

**PERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
MINUTES – March 25, 2021**

The Perry County Council met on the above date at 5:00 p.m. by Zoom as advertised. Council members in attendance by roll call were: President Luke Thomas, David Etienne, Charles Baumeister, Danny Bolin, Paul Malone, and Lynn Fulkerson. Council Attorney, S. Rod Acchiardo, and Sheriff Alan Malone were also present.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

President Luke Thomas made comment to the members that the agenda looks different than in the past. Since we have adopted the Robert Rules of Order, first off, we need to adopt the agenda for the meeting. Charlie made the motion to adopt the agenda as is, seconded by Lynn. Motion carried 6-0.

Earla attended the meeting at 5:05 p.m.

MINUTES

The February 12, 2021 minutes was sent to the Council members for review. There being no changes or revisions, the minutes were approved as is.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

TRANSFERS

Perry County Judge Lucy Goffinet requested a transfer of \$500.00 from Travel to Computer Equipment within the Supplemental Adult Probation fund. Paul made the motion to approve the request, seconded by Danny. Motion carried 7-0.

Prosecutor Jason Hoch requested a transfer of \$891.38 from Travel to Bonus Pay in the amount of \$750.00, \$57.38 to Social Security and \$84.00 to Retirement within the Pretrial Diversion fund. David made the motion to approve the transfer, seconded by Paul. Motion carried 7-0.

TRANSFER APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE

CC-21-03

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>\$ 500.00</u>	
FROM:	ACCOUNT #2100-232-3000.22	\$ 500.00
	TRAVEL	
TO:	ACCOUNT #2100-232-4000.14	
	COMPUTER EQUIPMENT	
WITHIN:	PERRY COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT BUDGET	

PRETRIAL DIVERSION FUND

TRANSFER	<u>\$ 891.38</u>	
FROM:	ACCOUNT #2502-009-3000.21	\$ 891.38
	TRAVEL	
TO:	ACCOUNT #2502-009-1000.13	\$ 750.00
	VICTIM ADVOCATE SALARY	
TO:	ACCOUNT #2502-009-1000.21	\$ 57.38

TO: SOCIAL SECURITY
ACCOUNT #2502-009-1000.22 \$ 84.00
RETIREMENT
WITHIN: PERRY COUNTY PROSECUTOR’S BUDGET

ADOPTED THIS 25th DAY OF MARCH, 2021.

NAY

AYE

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

ATTEST:

PAMELA L. GOFFINET /S/
PERRY COUNTY AUDITOR

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

The Perry County Council requested an additional appropriation in the amount of \$1,235.40 for Overtime Wages, \$94.51 for Social Security and \$138.38 for Retirement within the Commissioner budget in the County General fund. This is to pay overtime wages for one Health Department employee from the left-over CARES ACT money of \$1,500.00. This covers the time period of January 31st to February 27th. David made the motion to approve the additional appropriation, seconded by Earla. Motion carried 7-0.

The Commissioners had a request of \$78.33 within the County General fund for Distribution of Timber Sales. The County receives 15% of net proceeds from sale of timber on State Forest lands. 50% of the 15% net proceeds stay in County General and the other 50% is distributed to rural and volunteer fire departments who qualify by having a cooperative agreement with the DNR. David made the motion to approve the additional, seconded by Danny. Motion carried 7-0.

From the LIT-Economic Development fund, the Commissioners requested an additional of \$228,615.00 for the 2021 PCDC contract. Charlie made the motion to approve the request, seconded by Paul. Motion carried 7-0.

Highway Superintendent, Steve Howell, requested an additional appropriation from the LIT-Economic Development fund in the amount of \$900,000.00 for County Road Improvements. Steve commented that part of this money is used for the Community Crossings Grant match when applying or used it to pave roads if don’t get the grant. Paul made the motion to approve the additional, seconded by Danny. Motion carried 7-0.

Mendy Lassaline, County Assessor, requested \$2,000.00 for Office Equipment within the Sales Disclosure fund. She commented that they now have two printers that were purchased in the year of 2007 that are broke down. Hoosier Business has been there to clean them but it will take \$1,100.00 to repair one printer and \$800.00 to repair the other one. Mendy said they will be able to get by with one printer for the office instead of two now. She was quoted \$3,545.00 with an annual maintenance cost. She is taking money from this fund and Property Reassessment fund to purchase this. David made the motion to approve the request, seconded by Paul. Motion carried 7-0.

Steve Howell, Highway Superintendent, requested \$74,150.00 from the Cumulative Bridge fund for repairs to Bridge #135 Co Rd. 7. Steve said this is at Gerald cross roads and it is the next one on the list to replace. Danny made the motion to approve the additional appropriation, seconded by David. Motion carried 7-0.

