
Gibson County Board of Commissioners
Special Session
July 1st, 2020

The Gibson County Board of Commissioners met in Special Session on July 1st, 2020, at 11:00 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.

Remote Attendee: Mary Key

In this meeting Social Distancing was practiced. This meeting was broadcast using Zoom.

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

Subject of this Meeting – Fireworks Ordinance 2020-05

The Commissioners passed this Ordinance at the June 16, 2020 meeting. There was no one present at the meeting to discuss the Ordinance and the Commissioners passed the Ordinance on first reading. It is now the belief that this Ordinance has created a hardship. The purpose of this meeting is to try and hear from concerned citizens on this Ordinance. Each Gibson County person will be allowed 3 minutes to speak directly to the Commissioners.

Jerry Lattenhagen from Ft. Branch say his neighbors set off fireworks late into the night. The fireworks vibrate their windows and chairs; they are so loud they cannot hear their television. He has found several cities, towns, and counties that have similar ordinance as the one the County just enacted. He stated they have a neighbor with an infant and when these fireworks go off, the baby cries the entire time the fireworks are going off. He is not opposed to fireworks, however there should be a reasonable amount, time and size that can be ignited. Mr. Lattenhagen says the police have been called, however Police say there is nothing they can do to the violators. The violators have told them to jump in lake.

Eric Smith of Princeton feels the state law is not being enforced, as the state law sets out certain dates and times for these fireworks to be ignited; if the laws were enforced, it could help Ft. Branch without being detrimental to the entire county. He wonders why the Ft. Branch area problem can not be handled locally without punishing those that are abiding by the State Law.

Mike Moore of Princeton feels the state law’s time frames need to be enforced. There are other noises, other than fireworks disturbing the peace and he wonders if the Commissioners will start making ordinances for these other noises; if so, where they will stop? He also wonders why an ordinance was passed without public input allowed. Commission President Bledsoe stated the Commissioners conducted a public meeting; the meeting was streamed, and everyone is always

welcome to any and all public meetings. They called this meeting today to get input from the public.

Mrs. Moore of Princeton wonders if the existing state law could be enforced, rather than affecting the Citizens that are abiding by the laws.

Bob Ford of Princeton is a new resident to Princeton (locating back in this area after 55 years). He is concerned with restrictions being imposed on private property that are not necessary.

President Bledsoe would like Sheriff Bottoms to present a copy of the fireworks state law to local law enforcement and ensure they are familiar with the law and know it should be enforced.

Mike Moore asked if there was a size limitation on these fireworks. Eric Smith responded they are regulated by the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Mike Moore of Princeton stated that Eric Smith is trying to run a fireworks business; violators should be punished if they are violating the law, however he asked the Commissioners not create an undue hardship for those that are law abiding citizens.

After research and discussion, it has been found that if this ordinance is rescinded, the State Law will fall into place. Commissioner Bottoms motioned to rescind the Fireworks Ordinance 2020-05, seconded by Commissioner Key. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 3-0.

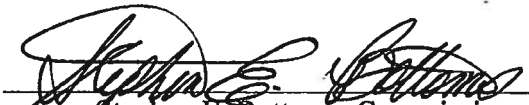
Commissioner Bottoms motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Minutes from the July 1st, 2020 Special Meeting.



Gerald Bledsoe, President

Mary Key, Vice-President



Stephen E. Bottoms, Commissioner



ATTEST: Sherri Smith, Auditor

Gibson County Board of Commissioners
Regular Session
July 7th, 2020

The Gibson County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on July 7th, 2020, at 8:00 AM at the North Annex Meeting Room.

Members Present: Included President Gerald Bledsoe, Vice-President Mary Key via Zoom, Commissioner Stephen E. Bottoms, Administrative Assistant Kay Vore, County Attorney James McDonald III, and County Auditor Sherri Smith.

This meeting was broadcast using Zoom with Social Distancing observed.

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

Minutes: The minutes from June 16th, 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 - \$1,484,431.04

Courts - \$3,475.79

Highway - \$180,602.06

Sheriff - \$23,484.73

ACH - \$130,322.62

CAW-1 - \$4,638.62

CAW-2 - \$43,849.60

CAW-3 - \$6,317.60

CAW-4 - \$7,209.66

June Settlement - \$21,636,218.33

Wheel, Sur, IRP and BPR Tax Distribution - \$51,732.62

Delinquent Sewer/Weed Paid at June Settlement - \$10,741.94

Ditch Claims and Congressional School Fund Surrendered to State - \$43,516.74

2020 Spring Excess Refunds - \$183.38

Innkeepers and ED Plate Distribution - \$8,014.99

GCFHC Lease Bond Payment - \$43,750.00

Wheel/Sur Tax - \$56,510.58

Spring Surplus Refunds and Ditch Claims - \$3,680.89

Payroll for 06/19/2020 - \$340,024.64

Payroll Deductions for 06/19/2020 - \$161,736.74

Payroll for 07/02/2020 - \$329,084.21
Payroll Deductions for 07/02/2020 - \$149,613.59

Replacement Election Check – 120.00
Pauper Check Claims for 06/25/2020 - \$1,300.43
Medical Insurance Payment for 06/26/2020 - \$312,687.00
Pauper ACH Claims for 06/25/2020 - \$9,290.04

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

Department Reports:

Animal Services did not report.

