

PERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
May 22, 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), Stan Goffinet (SG), Paul Brockman (PB), Gale Garner (GG), Cory Filley (CF) and Brad Harth (BH). 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) Steve Howell, Highway Superintendent

Howell stated that he has a truck driver who is quitting, with May 29th being his last day. Howell is seeking permission to replace this position once all of the time is paid out. Kelli asked Howell if he is wanting permission to advertise, and Howell confirmed this.

BH made a motion to give Howell permission to advertise to fill the job that is going to be vacated, seconded by PB. Motion carried 7-0.

b) RJL Solution Update

Jonathan Blake appeared stating that day was their first full day in Perry County. He stated that earlier in the month, he sent the Council, as well as the Commissioners, their monthly report. These will start coming on a monthly basis, outlining the steps RJL has taken in the previous 30 days, the things that are coming up in the upcoming month, and the priorities that they are working on. Blake stated he had good conversation with representatives from Waupaca, as well as representatives from the Perry County Chamber, discussing what they would like to see and the challenges that they have experienced over the last couple of years. Blake has scheduled a time to go tour Waupaca on June 26th. Highlights from their report:

1. Priorities for Perry County

At the Joint meeting with the Commissioners in April 2025, priorities for both the Council and Commissioners included infrastructure, road networks, transportation, and fiber.

2. Goals for Perry County

Some of the goals that were emphasized were related to industry attraction, wanting to bring new businesses to the County. In addition, updating some of the policies and procedures of the County.

Blake stated that RJL does grant writing for its clients.

RJL had an Indiana First Ready meeting earlier that week, with another next week. They will also be meeting with Southwest Indiana Development Corporation for their monthly meeting.

Blake stated earlier this month, and last month, they hit the ground running focusing on Project Falcon, which is a business retention and expansion effort. This is an existing industry that is here in the County. He has been in communication with the site selector two weeks ago, and he indicated he has received all the information he needed from RJL. He has received all the information he needed from the State, and are just waiting on their client to make a decision on what they are going to do.

RJL has evaluated the project's proposed real property investments, drafted a letter of support that were presented to Kelli and the Commissioners, as well as worked through potential tax abatement questions and how they might use TIF.

Blake stated that INDOT is hosting roundtable discussions throughout the State; they are going to all 92 counties. Discussion will be road infrastructure, and priorities for investment, both on local roads and State roads. The one for Perry County has not been scheduled yet, with Blake stating he will inform the County when he hears any more about it.

Blake stated that INDOT is identifying all the priorities in the County, the problem intersections, and areas where there are safety hazards. The outcome of these discussions is supposed to be a statewide prioritization of projects. BH asked if this roundtable will be open to the public, and Blake responded yes. BH stated there is a citizen who is proposing something in the regard of intersection safety, and he will make her aware when this is scheduled.

TARA LUCAS, HEALTH NURSE SUPERVISOR

a) Being for Others Grant

Lucas was not able to attend the meeting, with Kelli speaking on her behalf. Lucas is interested in applying for this grant to use for the service agreement with Purdue Extension in 2026, and potentially 2027 if the grant would allow that. Currently Purdue Extension provides four programs at no cost to the community each year. They are Dining with Diabetes, Get Walking, Food is Medicine, and Be Heart Smart. These programs are incredible and assist the County with meeting the chronic disease core service for the Health Department’s HFI. These classes have had waiting lists since the Health Department partnered with Purdue with these in 2024.

Kelli stated that is a no match grant.

DE made a motion to allow applying for this grant, seconded by BH. Motion carried 7-0.

MINUTES

a) 04.10.2025 - Joint Commissioner and Council meeting

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

b) 04.24.2025

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

KRISTINIA HAMMACK, AUDITOR

a) Auditor’s Office Job Description Updates

Auditor Hammack stated that the Auditor’s office had not updated the job descriptions from 2023 to 2024, where the Auditor absorbed the Administrator duties, along with decreasing from five deputies to four. These job duties were redistributed. Hammack sent these new descriptions to the Council for review.

