

**PERRY COUNTY COUNCIL AND PERRY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
AND TELL CITY COMMON COUNCIL
JOINT MEETING MINUTES
September 4, 2025**

The Perry County Council met at 5:00 p.m. as was duly advertised. County Council President Kelli Harding (Kelli), David Etienne (DE), Stan Goffinet (SG), Brad Harth (BH), Cory Filley (CF), and Gale Garner (GG) were in attendance. Also in attendance were Mayor Chris Cail, Tell City Common Council Members Gerald Yackle (GY), Brian Steen (BS), and Mike Finley (MF). Also in attendance were Commissioner President Randy Cole (RC) and Rebecca Thorn (RT). Auditor Kristinia Hammack and Clerk-Treasurer Connie Berger were also present.

The meeting opened with all present reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Kelli welcomed everyone to the joint meeting of the Tell City Common Council, the Perry County Council, and the Perry County Commissioners. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss Dispatch funding/services.

Mayor Chris Cail began the meeting with discussing what has been paid to this point and what the differences are.

Clerk-Treasurer Connie Berger stated that currently the City is sending invoices to the County on a monthly basis for what the dispatch monthly expenses are. The City is receiving a check from the County for a lesser amount than what has been billed. Currently, the City has paid out over \$157,256.47 more than it has been reimbursed. This amount does not include August, 2025.

Kelli stated that at the beginning of how this came about, being last year, Tell City stated they were not going to pay anything for dispatch services. In 2020/2021, the County was paying approximately \$150,000, and Tell City Chief Derek Lawalin confirmed this, with Tell City absorbing the remainder of the cost. Since that time, in just a few short years, the County is budgeting \$634,000, which is good effort to try to increase the dispatch funding. The County continues to look for ways to get to the point where the County is paying the full amount.

Kelli stated that in the last year of that agreement of 2020/2021, it states that effective 2025, the estimate is approximately \$951,400, and shows different entities that would pay towards this. At that time, Perry County was supposed to end up this year, 2025, paying somewhere around \$657,000. Currently the County has budgeted \$634,000, and the County has a supplement that it received in May that may be able to do something with for PSAP. This would put the County very close to exactly what the plan called for. At the time of the plan, everybody agreed on it. This is the last year of the agreement, with 2026 being another issue. Kelli reiterated that the County was following the plan that was agreed upon from years ago. Kelli stated that the City came in last year a little over \$300,000 more, with Berger confirmed this stating this amount was due to raises, which affects all the taxes. Kelli stated that that amount was not far off from the \$351,000 that was projected years ago.

Kelli stated that on the projection, Tell City was supposed to contribute \$212,000 in 2025 based on the plan. The County is being faced with Tell City stating they are not paying anything. DE confirmed everything that Kelli stated.

Kelli stated that the County does have an agreement that was signed years ago, by prior Commissioners and Mayor Cail, with Cail stating he believed the Tell City Council approved it, but did not sign it. Kelli added it had many components in it, but did not have the funding piece. It discussed how Dispatch was going to work. There was a PSAP Advisory Board that was set up who was supposed to meet quarterly; however, Kelli does not know if that is happening. Kelli stated she believed the PSAP Advisory Board was supposed to meet sometime in July, 2025, to discuss and propose a budget to Tell City, and then Tell City was supposed to reach out to the County by August 1st of every year to schedule a joint meeting to discuss this funding. She knows that this did not happen last year, and it did not happen this year. Cail added this has not happened since the beginning of the agreement. Berger stated that this does not happen due to the City does not get a lot of their information until August for budgeting purposes. Auditor Hammack asked how the County is to prepare their budget if the information is not received? Cail responded those dates were probably not the wisest to set. Kelli stated that her issue is that the Dispatch contract is not being followed.

Kelli asked Cail if he agreed with the numbers she gave, and he confirmed that he does show the \$212,000.

