

**COUNCIL MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
JULY 15, 2025
6:30 PM**

ATTENDANCE:

COUNCIL:

Stephanie Campbell, President
Jay Alcorn, Vice President
Danny Wallace
Wayne Huffman
Kerry Williams
Amanda Brown
Brian Berry

COMMISSIONER:

Rick Woodall, President
Andy Beck

ATTORNEY:

Trudy Selvia

AUDITOR'S OFFICE

Kristina Berish

AUDIENCE:

10 Individuals

The Putnam County Board of Council met on July 15, 2025, at 6:30 pm. The meeting was held at the Putnam County Courthouse. Campbell opened the meeting and the pledge to the flag was given.

Huffman made the motion to add the resolution for the health department, ADA study, and Plan Commission appointment to the agenda. Brown seconded. The motion passed.

HIGHWAY ADDITIONALS

Director Clint Maddox presented:

\$100,000 MVH Fund To cover repair expenses for the remainder of the year.

Wallace made the motion to approve. Huffman seconded. The motion passed.

\$376,581.21 Bridge Excise Fund Replace bridges

Woodall said they have several bridges they are looking to replace. This will not be spent on maintenance but as replacement which is what was agreed between the two boards when the excise tax was increased to produce revenue for the bridges. Brown made the motion to approve. Alcorn seconded. The motion passed.

ASSESSOR – REASSESSMENT CONTRACT

Don Badolato stated they had advertised for bids to be received for the July 7th Commissioners' meeting. One bid was submitted by Nexus who currently does work for his office. It is a four-year contract for a total amount of \$698,139. This comes out to \$26.81 per parcel.

Nexus will be doing all the outside reassessment and new construction data collection, sales validations, annual ratio study, trending, land rate adjustments, reviewing appeals, and legal support with appeals to PTABOA. This will no longer be done in or by his department (Assessor) but be outsourced.

To afford the contract, he did not replace the two data collector positions in his office when they became open due to one leaving to work for Nexus and the other retired last month. He is also not utilizing the part time position. And for next year he has reduced the budget for maps and mileage reimbursement.

ADULT PROBATION – PRE TRIAL GRANT

Probation Officer Garret Nichols said they had come before the Council at a previous meeting to discuss the grant and ask to reallocate it. It had been tabled. He had pursued this grant five years ago and they have gotten it each year since. When he was at a conference the grant was being discussed, and they made it clear it should only be used for pre-trial services and not to supplement probation services. When he got back, he spoke with Chief Probation Officer Teresa Parrish letting her know what he had found out. Their department had been utilizing the grant funds incorrectly. Nichols spoke with the department that is over the grant and was told it needed to be reallocated.

Nichols said they have used the grant funds more for the probation side of the department. The work they did for pre-trial they did at different hours than probation and accrued compensatory time. Which is the reason they have built up a lot of time over the years since they average 7-10 hours a week completing these services. How they want to reallocate the grant is to set up a stipend for the individuals in the office that work on pre-trial. Compensatory time will no longer be earned, and they will only receive the stipend.

Judge Bridges said the employees will only receive this stipend if they have the grant. If the grant is gone, the stipend is gone. He felt this was the most prudent way to spend the money. The employees should not have been acquiring compensatory time. Brown asked why they could not just pay for the overtime hours instead of a stipend. Bridges said it would look like they are supplanting the salary they make for working in the probation department. Just like what the compensatory time was doing which they never should have done for the work they were doing for pre-trial. He cannot guarantee there will still not be any compensatory time needed for the probation office responsibilities but the hours for the staff should be going down significantly by paying them a stipend.

Parrish asked what is different from their request than other departments who have made the same. She was confused as to why they were getting so many questions when it was already a precedence.

Auditor Berish said correct me if I am wrong, but from listening to discussions on this topic the Council is questioning it because all the other departments set it up with a stipend for the extra responsibilities when they received the grant. As you stated tonight, you have had this grant for five years and have been receiving compensatory time for the hours worked. Which has then given a large amount of time to certain people in the department. This time is now tied to the probation salary if your department does not pay for the back time earned. And it is one of the reasons staff are off every Friday. Would this change as well if the Council approved the stipends. They replied this would change since they would not have the compensatory hours to try and utilize as they have. And when you submitted the job descriptions for the wage study did you include responsibilities for the pre-trial work for the two office personnel? If so, they would need to be changed since it should only include the probation office responsibilities.

After some more clarification, Alcorn made the motion to approve the reallocation of the grant: Parrish 12K, Nichols 12K, Cox 7,500, Boswell 6K, and Underwood 5K. Williams seconded. The motion passed.

