
Gibson County Board of Commissioners
Regular Session
February 7, 2023

The Gibson County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on February 07, 2023, at 6:30 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 January 24, 2023, meeting were approved as presented. Commissioner Fleetwood motioned to approve minutes, seconded by Commissioner Burns. The vote was 3-0.

CLAIMS: Total Claims Presented on 2/07/2023 were \$1,194,762.98. Commissioner Burns motioned to approve claims presented for payment, seconded by Commissioner Fleetwood. The vote was 3-0.

Clerk and Treasurer's reports were acknowledged by Commissioners.

Department Reports

Animal Shelter – Sharon Werné thanked the Highway Department for allowing Animal Services to use a highway department vehicle until their new vehicle was properly licensed. The shelter had a 2022 dog non-kill rate of 94%. She gave an update on the planning for a new building.

Sheriff Department – Sheriff Vanoven gave reports to Commissioners; the jail population had an average of 93. They currently have 29 job openings which is causing a high amount of overtime. They are very intent to become a better department by changing the ways things are being done. He asked Commissioners to investigate who last painted the jail, as the façade is peeling off and even though they will be moving out, he feels it needs repaired. Commissioner Fleetwood has spoken to Danco regarding this problem, and they feel it might have to do with the guttering systems. They will work toward getting a contractor to fix this issue.

Health Department – Administrator Shade gave reports for the department.

ARPA Grant – Administrator Stearsman reviewed Core Group approved projects with the Commissioners and requested their approval.
The Health Department would like \$5,000 to procure an Architect for a study to determine the size, place, and estimated budget of a new building. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Burns. The vote was 3-0.
Next Go Gibson would like \$92,000. Commissioner Fleetwood motioned to approve the project, seconded by Commissioner Burns. The vote was 3-0.
The Sheriff's Drug/Alcohol Program would like an additional \$32,938.50 for supplies, which will bring the total project to \$174,438.50. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve the addition to this project, seconded by Commissioner Burns. The vote was 3-0.
North Annex on Hart Street needs a new roof; they requested \$89,600 for this project; the core group recommended they solicit three quotes. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve this project, seconded by Commissioner Burns. The vote was 3-0.

Last Grant Administrator Stearsman told Commissioners she had provided them with an excel spreadsheet showing the amounts obligated and amounts remaining for new or amended projects.

COMMISSIONERS OLD BUSINESS

Jail Update – Owner’s Representative George Ballard thanked Commissioners for awarding the jail the ARPA money to get the drug treatment plan going again. A large amount of dirt has been hauled into the project area. The pier installation will begin soon and then foundation work will begin shortly after.

Owner’s Representative Amendment #1 to Contract – Attorney Spindler told Commissioners George Ballard has become the Chief Deputy under the new Sheriff, which prompted this amendment. The original contract has been amended to include a \$500 per month stipend; this stipend will run thru payroll instead of a contracted position. An amended salary ordinance will be presented to the Council. Commissioner Fleetwood motioned to approve the \$500 per month stipend, seconded by Commissioner Burns. The vote was 3-0.

Spectrum Expansion Update – Elizabeth, a representative from Spectrum told Commissioners they have ran their broadband a total of 88 miles thus far, connecting 628 homes. They have approximately 262 miles remaining and 2,000 homes to connect. Elizabeth gave a shout out to Superintendent Johnson and Surveyor Martin for being so accommodating and helpful.

Solar Farm Update – Rick Reed, Solar Farm Representative was present telling Commissioners they hope to be up and running by November or December 2023. He feels Knox and Posey are in about the same holding pattern.

COMMISSIONERS NEW BUSINESS

Downtown Princeton, Inc and Historic District – Hannah Whitehead is present to request money for Downtown Princeton to be added to the National Historical Registry. This district would include the Courthouse. The City of Princeton, Economic Development of Gibson County, Gibson County Tourism, and the County have all been asked to pledge . This historic district proclamation will not cause any negative effects to the area. Commissioner Fleetwood motioned to grant \$1,000 to apply for the historic district status, seconded by Commissioner Burns. The vote was 3-0.

Ms. Whitehead provided Commissioners a quick update on the building Downtown Princeton, Inc. is renovating.

Public Defender Board Appointee – Attorney Spindler recommended Commissioners reappoint former, EGSC Superintendent Brewster. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to make this appointment, seconded by Commissioner Burns. The motion carried 3-0.

Patoka 3 Election Precinct Annexation – Clerk Smith was present to explain that in 2021, the City of Princeton annexed approximately 260 acres on 2nd Avenue. It is on the east, west, and south side of the existing corporate boundary, on the southwest side of Princeton. At the time of annexation, there was a population of zero; they are currently building on these properties and expect the population to expand. Clerk Smith feels this area should be included in the voting precinct of Patoka 3, allowing these people to vote, and run for municipal offices. Commissioner Fleetwood would like to table this item to consult with the Subdivision Review Committee. Commissioner Fleetwood made the motion to table, seconded by Commissioner Burns. The vote was 3-0.

New Hire Pay – Commissioner Montgomery would like the County to forgo the annual \$1,000 less pay differential when a new employee is hired. He feels if a new hire makes their 40-day probation period and becomes a full-time employee of the County, they should receive the full amount of pay for the position. He would like to take this to the Council and request they amend the salary schedule.

