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Gibson County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Session  
March 7, 2023

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The Gibson County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on March 7, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at the North Annex Meeting Room.

Prayer was led by Commissioner Montgomery followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**Members Present:** President Kenneth Montgomery; Vice President, Nick Burns. Commissioner Warren Fleetwood was absent.

**MINUTES:** The minutes from the February 21, 2023, meeting were approved as presented. Commissioner Burns motioned to approve minutes, seconded by President Montgomery. The vote was 2-0.

**CLAIMS:** Total Claims Presented on 3/7/2023 were \$1,825,365.41. Commissioner Burns motioned to approve claims presented for payment, seconded by President Montgomery. The vote was 2-0.

**Clerk/Treasurers Report:** No reports were available.

**Department Reports**

**Health Department** – Juli Shade reported the COVID numbers are up and down. Fortunately no deaths have been reported due to COVID.

**Sheriff Department** – Sheriff Bruce Vanoven gave a report on the jail population along with accident report. Sheriff Vanoven stated they held their first inmate drug program on Saturday, March 4, 2023.

**County Extension Office** – Abby Heidenreich introduced herself and explained that she has taken the position of County Extension Agent for Gibson County. This position was effective March 1, 2023.

**COMMISSIONERS OLD BUSINESS**

**ARPA** – Debbie Bennett-Stearsman, Gibson County ARPA Coordinator, gave an update on what the ARPA Committee had discussed in their meeting on Monday, March 6, 2023.

The Committee made the following recommendations to the Commissioners:

- Gibson County Council on Aging had \$3,216.25 left from their grant after their purchases. The Committee recommended that this be returned to the ARPA General Fund.
- Animal Services needed additional funds for additional items for the truck they purchased. Tires, brakes and key fobs were needed. The Committee recommended to make their total grant not to exceed \$49,325.00.
- Grain Silo Rescue Equipment pricing increased. Only the East Gibson area was needing the equipment out of the whole county. The Committee recommended to increase their grant to a not to exceed amount of \$18,000.00.
- North Annex Roof Repair bids came in higher than what was originally allocated. The Committee recommended an increase not to exceed \$104,000.00. Formal bids will be received at a later date.
- Circuit Court Carpeting was recommended to not exceed the amount of \$13,000.00.

- Courthouse basement and general touch-ups throughout the courthouse. Work will include stripping and varnishing the woodwork in the basement along with painting the walls and sanding and repainting the floor. Also, touch-ups on some areas on the other walls on other floors. The Committee recommended a not to exceed amount of \$25,000.00.

The Committee recommended that the Commissioners approve these changes which totaled \$58,683.75. President Montgomery motioned to approve the change with Commissioner Burns seconding. The vote was 2-0.

Ms. Bennett-Stearnsman reported that \$1,238,883.78 of the ARPA money was still unappropriated.

**Jail Update** – George Ballard reported that the construction of the new jail was moving along well. They expect to open Brumfield Avenue up next week. He also reported that a camera will be installed very soon so people can go online and watch the construction of the new jail.

**Commissioner Meeting Times** – County Attorney Jason Spindler presented a schedule of the change of meeting time (not days). *(A copy of the updated times are attached to these minutes)*

**County IT Backup Hardware & Fiber Optic Network** – Dan Parrish from Parrish Consulting presented an estimate to replace hard drives on the computer backup systems. The current hard drives are getting old and wearing out. These are crucial to the safety of our data. The estimate was in the amount of \$53,476.94. President Montgomery made a motion to accept the estimate with a second by Commissioner Burns. The vote was 2-0.

Mr. Parrish continued with information on a conversation concerning a new backup location. This location would be at the County Highway Department. It is recommended to have it at that location since the current buildings (Courthouse, North Annex, Jail) where backups are currently done are all located close together. Mr. Parrish recommended the county consider owning the fiber optic for this project instead of leasing it from providers like Spectrum, Frontier or AT&T. At a best guess he stated the cost would be somewhere around 1 million dollars. This amount is strictly a guess and would need to get actual quotes. Mr. Parrish would like to form a committee to assist in exploring installing a new backup at the County Highway Department and to get a more solid cost. He recommended a member from the Commissioners, Council, Sheriff's Department, Auditor's Department and Court. Also anyone else the Commissioners may feel need to be a part of this. He would like to get to get the group together quickly to be able to meet in March. President Montgomery stated he would work on finding who would serve on the committee. Mr. Parrish stated he is not requesting any additional compensation for his company for this project.

## **COMMISSIONERS NEW BUSINESS**

**Insurance** – Nathan Beloat with Farm Bureau Insurance asked the Commissioners for permission to quote on the County's Property, Casualty and Workers Compensation policies. Commissioner Burns made a motion to allow Mr. Beloat to provide a quote with a second by President Montgomery. The vote was 2-0. Mr. Beloat will get with Judy Adams, Administrative Assistant to the Commissioners to get the reports he will need for preparing a quote.

**Fort Branch/Haubstadt Public Library Appointment** – A letter requesting approval to appoint David Graper to the library board was presented. President Montgomery made a motion to accept Mr. Graper with a second by Commissioner Burns. The vote was 2-0.


**Major Medical Leave** – There was only one leave to approve. Auditor Watkins explained that he failed to bring the leave paperwork however all necessary documents were in order for the Commissioner to

approve. President Montgomery made a motion to go ahead and approve the leave with a second by Commissioner Burns.

With no further discussion, Commissioner Montgomery motioned to adjourn the regular meeting, seconded by Commissioner Burns. The vote to adjourn was 2-0.

Minutes from the March 7, 2023 Meeting.

  
Kenneth Montgomery, President

  
Nick Burns, Vice President

Warren Fleetwood, Commissioner

  
ATTEST: Mike Watkins, Auditor

