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Gibson County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Session  
March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020

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The Gibson County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020, at 8:00 a.m. at the North Annex Meeting Room.

**Members Present:** Included President Gerald Bledsoe, Vice-President Mary Key, Commissioner Stephen E. Bottoms, Administrative Assistant Kay Vore, County Attorney James McDonald III, and County Auditor Sherri Smith.

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

**Minutes:** The minutes from February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 regular meeting and February 25<sup>th</sup> Joint Executive Meeting were read and approved through a motion by Commissioner Key and seconded by Commissioner Bottoms. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 3-0.

**Claims:**

County General - \$175,746.96  
Courts - \$11,571.31  
Highway - \$163,631.34  
Sheriff - \$29,154.95  
ACH - \$3,876.82  
CAW-1 - \$15,304.34  
CAW-2 - \$12,325.84

February Innkeepers Distribution - \$14,508.61  
Ditch Claims & 2019 Excess/Overpay Refunds - \$10,361.84

Payroll for 02/28/2020 - \$318,555.77  
Additional Payroll for 02/28/2020 - \$660.29  
Payroll Deductions for 02/28/2020 - \$149,145.23

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 12/31/2019 was acknowledged by the Commissioners.

## **Department Reports:**

Animal Services gave their January report to the Commissioners. They will have pictures with the Easter Bunny on 3/28/2020 from 11-3 at Rural King.

Veteran's Affairs Director presented his report to the Commissioners. Director Pickersgill told the Council about an upcoming event to honor the oldest living Veteran in Gibson County; he will turn 100 years old in April. A joint resolution from the legislature will proclaim the day as "Virgil Beckerman Day". He also shared an upcoming event in cooperation with the Ft. Branch VFW in which they will have a Veteran's Resource Fair; details will be forthcoming.

Weights & Measure presented his February report to the Commissioners.

Highway Department is conducting standard maintenance; the contractors have completed the work at the historic covered bridges. Pipe replacement projects will begin ahead of the roads getting paved. This department will move to four ten-hour workdays beginning on Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup> and conclude on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, at which time they will move back to five, eight-hour workdays.

Health Department gave a written report to the Commissioners. Director Hornby discussed the coronavirus with everyone; they are working closely with the State Department of Health as well as the CDC. There are currently no cases in Indiana. The flu is killing more people in the US faster than the coronavirus.

EMA Director Hedges is also working on the coronavirus. FEMA is anticipating a declaration from the President. If this declaration is made, FEMA will be able to assist state and local government should cases show up in our area.

Flood Plain reported the National Weather Service is promoting Spring Severe Weather Safety Preparedness Month. Indiana's week is March 15-21; a tornado drill will be conducted on March 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 a.m. A lot of information will be released regarding flooding this month.

EMS Director Allen presented his monthly report to the Commissioners. Runs are up for the year to date. Director Allen gave an update on the bill he and approximately 100 other EMS persons went to the Statehouse to testify against. The bill would have allowed insurance companies to dictate the amount they would pay for ambulance runs. The legislature has removed the EMS portion from the bill; it will be reviewed in more depth over the summer. The EMS has write-offs in the amount of \$3,786.08. Commissioner Key motioned to approve the write-off's, seconded by Commissioner Bottoms. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 3-0.

Sheriff Department presented their monthly report to the Commissioners. They had an average jail population of 121 per day.

Extension Office is planning for the fair, as they just completed the farm services workshops, they are teaching drone classes now and will soon start serve safe classes.

Park Board report was given by Engineer Holden. He will be taking 2 different lake designs to the Park Board meeting for them to choose the design. He plans to have the bathroom facility designs submitted to the DNR by the end of March.

SWCD Soil & Water informed the Commissioners of their plans to have a table at the Ag Day Breakfast on March 21<sup>st</sup> from 6-10 a.m. to inform the public of their upcoming events. One of the events they intend to discuss is the Bradford Pear Bounty. On Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at Wirth Park in Oakland City all Pike and Gibson County residents can bring proof of removal of a Bradford Pear Tree and you will receive a replacement tree.

County Engineer Holden informed the Commissioners that he has paving bids out, this paving will be funded with EDIT monies. He hopes to know the outcome of the Community Crossing Matching Grant by the end of March.

Parrish Consulting gave a report on IT. They recently completed the health department upgrades; they are working on some issues at the Sheriff's Department and of the 91 tickets opened in February, 70 are resolved.

