

**PERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
October 3, 2023**

The Perry County Council met on the above date at 3:00 p.m. as was duly advertised. Council members in attendance were President David Etienne (DE), Keith Huck (KH), Paul Malone (PM), Stan Goffinet (SG), Kelli Harding (Kelli) and Gale Garner (GG). Sheriff Alan Malone, and Auditor Kristinia Hammack were also present. There was no *Attorney* or *News Representative* present.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

KRISTINIA HAMMACK, AUDITOR

a) Additional Appropriations

- GENERAL FUND-COMMISSIONERS; CARE OF PATIENTS INST.
#10000.39106.00000.0068--\$19,949.98
This is an August bill that was due in September. Judge Lucy Goffinet spoke to a deputy auditor regarding past due invoices that she received via email. Judge Goffinet wanted to make everyone aware that she hopes the institution does not get fed up with the county paying their bills late due to the process of getting additional appropriations approved by the Council and then the claim has to be approved at the Commissioner's meeting. The county continues to do an additional appropriation each month.

Kelli made a motion to approve, seconded by KH. Motion carried 6-0.

- GENERAL FUND-COMMISSIONERS; PUBLICATIONS
#1000.39105.00000.0068--\$1,000.00
As of 8/28/23, the county had already expended \$2,670.09 of the budget. This is the August invoice from the Perry County News. This appropriation should take care of this account until the end of the year.

KH made a motion to approve, seconded by SG. Motion carried 6-0.

- GENERAL FUND-COOP EXTENSION SERVICES; TELEPHONE
#1000.32300.00000.0011--\$220.57
GENERAL FUND-CORONER; TELEPHONE
#1000.32300.00000.0007--\$66.76
GENERAL FUND-SHERIFF; TELEPHONE
#1000.32300.00000.0005--\$61.78
GENERAL FUND-TREASURER; TELEPHONE
#1000.32300.00000.0003--\$83.68
GENERAL FUND-AUDITOR; TELEPHONE
#1000.32300.00000.0002--\$130.91
GENERAL FUND-CLERK; TELEPHONE
#1000.32300.00000.0001--\$161.94
Auditor Hammack stated she has been in the process of cleaning up accounts. When the county switched to PSC, the county was paying both AT&T and PSC for a couple of months during the transition. This appropriation is to zero out the phone line item within their budget for efficiency purposes. Hammack spoke to Commissioner Randy Cole and he agreed to switch and pay all telephone bills out of one location due to the amount of time it takes to break down the phone and internet amounts between departments.

SG made a motion to approve the Coop Extension Services for \$220.57, Coroner for \$66.76, Sheriff for \$61.78, Treasurer for \$83.68, Auditor for \$130.91, and Clerk for \$161.94, seconded by GG. Motion carried 6-0.

- GENERAL FUND-COURTHOUSE; VAX-CARE
#1000.36103.00000.0161--\$2,642.83
This was removed due to being a Health grant.
- GENERAL FUND-SHERIFF; FUEL & OIL
#1000.23101.00000.0005--\$15,000.00
Sheriff Malone stated this is for fuel and oil for the remainder of the year. He has spent \$37,420 and was budgeted for \$40,000, asking for the \$15,000 to get through the end of the year. DE asked Sheriff Malone if he budgeted \$40,000 for 2024, and Malone verified he had.

Kelli stated \$64,636 was spend last year, and Sheriff Malone provided the amount his office is averaging each month. She mentioned that if two more deputies are added plus this account will be close to \$20,000 over budget for 2023, she feels that this should be considered when budget talks resume.

GG made a motion to approve, seconded by KH. Motion carried 6-0.

- INMATE HOUSING-JAIL; CONTRACTS
#4929.31111.00000.0380--\$5,000.00
This additional is to cover medical expense and supplies for the remainder of the year. Kelli asked if the account was increased in the 2024 budget, with Sheriff Malone replying yes. Kelli mentioned that supporting information in advance is helpful to review before meetings.

KH made a motion to approve, seconded by GG. Motion carried 6-0.

- GENERAL FUND-COMMISSIONERS; TELEPHONE
#1000.36000.00000.0069--\$2,642.83
This is the additional needed to get this account through the end of the year. Telephone costs \$1550/month and internet is \$120/month.

SG made a motion to approve, seconded by GG. Motion carried 6-0.

- GENERAL FUND-ANIMAL SHELTER; CONTRACT
#1000.31111.00000.0069--\$13,000.00
Auditor Hammack stated only \$22,000 was budgeted for 2023 and the county's portion of the contract is \$35,000. This is the contract with Rivers Edge. Hammack stated Tell City's portion in the amount of \$35,000 has been received, and she has reached out to Cannelton for their portion of \$5,000.

PM made a motion to approve, seconded by Kelli. Motion carried 6-0.

