

PERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
April 27, 2023

The Perry County Council met on the above date at 4:00 p.m. as was duly advertised. Council members in attendance were President David Etienne (DE), Keith Huck (KH), Earla Williams (EW), Lynn Fulkerson (LF), Paul Malone (PM), Stan Goffinet (SG), and Kelli Harding (Kelli). Chief Deputy Eric Dickenson, and Auditor Kristinia Hammack. County Council Attorney was in the audience. There was no News Representative present.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA

KH made the motion to accept as amended, seconded by PM. Motion carried 7-0.

MINUTES

a) 03.23.2023

Kelli made the motion to accept seconded by SG. KH abstained. Motion carried 6-0-1.

b) 04.18.2023

PM made the motion to accept, seconded by KH. Kelli and LF abstained. Motion carried 5-0-2.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- a) An Island LLC presented their time and attendance software and smart City Application.
- b) Attorney Chris Goffinet spoke representing Dr. Labhart and Dr. Sisley who are asking for a 10-year Tax Abatement for Invision Eyecare Properties LLC. Currently Dr. Sisley and Dr. Labhart have taken over for retired optometrist Dr. LeClere and Dr. Burris, whose business has been a staple in the community. Dr. Sisley and Dr. Labhart have purchased a \$1.6 million parcel of land located on Hwy 37, where the old Ponderosa was located. The reason for this purchase is their current location does not allow for expansion. They are looking to add advanced eye care services that would allow for services to be provided here in Perry County that currently people must get elsewhere. Their plans are to add another optometrist and 4 more employees. Attorney, Chris Goffinet informed the law required Commissioners approval due to the property being in a TIF District (#1), which the Commissioners approved contingent on County Council approval. Kelli stated that if abatement is approved, it is subject to an annual approval. David asked why they had not come prior to starting renovations. Chris Goffinet replied that due to water damage from a sprinkler malfunction and it not being discovered until there was significant damage because it was vacant property. Also, the roof was in bad shape. Dr. Sisley added they knew the current property taxes, but after talking with the Assessor and found out what they would be with the remodel it was way over what they expected. Kelli stated she feels that the county needs to take some ownership with them not being informed of abatement options. She feels we need to better inform our Planning and Zoning Office and the Chamber of Commerce. PM stated he feels this business expansion that Dr. Labhart and Dr. Sisley are investing in is good for the county, KH agreed. Dr. Sisley replied he hopes this will spark more growth out 37. David suggested a 5-year abatement (100-80-60-40-20).

Kelli made the motion to grant a 5 year abatement, seconded by SG. Motion carried 6-1. PM stated he voted no because he feels a 10-year abatement should have been granted. Chris Goffinet thanked them and stated he would handle the publication and asked when the meeting would be held to sign the resolution? Council set a special meeting for May 15, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. CST.

KRISTINIA HAMMACK, AUDITOR

- a) Additional Appropriations
 - Cumulative Bridge for Bridge Inspections.
 - #1135.31209.000.0531--\$119,440.00

- LIT for county road improvement.
 - #1112.44501.000.0534--\$700,000.00
- MVH for additional funding for a part time mechanic.
 - #1176.11308.000.0533--\$3,754.00

KH made the motion to accept, seconded by PM. Motion carried 7-0.

- Coroner for autopsy fees. #1000.31700.000-0007--\$8000.00

Coroner Warren Taylor stated the reason for this additional appropriation is due to high number of autopsies. We are only 4 months into 2023 and have already had 6 autopsies. In 2022 we had 10 total for the year. KH state that \$8,000 will cover 4 autopsies, correct? Warren stated that is correct. Kelli asked the other council members where will this additional appropriation come from? DE answered General Fund.

PM made the motion to approve, seconded by KH. Motion carried 7-0.

b) Transfers

- HWY DEPT. TRANSFERS FOR COMMUNITY CROSSING GRANT MATCHING

FROM: ACCOUNT #4913.23300.00000.0534	\$100,000.00
S & W-BITUMINOUS	

TO: ACCOUNT #9141.00585.00000.0534	\$100,000.00
CC-LOCAL RD/BR MATCHING GRANT	

FROM: ACCOUNT #1112.44501.00000.0534	\$307,000.00
LIT-COUNTY ROADS IMPROVEMENT	

TO: ACCOUNT #9141.00585.00000.0534	\$307,000.00
CC-LOCAL RD/BR MATCHING GRANT	

FROM: ACCOUNT #1173.23300.00000.0534	\$200,000.00
MVHR-BITUMINOUS	

TO: ACCOUNT #9141.00585.00000.0534	\$200,000.00
CC-LOCAL RD/BR MATCHING GRANT	

PM made the motion to approve, seconded by KH. Motion carried 7-0.

