

PERRY COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES – June 24, 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, Earla Williams, Paul Malone and Danny Bolin. A media representative from the Perry County News was present and also Council Attorney, S. Rod Acchiardo. Chief Sheriff Deputy Eric Dickenson was also present for Sheriff Alan Malone

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA

Luke said there was an addition to add to the agenda and it was:

- Item #12 Dispatch Financial Negotiation Update

Paul made the motion to approve the addition, seconded by David. Motion carried 7-0.

MINUTES

The minutes of April 22, 2021 were mailed to the Council for their review. With no changes, they were approved as presented.

COMMENTS

Celia Ferrand came before the Council to talk about the ARP money of Perry County, that part of it needs to go to Mental Health and Substance Abuse. She said the committee needs to make sure this happens. She commented that she herself is in recovery and they could use it. She said even Rockport, Indiana has three houses for people to go to and we have none. The committee needs to allocate some of the funds for this need. Luke said that on June 23rd, the US Treasury released new guidelines and we will need to see what is allowable expenses.

TRANSFERS

There were no transfers this month.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

The Commissioners requested an additional appropriation in the amount of \$5,500.00 for County Car Expenses from the County General fund. This is to repair the Chevy Tahoe and insurance deductible on the white truck. There was a motion of intent for this at the May meeting. Paul made the motion to approve the request, seconded by Earla. Motion carried 7-0.

Greg Hendershot, Park and Recreation Director, requested an additional appropriation for Park Maintenance and Repair from County General in the amount of \$4,438.00. This is for several items of repair at several parks. This request also had a motion of intent from the May meeting. David made the motion to approve the additional, seconded by Danny. Motion carried 7-0.

Sheriff Alan Malone requested \$70.00 from the Prisoner Reimbursement Incarceration fund for Overpayment-Weekend Fees. David made the motion to approve the request, seconded by Danny. Motion carried 7-0.

The Council requested an additional appropriation for \$10,000.00 for Overtime Wages for the Health department from the Health fund. Auditor Pam Goffinet commented that this is for overtime working during this pandemic. David made the motion to approve the request, seconded by Lynn. Motion carried 7-0.

The Commissioners requested \$67,000.00 for the Industrial Park South Entrance Road Improvements from the EDIT fund. This was a motion of intent at the May meeting. Paul made the motion to approve the additional, seconded by Earla. Motion carried 7-0.

Steve Howell, Highway Superintendent, requested an additional appropriation in the amount of \$170,855.27 for County Road Improvements from the Community Crossings fund. This is for part of our share for the Community Crossings Grant. Danny made the motion to approve the request, seconded by David. Motion carried 7-0.

The Redevelopment Commission requested \$200.00 for an additional appropriation for Publication of Legal Notices from the TIF Allocation fund. This is for any documents that need to be advertised. Paul made the motion to approve the additional, seconded by Lynn. Motion carried 7-0.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE NO. 21-CC-6

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:

<u>COUNTY</u>					
<u>GENERAL FUND</u>	REQUESTED	APPROPRIATED	AYE	NAY	
PERRY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS					
#1000-068-3000.64	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 5,500.00	7	0	
COUNTY CAR EXPENSE					
PERRY COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION					
#1000-803-3000.61	\$ 4,438.00	\$ 4,438.00	7	0	
PARK MAINTENANCE & REPAIR					
COUNTY GENERAL					
FUND TOTAL:	\$ 9,938.00	\$ 9,938.00			
<u>PRISONER REIMBURSEMENT-INCARCERATION FUND</u>					
PERRY COUNTY DETENTION CENTER					
#1130-380-3000.90	\$ 70.00	\$ 70.00	7	0	
OVERPAYMENT – WEEKEND FEES					
PRISONER REIMBURSEMENT-					
INCARCERATION					
FUND TOTAL:	\$ 70.00	\$ 70.00			
<u>COUNTY HEALTH FUND</u>					
PERRY COUNTY HEALTH DEPT					
#1159-610-1000.13	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	7	0	
OVERTIME WAGES					
HEALTH FUND TOTAL:	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00			
<u>EDIT FUND</u>					
PERRY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS					
#7312-068-4000.31	\$ 67,000.00	\$ 67,000.00	7	0	
INDUSTRIAL PARK SOUTH					
ENTRANCE ROAD IMPROVEMENTS					
EDIT FUND TOTAL:	\$ 67,000.00	\$ 67,000.00			

