

PERRY COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES

July 22, 2021

The Perry County Council met on the above date at 5:00 p.m. as was duly advertised. Council members in attendance were: President Luke Thomas, David Etienne, Charlie Baumeister, Lynn Fulkerson, Paul Malone and Earla Williams. Danny Bolin was absent. Sheriff Alan Malone was in attendance also. Attorney S. Rod Acchiardo and the News were not in attendance.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Paul made the motion to approve and adopt the agenda as presented, seconded by Earla. Motion carried 6-0.

MINUTES

The minutes from April 12, 2021, May 25, 2021, May 27, 2021 and June 24, 2021 meetings had been mailed to the Council for their review. There was one change on the May 27th minutes. The minutes were adopted as presented with the correction.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There are two individuals who want to speak to the Council. The first is Commissioner Gregg Jarboe.

Tonight, I wanted to take this chance to make my position clear on the county dispatch. Several months ago, I was asked by the commissioners to take on this task. I did because, looking at it, I thought this is just a minor bump in the road. Fix the numbers, adjust the contract, and life will go on. Since this included the budget, I also requested Luke be on the team to represent the council.

Also, since I was made the single point of contact or the single voice of the commissioners in this task, I decided that I would put my personnel viewpoints to the side. I chose to represent all the commissioner's viewpoints as a whole. In trying to be Switzerland and keep all these different groups happy, I lost my individual voice.

Now that the Budget and Contract are drafted and being discussed in open session, I am going to fix that. I am going to state my personnel opinions as a single commissioner on the subject.

First off, I have purposely tried to make sure that no language in the contract conflicts with the budget decision of the council. It doesn't even have a cost number in it anywhere. The only language around funds is the suggested language given by the Budget Subcommittee. I did that because the budget for this contract is outside the commissioner's power as far as I am concerned. It also does not talk about what fund goes where except the suggested language in the Budget Committee Proposal. Again, it is not the job of the commissioners to decide what funds are used where. I have said those two things a thousand times if I have said them once because I believe that wholeheartedly.

Second, the cost for dispatch being presented tonight is fair. During this process I asked for a budget on what it would take the county to run dispatch. I did that purposely for two reasons: 1) In case all this went to hell and we were forced to do it and 2) because I completely believed that the numbers would be close to each other. And low and behold they are. The number I was given was around \$60,000 or 5% cheaper. So, knowing how draft budgets and projects work that could easily be considered equal in cost. The cost is a fair number. Also, the split of the cost for the county is fair. Again, look at the numbers and the % Population.

Third, let's talk about where the money is coming from to do this. Is it painless? No, but what budget discussion is when your growth is flat. You end up having to take money from peter to pay paul at some point. The white paper that Luke did on the Jail Special Lit being lowered by paying off the bond was written a few years back, and I supported him on it back then. Now it has been modified to fit the current need. Most of the Special Lit Tax will be removed and place money in the pockets of citizens, while still moving a portion of it for a new PSAP LIT. I have even spoken with Luke about

keeping a portion of the Safety LIT to ensure the Jail is maintained. It is change, so it is painful or scary to people, but it is doable.

Lastly, let’s talk about change. Yes, the budget, the split, the way it's paid for are all changes, ...but for the county to try and do dispatch at this point would be 10X the amount of change. Could the county do dispatch is not the question. The question is should the county do dispatch, and my opinion is NO.

The second one to speak was Aaron Meyer. He said we have several emergency agencies in the County. He wants to express his concerns. He said the County is known for working together as one agency. He said the dispatch service has come up before and been worked out. EMA Director, Steve Hauser, has the entire County interest at heart. He does not put one person or agency over another. He knows this County and how it works and runs. His first concern is the increase in the budget, it is pretty significant. The second one is giving all money to one agency. He said being on the Fire Department, it runs on a small budget. If funding goes away, we run into problems all around. His third concern is we can close it all up and run away from it. He commented that several people do have concerns over this.

