

\*\*\*\*\*

Gibson County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
June 20, 2022

\*\*\*\*\*

The Gibson County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on June 20, 2023, at 4:45 p.m. at the North Annex Meeting Room.

Prayer was led by President 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 June 6, 2023, meeting were approved as presented. Commissioner Burns motioned to approve minutes, seconded by Commissioner Fleetwood. With no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0.

**CLAIMS:**

Total Claims Presented on 06/20/2023 were in the amount of \$80,872,153.35. Commissioner Fleetwood motioned to approve claims, seconded by Commissioner Burns. With no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0.

**Clerk Report** was acknowledged by the Commissioners.

**Department Reports**

**Health Department** - Administrator Shade asked Commissions if they plan to opt into the new health care plan. Commissioner Fleetwood met with someone from the Governor's office, and he discussed this plan with them. He explained that the County would meet the current threshold for the local match; and the county may opt out if it does not work out. The current funds will enhance the county's public health plan. Governor Holcomb's Staff Member told Commissioner Fleetwood a lot of counties are planning to opt into this new health plan. Commissioner Fleetwood asked Director Shade about the advantage of opting into the plan. Director Shade feels having an on-site testing lab will be an added benefit. Another benefit will be having partners in the community to provide more services including outreach to educate the community. Commissioner Fleetwood is very supportive as the county can opt out anytime; Commissioner Montgomery agrees. Director Shade informed the Commissioners this new plan will require a lot of preparation and thought for budgets and staffing needs, etc.; she requested Commissioners to go ahead and make the decision so everyone knows how to plan. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve the opting into the new health plan; seconded by Commissioner Fleetwood. The vote was 3-0.

**COMMISSIONERS OLD BUSINESS**

**Update on Jail** – Owner's Representative, George Ballard told Commissioners they are still installing concrete blocks. They had meetings today regarding the 911 Center. They should start erecting steel on Thursday. Commissioner Montgomery asked the Sheriff's Department to conduct a speed test on Enon Church Road West.

**Update Ambulance Base** – EMS Director Pond told Commissioners they have been working with Gibson County Fairgrounds on a purchase agreement for the ground. Attorney Spindler says \$125,000 is the lesser of the average of 2 appraisals. They will have to relocate a couple of trailers and they plan to

close on the land by 7/30/23. Director Pond says plans/drawings on the new building are almost complete as they would like to start before the weather gets bad.

Commissioner Fleetwood asked if EMS had confirmation on the money from the RDC; Director Pond said have a portion of the money now and they hope to have the other portion by the time the building starts going up. Commissioner Burns asked if this is a location for the EMS only as he was wondering if they could add another department onto this building. Attorney Spindler says the vote tonight is for acquisition of the land only and does not lock in the building plans. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to support this project, seconded by Commissioner Burns. The vote was 3-0.

### COMMISSIONERS NEW BUSINESS

**Habitat Hazelton Boat Ramp Beautification Project Approval** – Commissioner Burns has been working with Julia Rahmann, Habitat for Humanity Director on this project. There are two adjacent parcels, one of them is owned by Gibson County, the other by DNR. They plan to create a green space on the Gibson County parcel in September by adding picnic tables and plants; Master Gardner's will assist with the plan. They will need to survey the area, so they do not get onto DNR the parcel. This will need to be outsourced and cost approximately \$2,500. Commissioner Fleetwood asked if Surveyor Martin could assist; Surveyor Martin will look to see if he can assist.

Commissioner Fleetwood motioned to approve allowing the greenspace on Gibson County's parcel, seconded by Commissioner Burns. The vote was 3-0.

