

PERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES –October 28, 2021

The Perry County Council met zoom on the above date at 5:00 p.m. as was duly advertised. County Council members in attendance were: President Luke Thomas, Danny Bolin, David Etienne, and Earla Williams. Charles Baumeister, Lynn Fulkerson and Paul Malone were absent. Council Attorney S. Rod Acchiardo and Chief Deputy Eric Dickenson were also present.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The agenda was adopted as amended.

MINUTES

Minutes from the meetings of August 25, 2021 and August 26, 2021 were mailed to the Council members for their review. There were no changes to be made. The minutes were approved as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jim Carter came before the Council with a few issues and concerns. He said he was concerned with the wording in the Animal Control Ordinance where Section 2 was eliminated but one paragraph years ago. In Section 2, the first part was on licensing animals and the second part is with permits. He said a county dog tax has to be approved by the fiscal body before you can do a license.

He also went through a review of the county animal issues such as there is no animal control officer since 2013. The shelter closed two years ago and is now county owned. He said there has been one proposal for shelter purposes by Herbie Landers for \$140,000 to \$160,000 and now there is nothing again.

Next, there is no proper animal protocol with dispatch. He commented where do you go or who to talk to. Jim said citizens are taking action into their own hands with no policy in hand on what to do. He stated there are liability problems with the Health Department making decisions that the animal control board should be doing as is in the ordinance. He also said the animal control board now is going out retrieving animals without being certified through the National Animal Control Organization (NAAC). Jim went on to name several other problems. He commented that on November 16, 2021 he is going to offer the Commissioners a plan to remedy the problems of today with the animals. It will offer the ability to open the shelter in April 2022 and have an animal control officer for half the cost that was proposed at one time. He asked the Council if they would be interested in this? He said the Council would have to implement a tax. He is also going to the Tell City Council and Cannelton with his plan. He is going to ask for trained volunteers. As far as the building, he is going to ask Randy Stroup, renter, if he will pay for the security for the building.

Gregg said we now have the animal control officer contracted. There is a temporary protocol in place now with dispatch. He said there is a draft FOP for December 1, 2021. He also commented that he has reviewed Jim's plan.

Celia Ferrand came before the Council saying she has stool before them many times begging for funds for a sober house. She said the wheels of local government spin slowly. She commented when looking at the agenda, all the money is for the police, part time officers and sheriff 's salary which is all necessary and critical. She wondered how much of that money could be saved if we were able to prevent inmates. We have been talking about a sober house in this town for a while and all we do is talk. There is nothing moving toward what we need. We deal with prisoners but not an addict going for recovery. She said money can be better spent than on the inmates. Her program is about action. What does it take for local government to act? We need to stop talking and start doing.

TRANSFERS

Sheriff Alan Malone requested a transfer of \$8,000.00 from 7th Police Officer to Part time Police Officers within the County General fund. Sheriff Malone stated that

Deputy Poehlein is gone for military duty until March of 2022. He had a 444 days order. In his absence, he wants to use some of the balance to pay part time. David made the motion to allow the transfer, seconded by Earla. Motion carried 4-0. Alan also requested from County General fund a transfer from Merit Board Members to Sheriff Salary in the amount of \$150.00. David made the motion to approve, seconded by Earla. Motion carried 4-0.

Sheriff Malone requested \$150.00 from Jail Corporal Salary to Jail Officer's Holiday Pay in the amount of \$150.00 within the LIT-Public Safety-County Share fund. He also requested \$2,500.00 from Jail Corporal Salary to Janitorial/Maintenance Supplies within the same fund. Danny made the motion to approve both transfers, seconded by Earla. Motion carried 4-0.

Jason Hoch, Prosecutor, requested a transfer from Specialized Investigative Equipment to Victim Advocate Salary in the amount of \$460.00 within the Pretrial Diversion fund. David made the motion to approve, seconded by Danny, Motion carried 4-0.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

Judge Lucy Goffinet requested an additional appropriation in the amount of \$75,000.00 for Compensation Pauper Attorney within the County General fund. It was said this is needed. Auditor Goffinet explained that there are several trials set until the end of the year. She said what is not spent from here, will go back into the fund. Danny made the motion to approve the additional, seconded by Earla. Motion carried 4-0.

Sheriff Alan Malone requested \$5,000.00 for Overtime-Deputies & Jailers, \$385.00 for Social Security, \$570.00 for Retirement, and \$12,000.00 for Gas & Oil for Police Cars for an additional appropriation from the Inmate Housing fund. Auditor Pam Goffinet relayed to the County that Sheriff Malone said that with the gas & oil there was an agreement that he was taken it out of here instead of county general so it would help the county general fund. She commented that this is a good thing he is doing this. Deputy Eric Dickenson said the hope is this will take them to the end of the year and that some of this has also been paid from the commissary fund. David made the motion to approve the additional, seconded by Danny. Motion carried 4-0.

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AMENDMENTS TO SALARY ORDINANCE – FORM 144 – RECORDER AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Auditor Goffinet informed the Council that currently the clerical position for the Records Office within the Recorder Perpetuation fund is paid at \$12.50 per hour. This amendment is for salary paid out in 2022. She reminded them that at budget time they allowed a 4% raise. The recorder is requesting the salary to be \$ per hour. No discussion among the members. David made the motion to amend the 2022 Salary Ordinance to \$13.00 (a 4% increase) for the Recorder Part Time employee from the Recorder Perpetuation fund, seconded by Danny. Motion carried 4-0.

The Council also had amendments to the Salary Ordinance for three different grants for the Health Department that went into effect on July 1, 2021 and end on June 30, 2022. The Council needed to catch these up. The grant amounts supply additional salaries:

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David made the motion to approve all three amendments to the salary ordinance, seconded by Earla. Motion carried 4-0.

Luke made a comment that the State Board of Accounts has required that all grants and other funds that include salaries shall be on the Salary Ordinance every year. This is something that should have happened a long time ago and never did, so we are now making sure this is done.

DRAFT OF GRANT PROCEDURES

Luke said he will be bringing a draft resolution for a formal grant procedure. Because on too of the grants being reported on the salary, the State Board of Accounts also wants us to have some sort of grant policy in place. Luke plans to bring this up at the next meeting.

Danny commented that he attended a Coalition meeting on Mental Health.

With no other business before the Council, Danny made a motion to adjourn the meeting. David seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0, with adjournment at 5:42 p.m.

Minutes approved this 16th day of December, 2021.

President, Perry County Council

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