- HEALTH DEPT.

Auditor Kristinia Hammack stated she had these on the agenda for County Council approval, but they are in house transfers that do not require council approval.

FROM: FUND #1168 LOCAL HEALTH MAINTENANCE	\$2,000.00
44100.00000.0610 (computers)	

TO: FUND #1168 LOCAL HEALTH MAINTENANCE	\$2,000.00
32200.00000.0610 (travel)	

FROM: FUND #1168 LOCAL HEALTH MAINTENANCE	\$200.00
22402.00000.0610 (vaccines)	

TO: FUND #1168 LOCAL HEALTH MAINTENANCE	\$200.00
39100.00000.0610 (subscriptions/dues)	

ERIC DICKENSON, SHERIFF CHIEF DEPUTY

- a) Eric Dickenson presented information on the COPS Hiring Program grant asking for County Council to apply for this grant. The deadline to apply is Thursday, May 11, 2023. He provided supporting documentation that is relative to this grant. In terms of staffing models, one methodology commonly used is a ratio of law enforcement officers per 1,000 inhabitants. He provided information which was authored by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics provides a comparison of law enforcement officers per 1,000 jobs. He stated they have conducted exit interviews to see why they are losing deputies and the continued answer is work load. Eric passionately expressed his concern of only having one deputy on call at a time, and the risk of sending deputies to calls solo. Currently the Sheriff Department has 11 total deputies (7 road deputies and 4 administration). Eric informed that there is no guarantee that we will be awarded the grant as it is highly competitive. He also informed that we currently have a COPS Hiring Grant that they are paying 54% and the county is paying 46%. EW stated public safety is important. She feels we need to form a committee to look into staffing for public safety, and LF agreed. Kelli stated she would like them to apply, but what happens if we cannot come up with the funding? KH stated to look at the positive of the Forest Canton Subdivision, and the tax dollars it will bring in. David asked if the grant was only offered once a year? Eric responded yes it has typically been offered each year.

PM made the motion to approve, seconded by KH. Motion carried 5-2. Kelli stated she voted against due to not knowing the numbers. Stan stated that he is in agreeance with Kelli and that is why he voted no as well.

- b) Traci came to the Commissioners asking for approval to apply for the 2024 Community Corrections Grant. This is a grant we have applied for annually and have received.

Kelli made the motion to approve, seconded by LF. Motion carried 7-0.

COUNCIL

- a) DE opened discussion in regards to invoices from Perry County Memorial Hospital received by the Auditor in April of 2023 from 2022, and asked Auditor, Kristinia Hammack to provide more information. Kristinia informed everyone that she received via email a P/L Report in the format of a spreadsheet in the months of February and March. She thought that PCMH just provided their monthly financial reports to the county due to us providing funds like other organizations we provide funding to. Kristinia informed everyone that she received a phone call last week from the Financial Director at Perry County Memorial Hospital stating they had not received any payment for the monthly loss since May of 2022. It was during this conversation she was informed that the P/L reports she was getting were invoices and that the county covers PCMH monthly losses. On this phone call Kristinia advised the PCMH Financial Director that she would pay the 2023 “invoices”, but would have to seek County Council approval to pay out the remaining \$65,958.81 appropriation from 2022 due to that budget being closed out. DE suggested that due to the transition of the Administrator leaving in July and the Auditors Office then overseeing the duties of the Administrator that we should pay the \$65,958.81 out of the 2023 appropriated amount of \$275,000.

DE made a motion to approve, KH seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

- b) DE informed all the County Council members of the AIC District Meeting in Huntingburg, Indiana on May 17, 2023. If you plan to attend let Auditor Kristinia Hammack know.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m. CST.

KH made a motion to adjourn, seconded by SG. Motion carried 7-0.

Kristinia Hammack announced that the next meeting of the County Council will be held on Thursday, May 25, 2023, at 5pm CST.

Minutes approved this 25th day of May 2023

President, Perry County Council

Minutes prepared by:
Kristinia L. Hammack, Perry County Auditor