TRANSFERS

Perry County Judge is requesting to transfer \$50.00 from Travel to Dues within the Supplemental Adult Probation fund. David made the motion to approve the transfer, seconded by Paul. Motion carried 6-0.

TRANSFER APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE

CC-21-05

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:

SUPPLEMENTAL ADULT PROBATION FUND

TRANSFER	<u>\$ 50.00</u>	
FROM:	ACCOUNT #2100-232-3000.22	\$ 50.00
	TRAVEL	
TO:	ACCOUNT #2100-232-3000.11	
	DUES	
WITHIN:	SUPPLEMENTAL ADULT PROBATION BUDGET	

ADOPTED THIS 22nd DAY OF JULY, 2021.

NAY

AYE

LUKE THOMAS	/S/
DAVID A ETIENNE	/S/
EARLA WILLIAMS	/S/
PAUL MALONE	/S/
LYNN FULKERSON	/S/
CHARLES BAUMEISTER	/S/

ATTEST:

PAMELA L. GOFFINET /S/
PERRY COUNTY AUDITOR

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

Coroner Warren Taylor requested an additional appropriation in the amount of \$7,000.00 for Autopsy Fees within the County General fund. He said he still owes for 2 autopsies not paid for yet, then he will only have enough for two and half more to do. In 2020, there were 11 autopsies done and so far, only 4 this year. He commented that he may have to come back and ask for more later in the year. Paul made the motion to approve the request, seconded by David. Motion carried 6-0.

Sheriff Alan Malone requested \$10,250.00 for an additional appropriation for a Dishwasher within the LIT-Special Legislation fund. Alan informed the Council that they approved for a dishwasher in 2020. To help save money, they got it fixed last year instead of getting a new one. They tried to fix it again but now they need a new one. Paul asked what the repair amount would be this time. It would cost \$2,900.00. The life expectancy is 15 years for this equipment. If do the repairs, we will still need to get one down the line. Paul made the motion to approve the additional, seconded by Charlie. Motion carried 6-0.

Steve Howell, Highway Superintendent, requested an additional appropriation in the amount of \$100,000.00 for Stone and \$50,000.00 for Culverts within the Motor Vehicle Highway-Restricted fund. Steve commented that they have to spend 50% of the MVH from the Restricted fund. David made the motion to approve both requests, seconded by Earla. Motion carried 6-0.

EMA Director, Steve Hauser, requested \$35,700.00 for 911 Recorder and \$55,300.00 for Radio Equipment for an additional appropriation within the Statewide 911 fund. Steve said at the end of June, Derrick Lawalin informed him that there were problems with the 911 Recorder. It is 11 years old and no longer supported by Microsoft. He said it is time to replace it. This is a vital piece of equipment.

For the Radio Equipment, the back up site is at the Armory Annex. It was a separate dispatch center during COVOD-19 with separate crews. This would work in a pinch but not on a daily basis. Steve said we need a system similar to the one in Tell City. He put in the PSAP report for an upgrade. If we would experience a storm. This would be some place to go rapidly and able to utilize it. Paul said he liked the expectancy of the 11 years for a new system similar to Tell City’s. It is a computer-based system. Steve said it can retrieve information quicker. Charlie commented that with all the information, both parties have agreed on this. Charlie made the motion to approve both requests, seconded by Paul. Luke said to wait until the new agreement is signed. He asked Steve if he could get three quotes. Steve said we need to have an adequate backup system. Charlie said he is concerned if the price goes up, what we will pay then. Steve said he will get the quotes and go with the lowest one. Charlie made the motion to approve the recorder and to upgrade and provide three quotes and lowest one taken on the equipment, seconded by Paul. Motion carried 6-0.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE NO. 21-CC-7

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:

COUNTY				
GENERAL FUND	REQUESTED	APPROPRIATED	AYE	NAY
<u>PERRY COUNTY CORONER</u>				
#1000-007-3000.17	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,000.00	6	0
AUTOPSY FEES				
 COUNTY GENERAL				
FUND TOTAL:	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,000.00		

