



**COMMISSIONER MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
January 5, 2026
6:00 PM**

ATTENDANCE:

COMMISSIONERS:

Andy Beck, President
Tom Helmer, Vice President
Rick Woodall

COUNCIL:

Stephanie Campbell, President
Wayne Huffman
Kerry Williams

ATTORNEY:

Jim Ensley

AUDITOR'S OFFICE

Kristina Berish

AUDIENCE:

13 Individuals

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met on January 5, 2026, at 6:00 PM in regular session. The meeting was held at the Putnam County Courthouse. Woodall opened the meeting and the pledge to the flag was given.

Woodall made the motion to add EPIC to agenda. Beck seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

APPOINTMENT OF PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT FOR 2026

Woodall made the motion to appoint Beck as President and Helmer as Vice President. Beck seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

CIRCUIT FLOOR REPLACEMENT REQUEST

Judge Headley requested floor replacement: courtroom, jury room, judge's office and bathroom, public defender, and juvenile probation areas. The current carpet is twenty-one years old. He submitted two estimates to the board: Edward Hicks \$19,606 and Hicks & Son \$20,362.

After some discussion, Helmer made the motion to approve the estimate from Edward Hicks and to request it to be paid out of the cumulative capital development fund. This approval is pending until the Council allows the additional appropriation request at their February meeting to pay for the floor replacement. Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

EPIC INSURANCE – COUNTY INSURANCE POLICIES 2026

John Parmley with EPIC came to the meeting to discuss the county's policies this year:

Workers Compensation – this premium increased due to salary increases for 2026 and the 2.3M case from a few years ago is still impacting the cost. It should fall off this next year. Recommended staying with IPEP.

Automotive – premium increased by 5% which is not bad since they are seeing average across the state of 10%. Recommended increasing the deductible from 1K to \$2,500 to help offset increase. This would save 18K. Recommended staying with Bliss McKnight.

Property – discussed the value currently on the buildings. Several are not high enough. Recommendation of increasing by a third each year until it is where it should be so the premium does not jump significantly in price.

Beck made the motion to approve increase in deductibles and to go with option 2 submitted by EPIC. Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Even with the changes, looking at being short 42K in this year's budget. An additional would be presented to the Council.

HIGHWAY REPORT

Director Clint Maddox:

- 1) Bridge 133 update on replacement.
- 2) Tractor back at the department. Been having issues with it. And every 900 miles must have replacement/repairs. Discussed options.
- 3) Bridge 78 – received pipes for replacement. Waiting for weather to do the work.
- 4) Freightliner trucks – gave update on outfitting.
- 5) Bridge 152 – has not been started yet, contacting company to see what was causing the delay.
- 6) Update on equipment up for sale.
- 7) Cleaning up roadways – brush and trees.

MINUTES

December 15, 2025 – Helmer made the motion to approve with the correction of December 1 to December 15. Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MAIL

The Commissioners acknowledged their mail.

AIRPORT BOARD APPOINTMENT

Woodall made the motion to re-appoint Steven Wise. Helmer seconded. The motion passed.

FOOD & BEVERAGE TAX

Beck asked Ensley about process for implementing tax for the county. Ensley replied he would need to research. Beck felt the county needed one. He would like to use the revenue to fund county building projects.

JOINT MEETING WITH COUNCIL

Beck felt they needed to have a joint meeting with the Council about the annex and other future projects. Date is set for January 20th at 7:00 pm following the Council's regular session meeting. He wants Mitch Hannum with Garmon to be there.

AIRPORT TAX

Beck asked Ensley to research the tax the airport receives.

SOLAR MEETING

Beck said the Plan Commission board will have a meeting on January 12th in Cloverdale regarding solar. It was advertised by this board that the Commissioners would have the solar rezone at their January 20th meeting. Helmer made a motion not to change the location of their meeting. It needs to be shown the issues county government is having with the current space we must work in and hold meetings. Last time it was moved to the fairgrounds, and the county had to pay for additional labor and equipment to be livestreamed. Since it was already advertised with the location of the Commissioner meeting room, the location of the meeting can not be changed at this time anyway. Helmer rescinded the motion.

Woodall asked how we want to conduct the meeting. It was decided that the solar company can make their presentation of the change. Give the two attorneys a chance to speak. No public comments, we have already heard those comments at previous meetings. 30 minutes given to both sides. They will conduct all other business first and then solar last on the agenda.

ANIMAL SHELTER

Beck said it cost thousands of dollars each year. He was not sure how much it would cost to adopt a pet but maybe the county needed to hold an event where they give a pet away to help with the overpopulation of the shelter. It has been quite some time since the board that is over the shelter has even met. He asked for a copy of the contract. Ensley said he would research and get it to him. Beck will further investigate and take the lead for the Board of Commissioners regarding the shelter.

911

Beck said there is a meeting tomorrow at 2 pm at the 911 center regarding the radios. He asked if Helmer would attend it.

AMBULANCE

Woodall asked for the status on the ambulance the county is still waiting on. Ensley said he had talked with Kelly Russ at the end of last month, but he did not know status. He will contact Russ tomorrow and get more information and get back with the board.

SPEED LIMIT NORTH OF ROACHDALE

Beck asked for an update. Maddox said they have the counters now and he would get them out there next week.

EMA COPIER

Helmer said the EMA Director had asked him about purchasing/leasing a copier. She did not know the protocol. Auditor Berish said if she did not have the funds in her 2026 budget, she would need to submit an additional and go before the Council with her request for funding.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Williams asked if they had an update on the building. Beck said the company is working on numbers and needs to get with the board. Beck said he wanted to talk to them about a department being included with them. Williams said they were happy to have a discussion with him about that.

ADJOURN

Woodall made the motion to adjourn. Helmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.



Andy Beck, President



Tom Helmer, Vice President



Rick Woodall



Attest: Auditor's Office, Kristina Berish