PERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
August 27, 2026

The Perry County Council met on the above date at 5:00 p.m. as was duly advertised. Council members in attendance were Kelli Harding (Kelli), David Etienne (DE), Gale Garner (GG), Brad Harth (BH), Cory Filley (CF) and Paul Brockman (PB). Roger Peter (RP) was not present. 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

DE made the motion to accept as modified, seconded by GG. Motion carried 6-0.

MINUTES

a) 06.25.2026
PB made motion to approve, seconded by DE. Motion carried 6-0.

b) 07.23.2026
BH made motion to approve, seconded by DE. CF abstained. Motion carried 5-0-1.

VACANCY FT OPERATOR-STEVE HOWELL

a) **PT Mowing**- Howell stated that they are need of a part-time experienced mower. They currently have 2 part-time experienced worker and 2 part-time inexperienced worker positions. Auditor Hammack asked what the difference between the two workers are and Howell stated that pay is higher for experienced spots. Howell stated that since he did not get any applicants this year for the inexperienced workers, he would like to increase the number of experienced workers he can employ from 2 to 3. Kelli asked Howell if he has someone who was willing to take an experienced position if it were available to which Howell answered yes. Kelli also stated that any money exchange for the new position could be moved from the inexperienced to the experienced budget if need be. Howell agreed.

b) **FT Operator Vacancy-** Howell also requested to replace this position due to a recent retirement.

CF made the motion to approve both of these, seconded by DE. Motion passed 6-0.

RJL SOLUTIONS UPDATE-CHRISTY POWELL

a) **Opportunity Zone 2.0:**
Perry County submitted its Opportunity Zone 2.0 application for the County's eligible census tract. Powell distributed a handout that explains what an Opportunity Zone is, how it can encourage private investment through federal tax benefits, and what the designation could mean for Perry County. The designation itself does not require a financial commitment from the County. It is now awaiting the state and federal review process. They are only nominating 126 tracts total by September 28th and if federally certified, the new zones will begin January 1st. This could open up some new opportunities for private development as well as extra benefits on redevelopment tax credits. The zone encompasses the Tell City River Port and the recently cleared former hospital. They are hoping to know by the end of the year.

b) **Being For Others Foundation:**
Being for Others Foundation grant which is money set aside from the Deaconess Foundation has confirmed that the fairgrounds and community center improvements are suited to its Project Grant program. Requests may range from $1,000 to $40,000 yearly. Powell has spoken with the program manager at the fairgrounds and stated she thought this was a great fit and to maybe start with design. Powell is hoping that any costs would be covered by the grant. The current application deadline is October 9.

c) **Small Town Opportunity Initiative (STOI)**
This is through the IEDC. It unlocks 10-15% of a qualified investment of a project to be seen as a tax credit. The project manager could then monetize and sell the tax credit to put money back into the project. Powell is currently looking for projects that are in the $15 million and up range.

d) **Stellar Pathways**
Stellar is a competitive, multi-agency program led by OCRA that helps communities develop a coordinated plan containing multiple quality-of-place, community, and economic-development projects. Only 4 communities from the state are selected to do a strategic plan and then 2 are chosen from that point to receive this additional money. Kelli aske what types of projects are eligible for this program to which Powell replied housing projects, quality of life projects and community centers.

e) **County ARPA Projects**
Powell stated that she is currently following up with all of these, getting pictures of them and putting together information for the public. The goal is to show how that money was used and what the projects accomplished.

Powell finished by asking if anyone had any questions to which PB asked if her organization ever contacts organizations like the United Way or Lily Foundation for private grants for entities like 4H. Powell responded with saying that yes they could assist with that. Powell followed up by stating that she is working with Isaac Schroeder on the fairgrounds. GG asked if the Opportunity zone included all of Perry County or if it was just Tell City-Troy township to which Powell answered that it is a census tract and it's surrounding the Tell City area. GG asked if that included Tobin township to which Powell responded no, it is based off an area that was defined because of certain parameters, income levels and investment potential and there was no say in which tract was eligible to nominate for this. It was handed down by the state. GG went on to mention that they are trying to get the county water out of Tell City and wanted to know if that was included. Powell stated that yes it was.