LIT – SPECIAL LEGISLATION FUND

PERRY COUNTY DETENTION CENTER

#1114-381-4000.44	\$ 10,250.00	\$ 10,250.00	6	0
DISHWASHER				

LIT-SPECIAL LEGISLATION

FUND TOTAL:	\$ 10,250.00	\$ 10,250.00		
--------------------	---------------------	---------------------	--	--

MVH RESTRICTED FUND

PERRY COUNTY HIGHWAY

#1173-531-2000.31	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	6	0
STONE				

#1173-531-2000.32	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	6	0
CULVERTS				

MVH RESTRICTED

FUND TOTAL:	\$150,000.00	\$ 150,000.00		
--------------------	---------------------	----------------------	--	--

STATEWIDE 911

PERRY COUNTY E-911

#1222-320-4000.42	\$ 55,300.00	\$ 55,300.00	6	0
RADIO EQUIPMENT				

#1222-320-4000.43	\$ 35,700.00	\$ 35,700.00	6	0
911 RECORDER				

STATEWIDE 911

FUND TOTAL:	\$ 91,000.00	\$ 91,000.00		
--------------------	---------------------	---------------------	--	--

ADOPTED THIS 22nd DAY OF JULY, 2021.

NAY

AYE

LUKE THOMAS	/S/
DAVID A ETIENNE	/S/
EARLA WILLIAMS	/S/
PAUL MALONE	/S/
LYNN FULKERSON	/S/
CHARLES BAUMEISTER	/S/

ATTEST:

PAMELA L GOFFINET /S/
PERRY COUNTY AUDITOR

GRANT UPDATE – HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Luke stated that he and Auditor Pam Goffinet finished up the federal grant for the Health Department of the \$40,320.00 that was allotted for Overtime and supplies. He said we sent in the first installment of \$17,765.64 and have received the funding. The second request of \$22,554.36 has been sent to the State and we are still waiting on this funding to be received. Luke thanked Pam and her office for helping with the grant.

SUPPLEMENTAL WAGE – PERRY COUNTY JAIL EMPLOYEES- FORM 144

It was stated at the last meeting, a supplemental wage of \$1,100.00 had been allowed for the Jail employees for the last 12 payrolls of 2021. It was said there are 13 payrolls left in 2021 starting July 1, 2021. Earla made a motion to approve the corrected amount of \$ 1,190.28 for 13 pays, seconded by David. Motion carried 6-0.

2022 COUNCIL BUDGET

The 2022 Council budget in County General was sent to the Council for their review. It was presented with a 4% increase in salary and also for the County Attorney

contracted amount. The line item for Travel was questioned but was left as is and will increase if and when they need to. Charlie made a proposal to wave the increase in the Council salary and keep as is for 2021 and keep the attorney's increase. Paul made the motion to approve the budget with the changes, seconded by David. Motion carried 6-0.

ORDINANCE – RECORDER PERPETUATION FUND – APPROVE SPENDING

Recorder Jane James presented and read to the Council a statement on using the Recorder Perpetuation fund to pay a portion of the expenses of the County Recorder's office for the year 2022 pursuant to Indiana Code 36-2-7-10.2(1). She said the fund has a sufficient reserve to fulfill the statutory purpose of the fund. She is asking that \$4,098.00 be used for Office Supplies, and Other Services and Charges. The only thing in County General will be their salaries except for the part time position. The Ordinance has to be done annually to be able to use the Recorder Perpetuation fund for this. (See attachment "A" O-CC-21-2)

