

PERRY COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES – APRIL 28, 2022

The Perry County Council met on the above date at 5:00 p.m. as was duly advertised. Council members in attendance were: David Etienne, Charles Baumeister, Lynn Fulkerson, Randy Cole and Paul Malone and Earla Williams. Danny Bolin was absent. Sheriff Alan Malone was also present.

AGENDA

There were some wording changes that needed to be made on the agenda. On the additional appropriation of the Riverboat fund, Extradition Expense changed to Data Pitstop. Also add Job Descriptions/Salaries Analysis to another additional item. And on TIF Allocation additional, change Office Equipment to Engineering. Charlie made the motion to amend with the wording changes, seconded by Paul. Motion carried 6-0.

There were two additions that needed to be added to the agenda:

1. Discuss ARP money
2. Paying off Jail Bonds

Charlie made the motion to approve the agenda as amended with additions, seconded by Earla. Motion carried 6-0.

CIRCUIT COURT – FILL PART TIME POSITION

Judge Lucy Goffinet came before the Council requesting to fill the Drug Testing Technician position out of the Supplemental Adult Probation fund. This position is funded by the fees collected from the drug tests. She said this is not a new position. The position will be posted and advertised. Paul made the motion to approve the replacing of the position, seconded by Charlie. Motion carried 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Logan Day with the Ohio River Scenic Railway came before the Council to ask questions about his application that was turned down. He said he has operated the Excursion train since June 2020. He commented that they applied for ARP funding and were of many disqualified through the first round of the process. He said he wanted to introduce the Council to the train and give a proposal to them. Logan went on to talk about what they do and how they help Tell City and the County. He said they are having the same challenges others are and they are a component higher to stay afloat. He pointed out the final rule of the ARP funding to the board. Logan said they generated a lot of money and they lost even more. During the pandemic, they only received \$2,700 from the Federal government while others received much more. He said they pushed through the pandemic. He also said they are thankful and grateful to the ARP committee for what they do to distribute the ARP money. He knows there are challenges to the committee for what they have to do. He pointed out that the Final Rule points out tourism to be the forefront to getting money first and they were denied. Logan said he will be available for questions to the need of the funds. He said they are needing help for their business. He commented that it doesn't have to be the full funding. Anything would help. He wants to continue to give his best to Tell City.

Sheriff Alan Malone said he has talked to Charlie about the contract with Quality Correctional for the nurse. He said since he has been in office, they have gone from 16 hours to 24 hours a week. He said they are finding that 24 hours is just not enough time in the jail for 80 inmates. He said he went ahead and paid from commissary funds, \$15,664.00 for year 2022 for an increase in pay for 32 hours a week. Quality Correctional agreed with this for as many inmates we have. He said he wanted to update the Council on this. Charlie asked if he included this in his budget for 2023. Alan said yes, he did. Alan said this will take us to the end of the year. This amount is from April to December 31st. David said this is an increase of 25%. Earla said they have a nurse because jailers have been giving out medications. This puts us in a liable position. Alan said they did because the inmates needed it. He also commented that dental is up because of meth and that mental disability is up also. Charlie said we need to discuss this at budget time. Randy said the Commissioners don't have the right to bind the county. We are obligated. Charlie said you don't want to pay and have a court case. Randy said he don't want to feel that we have to pay because this came to us in April. Tom Hauser said the additional appropriation got missed to come to the Council earlier in the year.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

Auditor Pam Goffinet explained that she is requesting \$950.00 for Warrants from County General fund. She said we write checks from three banks in the county. Currently there is only \$600.00 budgeted and with the changing of vendors, it means the check format changed for all the banks. She said she didn't want to pull from other line items since it is only April. She doesn't know what she may need before the end of the year. Randy asked if this will take her through the year. Pam said yes. We ordered enough to hopefully get by two or three years. Earla made the motion to approve the request, seconded by Lynn. Motion carried 6-0.

The Commissioners requested \$228,494.20 for the Contract Payment PCDC from the LIT Economic Development Fund. This represents 20% of the County's EDIT money for the Perry County Development Corporation contract. Randy talked about the invoices and had questions regarding some of the charges. He questioned the hours being billed by the 100th of an hour. He also asked that when there is a project entered into, how do we know when it is complete. PCDC Director Erin Emerson commented that is the way the invoices have always been done. Randy asked what designate certain things. Erin said projects. There is a long list of needs for the county. Such as:

- Business Attraction – big part
- Talent Attraction
- Mental Health
- Child Care
- Housing
- Health Care
- Workforce
- Infrastructure