Cail referenced a printout that he emailed out. This printout shows the County budget approved funds are as follows:

State 911 Funds	\$173,060.00
PSAP LIT Funds	\$340,000.00
County Public Safety LIT Funds	\$ 86,000.00
County General Fund	\$ 35,000.00
TOTAL	\$634,060.00

The County budget proposal:

State 911 Funds	\$173,060.00
PSAP LIT Funds (\$19,000 increase)	\$359,000.00
County Public Safety LIT Funds	\$ 86,000.00
County General Fund	\$ 35,000.00
TOTAL	\$653,060.00

Cail asked where was the additional \$19,000 that the County received for PSAP? Kelli responded it is in the PSAP LIT fund. Cail added that the County approved the overall budget of \$634,060, but he shows that the County received \$359,000. Hammack confirmed this; however, the County has to enter a preliminary budget on September 1st. This budget cannot increase. An additional appropriation would have to be made to release those funds. Cail stated the \$19,000 is there, and could be added to help overall, and Hammack confirmed that. Cail further stated that if the County added the additional \$19,000, it would be contributing \$653,060. The estimated budget was \$978,275. This is a shortfall of approximately \$325,000 after subtracting the County's contribution from the budget.

Cail stated that the County currently contributes \$86,000 of the County Public Safety LIT funds. Cail added when money comes into this fund, it is distributed to Tell City, Troy, and Cannelton. Cail gave an example of a pie, where the County has one piece taken out of it, but Tell City, Troy and Cannelton is not contributing out of that fund to it. Cail is trying to match what the County is putting in to make that pie whole.

Cail stated that the County gets approximately 12%. He figured that since the County gets \$696,000, by Tell City receiving \$446,348, and pending Council approval, contribute an additional \$55,000 towards PSAP, which is the \$446,348 times 12%. Cail further stated that with Cannelton and Troy, whatever pot they want to take the 12% out of what they receive, trying to make the pie whole. This would generate another \$68,060.95 to reduce from the remaining balance. Then, when adding in Tell City Utilities shares, Tell City Electric \$9,500, Tell City Water \$2,000 and Tell City Wastewater \$2,000, which totals \$13,500, which leaves a remaining balance of \$243,654.05 due.

Cail provided an illustration if an additional \$50,000 would need to be added to this, and it showed what each entity would have to contribute. These amounts were based off of population plus or minus.

Based on the remaining balance of \$243,655 due, Perry County would pay an additional \$163,852.77, Tell City \$63,847.05, Cannelton \$12,743.82, and Troy \$3079.33. Cail then stated that based on the plan Kelli was discussing, Cannelton would give \$27,000, and with what Cail presented in this handout, their portion is not far off.

Cail stated he was just attempting to bring a solution to the table, and if did not work, then it did not work.

RC stated he was a little confused. The way he was looking at the proposal, the County is near where this agreement said the County would be in 2025. He asked if the County is not staying on that schedule? Kelli responded that the County will pay \$653,000, and currently it is at \$634,000; the Supplemental will increase that to \$653,000. RC responded if this is the case, out of the agreement, who has not paid their portion to get it up to the \$978,275? RC asked if no one else has contributed? Cail responded that it is up to the County to speak to Cannelton and Troy. RC stated that Cannelton has not paid, Troy has not paid, and has Tell City paid? Cail responded that RC would have to ask Auditor Hammack. Cail further stated that Tell City has not paid, but does not know about Cannelton and Troy. Hammack responded that the information she received from EMA Director Steve Hauser at this time last year, was that Tell City was not paying so the other two were not paying. RC stated that in other words, the only contributor to 911 so far this year has been the County. Hammack responded correct. RC stated that in the original agreement, it had broken down contributions from not only the County, but the City. Hammack confirmed this.

RC asked how did this get switched to this agreement was okay initially as the County stepped up its contributions, and now being in 2025, it is not relevant? The County has to pay every dollar share. RC stated that maybe this is an issue in 2026; however, when this was put together,

he believes they agreed to this step-by-step process. Each unit would contribute until the end game. RC asked if someone could shed some light on this.

DE stated that the County was eventually trying to get to where Tell City would be zero. RC responded he believed that was the incentive through the step-by-step basis, rather than cold turkey cutting it off. DE added that in the meantime, PSAP was increased, with RC stating that was part of the plan.

Cail stated that going back looking at what he called the framework, as it was not actually part of the agreement, since they were not stapled together, he believes it was just a working document.

RC stated that this was kind of an accepted path and that is what the pay was.

Cail stated that the County Statewide 911 funds for 2025 is roughly \$173,000. Looking at the proposal, Statewide 911 should have been \$283,000. Looking at the PSAP LIT Bond or LIT funds, it is \$340,000, where that was only to go to \$279,000. Kelli responded that she believes the County chose a different area to pay from due to other expenses to be paid out of Statewide 911 for the County's portion of the dispatch services. Hammack stated that the County pays for a lot of equipment out of the Statewide 911 fund. Kelli stated that even though the two amounts are flip-flopped, the County is still at the amount that they were supposed to pay.

