
Gibson County Board of Commissioners
Regular Session
April 7th, 2020

The Gibson County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on April 7th, 2020, at 8:00 AM at the North Annex Meeting Room.

Members Present: Included President Gerald Bledsoe, Vice-President Mary Key, Commissioner Stephen E. Bottoms, and County Auditor Sherri Smith.

Remote Participant – County Attorney James McDonald

This meeting is in accordance with the Public Meetings Executive Orders 20-04 and 20-09. Seating during this meeting is limited to 10. This meeting was broadcast using Zoom.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Welcome were recited and led by President Bledsoe.

Minutes: The minutes from March 10th, 2020 Executive Meeting and the March 17th, 2020 Regular Meeting were read and approved through a motion by Commissioner Bottoms and seconded by Commissioner Key. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 3-0.

Claims:

- County General - \$279,591.03
- Courts - \$3,934.33
- Highway - \$42,836.80
- Sheriff - \$37,870.23
- ACH - \$42,195.94
- CAW-1 - \$80,933.83
- CAW-2 - \$7,358.93
- CAW-3 - \$3,147.73

- Insurance Claim for Toyota Traffic Light Repair - \$41,634.25
- Tax Sale Redemption & Overpay Refunds - \$2,901.99
- Innkeepers Tax Distribution - \$17,525.99
- Ditch Claims - \$167.63
- Wheel and Sur Tax Distributions - \$85,573.18
- Tax Sale Redemption, Overpays and Ditch Claim - \$39,818.45

- Payroll for 03/27/2020 - \$319,248.25
- Payroll Deductions - \$150,491.75
- Pauper Claims for 03/19/2020 paid by ACH – 40,172.60
- Pauper Claims for 03/19/2020 paid by Check - \$1,641.60

Commissioner Key made a motion to approve the claims and was seconded by Commissioner Bottoms. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 3-0.

Department Reports:

Animal Services did not submit a report.

Veterans did not submit a report.

Weights & Measures did not submit a report.

Highway Department report was submitted by Superintendent Lewis. President Bledsoe reviewed the report. They have purchased millings to cover roads and purchased safety shirts for the employees.

Health Department submitted the monthly report and encouraged the public to self-isolate and practice social distancing. Commissioner Bottoms asked Director Hornby to review the restrictive use of certain facilities, such as libraries and the uses of their computers for the public's ability to apply for food stamps and unemployment. Director Hornby explained that she had talked to the Libraries and they are all allowing restrictive uses for these things. They are taking extra precautions with the computer keyboards. The Governor's Office has a hotline to determine essential and non-essential businesses and the Commissioners are advised to give that number to the businesses that ask the Commissioner for guidance.

EMA provided a monthly report. They are anticipating a personal protection equipment delivery from the State. There are not enough PPE's for the EMS, Police or Fire Departments. The Federal Government is getting them first for distribution to medical facilities. There are daily conferences with the Governors Office to keep updated on the pandemic. The Commissioners thanked Terry and the Health Department for their extra efforts.

Flood Plain did not submit a report.

EMS submitted a monthly report which included Write-offs in the amount of \$3,341.58. Commissioner Bottoms motioned to approve this write-off, seconded by Commissioner Key. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 3-0.

Sheriff provided a monthly report. The inmate population today was 68.

Extension Office provided a report and included some cancellations and postponements.

Park Board – Commissioner Bottoms thanked the Princeton Cross Country Team and Princeton High School Honor Scholars Program for their help in planting the Toyota and Hipp Nursery donated trees at Hopkins Park. A thanks also went out to Koberstein's Rentals for donating the rental of a skid steer and an auger for this planting. County Engineer Holden is still working on the plans for the restroom facility.

