
Gibson County Board of Commissioners
Regular Session
February 1, 2022

The Gibson County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on February 1, 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 January 18, 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:

CAW - 1	\$41,631.11
PAUPER CLAIMS	\$4,825.00
PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS	\$160,465.40
PAYROLL	\$346,398.42
JURY CLAIMS	\$2,677.57
COUNTY GENERAL	\$152,906.86
COURTS	\$4,454.06
HIGHWAY	\$2,513.04
SHERIFF	\$4,646.42
ACH	\$358,808.37
CAW - 2	\$3,933.43
CAW - 3	\$24,604.00
FALL 2021 OVERPAYMENT/EXCESS REFUNDS, TAX SALE REDEMPTION REFUNDS, INNKEEPERS DISTRIBUTION	\$18,379.08
FALL 2021 OVERPAYMENT/EXCESS REFUNDS	\$6,621.97
Total Claims Presented on 2/1/2022	\$1,132,864.73

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

Treasurer's Reports for January 2022 was acknowledged by the Commissioners.

Department Reports

David Pond- EMS Director presented his December 2021 report. He requested approval of \$2,554.40 in write-offs. Commissioner Key motioned to approve the write-offs, seconded by Commissioner Fleetwood. With no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0.

Director Pond introduced Toyota Fire Chief, Robert Beebe. He told Commissioners that he is dependent on the ambulance. Toyota has an internal hospital, but if a transport is required, he depends on Gibson County EMS for the transport to the hospital. EMS also responds to wrecks in and around the plant. Toyota fire ran 86 EMS calls, w/Gibson County responding to approximately 46. He feels there is a disparity of pay between his EMS employees and the County's EMS employees. The EMS is a very professional organization, his EMT's work 8-hour shifts at a rate of \$19 per hour. The paramedics at EMS are doing so much more and he cannot believe the advanced level EMT's of Gibson County are not making more. He is fully staffed now and still hiring. The Gibson County EMS works 24-hour shifts, but are only paid for 16 hours. It is hard for those employees to take vacation days, as they must use 24

hours of paid time off. The 16/24-hour shifts sound to be a main problem in Gibson County. In this day, EMS is being run into the ground; there are not a lot of people going to school because there is a lot of commitment. His guys work 24 hours and get paid for 24 hours; they do not have morale issues. They do not have call-off issues either. Pay does not end all problems, but he feels it makes it easier. He depends on this Gibson County EMS, and he feels they are working hard to represent the county. He asked the Commissioners to look into their hearts and try to take care of them.

COMMISSIONERS OLD BUSINESS

Teamster Agreements – The contract has been reviewed by Commissioners, according to Attorney Spindler. The Master Clerical and Highway Department Contracts are being presented for approval tonight, President Montgomery explained that the wording is pretty much the same for both contracts. Attorney Spindler advised the Commissioners that Article 9, Health Insurance, entitled Hospitalization Insurance is contingent upon Council approval in the calendar years of 2023 and 2024. Commissioner Key requested a full copy of the new contract for both but has yet to see either of them in their entirety and she still has some concerns. She asked if everyone had received a copy of the letter from the Council. Commissioner Fleetwood motioned to approve both contracts, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. With no further discussion, the motion carried 2-1, with Commissioner Key casting the nay vote. She wants to see the employees receive a raise and the Council controls the money.

Courthouse Upgrade Bids – Attorney Spindler and Kevin from Landmark Engineering opened bids for the Courthouse upgrades. Bids came in as follows:

Danco \$345,000
Empire \$289,000
ARC \$300,500

Attorney Spindler recommends they take the bids under advisement; Commissioner Key made that motion, seconded by Commissioner Fleetwood. With no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0.

BCS Contracts and Invoices – BCS is present to discuss the Magistrates room upgrade. They plan to match the upstairs courtrooms at a cost of \$39,507; this is the cost for hearing room and chambers, it will be a turn-key operation with a 12-month warranty on parts, labor, and service. There are no supply chain issues expecting to disrupt this installation. There are a few weeks backlog on some items, but it sounds to him, this is months out and if they get the approval to move forward tonight, they will order the parts needed as soon as possible. Attorney Spindler recommends approving this contract
Commissioner Fleetwood motioned to approve the Magistrate's BCS contract, seconded by Commissioner Key. With no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0.

Kay Vore wonders who will be paying for this magistrate installation. Circuit Court Probation User Fees committed funds to this project.

