

**PERRY COUNTY COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
February 26, 2026**

The Perry County Council met on the above date at 5:00 p.m. as was duly advertised. Council members in attendance were David Etienne (DE), Cory Filley (CF), Gale Garner (GG), Brad Harth (BH) and Paul Brockman (PB). Auditor Kristinia Hammack and Sheriff David Faulkenberg were also present. There was no *Attorney* or *News Representative* present.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AGENDA**

PB questioned the Additional Appropriations on the agenda, and thought these were not going to come out until March because of the fact that he believed the budget has to be approved for 2025 before the DLGF (Department of Local Government Finances) would approve any new appropriations. DE responded that he thinks PB is correct. Auditor Hammack stated it is the Annual Financial Report (AFR). Some of these appropriations can be approved, but she cannot submit them until after the AFR is submitted to the DLGF. Hammack added that some of the appropriations have been requested. DE asked why wouldn't the Council just wait until it is approved? Hammack responded that the AFR has been submitted. She is just waiting to hear back from the State, and should have it by next week.

Hammack stated that in 2025, the Council approved the additional appropriations at the end of February, and were not submitted to the DLGF until after the AFR was approved. BH asked if they can not be submitted to the DLGF, then would it not be more appropriate to wait to approve them until that time? Hammack responded that if the Council approves them, she can submit to the DLGF after approval, and it does not hold business up from occurring. Pauper is the big item. Money has been received. Some of the items were just under budgeted, plus additional costs that have come up. Hammack stated that the Council could approve this now, based on their knowledge of the County's ending cash balances, which the Council has the ability to see. The State does not have the ability to see that until after Hammack submits the AFR. DLGF is looking at the County's ending cash balance from 2025, plus the estimated revenue for 2026, minus the budget that the Council approved, to see what the County's remaining cash balance is, to see if the County has the cash to support those additional appropriations. Hammack added that the Council should already know if they have the cash to support those additional appropriations. The only way the DLGF would not approve them is if the County does not have the cash to support them.

BH asked if the Pauper Public Defenders fund is going to run out of money if the council did not approve at this meeting? Hammack responded if the Council does not approve it so it can be spent, then it will have to be paid out of General. The money is already there. Hammack added that the way the Pauper works is as the County gets the reimbursements, it is brought before the Council and ask for permission to spend it. Appropriating it is giving permission to spend it out of the Pauper. The County likes to pay out of the Pauper reimbursement fund first, as this is less coming out of the General. If the Council does not appropriate it, then Hammack cannot pay bills on March 2, 2026, out of the Pauper fund.

Hammack asked Steve Howell, Highway Department, if he could hold off his appropriation request until March? Hammack added that the background checks were under budgeted. Hammack had to purchase a computer in January in the Auditor's office that is being paid out of Platbook, and the cash is there. The last three requests from Planning and Zoning are going to be tabled due to paying those out of a different fund. The appropriation was requested out of Fund 1000, and Hammack advertised out of Fund 1000; however, they are going to be paid out of the Restricted fund for Planning and Zoning which was created last November. Hammack stated that the County received the bill for the Council's dues, which was under appropriated by \$70. Hammack added that last year this was short, but was able to be transfer appropriation from another line item. However, in 2026 there is nowhere to transfer it from, and there has to be an additional appropriation.

DE stated he believes PB's question is it all right to approve this prior to March 1<sup>st</sup>. Hammack stated that there are other counties that do additional appropriations in January. GG asked that it can be approved at this meeting, but it is not being spent until March 1<sup>st</sup>, and Hammack confirmed this. DE asked if the Council would not approve these

additional appropriations at this meeting, then it would have to be readvertised, and Hammack responded yes. Hammack added that the additional appropriations would be moved to the March meeting.

PB asked if a check is going to be cut immediately if they are approved? He added that he is afraid the DLGF will not approve the entire budget for 2025. Hammack responded DLGF is not approving the budget; the budget has already been approved. The budget was submitted in October 2025. Hammack added that the AFR represents what cash the County had left over in each fund in 2025, along with other pieces to the AFR. The only time DLGF would not approve additional appropriation would be if there was no cash to support it.