DISPATCH PROPOSED FUNDING – POWER POINT

Luke presented a power point presentation on proposed funding for dispatch and thanked Administrator Teresa Kanneberg for getting it set up. He said currently Perry County enters into an interlocal agreement with Tell City for the provision of dispatch services. These services are provided through the Tell City Police Department. In return for the City providing dispatch services in 2021, the County paid \$171,689.25 from Statewide 911 and Public Safety Local Income Tax funds. The Statewide 911 fund is a creation of the Indiana General Assembly by and through the Statewide 911 board whose responsibility is to develop, implement, and oversee the statewide 911 system. To facilitate this, the board assesses a monthly fee on each standard user at a rate of \$1.00. Each year the board distributes a monthly amount to each county. If any funds remain, the board then distributes them on a 90/10 split. Approximately 40% of the county's statewide funds are used to pay a portion to the City for the provision of dispatch services. The Public Safety Tax was adopted by the Council in 2015 at a rate of 0.25%. This is a portion of the County's total 1.81% income tax rate. The Public Safety fund is used to supplement three departments, Sheriff, Commissioners, and Jail.

Luke said he wants to introduce a new framework of the income taxes:

- Part one is to eliminate the Property Tax Relief Local Income Tax. This is used to fund a property tax credit to reduce property tax liabilities of homesteads and help the County to recover revenue lost by circuit breaker credits. This tax is ineffective and a waste of money because it is only 48.52% effective. If eliminated, most likely some property owners will see an increase in property taxes annually. This could possibly result in an increase of \$36.00 to \$152.00 annually. Some will see no change.
- Part two is to increase the Public Safety Local Income Tax and Certified Shares Local Income Tax. We would increase the Public Safety rate by .0520% and the Certified Shares rate by .0326%. The new LIT rates in 2022 would look like: Certified Shares - .5080%, Public Safety - .3020%, EDIT - .50%, Property Tax Relief – 0%, and Special Purpose - .50% for a total rate of 1.81% as it is now. The reallocation will increase the amount of revenue for public safety and certified shares that go into county general fund.
- Part three is to allocate a portion of the Public Safety Tax to Central Dispatch. Indiana Code allows for a certain percentage of Public Safety to be allocated directly to the PSAP in the County. The .0520% increase in Public Safety rate would be dedicated to the PSAP. This would be only the increased amount in revenue which would be around \$201,000.00.
- Part four is to redeem the Detention Center Bonds early and eliminate the Special Purpose rate. The last bond payment is set for February 1, 2032; however, the bonds can be paid off any date not earlier than August 1, 2022. To pay off the bonds in January 2023 would require approximately \$7,250,000.00. This would leave approximately \$1,961,614.17 in funds for the to-be-created Detention Center Operations and Maintenance fund.
- Part five is to increase the Public Safety and Certified Shares rate again. If paying off the bonds is feasible, the Council would increase both rates by .02% respectively. The new rates would be: Certified Shares - .5280%,

Public Safety - .3220%, EDIT, .50%, Property Tax Relief – 0%, and Special Purpose – 0% for a total rate of 1.35%.

- Part six is to allocate a portion of Public Safety Tax to Central Dispatch again. With the .02% increase would be another \$77,669.00 in 2023.

The rest of the presentation went into the E-911 costs and the City’s suggested funding from the current entities. Luke’s proposal offers a counter proposal to the city. He said this is all dependent on the execution of the plan.

Commissioner Gregg Jarboe commented that parts of the plan have to be done first. The money is a year behind. Luke said the Council has to do some things first also. There has been no discussion on any ideas yet. We want to be open about this. Tell City is paying a lot of money and it is unfair. Their amount would drop. This would be more of a stable decision. There was much discussion concerning this topic. There were a lot of comments from different individuals on the amount of taxes extra being owed and the amount different entities would owe going forward. Luke said no matter if the County takes it over or we continue the way we are, the County still would have to find the money.

There being no further business, Paul made a motion to adjourn the meeting. David seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0, with adjournment at 6:50 p.m.

Minutes approved this 23rd day of September, 2021.

President, Perry County Council

*Minutes prepared by:
Pamela L Goffinet, Auditor*