**EPIC Insurance – Brian Hancock** – Brian Hancock, Representative from EPIC told Commissioners they had looked at options for the County; Counties tend to be most difficult because of jails. He applauded the Sheriff's Department as they recently sat down and discussed the jail; they opened the doors for Traveler's to come in and evaluate them. Commissioners have taken on the role of human resources, as the County does not have an HR Director. The insurance broker would like to establish an assertive timeline for the next 90-120 days to develop some training modules. Traveler's and EPIC will help develop these modules. Mr. Hancock asked who will wear the HR hat so they can work with them. The rate increases can be seen in Cyber and Liability. He pointed out the statement of values to Commissioners. The County has blanket coverage to help cover what the statement of values does not cover. They also have earthquake insurance with a \$50,000 deductible. A scheduled equipment list was presented to Commissioners; Mr. Hancock pointed out that insurance, in the event of a loss, will always depreciate the equipment. They will go out on the open market and find that same model/equipment and pay at the rate of what they find that equipment listed. He briefed the Commissioner's on liability claims and who/what might be covered; it has no deductible. If the County were to add a deductible, they could save some money. The automobile fleet list was given to Commissioners, and he asked Commissioners to assure everything is covered as there have been 15 units added to the auto insurance. Umbrella insurance stacks on top of all other premiums. Worker's Compensation is a separate policy. In comparison to last year's premium, the policy has increased \$85,000. This is due to non-compliance and the number of claims experienced. EPIC would like to help Commissioners drive compliance with policy building. Attorney Spindler asked if they could bump liability via a phone call. Cyber Security Liability is a trending item as municipalities are targets. He again asked who EPIC could work with to develop this HR policy. Attorney Spindler asked Judy to remind him about the formation of a handbook committee. EPIC would like to meet with that committee as soon as possible. The total premium is \$412,960. Someone asked if the county could save if they bumped earthquake deductible to \$100,000, Brian says it only saves the County a couple of grand. Another person asked if cameras installed in vehicles would help. Brian says it would save the county some money.

**Fuel Bids** – Wabash Valley Service was the only fuel bid received. Attorney Spindler read through the various fuel bids. Attorney Spindler recommended approving the bid, pending a complete document package. Commissioners Montgomery made that motion, seconded by Commissioner Burns. The vote was 3-0.

**Ordinance Regarding Hiring Employees and Appointments** – Attorney Spindler told Commissioners they were provided with a draft ordinance. The ordinance references the Indiana Code and specifies who certain elected officials (Clerk, Auditor, Treasurer, Recorder, Surveyor, Assessor, Judicial System) can hire. The substance of ordinance says the Commissioners shall hire everyone else not specified or otherwise delegated by law. George Ballard asked if there was anything pertaining to the Sheriff’s Department, as they also have Indiana Code pertaining to them hiring. Attorney Spindler felt they would fall into section 2 of the ordinance.

Commissioner Montgomery spoke of a meeting he had recently attended in which they asked someone about annual appointments. He was told that when you appoint someone, they are considered a hired position and you do not have to reappoint them each year.

Commissioner Fleetwood motioned to adopt this ordinance, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The vote was 2-1, with Commissioner Burns casting the opposing vote as he has not been allowed enough time for review of the document.

**Medical Leave (2)** – Commissioner Fleetwood motioned to approve the two medical leaves, seconded by Commissioner Burns. The vote was 3-0.

**Stephanie’s House** – Commissioner Fleetwood told everyone about the opening of a new place in Gibson County where women can go and receive help with addiction or other problems they might be having. There is now a center for men and women in Gibson County. The extension office will be accepting donations at the fair for both facilities.

Commissioner Burns is working with a group to help fight adolescent opioid addiction.

Someone asked if microphones could be installed in the meeting room so they could hear better.

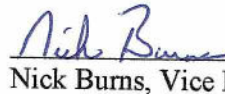
Someone asked why the County needed 15 more vehicles this year over last year. George Ballard explained that insurance had to be added to the new vehicles to drive them back to the county, when they are officially brought into the fleet, some of the old vehicles will be phased out.

Someone wondered what the County’s end goal was for putting recycled millings on the roads. Commissioner Montgomery explained that it was to build a base so the roads could be paved. Commissioner Fleetwood has a map that he wants to share; the map shows they are planning to mill less roads this year. Commissioners do not want to use millings unless they plan to pave.

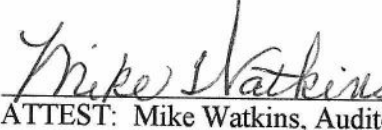
With no further discussions, Commissioner Fleetwood motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Burns. The vote to adjourn is 3-0.

Minutes from the June 20, 2023, Meeting.

  
Kenneth Montgomery, President

  
Nick Burns, Vice President

  
Warren Fleetwood, Commissioner

  
ATTEST: Mike Watkins, Auditor