DE asked if delayed until March, would it create a lot of issues? Hammack responded she will not be able to pay Pauper, which will take \$50,000 out of General, where if the Council would approve the appropriation, she could pay it out of Pauper. This is where Hammack has set this to pay from on the March 2, 2026 docket.

DE asked the Council what they wanted to do, and PB responded that he thought they would not do the additional appropriations until March. If the AFR is not approved for some reason, what would happen if the additional appropriations were already done? PB asked if this would cause the county problems with the DLGF? Hammack responded no, DLGF will work with Hammack if there is anything. The AFR reflects the ending balance for 2025, and nothing is going to change that aspect of it. Hammack added that if there were any requests for additional appropriations that the cash did not support it, the Council can trust that she would make the Council aware of that. PB asked if the report had been filed, and Hammack responded yes, it was submitted that day.

PB stated that the Statute states, and he quoted from the Statute, “the Department of Local Government Finance may not approve the budget of a political subdivision, or a supplemental additional appropriation for a political subdivision, until the subdivision has filed its Annual Financial Report for the preceding calendar year”. PB stated that Hammack stated she has filed the report. Hammack stated that it does not appear on the dashboard to submit an additional appropriation on Gateway to the DLGF. Hammack added that approving the appropriations does put a little bit of liability on the Council, but the Council can approve them knowing they have the cash reserve to do them.

Hammack stated that she does not feel it is in the best interest of the County to pay over \$51,000 out of General when the money is in Pauper.

BH stated on the information Hammack has given the Council regarding the filing of the AFR and would notify the council if there was any problem, he asked the other Council members if they were satisfied with that. PB responded as long as the DLGF does not come down on the Council. BH read the Indiana Code where it stated “until the subdivision has filed”, and she has filed it.

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

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

a) Nathan Held, Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission

Held appeared to go over activities pertaining to Perry County. Held presented a handout to the Council. Held stated they like to give an update on the recent projects that Indiana 15 has worked on in the County. Held added that they report on the actual year that a grant was funded, however, work on a grant can go many years beyond that.

In 2021, the Port Infrastructure Pier Development (PIDP) project is ongoing including this year. Held stated that it finally got under construction this year, and it is going to be done this year.

The RAISE project (Hoosier Southern Rail Improvement), the rail improvement for the Port is finally going on.

The Old Perry County Hospital Clearance project was a City of Tell City project through the Office of Community and Rural Affairs. It was ongoing in 2025 as well.

In 2025, the Tell City Owner Occupied Rehabilitatin grant, through the office of Community and Rural Affairs, was funded which was \$350,000. That work is going on currently.

Held mentioned the EDA Planning grant, which is the planning grant Indiana 15 receives through the US Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration. This helps Indiana 15 fund project development. It allows them to go out in the counties to work on project development at no cost to counties or the communities.

The planning grant through INDOT is what Indiana 15 works with as part of regional planning organization, or a rural planning organization for INDOT. It allows Indiana 15 to do traffic counts on county roads. Held stated that INDOT assigns these traffic counts, which station they have and where counts actually occur. All this information is publicly available. Held added that if the County Highway department or somebody is putting in a development and wants to see if there has been a traffic count performed on a road, INDOT has that publicly available. It is available at no cost. In addition, Indiana 15 does have the counting equipment in their office, so if the County has additional counts that needs to be conducted, Indiana 15 can come out and do that outside of the INDOT Planning grant.

Held stated that Indiana 15 is expected to participate in some of the INDOT safety meetings that they have with each county. Held added that there are several meetings throughout the year that Indiana 15 attends on the County's behalf with INDOT.

Held stated for a ten-year total per capita fee that the County pays in, it has allowed Indiana 15 to work with the County's communities to bring back over \$25 million in grant funds.

Held included in his handout a few future products. They are needs but Indiana 15 does not know where that will go. Indiana 15 is submitting an application on behalf of the City of Cannelton for water improvements. It will go in round one this year for the Office of Community and Rural Affairs. They have been working with the Town of Troy, as last year they worked with them on the zone map update, and their code book update. Indiana 15 is working with Cannelton on their code book update and pulling together some of their ordinances.