All maintenance contracts need approved by Commissioners; these are the same contracts the County has always had. The contracts provide the County priority with dispatch, emergency service, the courts audio/video, and the phones. There were 83 service calls to the courthouse last year and all were covered under this maintenance contract. BCS cleans and inspects all equipment each year. They keep all current equipment parts on hand. It is a very comprehensive agreement. They can come out and discuss the contract with anyone that wishes to hear more on the contracts in depth. This is paid from the Commissioner's budget, the highway budget, and Courthouse budgets; the Health Department pays their own contract at a cost of \$1,022.20. Auditor Watkins asked about the contract for \$1,828.84; it was explained that this is the access control in the basement of Commissioner's Annex.

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

Mounts Maintenance Agreement – Engineer Holden submitted this agreement to Attorney Spindler, it is the same agreement as last year, with some traffic light additions to this year’s contract. Mounts has held this contract for traffic signals at Toyota.

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

ROAW Contract – George Ballard brought this up at the January 18 meeting, Attorney Spindler feels this should be approved tonight. It is a standard contract; with changes the county has requested. Commissioner Fleetwood says they have been very good to work with, they have negotiated well with top-notch response. Commissioner Fleetwood motioned to approve contract, seconded by Commissioner Key. With no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0.

ROAW Schematic Design and Garmong Construction Timeline – George Ballard reported they recently finished the 5th report to the Federal Court. The Courts want a copy of the schematic design report and the new Garmong timeline. June 2023 had been set as the completion date, but since it has taken some time to make land acquisition, it has been pushed back to December 2023. There might be roofing material delays, according to Garmong and ROAW. The design is not set in stone, it is just the basic design and a requirement by the Federal Courts, much the same as the timeline. The timeline was turned in last Monday, and they have not heard back from the Courts; they are taking that as good news. He feels if they continue to show progress, the Federal Court will continue to work with the County. February 16th they go to a meeting at the City of Princeton and again on March 7th. After land acquisition, they feel pace will pick up. They hope for groundbreaking in August. Commissioner Fleetwood motioned to approve both schematic design and the new construction timeline, seconded by Commissioner Key. With no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0.

Memorandum of Understanding Between Gibson County and Princeton – This memorandum is informational purposes only and submitted by Attorney Spindler. It shows the structure would not be more than 30’ from the surface, plus a grinder must be installed before any sewage is accepted from the facility. This will be acted on at a later date as more could be added.

Workforce Development Board Appointment - Mayor Greg Wright - Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve this appointment, seconded by Commissioner Fleetwood. With no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0.

Window Installation in Circuit Court Near Bailiff’s Station –It is requested that safety panels be installed at the general public entrance into the courtroom for added safety and to add a better view into the courtroom. Commissioner Key motioned to approve this installation, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. With no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0.

COMMISSIONERS NEW BUSINESS

Magistrate Judge Ricker on Accounting for Reimbursement of IV-D Matters – Judge Ricker is asking permission to enter a contract with an accounting firm. A statute provides reimbursement of funds, plus incentive funds. To do this, they need an agreement with an accounting firm so they might receive reimbursement. When adding the Magistrate, initially, they made no requests for additional staffing, but they will put it on the budget for 2023. They would like to start receiving the incentive reimbursements before they do this. The reimbursements will go directly to the general fund, to help pay for the extra help. Malcon has approached him to provide this accounting service. He is asking the Commissioners to make a motion for the county to enter a contract providing the funding is approved by the Council and the contract is approved by Attorney Spindler. Judge Ricker does not feel this will cost the county money. He would like to have Malcon take this money directly from the reimbursement.

Commissioner Fleetwood motioned to approve a contract for outside accounting services, seconded by Commissioner Key. With no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0.

County Attorney Contract – Commissioners approved a contract presented by Attorney Spindler for the 2022 year with identical term as 2021. They will table this item until next meeting. Commissioner Key motioned to table, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. With no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0.

