
Gibson County Board of Commissioners
Regular Session
December 21, 2021

The Gibson County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on December 21, 2021, at 5:00 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 December 7, 2021, meeting were approved as presented. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve minutes, seconded by Commissioner Key. With no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0.

CLAIMS:

COUNTY GENERAL	\$233,209.22	
COURTS	\$15,467.06	
HIGHWAY	\$517,249.01	
SHERIFF	\$11,512.45	
ACH	\$111,273.52	
CAW -1	\$2,847.70	
PAYROLL	\$344,103.43	
INSURANCE CLAIMS	\$341,185.32	
LIT DISTRIBUTION	\$547,739.50	
DITCH CLAIMS	\$5,923.51	
FALL SETTLEMENT DISTRIBUTIONS	\$19,955,094.34	
DITCH CLAIMS, SALES DISCLOSURE REFUND	\$34,252.85	
DITCH CLAIMS, CONSERVANCY SETTLEMENT, ED PLATE DIST	\$19,461.01	
PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS	\$149,760.81	
ACH	\$139.97	
PAYROLL	\$370,741.45	
PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS	\$177,246.37	
SCHOLARSHIP PAYMENT	\$11,860.00	
PAUPER CLAIMS	\$3,112.05	
JURY CLAIMS	\$1,171.78	
Total Claims Presented on 12/21/2021:		\$22,853,351.35

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

Clerk's Report for October was acknowledged by the Commissioners.

EMS Director Pond gave his November report and requested permission to write off \$808.80; Commissioner Key motioned to approve the write-off, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The vote was 3-0.

COMMISSIONERS OLD BUSINESS

Gibson County Correctional Facility Project Update: - Mr. George Ballard reported the Good Samaritan building had been razed and site work completed.

RQAW Service for Magistrate Building Renovations – In order to punch thru a wall and connect the two offices between the old CASA department and the old probation department, Attorney Spindler requested the services of RQAW. Probation finished moving into their new rental last Friday, opening the door for renovations to begin in this area; the new home of the Magistrate’s chambers/hearing room. RQAW can advise how to move forward; their contract states a fee of not to exceed \$5,000. They have estimated the project cost at \$30,000. Commissioner Key asked if this \$5,000 included any work they would have to do on the historic registry. RQAW does not feel anything will be required in that area, as the renovations will occur on the interior, and it has been renovated in the past. Attorney Spindler will confirm this with RQAW. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve the RQAW contract with a not to exceed of \$5,000, seconded by Commissioner Key. The vote was 3-0.

Southern Hills Subdivision –The preliminary plat has been received from Subdivision Review Committee on December 7, 2021. The next phase is to set this for public hearing. Attorney Spindler recommended the public hearing be set for January 18, 2022. Commissioner Key motioned to approve the recommendation of setting the public hearing for 1/18/2022, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The vote was 3-0.

Peabody Request to Close a Road – Mike Engleman, Peabody Representative, is back at this meeting to request closure of a road so mining operations can commence. The initial request was presented at the 12/7/2021 meeting. They have since, reached out to Lynnville Fire Department to discuss this road closure and to see if they could provide any assistance to the lake residents during the closure. Everyone agreed it would be great if Lynnville could respond, however it is Gibson County’s responsibility. The outcome of the discussion resulted in figuring out a way to get response to those residents from Gibson County. Therefore, Peabody will go ahead and build a temporary access road at the east and west ends of CR 950. They are not asking for approval tonight but proposing this as a resolution to help with the road closure. They will not begin mining until April. There are some utilities that will need moved before they can mine. Mr. Engleman is here to answer questions. President Fleetwood asked for clarification on the changes, he reviewed the temporary road to be constructed on CR 950 as he understands this road will allow citizens in the area to commute thru the area. He also understands an existing road will be closed, and a new road constructed. Lastly, Peabody will provide easement on the newly built road, and they will have some crossings in this area while they mine, coal trucks will be crossing in both the newly built road and the temporarily constructed road. President Fleetwood asked if there will be four-way stops on the new temporary road. Peabody will provide the signs if the Sheriff deems it necessary. A question by the audience asked what type of road would be installed for the new road; Commissioner Montgomery replied that it will be paved after the road settles. Another audience member questions the eagles in the area, especially an eagle’s nest. They wondered what their plans for wildlife were in the area. Peabody explained they will be mining in an area distant from the woods. An audience member asked about the restricted access of the temporary road. Peabody explained the restricted access is for emergency vehicles only; they are not interested in opening the temporary access road up for public. The main objective of this road will be having it open and not barricaded to provide emergency response to the lake residents. They might ask for enforcement if restricted access is not adhered. Closure of the road will be approximately 36 months. Peabody will ask for a whole new caveat if they open the road to the public due to the theft and vandalism issues they have experienced. The public is concerned about having to take the long way home. If the county provides protection, they will open it up to the public. A resident on north side of the park says there is a high volume of traffic; it is going to affect a lot of people. Commissioners ask Engineer Holden his opinion. Engineer Holden feels it will take residents a lot more time to go around. The mine has been shut down for 2 years. President Fleetwood would like to take this information under advisement & bring it back to the next meeting to look at possible avenues. He does

