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Gibson County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Session  
June 6, 2023

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The Gibson County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on June 6, 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 May 16, 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 6/06/2023 were \$2,824,405.90. Commissioner Burns motioned to approve claims, seconded by Commissioner Fleetwood. With no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0.

**Treasurer Report** this report was acknowledged by the Commissioners.

**Department Reports**

EMS Director Pond presented his report for May. There will be a ceremony honoring a survivor of a recent cardiac arrest; he invited the Commissioners to the event.

Sheriff Vanoven presented the May report with the average daily population of incarcerated inmates being 85.

Health Department Administrator Shade gave the department reports to Commissioners; there were no questions. The Board of Health meeting was held last night; they wish to opt into the new public health funding plan. This will enhance the public health of the community. The money is guaranteed for two years; however, they intend to keep it long-term.

Animal Shelter – Sharon Weme gave a huge shout out to Princeton Vet Clinic for hosting the low-income vet clinic. They recently hosted a \$10 adoption day in which 33 animals were adopted. They currently have 16 dogs and 50 cats housed. They will host another \$10 adoption next week to try to reduce these numbers; they are looking for sponsors for this event, for which any amount will be accepted. Interested sponsors should contact the shelter. They are expecting their new vehicle to be delivered soon.

**COMMISSIONERS OLD BUSINESS**

**Update on Jail Project** – Owner’s Representative George Ballard told Commissioners they are putting up concrete blocks, doors, and some steel. They will be sending out requests for bids on solar panels. RQAW has an amendment to their contract for the solar panels. The contract with Tenaska shows they will pay invoices on the solar project of up to \$200,000, so George will present this contract amendment to Tenaska to see if they will pay this.

Commissioner Burns motioned to approve the amended contract, seconded by Commissioner Fleetwood with the understanding that it is to go to Tenaska. With no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0.

**Resigning of Unofficial Detour Reimbursement** – President Montgomery explained this has already been taken care of and no action is required.

**West County Roads Engineering and Request for Bids** – Commissioner Fleetwood told Commissioners this engineering work was performed by Three i Design, and they have expressed an interest in overseeing the project. Commissioner Fleetwood requested approval for Three i Design and request for the bids, in which Three i Design will put together and present at the next Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve this request from Commissioner Fleetwood, seconded by Commissioner Burns. The vote was 3-0.

**Update on Animal Shelter construction project** – Sharon Werne told Commissioners they have visited several shelters to ensure they build appropriately. They have received three architectural bids. They will meet and decide on a recommendation then they will then meet with Commissioner Fleetwood to advise him on their decision. The highway department has been working on the site prep and they have told them they are happy to help with the excavating work. On July 2, 2023 they will have a fundraiser “Cruising for Critters” at Lafayette Park.

**North Annex Data Backup Plan** – Kyle Wallace from Parrish Consulting was present to answer questions. Commissioner Fleetwood feels the maintenance room in the North Annex will provide a good computer storage area. He will meet with Andy tomorrow to clean the room and add some lighting and get the project going. Parrish has the equipment in their office. Parrish could be ready to go within two to four weeks.

### **COMMISSIONERS NEW BUSINESS**

**Warning Siren Contract** – Terry Hedges told Commissioners in 2004/2005, the sirens were installed in Gibson County with a contract with Tri-State Communications at \$5400 per year. The sirens are wearing out. ERS has taken over the sirens; they are soon going to increase their rates to \$7800 per year. The county does not pay anything when work is performed. This contract will pay for 18 sirens and provide 24/7 coverage. The contract has been paid through June 20, 2024 at \$5400. If approved, tonight, Terry will send the contract to ERS, and he will increase his 2024 budget. In July 2020, he went to the Council to replace sirens, as the sirens are getting old and experience outages. Some counties have gone to mass media releases instead of sirens. Dispatch controls the sirens. Attorney Spindler asked if the county could send mass media communications. The Sheriff’s department has a software called nixel in which mass media can be issued. There are currently 3500 people in Gibson County who signed up for nixel notifications, which is a free service. Commissioner Fleetwood asked if it would be possible to replace the sirens in phases. Terry explained he has presented a couple of different replacement plans. Total replacement of 18 sirens, with the works was a little more than \$500,000. Commissioner Fleetwood asked what the feedback from the Council was at the time, Terry feels this is not a problem, until it’s a problem. Commissioner Fleetwood feels it is a problem that needs to be addressed. Commissioner Fleetwood motioned to approve this new contract, seconded by Commissioner Burns. With no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0.

**New Electric Service for lighting of flag at Hopkins Park** – Jim Hook thanked the Commissioners for their help at the park. They recently installed a 60’ flagpole. He wonders how they can go about establishing an account with Center Point for electric service. Solar will not produce enough power to energize this large flagpole. They are using solar on the lake and bathrooms. Carl Cook is the newest board member, and he is hoping he will help with establishing this electric. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve allowing Hopkins Park to establish an account with Center Point, seconded by Commissioner Fleetwood. With no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0.


**SRI Addendum** – Mike Watkins had previously sent the addendum regarding the tax sale contract. Their rate is \$125 per property. He requested permission to approve the contract. Commissioner Burns motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Fleetwood. With no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0.


**Donation for July 4<sup>th</sup> Fireworks** – President Montgomery told Commissioners DPI would like \$1,000 donation for the July 4<sup>th</sup> Fireworks. The Commissioners have money for this in their budget. Commissioner Burns motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Fleetwood. With no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0.

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

Minutes from the June 6, 2023 Meeting.

  
Kenneth Montgomery, President

  
Nick Burns, Vice President

  
Warren Fleetwood, Commissioner

  
ATTEST: Mike Watkins, Auditor