

\*\*\*\*\*

Gibson County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Session  
July 20, 2021

\*\*\*\*\*

The Gibson County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on July 20, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. at the North Annex Meeting Room.

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

**Roll Call by Auditor Watkins:**

President Warren Fleetwood – Present  
Vice-President Kenneth Montgomery – Present  
Commissioner Mary B. Key – Present

Auditor Watkins noted a quorum was present.

**MINUTES:** The minutes from the July 6, 2021, meeting were approved as presented. Commissioner Key motioned to approve minutes, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. With no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0.

**CLAIMS:**

ACH	7/15/2021	\$74,139.57
CAW - 2	7/16/2021	\$8,765.04
CAW - 1	7/9/2021	\$2,844.60
SHERIFF	7/15/2021	\$11,254.98
HIGHWAY	7/15/2021	\$159,334.16
COURTS	7/15/2021	\$675.96
COUNTY GENERAL	7/16/2021	\$247,344.04
EXCESS REFUNDS, DITCH CLAIMS	7/08/2021	\$1,523.24
LIT AND WHEEL/SURTAX DISTRIBUTIONS	7/06/2021	\$612,592.39
JUNE INSURANCE	7/01/2021	\$344,149.30
PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS	7/01/2021	\$157,192.45
PAYROLL -7/16/2021	7/12/2021	\$352,616.17
PAYROLL - 7/2/2021	6/29/2021	\$345,729.42
PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS	7/16/2021	\$152,924.69
Total Claims Presented on 7/20/2021:		\$2,471,086.01

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

**COMMISSIONERS OLD BUSINESS**

**COVID-19 Update by Health Department Director Hornby** –Commissioners were advised about the uptick in cases of COVID-19. Gibson County is now in the orange with the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest rate in the state. A breakdown of cases was given; there are currently 112 cases in Gibson County with new variants. All schools may require masks as State Department of Health and the CDC both are recommending, as all unvaccinated persons should wear a mask. She explained that all public service workers that are not vaccinated, should quarantine even if they are essential workers. No appointment is required to get a vaccine and she strongly suggests all public service worker get vaccinated; she urges Commissioners to stress the same. Sick days will be required to be used for quarantine and infection as COVID pay is over. Events could be downsized in near future if this uptick of cases continues. Tomorrow the health

department will be vaccinating with all 3 vaccines. They are currently vaccinating on Wednesday as there are multiple vials in one batch; once the batch is broken open, it must be used within a certain time frame or disposed. If groups want to make appts, they are happy to do so. If an agency would want the health department on site to vaccinate, they will do that as well. They will not/do not want to be wasteful with the vaccines. Director Hornby presented her June financials; they have been super busy with septic systems and subdivisions. She has mentioned to Council at budget meetings that she has a most possible retirement coming in 2022, the employee is working 4 days per week to use paid time off. Director Hornby is requesting to hire someone to train with this possible retiree and also attend a class in Indy in January; the class is only offered one time per year. Commissioner Fleetwood asked Director Hornby the best place to test at this time. Director Hornby explained that she is trying to reopen their testing site to offer free testing, as the grant fund has \$50,000 remaining for testing plus, she has the staff, she needs to find a testing site; she feels they could work 2-3 days per week on testing. Deaconess is starting to charge \$139 for tests. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to try and get testing site opened back up; seconded by Commissioner Key. The vote was 3-0. Ft. Branch Library offered a testing area; however, Director Hornby explained the consequences of mixing people that might be contaminated with non-contaminated. Commissioner Fleetwood thanked her for all her and her dept does and has done.

**COVID 19 Response Program - Phase III Grant:** - A list of businesses was presented on this grant award. Commissioner Key motioned to approve this grant, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. With no further discussion, the motion passed 3-0.