SWCD Soil & Water did not provide a report

County Engineer Holden reported purchased millings are being put in place. A chip/seal list is being compiled. The County's paving bids were awarded at the last meeting and hope to begin this project in May. The bridge near Wheeling is out for bid now. A conference call will be arranged for the pre-bid meeting. He hopes to award this bid at the next Commissioner's meeting. There is a request for proposal out on Bridge #74, in the Wheeling area, for consultants to design this federal aid bridge project. The State is on schedule for the June/July SR 64 closure. The Francisco project is scheduled for 2021.

Parrish Consulting did not provide a report.

Presentation of Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer's Report Month Ending 03/31/2020 was acknowledged.

Old Business:

- Public Defender Program is proceeding. The Judges intend to take this item to the Council to request funding. This program is a way the courts can be reimbursed by the State, for the Public Defender Attorneys. The program will be established for both courts with Lisa Moody assisting in setup. At some time, office space will need to be added for this new program. Commissioner Bottoms motioned to move forward on establishment of this new program, seconded by Commissioner Key. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 3-0.
- June 2nd is now recognized as the new Primary Election Day in Indiana; May 5th is no longer a Holiday. Commissioner Bottoms motioned to move the County Holiday from May 5, 2020 to June 2, 2020, seconded by Commissioner Key. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 3-0.
- Judge Krieg entered the meeting to further discuss the new Public Defender Program. His hope is to have the new program up and running by July 1, 2020 in order to capture monies for the last quarter of 2020. They will recoup 40% of the costs from the State and most items are reimbursable. They are working with the Probation Office Architect to incorporate this program's space into that building as well. This program will have a board; the Judges will have an appointment to the board, as will the Commissioners and the State Public Defender's Office. The board will appoint the Chief Public Defender; it is the Judge's belief that this person will come from Gibson County. If this person selected is a local attorney, a short-term solution for location might be this local attorney's current office.

The jail population has been diminished due to the pandemic Covid-19; sentence modifications have been made.

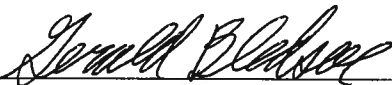
Magistrate is not an elected position. This is approved and will begin 07/01/2021. A 5-member committee might be formed to select this position.

- 2020 Community Crossing Grant– County Engineer Holden asked permission to move forward on advertising even though the award is pending due to the pandemic. If the County does not receive the grant, bids can be cancelled. Acquiring bids now will keep this grant on target. Commissioner Bottoms motioned to allow Engineer Holden to move forward in advertising for bids for Community Crossing Grant paving, pending the County’s acceptance of the Grant Award, seconded by Commissioner Key. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 3-0.

New Business:

- Major Medical Leave was not discussed but reviewed by the Commissioners. Commissioner Key motioned to approve this leave, seconded by Commissioner Bottoms. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 3-0.
- Redevelopment Commission’s Annual Report was acknowledged.
- Water Tower Subdivision property owners, in Haubstadt, sent a signed request to the Commissioners requesting that the County take over the Roads in the Subdivision. President Bledsoe and Engineer Holden will travel to the subdivision to review their roads and report back to the Commissioners. Commissioner Key is not in favor of assuming any subdivision roads; Commissioners Bottoms agreed with Commissioner Key.
- Health Department sent suggestions to the Commissioners in regard to screening persons entering businesses. This suggestion will limit entry to businesses to one person per family; no entry by anyone under 16 years old will be allowed.
- John Howe told the Commissioners that some Libraries were in virtual attendance; they thanked the Commissioners in taking up their considerations. With no further business, Commissioner Bottoms motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Key. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 3-0.

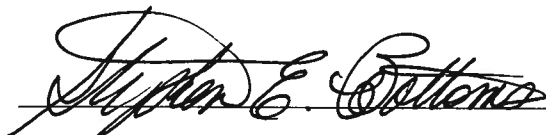
Minutes from the April 7th, 2020 Meeting.




Gerald Bledsoe, President



Mary Key, Vice-President



Stephen E. Bottoms, Commissioner



Attest: Sherri Smith, Auditor