not want to lose any roads. President Fleetwood does not take issue with the road closure or the build of a new road. It is CR 950 that he is hesitant about since it is restricted to emergency access only. He is afraid of some outcomes that might prevail in the end. It also concerns him that Peabody might be hindered in emergency response as well. Peabody has tried to address their side and concerns of why they want to keep it restricted. Peabody is doing favorable things in this county and President Fleetwood appreciates that; he is not looking at this negatively, only concerned. Peabody feels they have taken a lot of people's time and input in this matter; they appreciate everyone's help and input. An audience member asked if CR 950 was ever a road; it has never gone all the way thru. Peabody wishes they could appease everyone in the area. The county will look at the outcome in that they are creating a new road for the county. Peabody stressed they would like Commissioners action at first January meeting.

COMMISSIONERS NEW BUSINESS

Gibson County Coal – Bond Release of CR 800W – Engineer Holden explained that the area they are talking about was CR 800 W near CR 250 S; CR 250 S was paved with TIF money; and it has experienced no damage at all. A homeowner on CR 800 W has thanked them for paving the road. Gibson Coal Representatives were present to request release of the bonds. The road was bonded in 2015 and they are no longer using this area. They requested signatures; Engineer Holden recommended the Commissioners release the bonds on the road. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to release the bond, seconded by Commissioner Key. The vote was 3-0.

The Gibson Coal Representatives told Commissioner's things are picking up at this mine; sales are getting better and there are job opportunities available. They had approximately 206 employees in March/April, and they are up to 315 currently and they will need to increase that number to about 380. They expect sales of approximately \$5.2 million in 2022. They would like to add a fourth unit in January, which consists of two crews and another unit shortly after. Experienced miners start at \$30 per hour; inexperienced start at \$22 per hour. The good news is they are up about 120 people in 5 months. They look forward to continuing in 2022.

County Health Department Report

Health Department Director Hornby advises that the County has turned red due to high COVID numbers; the new strain will soon hit the county. She is afraid of very high numbers after the holidays. She asked that everyone use caution now and be smart during the holidays. Vaccines are still given on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday for adults; Thursdays are reserved for children, so appointments are required as they do not want to compromise the kids. They have all 3 COVID vaccines.

2022 Holiday Schedule –. This item was tabled until the December 28th meeting.

YMCA Letter –. Commission Key read a letter from the YMCA regarding the naming of the new facility coming to Gibson County. The YMCA is thankful for the major contributions from Gibson County Redevelopment Board, County Commissioners, residents, and businesses. The TIF dollars will enable them to build a state-of-the-art facility that will serve the recreational and social needs of the community for many years. Many contributions have been made toward the new YMCA and they intend to acknowledge every contribution. This recognition comes in many forms; it may be facility naming, room/area naming, donor signage/display, etc. They like to secure the name early in the campaign to create momentum and add credibility to the fund-raising campaign. When a well-respected and highly recognizable name is associated with the project others are inspired to lend their support. They are grateful for Toyota being the first donor to secure the naming rights for the new YMCA. All major contributions will be recognized. They welcome the opportunity to discuss ways they can honor the TIF contribution. Larry Michel asked if TIF was the first donor or the most. Commissioner Key explained that Toyota was the first to gift; thus, the reason for them naming it as such. President Fleetwood feels it is a great project and he understands Mr. Michel's concern; he feels the letter is a sign of open communication and maybe something can be hashed out on the situation.