**Ft. Branch-Johnson Township Public Library** - Library Director, Laura Happe was present to make a final presentation for TIF funding. She had many supporters present at the meeting. Commissioners have also received many supportive emails. She again asked the Commissioners to forward her TIF request on to the Redevelopment Commission. Ms. Happe gave a presentation to demonstrate the need for these TIF funds. Commissioner Key is in favor of this project as she feels this project qualifies as a TIF project; Commissioner Montgomery and President Fleetwood both agreed. Commissioners explained that passing it on to the RDC at 100% does not guarantee funding at 100%. Commissioner Key motioned to move this project in full (\$2,620,000) on to the Redevelopment Commission, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The vote was 3-0.

**Owensville Carnegie Public Library** - Library Director, Margo English was present to discuss this library's need for TIF funding as well. She also made a presentation on the needs of this library. They have moved forward on the purchase of the Parrish Building on Main Street as they are desperate to serve all the needs of their people. They request \$836,500; \$650,500 will be needed for ADA renovation; the new building cost \$186,000. Owensville had \$100,000 in funding from TIF for an ADA elevator; this money has been forfeited as the new building became available and their scope of project changed. The appraisals for the building came in higher than \$186,000. Commissioner Key is 100% in support of this project and asked for clarification about the \$186,000 for the building; Director English verified the library has made the building purchase with their own money. Commissioner Key motioned to move this TIF request on to the Redevelopment Commissioner in the full amount of the request, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The vote was 3-0.

**Gibson County Senior Center Parking Lot Improvements** – Director Julia Rahman thanked the Commissioners for allowing them to make a presentation, as she explained this process all started when they realized the County had received COVID funds, and they wanted to convey their needs and be earmarked for funding. JH Rudolph provided an estimate for their parking lot improvement; a discount was applied providing the job can be done in coordination with the County's paving job. They have a ramp this is not ADA compliant; this estimate will correct the ramp. The estimate is \$44,950. She is asking for any money in general. Commissioner Key feels that either the old CARES money could be used, or the new American Rescue Funds could be used. Ms. Rahman feels this is a timely matter as the pavers want to coordinate with County paving in August/September plus the quote expires in 30 days. The next council meeting is 8/10/2021. They suggested presenting a letter to JH Rudolph explaining they

were going to the RDC meeting on 8/9/21. President Fleetwood motioned to move this project on to the Redevelopment Commission in full, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The vote was 3-0.

**American Recovery Act 2021 Steering Committee** - Attorney Spindler explained Commissioners need to form a committee and suggested the following: President of Council and Commissioners, County Auditor, and County Attorney. Commissioner Key feels some public members should be included on this committee. Commissioner Fleetwood wondered about hosting a community meeting at the Toyota Events Center for the public to throw out ideas. Attorney Spindler will try to coordinate this meeting in approximately 30 days. Attorney Spindler is recommending this committee based upon the recommendation of Debbie Bennett Stearsman. Attorney Spindler suggested they form the committee as proposed and supplement as it goes along. Application for this money was completed today; it should be here in a few days. Auditor Watkins suggested this money be invested to grow until the plans come together. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve the suggested committee, seconded by Commissioner Key. The vote was 3-0.

**Marilyn West -regarding Wheeling Covered Bridge and Severn Bridge** – President Fleetwood told Ms. West that the camera company was contacted after the last meeting; some education has been provided to some people on these cameras. They might place more cameras at the Wheeling Covered Bridge. Ms. West said the graffiti has been painted, however it will require an additional coat. She will turn her leftover paint to her neighbor to paint the graffiti. Some neighbors have mowed, but weeds have not been taken care of. These weeds are taking over in new gravel areas and that gravel is going to waste. Commissioner Montgomery explained they have not sprayed due to the rain. Severn Bridge has been painted, as the graffiti was terrible, it has not been mowed on one end. A neighbor to Severn Bridge did help mow the picnic area. He also bought 3 security lights and a couple of cameras to try to help deter this graffiti; he has taken these supplies out of his own pocket. Ms. West will ask this nice neighbor to take over the care of this bridge. Ms. West is resigning from her volunteer position. She feels the County should be taking better care of these bridges. Attorney Spindler asked for a motion to install the donated lights and cameras. President Fleetwood motioned to approve the installation of the donated lights and cameras, plus the purchase of a couple of field cameras, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The vote was 3-0. President Fleetwood will ask the Visitors and Tourism bureau if they can assist on getting Severn Bridge designated as a historical bridge.