Commissioner Fleetwood and Burns both agreed with Commissioner Fleetwood making the motion, seconded by Commissioner Burns. The vote was 3-0.

Holiday Pay Alignment for Sheriff Department/Jail/911 Employees – Sheriff Vanoven was present to talk about a disparity in the way his office is paid for holiday pay. As it is now, they only receive holiday pay for the “observed holiday” worked and not the actual holiday worked. He requests this be changed so they receive holiday pay for either the holiday worked, or the observed holiday worked, but not both. Commissioner Burns motioned to approve the Sheriff’s request, seconded by Commissioner Fleetwood. The vote was 3-0.

Road Study at 3321 W 800 S – Prompted by Gibson Southern High School, Sheriff Vanoven conducted a road study in this area; he recommends the speed limit be posted at 30 miles per hour in the school zone. He also recommends the proper signage be installed.

Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve the recommended speed limit, seconded by Commissioner Burns. The vote was 2-1, with Commissioner Fleetwood voting nay, as he would like to speak with people in the area. Commissioner Fleetwood is not opposed to lowering the speed limit, he wonders if 30 miles per hour is low enough.

Chamber of Commerce Update and Upcoming Events – Chamber Director, Patty Vanoven told everyone about upcoming ribbon cutting/open house event at Tulip Tree, Ft. Branch on February 22, 2023. The Political and Legislative Forum at the Farm Bureau Breakfast on March 18, 2023. Regional Conference for Women will be held at the Toyota Events Center on September 29, 2023. The CEO Program recently pitched their innovative businesses to the Chamber. They will showcase these businesses in May, and she invited everyone to this showcase.

West Toyota Feeder Roads TIF Project – Commissioner Fleetwood has been talking to Engineer Holden, drivers, and homeowners along the roads west of Toyota. The roads included in the project are CR 550 S out of Owensville to 500 W; 500 W to 525 S; 525 S to 350 W; 350 W to 400 S; extending 500 W past Thomas Orchard; extending 525 S to Bethlehem Church; and a project on County Line Road. This project will total approximately 7 miles. Engineer Holden feels the roads can receive an overlay as they are in good enough shape and will require minimal work. Commissioner Fleetwood feels this will improve traffic flow from Illinois into the Toyota Plant and help some businesses located along the route. The project is estimated to cost \$2,000,000. Commissioner Fleetwood requests permission to move this project on to the Redevelopment Board. Commissioner Fleetwood motioned to forward this request to RDC, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The vote was 3-0.

Danco Change Order Request #5 Revision 3 for Combo Building – Attorney Spindler presented the negotiated amount of \$18,000 to Commissioners. Commissioner Fleetwood motioned to approve this change order, seconded by Commissioner Burns. The vote was 3-0.

Patoka Township TIF Capture – Attorney Spindler explained possible interpretation issues regarding the TIF expiration/end dates. He requests, based on guidance provided by Baker Tilly, that Commissioners request the RDC to consider extending the deadline to 2027. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to forward this extension request to RDC, seconded by Commissioner Burns. The vote was 3-0. An unnamed person approached the podium at the end of the meeting questioning if the TIF ends in 2027, will this be added back into the assessed value and what plans does the County have with this addition as he feels it will be an excessive addition to assessed value. He wonders if there is any protection to keep Commissioners from using the money rather than paying off the bonds. He fears a shortfall and hopes there is some protection in place. Commissioner Fleetwood feels these are good questions for the Redevelopment Commission.

Volunteer Projects – Mark Fehrenbacher told Commissioners of a 1950 navy ship, LST 794, named after Gibson County, Indiana, and Tennessee. He is working with Princeton Library to put up a display

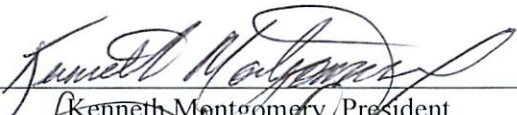
on the LST 794. He requests that Commissioners make a proclamation regarding the LST 794 and try to get the same proclamation from the Tennessee County. Commissioner Fleetwood asked Mr. Fehrenbacher to include Veteran's Service Officer Pickersgill in this project.

February 24 & 25th Fairgrounds Host National Tractor Pull – Along with this tractor pull, they will also be hosting an RC Tractor Pull. There will be no admission to this event, and they will have concessions. Everyone is invited to attend.

Public Comment - An unnamed attendee asked if Commissioners go and look at projects before awarding money. He also asked if they had thought about making the solar projects into TIF areas. Another unidentified attendee told Commissioners about his wife going into a ditch and thinks the area could use some rock. He wonders if this road could be upgraded with TIF money as it has Toyota traffic; Commissioner Montgomery explained the road is not in the TIF district. Someone asked if Owensville was in the TIF district. Attorney Spindler replied that Owensville has a TIF district. More talk ensued about CR 450 E.

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

Minutes from the February 7, 2023, Meeting.



Kenneth Montgomery, President



Nick Burns, Vice President



Warren Fleetwood, Commissioner



ATTEST: Mike Watkins, Auditor