Technically it is not needed if a member does not have any conflict, but she fills one out just to have it on file and uploaded to Gateway. Kelli stated that Auditor Hammack has sent this Conflict-of-Interest form to all board appointments, so that they are aware if they have any conflicts of interest, they would need to be completed.

e) Board Appointments

Kelli stated there are a couple Council Board appointments still available. There are two appointments to the Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals, and one available appointment to the Zoning Appeals Board. Anyone from the public who wants to put in a Letter of Interest for these are encouraged to do so. More information about these boards will also be on the County website.

f) Perry County Investment Policy

Kelli stated the Board of Finance approved this policy at their meeting on January 21, 2025. This board consists of the three Commissioners and the County Treasurer. A vote of support is being asked of the Council.

DE made a motion to support the Perry County Investment Policy, seconded by SG. Motion carried 7-0.

g) The next meeting is Thursday, February 27, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

The Council thanked KH for his service on the Council, and his resignation at the end of the month has been received.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:27 p.m. CST.

PB made a motion to adjourn, seconded by KH. Motion carried 7-0.

Minutes approved this 27th day of February, 2025.

---

President, Perry County Council

*Minutes reviewed by:*

*Kristinia L. Hammack, Perry County Auditor*

*Minutes prepared by:*

*Leisa M. Ecker, Deputy Auditor*