### **COMMISSIONERS NEW BUSINESS**

**Town of Ft. Branch Sewer Improvement/Expansion TIF Request**–Eric Smith from HWC made the presentation on this request. They have some residential expansion needs that will cause a need to also expand their sewer system. They also have a large amount of inflow into their sanitary system. They provide wastewater services to VUTEQ, who have suggested future expansion. They want to increase their capacity to 305,000 gallons of flow per day plus add new equipment. They will also replace the disinfection system and move to UV light disinfection. The cost estimate is \$6,582,000. The maximum amount of grant award is \$5 million, and application has been made for this grant. Awards will be announced on August 12, 2021. Ft. Branch is not requesting the full \$6 million, only some assistance. The Town will fund the balance of the project. Clerk Treasurer Elpers told Commissioners about the VUTEQ expansion and Ft. Branch being a direct link to a Toyota subsidiary. President Fleetwood is supportive of this project. Commissioner Key would like to review the project before passing it on to the Redevelopment Commission. President Fleetwood motioned to approve moving this item on to the Redevelopment Commission, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The vote was 2-1 with Commissioner Key voting nay.

**Radar Speed Display at CR 250 South** – President Fleetwood requests these radar speed displays be positioned in this location, plus possibly on Coal Mine Road. Sheriff Bottoms explained that the display is on a trailer and requires a lot of area to store. Sheriff Bottoms suggested running radar in these two

areas. The Town of Ft. Branch might allow some area at the sewer plant to place the display. President Fleetwood can help find placement for this display.

**Cyber Security Discussion** - Commissioner Key has been working with the insurance company and Parrish to resolve the cyber security initiatives suggested by the insurance company; they have a deadline they are trying to meet. The employees will need to be educated once the initiatives are installed. Insurance suggests increasing coverage to \$2,000,000. Attorney Spindler requested the Commissioner approve the increase of \$2,000,000 in insurance coverage. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve the insurance coverage increase, seconded by Commissioner Key. The vote was 3-0.

**Major Medical Leave (1)** was approved by the Commissioners with a motion from Commissioner, Montgomery, seconded by Commissioner. Key for both major medical leave and family medical leave act. The vote was 3-0.

**Peabody Letter for Storm Debris** – Attorney Spindler read a letter stating that the County has a storm debris stockpile. In the past, Peabody has allowed the County to dispose of this stockpile on Peabody land; this letter requests the same assistance. Commissioner Key motioned to send the letter to Peabody, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The vote was 3-0.

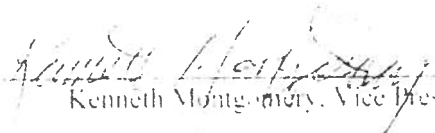
**Toyota Lot #4 Traffic Signal Change Order** – A copy of this change order has been received by President Fleetwood; he believes there should be more explanation before the \$15,681.75 invoice is paid. President Fleetwood does not understand why this is the County's cost as this is part of Lot #4 expansion project. The light is located on a county road. President Fleetwood would like to table the cost of this invoice until further explanation.

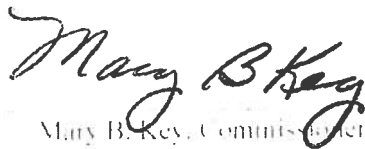
Attorney Spindler provided a Courthouse Security update. The south basement entrance is now the only entrance. There are now deputies present and entrants must go thru a scanner. All personal property must be left outside courthouse. Badges are being issued to employees, attorneys, and regular entrants. This new process began last week; more changes may come about. Patty Vanoven, Director of Gibson County Chamber of Commerce, asked how this would affect Heritage Days. Attorney Spindler feels that after hours usage would not be affected.


With no further discussions, President Fleetwood motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The vote to adjourn is 3-0.

Minutes from the July 20, 2021 Meeting.

  
Warren Fleetwood, President

  
Kenneth Montgomery, Vice President

  
Mary B. Key, Commissioner

  
ATTEST: Mike Watkins, Auditor