
 Gibson County Board of Commissioners
 Regular Session
 April 6, 2021

The Gibson County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on April 6, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. at the North Annex Meeting Room.

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

Roll Call by Auditor Watkins:
 President Warren Fleetwood – Present
 Vice-President Kenneth Montgomery – Present
 Commissioner Mary B. Key – Present

Auditor Watkins noted a quorum was present.

MINUTES: The minutes from the March 16, 2021 meeting were approved as presented. Commissioner Key motioned to approve minutes, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. With no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0.

CLAIMS:

PAUPER CLAIMS	\$929.00
CAW - 1	\$51,338.74
CAW - 2	\$25,000.00
CAW - 3	\$22,603.51
CAW - 4	\$83,757.80
INNKEEPERS DISTRIBUTION	\$10,719.60
BLIGHT CLAIMS	\$644.36
WHEEL SURTAX AND ED PLATE DISTRIBUTION	\$74,984.57
PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS	\$160,567.41
UNEMPLOYMENT	\$2,848.96
PAYROLL	\$348,644.47
COUNTY GENERAL	\$241,703.01
HIGHWAY	\$315,234.71
SHERIFF	\$45,262.45
ACH	\$114,181.78
CAW - 5	\$20,784.84
COURTS	\$15,017.67
TOTAL CLAIMS PRESENTED FOR 4/6/2021	\$1,534,222.88

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

Department Reports were presented

EMS Director Pond presented report for the month of March.

Sheriff Department – Sheriff Bottoms presented a written report on the jail to Commissioners.

Health Department - Director Hornby told Commissioners they have been busy with COVID vaccines at the fairgrounds. They will be hosting a vaccine clinic on Saturday at the Fairgrounds to administer the 1-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine, plus they received 1200 doses of the moderna vaccine. They plan to travel to the jail, OCU, and other businesses to administer these extra moderna vaccines. They are having vaccine clinics at the Fairgrounds on Wednesdays from 9 am – 7 pm and Friday from 8 am – 4 pm. They will be conducting COVID testing at the Fairgrounds on Monday-Tuesday-Thursday. They are receiving their new computer server, after the old one crashed.

COMMISSIONERS OLD BUSINESS

Ambulance Bids Opening: Crossroads Ambulance Sales from Middlebury, Indiana submitted a bid in the amount of \$183,810 which includes allowances of \$7,000; \$2,000 for a previous customer discount and a \$5,000 trade-in allowance. The next bid was from Fire Service, Inc., from Indianapolis, in the amount of \$207,620 which includes an allowance of \$4,000 for a rebate plus a \$3,000 for trade-in. Attorney Spindler recommended the Commissioners take the bids under advisement until next meeting. Commissioner Key motioned to take the bids under advisement, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. With no further discussion, the motion passed 3-0.

COVID Medical Leave Update: Auditor Watkins asked the Commissioners to revisit this topic after they had extended this leave in January with plans to revisit in March. Currently, the County has no one off on COVID leave. He has also learned that other Counties are discontinuing this leave. Auditor Watkins recommends the County cease the COVID Medical Leave, which has been available for employees for the past year. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to cease COVID Medical leave, seconded by Commissioner Key. The motion passed 3-0.

Water Softener Request by Sheriff Bottoms Sheriff Bottoms presented the requested warranty to Commissioners after he had previously requested permission to repair or replace. The cost to replace is \$15,627.57; Sheriff Bottoms has the funds to replace this item in his jail budget in the plumbing, electrical, and maintenance line; Commissioners feel he should use this budgeted money first. If/when he runs low on funds, in future, he can request the Commissioner's help at that time. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve the purchase from the jail budget, seconded by Commissioner Key. The motion passed 3-0.

Chamber Director, Patty Vanoven - Heritage Days – requested permission from the Commissioners to use the Courthouse lawn, as usual, for the festival, as well as blocking out 4 parking spots on each side (16 totals parking spots) of the Courthouse for ease of the vendors. Commissioner Key motioned to approve both, use of the lawn and the 16 parking spots, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The vote 3-0.

Ms. Vanoven questioned the new courthouse security and wondered if this will be an issue, as the festival always uses the basement bathrooms. Commissioners do not feel the new security will be an issue this year, however, warn that only the South entrance will be open for entry. Commissioner Key motioned to allow use of the bathrooms by the public at the festival, via the south basement doors only, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The vote was 3-0.

The festival will have opening ceremony on Friday (9/17/21) at 5:30 p.m.; she invited the Commissioners, and all elected officials, to this event, as they will mark the Festival's 40th anniversary.