- GENERAL FUND-COMMISSIONERS; INDIRECT COST
#1000.39001.00000.0068--\$1,500.00
The county pays Dossett Consulting for the indirect cost for IV-D. The county received over \$35,000 this year for 2021. The amount budgeted for this was \$1,500 and the bill was for \$3,000. The Auditor is currently working with Dossett for the 2022 figures that the county will receive money for in 2024.
Kelli stated she would like a copy of this contract.

PM made a motion to approve, seconded by SG. Motion carried 6-0.

- MISDEMEANANT FUND-JAIL; MEALS
#1175.39201.00000.0380--\$12,392.40
Sheriff Malone stated that when someone is sentenced to the Perry County Jail under a misdemeanor, the county receives money for each day they are there. He hopes this amount will get them through the year.

Kelli made a motion to approve, seconded by GG. Motion carried 6-0.

- LIT FUND-DETENTION CENTER; REPAIRS BUILDING & FIXTURES
#1114.36100.00000.0001--\$19,000.00
The jail had a heat exchanger that needs fixed before it causes other issues. A new one is needed. Walsh Plumbing gave a quote of \$19,000. Kelli asked Sheriff Malone if he received multiple quotes, and Malone stated he does not like doing that. Walsh Plumbing deals with everything in his jail and is there in 20 minutes when he calls them. Kelli stated that the state requires anything over \$50,000 to get multiple quotes. The Council would like that amount to be much less.
Sheriff Malone stated Walsh Plumbing works on his equipment all the time, has fixed the heat exchanger in the past, he knows what they do, they are quick and efficient. Sheriff Malone trusts Walsh Plumbing who has done very good work for him. He further stated he has no issues with any other plumbers.
Kelli asked Sheriff Malone if he contacted the manufacturer to see what their recommendations were? He replied no, he called Commissioner Randy Cole on this issue as he knew it would be a large purchase.
Greg Hendershot stated that with the heat exchanger, they are having a really difficult time keeping the hot regulated to a certain degree when it comes out of the showerhead. This could be a liability.

Kelli would like to see multiple quotes if we have time to get them.
Sheriff Malone stated he appreciated that, but he did not have time to do that.
Kelli would like to have quotes sent with the additional appropriations that are emailed to the Council so they can be reviewed before meetings.

GG made a motion to pay the \$19,000 and in the near future to set an amount that needs multiple bids unless an emergency repair, seconded by KH. Motion carried 5-1.

b) APPROPRIATION TRANSFER

- COUNTY SURVEYOR PERPETUATION FUND
From: 1202.32201.00000.0006 Training/Travel \$ 635.00
To: 1202.24105.00000.0006 Supplies \$ 635.00

SG made a motion to approve, seconded by GG. Motion carried 6-0.

- JAIL OPERATIONS FUND
From: 4927.32101.00000.0380 Utilities \$ 282.38
To: 4927.23100.00000.0380 Janitorial/
Maintenance Supplies \$ 5.78
To: 4927.23100.00000.0380 Postage \$ 276.60

KH made a motion to approve, seconded by SG. Motion carried 6-0.

- LIT FUND-JAIL
From: 1114.44701.00000.0381 Furniture & Fixtures \$ 3,000.00
To: 1114.36100.00000.0381 Repairs Bldg &
Fixtures \$ 3,000.00
From: 1114.44701.00000.0381 Furniture & Fixtures \$ 82.64
To: 1114.36100.00000.0005 Repairs Bldg &
Fixtures \$ 82.64

KH made a motion to approve, seconded by GG. Motion carried 6-0.

- COUNTY GENERAL FUND-JAIL
From: 1000.24600.00000.0380 Uniform Allowance \$ 490.87
To: 1000.36200.00000.0380 Equipment Repair \$ 490.87

SG made a motion to approve, seconded by GG. Motion carried 6-0.

- INMATE HOUSING FUND-JAIL
From: 4929.12100.00000.0005 Social Security \$ 52.32
To: 4929.12100.00000.0005 Jailer-Supplemental \$ 52.32

KH made a motion to approve, seconded by PM. Motion carried 6-0.

- MVH
From: 1176 MVH \$100,000.00
To: 1173 MVHR \$100,000.00

This is a cash transfer to pay bills.

KH made a motion to approve, seconded by PM. Motion carried 6-0.

COUNCIL/BUDGET WORKSHOP

- a) SG wanted to ensure the audience will not speak unless a question is asked of them.
DE stated with salaries flatlined from 2023, there is \$31,789.27 remaining, which is no change to Pauper (\$150,000) and no change to Care of Patients Inst (\$100,000) plus not adding the \$7000 for the ambulance lease that was taken out of LIT Public Safety that was moved to General. The budget would be under the Max Levy \$31,789.27. DE stated there would still be the change in the hospital, and Auditor Hammack stated it was in there.
- b) EMS Service
Kelli made contact with the EMS Director in regards to their priority list for equipment. Four cardiac monitors costing \$120,000 is the most critical need due to being used daily and near end of life. They need three laryngoscopes costing \$16,000, as well as two Lucas devices for \$39,000. She has spoken to Hoosier Fire in regards to an ambulance, and it would cost \$245,000 if ordered before the end of the year. Leasing options are between \$50,000 and \$70,000 depending on the lease term. Auditor Hammack stated \$50,000 is to be paid out this year and \$10,000 in 2024. Another option is to encumber the \$50,000 to 2024 and payout \$60,000 in 2024. There is budgeted \$35,000 for equipment and the request is for \$185,000, but can deduct \$10,500.
Hammack suggested to look for funds outside of General and LIT Public Safety to get them set up, and then get a replacement plan in place.

