

Minutes Thursday, February 27, 2025

Mr. Wehri moved the adoption of the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, The Board of County Commissioners is of the opinion that the flow of traffic in the court house will be at a minimum on Good Friday, April 18, 2025, and to allow employees to attend services if they so desire.

Now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, The Board of County Commissioners does hereby close the Putnam County Court House at noon on Friday, April 18, 2025.

Mr. Brubaker seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Wehri yes Mr. Brubaker yes Mr. Schlumbohm absent

Comm. Jrl. 121, Page 91

Mr. Brubaker moved the adoption of the following Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of County Commissioners of Putnam, Ohio, that to provide for the unanticipated revenues for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2025, the following sums be and the same are hereby appropriated for the purpose for which expenditures are to be made during the fiscal year as follows:

Fund 005, Dog and Kennel

B 15, Ohio PET Expenditures\$4,125.00

Mr. Wehri seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Wehri yes Mr. Brubaker yes Mr. Schlumbohm absent

Comm. Jrl. 121, Page 92

Mr. Wehri moved the adoption of the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, The County shall provide COBRA insurance to employees who terminate employment for continuation of coverage for fully insured group health plans. and

WHEREAS, Putnam County provides health insurance under CEBCO and COBRA coverage was previously provided by Anthem.

and

WHEREAS, Anthem no longer provides a continuation of coverage under COBRA for dental insurance.

WHEREAS, Health insurance agents for the county, UIS Insurance & Investments and Fortman Insurance have presented quotes for COBRA coverage from CobraHelp and Ameriflex. and

WHEREAS, UIS Insurance & Investments and Fortman Insurance have jointly recommended CobraHelp based on their experience in dealing with them.

now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, The Board of County Commissioners has decided on the insurance proposal presented by CobraHelp to be offered to employees who sign up for COBRA coverage.

Mr. Brubaker seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Wehri yes Mr. Brubaker yes Mr. Schlumbohm absent

Comm. Jrl. 121, Page 93

Mr. Brubaker moved the adoption of the following Resolution:

that to provide for the unanticipated revenues for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2025, the following sums be and the same are hereby appropriated for the purpose for which expenditures are to be made during the fiscal year as follows:

Fund 001 County General

15 A 15A, Advances Out...\$ 5,000.00

and also

BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of County Commissioners of Putnam County, Ohio, that for the purpose of the General Ditch Fund, the following advance of funds is authorized by the Board of County Commissioners.

| <u>FROM</u> | <u>TO</u> | <u>AMOUNT</u> |
|------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| 15 A 15A, Advances Out | Q 40, Advance In | \$ 5,000.00 |

Mr. Wehri seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Wehri yes Mr. Brubaker yes Mr. Schlumbohm absent

Comm. Jrl. 121, Page 94

Mr. Brubaker moved the adoption of the following Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of County Commissioners of Putnam, Ohio, that to provide for the unanticipated revenues for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2025, the following sums be and the same are hereby appropriated for the purpose for which expenditures are to be made during the fiscal year as follows:

Fund 157, GIS

157 TR, Travel.....\$630.00

Mr. Wehri seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Wehri yes Mr. Brubaker yes Mr. Schlumbohm absent

Comm. Jrl. 121, Page 95

Mr. Wehri moved the adoption of the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, Section 5101-9-6-82 of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) allows for inter-county adjustment of allocations between County Job and Family Services,
And

WHEREAS, John Folk, Director of Putnam County Job and Family Services has recommended that the Board approve an agreement to receive funding from Defiance/Paulding County Job and Family Services,
And;

WHEREAS, Sufficient funding levels will remain in the County to provide mandated services for the remainder of Federal Fiscal Year 2025 regardless of funding,
And;

WHEREAS, The release of the funding will not leave the County at a funding level below the expenditure level for the SCPA during the Federal Fiscal year 2025.
And

WHEREAS, Said adjustment and the receipt of funds from Defiance/Paulding County shall take place for this one-time adjustment;
And

WHEREAS, The board deems this request to be in order and hereby approves the same;
Now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, The Board of County Commissioners of Putnam County. Ohio hereby agrees to accept \$250,000.00 for its SCPA, Children Services.

