

Vermillion County Commissioner and Council

Special Joint Meeting

March 31, 2026

6:00 P.M.

Commissioner's Courtroom, 2nd Floor, Courthouse

Subject: Temporary Ambulance Facility at Perrysville Fire Department

- I. Call to Order** by Brenda Furry
- II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**
- III. Roll Call**

All Present except for Ashley James and Misty Hess

IV. Purpose of Meeting

- To discuss the temporary ambulance facility located at Perrysville Fire Department.
- To determine county compensation for extended facility use.
- To address the lack of a signed contract and related financial and administrative issues.

The facility was intended for temporary use (6–12 months) but has been in use approximately 21 months.

- County contributions to construction totaled approximately \$23,700 (of an estimated \$50,000).
- Perrysville Fire Department contributed \$25,000 from LIT/public safety funds.
- No formal signed lease exists, despite multiple drafts and email correspondence.

Discussion

Contract and Administrative Issues

- Multiple lease drafts were exchanged but not finalized.
- Lack of a signed contract has created legal and financial ambiguity.
- Administrative lapses were noted, including delayed documentation and miscommunication between commissioners and council.
- Agreements were often verbal or via email but not formalized.

Facility Usage and Original Agreements

- Original understanding included shared construction costs and potential county support for utilities.
- Disagreement exists on whether a monthly lease payment \$1500. was formally approved.
- Usage of the facility exceeded the intended temporary timeframe, prompting discussion of appropriate compensation.

Utilities

- County agreed to cover increased utility costs, not rent.
- Estimated additional utility costs: \$350 per month, totaling \$7,350 over 21 months.
- Exact figures are difficult to verify due to limited historical data.

Furniture Costs

- Perrysville Fire Department purchased appliances and furniture for EMS use, totaling approximately \$700.
- These items remain with the department and were not previously reimbursed.

Payment Proposals

- Initial proposal: $\$1,500/\text{month} \times 21 \text{ months} = \$31,500$, minus prior construction payments $\$23,700 = \$7,800$.
- Compromise proposal:
 - Lease difference: \$7,800
 - Utility increase: \$7,350
 - Furniture reimbursement: \$700
 - **Total proposed:** \$15,850
- Some officials advocated full lease-style payment (\$29,200) citing fairness and precedent.
- Motion to approve \$15,850 initially failed.
- Final motion approved **\$29,200**, covering lease, utilities, and furniture reimbursement.

Weir Motion

Costello Second

All in Favor, Motioned Carried

Equity Considerations

- Discussion emphasized fairness to Perrysville while considering other county departments (e.g., Clinton Fire).
- Concern that full funding may set precedent for additional requests from other departments.
- Future budget hearings may address equitable funding policies.

Additional Topics

- **Grant Proposal:** Regional mural/art project (READI 2.0) estimated at \$50,000–\$100,000.
- County may provide financial commitment letter; decision deferred to a subsequent meeting prior to April 15 deadline.

Next Steps

- Perrysville Fire Department to review approved payment with their board.
- County to finalize payment via appropriate appropriation process.
- Ongoing discussion regarding equitable treatment of other departments and future contract formalization.

V. Adjournment

Furry Makes a motion adjourn the meeting

Weir Seconds

All in Favor, Motion Carried

AYE:

RJ Dun

RJ Dunavan

William Peebles

William Peebles

Rick Weir

Rick Weir

Jeff Bose

Jeff Bose

Neil Costello

Kelly Summerville

Kelly Summerville

Tammie Brown

Tammie Brown

Brenda Furry

Brenda Furry

ATTEST:

Ron Dunavan

Ron Dunavan

Ashley James

NYE:

