
Gibson County Board of Commissioners
Regular Session
March 22, 2023

The Gibson County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Wednesday, March 22, 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 March 7, 2023, meeting were approved as presented. Commissioner Burns motioned to approve minutes, seconded by President Montgomery. The vote was 3-0.

CLAIMS: Total Claims Presented on 3/22/2023 were \$2,099,262.04. Commissioner Burns motioned to approve the claims presented for payment, seconded by Commissioner Fleetwood. The vote was 3-0.

Clerk Report: was acknowledged by the Commissioners.

Department Reports

EMS – Director Pond told Commissioners the department has had great success with the LUCAS devices and power load devices, the department is appreciative of these purchases.

Sheriff Department – Sheriff Bruce Vanoven told Commissioners that week three of Celebrate Recovery had 10 members. The Sheriff is expecting big results from this new program. They have hired a part-time cleaning person to be good stewards of the County’s assets. They are creating a new patrol officer by moving a matron position into this this role. Until more Correction Officers are hired, they are not allowing open visits due to safety concerns.

Animal Shelter – Sharon Weme made a plea to the Community to foster a small dog they recently rescued.

COMMISSIONERS OLD BUSINESS

Jail Update – George Ballard reported on the construction of the new jail. A milestone was reached on this project as they poured the first bit of concrete this week. The building site should soon be able to be viewed by the public. Brumfield Avenue is back open after some utility work.

Animal Shelter Vehicle thru ARPA Grant – Auditor Watkins told Commissioners the ARPA Core Committee had met and approved another vehicle for Animal Services and request \$56,659.23; he requested that Commissioners also approve this purchase. Commissioner Fleetwood made a motion to approve this purchase, seconded by Commissioner Burns. The vote was 3-0.

Sharon Weme thanked the County for this vehicle; she believes this is the only new vehicle the animal shelter has ever owned.

Auditor Watkins also requested approval from the Commissioners on another ARPA item for the East Gibson Fire Territory. The Great Wall of Rescue was approved by the Core Group, which is grain bin rescue equipment in the amount of \$17,968.

Commissioner Fleetwood made a motion to approve this purchase, seconded by Commissioner Burns. The vote was 3-0.

Approve Shelving & Voting Machines Relocation to North Annex Basement – Clerk Smith came before the Commissioners to request approval to relocate 16 shelving units from the old furniture building (plans to demolish) to the North Annex Basement; rotating file cabinets located in the courthouse basement to the Sheriff’s Department; and move voting machines to the North Annex Basement. A quote for this move has been attained from Tri-State Systems in the amount of \$19,150. This shelving will be placed in the east wing of the north annex basement and will be available for use by other departments, as they are scanning their documents, rather than storing. Commissioner Fleetwood wonders if this project could be funded by ARPA. Clerk Smith is looking to do renovations in the Clerk’s Office. She has the money to move the cabinets in Perpetuation Fund. Commissioners voted to approve this shelving repurposing.

Commissioner Burns made a motion to accept the relocation plan, seconded by President Montgomery. The vote was 3-0.

County Road 360 S – Shannon Green thanked the Commissioners for the ARPA purchase of the Grain Bin Rescue Equipment.

Ms. Green has been working with President Montgomery on CR 360 S; she hopes the Commissioners will publicly acknowledge that this road needs some improvements. She told Commissioners there is a ditch that is washing away on this road, and she feels the road is unsafe for the 13 homes that access the road. Ms. Green presented documentation that the road should be at least 30’ wide; she feels there is documentation in the Courthouse of this as well. Currently, a property owner has placed haybales, anchored with rebar along this road, creating a road hazard. Commissioner Fleetwood feels it is their duty to maintain public safety on this road and he feels this is a public safety concern. He asked Attorney Spindler if he could address this issue. Ms. Green feels the County has all they need with a document from 1944, as it says the road is a public right of way or public road. The State has verified this is a road, as they have information from when I-69 was constructed.

Bids for North Annex Roof Project – Attorney Spindler opened the bids.

Midwest Roofing	\$94,310 (includes tear off)	
Lehman Roofing	\$132,000	
Embry’s Roofing	\$70,300 (overlay)	\$136,900 (tear off & new roof)
A-Biz Construction	\$119,225 (includes tear off)	

Attorney Spindler recommends tabling the bids for further review and awarding the low bid pending Andy Schafer’s approval. Commissioners want the existing roof removed.

Commissioner Burns made this recommended motion, seconded by Commissioner Fleetwood. The vote was 3-0.

COMMISSIONERS NEW BUSINESS

Major Medical Leave (1) – President Montgomery motioned to approve this leave, seconded by Commissioner Burns. The vote was 3-0.

Power Washing of Annex North – Commissioner Fleetwood says there is money remaining from the environmental remediation and flooring of the North Annex. He wonders if the leftover money can be used to power wash the Courthouse (except stairs) and the North Annex. This would include the monuments. The Southwest Corner Monument will be done by the Vet Services’ Director. This will be reviewed at the next meeting. ARPA money has a said date to spend with criteria, thus it cannot be saved.

Chamber of Commerce – Director Vanoven told everyone that on May 17, 2023, there will be a CEO Trade Show at the Princeton Library. She feels this is a great program and she encouraged everyone to come out to see these projects and business plans created by this young group of students.