The EPA Brownfields Assessment grant was awarded to the region. It was a \$500,000 grant and have expended a little over \$48,000 in Perry County on a couple of different sites to assess. Indiana 15 already has submitted their next application for assessment, and are waiting to see if that gets funded. Held added that the Commissioners did sign on to this last month.

Indiana 15 is also doing labor standards compliance for the Tell City Lead Line Replacement project.

Held stated that Indiana 15 is staying busy. Funding is out there, and things are getting reappropriated on the Federal level.

Held stated that Indiana 15 has not received an actual official Council appointee, and Hammack stated that she had that waiting for Kelli to fill it out.

GG asked held if there is anything on And-Tro as far as a date? Held responded no, Indiana 15 has been working with them, to try to find something. There was an attempt to go after some READI funds, but it did not work out due to the nature of the project. USDA or SRF, anything they would get would be loan dollars, and there are many roadblocks. GG asked if there is money for an assessment evaluation? Held responded no. The main issue is the area, it is a large area they would be looking at, and the planning grants that Indiana 15 would typically point to are through the Office of Community and Rural Affairs. They do not qualify based on the low to moderate income level of the service area. It has to be at least 51% and none of those areas reach that. Held added that USDA Rural Development have in the past had some planning grants; however, they have not really been doing those recently. The discussions with USDA have not gotten Indiana 15 anywhere. Indiana 15 continues to work with And-Tro to try to find anything, as the need is there.

### **RJL SOLUTIONS, COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMEN**

#### a) Monthly update

- Christy Powell stated that RJL is trying to schedule a joint meeting with the Council and Commissioners to discuss and take a deep dive on incentives and projects. In addition, to have a broader discussion regarding economic development to ascertain the County's priorities and what the County wants RJL to be working on.
- RJL continues to work on the I64/SR 37 interchange study. They did receive a proposal from Commonwealth Engineers, and Powell believes the Commissioners are negotiating that, looking to possibly take some portions out of that so it is not such a heavy lift and price point.
- RJL is preparing some continuing education for the Redevelopment Commission to talk about TIF, tax abatement, and some best practices.

- The responses from the community survey are all in, and Jonathan Blake is wrapping up the key findings. Blake will have a baseline report out to the County next week.
- Powell has been attending the Indiana Healthy Communities Initiative through the Wellness Council. This was from the Being for Other grant that RJL was able to get for Perry County to be able to do this initiative. The initiative is working on a plan on how RJL can better support the community.
- Being for Other also has project grants up to \$40,000 for community projects that encourage well-being. This has very wide parameters on what they are accepting. Powell wanted to put this on everybody's radar. Powell stated that they are helping the Council of Aging with some grants, as well as the Town of Derby with their park. RJL is hoping to get those projects on that grant program.

b) Tax Abatement Ordinance

DE stated that the Council would like to incorporate this discussion when they have a joint meeting with RJL.

CF made a motion to table at this time until the work session, seconded by BH. Motion carried 5-0.

**MINUTES**

a) 01.22.2026

BH made a motion to approve as amended, seconded by PB. Motion carried 5-0.

**SAMANTHA HURST, PROSECUTOR**

a) Victims Advocate Grant

Hurst asked the Council if they had any questions about the grant? She stated that it is applied for every year. The grant is what pays the majority of the Victims Advocate salary. DE asked if there are no changes much to it? Hurst responded not that they know of, nor how much would be allotted. The application process starts in a couple of weeks. Pending Council permission, it will be applied for. DE responded he would see no reason not to give permission.

BH made a motion to approve applying for the grant, seconded by GG. Motion carried 5-0.

**DAVID FAULKENBERG, SHERIFF**

a) Request payment to Ferdinand City re: Deputy Hire

Faulkenberg stated that Indiana passed a new Statute on July 1, 2025, known as Reimbursement of Law Enforcement Officer Employment and Training Cost. Faulkenberg sent a copy to Attorney Rod Acchiardo a copy of the IC number and some other information with that, which was approximately 80 pages of billing front and back. DE stated that Acchiardo did respond back on this and wanted to be allowed one more time to review it before the County makes any decisions. Faulkenberg stated that he was reviewing the billing that was received from the City of Ferdinand in regards to that Statute. It is a blueprint for the County on how to do the same thing in the future.