TREASURER TRANSFER

Karrie Minor presented:

\$155.38 County General Fund from printing of forms to repairs and maintenance
Short in the account to pay an invoice.

Alcorn made the motion to approve. Brown seconded. The motion passed.

CONGRESSIONAL SCHOOL RESOLUTION 2025-7-15

Trudy Selvia stated the public hearing was now open. Asked if anyone in the audience had any comments or questions. Hearing none, the hearing was closed.

Berish stated per Indiana Code 20-42-2-4.5 the Council may elect to transfer and surrender custody of the \$25,000 in the congressional school principal fund and the amount in the congressional school interest fund. The funds would be given to the Treasurer of the State of Indiana to be held and administered.

The \$25,000 has been in the principal fund since before 1993. The interest made from the \$25,000 is distributed twice a year to the schools, if there is money in the fund. The distribution is minimal. Cloverdale School receives \$52.93 up to the highest pay, which is North Putnam receiving \$189.57. Berish requested to close both and send the money to the State like several other Auditors across the state have done. Wallace made the motion to approve. Huffman seconded. The motion passed.

PROSECUTOR ADDITIONALS

Berish presented:

\$1,704 County General Fund To appropriate funds needed to pay the salary approved by the Council for the Office Manager/Legal Secretary. Wallace made the motion to approve. Alcorn seconded. The motion passed.

\$124 County General Fund To appropriate funds needed to pay the salary approved by the Council for the administrative assistant. Brown made the motion to approve. Huffman seconded. The motion passed.

SHERIFF ADDITIONAL

Berish presented:

\$6,300.82 County General Fund Insurance check was cut to the county instead of the body shop for a sheriff department vehicle. The check was deposited into the county general fund, now it needs to be appropriated into the account so the department can cut a check to the body shop. Brown made the motion to approve. Berry seconded. The motion passed.

COMMISSIONER ADDITIONALS

\$1,215 EDIT Warchest Fund To pay for the title work completed for the purchase of property on Keightly Road. Wallace made the motion to approve. Alcorn seconded. The motion passed.

\$5,750 EDIT Warchest Fund To pay for half the cost of a water study for the Town of Cloverdale. Huffman made the motion to approve. Williams seconded. The motion passed.

RESOLUTION INTEREST IN PURCHASING PROPERTY 1275 N JACKSON STREET

Selvia had prepared resolution 2025-7-15-1 for the property the county is looking at as a possibility for the health department. Wallace made the motion to approve. Alcorn seconded. The motion passed.

Woodall updated the board on the building located on Jackson Street and the building beside the hospital. These are the two possibilities currently being reviewed for the health department. He would like to get appraisals on both buildings and a cost to do the necessary updates so that they can compare and see what the best option would be. Once he has the information, he will compile it together for easy review and would want to hold a joint executive session. Beck said he would like to throw out a third option of putting a building out by the highway department, if possible due to the restrictions of the land.

It is up in the air on the ADA study; they have two different stories. Woodall felt we needed to wait on getting a study completed. Campbell asked if the Council wanted to give a consensus of approval for a study not to exceed if they decide to do one to help expedite the process. After some discussion, it was decided with still so many questions to wait.

The two boards decided on August 6th at 6:30 pm to have a joint executive meeting. And at 6:45 pm have a joint special session to discuss the annex.

MINUTES

May 20, 2025 – Alcorn made the motion to approve. Williams seconded. The motion passed.

June 17, 2025 – Campbell said she had shown the Auditor prior to the meeting where a page had Williams spelled wrong and to change it from a BZA to a Plan Commission appointment. Huffman made the motion to approve with the corrections. Wallace seconded. The motion passed.

PLAN COMMISSION APPOINTMENT

Campbell said this had been tabled at last month's meeting. The Council needed to make an appointment to the Plan Commission board. Then, the Commissioners needed to make an appointment to the BZA board. Laura Scott had expressed interest in the PC appointment. After some discussion, the appointment was tabled until the August meeting.

MAIL

The board acknowledged their mail.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT – GRINDER

Andy Beck told the Council that Clint Maddox will be getting a demonstration of a grinder next week. If he likes it, the county would be looking at purchasing one.

ADJOURN

Wallace made the motion to adjourn. Huffman seconded. The motion passed.

Stephanie Campbell, President

Jay Alcorn, Vice President

Danny Wallace

Wayne Huffman

Amanda Brown

Kerry Williams

Brian Berry

Attest: Auditor's Office
Kristina Berish