EMS Station at Gibson Deaconess Hospital - Attorney Spindler will discuss this item with Director Pond later; Attorney Spindler requested this item be removed from the agenda. Director Pond asked permission to make a suggestion. Director Pond feels this base is no longer sufficient for the County's needs. He has received a set of plans for a new building. He would like to take this plan/idea to the TIF board; however, he is currently looking for ground to put the structure. He has been talking with NGSC Superintendent about the old Franklin School area, which he feels has enough ground to build. He feels this might be able to be acquired for a reasonable amount. They would like a new training facility incorporated into the new building. It would also contain enough room to expand for a second ambulance for Princeton. He would like to be prepared for future growth. He would like to take this to the TIF Board after he receives confirmation on the property purchase. He has talked to Sherri Greene from the City of Princeton regarding zoning; he feels it is all doable. President Montgomery feels this is the way to proceed, as he does not feel the Council will provide money for this project. Today, Director Pond received the utility bill for the leased building, it was \$600 for one month. He feels they are paying approximately \$3000 a month for rent and utilities. He feels this is the time to do something different. An audience member asked if Franklin School was owned by county or school. The School Corporation still owns this property, the county only leased the building. Director Pond says the biggest run volume is in the "old Princeton" area and this new location would be well suited for the ambulance. The problem is finding available ground. He would like to see if the Commissioners would approve this plan to be taken to the TIF Board. Commissioner Fleetwood appreciated the NGSC Superintendent's thoughtfulness. Director Pond feels this would allow them to host meetings and training. He has two different designs drawn out; one of these would allow them to move out of the North Annex. George Ballard suggested that Director Pond have cost estimates prior to approaching the redevelopment board. Commissioner Fleetwood asked Director Pond to bring this back to the next meeting with cost estimates and in the meantime, the Commissioners can decide their feelings toward the project. He would rather see the County put their money toward a future home, rather than paying the hospital for a lease.

RQAW Representative thanked everyone for working with them. They are working in Dubois and Vermillion Counties on jails. They design a lot of jails as well as EMS barns. They would be happy to look at this project as well.

Tax Sale Resolution – a Resolution was presented by Attorney Spindler for the Commissioner's Tax Sale. This is for people with unpaid taxes of at least three times; some properties have been on the list for years. The prices are set at a certain value. This will allow properties to sell that did not sell at regular tax sales. Commissioner Key motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Fleetwood. With no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0.

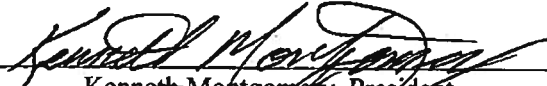
Major Medical Leave (1) was approved by the Commissioners with a motion from Commissioner Key seconded by Commissioner Fleetwood. The vote was 3-0.

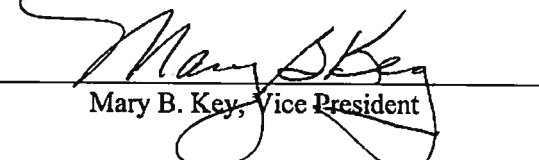
Blocked Railroad Crossings Concerns - Commissioner Fleetwood stated he had taken a lot of phone calls about the super slab being blocked. They have tried to bring awareness to this situation. He would like to invite the Railroad to a meeting. This is a safety concern, with 7500 workers employed at Toyota trying to get to/from work in a safe, timely fashion. Commissioner Fleetwood does not feel it is acceptable to block the crossings. He would like this message sent to Norfolk Southern. He will contact

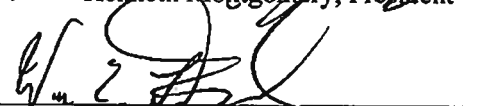
them and invite them to a commissioner meeting. Indiana Code spells it out saying they are not allowed to block the crossings, but they have been ticketed, and they changed the law regarding the ticketing of the railroad. There used to be something on the books saying they could not block crossings for more than 10 minutes, Lake County had the same issues, and a Judge in Lake County would not allow this ruling, so they can block the crossing however long they wish. Sheriff Bottoms does not feel they will get anywhere. Attorney Spindler has invited a railroad attorney to the next meeting. Superintendent Johnson says sometimes the highway workers cannot get thru for a whole weekend, or a whole eight-hour day, etc. Many people witness this act; it is affecting a lot of peoples regular, daily travel. It does affect all emergency services. They might not know they are blocking the crossing until they get there and then they must go another direction; this delay could make a difference between life and death. They should be more respectful of the situation. Someone in the audience stated that after 38 years on the railroad, they will have a better opportunity to get something done if Toyota contacts them. Another unnamed audience member says the Toyota people are always in a hurry, it is a matter of time before someone is killed trying to get to work. One train blocked the crossing with one arm only. Someone in the audience said Toyota has thrown a fit about this practice because their workers are late, but the railroad does nothing to change the situation. They block multiple roads. They stop the trains to wait on crew changes. Commissioner Fleetwood asked about bringing Stacy Carr of Toyota into this discussion. Commissioner Montgomery does not feel you can make any progress on this old problem. Commissioner Fleetwood would like to invite stakeholders in to discuss this matter.


Adjournment - 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 February 1, 2022 Meeting.


Kenneth Montgomery, President


Mary B. Key, Vice President


Warren Fleetwood, Commissioner


ATTEST: Mike Watkins, Auditor