
Gibson County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
May 17, 2022

The Gibson County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on May 17, 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 May 4, 2022, meeting and May 11 Special Meeting were approved as presented. Commissioner Key motioned to approve both sets of minutes, seconded by Commissioner Fleetwood. With no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0.

CLAIMS:

COUNTY GENERAL	\$321,373.90	
COURTS	\$5,557.30	
HIGHWAY	\$22,209.93	
SHERIFF	\$6,579.09	
ACH	\$177,586.35	
CAW-1	\$10,887.92	
CAW-2	\$13,057.24	
CAW-3	\$161,888.64	
PRIMARY ELECTION CLAIMS	\$14,870.27	
ELECTION PAYROLL	\$12,769.00	
PAUPER CLAIMS	\$1,997.72	
PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS	\$156,033.11	
INSURANCE PREMIUMS	\$429,714.22	
PROPERTY TAX PAMENTS FROM SURPLUS	\$12,247.45	
LIT DISTRIBUTIONS	\$540,209.09	
DITCH CLAIMS, TAX SALE REDEMPTION REFUND	\$14,207.24	
CVET DISTRIBUTION	\$209,502.00	
Total Claims Presented on 05/17/2022:		\$2,110,690.47

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

The Commissioners acknowledged the Treasurer’s Report for

The Commissioners acknowledged the Clerk’s Report for March 2022.

George Ballard gave a jail update. Bid package #1 is due tomorrow. They will present them to Commissioners at the June 7 meeting with a recommendation. Attorney Spindler is working on the May 31st closing of the monument property. Today discussion was conducted regarding connecting the probation building and jail with fiber before the buildings are built. Commissioner Fleetwood complimented George on the forward thinking in trying to get all the buildings interlinked with this fiber before the builds begin. He told everyone this is national police week.

George had assembled a binder for Commissioners to review about Henry Murphy, a Southern Railroad Detective in 1912. The Clarion ran a side column of things that had happened in the past, and he picked

up on the information from this article and tracked it through national news, which provided great coverage of the event. Henry Murphy was a Southern Railroad Police Detective that was found to be murdered in April 1912 in Princeton while investigating crimes (the burning of wooded box rail cars) in the Southern Shops, which was a large employer. A new detective from St. Louis was brought in to take over the investigation and the suspect was located as he was breaking into people's houses. They arrested him, but never charged him with murder as there was not a lot of follow-up conducted on this matter. Since this Detective is not currently on the national monument, they are going to try to get him on there, Southern Railroad will have to make the application using the information George and his team have gathered. Princeton also has a monument listing fallen officers; Lisa Viton is one of the driving forces of the local monument; George thanked Lisa and all the others that helped with this monument. There is another officer by the name of John Officer, born and raised in Princeton, that lost his life in Chicago while serving on their police force, he was one of the first Afro-Americans to be hired by the Chicago Police Force. Mr. Officer is buried here at Sandhill, and they hope to get his name listed on the local monument along with Mr. Murphy. George requested permission from Commissioners to make these additions to the local monument. Quotes will be attained to get the names etched onto the monument; George will keep the Commissioners informed as they move along with the process. Commissioner Key motioned her approval; Commissioner Montgomery seconded the motion. The vote was 3-0.

COMMISSIONERS OLD BUSINESS

Bid Opening – Paving County Roads- Engineer Holden opened the Community Crossings Grant bids. He received two lump sum bids with unit pricing based on usage as follows:

1. E & B Paving, Inc. \$1,620,644.65
2. JH Rudolph bid \$1,514,100.87

Next Engineer Holden opened bids for the locally funded paving projects:

1. E & B Paving, Inc. \$1,121,141.40
2. JH Rudolph \$1,067,652.90

Engineer Holden would like a recess on this matter so he can ensure all bid documents are in place. He will come back with a recommendation on accepting these bids. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve the requested recess from this bid opening, seconded by Commissioner Key. The vote was 3-0 to recess bids.