The County Council requested \$10,000.00 for Overtime Wages, \$765.00 for Social Security and \$1,120.00 for Retirement within the County Health fund. This is extra funds set aside for the overtime accumulated by the Health Department during the pandemic. This money will pay for five employees starting February 28, 2021. Auditor Pam Goffinet informed the Council for the two-week period of February 28th to March 13th, the Health Department will be using \$1,202.71 of the \$10,000.00 leaving a balance of \$8,797.29. David made the motion to approve the additional, seconded by Danny. Motion carried 7-0.

The County Council also requested an additional appropriation from the Health fund in the amount of \$1,382.64 for Overtime Wages, \$105.79 for Social Security, and \$154.87 for Retirement. This is to pay the other two employees for overtime during the period of January 31st to February 27th. Danny made the motion to approve the request, seconded by Lynn. Motion carried 7-0.

Assessor Mendy Lassaline requested \$1,545.00 for an additional appropriation for Office Equipment. This is the other part need for the new printer. David made the motion to approve the additional, seconded by Danny. Motion carried 7-0.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE NO. 21-CC-3

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 COMMISSIONERS</u>				
#1000-068-1000.15 OVERTIME WAGES	\$ 1,235.40	\$ 1,235.40	7	0
#1000-068-1000.21 SOCIAL SECURITY	\$ 94.51	\$ 94.51	7	0
#1000-068-1000.22 RETIREMENT	\$ 138.38	\$ 138.38	7	0
#1000-068-3000.97 DISTRIBUTION TIMBER SALES	\$ 78.33	\$ 78.33	7	0
COUNTY GENERAL FUND TOTAL:	\$ 1,546.62	\$ 1,546.62		
<u>LIT – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND</u>				
<u>PERRY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS</u>				
#1112-068-3000.10 PCDC CONTRACT	\$228,615.00	\$228,615.00	7	0
<u>PERRY COUNTY HIGHWAY</u>				
#1112-534-4000.45 CO. RD. IMPROVEMENTS	\$900,000.00	\$900,000.00	7	0
LIT-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND TOTAL:	\$1,128,615.00	\$1,128,615.00		

SALES DISCLOSURE FUND

<u>PERRY COUNTY ASSESSOR</u>				
#1131-008-4000.43	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	7	0
OFFICE EQUIPMENT				
SALES DISCLOSURE				
FUND TOTAL:	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00		

CUMULATIVE BRIDGE FUND

<u>PERRY COUTY HIGHWAY</u>				
#1135-531-3000.59	\$ 74,150.00	\$ 74,150.00	7	0
BRIDGE #135 CO. RD. #7				
CUMULATIVE BRIDGE				
FUND TOTAL:	\$ 74,150.00	\$ 74,150.00		

HEALTH FUND

<u>PERRY COUNTY HEALTH</u>				
#1159-610-1000.13	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	7	0
OVERTIME WAGES				
#1159-610-1000.21	\$ 765.00	\$ 765.00	7	0
SOCIAL SECURITY				
#1159-610-1000.22	\$ 1,120.00	\$ 1,120.00	7	0
RETIREMENT				
<u>PERRY COUNTY HEALTH</u>				
#1159-610-1000.13	\$ 1,382.64	\$ 1,382.64	7	0
OVERTIME WAGES				
#1159-610-1000.21	\$ 105.79	\$ 105.79	7	0
SOCIAL SECURITY				
#1159-610-1000.22	\$ 154.87	\$ 154.87	7	0
RETIREMENT				
HEALTH FUND TOTAL:	\$ 13,528.30	\$ 13,528.30		

PROPERTY REASSESSMENT FUND

<u>PERRY COUNTY ASSESSOR</u>				
#1188-008-4000.43	\$ 1,545.00	\$ 1,545.00	7	0
OFFICE EQUIPMENT				
PROPERTY REASSESSMENT				
FUND TOTAL:	\$ 1,545.00	\$ 1,545.00		

ADOPTED THIS 25TH DAY OF MARCH, 2021.