Cail stated that the County is also supposed to pay \$95,000 out of its General fund. Cail added that he did not know if anybody remembered, but the \$35,000 Hospital General fund, which is for ambulance dispatch. RC responded that the County covers that. Cail stated that there are some numbers that are off here and there, and that is why he is trying to come up with a solution. RC stated that he believes the County should have the discretion of using whatever fund, as it is a shell game as to where the money actually is, and as long as the County meets its obligation of what it was in the agreement. RC thinks the County is really close.

Chief Lawalin asked RC if he understood that scale that is being looked at, that he is assuming that is the exact amount the County is supposed to pay, and that it would not fluctuate from year to year? Lawalin added that he was involved in the conversations, and his understanding at the time was that was going to be a guide to show the weighted balance. There was no way that the person who prepared this, Luke Thomas, would be able to know five years later what the operating costs were going to be. RC responded that if it was turned around and took percentages, and backed it out of the \$900,000 plus, the County would be picking up roughly two-thirds, maybe 70% of the cost. The other communities would also do that. Those ratios could be used to base a concept. RC added that this was not signed as far as he knew. It was just a framework, a structure so that the group who did this was a path forward where step by step, year after year, could get to a point where it lessened the burden on the cities and the County picked up more of it. This also gave the County an opportunity to adjust their PSAP rates so that it would generate more money to offset some of these costs. This was RC's interpretation.

Cail stated that by looking at the trend of costs, and August's bill being approximately \$60,000, adding this to the current \$157,000, that would be Tell City's portion if they said they were going to follow the plan. The County would still have to come up with money for September, October, November and December. Cail stated that Tell City is in the red approximately \$157,000, and technically could say that Tell City has already contributed that much. By including the August figure, Cail stated that Tell City is done at the end of August.

RC stated that on the sheet he is looking at, which may not be correct, but it has \$212,293 contribution on a \$951,000 proposed budget. RC did not know where Dispatch is going to end up budget wise, and where it will end up at the end of the year. Cail responded the proposed budget for 2025 is \$978,000. RC stated that if everyone pays their part, the County would then have to come up with another \$14,000.

Cail stated that if the Tell City Council agreed to stick to the \$217,000 or \$212,000, whatever the amount is, Cail can not see Tell City paying another dime towards it. Cail stated that the County still has to come up with September, October, November, and December. Cail added one of these is a larger month due to three payrolls in the month. Cail stated that the County is probably looking at \$111,000 for the extra pay week.

RC asked what is Dispatch projections, being in seven months? Cail responded at seven months in, it is \$157,000. RC responded he was asking for the cost of operating the facility. Berger responded that she ran a report through August, the expenses have been \$580,686. RC responded that dispatch is running \$72,585 times 12, then the total will be at \$871,029. Cail added that there will be an extra pay week coming up. Berger stated that Tell City did an additional appropriation at the previous night's Council meeting for \$35,000 for health insurance and \$8,000 for utilities. This brought the dispatch budget up to over one million dollars.

RC asked that over and above the numbers he was just told, there is going to be \$35,000 additional health expense charged off to dispatch? Berger responded yes, approximately, and then \$8,000 approximately in utilities, depending on what the utilities costs are. RC asked over and above, and Berger responded over and above. RC stated that when he divides this by eight,

as August is the eighth month, he came up with the monthly average cost, that is not truly what it is going to cost because Tell City is projecting the last four months are going to be substantially more expensive than what the first eight months have been, based on utilities and additional health care expenses. DE stated that in the previous three years, dispatch has always come in under budget. DE asked that now Tell City is stating they will be over budget? Kelli added that it looked like it was pretty significantly under budget usually. Even looking at \$871,000, if the County kicked in \$650,000, there is approximately \$220,000 left to get to the \$871,000. Tell City was to contribute \$212,000, plus the hospital, the City of Cannelton, Town of Troy, Electric Department, Wastewater, and Water department. RC did not see the big discrepancy.