Veterans Services submitted his monthly report to the Commissioners. His business is picking up. The flag box has been a huge success. He reported of an Eagle Scout Project taking place in Owensville, where the Scout will be making a flag box for their town. Military Honors for deceased Vet's since COVID-19 stands at approximately 12 awaiting Honors.

Highway Department reports it is in the middle of construction season with Chip/Sealing approximately 60% complete. They hope to be 100% complete by the end of August. Replacement of equipment has been cancelled due to the decline of fuel tax revenue. Commissioner Bottoms told Superintendent Lewis to keep track of his losses, as the State Legislature might make funds available to replace the loss the Highway Department is experiencing due to COVID-19. The Highway Department should prepare to apply for those funds when they become available.

Health Department reported there are now 88 cases of COVID-19, up 56 cases since 07/01/2020. They are seeing clusters after people travel. Person traveling to Florida should be very careful, as Florida is one of the high-risk spots, as is Texas and California. Director Hornby reports that they are having a bit of trouble with people being honest about their contacts, as they do not want their contacts to quarantine. It is very important that all persons report anyone they came within 6' of for periods of longer than 15 minutes within 48 hours of them becoming sick or being diagnosed. The Governor, State Health Commissioner and Director Hornby stress the importance of wearing masks for everyone, including children. Gibson County's status will be re-evaluated on July 17th in order to identify whether the County will stay on the same status as the rest of the state or if they will take special precautions due to the increase in their numbers. The County is assisting the nursing homes and dental offices with safety supplies. They are also supplying masks at the Courthouse. The health department is providing the screening at the courthouse; however, her budget is almost fully expended on part-time help due to this extra screening. She has also expended her advertising line to help pay for the free testing site at the fairgrounds. County Attorney McDonald advised the Courts are going to request the screening continue at the Courthouse; thus, he will accompany Director Hornby at the County Council meeting to request an additional appropriation to help continue this screening. EMA Director

Hedges is working on the reimbursement grant to help with these issues. Director Hornby advised the Commissioners of the overtime her staff is working to help with the COVID-19 pandemic. They are starting to issue vaccines for school children; issuing septic permits; and busy following up with complaints of restaurants not wearing their masks or following recommended safety precautions during this pandemic.

EMA Director Hedges is hoping to find money to reimburse the Health Department in the work they are doing on the pandemic. EMA has received 2 small shipments of safety supplies. They will be disbursed to fire departments and law enforcement agencies. EMA picked up face masks last week in which Homeland Security disbursed. He intends for these masks to go to the schools. It is a small amount for the county's school corporations, but it is a start.

EMS Director Allen submitted his monthly report; he had Write-Offs of \$6,785.64. Commissioner Bottoms motioned tot accept the write off's amount, seconded by Commissioner Key. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 3-0.

Sheriff Bottoms submitted his monthly reports and reported there was an average of 90 incarcerated in June; today there are 96 incarcerated and 5 in work release. The Sheriff Department conducted 2 surveys. Old State Highway 65, between CR 525 W and CR 250 S – it is recommended the speed limit be posted at 30 mph. Commissioner Bottoms motioned to accept the recommendation of the Sheriff Department to post Old State Highway 65 at 30 mph, seconded by Commissioner Key. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 3-0.

The next survey was done on CR 325 W between 700 S, east of 168 and CR 525 S. The Sheriff Department recommends this road be posted with a 40-mph speed. Commissioner Bottoms motioned to accept the recommendation of the Sheriff Department, seconded by Commissioner Key. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 3-0.

Park Board report was given by Engineer Holden. There was recently a small gathering in the Park. The trees need some rain. They hope to submit to DNR this week.

County Engineer reported that all County funded paving is complete with exception of striping. The Community Crossing Grant Paving done by JH Rudolph is complete; they have a few things to finish. Bridge replacement is in motion. There are 2 box culverts to complete yet this year. A small structure bridge deck was replaced on 800 E. They hope to a lot of this year's projects wrapped up by the end of July.

Presentation of Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report Month Ending June 30th, 2020 was acknowledged by the Commissioners.

Old Business:

No Old Business was conducted.

New Business:

- Lease Agreement – Public Defender – This new department began on July 1, 2020. This is the first time Gibson County has had a Public Defender program. The County will now be allowed 40% reimbursement from the State. This new department will locate in the Probation Office, which is currently being renovated on N. Main Street. In the meantime, they would like to lease from LaMac Engineering at 215 W. State Street, which is the current office of Lisa Moody, the new Chief Public Defender. Commissioner Bottoms motioned to approve the lease agreement, seconded by Commissioner Key. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 3-0.
- Major Medical Leaves (3) were reviewed but not discussed. Commissioner Key abstained on this item, as she had not reviewed the paperwork. Commissioner Bottoms motioned to approve the 3 major medical leaves, seconded by Commissioner Bledsoe. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 2-0.

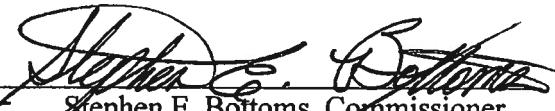
With no further business, Commissioner Bottoms motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Bledsoe.

Minutes from the July 7th, 2020 Meeting.



Gerald Bledsoe, President

Mary Key, Vice-President



Stephen E. Bottoms, Commissioner



ATTEST: Sherri Smith, Auditor