Kelli stated they are short another \$25,000 due to amount given to boost wages for EMS personnel. KH spoke to Jared Stimpson, Chief Operating Officer at Perry County Memorial Hospital, who said salaries should decline due to overtime rates should move to regular hours.

The ambulance price does not include the cot, which costs between \$58,000 and \$62,000.

c) EMA

Steve Hauser anticipated equipment for 911 Dispatch to be \$250,000, but it is more like \$597,419 due to replacing more equipment than anticipated. With the five-year option, there is a downpayment of \$59,741. Hammack stated radios will be paid off the end of the year, so that money that is budgeted for 2024 will not be expended. A five-year payment would be \$136,000 with a downpayment of \$59,741.

d) Pauper Attorney Fees

Kelli feels it is reckless to decrease this account from \$300,000 to \$150,000 for 2024. She wants this to be at least \$250,000.

Judge Lucy Goffinet asked the Council that the amount received as a reimbursement from the state for pauper fees be put back into the Pauper account.

e) Juvenile Detention

This account was cut from \$312,00 to \$212,000 (\$100,000). Auditor Hammack stated these bills are decreasing.

Kelli asked if any assistance was found from the state for reimbursement and Judge Goffinet stated no. Judge Goffinet feels \$212,000 is high.

Auditor Hammack stated that with no raises in General, they only have \$31,789.27 to work with and now talking about \$250,000, \$215,000 and \$100,000. That does not mean there is not revenue to support it, but the budget cannot be raised more than the \$31,789.27.

f) Airport

Hammack stated they have submitted their budget in Gateway

g) CVB

The county will have to acquire a copy as they do not submit to Gateway. SG stated they will not have until sometime in October and will submit to the county.

h) Solid Waste

Hammack stated they have submitted their budget in Gateway.

DE stated there is still \$31,789 with taking raises back to the 2023 amounts.

PM stated a budget was set on Thursday, September 28, it was voted on by all seven members of the Council who were present. He wanted to go on record that the Council has a 2024 budget, go with it, it is not perfect but the process is not perfect. He went on record to say to keep the budget they have. KH agreed with PM. Kelli believes there is more work to be done.

DE is concerned regarding the 5% and 10% raise. Some offices are receiving a larger raise than what they asked for.

KH spoke in regards to comments that have been made regarding insurance premiums have not changed for some time. He stated the deductibles have changed and there has been an increase in the employee's portion of the insurance premium from 2008-2023. Auditor Hammack stated the employee's insurance premium has not raised since 2015.

Kelli felt some items still need to be addressed. She wanted to see what additional cuts could be made to properly fund Pauper and other items. She stated the county is pulling from this and that which is reckless and not fiscally responsible; it is not fair to the taxpayers because at the end of the day when the pot runs dry, taxes will have to be raised. She further stated she wants to be responsible. She is not against the employees, raises, stipends, or getting people where they need to be, she just wants to properly fund the budget.

PM again stated the County has a budget and to go with it. Keep what they have and move forward. Kelli asked PM how he plans to fund all the budget cuts that will need

money next year? She also stated that no money was allocated for the rainy-day fund which has \$30,000 in savings.

The Council had discussion on budget and how it has been handled in the past regarding raises in budget sessions.

Sheriff Malone made a comment that he is only as good as his employees and they are very important to him. There are people working for the county who do not make very much for what they are doing. Highway Superintendent Steve Howell agreed with what Malone said.

Kelli stated she received a phone call from someone whose husband works for a local factory. He is getting a 1% increase in his salary, which equates to 25 cents/hour. If the county goes with a 10% raise on a \$35,000 salary at 1820 hours, that is \$1.92/hour more.

Clerk Rachel Roark made a comment regarding a factory worker versus a county employee.

Sheriff Malone made a comment regarding the wage of a factory worker versus the wage of a county employee.

Coroner Warren Taylor made a comment regarding the wage his deputies make per hour with the 10% raise.

KH stated he supports the budget they have already adopted.

Kelli wanted to go on record stating that when the taxes have to increase because of the budget is not properly being funded, she tried.

The meeting adjourned at 5:19 pm. CST.

KH made a motion to accept, seconded by PM. Motion carried 6-0.

Minutes approved this 19th day of October, 2023.

President, Perry County Council

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