Kelli asked Berger that the additional appropriation that was approved the previous night, was that done due to paying this difference along the way, or is it actually in addition to the total budget? Kelli added that if the whole total budget has not been used up, why was an additional done? Berger responded that there is no money in there to transfer, and her line item for Health Insurance is going to run into the red. Berger added that currently there is only \$29,000 remaining in the line item for Health Insurance in appropriation. \$15,000 is paid out per month, and left to pay is September, October, November, and December. Hammack asked if this amount is only for dispatch, and Berger confirmed this. Berger stated the amount always varies when there is change of employees, and change in a plan throughout the year. Berger stated that an amount can never be put in the budget what is going to definitely be spent. Kelli asked Berger if she thought the \$35,000 will get them to the end of the year, and Berger responded yes. RC asked if Tell City is fully funded by health insurance, and Berger responded yes. Kelli asked if Tell City pays 95% of all the insurance, and Cail responded it is 89%.

Chief Lawalin stated that he does not have a solution, but he prepared some information that might help to understand and hopefully clear up some misunderstandings regarding the cost of operating the dispatch. His handout does not cover everything, but Lawalin wanted to get on paper what the base basics are to operate dispatch; what expenses that are going to be there that the City has no influence on at this point. Lawalin stated that just looking at the personnel, unless something changes or someone resigns, it is projected that the expense of salary, plus holiday pay for the eight fulltime dispatchers and their records coordinator for \$496,052.75 plus the City contribution of Empress of \$55,557. Lawalin stated that the Records Coordinator spends the majority of her time with dispatch matters. The insurance, based on the plans that those employees are currently on, is \$183,531. There is also a clothing allowance of \$3,550 for the uniforms for the dispatchers. The part-time pay, which was figured through the end of August, which is what has been paid out so far, basing it on the path that it has been going, it will be \$30,000 in part-time expenses by the end of the year. Medicare and Social Security is \$45,514. The total in personnel cost alone is \$810,654.75. Lawalin stated that this amount does not include dispatch supervision or anything like that.

Lawalin stated that above this amount, there is an area titled recurring maintenance. These are the things that are necessary to run that facility. It is not everything, but what Lawalin considered to be required.

Lawalin stated that up until the end of May, dispatch was paying a contract with Ohio Valley 2-Way Radio, which was upward to \$14,000, almost \$15,000 per year, to retain them on speed dial to come and maintain the equipment 24/7 if it goes down. This contract was cancelled the end of May due to being told by Steve Hauser that there is no reason to have it due to the equipment in dispatch is non-replaceable. Dispatch will be better off paying as needed if there is some type of an issue in there. The amount that had been paid was \$7,373.22 in 2025.

Lawalin stated that the recorder system, that records every call that comes into that facility, every call that goes out, every piece of radio traffic that comes in, every radio that goes out. This is a requirement for PSAP, and it costs the City \$4,829 per year.

Lawalin stated that there are a couple of softwares that they use, one being their training software. Dispatchers are required to attend an annual training. This software costs \$3,150. In addition, they have a CAD system that cost hundreds of thousands of dollars several years ago, but there is a recurring maintenance cost that is paid on this every year for \$19,543.42.

Lawalin stated that there is a time tracking software for the time clock and dispatch clocking in and out of work costs \$2,435 and is a recurring expense.

Lawalin stated that with these costs added to personnel, dispatch is at \$847,985.39. The amount received from the County is \$634,000.00 for dispatch services. This is approximately \$200,000 less than what it even costs to pay dispatch employees.

Lawalin stated that based on these numbers, Tell City is paying for all of dispatch supplies, for the utilities for the center that runs dispatch, the specialized internet that is required in that room, certain repairs that come up that are not radio repairs. If a monitor breaks in the middle of the night or chair falls apart, or a desk collapsed or whatever, Tell City is paying these bills to get them fixed. Lawalin added that Tell city is not getting any reimbursement for supervision or management. They are not getting reimbursement for IT services, cleaning services, employee

services that is provided to their staff, which is mental health services. Lawalin stated that as long as he is Chief, he will treat dispatch personnel the same as he treats his police officers, and those services will be provided at Tell City's own expense. In addition, the training and travel for dispatch is at Tell City's expense.

GY asked if these amounts are through August, and Lawalin responded what would be anticipated through the end of the year. Lawalin added that the only thing that is not known is the extra overtime that will accumulate, and what part-time will actually be. Kelli asked if in the salaries of the \$496, did that have overtime built in? Berger responded that it has their normal billed overtime. RC asked what is their normal, and Berger responded eight hours per pay period.

Kelli asked if the \$496 included Phillip Flamion, and Berger responded no. Lawalin stated that is an expense that they report as a dispatch expense, but he omitted it. Kelli asked that when the County is billed, 50% of his salary and pension is included, and Berger confirmed this.