Mr. Brubaker seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Wehri yes Mr. Brubaker yes Mr. Schlumbohm absent

Comm. Jrl. 121, Page 96

Mr. Wehri moved the adoption of the following Resolution:

that to provide for the unanticipated revenues for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2025, the following sums be and the same are hereby appropriated for the purpose for which expenditures are to be made during the fiscal year as follows:

Fund 001 County General

15 A 15A, Advances Out.... \$12,000.00

(For Ditch Maintenance)

and also

BE IT RESOLVED, That per the request of The Board of County Commissioners for the purpose of the Ditch Maintenance Fund the following advance of funds is authorized by the Board of County Commissioners:

| <u>FROM</u> | <u>TO</u> | <u>AMOUNT</u> |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 15 A 15A, Advance Out | R 5, Advance In | \$12,000.00 |
| (Advance for Ditch Maintenance Fund) | | |

Mr. Brubaker seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Wehri yes Mr. Brubaker yes Mr. Schlumbohm absent

Comm. Jrl. 121, Page 97

Then/Now Purchase orders

O-G Road.....purchase order 48972

County General.....purchase order 48974

Comp Muni Court.....purchase order 48819

Mr. Wehri moved to approve the then and now purchase orders.

Mr. Brubaker seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Wehri yes Mr. Brubaker yes Mr. Schlumbohm absent

Exceptions: Mr. Wehri none Mr. Brubaker none Mr. Schlumbohm

Comm. Jrl. 121, Page 98

Purchase Orders and Travel Requests

Dog & Kennel.....Blanket purchase order to Ohio PET Expenditures for spay/neuter grant for \$ 1,625.00.

Ag Complex.....Blanket purchase order for 2025 misc expenses for \$ 3,000.00

GIS.....Travel request for Greg Luersman to attend the GPN/IAAO conference in Columbus, OH on March 3-6, 2025 with expenses for lodging, meals, registration and parking totaling \$ 2,128.98.

Capital Improvement.....Purchase order to Glandorf Lumber for new door at Garage for \$ 1,580.00.

Sheriff.....Travel request for Brayden Maas to attend the report writing CPT courses in Perrysburg, OH on March 20, 2025 with purchase order for meals and other totaling \$ 114.00. Travel request for Chris Verhoff to attend the Canine Legal updates seminar in Marion, OH on Feb 25-26, 2025 with purchase order to registration, meals and other totaling \$ 405.00. Travel request for Tyler Niese, Kailey Warnecke and Marie Buffin to attend the Wood County Corrections Academy Course in Bowling Green, OH Feb 24 through March 21, 2025 with purchase order for registration, meals and other totaling \$ 3,386.00

Office of Public Safety.....Blanket purchase order for equipment for \$ 15,000.00.

Children Services.....Purchase order to Agape for Youth in K Howell replacement for \$ 27,000.00.

County General.....Purchase order to PCS for SOPHOS renewal, Phish threat and backups for \$ 29,050.55.

HOME FundsPurchase order to GLCAP for Private Rehab soft Costs for \$ 63,800.00

Clerk of Courts.....Travel request for Renee Winstead & Brianna Siefker to attend the OCCA Title Seminar in Columbus, OH on April 16-17, 2025 with expenses for mileage, lodging and meals totaling \$ 548.14.

Mr. Wehri moved to approve the purchase orders and travel requests.

Mr. Brubaker seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Wehri yes Mr. Brubaker yes Mr. Schlumbohm absent

Exceptions: Mr. Wehri none Mr. Brubaker none Mr. Schlumbohm

Commissioner Brubaker opened the meeting with reciting the Pledge of Allegiance with Commissioner Wehri, John Folk and staff.

John Folk, JFS Director met with Commissioners Wehri and Brubaker and Schlumbohm via teleconference. Mr. Folk had some questions and gave some updates on JFS since he has taken over the director position a few weeks ago. Any building and maintenance issues he will confer with the commissioners and the maintenance staff. The double doors in the atrium do leak at times with heavy rains. A door in the CSEA area was removed and that area must be secured. The door has been reinstalled to retain security of the CSEA area. The door will remain open during operating hours but is locked and secured at night. Mr. Folk shared some

CCAO documents for transfer processes between inter-county agencies. There are options for the transfers, one is to give the director the authority to make the transfers needed throughout the year. Are there any concerns with giving the authority to do the transfers as needed rather than on an as needed basis. The timing may be a concern to get the transfer processed through a business agenda which may hold up some activities and make things less efficient. The RMS authorities and controls within the departments have been done by one person and will be separated out to supervisors. It will be monitored to make sure processes are being done correctly and improve efficiency. Mr. Folk has made some job assignments and employee reporting has been adjusted to report to supervisors rather than directly to the director. He explained the public assistance process and refining it some and giving to Anna to supervise. There have been some improvements already. He has met with Karl Schimmoller from Build Putnam and will be working with the CIC also. Beth Coleson will be taking on more HR duties and is the contact with the State for any IT issues. Beth is the supervisor for Child Support. Judy is in charge of the fiscal department. A new position is needing to be filled it has been advertised. The process of travel requests was discussed and reviewed. Meal reimbursements were also discussed. He is doing a wage evaluation with comparable counties. What do the Commissioners want to see from JFS any monthly reports or levels of service? The Commissioners would like to see what is offered and the updates could be done quarterly. There are annual public reports that are created and can be shared. The reports can be submitted monthly at first. Departmental updates could be given to the commissioners also. The information could be made available to the public by request for have it posted somewhere for them to review. There are some staffing and employee issues that he would like to cover also.

