

\*\*\*\*\*

Gibson County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
April 19, 2022

\*\*\*\*\*

The Gibson County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on April 19, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. at the North Annex Meeting Room.

Prayer was led by President Montgomery followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**Members Present:** President Kenneth Montgomery, Vice-President, Mary B. Key and Commissioner Warren Fleetwood

**MINUTES:** The minutes from the April 5, 2022, meeting were approved as presented. Commissioner Key motioned to approve minutes, seconded by Commissioner Fleetwood. With no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0.

The Clerks reports for January (corrected) and February were acknowledged by Commissioners.

The Treasurers report for March was acknowledged by Commissioners.

**CLAIMS:**

COUNTY GENERAL	\$292,631.30
COURTS	\$9,108.85
HIGHWAY	\$17,765.44
SHERIFF	\$16,796.88
ACH	\$169,877.39
CAW-2	\$13,940.77
CAW-1	\$7,199.48
FINES/FORFEITURES, DITCH CLAIMS & SALES DISCLOSURE REFUND	\$5,428.55
LIT DISTRIBUTIONS	\$540,209.09
PAYROLL	\$373,801.04
PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS	\$164,681.36

Total Claims Presented on 04/19/2022: \$1,611,440.15

Commissioner Key motioned to approve claims presented for payment, seconded by Commissioner Fleetwood. With no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**EMA** – Stephanie McKinney will host a booth at the Downtown Princeton event over the weekend. It is Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup> from 10-3. If people purchase weather radios, the EMA can/will program them. She is happy to announce they have trained 38 county employees in CPR and First Aid. She is scheduling for new classes, which are free for employees.

**Jail Update and Request to Advertise Bid Group #1** – George Ballard, Owners Representative told Commissioners they have their 6<sup>th</sup> report due on April 25<sup>th</sup>; the report is all but finished, with a lot of positive items in the report. The bids did not let as planned this past Friday; they pushed it back to get it advertised; it will advertise on April 22<sup>nd</sup> and April 29<sup>th</sup>; the bids will be due to Garmong on May 11, 2022.

Attorney Spindler asked permission to advertise bid group #1 for the jail project. Commissioner Key motioned to approve advertisement of this bid, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The vote was 3-0.

EMS - Director Pond gave his monthly report to Commissioners.

He also informed Commissioner's that Deaconess Gibson General typically sponsors the EMS; they no longer want to provide this service due to legalities over controlled substances and new laws pertaining to this. Director Pond is requesting Deaconess take over this sponsorship. They will pick up immediately from Deaconess Gibson General. There is no compensation in this contract. The only thing that will change is the legal title of the sponsor. Director Pond will sign this agreement. Commissioner Key motioned to approve the agreement with Deaconess, seconded by Commissioner Fleetwood. The vote was 3-0.