Hammack added that there is also a portion of Berger's salary and a portion of the payroll clerk. Berger responded that it is not a portion of her salary, but a portion of her payroll deputy, which is \$3,000. Hammack stated that she thought there was \$19,000 for Admin being billed. Berger responded that is the additional 2% that Tell City has been adding on to the bill. Berger stated that Admin fee does not go toward any salaries.

Kelli asked about Flamion's percentage, and Cail responded that it was discussed that 75% of his salary would go to dispatch, but then it was taken back to 50%. Once Flamion was certified in dispatching, it would go back up to 75%.

Lawalin stated that when discussions began regarding dispatch several years ago, Tell City suggested to have a PSAP committee, as they felt the County should be involved in the discussions of salaries. Tell City has been told repeatedly by the PSAP Committee that they have nothing to do with that, as they have no authority over that. Lawalin stated that while this committee cannot make budget discussions, they could come together and make recommendations; there is representation from all entities on that committee.

Lawalin stated that Tell City then did their own wage studies, comparing Tell City dispatchers to like counties, and what they were being paid. Raises were then made appropriately based on what the average should have been for them.

RC stated that by using Berger's numbers, and turning them in twelve months, it is at \$871,000, and Lawalin's is at \$847,000. He understands that there are some miscellaneous items in there, and that is understandable. The numbers are close as to where Lawalin thinks he will be, and to where Berger thinks she will be. RC asked if Tell City is following the agreement established in 2021 or the framework, or is Tell City now saying that is not a valid path to follow? RC added that it went through step by step as the County increased the different areas of funding. Lawalin responded that the last paragraph of this agreement or framework mentioned actual costs. The numbers in the agreement were estimates. RC stated that in the agreement, for 2025 it was projecting \$951,400, and it broke down how to get to this total number. RC feels that dispatch will come in under \$951,000 for 2025.

RC stated that in Luke Thomas' proposal, for a total of \$951,400, he took Bergr's numbers and projected them out for 12 months, there is still \$80,371 over and above projected costs. With backing out Lawalin's numbers that he presented, there will be \$103,404.61. RC added that there may be some things that may be coming along, but by going back to the original agreement and if everybody paid the amounts in it, it appears to be substantially more than what is needed to pay this 911 service for 2025. Cail responded that Tell City never came to an agreement for the \$951,000. RC asked if the agreement should just be thrown out? Cail responded no, it is a working document. RC stated that this was originally a framework that was followed up until 2025. Cail responded no, and RC asked that the County did not follow it? Cail responded that in 2023, the budget was \$951,000, in 2024 it was \$951,000, and in 2025 \$951,000. Cail added that these amounts were less than what the budgets were. The budget was less than \$951,000 in 2023, with RC stating that with the budget that Steve Hauser put together it was \$710,00. RC added that he believed that the County paid \$544,000, which is what the County had agreed to pay and that is what they paid. The County was following this agreement, but maybe no one else was.

Cail stated that dispatch is a County responsibility at the end of the day. The expense does fall on the County. RC responded that it is not cast in stone that the cities cannot participate. Cail responded that Tell City does participate. Kelli added that the County is trying to make good faith efforts to contribute more money. Cail asked his City Council, with three present, what their thoughts were. BS stated he feels that what they need to do is build around the framework. Something more specific is needed in regard to numbers. City Attorney Hagedorn stated that

particular document really left it vague in regards to the numbers. Steen stated that there is the PSAP committee, and they need to get active in this. Cail stated Flamion is trying to schedule a meeting for the PSAP committee.

Cail stated that the Tell City Council needs to think of a number that they might be willing to put towards dispatch or whatever. Cail added that he would like to see Tell City, Cannelton, and Troy contribute to make the pie whole when it comes to the County Public Safety LIT.

SG stated that he would like to see more detail on the other expenses. This way, there is a clear picture of what other expenses are. Cail responded that the City provides that, and the County should have that. Kelli added to include not just broad categories, the County wants to see the bills. SG added for instance dispatch supplies, if the City has line items and then a subtotal of all those and what the City actually spent on those. Kelli stated that the monthly bill has the categories, and the County would like to see it a little further broken down.

