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Gibson County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Session  
May 4, 2022

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The Gibson County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on May 4, 2022, at 5:30 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 19, 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.

**CLAIMS:**

INNKEEPERS DISTRIBUTIONS & MISC OTHER ITEMS	\$32,232.60
ED PLATE DISTRIBUTIONS & DITCH CLAIMS	\$4,722.75
COUNTY GENERAL	\$300,471.45
CAW-1	\$30,374.46
CAW-2	\$11,359.69
SHERIFF	\$4,562.42
HIGHWAY	\$28,402.75
COURTS	\$6,263.04
ACH	\$130,907.92
PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS	\$164,408.88
ELECTION MEALS	\$25.22
ADDITIONAL PAYROLL (LEFT OFF 4/22/2022 PAYROLL)	\$684.00
PAYROLL (MARCH 25, 2022)	\$346,267.12
PAYROLL (APRIL 22, 2022)	\$357,387.58
Total Claims Presented on 5/4/2022	\$1,418,069.88

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

**Treasurer's Report** was acknowledged by the Commissioners.

**Department Reports**

**EMS** - Director Pond presented his report for April. He had \$4,085.95 in write-offs. Commissioner Key motioned to approve these write-offs, seconded by Commissioner Fleetwood. With no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0.

**COMMISSIONERS OLD BUSINESS**

**Adopting of Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Laws – Southern Hills Crossings** – Attorney Spindler introduced Attorney Joe Chapelle from Barnes & Thornburg. He had advised Commissioners on facts and findings and told them they can give instruction on changes or table them as presented. Attorney Chapelle told them that paragraph 3 will need a date added; paragraph 21 will also need a change to add the dimensions of the intersections. Commissioner Fleetwood has reviewed the facts and findings but feels it might be beneficial if he could study a bit longer. Attorney Chapelle asked them to contact him with questions.

**Jail Update** – George Ballard advised Commissioner that the Federal Report had been submitted in a timely fashion. The property where the building will be built has a couple of buildings; people are interested in purchasing them from the County. They will pay the County for these buildings and remove them.

**Empire Contract for Courthouse Security** – Attorney Spindler requested Commissioners authorize President Montgomery as signatory on the contract, as it was awarded in a prior meeting in the amount of \$289,000. Commissioner Fleetwood motioned to approve President Montgomery as signatory on the contract, seconded by Commissioner Key. With no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0.

### **COMMISSIONERS NEW BUSINESS**

**BCS Representative Andrew Beitler to present Technology Package for the new Probation Building**

– Mr. Beitler told Commissioners that the BCS contract originally presented in 5/2020 had experienced a cost increase of 15% because the building size grew plus the original prices were a year old. The package includes a phone system, emergency paging, fiber boring, data cabling, AV cabling for conference rooms, access control for at least 6 doors, security alarm, and camera equipment to tie into the courthouse security. There are 3 video conference connections. Attorney Spindler asked if they had installed the video conference equipment from the jail to the court room; he wondered if they could all interconnect with this new building. Mr. Beitler told him yes, BCS had done that job and anyone with a laptop can connect to courthouse and jail with audio and video via MS Teams or Zoom. Commissioner Fleetwood asked if they feel there will be any gaps in technology or need for software updates when interconnecting the 3 buildings. -BCS feels everything will mesh when they do firmware updates; they tried to account for upgrades since the original contract was put together one year ago. The AV is everchanging, but they will accommodate this. They are experiencing delays in parts, just like everyone. He would like approval to keep moving on this project. Attorney Spindler asked to table until the May 17, 2022, meeting since there is an increase in the quote. Commissioner Key suggested this contract be presented to the Council. BCS would also like to review the quote room by room before finalizing it. Commissioner Fleetwood agrees on the stall. BCS will schedule a meeting with Probation and Public Defenders office regarding the technology package. Commissioner Key will contact the Council to see if they would like to speak to BCS before the contract is finalized. Commissioner Fleetwood asked if BCS digitizes records. Commissioner Key told everyone that the Clerk's Office had already started that process; Clerk Morrow was in attendance and told Commissioners they had scanned approximately 2,000,000 pages. The Clerk's office owns a book scanner, and many things can be scanned on this machine. Commissioners feel they might have to digitize some records to get them out of storage.