Mr. Brubaker moved to go into executive session per ORC with Commissioner Wehri, Mr. Folk and Commissioner Schlumbohm via teleconference, to discuss employee appointment, discipline and compensation issues.

Mr. Wehri seconded the motion

Vote Wehri yes Brubaker yes Schlumbohm absent

Mr. Wehri moved to go back on record.

Mr. Brubaker seconded the motion.

Vote Wehri yes Brubaker yes Schlumbohm absent

No decisions were made. The director will continue to work with the personnel concerns.

The business agenda was held with Commissioners Wehri and Brubaker and Cindy Landwehr, Clerk.

The minutes from Thursday February 20, 2025 were reviewed and approved.

Alaina Siefker came in and said she has a SD #1 customer that she recently waived a late fee for when she had a family member pass away. This time the mail lost her payment so the customer is asking if they would be willing to waive the fee again for her. She did sign up for auto pay with us. Both Commissioner Wehri and Brubaker said they were fine with waiving it since she set up the auto pay.

Amy Hoffman and Conner of Palmer Energy met with Commissioners Wehri and Brubaker to introduce herself and give the Commissioners a rundown of the aggregate energy program.

Amy has been with Palmer for 13 years and with Putnam County for 11 years. Conner has been with Palmer for two years. Amy gave an overview of the aggregate program. Amy explained that they have all the counties in the aggregate energy program with either gas or electric. They do electric and gas aggregation to get better pricing than the utility. Amy explained the pricing and the RFP process. The villages of Dupont, Kalida, Pandora and Riley township are in the aggregate program and they are up for renewal to the program, which the Commissioners will sign for this to be put on their ballots to vote to renew again. The opt out process was also explained. Amy is contacting the village and townships again to remind them of the program. The county resident on a rural electric or co-op are not eligible, such as Paulding-Putnam. Amy has contacted Columbus Grove and Leipsic to see if there is interest to join. The electric market is going up again. The reason being is generation has capacity. The peak has increased. The supply and demand rate is off, the demand is higher than the supply currently. The recommendation for pricing will come back in a few months. An immense jump in capacity needed is coming. The savings will look good this summer. The county's program will renew in December of 2025. There are other brokers that will call the residents and municipalities and ask for billing information and rates and say that they get them a lower rate, which may turn out to be an introductory rate that will go up after a few months with no notices to the customer. It is recommended to stay with the utility. Palmer is registered with PUCO. The electric program is going to be similar to the gas program in the processes. The gas rates can change monthly. Palmer will hedge the market on the rates, but will wait closer to renewal to place a hedge. Palmer gives reviews annually. General information about the gas program was shared. A ceiling has been put on to cap the rates but hopefully they do not get that high. The RFP will go out and then the prices will be presented with a recommendation for the Commissioners to review. What it is moving to, is all communities and counties would be bid out together. CCAO Energy Committee will review all the options for the Palmer aggregate programs. There were early termination fees but with a larger aggregate program taking meters in and out would not create fees. The market has become more volatile. With all the communities on the same renewal with the state the Ohio Prosecutor will review rather than the individual county Prosecutors. Amy wanted to confirm the commissioner are getting the weekly Palmer reports to review. They do get them.

Mr. Brubaker moved to adjourn for lunch.

Mr. Wehri seconded the motion.

Vote: Wehri yes Brubaker yes Schlumbohm absent

Commissioners resumed session.

Amy Sealts from the CIC met with Commissioners Wehri and Brubaker to introduce herself and review the 2024 initiatives. She passed out a copy of the annual report of last year to them. The land transfer was discussed and the price which was based on a recent appraisal. Amy explained they are a LEDO and her relationships with Jobs Ohio, Ohio Means Jobs and other state departments and ways to get funding for projects. In 2024 there were \$57m worth of investments within the County. Some companies will invest their own capital and if they do not that is a red flag that they could pick up and move out of the area. Amy said they help companies to get money for needed changes but they do not get to keep the money it goes to the companies. There was an increase in payroll in the county which in turn increases the taxable income and creates revenue for the schools, townships and villages. They do a lot of