Erin said the population of the county has grown. The things we are working on has paid off. Randy commented that the contract is for economic development and we are involved in social issues. He is concerned over what PCDC spends out of to stay focused on that. He said that PCDC is becoming a social agency and not a development agency. Erin said she works with the county economic groups and has been recognized for it. Randy asked Erin how do you measure it. Erin commented that we attract through people we work with. We connect with Facebook with new people moving in the area with childcare, jobs and housing. She talked about the ways they connect with the community. It takes a lot of hours afterwork and we are very successful at it. Other communities want to know how we do it. We tell our story of Pick Perry. She said we need more people for companies to locate here. Randy asked again how do you measure success. Erin said people's incomes have increased for the contract to increase of the 20%. We are making an impact. She mentioned about the grants and money that come into the county, especially the READI program. She explained what PCDC does for what the county pays them for. There was a lot of conversation about the READI program from the state. Randy continued to ask his question "He would still like something measurable on the success." Erin kept stating about the growth in the county. Charlie asked Commissioner Tom Hauser asked if they have signed the contract for PCDC. He said yes. Charlie commented that this is a bill we owe. Tom said the contract is not to exceed the amount. He also said we hire PCDC to provide economic development for the county. Charlie asked if the Commissioners are satisfied with their work. Tom said yes. Randy stated that when we spend this amount of money, we have to be able to measure success. Erin commented that we have had a population increase in the county. She also stated that she gives detail reports at the board meetings. Randy asked if these can be shared. David commented when there is a lack of transparency, this creates problems. Erin said she doesn't feel there is a lack of transparency. Earla has sent out reports before. Erin commented to the council as county leaders, they should want PCDC to do all the things they are doing for the community. Tom Hauser commented that the council board member should give monthly reports from the board meetings. Randy said that way they know what the mission they are doing. Randy said he just wants everything to be transparent. The goal is to make this a better community to call home. Erin said this is PCDC's goal also. Lynn commented they are not saying they don't work hard. There was a lot more discussion on PCDC among the council members. Tom Hauser spoke up saying PCDC's focus is the attraction of employers. At first, it was attracting industries. Now it has evolved to find workers and have them want

to live here. He said economic development is changing. Charlie made the motion to approve the request, seconded by Paul. Motion carried 5-1 with Randy voting against.

Auditor Pam Goffinet requested an additional appropriation from the Riverboat fund for Data Pit Stop in the amount of \$4,000.00. David said there was a motion of intent granted from the last meeting on this and now we need to fund it. Randy made the motion to approve the additional, seconded by Lynn. Motion carried 6-0.

Also out of the Riverboat fund, the County Council requested an additional in the amount of \$14,640.00 for Job Descriptions/Salaries Analysis. This is for the second phase of a study being done by Waggoner, Irwin and Scheele, consultants. Auditor Goffinet explained that the job descriptions are in the final phases. There were additional changes that had to be made once they were sent back to the departments. Once this is final, they will begin on the salary phase. Kelly Harding said she wanted to say something. She said she had a question about the job descriptions and wage study. At a meeting, Commissioner Greg Jarboe asked that the committees and advisory boards or any appointed boards, have a job description put together so we know the scope of what the boards are supposed to be doing. A lot of members don't have any answers, they really don't know what their duties are on the board. She thinks it is important that they know what their duties are and responsible for. Randy said maybe we could hand out a packet of responsibilities when someone is appointed to boards. Auditor Goffinet commented that Administrator Teresa Kanneberg gives the IC code of boards when appointments are needed and the requirements. Each board should do their own packets for new members. Charlie made the motion to approve the request, seconded by Lynn. Motion carried 6-0.

The Perry County Redevelopment Commission requested an additional in the amount of \$20,000.00 for Engineering on a housing project from the TIF Allocation fund. Paul commented Jon Scheer is applying for money for the RDC at the next ARP Committee meeting. Randy stated they have not applied yet. The first round of money is to address businesses that had a lost during COVID. The second round looking at government and infrastructure. Some of the application can be funded by ARP such as the waterline and what it applies. Charlie said he has an issue of using TIF funds on engineering for housing on property that the county doesn't own. He doesn't think we should it for this. David said Perry County Memorial Hospital owned the property and is passing it to the Redevelopment Authority. Randy said the property is owned by the county through the PCMH. Charlie said the county should not be involved in building homes. We have developers in the county to do this. Our responsibility should be in promoting a developer and use incentives that the county can give them to build these homes. He is not against building houses, it is part of our growth, just not the county. There was lots of discussion regarding the sale of property. Paul said the Courthouse TIF will not do the project. Randy said he thought what was being done was to get the engineering completed. That is what the \$20,000.00 is for. He talked about using the READI grant for this and if the project is not ready, it will be taken off the list. Greg Jarboe spoke up about the READI grant versus the ARP money. The projects are somewhat the same. He said he would hate it if we missed out on the \$20,000.00 and not get the project done. David said if we don't do the additional, the project will die. Randy made the motion to fund it to be READI money ready, seconded by Lynn. Motion carried 3-1-2 with Charlie voting against and David and Paul abstaining.