GY stated he wanted to get back to the point. According to Berger's figures, Tell City is in the red, and they are going to be in the red on this. The County is completing their portion, and asked if the rest of the cost Tell City has got to eat? RC stated that by going back to the old framework, and GY interjected that he just wanted to know what Berger currently shows. GY added Tell City is in the hole \$157,000 through the month of July. RC asked if Tell City is going to recognize the framework established four or five years ago? Cail stated that Berger's framework shows Tell City's portion is \$208,000 and it also states \$212,000. Cail stated he was now confused. GY stated that the City and County need to get together to figure this out. RC stated that the County has picked up a larger share of dispatch every year, which is how the framework was set up.

CF stated that based on the framework with the old numbers, it appeared with all the line items, the County is paying 73% of it. By using Cail's budget, you look at the County, its 73% of that is \$714,141. If you take the County's budgeted amount, plus the additional that can be appropriated from PSAP LIT, plus the Supplemental LIT, the County is only short \$24,426. CF stated that the County can likely find in its books, but the County can not proceed unless it knows what the City is going to do; if the City is going to honor the same type of agreement, their percentage of how much they would owe. GY asked if there was an agreement signed? He does not believe there was. CF responded that is why the County needs to know what the City is going to do.

RC stated that the actual cost of dispatch, basing off somebody else's numbers, the cost for 2024 was \$842,949. This was substantially less than 2025's estimate. MF stated that it needs to be known how much they can get from Cannelton and Troy. Cail stated he would go talk to these two entities; however, he does not want to go by himself.

Cail reiterated that dispatch is not technically the City's responsibility, but it comes down to what the Tell City Council chooses that they can contribute, or are willing to contribute.

Berger stated that if by the proposal that is being looked at for 2025, when Luke Thomas prepared it, and by the City going with the page for Tell City's portion of \$212,000, so this year Tell City has contributed \$157,256. Taking this amount away from the \$212,000, Tell City would still owe \$57,744 towards the \$212,000. RC responded that is correct, and the County will be paying however many more payments it has left this year. Berger added that the County will have to pay Tell City the rest of that to get dispatch whole, so that Tell City is not paying any more than \$212,000.

RC stated that the City is \$157,256 in the hole through August, and Berger responded through July. RC asked Hammack how much the County pays monthly, and she responded \$52,838.31. The County has \$264,191.55 remaining appropriated for dispatch. This does not include the additional \$19,553 and \$36,207 Supplemental, if the County Council approves to pay that.

Cail stated that with the dispatch budget now over \$1,000,000, that is where it is, the County will have to come up with an additional \$174,000 on top of what it is paying.

RC stated that the County has \$264,191.55 left that is appropriated, and Berger had stated that to get them to \$212,000, Tell City would have to contribute \$55,037. That would leave dispatch with \$319,228 or \$79,807 per month. Hammack stated that the County has not paid August yet. RC stated there are then five months, so that lowers the per month. RC asked what is an average monthly bill for dispatch? Kelli responded \$68,000-\$69,000. The one month is approximately \$110,000. Berger responded it was \$111,000.

Cail asked Hammack if in 2024, did Cannelton and Troy pay their full amounts? Hammack responded in 2023, the County received \$12,500 from Cannelton, and \$3,000 from Troy; in 2024, the County received \$3,000 from Troy and \$12,500 from Cannelton. Nothing has been received in 2025. Cail stated that Troy has been paying half, and Cannelton has been paying less than half. Cail added that in those years, 2023 and 2024, Tell City has paid most of their portion.

DE stated that one year Tell City paid half, so the other entities paid half. That is how that started. Kelli asked if that is why they have paid zero, hearing Tell City say they were going to pay zero?

Cail asked that if each entity pays the LIT portion, being Tell City, Troy and Cannelton, so that each is paying their own fair share. If this is done, it would be \$243,000 shy. However, with Tell City, Troy, Cannelton and Perry County contributing more money to the full budgeted amount.

- Tell City contributing another \$64,000
- Cannelton contributing approximately \$13,000
- Troy contributing another \$3,000
- Perry County contributing another \$164,000

Cail asked if the County can come up with another \$164,000 to make the million-dollar budget? RC asked for 2025? RC asked that Tell City is wanting the County to come up with \$164,000 additional for 2025, with Cail responding someone is going to have to. Cail added that is the total for the year. RC stated that the County is going to pay \$264,191.55 yet this year; this is what the County has committed to.

Cail stated that by going with the framework, and hypothetically use the amount set out for 2025 being \$951,000, it will still be short for the year. RC responded that if Berger stays on budget, it will be \$871,000, which is \$80,000 under that framework amount. RC added, that by Lawalin's numbers, it will be \$103,000 under the framework amount at \$951,000.