NAY

AYE

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

ATTEST:

PAMELA L GOFFINET /S/
PERRY COUNTY AUDITOR

JOB CLASSIFICATIONS AND COMPENSATION STUDY

Luke informed the Council that we have gone two years without giving the employees a raise. We need to plan for the future on where we are at with salaries and also job descriptions have not been done since 2009 on County employees. Kent Irwin with Waggoner, Irwin and Scheele Consultants attended the meeting to discuss the County's job classifications and compensation study. He said he has worked in over 70 Indiana counties and has worked with Perry County for a number of years. Kent did our previous personnel policy and has given advice on this. He is familiar with Perry County. He said that the City of Tell City is also looking at a project similar to ours. Kent commented that the job classification system was developed by the U.S. Department of Labor for public sector employees. It was installed for the State of Indiana by Governor Bolin in the 1970's and remains in place today. This system separates jobs into four different categories:

1. PAT – Professional, Administrative and Technological
2. COMOT – Computer, Office Machine Operation, and Technician
3. POLE – Protective Occupations and Law Enforcement
4. LTC – Labor, Trade and Crafts

These set the stage to compare like jobs to one another. The job descriptions are formatted around the job categories. As you classify a job, then you look at the compensation schedule.

Kent said he has broken the job down into two phases. Phase I is to update the job descriptions and Phase II is point factor positions and salaries. He will compare other counties to our size. Kent said it is important to do the job descriptions first and be approved by the elected officials. They use a questionnaire sheet to get the job duties of the employees. Luke said this will be good for the future. Luke also informed the Council that they are billed on an hourly basis. Each phase will take around four to five months to complete. Phase I will be \$14,420.00 and Phase II will be \$14,640.00. Kent said they will look at Fair Labor Standard Act rules to properly classify for overtime purposes. They will look at to see who is exempt and non-exempt status. This is the foundation for new system and to help in hiring new employees. This has a network of uses as to evaluate job performances and to have all names of jobs the same.

Luke said he proposes to pay for this from the Riverboat fund. Auditor Goffinet informed the Council that this money generally comes in the month of August. Luke said he is looking for a motion of intent. David made the motion of intent for Phase I, seconded by Charlie. Motion carried 7-0. Luke said he will have Attorney Rod Acchiardo to look over the paperwork.

PUBLIC HEARING & APPROVAL OF TIF 3 BOND PROPOSAL

Luke said that the Redevelopment Commission has not met yet to approve the TIF 3 bond proposal. Their meeting is on April 12, 2021. They have to meet before we can approve the bond. Luke said we will do at an April meeting.

Danny left the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

MOTION OF INTENT FOR JAIL COMMANDER TRAINING

Sheriff Malone informed the Council that congratulations go to Jail Commander David Faulkenberg on retiring sometime in May. He said he is going to be hard to replace. Sheriff Malone said he is asking for funds for ten weeks of training a new jail commander. This is the most important appointment he will make and he doesn't take it lightly. David said he will stay on until we get someone somewhat trained. Alan said he is asking for \$8,647.50 for salary and taxes. Charlie asked if the jail commander still has to attend class at the Academy, and Sheriff Malone said yes. Luke said he talked with Chief Deputy Eric Dickenson if they could help out with the Inmate Housing fund of around \$3,000.00. Charlie commented that they paid the full amount of the first lease payment of the vehicles from this fund. Eric commented that this is a temporary position for a temporary issue. He said the letter submitted to the Council informs them of what this position does. We are a modern-day Detention Center. This person will learn a lot in a very short period of time. The best scenario is for training, new commander to work on his own, and then David comes back for any other training and questions. This will allow David some time off. Charlie made a motion of intent for \$3,000.00 from Inmate Housing fund for salary and benefits and the rest from County General, seconded by David. Motion carried 6-0.

ISSUES FROM COMMISSIONER RANDY KLEAVING

Randy thanked the Council for adding him to the agenda. He stated he has concerns with the Health Department. He said he did a walk through on a vaccine day and it was truly amazing. He was impressed with the leadership and professionalism that was shown. He saw other employees from different departments helping out and other volunteers coming also to help. He said it takes around 18 to 22 people to run the clinic. He encourages members of both boards to go out on vaccine days to see for themselves.

Randy is concerned for the overtime work; He is not sure if the \$8,700.00 quoted from before will be enough. The clinic may be opened for the rest of the year. Also, Dr. Marcrum says the contact tracing is important to do. Randy said he doesn't want to make this call to stop this, it is up to the doctor to do that. Our obligation is to fund the overtime. We need to put money aside to the end of the year.

He said there are a couple of other issues we need to be concerned about also. One is funding for the disposal of needles. In a normal year, Solid Waste gives them a grant of \$1,000.00 that would take care of this for the whole year. They are storing them now in a closet and they need to get rid of them.