Finding Facts & Conclusions of Law Southern Hills Crossing – Attorney Spindler took this item via zoom and introduced his new baby to everyone. He requested Commissioners adopt the finding facts and conclusions of law tonight as presented by the Attorneys from Barnes & Thornburg, if not tonight, then at the first meeting in June. Attorney Spindler explained the facts must be adopted in a reasonable manner of time. Commissioner Fleetwood is prepared to act tonight but he wants to ensure the Attorneys have looked at the three essential components of concern, those being, sewage, drainage, and road. Another thing he wanted to ensure had been reviewed was the subdivision control ordinance requiring a sketch plan, and he feels this is absent. Commissioners decided to wait until the June meeting to adopt the findings. Attorney Spindler will get the meeting notes to the Attorneys at Barnes & Thornburg, so they are aware of the concerns.

Debbie Bennet-Stearsman – Documents for American Recovery Act – Ms. Stearsman is the ARPA Coordinator; she is presenting the Core Group's recommendations to Commissioners. She told Commissioners the narrative will be placed on the county website and sent to all County Department Heads. The narrative will tell them to go to the website to look at the link for the application and the link for the public works requirements. The public works requirements are standard and follow Indiana Code. The Commissioner also have in their packet, the application, which will open on June 6 and close on September 2, 2022. There will be approximately 30 days in which they will score the applications and come back to Commissioners with recommendations. If there is money remaining, the application

process will reopen. Applicants can apply more than once, but the Core Group will have the discretion of approving one or combining projects. She explained that the Core Group had made a couple of decisions, one is they will not be requiring a match and they will be including a question asking about the project need and impact it will have on residents of Gibson County. The scoring is the last item. The Core Group recommended the process of disseminating the information and how the applications will work and all forms. The Core Group recommended that all this information be passed by the Commissioners for approval, pending Attorney Spindler's final review. There were no questions, and Commissioners are ready to move forward. ARPA Coordinator Stearsman requested the Commissioners approve the process presented and emails to the department heads, the placement of the applications onto the website and the forms as amended, all pending final approval of the County Attorney.

Commissioner Key motioned to approve Coordinator Stearsman's request, seconded by Commissioner Fleetwood. The vote was 3-0.

Next recommendation from Coordinator Stearsman and the Core Group is to set aside \$800,000 for premium pay for essential employees, according to ARP regulations. They would like to set the amount aside and get started on this part of the ARPA project immediately. Coordinator Stearsman will take this item to the Council for appropriation. Commissioner Key motioned to approve this recommendation, seconded by Commissioner Fleetwood. The vote was 3-0.

Coordinator Stearsman told Commissioners her contact information was on the website and department heads could contact her with questions. Commissioners will call a special meeting with them if the questions become too numerous or if Coordinator Stearsman feels it will be of benefit.

Lastly, Baker Tilly has reviewed a couple of requests to ensure they could be justified. Economic Development of Gibson County has submitted a request to update the County's branding and website and the Gibson County Council on Aging had applied for automatic doors and a generator. Baker Tilly feels both projects can be justified if they submit the application and go thru the scoring process, as can the fire departments request for silo equipment; dependent upon whom applies.

Resolution Regarding Intent to Conduct Commissioners' Sale – Attorney Spindler told Commissioners that the tax sale from September 2021 had properties that did not sell, so a Commissioner's Tax Sale will be conducted to get rid of those properties; he requests that Commissioners approve this resolution to move forward. Commissioner Key motioned to approve this resolution, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. Commissioner Fleetwood abstained from the vote. The vote was 2-0.

Bid Opening – Paving County Roads- Commissioners brought the paving bids back to the table by a motion from President Montgomery, seconded by Commissioner Fleetwood. The vote was 3-0. Engineer Holden has looked through the low bid from JH Rudolph to ensure all bid documents are present; he found that all documents are included. Engineer Holden recommended that Project#GCPO-CCMG22, with low bid be approved in the amount of \$1,514,100.87 from JH Rudolph. Commissioner Fleetwood motioned to accept the low bid, seconded by Commissioner Key. The vote was 3-0.

Engineer Holden requested that Commissioners also accept low bid on Project #GCPO 22 from JH Rudolph, in the amount of \$1,067,652.90 as all documents are included with the bid. Commissioner Key made the motion to accept this low bid, seconded by Commissioner Fleetwood. The vote was 3-0. he will get the originals back to Auditor.

Engineer Holden says the funding is in place for both projects; he will return the original bid documents to the Auditor.

