
Gibson County Board of Commissioners
Regular Session
February 4th, 2020

The Gibson County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on February 4th, 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, Administrative Assistant Kay Vore, County Attorney James McDonald III, and County Auditor Sherri Smith.

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

Minutes: The minutes from January 21st, 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 - \$249,728.57

Courts - \$1,864.40

Highway - \$23,723.65

Sheriff - \$23,985.96

ACH - \$35,690.81

CAW-1 - \$5,989.75

CAW-2 - \$36,461.78

CAW-3 - \$15,156.39

Ditch Claims - \$58,026.18

Fall 2019 Overpayments & Excess Refunds - \$2,582.65

January Innkeepers Distribution - \$15,090.14

December 2019 Wheel & Sur Tax Distribution - \$35,272.71

Blight Claim - \$1,500.00

2019 Fall Excess/Overpayment Claims - \$3,871.40

Payroll for 01/31/2020 - \$321,619.83

Payroll Deductions to be allowed on 01/31/2020 - \$140,647.31

Payroll Deduction – PERF Correction - \$559.23

4th Quarter Taxes, PERF Correction, Insurance Claims - \$302,729.74

ACH Pauper Claims for 01/29/2020 - \$4,473.10

Pauper Claims for 01/29/2020 - \$3,887.29

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

Department Reports:

Animal Services presented the January report. The low-income immunization clinic in January had a good response. They will be having a Hacienda Gift back on February 13, 2019. February 14th, North Gibson School Corporation will hold a food drive for them.

Veterans presented the January report.

Weights & Measures presented the January report.

Highway Department Superintendent Lewis reported that they are doing winter maintenance and preparing for upcoming paving. They are pricing and demonstrating equipment.

Health Department did not file a report. Director Hornby encouraged everyone to get immunized for the flu.

EMA reported the Mitigation Plan is in final stages; Courthouse Security is also being devised.

Flood Plain- Stephanie has recently been recertified as an Emergency Manager. This is a five-year certificate.

EMS – No Report

Sheriff presented a report for January including the average inmate count of the jail being 106; work release at 40. Commissioner Bledsoe has requested the Sheriff Department look at excessive speeds on CR 850, which is in the area of the doppler radar.

Extension – No Report

Park Board reported by Engineer Holden of intent to submit drawings and specs on bathroom facility and rubber mulch for the playground. These must be approved by the DNR. They plan to plant Toyota donated trees in April.

SWCD Soil & Water reported by Dennis Simpson that 130 people attended their Annual Meeting. The Annual Report presented at the meeting was shared with the Commissioners.

County Engineer Holden reported the 2020 Community Crossings Matching Grant has been submitted to INDOT with hopes of award receipt in March. The 2019 Grant is closed. He intends to bid out 1 bridge and paving to be paid with EDIT funds. The 2 Covered Bridges have both received power and outdoor lighting. The Red Covered Bridge will have signs created by the GSHS art class and then installed by the Highway Department.

Parrish Consulting – No Report

Old Business:

- Chuck Lewis requested permission to replace retired employees. A motion by Commissioner Bottoms and seconded by Commissioner Key was made in favor. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Bottoms asked Superintendent Lewis for a Hazelton Bridge Update. There are devices in place to keep vehicles off the bridge; signs will be installed as soon as they are received. Fencing will be priced as well to try to prohibit foot traffic.

- Matt Holden – 2020 Road Paving Bid – Engineer Holden requested that bids be advertised next week. Bids will then be due back to the County the 2nd week of March. This is separate from Community Crossings; this paving will utilize EDIT monies. Commissioner Bottoms made a motion to advertise for bids for paving to be paid from EDIT funds, seconded by Commissioner Key. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 3-0.

New Business:

- Peabody Coal Mine representative David Spradley was present to request the Commissioners approve the release of approximately \$305,000 worth of road bonds dating from 1997 thru 2014.
 1. 2008 Coal Haulage Agreement not in use since 2012, when it was abandoned
 2. 1997 Oak Hill Mine Coal Haulage Agreement, not in use since 2014; shut down in 2016
 3. 2003 Road Crossing on CR 1200 E, not in use since 2012; shut down in 2016
 4. 2008 Road Closure on CR1000 E – 2800'; closed in 2014
 5. 2008 Road Crossing on CR 250 S – used 2 years; finished in 2010
 6. 2008 Road Closure on CR 350 S 2640'; put back in 2009
 7. 2011 Road Closure on CR 850 S – 1600'; road has had millings placed two times by County
 8. 2013 Road Crossing HR001C – agreement date 03/12/13
 9. 2013 Road Crossing HR001D – agreement date 03/12/13
 10. 2013 Road Crossing HR001E – agreement date 03/12/13
 11. 2014 Road Closure on CR 1250 E – 1800'; road put back after mined in 2015 or 2016
 12. 2003 Road Closure on CR 950 E – 2640'; ½ mile of this road has been open for years; 12/2019 this road was rocked again by Peabody as requested by Commissioners.
 13. 2000 Road Crossing on CR 900 E; this plant has been gone since 2008

Commissioner Bottoms explained of extensive meetings on these roads and a final meeting where Commissioner Bottoms, County Attorney McDonald, County Engineer Holden, and Superintendent Lewis reviewed the above list and agree these roads can be released from bond. Commissioner Bottoms motioned to terminate the 13 above list bond agreements, seconded by Commissioner Key. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 3-0.

- Ordinance Establishing Public Defenders Board – This is being brought about due to the newly established Pre-Trial Agreement Program in which the State has put into place. This program does away with a good amount of bond money; which was used for a multitude of things. The bond money generated for indigent fees and supplied by the County Council will no longer be available. This program has also caused the Probation Department to double in size. The County recognizes these changes and needs to form this board to help alleviate some problems from this change. This board is regulated by the Commissioners and the State of Indiana.

The ordinance has been approved by the Public Defender Council; both Judges; and Prosecuting Attorney. This ordinance sets up a board in which the Commissioners will have an appointment; it will regulate Public Defender's in Gibson County. Public Defender fees will be submitted to the State and they will reimburse Gibson County for 40% of those fees. Also, this ordinance will help pay 40% of the office expenses including staffing and administration.


Commissioner Bottoms motioned to adopt this Public Defender's Board Ordinance, seconded by Commissioner Key. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 3-0.

- Resolution Public Sale of Property – Andy Schaefer has submitted a list of items he would like to sell; County Attorney McDonald feels the County should advertise this list of items, valued at under \$1,000 per piece and not more than \$5,000 altogether. Commissioner Key made a motion to approve advertising this list of items for sale and was seconded by Commissioner Bottoms. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 3-0.
- Appointment to Ft. Branch Public Library – Phillip Jarke is this appointment. Commissioner Bottoms motioned to approve this appointment, seconded by Commissioner Key. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 3-0.
- Major Medical Leave was reviewed by the Commissioners; there was no discussion. Commissioner Key made a motion to approve the leave, seconded by Commissioner Bottoms. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 3-0.
- Randy Kiesel asked the Commissioners for a place on the agenda. President Bledsoe will allow Mr. Kiesel 5 minutes. This will be the last person they allow to speak at a Commissioners meeting regarding zoning. All zoning topics should be taken to the APC Board. Mr. Kiesel asked the Commissioner to please slow this zoning process; he feels it is moving to fast to get the cooperation it needs from the citizens of Gibson County. He also feels the citizens of Gibson County should look closer at wind energy.
- Patty Vanoven, Gibson County Chamber of Commerce Director, invited all to the Political Forum to be held at the Ag Day Breakfast at the Knights of Columbus on March 21, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. The breakfast will begin at 6:00 a.m. She invited any elected official or person running for office to come and speak.

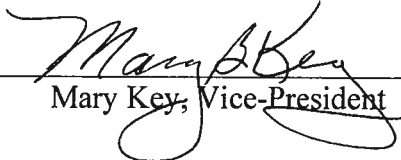
- She stressed the importance of the Census. The meetings she has attended regarding this, show a trend of participation decreasing, which will affect everyone in a great number of ways. She would like everyone to encourage others to participate and be counted!

With no further business, Commissioner Bottoms adjourned the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Key. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 3-0.

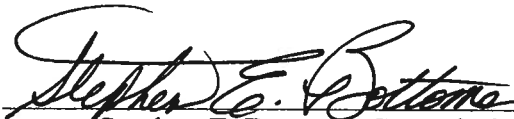
Minutes from the February 4th, 2020 Meeting.



Gerald Bledsoe, President



Mary Key, Vice-President



Stephen E. Bottoms, Commissioner

ATTEST: Sherri Smith, Auditor