The next thing is that they shut the clinic down for noon to clean and for everyone to eat. Some local food restaurants have been given them food on the clinic days to all volunteers to eat. Randy thinks that we need to pay lunches for volunteers helping. He said they have been battling this for one year now and they are mentally drained. Nurse Sara Gehlhausen said in the beginning this could be bad. Randy asked what can the Commissioners do to put funds aside to help fight this fire. Possibly around \$20,000.00 to \$25,000.00. Earla thanked Randy. Luke said they need to do some thinking on this. David said to use the ARP (American Rescue Plan) funds to fund the overtime. Randy said it would be nice to set up an account. Luke said County General had a balance of \$800,000.00 but with adjustments we only have \$530,000.00 unappropriated funds. If needed, we have to find the money somewhere. Randy said he doesn't want to see them asking restaurants for food. We should be helping for the rest of the year. The virus is still here. We owe the people helping us. He wants to be one step ahead. Luke said by the personnel policy we have to appropriate first. Luke said let's go one more month and see where we are at. No other council member gave any thoughts on this.

Randy commented about discussing the meals. He said it makes us look bad by not providing this to the workers. Commissioner Gregg Jarboe stated that lunch is a minor thing for us to do. Commissioner Tom Hauser said he agrees about the meals also. He said we need guidance on the ARP money for the overtime pay. Lynn said she also agreed. She asked how many volunteers are there. There are 8 to 12 besides county employees. Sheriff Malone said there were 25 to 30 on Wednesday, clinic day. Randy said this is a long-term project. Lynn said the Council looks at numbers and money. Our tax dollars are limited. She said she appreciates what the Health Department is doing. Randy commented that he knows you are just doing your job. This just came to his attention last week when he was there on clinic day. Luke said we need to know the cost per week. Auditor Pam Goffinet said she will look at the funds and see if she has any ideas.

FINAL DISCUSSION ON CARES ACT FUNDING

Charlie spoke up saying that he and Tom have talked about the CARES ACT funding and he is concerned about comments being said. He said all elected officials of the County don't always agree. There were good things purchased and he has questioned some of them. The Commissioners had control of this. He said anytime he asks a question, people get defensive. He is just trying to get answers. He said he gets irritated by offices if he asks any questions.

Luke prepared a public statement in which he read addressing his criticism from the prior Commissioners meeting and then to put this behind us. He first mentioned where the money came from for the pandemic and that Perry County would be eligible to receive \$619,741.00 in reimbursement. Then the County also received an additional \$61,975.00 for public awareness and education. All of these funds were issued by the Indiana Finance Authority. Luke went into detail that they may only reimburse expenditures used to cover costs that (i) are necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19., (ii) were not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020., (iii) were incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020 and ends on December 30, 2020., (iv) the expenditure is allowed under the guidance by the U.S. Treasury. The IFA was modified two times throughout the year which is very important. Luke went into how the money could have been used for grants for small businesses. He stated the Commissioners chose not to support our small businesses with these funds. Luke went into the purchases that

were actually made by the Commissioners such as the vehicles purchased for the EMA and the Sheriff offices on how these were made that could have been used for other things. They said some of this would help to relieve the county general fund of future purchases. Luke stated that the purpose of the funds was for necessary expenditures reimbursement incurred due to the pandemic, not to relieve the county general fund. This amount of money could have supported small businesses and reimbursed the cost of health employees; and public safety salaries. Luke also went into how the other pot of money was spent and getting the information asked for on what the total expenditures were for the CARES ACT money. He concluded that he stood by his criticism over certain purchases made and the process behind them. He said this is not coming from a place of malice, but a place of concern and desire for best stewardship of the public's money. This is even more important as the county prepares to receive over \$3.7 million from the American Rescue Plan. Transparency should always be first priority of government. His last statement was he had nothing else to say about this topic and look forward to developing a plan for the expenditures of the ARP funds.

STIPEND WORDING

Luke said the stipend the Council approved at budget time was more of a bonus to the county employees. We need to clarify this that it was a bonus given for a one-time payment. David made the motion to change the line item from budget time to say bonus instead, seconded by Charlie. Motion carried 6-0.

PUBLIC HEARING MEETING FOR PROPOSAL APPROVAL OF TIF #3 BOND

Luke said he talked with Alvin Evans from PCDC that the Council needs to wait until after the Redevelopment Commission meets or everything will be out of whack. He said we need to set a date for a special meeting. Commissioner Gregg Jarboe mentioned to have it at the Tell City High School after the RDC meeting. Luke said their meeting could be at 6:00 p.m. on April 12th at the Tell City High School Auditorium. He said we need to check with Attorney Rod Acchiardo on advertising time frame of the meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS

Auditor Goffinet informed the Council about the upcoming Southwest District Association of Indiana Counties meeting at Huntingburg again this year. It will be held on May 12, 2021. They need to let Teresa know as soon as possible if they are planning on attending.

There being no further business to come before the council, David made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Charlie seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0, with adjournment at 6:35 p.m.

Minutes approved this 22nd day of April, 2021.

President, Perry County Council

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