Sheriff Alan Malone requested \$30,780.00 for an additional appropriation for Security Systems Update from the Inmate Housing fund. Alan said they have had the current recorder since the Detention Center was built in 2014. It is eight years old and he has tried to get it fixed through I record. He said it is at the end of its life. He said the last thing he wants to do is to miss an interview that would be recorded. He has looked at several systems but wants to go back with I record. He said they were good to them. Randy asked if any money was put back knowing that this is going to break. He said we are failing as a county of not having money put aside. Alan said no we don't put money aside. Paul said we have budget cuts every year and would love to have money put aside for maintenance and repairs. Charlie said when they built the jail, they did not plan for the future. Randy commented that we shouldn't be using LIT money for this when other funds can be used. He said state statute determines what the LIT fund can be used for versus the county deciding. He said before when the bonds were paid off the excess money was to go to the Highway Department and then in 2021 the law was changed, the excess will go to the Detention Center. Alan asked to go back to the request. The total

for the system is \$30,780.00. He said if the Council wants to go through the Inmate Housing fund instead, he would like to do the payment plan. It would be \$6,950.00 a year for five years. He doesn't want to drain the fund. He was hoping to take it from the Special Legislation fund in the beginning. Paul made the motion to approve \$6,950.00, seconded by Charlie. Motion carried 6-0.

Alan also wanted clarification about the jail tracker system from the last meeting. He said you wanted to approve it then but it had to be advertised again. This is what I wanted to take it out of the Special Legislation fund but we didn't, so, then I wanted to take it from Inmate Housing in the amount of \$11,820.00. Auditor Goffinet explained how there was a mix up with the security system additional amount and the jail tracker additional. When they were brought to our office, it was thought they were the same thing because it just said security system update. She said it ended up not getting readvertised from Inmate Housing fund. She commented that if this isn't taken out of LIT Special Legislation fund, it will need to have a motion of intent to pay from the Inmate Housing fund so he can get this jail tracker going and we put it on for the May meeting. Pam said from all the information she has read; she thinks this funding can come from the Special Legislation fund. It falls under the statute for expenses. Charlie made the motion to take the funding from the Special Legislation fund for the jail tracker, seconded by Paul. Motion carried 4-2 with David and Randy voting against.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE NO. 22-CC-05

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	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	AYE	NAY
<u>PERRY COUNTY AUDITOR</u>				
#1000-22300-000-0002 WARRANTS	\$ 950.00	\$ 950.00	6	0
COUNTY GENERAL FUND TOTAL:	\$ 950.00	\$ 950.00		

LIT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND

<u>PERRY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS</u>				
#1112-31111-000-0068 CONTRACT PAYMENT PCDC	\$ 228,494.20	\$ 228,494.20	5	1
LIT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND TOTAL:	\$ 228,494.20	\$ 228,494.20		

RIVERBOAT FUND

<u>PERRY COUNTY AUDITOR</u>				
#1191-31006-000-0002 DATA PIT STOP DATA	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	6	0
<u>PERRY COUNTY COUNCIL</u>				
#1191-30700-000-0061 JOB DESCRIPTIONS/SALARY ANALYSIS	\$ 14,640.00	\$ 14,640.00	6	0

RIVERBOAT

questions. There seems to be a conflict with their answers as how to handle grants being given out. Auditor Pam Goffinet has reported the paperwork to the State as government loss but it can be revised if need to be by April 30, 2022. Randy commented that Auditor Goffinet has set up a conference call with SBOA and Baker Tilly for Friday morning to clarification with doing the grants. He said hopefully we can make a decision so we know where we are. He said he would like is for the Council to allow the three Council members (David, Randy and Charlie) to make the decision as to which way we need to proceed after we get through the conference call. Paul made the motion to grant the decision making to the three council members, seconded by Lynn. Motion carried 3-0-3 with Charlie, Randy and David abstaining.

DETENTION CENTER BONDS PAYOFF

David said he mentioned at the last meeting about paying off the Detention Center bonds early and having Jason Semler from Baker Tilly to come down and explain things to the Council. Randy said we can't do anything to the bonds until the first of August and said he thought we could just have a phone conversation with Jason. He would like for Jason to get the paperwork ready to pay off and end the .50 income tax that pays for the bond because it is strictly for the jail. He said with this, he would like to see a .05 tax increase without the strings attached to it that follow the jail. It would give about two hundred thousand dollars a year. Randy commented that he would like to earmark that money for maintenance for the county facilities so that we start accumulating some money. It could be for paving the parking lot at the Courthouse. We have some issues we will need to deal with in the future. This will still give the people of Perry County a break on their county tax rate. He said if we don't do this, we could be looking at substantial costs down the road and possible new bonds to help. He also said we need to do this at the same time as paying off the current bond so that people recognize a cost saving instead of taking away the jail tax and coming a year later and adding tax back on. We will probably have to establish an account like the rainy-day fund that has a recurring balance that continues to build. It was said we need to check with Jason if we can put a tax on for maintenance of facilities. There was also talk about taking a portion of this .50 rate for Public Safety- Designated for E-911 of .02 rate and .02 rate for Certified Shares for County General. So, currently the county tax rate is 1.81 with .302 for Public Safety, .508 for Certified Shares, .50 for Economic Development, and .50 for Special Legislation (Detention Center). By reducing the rate at .50 for removing the Special Legislation tax and adding on .05 for Maintenance of Public Facilities, .02 for Public Safety-E-911, and .02 for Certified Shares will bring the new rate for 2023 to 1.40 for Perry County tax rate.

There being no further business to come before the council, Paul made the motion to adjourn the meeting, and Randy seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0, with adjournment at 7:37 p.m.

Minutes approved this 25th day of August, 2022.

President, Perry County Council

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