Director Pond urged Commissioners to allow the building project Michelle Mason had introduced at the April 5, 2022, meeting to move on to the Redevelopment Commission as a TIF Project. Commissioner Montgomery agrees that this is needed, therefore Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve sending this project to the RDC in the amount of \$2,000,000. Commissioner Key does not have a problem with a new EMS building, but she reminded everyone they have limited TIF time and roads that need paved in the TIF area. She brought up that in the ARPA meetings, only \$800,000 was requested; she questions if a building could be built with less than the \$2,000,000. She also reminded everyone that the \$2,000,000 is only a portion, as upkeep must occur for the duration. She feels the building is a "wish" building. Director Pond explained that he wants to ensure he is asking for an adequate amount due to the economy. Commissioner Key wonders if this building could also facilitate the health department. Director Pond feels it could accommodate them, but he does not want to give up the training room; he would, however, give up the office space and leave their offices as they are now, in the North Annex, thus allowing them to share the building with the health department. He wonders if traffic would become a problem for ambulance runs, as they typically do not have many visitors at the bases; he feels parking will have to be watched so cars do not get in the way of an ambulance and vice versa. He really feels they would be better in the long run to find another fit for the health department, as he had this building specifically designed for the EMS. Director Pond wonders if the county will recognize a savings by combining the two departments. He has planned this building for future growth with 4 bays; currently there is only one ambulance but foresees a need for an addition in the very near future. Commissioner Fleetwood asked how the new location will serve the district. Director Pond explained they are working with the Fair Board on the property located near the Brumfield overpass; they are willing to sell this to the County. It is centrally located in the Princeton City limits, which is important in dire situations. He explained that 80-90% of their runs come out of the Princeton City limits and feels this location has them centrally located more so than the current location. The hospital has increased the rent dramatically; however, it is the first raise in many years. Attorney Spindler feels the hospital is trending to charge fair market rent, he does not feel they increased to fair market rate with this first raise, but he does feel they will continue trending the increase to meet that amount; thus, he anticipates more raises and utilities are expensive. Commissioner Fleetwood feels Commissioner Key's concerns are legitimate and all projects need to be critical projects. Director Pond feels EMS is never on the front burner until it is too late; he reiterated how important a training facility is to them; and the future need for a 2<sup>nd</sup> unit. Director Hornby told Commissioners that the Health Department is in a very old building, they are not handicap accessible, as their ramp is roped off. She feels the health department is left behind a lot of the times. They need a floor plan that is on one level to accommodate the elderly and the handicapped as they are currently asking these citizens to call in so they can go outside to the trailer to accommodate them. She just wonders if this building could be realigned to serve both the EMS and Health Department. They have requested \$350,000 from ARPA funds. She has looked at some existing buildings, but they are usually not set up for healthcare and renovation will be costly. She feels the departments could combine their resources and use the tax dollars of Gibson County wisely. Director Pond told all that had he known the Health Department's wish, they could have designed the building plans differently; he feels it will be too tight of a fit for both. Director Pond would like to go ahead and try to get approval to move forward. If approved for the full \$2,000,000 they might be able to expand the building to make room for the health department. Commissioner Key asked George Ballard and Larry Michel (RDC Members) if a plan could be adjusted after it is submitted. George feels the plan could be redesigned, as they only approve the dollar amount and not a specific design. The RDC would probably approve the project with a not to

exceed amount. Commissioner Key feels that maybe other monies could be added to the RDC money if there is a need. Commissioner Fleetwood feels that Director Pond came in with a project that he had done a lot of leg work on; he wonders how Director Pond really feels about combining the departments. It is unknown who will get the ARPA money; but he wonders what could be done to the building that houses the health department to make that building work for this department. Director Hornby says they are running out of room inside and in the parking lot, as the basement is occupied by the extension office; the extension office is a part of the County, and the county contracts with Purduc for their services. She was not aware all these plans were in the making as she would have joined in on the conversation. The EMA presented something some time ago that would have included the health department, she just does not want to be left behind. Many counties have redone their health department. Commissioner Fleetwood asked how they plan to use the \$350,000 request from ARPA. Director Hornby says this building was originally a temporary home, but that was in 2009 and they are still there. She feels the EMS and Health Department services can complement each other. She is willing to work with anyone on future building plans. Stephanie McKinney says the health department has no privacy. She also feels that since the County does not have designated shelters, the proposed EMS building could serve this purpose. Director Pond asked Commissioners permission to move forward with this plan. He requests to keep the four bays and living quarters for two crews; he is willing to move the office space in a different direction. Commissioner Fleetwood feels both departments are extremely valuable, and both are needed in their full capacity. He fully intends to support the health department with the ARPA funding. He feels Director Pond has this project moving in the right, and wonders if the combined departments will get in each other's way. Commissioner Fleetwood seconded the motion to send this project to RDC. The vote was 3-0. Larry Michel feels that both departments should work together on this project as the health departments space is old and tight. Larry asked how the money flow is for EMS. Director Pond says they brought in a little over a million; their budget is \$1.9 million; they are one of the few services that bring in that kind of money for the County. Commissioner Key told Larry the health department brings money into the County as well. She stated that the EMS is a service, and it will never be a money-making proposition.