Fred Kuester Request Subdivision Review Ordinance Waivers

Commissioner Key motioned to approve the appeal to the subdivision plat presented by Mr. Kuester, not the waiver, based on a review and the Harrison Monument being referenced, which is the monument in question. The issue at hand is the plat itself, not the section corner. The Commissioners have no say on section corners. Section corners are perpetuated by the County Surveyor and Indiana Code. Mr. Kuester has appealed to have the plat accepted and Commissioner Key is approving the appeal on the plat itself,

seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. There was no further discussion on this matter; the matter was passed with a 3-0 vote.

Gibson County Comprehensive Emergency Management Updated Plan: Commissioners have reviewed a copy of this annual renewal, which requires signature of Commissioners before submission to the State.

COMMISSIONERS NEW BUSINESS

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1
Mr. Bill Tuley request financial assistance for Senior Citizens Center Air Conditioners

Mr. Tuley was unable to attend, however, Executive Director, Julia Rahman was present. Ms. Rahman reviewed a few benefits provided by the Senior Program including transportation, socialization, and meals; she shared the center's calendar of events, as well. She went on to explain the aging HVAC system, the need for a new system, the age and deterioration of the building and repairs needed on the parking lot. Ms. Rahman requests Commissioner's consideration of this information during COVID relief fund planning. Commissioner's thanked Ms. Rahman for the useful information.

Major Medical Leaves (2) was approved by the Commissioners with a motion from Commissioner Key, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The vote was 3-0.

State of Indiana Mask Advisory: The Governor has lifted the mask mandate for COVID-19 and issued an advisory. The advisory requires a mask in all government buildings and advises the use of a mask in public places. The Health Department encourages and recommends the use of masks, especially in large crowds. County Attorney Spindler recommends Courthouse screening being fulfilled through the Health Department be lifted and the Judges be delegated as decision makers on entry requirements.

Commissioner Key feels the County should follow the state mandate and all residents should respect others and try to keep themselves and others healthy. President Fleetwood feels all Gibson County residents should be on board to follow the advisory; watch out for others, respect others, and show patience during the trials and tribulations we are all faced with at this time. He feels everyone should take precautions and stay vigilant. Sheriff Bottoms will require masks in the jail. The Health Department would like to see more of the County vaccinated before the masks are dropped. Commissioner Key motioned to follow the State's advisory plus mandate masks in all county buildings and jail, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The vote on this matter is 3-0.

Commissioner Key motioned to relieve the Health Department of their screening obligations, at the Courthouse, at the conclusion of the current week, and delegate the courthouse entry policy to the Judges and Attorney Spindler with help and guidance provided by the Health Department; seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. This vote was 3-0.

Southern Hills Crossing: Mr. Phil Reinbrecht of Reinbrecht Construction was present to verify the Commissioners had all paperwork required to move forward on this subdivision approval. After Health Department Director Hornby contacted Mr. Ben Dye on this, it was discovered this application is still at the State level awaiting approval. Once the permit is received back from the State, it will move to the Subdivision Committee and then on to the Commissioners. They told Mr. Reinbrecht something might be available for a May Public Hearing.

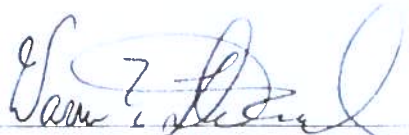
Acknowledgement of TIF Management Annual Report: Commissioner's acknowledged receipt of this report.

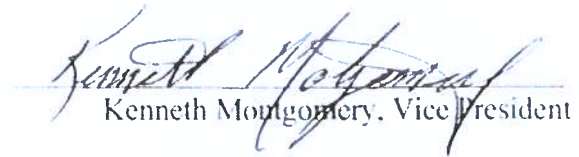
American Rescue Funds: It has been deemed that Gibson County has been awarded \$6,527,956; ½ of the money will deposit in May of 2021 and the remainder will deposit in May of 2022. They funds must be used prior to 2024. The Commissioners feel a team should be assembled so careful planning of expenditures can be made. Debbie Bennett Stearsman of the Economic Development Coalition of Southwest Indiana suggested to County Attorney Spindler the creation of a Resolution 2021-04 providing a response to the COVID related recovery funds. Attorney Spindler read the Resolution to

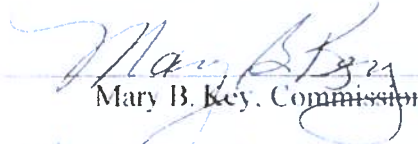
Commissioners and the crowd. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Key. The vote was 3-0.


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

Minutes from the April 6, 2021 Meeting.


Warren Fleetwood, President


Kenneth Montgomery, Vice President


Mary B. Key, Commissioner


ATTEST: Mike Watkins, Auditor