
Gibson County Board of Commissioners
Regular Session
February 21, 2023

The Gibson County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on February 21, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at the North Annex Meeting Room.

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

Members Present: President Kenneth Montgomery; Vice President, Nick Burns, and Commissioner Warren Fleetwood

MINUTES: The minutes from the February 7, 2023, meeting were approved as presented. Commissioner Burns motioned to approve minutes, seconded by Commissioner Fleetwood. The vote was 3-0.

CLAIMS: Total Claims Presented on 2/21/2023 were \$2,036,665.91. Commissioner Burns motioned to approve claims presented for payment, seconded by Commissioner Fleetwood. The vote was 3-0.

Clerk Report for December, 2022, was acknowledged by Commissioners.

Department Reports

SWCD – Melissa Heichelbech, District Coordinator told everyone they are still soil testing. They can test up to 5 acres and will come to the location to take the sample.

COMMISSIONERS OLD BUSINESS

CenterPoint Easement – Attorney Spindler presented this easement to Commissioners. A representative from CenterPoint as well as the Hopkins Park President were present. They have agreed upon an amount of \$13,500 for the easement; there is an agreement from CenterPoint regarding the area and what/how things can be planted near the easement. CenterPoint will not disrupt drainage. The Park Department requests this money be deposited into the Park Fund. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve the easement, seconded by Commissioner Burns. The vote was 3-0.

Bridge 168 Bid Opening – Engineer Holden assisted Attorney Spindler with this bid opening. CLR Construction from Vincennes was the only bid received in the amount of \$472,476.05. It appeared that all bid documents were received, thus Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve the only bid received, seconded by Commissioner Burns. The vote was 3-0.

Patoka/Union TIF Schedule – Commissioner Fleetwood says Larry Michel, RDC board member has been working on this schedule. The payment distribution schedule shows that everyone will be getting their money on time, sometimes early. This takes into consideration seasonal construction, and most importantly, interest rates. Essentially, these projects could be saved a lot of money as they do not have to wait as long on their money to be distributed. He tried to factor in all projects. He would like the Commissioners to endorse this plan, so the RDC knows Commissioners are approving of it.

COMMISSIONERS NEW BUSINESS

Demo of Old Furniture Building and Naming of New Office Building – Attorney Spindler recommended the demolition of the old furniture building to Commissioners. ARPA has approved the funding of this demolition. They will have to get quotes on this demolition. Commissioner Montgomery is concerned with all the inventory items still in this building. The flooring is finished in the North Annex and a lot of the inventory in the building could be moved into the basement of North Annex. They are thinking of putting the storage lockers now housed in courthouse basement into North Annex basement. They will be used for storage. The filing system in the furniture building can then be moved into the courthouse basement. Commissioner Fleetwood feels they could rent a storage building, if needed.

Attorney Spindler recommended that Commissioners name the new Probation, Pre-Trial Services, and Public Defender Office “East Annex”. The building will have a State Street address. Commissioner Fleetwood motioned to approve this name, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The motion carried 3-0.

Attorney Spindler was asked about sidewalk for this building; they will take this project to the ARPA Committee.

Sheriff Department to Purchase Radar Speed Signs – Commissioner Fleetwood encouraged the Sheriff’s department to invest in these portable signs to put out into the County. Francisco has some signs they can no longer use; the County might consider making them an offer


Major Medical Leave – was approved by the Commissioners with a motion from Commissioner Fleetwood seconded by Commissioner Burns. The vote was 3-0.

Commissioners Plan Public Hearing to Consider Increase in Solar Application Fee - March 7, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.


Hopkins Park Update – President Michael Stevenson made a presentation to Commissioners of all the recent changes to the park. Improvements include gravel of the walking trails. A 12X32 Storage Building was purchased to store their supplies. They intent to plant another 14 trees with some yearend money. They have purchased some habitat fish structures that will be installed soon. The lake is stocked with blue gill only at this time but expect more fish from DNR. DNR will stock this pond, which is 2.25 acres. They have installed some culverts to help with drainage. They recently completed an ARPA project in which they installed a fence around the playground equipment. They have additional projects scheduled with paving the existing one-mile trail; an additional shelter house; a basketball court; a pickleball court; disc golf course; concrete pads will be installed under picnic tables/grills; they will add more trees and signs. Future planning is being done with UE Civil Engineering students and Purdue University Landscape Architecture Students. Park Board President Stevenson feels a part time employee is required and electricity is needed to at least help keep the bathroom water from freezing; CenterPoint has a large station in proximity to the park. The long-range goals presented to Commissioners are not concrete. They want to carefully plan things, so the park does not become crowded and take up the green space.

With no further discussion, Commissioner Montgomery motioned to adjourn the regular meeting, seconded by Commissioner Fleetwood. The vote to adjourn was 3-0.

Minutes from the February 21, 2023, Meeting.



Kenneth Montgomery, President



Nick Burns, Vice President

Warren Fleetwood, Commissioner



ATTEST: Mike Watkins, Auditor