marketing for Putnam County. There are people that come to Nelson Mfg. for NASA on a monthly basis how can they make this area more appealing to them. Amy explained the relationship with Karl Schimmoeller at Build Putnam and the way to educate the graduating seniors about the jobs we have in the county and this area to keep them here and not moving away. Housing is an issue within the county, when companies are expanding and hiring more employees where are they going to live? There is an opportunity to bring those people into the county and patronize the local businesses. A housing study was done that showed the largest employer of the county that does not have employees who live here in Putnam County. There has been an increase of houses being built within the County. Meadows is building assisted living units to cover some shortages. There are some other opportunities of building new housing happening also in some of the communities. Housing is an attraction to keep people employed here. Infrastructure development is another concern of the companies who want to expand. Another hot spot is remote working people returning to the county to raise their kids and have their kids go to school here. There is a need for entertainment and activities to accommodate them to draw them back, like bike paths. Amy is excited to do her job. Day care is another hot topic to bring people back to the county. There are 130 new spots open for child care within the County. An economic development project in Defiance County was discussed and the state funded that was secured. Job sites within the county were discussed, there are sites in Columbus Grove and Ottoville that are ready to go. They want to take care of the businesses that have already invested in Putnam County, then they could move on to new companies.

Mike Lenhart Engineer met with Commissioners Wehri and Brubaker to discuss utility permits and road right of ways. Mike presented an issue and attorney general opinion that Madison County had with issuing permits for broadband. The Engineer has been issuing permits regarding utilities and right of ways and will assist with designing for drainage. They do issue the utility permits which are available online. Oversized load permits, over height, over weight or over width are also covered by the engineer's office. The fees have not changed. Broad band was not designated as a utility. In review of the attorney general's opinion, it was stated that the Engineer does not have the authority to issue permits for utilities or road right of ways. The Engineer does not have any rights since all the right of ways are in the Commissioners name. There is not a resolution non file giving the Engineer the authority to issue the permits from the past 20 years. The Engineer had been issuing permits and reviewing all plans that had been submitted. Some of the other counties within Ohio have been asked what they have done in these instances. Some did provide their processes for issuing permits and the authorities that were given to the Engineer. Some had the Engineer review the permit request and the Commissioners gave the final approval on the permit. One county added utility permit issuing to the Force Account resolution done annually for the Engineer. The Commissioners will need to decide what they want to do and how to handle these permits and include broadband permitting going forward. There is a handbook that could be reviewed for guidance. The previous board of commissioners gave ARP funds to the local phone companies to improve their broadband services. Telephone companies have boundaries although broadband does not have boundaries that limit them. Before the attorney general's opinion was shared the Engineer had been issuing the permits including internet. There is a permit request for broadband to go from the Village of Ottawa to the Powell Creek Solar farm. Some other recent fiber optic permits issued were reviewed. The Prosecutor was consulted on the opinion, he suggested a resolution designating the Engineer can continue issuing them. The Commissioners can do an amended

Force resolution to add the authority for permitting and going forward it can be added to the annual Force resolution. Do the Commissioners want to know about the permits and review them also? They know that engineer keeps the information on file if they need to review. The history of road right of ways is being reviewed as best as possible with the records that are available but not all records are available due to the fires that had happened to the courthouses and the historic files. The right of way road widths changed in 1853. The oldest book that we have is 1852 and the oldest map is 1870.

On the Hermiller ditch project the new contractor, Liebrecht is asking to put in perforated tile rather than non-perforated solid tile. It was discussed at the final hearing, and in reviewing the hearing minutes it was decided to put in solid tile. The change in project cost would be covered by the landowners. The Commissioners have the decision to make. Some of the landowners would have preferred having perforated tile anyway however none of the landowners have contacted the Engineer to request a change. Due to this project and the changes the Commissioners want to stay with the original plan. The ditch project should follow the plan that is already written and if a change is wanted then it should be done as a change order. The Engineer must inform the Commissioners of the conditions of roads and culverts annually, Mike asked how the Commissioners would like to see the report, he has submitted DVD's in the past and could email it now. The Commissioners are ok with how he is submitting it now, and they would be interested in going out to view bridge projects also.

At the end of the M-6 bridge meeting he said he was going to reach out for quotes on bridge rating, he is collecting those quotes and will present them.

Sheriff Siefker and Staci Schroeder met with Commissioners Wehri and Brubaker and Commissioner Schlumbohm via teleconference to discuss the retire/rehire policy. They also want to discuss compensation Commissioner Schlumbohm discontinued the call..

Mr. Brubaker moved to go into executive session with Mr. Wehri, Sheriff Siefker and Staci Schroeder to discuss employee compensation.

Mr. Wehri seconded the motion

Vote Wehri yes Brubaker yes Schlumbohm absent

Commissioners went back on record, no decisions were made and the meeting was rescheduled for next week.

Mr. Wehri moved to adjourn for the day.

Mr. Brubaker seconded the motion.

Vote: Wehri yes Brubaker yes Schlumbohm absent

Mr. Brubaker moved to approve the minutes as read from Thursday, February 27, 2025.

Mr. Wehri seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Wehri yes Mr. Brubaker yes Mr. Schlumbohm absent