COMMUNITY CROSSING FUND

PERRY COUNTY HIGHWAY
#9141-534-4000.46 \$170,855.27 \$ 170,855.27 7 0
COUNTY ROAD IMPROVEMENT

**COMMUNITY CROSSING
FUND TOTAL: \$170,855.27 \$ 170,855.27**

**PERRY COUNTY REDEVELOPMENT
TIF #1 – TIF ALLOCATION FUND**

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS
#4401-161-3000.31 \$ 200.00 \$ 200.00 7 0
PUBLICATION OF
LEGAL NOTICES

**TIF#1 – TIF ALLOCATION
FUND TOTAL: \$ 200.00 \$ 200.00**

ADOPTED THIS 24th DAY OF JUNE, 2021.

NAY

AYE

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

ATTEST:

PAMELA L GOFFINET /S/
PERRY COUNTY AUDITOR

APPOINTMENT – LOCAL JUSTICE REINVESTMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Effective July 1, 2021, the County must establish a Local Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council (LJRAC). This is along with the current Community Corrections Advisory Board. As President of the Council, Luke is required to either serve or designate someone to serve in his place. Danny currently serves on the Advisory Board and he is willing to serve on the new council is designated to. The Commissioners have made their appointment to this board also. David made the motion to appoint Danny, seconded by Charlie. Motion carried 7-0.

APPOINTMENT – ARP COMMITTEE

The Council had nine individuals to submit letters of interest for the one Council appointment to the ARP Committee. They are:

1. Adam Evrard
2. Kelli Harding
3. Kevin (Nic) Etienne
4. Lena Goffinet
5. Dr. William Marcrum
6. Joe Hermann Jr.
7. Tara Damin
8. Sherri Flynn
9. Erin Emerson

Luke said they would follow the Robert Rules of Order to elect one individual. Charlie made the motion to nominate Sherri Flynn. Luke seconded the motion. Paul asked how many members were to be on this board. There are two Commissioners, two Council, Commissioner appointment, Council appointment and one joint appointment. There were no other nominations. Nominations closed. Motion carried 6-0 with Paul abstaining.

Charlie nominated Tara Damin to the ARP committee for the Council and Commissioners joint appointment for him and Luke's appt. Commissioner Jarboe asked how they were going to do the joint appointment. Commissioner Tom Hauser said to do at their first meeting between the four of them.

COUNCIL LIASON'S TALK TO DEPARTMENT OF BUDGETS

Charlie mentioned that each county department has a Council liaison. He said he has met with his departments, Auditor and Clerk, concerning their 2022 budgets. He will meet with the Highway department soon. He suggested to the other members to meet with their departments on their budgets if there are any big changes so the Council can be prepared for budget hearings.

TAX ABATEMENTS- ANNUAL REVIEW

Auditor Pam Goffinet explained that the abated company is to file a CF-1 with the corresponding entity for which they filed a certified SB-1. The CF-1's has to be filed by May 15th to stay in compliance with their original abatement filed. All CF-1's and corresponding SB-1's was mailed to the Council for their review.

The CF-1's filed for the County are: Indiana Municipal Power Agency Personal Property and Real and Personal Property of ATTC. Auditor Goffinet commented saying they were all in compliance as to filing their CF-1's on time. Pam informed them that if they have no changes, they could vote on all of them at one time if they wished.