Faulkenberg stated that the cost factor involved is a total bill of \$57,287.51. DE stated that when the Council was told this was going to be done originally, they were told it was going to be \$30,000. The County was to pay one-half of it, and the other half was to be paid out of Commissary. DE stated it is now \$57,000, and does not know what the County is going to do.

Faulkenberg stated he reached out to Rob Randall, Ferdinand Chief of Police, who put Faulkenberg in contact with Sharon Bohnenkemper, who is the attorney for the City of Ferdinand. A three-way call with Bohnenkemper and Ken Sicard, Ferdinand Council member, and Faulkenberg was made, with Faulkenberg expressing his thoughts on where Perry County stood.

Faulkenberg stated that if there was an agreement of 50% paid by the County, that would be \$28,643.76. If Faulkenberg could get out of the Commissary fund a monthly amount that would equal \$2,864.37 for the next ten months, that would pay the other half.

Faulkenberg stated that the disposition of money from the commissary account, he believes it falls under that because of items D under number one. Item numbers three, five, eight and ten talk about how monies can be paid from that account.

Faulkenberg stated that what the individuals from Ferdinand wanted was for him to make contact with them by Monday (March 2, 2026) regarding what was done at this meeting. Faulkenberg will start the ball rolling depending on how it looks from the County's end. He added that if he has to juggle and start the monthly payment, the bill is there and needs to be paid.

PB asked that Ferdinand is firm on the figure of \$57,287.51? Faulkenberg responded he believed at this time they are.

Faulkenberg stated that he along with Chief Deputy Eric Dickenson took Ferdinand's template and started keeping track of the Sheriff's costs just in case the same thing would happen. As an example, in the last year or so, firearms. Decades back, the academy provided firearms, the ammunition, and it was standardized what everyone was doing at the time. Currently, the Sheriff department has to supply that ammunition to the academy in bulk, which is approximately 2,000 rounds per person at the price tag of ammunition.

Faulkenberg stated that the individuals from Ferdinand stated that in case the Sheriff's department would find a discrepancy somewhere due to they had several officers at the same time doing some things, they split the costs in half.

BH stated that this Statute will be very effective at keeping people from headhunting deputies from other departments.

BH asked Faulkenberg if he could come up with a bigger chunk out of commissary to help as the Council is fighting for \$300 sometimes. Faulkenberg stated he understood that, and stated that the Commissioners and the Council are not to think of the commissary account as it is always there and going to be there. Faulkenberg compared it to overtime working at a factory, and start budgeting expenses and extras based on the overtime, and suddenly it is shut off.

Faulkenberg stated that he was supposed to submit a report in February of what was spent out of commissary. For example, they lost two computer and monitors in the control system, and they were paid out of commissary.

Faulkenberg stated that the inmates at the jail is who is buying items from the commissary. At one time, the jail had inmates of 100 to 110. Currently with the jail population, which is in the fifties, the jail saves some money due to not feeding so many people. However, that also lowers the customer base for the commissary which lowers the amount of money being spent. It is half of what it was a few years ago.

DE stated that the Council needs to find another approximately \$15,000 from what they originally thought they would be paying towards this.

BH asked if there needed to be a motion, and DE responded he thought the council would wait until Acchiardo reviewed this and got back with the Council before making a motion. Faulkenberg stated he understood where DE was coming from however, he was going to go ahead and make a good faith effort and say yes, if he and the Council are on the same page. Faulkenberg stated he can start on March 1<sup>st</sup> sending a check for \$2,864.37, as he already knows the money will be going out.

- b) Discuss additional appropriations needed for 2026 Sheriff Office Salary Matrix and Jail Maron salary due to 2026 Sheriff office Salary Matrix.