BH made a motion to accept the job descriptions, seconded by CF. Motion carried 7-0.

b) Salary Ordinance Updates (HFI, Planning and Zoning, Forestry)

Hammack stated that the Payroll HR deputy, Kelli Wilgus, has updated the Salary Ordinance. This includes the changes with HFI funding, Planning and Zoning, and Forestry. In prior years, the Forestry used to be paid out as a 1099, and it is now included in the W2’s, as they use the County vehicles and County gas to do Forestry. This is something the Commissioners changed last year. The Forestry reimburses the County for these wages.

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

c) Transfer Request

• Cash Transfer

FROM: 1000.44600.00000.0068 General Fund \$30,000.00

TO: 4937 EMS Replacement Fund \$ 30,000.00

Hammack stated that this is to make the transfers in the appropriations that were in 2025.

• Cash Transfer

FROM: 1170.44600.00000.0068 LIT Public Safety \$40,000.00

TO: 4937 EMS Replacement Fund \$40,000.00

• Cash Transfer

FROM: 1161.44600.00000.0068 HFI Grant \$30,000.00

TO: 4937 EMS Replacement Fund \$30,000.00

PB made a motion to approve the transfers, seconded by CF. Motion carried 7-0.

d) Additional Appropriation Request:

• Supplemental Adult Probation – Circuit Court; Judge Secretary/Court Reporter

#2100.13800.00000.0232 \$1,039.00

Hammack stated this is for the mandated raises from Judge Lucy Goffinet.

This was omitted at the last meeting.

SG made a motion to approve the additional appropriation, seconded by BH. Motion carried 7-0.

- Supplemental Adult Probation - Circuit Court; Social Security
#2100.12100.00000.0232 \$ 913.49

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

- Capital Projects Fund-Sheriff Office; Repairs, Building and Fixtures
#4800.36100.00000.0005 \$ 7,979.83

Hammack stated this transfer is for the server that is going out and needs to be replaced.

Kelli stated that this fund is for Capital Projects, so it does not qualify for equipment. Sheriff Alan Malone stated that the line item has Repairs, and does that not count? Malone stated that the original money for this fund was for the Jail, so that is why he is asking from this fund.

Malone stated the Jail server is going down, and that is a critical piece of equipment that they have to have. Kelli stated she does not doubt that this needs to be replaced right away, it is just that the Capital Projects fund cannot be used for this. Capital Projects is for large additions, renovations, etc.

Malone stated their server has the cameras for the Courthouse, for the Jail, including the locks for entry and exit doors, Sally Port, Jail Management System, Watch Tours, and intercoms. Malone has already agreed to use Commissary to pay for the backup battery. Malone stated he has paid for a lot of things out of Commissary, but he feels this server is the responsibility of the County to fund.

Kelli stated she understands that there is an urgent need, and in order for the Council to do another additional appropriation, it has to be advertised for ten days, and would have to have a Special Meeting. The next meeting of the Council is not until June 26th. Due to the urgency of this, Kelli feels Malone could go ahead and pay for this out of Commissary, which currently has an approximately \$63,000 balance. Kelli stated with taking the highest dollar amount of expenditures that is expected from Commissary towards the end of the year, approximately \$53,000 is spoken for. In addition, there are still seven months to gain money in the Commissary. If Commissary would be used, Malone would be able to purchase the server tomorrow.

Malone stated he has purchased many things out of Commissary in the past ten years since he has been Sheriff, and does not feel it is fair that the Sheriff's Commissary needs to be used to purchase this. Malone cited IC 36-2-2-24, County Courthouse, Jail and Public Offices. It stated that the Executive shall establish and maintain a Courthouse, Jail, and Public Offices, including the Sheriff's office. Malone asked the Council to please find somewhere to pay this out of.

Malone stated he is concerned for the future of the Sheriff's Department, as Perry County Memorial Hospital is starting a police department. The County could very well lose two or three deputies, and when Malone has to replace them, it costs a lot of money.

Malone feels that a server for the Jail and the Sheriff's department should be paid by the County. This is something the County is fiscally responsible for. Kelli reiterated that with the urgency of this needing replaced now, the Council does not have anywhere it can just grab from without doing an additional appropriation.