Stormwater Management Ordinance 2022-02 – Attorney Spindler request approval on the Ordinance as circulated in final format, incorporating the requested Commissioner's changes. All references to surveyor's office were removed and replaced by the drainage board. They also removed the references to zoning with exception of the two entities that do have zoning in Gibson County, Haubstadt, and Princeton. Commissioner Fleetwood asked Attorney Spindler if he feels the language protects the small guy, an individual homeowner and the county from big industry, storm water issues. Attorney

Spindler feels due diligence has been exercised on this ordinance. Commissioner Fleetwood motioned to approve the changes, seconded by Commissioner Key. The vote was 3-0.

Low Contract – Auditor Watkins distributed the contract; Attorney Spindler has approved the contract. This new software will replace the financial software and property tax software. The Council has approved this purchase. The amount is \$487,338 with an \$80,000 discount. The transition should start soon. This will be the first software upgrade in 22 years. Commissioner Key motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Fleetwood. The vote was 3-0.

County Road 350 E Railroad Crossing – Commissioner Fleetwood says they continue to work on this matter; the focus is to keep in contact with Norfolk Southern and work with them to the best of their ability. The Commissioners appreciate the collaboration.

COMMISSIONERS NEW BUSINESS

Spectrum Broadband Announcement of RDOF – Spectrum representatives were on hand to make announcement of a grant they were awarded that will bring broadband to rural areas of Gibson County. Elizabeth James is the Government Affairs Manager; Daryl Hulsey is Construction Manager and Jeremy Whetstone is a Coordinator, a local resident that graduated from PCHS, and a 20-year Spectrum employee. They are excited about bringing broadband to rural areas of Gibson County. They assured everyone Spectrum is not a fly-by-night entity and have local folks, they are the local Indiana team. Spectrum was awarded a grant from the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) in the amount of \$4 million for Indiana. They will install fiber to over 2,000 businesses and residences, there will be more served along the way. They must provide service or risk the grant being revoked; they have until 2025 to connect Indiana, Gibson County will be done in 2 years, with start date this summer. They have the funds and are now getting the permits they need to begin. They will double their footprint in Indiana with the \$4 million grant received; the county will not pay anything. Spectrum was the largest company awarded in Gibson County, but other providers were awarded as well. They will provide 1000 Mbps of download and 500 Mbps of upload. Spectrum promises fast, reliable service with no modem fees or contracts. www.spectrumruralexpansion.com is a website people can access to find out if they are included in the expansion area. They offer special rates for the elderly and for those households with kids receiving free and/or reduced lunches. They also applied for a grant thru the state and won an additional 193 passings or \$1 million from the State. Spectrum is also offering spectrum mobile phone service, with a great package and a streaming TV package. They are working with the County to get permits and would like any help they can get to streamline the process. Commissioners want to know of any hiccups to keep the process moving. Commissioner Fleetwood feels this is a great thing for our communities and requested Spectrum keep the job clean and respectful. Spectrum assured Commissioners they want to keep everyone happy.


Emergency Management Service– Teamsters Contract – Commissioner Montgomery told the other two Commissioners the contract now says the EMS will be paid for the 24-hour shift. All Commissioners have reviewed the contract. Commissioner Key motioned to approve the EMS contract, seconded by Commissioner Fleetwood. The vote was 3-0.


Director Pond thanked the Commissioners and Council for being supportive and cooperative. He told everyone that it is National Emergency Medical Services week. He also reported to Commissioners that the presentation to the RDC regarding the proposal to seek funds to build a new EMS building went well; they will attend the next meeting. Commissioner Fleetwood told him to stay steadfast.


Major Medical Leaves (2) – Commissioner Fleetwood motioned to approve both requests, seconded by Commissioner Key. The vote was 3-0.

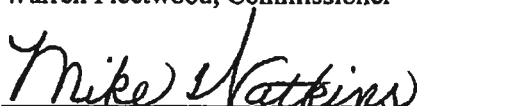
With no further discussions, Commissioner Key motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Fleetwood. The vote to adjourn is 3-0.

Minutes from the May 17, 2022, Meeting.


Kenneth Montgomery, President


Mary B. Key, Vice President


Warren Fleetwood, Commissioner


ATTEST: Mike Watkins, Auditor