
Gibson County Board of Commissioners
Regular Session
July 21st, 2020

The Gibson County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on July 21st, 2020, at 5:30 PM at the North Annex Meeting Room.

Members Present: Included President Gerald Bledsoe, Commissioner Stephen E. Bottoms, Administrative Assistant Kay Vore and County Auditor Sherri Smith.

Remote Participant – Mary Key and Attorney McDonald

This meeting was broadcast using Zoom and Social Distancing is practiced.

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

Minutes: The minutes from the July 1st, 2020 Special Meeting and July 7th, 2020 Regular meeting were read and approved by a motion from Commissioner Bottoms and seconded by Commissioner Key. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 3-0.

Claims:

County General - \$438,451.75

Courts - \$2,267.02

Highway - \$182,108.17

Sheriff - \$8,969.76

ACH - \$113,478.82

CAW-1 - \$13,145.82

CAW-2 - \$1,366.76

CAW-3 - \$9,601.78

LIT Distributions - \$530,904.66

Community Corrections Transfer Funds - \$28,239.22

Ditch Claims and Spring Excess Refund - \$565.34

Payroll for 07/17/2020 - \$355,326.27

Payroll Deductions for 07/17/2020 - \$166,450.79

Pauper #1 Claims for 07/08/2020 - \$691.00

Pauper #2 Claims for 07/08/2020 - \$2465.00

Pauper #3 Claims for 07/08/2020 - \$2,142.00

Pauper #4 Claims for 07/08/2020 - \$6,771.50

Pauper #5 Claims for 07/08/2020 - \$7,004.00

Pauper #6 Claims for 07/08/2020 - \$19,367.50

Primary Election Meals to be allowed 07/08/2020 - \$118.25

Point at an earlier date to get him more comfortable with the contract. He wants to ensure everyone knows if this project is over budget, funding from another source must be planned. The Council does not want to go thru the pre-design process and end up with a building that cannot be built due to cost parameters. The County does not have the margin for error to restart the process. Councilman Overton pointed out to President Bledsoe that he is the owner-representative listed in the contract; he wonders if the Commissioners have plans to solicit outside contractors (Clerk of Works) to run/oversee the project. Commissioner Bottoms stated they are looking into this. Councilman Overton feels it is important for Mr. Connor, whom is willing, to keep the ACLU Attorney's and Judge apprised about the realistic time frame of this project. He feels it is important to not rush thru this project and the Architect keeping these people up to date on the project will go a long way. County Attorney McDonald will work with Mr. Connor and the Attorney representing the County on the federal lawsuit on the realistic time schedule to see if there is any leeway; as the current timeline seems very tight and costly; thus the urgency for Councilman Overton stressing the importance of the Architect and ACLU Attorney/Judge dialog. Lastly, Councilman Overton reviewed with the Commissioners the part in the contract where they have laid out their fees for pre-design services; once complete, ASP says they will revisit the contract and amend the contract at that point because there are no fees beyond that point. Commissioner Bottoms feels, that, of course the contract will be reviewed, he is sure it will be reasonable as the County has worked, very cooperatively, with them intermittently for a long time. Councilman Overton asked Commissioner Bottoms if their fees were normally set as a fixed fee or a percent of project. Commissioner Bottoms felt it in certain circumstance both ways, according to the job. Commissioner Bottoms also pointed out the conference call indicating the pre-design could be cheaper if they do not explore current jail renovations. As ASP feels they could get this done faster and more economically, however staffing comes in a lot higher. ASP feels that this could be done quicker and cheaper on the pre-design if they bypass exploration of current jail renovations. He asked if the Council still wanted this option explored.

President Bledsoe feels a joint meeting between Council, Commissioners, and Architect giving pro and cons to both would be beneficial. Commissioner Bottoms feels that will cause the cost to rise and slow things down, and they have no time to lose. Councilman Overton has heard multiple options and he personally does not have an opinion, his main concern is adhering to the budget with a cost-effective plan. He went on to say the previous needs assessment did not present feasible options; he does not want the pre-design phase to end with that same result. He feels most members of the Council will be comfortable if it is kept within the budget.