### **Old Business:**

- Revision Health Department Fee Ordinance – This Ordinance revision takes the immunization administration fee from \$20 to \$25. Commissioner Bottoms made a motion to approve the ordinance revision and was seconded by Commissioner Key. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 3-0.
- Sheriff Department – Road Study – This study was conducted on CR 850 (doppler radar area). It was found the road was posted with 45 mile per hour speed limit, which will remain the same. The Sheriff's Department suggested the addition of "slow moving vehicles" and "hidden driveway" signs.
- Resolution on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment "Right to Bear Arms" – The Commissioners adopted this resolution. Commissioner Bottoms made a motion to adopt and was seconded by Commissioner Key. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 3-0.

### **New Business:**

- Workforce Investment Board – Sarah Worstell & Linda Jones were present to request signature on the Workforce Investment Agreement and to request an Elected Official to represent Gibson County on this board. The agreement has not changed from the past agreement. Commissioner Bottoms made a motion to continue with the current agreement and reappoint President Bledsoe to this board and was seconded by Commissioner Key. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 3-0.

- Courthouse Concrete & Sidewalks – Repairs - \$43,550 – Charles Michel with Danco Construction was present to discuss the sidewalk repairs with the Commissioners. They will repair 3100 square feet of sidewalk on the north side of the courthouse square. The sidewalk beginning at the bottom of the steps on the north side of the square continuing out to the road, plus both fingers will be removed and replaced. They will keep continuous access into the north side of the Courthouse. The project could begin as soon as Monday and last approximately 3-4 weeks. A dumpster could take the place of parking places during this project. This project will aide in drainage and keep rainwater from infiltrating the basement. Commissioner Bottoms made a motion to award this project to Danco Construction in the amount of \$43,550 and was seconded by Commissioner Key. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 3-0.
- Matt Holden – Bridge 004 Replacement – CR 450 N, east of CR 650 E is a 60' single span bridge. Engineer Holden requested permission to advertise for bids on this replacement project so the work can begin in the summer. They have already begun the process of locating the utilities on the side of the bridge. Commissioner Bottoms made a motion to advertise for bids on this bridge replacement and was seconded by Commissioner Key. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 3-0.
- EDIT Plan – 2020/2021 was revised to include broadband. The Commissioners have applied for a grant to add 53 miles of broadband to the rural areas of Gibson County. There are 2400 houses plus several businesses this addition could impact. Paul Waters from the Gibson County Economic Development Coalition (GCEDC) asked everyone in Gibson County with poor internet or no internet to please draft a letter or use a sample letter provided by GCEDC within the next 10 days. The more letters received the better the chance of receiving this very competitive grant. He also asked that residents tell stories of the extremes they have experienced with the limited rural broadband. Commissioner Bottoms made a motion to approve the 2020/21 EDIT plan and pass on to the Council and was seconded by Commissioner Key. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 3-0.
- Major Medical Leave was not discussed. Commissioner Key made a motion to approve the leave and was seconded by Commissioner Bottoms. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 3-0.
- Gibson County Chamber Director, Patty Vanoven invited elected officials to participate in the Political Forum at the Ag Day Breakfast on March 21.
- Steve Krieg was present to request more information on the county roads around Francisco. The strip-mining legacy is showing on these roads, as there is erosion coming onto the roads due to the landowner not maintaining the right of way. All roads were asphalt, pre-mining and now they are gravel roads. According to Commissioner Bottoms, the previous administration allowed these gravel roads and now the bonds on these roads are released. It would be cost prohibitive for the County to replace these gravel roads with asphalt. Commissioner Bottoms offered to go along with Mr. Krieg to talk to Peabody and see if they will come back and do something to help. Commissioner

Key also suggested that Mr. Krieg discuss the erosion issue with the Gibson County Soil and Water Conservation District. Mr. Krieg also asked if there was anything that could be done with the trash trucks (not Gibson County Solid Waste District) losing trash along SR 64, east of Princeton and all the way past Oakland City and into the landfill. Superintendent Lewis will contact the State regarding this issue. Mr. Krieg suggested using work release to clean up the mess, but the Sheriff's Department does not have the resources to take on this project.

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 March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 Meeting.

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Gerald Bledsoe, President

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Mary Key, Vice-President

  
Stephen E. Bottoms, Commissioner

  
ATTEST: Sherri Smith, Auditor