Cail responded he understood what RC said, and will go back and do some new figuring. Cail added that Lawalin's numbers are only flat salaries. RC asked if Lawalin was off \$102,000?

Hammack stated that Berger's amount includes utilities, insurance, and other things. RC responded that would be another \$30,000, with Berger stating it would be a lot more than that. Berger added that some of the expenses have not been paid yet. RC asked Berger if she has some expenses that are being carried for an entire year? RC stated that Berger provided the number of \$580,686 through eight months was the cost, can Berger confirm this. RC took the \$580,686 and divided it by eight months to get a monthly basis. He then took the monthly amount times twelve months, and that amount is \$851,029, projecting an eight-month cost into twelve months. RC stated that if Tell City has something really big hanging out there that the County is unaware of, that would push this in excess of \$80,000 additional money, then the \$951,000 will have a problem. Berger stated she does have something, there is additional money that will have to be spent on health insurance. RC responded that Lawalin is using the health insurance number of \$183,000, and asked Berger if she is saying this will be going up another \$35,000? Berger responded that she only budgeted \$155,000.

GY stated that the amounts change every month, and that RC is averaging it out. The numbers work that was if you average it out, but it does not work that way. RC stated that when a payroll is run in the City of Tell City, it is pretty consistent. When a pay raise is given the first of the year, or whenever, it will go up. Variables are usually things like utilities, but they are not huge swings. If doing any projections, it is based on past performance. If there is an outlying item that is going to be paid, some enormous expense as the County having to pony up one-half million for the radios, that would be an outlier that would cost a lot of money. RC further stated that unless there is something identified, it would be the only way. He was not saying the amounts are down to the exact dollars, but it should be in the range where dispatch is at, and then have a cushion built in at \$951,000. RC added that dispatch has costs less than the framework that Luke Thomas put together.

Cail stated that if the Tell City Council states that they will pay the \$212,000, Cannelton pays \$27,000, Troy pays \$6,000, and down the line it goes, and comes in at \$951,000. The dispatch comes in costing \$1,051,000, being \$100,000 more than was in that framework, is the County going to pick up that bill without coming back to Tell City Council stating they need more money? RC reiterated saying that if in the next four months, dispatch is going to overshoot Berger's operational amount, by upward to \$150,000 to \$200,000, that the County will just arbitrarily accept that to be okay? RC further stated that the County would have to have some documentation as this would seem like an awful huge amount of money that would occur in the last four months of 2025. Cail responded that Berger has written down that the budget is \$1,021,000 with that entrance added and additional for utilities. That is where Cail came up with that number. RC responded that Berger's projection is \$871,000, so if it hits \$1,000,000, then it is \$130,000 higher than what the average expenses were in the past eight months. Taking \$130,000 divided by four is going to be \$30,000 extra. Dispatch would be incurring \$30,000 each month in addition for the next four months of 2025 to get to the \$1,000,000.

GY stated that Tell City is in the red, and they had no signed agreement with the County. Cail asked again that anything above Tell City's contribution of \$212,000, would the County take that amount on? Cail stated that the Police Department and Phillip Flamion are not going to start just writing checks, and buying this and buying that. He added that they have proven that they have cut costs in every way they can. RC responded that would be a decision that the County Council

would have to make on whether they have funding, but RC thought the County Council would want to consider the expenses associated if those numbers are pierced at the \$212,000, and then give the County Council a heads up rather than being surprised at the end of the year.

Lawalin asked if Tell City has confirmed that there is going to be a shortfall? Cail responded that he needed to go back and refigure some things that RC mentioned. RC stated that if dispatch does not get the contributions, then there will not be \$951,000. The County is putting in approximately \$650,000.00. If the County is the only contributor, and no one else contributes, it will be short. Dispatch can not run for \$650,000. RC added that according to the framework before, everybody was going to contribute.

It was decided to take the numbers back to their offices and digest them. A meeting will be called again, asking Troy and Cannelton to participate as well.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m. CST.

Tentatively, the next meeting will be Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

GY made a motion on the City's behalf to adjourn, seconded by BS. Motioned carried 3-0.

CF made a motion on the County's behalf to adjourn, seconded by SG. Motion carried 6-0.

Minutes approved this 23rd day of October, 2025.

President, Perry County Council

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