

**PERRY COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**SPECIAL MEETING-PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES**  
**September 11, 2025**

The Perry County Council met on the above date at 5:00 p.m. as was duly advertised. Council members in attendance were President Kelli Harding (Kelli), David Etienne (DE), Stan Goffinet (SG), Brad Harth (BH), Cory Filley (CF), and Paul Brockman (PB). Auditor Kristinia Hammack was also present.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Kelli stated that later in this meeting will be budget requests with the outside agencies.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Kelli stated that the order of some items on the agenda was switched. First will be the regular meeting, and then the Public Hearing will be opened for private entities to give their budget requests, and then there will be the First Reading of the Budget.

BH made a motion to approve the amended agenda, seconded by DE. Motion carried 6-0.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REQUEST**

- Solid Waste Revenue \$95,800

Kelli stated that this is not really an additional request, it is just money that was not budgeted due to being a revenue from trash ticket sales and the recycling.

They need to be able to spend this money for the rest of the year for the remainder of their expenses.

CF make a motion to approve, seconded by DE. Motion carried 6-0.

- Capital Projects Fund—Commissioners; Bituminous \$98,600.00

Auditor Hammack stated this is for the paving of the Courthouse parking lot.

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

- General Fund—Commissioners; Publication \$ 1,000.00

Hammack stated that the County generally has a budget of \$3,000 annually for publication. The Animal Welfare Board updated the Ordinance which had to be published twice, and it was very expensive. It was \$1,300 per publication. The Animal Welfare Board paid one advertisement of Ordinance, so the County has to pay for the other one. This wiped this appropriation out, and \$562 is needed to pay the rest of that invoice. Hammack stated she asked for the \$1,000 so to have a little under \$500 to get the County through the rest of the year.

DE made a motion to approve, seconded by CF. Motion carried 6-0.

- General Fund—Election Board; Insurance \$ 2,500.00

Hammack stated this is to pay an invoice that the County has had since April for the legalities that the County had with the election. Kelli stated this is the insurance deductible for the attorney to represent Perry County in the lawsuit with Sherri Flynn vs Perry County.

BH made a motion to approve, seconded by PB. Motion carried 6-0.

The Special Meeting was adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

CF made a motion to adjourn, seconded by DE. Motion carried 6-0

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETING**

Kelli stated that on September 3<sup>rd</sup> and September 10<sup>th</sup>, the Perry Conty Council met with Department Heads of the County to go over their 2026 Budget requests. At this meeting, the Council heard from outside agencies on their requests.

DE made a motion to open the Public Meeting, seconded by SG. Motion carried 6-0.

The following private entities spoke on their 2026 budget:

**a) OUTSIDE AGENCIES**

- Becky Gunthrie, Ride Solutions requesting \$6,000

- Robert Foust, Animal Welfare requesting \$5,000 Operating Expenses and \$20,000 for an Animal Control Officer
- Jesse Watkins, Perry County Council of Aging requesting \$50,000
- Nathan Held, Indiana Region 15 requesting \$12,460.05
- Chris Tempel, Perry County Fairgrounds requesting \$15,000
- Pam Hilgenhold, Perry County 4-H requesting \$10,000
- Melissa Sharp, SIRS requesting \$45,000
- Molly Hagman, Rivers Edge Animal Shelter requesting \$60,000 and \$10,000 from the Restricted Animal Shelter fund.

Kelli stated that concluded all who signed up to speak.

**CVB BUDGET**

The CVB had their budget meeting that same morning, and the budget was approved. The estimated revenue is \$173,000 for rentals, and \$12,000 in interest. Digital marketing will be a focal point for 2026.

Approval of this budget will be at the October Adoption meeting.

**FIRST READING OF 2026 ADVERTISED LEVY**

a) Kelli read aloud the 2026 levy funds:	
• County General	\$4,136,720
• Cumulative Bridge	\$ 474,977
• Health	\$ 330,132
• 2015 Property Reassessment	\$ 137,132
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,078,961</b>
Projected Over Levy	\$ 99,587

Hammack stated that within those Levy funds, the \$99,587 is how much the County has to decrease. The budget is only allowed to be raised 4% in the levies.

**FIRST READING OF 2026 REQUESTED BUDGET**

<u>FUND DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>2026 REQUESTED BUDGET</u>
General	\$8,304,395
Health	\$ 328,488
Cumulative Bridge	\$ 486,900
Reassessment	\$ 103,330
Cumulative Capital Development	\$ 242,817
Clerks Records Perpetuation	\$ 15,091
Recorders Record Perpetuation	\$ 39,615
Sales Disclosure	\$ 4,410
Emergency Planning-Right to Know	\$ 3,767
Enhanced Access	\$ 15,921
Identification Security	\$ 6,400
Local Road & Street	\$ 420,000
LIT Public Safety	\$ 683,439
MVH Restricted	\$1,301,324
MVH Unrestricted	\$2,040,248
Platbook	\$ 15,524
Riverboat	\$ 39,400
Sex & Violent Offender	\$ 1,400
Supplemental Public Defender	\$ 5,500
Surveyor/Corner Perpetuation	\$ 34,469
Co Elected Official Training	\$ 6,000
Statewide 911	\$ 287,000
LIT PSAP	\$ 363,509
Supplemental Adult Probation (SAPS)	\$ 156,934
Jury Fee	\$ 3,000
Pre-Trial Diversion	\$ 33,650
Surplus Surtax & Wheel	\$ 225,000

FUND DESCRIPTION

2026 REQUESTED BUDGET

<b>LIT/EDIT</b>	
Economic Development	\$ 180,000.00
Jail	\$ 271,166.00
Highway	\$ 640,000.00
Special Projects	\$ 324,063.00
Major Maintenance Projects	\$ 125,000.00
General (Courthouse Security)	\$ 75,833.00

Kelli stated that these last amounts are set by the Commissioners in the Economic Development Plan.

Kelli stated that the budget needs to be cut by \$2.6 million. The requests are high and the County funds are limited.

The Budget workshop will Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup> beginning each day at 8:00 a.m. at the Armory Annex.

The regular County Council meeting will be September 25, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. at the Courthouse Meeting Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:09 p.m. CST.  
BH made a motion to adjourn, seconded by DE. Motion carried 5-1.

Minutes approved this 25<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President, Perry County Council

*Minutes reviewed by:*  
*Kristinia L. Hammack, Perry County Auditor*  
*Minutes prepared by:*  
*Leisa M. Ecker, Deputy Auditor*