Faulkenberg stated that there were things that were not thought of when the Sheriff Matrix was done. For example, the Matron of the Jail, in her appointment is a specific statutory in that position. The Matron's salary had been based on that of the basic deputy salary. When the Matrix was written, his office missed as how the Matron is classified. Under the Statute, that person's pay is set at that of the same person of rank, grade or position, as a deputy within the department. Faulkenberg stated that the person who has this position has been in that position for over two years, one year as full-time and the other year as part-time. Based on this, that person has met the requirements of a one-year deputy. Faulkenberg stated that in working out the budget for 2026, they were not looking at it like that. Therefore, there will be a salary increase in that salary line.

DE asked Faulkenberg if that is how that position's rank is determined?

Faulkenberg stated yes. GG asked how does the Matron pay now compare to a deputy? Faulkenberg responded less, being \$3,660. That is the additional that is needed.

DE stated that Acchiardo asked that he wanted to review the State Statute on this, and then would get back with the Council.

Faulkenberg stated that this will result in an additional appropriation.

As far as the Sheriff pension options, Faulkenberg's office ran into the same problem. With the pension system, there is money that is being paid into it,

which at a percentage rate, so as the pension grows, it becomes more soluble. Faulkenberg added that starting this out, it was hard. His department and the County were very lucky in that they did not have the older officers who was on the verge of retiring soon, which would take money out of it. Faulkenberg stated each officer is paying in so much money, and the County has to pay in too. By crunching the numbers, it looked like that pension budget was originally budgeted at approximately \$156,874. With the changes, it could increase out of the General fund a total of approximately \$63,295. Faulkenberg stated the LIT Public Safety money was \$10,592, and the LIT EDIT money was \$14,462. That gave a total of \$88,351.09.

Faulkenberg stated that when Dickenson talked to the Benjamin Langhammer with October Three, and he stated that it was not really looked at for the future, and trying to pay the co-payments in there. A possible scale range of 21.1% and 21.3% would be used to try to catch up, so that it was not such a hit in 2028. Faulkenberg added 2028 is where there will be a big jump occurring. He added that numbers were crunched, and just picked 22% to see what would happen. 22% of \$88,351.09 is \$19,437.24. Taking the \$19,437.24, and trying to cover 2026 and 2027, the County is paying into that by splitting it up in the two years, the County would be paying \$9,718.62 each year. Faulkenberg thought it was better to get this information to the Council now and looking into how to fund it, than to suddenly request a big chunk in a two-year time.

Hammack stated that these numbers added up with the total of what the Council needs. She spoke with President Harding earlier that week, and recommended that the Council have a work session due to with these changes within the budget, the County is in a sense overextended in funds. Hammack mentioned that with Courthouse Security, the County has only so much annual revenue coming in there and the County is overextended. Currently the Chief Deputy is being paid out of there. Public Safety is over extended. By paying him more that money is going to be used up quicker. Hammack feels it is too much to try to absorb in a meeting setting. She stated that there definitely has to be some changes in the budget with the Sheriff Matrix.

c) Discuss Sheriff Pension Options

Dickenson stated he spoke with a Benjamin Langhammer, October Three. Every time a deputy leaves before they hit their 10-year investment period, all the money that the County has put into the pension fund for that deputy, and all the proceeds from the investments on that money, stay in the fund. This pays down the unfunded liability.

Dickenson stated that there are three funding mechanisms that fund the pension plan:

- LIT
- Commissioners
- Civil Service Fees

These are fees collected through the Clerk's office. \$10,000 is always budgeted from here. A typical year is approximately \$15,000.

Once the census data is submitted to the Sheriff Pension, they will send in May of each year the amount, knowing that the County is getting ready to go into budget sessions. This is based off of salaries. The implications of the matrix will not be felt until 2028, due to the budget was passed and the census went as what the budget was. Dickenson has been in contact with Langhammer, and the true implications will be felt in 2028, not 2027. The representative provided two options. Small amounts could be paid periodically, or could wait and pay one lump sum. Anything put towards the fund above the minimum County contribution requirement will go to pay the unfunded liability. Dickenson suggested pulling the fund from the Clerk's office to see how much money is there, and quite possibly be able to fund some of this from that.

Dickenson stated that the Sheriff Pension provides the County with different funding options:

1. Minimum County contribution

This is what the County has always selected. There is an Indiana Code that dictates what that amount is.