RANDY COLE, COMMISSIONER PRESIDENT

a) Road Maintenance Funding
RC stated that the county is committed to 334 loads of millings off I-64. This should exceed the amount needed for Canada Rd. RC also talked about the benefit of doing a triple seal chip and seal technique and how Dubois County had some success with it. Asking for $500,000 of MVH for the nearly 5 miles of roads. Cooper Rail has offered to come in at a per mile rate to get the roads in shape for the chip and seal.
PB made the motion, BH seconded. Motion carried 5-1. GG voted no.

DAVID FAULKENBERG, SHERIFF

a) Sheriff Department Personnel Update
Sheriff Faulkenberg stated that Caleb Peter graduated from the academy. Jake Lepper and Braxton Hayes are at the academy now. Corey Hall will be starting at the academy after the first of the year.

KRISTINIA HAMMACK, AUDITOR

a) Additional Appropriation Request

- Jury Fee Fund-Circuit Court; Per Diem
  2501.13600.00000.0232 $10,000.00
  CF made the motion to approve, seconded by BH. Motion carried 6-0.
- General Fund-Clerk; Office Supplies
  1000.21100.00000.0001 $426.00
  DE made the motion to approve, seconded by GG. Motion carried 6-0.
- General Fund-Examination of Records
  1000.51112.00000.0000 $3,388.00
  BH made the motion to approve, seconded by PB. Motion carried 6-0.
- General Fund-Coroner; Fuel and Oil
  1000.23101.00000.0007 $200.00
  DE made the motion to approve, seconded by CF. Motion carried 6-0.
- LIT/Edit Major Maint. Project-Sheriff; Repairs, Building and Fixtures
  4934.36100.00000.0005 $12,000.00
  BH made the motion to approve, seconded by PB. Motion carried 6-0.
- General Fund-Jail; Medical Supplies
  1000.21200.00000.0380 $3,800.00
  DE made the motion to approve, seconded by GG. Motion carried 6-0.

- General Fund-Sheriff; Tires
  1000.22200.00000.0005 $3,000.00
  GG made the motion to approve, seconded by PB. Motion carried 6-0.
- General Fund-Sheriff; Vehicle Maintenance
  1000.36201.00000.0005 $7,000.00
  BH made the motion to approve, seconded by CF. Motion carried 6-0.
- General Fund-Sheriff; Fuel and Oil
  1000.23101.00000.0005 $21,000.00
  BH made the motion to approve, seconded by GG. Motion carried 6-0.
- HFI Fund-Health Dept; Registration Fees
  1161.32000.00000.09610 $400.00
  PB made the motion to approve, seconded by DE. Motion carried 6-0.
- HFI Fund-Health Dept; Liability Insurance
  1161.34200.00000.09610 $300.00
  BH made the motion to approve, seconded by DE. Motion carried 6-0.
- HFI Fund-Health Dept; Office Supplies
  1161.21100.00000.09610 $4,500.00
  PB made the motion to approve, seconded by GG. Motion carried 6-0.

b) Cash Transfer

From: 1238.59700.00000.0000 COE-Transfer to Another Fund $9,422.10

To: 1000.09700.00000.0000 COE-Transfer from Another Fund $9,422.10

CF made the motion to approve, seconded by BH. Motion carried 6-0.

COUNTY COUNCIL

a) Solid Waste Part-time Employee Replacement

John Roach sent an email requesting that he has the ability to hire for an open part-time position without having to wait for a meeting as long as he stays within budget. This is due to the turnover rate and the amount of time it takes to get the application process and fingerprinting done. He will still have to notify payroll of new part-time employees.

BH made the motion to approve, seconded by DE. Motion passed 5-1. CF voted no.

The next regular scheduled County Council Meeting will be on Thursday, September 3, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. at the Courthouse.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m. CST.
PB made a motion to adjourn, seconded by CF. Motion carried 6-0.
Minutes approved this 3rd day of September 2026.

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President, Perry County Council

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