Commissioner Bottoms feels cost will be driven by requirements of fulfilling the need, and there are no projections of having less people incarcerated in the future. They have discussed building in phases, which he does not feel is a good option because of inflation costs. Councilman Overton finds it ironic that ACLU is working on pre-trial diversion and shorter sentences, yet they require larger jails. Councilman Overton feels there are a lot of ongoing fees and charges listed as to be determined (TBD) for this Architect, beyond the predesign phase. He encouraged the Commissioners to, as quickly as

Pauper #1 Claims for 07/10/2020 - \$4,224.50
Pauper #2 Claims for 07/10/2020 - \$2517.00
Corrected Payroll Deduction – Union Dues/Health Insurance - \$8,189.00
Unemployment Claims 07/10/2020 - \$435.00
Pauper Claims for 07/17/2020 - \$7,947.50

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

Presentation of Clerk's Report

- Clerk's Report Month Ending May 31st, 2020 was acknowledged.

Department Reports:

No Reports Given

Old Business:

- Jail AE Agreement – American Structure Point (ASP)– County Attorney McDonald told Council the document they are reviewing tonight is for preliminary design of new jail or jail renovations. This contract has been revised since the Commissioners last approved; Attorney McDonald appeared at the last County Council meeting and requested an additional appropriation in the LIT Correctional Facility Fund to pay for this contract. Attorney McDonald asked the Commissioners to approve this contract contingent upon Council funding. Commissioner Bottoms motioned to approve this agreement contingent upon Council funding, seconded by Commissioner Key.

Councilman Jeremy Overton, in attendance, explained that American Structure Point representative, Rick Connor had called into the special Council meeting, this morning, to discuss this contract. Councilman Overton is concerned about the \$34,000,000 budget in the American Structure Point Agreement; he wants to ensure everyone is aware of Baker Tilly's advice that the tax the County is collecting will support a \$21,500,000 project less fees of \$2,500,000 leaving a net of \$19,000,000 for a jail project. This \$19,000,000 would include everything; land acquisition and all. Therefore, if there is a shortfall experienced from this project, the Council would like the Commissioners, in very short order, to earmark the money for this shortfall. They might have to set aside money from EDIT to commit over the next 20 years to provide all extra money over the \$19,000,000.

Commissioner Bottoms stated they have been looking at other jails, all designed and staffed properly, so they can house federal inmates. This is providing a large revenue stream for other counties. Commissioner Bledsoe told Councilman Overton that he had not replied to his email's because he had not reviewed the American Structure Point Contract; therefore, he was in the dark. He has since replied but now wonders if it was sent. Commissioner Bledsoe has reviewed this revised contract as of today. Councilman Overton thanked Attorney McDonald for organizing the call with American Structure

possible, get the "TBD" fees finalized, and determine whether these are fixed fees or a percentage of project fees. That way the Council will have an estimate of the Architect's fees based on the design and the EDIT Funding available. Councilman Overton thanked the Commissioners for their time discussing an important issue.


Commissioner Key stated that she had listened in on the conference in the morning with the Architect; she felt it provided good information. She feels this could be a good, ongoing project, however it should move forward in a progressive manner, otherwise, face a court telling the County what must be done. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 3-0.

New Business:


- Weaver Consultants Group – A landfill agreement annual renewal was presented by Engineer Holden in the amount of \$13,500 to monitor water and pass on some communication. This agreement was approved with a motion from Commissioner Bottoms, seconded by Commissioner Key. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 3-0.
- Major Medical Leaves – 2 leaves were presented to Commissioners without discussion, Commissioner Bottoms motioned to approved both leaves, seconded by President Bledsoe. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 2-0, with Commissioner Key abstaining from the vote, as she had not reviewed the paperwork.
- Rescind Major Medical Leave - Commissioner Bottoms motioned to rescind the leave, seconded by President Bledsoe. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 2-0, with Commissioner Key abstaining from the vote as she had not reviewed the paperwork.

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

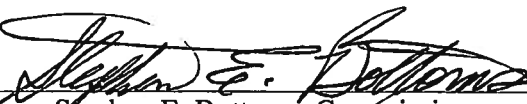
Minutes from the July 21st, 2020 Meeting.




Gerald Bledsoe, President



Mary Key, Vice-President



Stephen E. Bottoms, Commissioner



ATTEST: Sherri Smith, Auditor