The Council decided to take Indiana Municipal Power Agency separate and take all the ATTC abatements together. Luke read off the list, years of abatement on and the percentage to be abated. Luke mentioned that in 2019 he had an issue with IMPA over a clerical error on the assessed value and sent it back to them. He commented that this is still an issue.

Charlie made a motion to approve the IMPA abatement, seconded by Earla. Motion carried 7-0. Paul made the motion to approve all the ATTC abatements, seconded by David. Motion carried 7-0.

MOTION OF INTENT – DETENTION CENTER SUPPLEMENTAL SALARIES

Luke said in January of this year, he met with Sheriff Alan Malone and Deputy Eric Dickenson on the Detention Center employee's wages. He said they did receive separate Hazard Pay for COVID-19 from the COVID-19 monies. Sheriff says he is having retention problems. There is a proposal of \$1,100.00 wage for each employee that includes social security and retirement starting for work beginning July 1, 2021 to the end of the year. This will go to 13 employees. The Sheriff will be from the Inmate Housing fund for a total of \$18,900.00. Paul made the motion of intent for the supplemental wage, seconded by Danny. Motion carried 7-0. Eric thanked the Council members.

REVIEW OF FINANCE STUDY

Luke said he came across a study by the Indiana Fiscal Policy Institute that came out in June 2020. It is titled Capacity Cost Indexes for Indiana local governments 2002 and 2018. This study is by Larry Deboer of Purdue Extension. He does a lot of great work for local governments. Luke said he wanted to highlight a couple of points from the study especially at this point in time that we are in right now.

Luke read part of the summary that the revenue capacity service cost index measures the ability of local governments to provide public services at average tax rates. The method uses county by county taxable income, property values, and state aid for schools and roads compared to per capita cost adjusted for the percentage of the county LIT population living in cities and towns versus unincorporated areas along with factors like school enrollment and road miles. The capacity cost index distills this data into a single value a negative index means more difficulty covering expenditures without raising taxes. A positive index means more flexibility to adjust taxes and spending through all local governments who operate under state-imposed limits on income taxes and property tax levies. So, Perry County according to this study has the eighth lowest index score in all 92 counties with a negative \$270 index score. That is equal to a negative 9.34 percent of the \$2,890 average of the state. So basically, this means that local governments in Perry County can't or can provide the average level of service at higher tax rates or provide less than average levels of service at average tax rates. He said actually we are at the same level we were into from 2002 to 2018, so, overall, the fiscal condition of all units of government and Perry County really hasn't changes and is still in real good condition. The study also said that there are long-term declines in traditional manufacturing employment limited capacity growth in many industrial

counties. A large number of Indiana counties have heavy concentrations of manufacturing in the 1970's but jobless losses over the next 40 years limited growth of taxable income and assessed value. This widened the gap between revenue capacity and cost. Increased property tax rates caused large revenue losses to tax caps especially in places that weren't as successful in replacing jobs with employment in other sectors. So, in 1972 to 2017, manufacturing and in Perry County dropped by at least 7 ½ % and the average of all counties that was studied was 22 ½%. Luke finished by saying we are still not in a good financial place and our negative 270 is the 8th lowest score in the State, which is not the worst but not where we need to be. He commented that as said before, a negative index means difficulty in covering expenditures without raising taxes which is kind of the place we are in right now. He said with this low score we have; we are going to have some tough decisions in the next couple of years in terms of finances.

DISPATCH NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE

Council representatives, David and Luke, met with the representatives of Tell City, Cannelton and Troy regarding the 911 Dispatch. Both of them said the meeting went well. No other information given at this time. Members at the meeting were: David, Luke, Larry Kleeman, Connie Berger, Mayor Chris Cail, Linda Crawford, Gary Morton, Pudder Linne, Mayor Ralph Terry and Bob O. Paul asked if they can get data on where the calls go for 911. Luke said he will send that out.

There being no further business, Paul made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Lynn seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0, with adjournment at 5:30 p.m.

Minutes approved this 22nd day of July, 2021.

President, Perry County Council

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