Malone asked if he could go ahead and get it, and the County advertise it for the ten days, and have an emergency meeting?

SG asked Hammack if there is any other fund this could come out of?

Hammack responded it could be taken out of Unrestricted Opioid or Riverboat. DE stated he thinks Unrestricted Opioid would be a good fund to take it out of.

Died with no motion.

CF made a Motion of Intent to let Malone purchase it and pay for it through Non-Restricted Opioid through an additional appropriation at the next meeting, seconded by SG. Motion carried 7-0.

- Community Crossings-Highway Department; County Road Improvements
#9141.44501.00000.0534 \$398,850.00

Howell stated this is money the County has received, and the County has to make the appropriation.

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

COUNTY COUNCIL

a) An Island – Server Access

Kelli received information regarding remoting into the County server, so that the Council can access LOW. She was told by An Island that the County needs all three of these things for this to work:

1. Windows Server 2025 Standard Core License package, which is a one-time fee
2. Windows Server User license for Remote Access

Kelli stated that there are three Commissioners and seven Councilmen, making it ten total. This fee of \$326 is a one-time fee, but it depends on how many accesses the county wants to run at the same time. Kelli thought three licenses, and if a fourth person tried to access it, it would kick someone off. In addition, more licenses can be added if needed. Hammack asked if this is something the County would want to look at, as the offices offsite are having the same issues. CF feels three is a good number, but this needs to be looked at during the next budget session to add everyone to this. Hammack stated that this is something that the offices that have to remote in could include in their budget.

3. A 64GB server, memory, additional RAM, and this is a one-time fee

Kelli stated that the cost for this, being all onetime fees for three, is \$3,868. There is no reoccurring.

BH asked if this is something all remote users, such as off-site offices, can utilize, and Kelli stated she assumed so by purchasing more licenses for the \$326. CF stated he thinks it is necessary to verify this with An Island.

CF made a motion for three licenses and the onetime purchases for remoting into the server itself from An Island, to be paid from Riverboat, seconded by DE. Motion carried 7-0.

b) Siren Additional

Hammack stated that the siren at Rocky Point needs to be replaced due to damage from the high water. This might be reimbursed by FEMA, but not anytime soon. Kelli stated that EMA Director Steve Hauser's email stated this reimbursement could take up to a couple of years.

Kelli stated she feels that this is an emergency, as it needs to be replaced as soon as possible.

BH made a motion of intent to allow Steve Hauser to purchase the replacement for the siren at Rocky Point, and the funds to come from Opioid Unrestricted, seconded by GG. Motion carried 7-0.

PB asked if the siren is in the flood plain, and was it damaged because of the flooding? Kelli responded that in the email from Steve Hauser, it stated that the siren was not mounted high enough. It was mounted a couple feet above where they thought the 1997 flood levels were, but it ended up not correct. PB asked if this new siren will be mounted higher so that it does not get in flood water, and Kelli responded that the County can request that.

c) EMS Update

Kelli stated that at the Commissioner's meeting on Tuesday, May 20th, they are looking to advertise for bids to see what opportunities are available that the County may not be aware of.

The contract for EMS services is from the 1980's. Kelli stated these are tax dollars, so the County is going to do its due diligence. The Commissioners are looking for support from the Council to open this up.

DE made a motion to support the Commissioners to advertise for this, seconded by BH. Motion carried 6-0-1 (CF abstained).

d) Open Board Appointments

Hammack stated that the County has advertised for the Animal Welfare Board. The County received an email even before it had even been posted.

Kelli stated this person has to be someone from an animal sporting organization, where they belong to it; that is part of the requirements. Kelli did not see this information in the email that was received. Hammack will reach out to this person.

Kelli stated there is one opening on the PTABOA Board. There are four positions that have been filled, which includes Kelli who is a Republican, and three Independents. Therefore, this position can be a Republican or a Democrat.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m. CST.
BH made a motion to adjourn, seconded by SG. Motion carried 7-0.

Minutes approved this 26th day of June, 2025.

President, Perry County Council

Minutes reviewed by:
Kristinia L. Hammack, Perry County Auditor
Minutes prepared by:
Leisa M. Ecker, Deputy Auditor