2. Less than 1% more

This is the middle of the road option. Dickenson spoke to the Auditor along with Kelli Wilgus, and with the difference of less than 1%, possibly on the years that the County is collecting the fees from the Civil Service papers, and it is a little higher, to just go ahead and throw a little extra

money in the last quarter payment. Dickenson added that where it will benefit, in the last few years as the market does well, the fund does well. Dickenson stated that the pension fund is sound, which is important. It is only eight-years-old, and is 71% funded already. He will talk more about this in the work session.

**KRISTINIA HAMMACK, AUDITOR**

a) Labor Law Poster update

Hammack stated that the County needs to update the Labor Law posters at all the County locations. Kelli Wilgus, who oversees HR, has been corresponding within her HR news feed, and the majority of Indiana counties are working with JJ Keller. It is a three-year contract with them. They supply and notify the County of any updates. In addition, JJ Keller sends out monthly newsletters, which will keep the County involved with what is going on in regards to Fair Labor Standards.

Hammack stated that the cost of this is \$952.80, it is for three years, and needed to discuss with the Council where they wanted to pay this out of. Hammack added that it is not a question, as the County has to have these. DE asked how this has been done in the past? Hammack responded that the County did not have them, as she has not been able to find any. DE stated he was told that they can be obtained for free. Hammack responded that this is a lot more than a printed poster. This makes sure that things are updated. Sheriff Faulkenberg stated that they have a poster.

BH stated that he has been in business, and he had purchased these posters in the past. When inspected for these, he was told that the posters could be obtained online for free. They can be downloaded and printed out in their current form.

BH added they are perfectly fine and do not have to pay this. After that, BH never paid for another one. If he had a poster that was not the current addition, the inspector just told him to get on that website and get an updated poster. This was at no cost. BH cannot see paying \$1,000 over three years, with the Council trying to pinch pennies all they can for every little thing. BH does not feel this is a good investment whenever it is available for free. Hammack responded that this will notify the County of changes and updates. BH stated that they do not change that often. These are Federal laws; these are State laws. The County can keep abreast of this within associations. BH stated he is not in favor of spending this when it can be obtained for free.

PB stated when he had a business, he printed them for free. He was not aware that they could be purchased.

Hammack stated that JJ Keller would be taken off, and asked who was going to take on the responsibility of getting these? CF asked how many sets are there? Hammack stated she was not going to take on that responsibility of making sure that Federal Labor Laws are posted and updated. She does not have any guidelines. Hammack added that she has been Auditor for three years, and has not been audited on this one time, or had it mentioned. Hammack does not want the responsibility of ensuring the Federal Labor Law posters are up to date. BH asked, would this not be someone in Hammack's office in charge of HR? That is a function of Human Resources. Hammack responded that her office has to have advisement of changes.

Hammack stated that if the Council tells her where to get the posters, then she will print them and do it, but if they are not up to date, that is not going to fall on her, as she does not have anybody telling her they are not up to date.

DE asked Faulkenberg how he knew to get this poster? Faulkenberg responded that when the jail was first built, and inspectors came in, so they got them. After that, when Faulkenberg was the Jail Commander, if there were any changes to Federal or State law, then the Jail would receive a tube with the new poster inside. Hammack responded in that case the Jail was paying for it, and that is exactly what she is proposing.

Steve Howell stated that at the Highway department, whenever he starts getting a lot of mail regarding this, then he goes to the website and prints them off. Howell added that when a lot or people want to sell you something, that is when the poster is updated.

Dickenson suggested the large printer at the EMA could possibly print these posters.

b) Transfer Request

- APPROPRIATION TRANSFER

Highway Department  
 FROM: 1176.11308.00000.0533 Part-time Mechanic \$1,500.00  
 TO: 1176.44104.00000.0531 Software Maintenance \$1,500.00

GG made a motion to approve, seconded by PB. Motion carried 5-0.

- CASH TRANSFER  
 FROM 1000 General Fund \$38,000.00  
 TO: 4937 EMS Replacement Fund \$38,000.00

Hammack stated that money was received in May 2025, for old ambulance parts sent in for reimbursement. At that time, the EMS Replacement fund was not created, and the money was put in General.

