

PERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
January 31, 2025

The Perry County Council met on the above date at 12:00 p.m. as was duly advertised. Council members in attendance were Kelli Harding (Kelli), David Etienne (DE), Stan Goffinet (SG), Paul Brockman (PB), and Cory Filley (CF). Auditor Kristinia Hammack was also present. There was no *Sheriff, Attorney or News Representative* present.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA

CF made the motion to accept as modified, seconded by DE. Motion carried 5-0.

MINUTES

a) 12.19.2024

DE made a motion to approve, seconded by SG. Motion carried 5-0.

b) 12.30.2024

SG made a motion to approve, seconded by DE. Motion carried 5-0.

COUNTY COUNCIL

a) Prosecutor – Transfer

FROM: 2502.39104.00000.0009 Law Enforcement Donations \$10,000.00

TO: 2502.21100.00000.0009 Office Supplies \$10,000.00

DE asked if this is just for furniture for the new office, and Prosecutor Samantha Hurst stated yes.

SG made a motion to accept, seconded by PB. Motion carried 5-0.

b) EMS-Ambulance Service 2025 Distribution Policy

Kelli stated this stems from the last meeting, where there was some confusion, and the Council needed to direct Auditor Hammack as how they want this to be paid out.

Auditor Hammack stated that there is a budgeted amount for EMS for \$285,000, which is \$60,000 out of one fund, and \$225,000 out of another. If the County pays off the P&Ls (Profit and Loss Statements) that the hospital sends to the County, and if it is less than the \$23,750 (\$285,000/12 months), Hammack needs to know what the intent of the Council is. She questioned that the County does not pay any more than \$23,750 a month, which would require the County to keep track of the rollover outside of the County software. Hammack further stated that the EMS asked for \$485,000. An email has been received from EMS asking how the County is supposed to make up the difference of \$200,000?

Hammack stated in the County financial software, there is the appropriation of \$285,000, which is what the County looks at to not pay any more than \$285,000. If the County is going to keep track of a rollover, where they say there are not going to pay more than \$23,750 per month, but if less is requested, that would be the amount EMS would receive. However, if they request less, that is the amount they would receive. If this occurred, then the next month they could get the \$23,750 plus the rollover from the previous month. This would require the Auditor's office to keep track of that rollover amount outside of the financial software. Hammack further stated that the P&L the County has received is from December 2024, off the old system of payment in Budget 2025, the County would be paying December 2024 P&L through November 2025. DE and Kelli stated it will always be that way.

Hammack asked for clarity of payment, as she thought it would be paid the same as Dispatch before, which was the budgeted amount divided by twelve, and that was the payment made each month. Kelli does not want to pay in this manner, she prefers to pay up to that amount with receipts. If there is a month where the P&L is less than the \$23,750, the County does not want to just pay the \$23,750. SG asked if a separate Excel spreadsheet would have to be kept, and Hammack confirmed this. Kelli stated she feels the County needs to have a meeting with the Hospital Board to discuss EMS in general, and feels there are a lot of details that need hashed out. Kelli further stated that the Commissioners will be asked to join

this meeting and potentially redo the contract. Kelli stated a plan of action needs to be obtained.

DE made a motion to pay up to 1/12 of the budgeted amount with the receipts from the P&L showing the loss, with a separate spreadsheet being kept if the amount is under the budget amount, and it would rollover to the next month, with it being up to 1/12 plus whatever excess the County has available if the loss is greater than the 1/12. SG asked what if the amount is over the budget of the 1/12 amount, and Auditor Hammack responded they only get the 1/12 (\$23,750) plus any rollover. Motion was seconded by SG. Motion carried 4-0-1 with CF abstaining.

c) Dispatch 2025 Distribution Policy

Auditor Hammack stated that in 2024, the County took the budgeted amount, being approximately \$686,000 total, and divided by twelve. In 2025, there will not be a payment until February for January due to switching to a new policy. Hammack stated that in 2024, the County paid twelve payments, and in 2025 is where it is going to be off due to switching to a new system. Hammack asked the Council if she is to do the same payment method as in 2024, meaning taking the budgeted amount and dividing it by twelve and pay January and February. Hammack stated the County has not paid Dispatch anything in 2025. Kelli stated it would be very similar to the EMS. It would be in the same manner, but paying Dispatch January through December. Hammack stated the County will not have December until January 2025, therefore asked if she is to continue doing what has been done, even though Dispatch is invoicing the County? Hammack further stated that if the County waits and pays in February for January, then it will only be eleven payments in 2025. Hammack asked should she take the budgeted amount and divide by twelve, and pay January and February? Hammack stated that in 2025, Dispatch is wanting to change to invoice the County actual costs, therefore the County will not get an invoice from Dispatch until February for January.

Perry County Commissioner Randy Cole stated that last year, the County had a fixed amount for Dispatch for an agreed upon amount. The County paid 1/12 regardless of what Dispatch costs were, and that amount should have been carried into 2025 so that it can be paid for December. That should address the first bill. The second bill, the County did not encumber, and Auditor Hammack stated no because the City paid it out the first of every month, so the County made twelve payments in 2024. Cole asked if the County actually paid for December 2023 in 2024, and Hammack responded the City paid the first of the month, so they paid all of 2023 in 2023. Cole asked that payments were made in advance, and Hammack confirmed this. Cole asked that the County paid January 1 for January service in advance, and all of 2024 is currently correct, and DE and Hammack confirmed this.

Cole stated with changing the system to how the Hospital does the Ambulance, they will not know what their accrued expenses are until the month is over. The County will not receive an invoice until the end of January, and Hammack stated February. Cole stated he believes the approach they are proposing is up to 1/12, just like the EMS. Hammack responded the County will only pay through November, and the County will have to encumber 2025 over to 2026 for December 2025. The situation will be the same as with EMS, the County will keep track and pay no more than 1/12. Kelli stated this is not a motion, it is what was talked about at the last meeting, but was not this clear.

SG made a motion to pay the same way as was approved above for EMS, seconded by PB. Motion carried 5-0.

d) The next meeting is Thursday, February 27, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m. CST.

DE made a motion to adjourn, seconded by SG. Motion carried 5-0.

Minutes approved this 27th day of February, 2025.

President, Perry County Council

Minutes reviewed by:

Kristinia L. Hammack, Perry County Auditor

Minutes prepared by:

Leisa M. Ecker, Deputy Auditor