**Extension Office** – Macgan Hollis, Extension Director was going to introduce Jacob Shuman, 4-H Educator, however, Jacob had to leave to attend a 4-H youth program. Jacob is from Ohio, he graduated from Ohio State and started at the extension office in January; she feels he is doing a fantastic job. She told Commissioners they are searching for a Health and Human Sciences Educator.

### **COMMISSIONERS OLD BUSINESS**

**DANCO Construction Contract for Probation Building**– Attorney Spindler presented the Danco Construction Contract to Commissioners for approval; the bid was \$1,090,000. Commissioner Key motioned to approve the contract, seconded by Commissioner Fleetwood. The vote was 3-0.

### **COMMISSIONERS NEW BUSINESS**

**Local Government Homebuyer Assistance Initiative** – Angie Marsh was present, representing Guaranteed Rate Mortgage. She is from Knox County and present tonight to introduce the Hoosier Homes Program. It is a program that helps low-and moderate-income individuals/families buy a home in an approved area. Qualified homebuyers can receive up to 6% assistance for down payment and closing costs, plus a loan with competitive interest rates. In Gibson County, if the income is less than \$98,500, they might be qualified for the program. 1/36<sup>th</sup> of the payment is forgiven over a 30-year period. It is set up as a 2<sup>nd</sup> mortgage and after a two-year period, if they should sell the house, only 1/3 of payment would be required to be repaid, but if kept for the 36 months, it is totally forgiven. Guaranteed Mortgage needs approval from Commissioners or a City Council to approve the program in Gibson County however, there is no government responsibility, and a small fee would come back to Gibson County for every one of the programs qualified in the County. She requested Commissioners sign a resolution. She has worked with

a couple of local realtors that are excited about the program. The program is funded through the Indiana Housing Authority. Commissioner Key feels they need to investigate this program further before deciding.

**2022 Paving Bids** – In the absence of Engineer Holden, Commissioner Montgomery told everyone that the County has once again been approved for the Community Crossings Grant; this is the third year to be awarded with the grant. Engineer Holden would like Commissioners to approve the advertisement of bids to pave. Commissioner Key motioned to allow the advertisement for paving bids, seconded by Commissioner Fleetwood. The vote was 3-0.

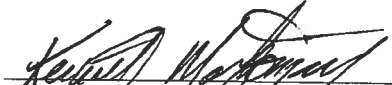
**Auditor's Office Update** – Auditor Watkins informed the Commissioners that the County will be getting new software very soon for the Financials and Property Tax. The software conversion for financials will take place soon, while the property tax software will take place at either the year end or beginning of 2023. The new software will come from Low Associates. Auditor Watkins wanted to let the Commissioners know that there will be changes and there might be times when the office is closed for training, conversion, etc.


**Medical Leave(4)** – Auditor Watkins told Commissioners all paperwork is in place to approve all four medical leaves. Commissioner Key motioned to approve all four medical leaves, seconded by Commissioner Fleetwood. The vote was 3-0.

**Sheriff Bottom** reported at the last meeting about the problems he was having with the gas tank. A Council member had suggested they get an above ground tank, rather than underground. Hinderliter will give a quote on repairing the current tank, installation of an electronic gage, and removal of underground tank and installation of an above ground tank. He has received some concerns about the above ground tank being installed close to the building. The underground tank has been in the ground since 1988.


**Adjournment** - With no further discussions, Commissioner Key motioned to adjourn the meeting. The vote to adjourn was 3-0.

Minutes from the April 19, 2022, Meeting.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kenneth Montgomery, President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary B. Key, Vice President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Warren Fleetwood, Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
ATTEST: Mike Watkins, Auditor