CF made a motion to approve, seconded by BH. Motion carried 5-0.

- CASH TRANSFER  
 FROM: 1186 Rainy Day Fund \$31,435.13  
 TO: 4937 EMS Replacement Fund \$31,435.13

Hammack stated this was discussed in the budget session.

BH made a motion to approve, seconded by GG. Motion carried 5-0.

c) Additional Appropriation Request

- Riverboat – Commissioners; Background Checks  
 #1191.30801.00000.0068 \$500.00

Hammack stated that the typical background check is \$39.95, however, the County has seen an increase in that cost if applicants have lived in more than one state. The most expensive background check was \$174.90. \$240 was budgeted for 2026, and it has already been overextended.

CF made a motion to approve, seconded by GG. Motion carried 5-0.

- Cumulative Bridge Fund – Highway: BR #6 on Co Rd #10  
 #1135.37702.00000.0531 \$97,800.00

DE asked Howell that the Highway was replacing the entire bridge, and Howell responded yes. Howell looked up the estimated cost to replace the bridge, and it costs \$1.5 million. This goes through the Federal system, and they pay back 80% of it, which would cost the County \$300,000. The way the County is doing these, it should cost less that \$150,000. If it would go through the Federal, it would take five to six years, and the way the Highway department is doing it, it takes three months and the bridge is open

GG made a motion to approve, seconded by PB. Motion carried 5-0.

- Platbook—Auditor; Office Supplies  
 #1181.21100.00000.0002 \$1,099.00

This is to replace the mapping computer.

CF made a motion to approve, seconded by BH. Motion carried 5-0.

- Pauper Public Defender Fund—Circuit Court; Attorney  
 #8961.31104.00000.0232 \$50,346.78

This is the reimbursement amount the County has received.

GG made a motion to approve, seconded by PB. Motion carried 5-0.

- IV-E Public Defender Fund—Circuit Court; Attorney  
 #8960.31104.00000.0232 \$911.38

This is a reimbursement and just needs to get it appropriated.

CF made a motion to approve, seconded by BH. Motion carried 5-0.

- General Fund—County Council; Subscriptions and Dues  
 #1000.39100.0000.0061 \$70.00

PB made a motion to approve, seconded by GG. Motion carried 5-0.

d) Howell stated that he had received a two-week notice from an Operator, and asked permission to advertise for it.

BH made the motion to approve, seconded by PB. Motion carried 5-0.

**COUNTY COUNCIL**

a) Discussion Opioid Fund allocation for EMS and Sheriff Vehicle

DE stated that the Council was trying to set aside \$100,000 for EMS, and was still short \$60,000. Also, the Council was hoping to use money for the purchase of one or two Sheriff vehicles, to start a rotation. BH stated this is what was discussed in the budget session. By having a rotation, this keeps them fairly new. BH added that with the EMS, the Council is trying to put \$100,000 in that fund every year. This is trying to be proactive.

GG asked what the balance in Opioid is. Hammack responded that there are two different funds. DE responded that one is around \$100,000 and the other around

\$60,000. Hammack stated she will need to know which fund the Council wants. BH stated to get it advertised so that action can be taken next month. Hammack responded that it is a transfer, and no additional appropriation, as appropriation is made when the County is ready to spend. The transfer can be done whenever. Hammack stated that the EMS is a transfer. The Sheriff vehicle is basically a discussion where the Council would state what their plans are for the Opioid money, which is actually in Unrestricted. BH stated that the Council could make the transfer of \$60,000 at this meeting, and Hammack confirmed this due to it not having to be advertised. When the Council is ready to purchase the other Sheriff vehicle, then the Council will do the additional.

CF stated that he would like time to review his notes from the budget session.

CF made a motion to table, seconded by BH. Motion carried 4-1.

- b) The next County Council meeting will be on Thursday, March 26, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m. CST.

Minutes approved this 26th day of March, 2026.

---

President, Perry County Council

*Minutes reviewed by:*

*Kristinia L. Hammack, Perry County Auditor*

*Minutes prepared by:*

*Leisa M. Ecker, Deputy Auditor*