**2022 Community Crossings Matching Grant** – Engineer Matt Holden announced the award of the 2022 Community Crossings Matching Grant. He will attend a pre bid meeting in the morning. He explained that the President of Commissioners must sign all the INDOT documents electronically thru DocuSign; Attorney Spindler has the Ordinance that authorizes execution of INDOT contracts. INDOT is pushing hard to move into these new electronic signatures.

Commissioner Fleetwood motioned to approve this Ordinance, seconded by Commissioner Key. With no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0.

**Gibson County Election Board regarding Signs on the Courthouse Lawn** – Ed Richardson, Election Board Member, along with Gibson County Clerk, Jim Morrow and Jim Bryant were present to request direction on campaign signs on County property. Mr. Richardson praised Clerk Morrow, his employees, and election crew on the fantastic job with elections. Commissioner Key says in past, it has been a policy of Commissioners to not allow the signs on any county property she feels the ordinance is a good idea and all county owned property should be addressed. The Election Board would like to be fair to everyone; they need to act prior to the fall elections.

**Fuel Tank Estimates for the Sheriff's Department** - Sheriff Bottoms presented the estimates from Hinderliter. The Council had requested above ground tank fuel storage. The cost to repair the old tank will be \$15,854. The quote to install a new 1,000-gallon above ground tank was \$44,280, plus Sheriff Bottoms would need to get a permit from the Fire Marshal and coordinate with IDEM to remove and install the new storage. Sheriff Bottoms does not feel they should install an above ground tank due to safety issues. Commissioner Montgomery feels they should make improvements to the current tank. A meeting will be held between Parker and Hinderliter, as Parker will be installing safety bollards. Commissioner Fleetwood motioned to approve \$16,000 for option #1 plus the Parker bid, seconded by Commissioner Key. With no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0.


**Gibson County Animal Services – Sharon Werne** – Ms. Werne is President of the Animal Service Advisory Board; she is requesting permission to apply for a grant with ARPA funds to build a new building and vehicles. The Animal Services has a contract with the County in which the County provides land, building, and vehicles. They are on ¾ acre, and the building was built in 1970. Next, they wonder if the County would allow them to utilize extra property at the highway garage that they are not using to build this new building. They have 5 acres that could satisfy their needs over the next 20-years and Engineer Holden and Superintendent Johnson assisted Ms. Werne in drawing out the portion of land animal services would utilize. Animal Services picks up injured, stray, and vicious animals. They are a 501C3 corporation and adopt out animals, even some livestock. They are looking for a commitment from the County before they request these items from the ARPA grant. They do not euthanize for space, only injured or vicious animals. They work with a lot of different groups; they also offer a food bank, vaccination clinics, and chipping services for all animals that are adopted out. Commissioner Key motioned to approve all requests from Animal Services, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. With no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0.


**Center Point Energy Helicopter Pad install at Hopkins Park** - would like to lease a small piece of ground to install a helicopter pad plus some accessories at Hopkins Park. They will use this pad to work on their high-tension line; they will pay \$500 per month while they are using this (approximately 2 months). Commissioner Key motioned to approve this, seconded by Commissioner Fleetwood. The vote was 3-0. The money will be deposited into Hopkins Park donation fund 4001.

**Major Medical Leave (1)** was approved by the Commissioners with a motion from Commissioner Key seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The vote was 3-0.

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

Minutes from the May 4, 2022, Meeting.

  
Kenneth Montgomery, President

  
Mary B. Key, Vice President

  
Warren Fleetwood, Commissioner

  
ATTEST: Mike Watkins, Auditor