
Gibson County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
May 16, 2023

The Gibson County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on May 16, 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 3, 2023, meeting were approved as presented. Commissioner Fleetwood motioned to approve minutes, seconded by Commissioner Burns. With no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0.

CLAIMS: Total Claims Presented on 5/16/2023 were \$1,608,893.31. Commissioner Burns motioned to approve claims, seconded by Commissioner Fleetwood. With no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0. Auditor Watkins explained the new paragraph on the claims document was recommended by SBOA Field Examiners.

Department Reports

Surveyor – Surveyor Martin told Commissioners that he proposes to collect \$4 per mile for ditch certification, which is the same rate as the last two years. Commissioner Burns motioned to approve the certification, seconded by Commissioner Fleetwood. The vote was 3-0.

Extension Office – Abby Heidenreich told Commissioners they have hired a new employee for their office. They plan to close their office on 5/22/23, providing Commissioners approve the closure. Commissioner Fleetwood motioned to approve this closure, seconded by Commissioner Burns. The vote was 3-0.

Sheriff Department – Sheriff Vanoven told Commissioners he did not have anything to present, except good news stories about his department.

COMMISSIONERS OLD BUSINESS

Update on Jail Project – Owner’s Representative George Ballard told Commissioners they poured concrete and there will be more poured this week so they can start laying block.

GCPO-23 and GCPO-CCMG23 Bids – Engineer Holden told everyone bids had been received on the Summer Paving Projects:

	<u>CCMG 23 Project</u>	<u>GCPO 23 Project</u>
E&B Paving:	\$1,544,976.41	\$1,038,230.52
David Enterprises	\$1,954,782.90	\$1,313,696.74
JH Rudolph	\$1,574,702.10	\$1,055,258.33

Engineer Holden will review the bids to ensure all bid documents are in place. At approximately 5:51 p.m. Engineer Holden came back into the meeting. He told Commissioners both projects received low bid from E&B Paving and all bid documents were included in the packet. He recommended that both projects be approved by Commissioners; the paving has a final completion date of October 13, 2023.

Commissioner Burns motioned to approve the low bid from E&B Paving, seconded by Commissioner Fleetwood. With no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner's Resolution and Reestablishment of Budget – Commissioner Fleetwood told everyone he had compiled a resolution, which he read. The resolution talks about appointments by Executives, which are, in the State of Indiana, the Commissioners. The resolution defines appointments and who makes the appointments and reestablishes the budget under the County Commissioners. Commissioner Fleetwood motioned to adopt this resolution. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to postpone it until he can review the Indiana Codes cited in the resolution. Commissioner Fleetwood shared verbiage on IC 36-2-2-12 and IC 36-2-2-13. Commissioner Fleetwood does not feel they are creating anything new with this resolution, as he feels everyone needs to understand the process and the code the Commissioners must abide. Commissioner Montgomery motioned again to table the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Burns. Commissioner Fleetwood asked Commissioners to reconsider his motion to pass the resolution, there was not a second to the motion. The motion failed for lack of a second; this will be addressed at the next Commissioners meeting if Commissioner's so desire.

GIS Coordinator – Attorney Spindler told everyone this is a continuation of the discussion held at the last Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to hire Todd Odom for the position he has been working in for the last two months. The motion is to bring him on board full time. Commissioner Fleetwood would like discussion on this before this motion is considered. Commissioner Fleetwood asked how this all came about from the Hiring Committee Members, he asked for Committee Members to raise their hands, but no hands were raised. He asked again how the process started. Commissioner Montgomery says it started when the prior GIS Director resigned. Then Commissioner Fleetwood asked what happened next, no one provided input. Commissioner Fleetwood says he is shocked and wants to be forthright on this matter by providing his timeline. He says John Howe resigned on 2/9/23. On 2/10/23, he received an email from Auditor Watkins stating that Commissioners will have final review and approval. On 2/28/23 an interview was conducted before the position advertised. On 3/1/23 the position was advertised, per the Auditor. On 3/2/23, Commissioner Fleetwood learned the advertisement appeared online as a position in Princeton, NJ. John Howe worked his last day on 3/3/23. On 3/5/23, Commissioner Fleetwood received an email from Commissioner Montgomery stating they had a strong candidate for the position and Commissioner Montgomery told them to proceed with the candidate. On 3/9/23 an email was received from Surveyor Martin introducing a new hire and then a job posting appeared in the Indiana Job Bank with the correct city/state. On 4/3/23 the new hire began his first day. He feels the timeline speaks volumes and he wonders if any of the Commissioners know the candidate. Neither Commissioner knows the candidate. Commissioner Burns did not have an interest in being involved in the interviews, however Commissioner Fleetwood did want to be involved. Commissioner Fleetwood brings up Indiana Code and the resolution proposed earlier, which he feels makes it clear what constitutes an appointment and who makes the appointments. As far as Commissioner Fleetwood knows, this candidate might be a fine candidate, but he cannot get anyone to answer any questions, which he feels are red flags on the matter. He wonders how he can appoint someone he is not familiar with. Commissioner Montgomery told everyone that he and Administrative Assistant Adams called the state, and they told them most times, the assessor or surveyor hires this position. Commissioner Fleetwood had reached out to Indiana Association of County Commissioners, and they were told if the budget is under the Surveyor, then he would be involved in the hiring process, however the GIS Department budget is separate. Commissioner Fleetwood wants to ensure everyone understands this is the process, not the candidate that concerns him, since the budget is separate, he feels this would be an Executive Appointment, not a surveyor hire. Commissioner Fleetwood feels this is something the Commissioners can remedy. He then read part of the information provided by the Indiana Association of Commissioners; he feels it says that it would fall under the Commissioners responsibility to appoint this position. Commissioner Fleetwood would like to re-establish the position under the Commissioners budget before moving forward. Commissioner Montgomery has a motion on the floor to hire Todd Odom for the position he has been working in for the last two months. The motion is to bring him on board full time; seconded by Commissioner Burns. The vote was 2-1, with Commissioner

Fleetwood casting the nay vote. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to make it retroactive to the first day he was employed with the County, seconded by Commissioner Burns. The vote was 3-0. Commissioner Fleetwood motions to reestablish the GIS Director position budget under the Commissioner's budget, as he feels this is directed by Commissioners, according to IACC. He feels it will be up to the Council to fund it. Commissioner Burns feels this motion should be tabled, as this is a council position, not a commissioner position. Commissioner Fleetwood feels Commissioners control the budget, while the Council approves the budget. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The vote was 2-1 with Commissioner Burns voting nay.

Hiring Part Time Employees for Hopkins Park – Michael Stevenson requested permission to hire two part time employees to help with maintenance at the park. They had three applicants. They would like to hire a husband/wife team. They live close to the park and the wife is a master gardener. The hours will be roughly 15 hour per week per person.

Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Burns. With no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0.

Parrish Update County-Wide Disaster Preparedness Project – Dan Parrish appeared before the Commissioners two months ago with a recommendation to replace failing equipment; Commissioners approved this replacement, and he would like to proceed with installation of the equipment, but requests payment of the equipment before installation. The equipment will belong to the County once payment is made, and the equipment is required regardless of Parrish installation or not. Without this new equipment, no guarantee will be provided for solid County backups. The cost of the equipment is \$53,476.94. The current hardware goes back to 2015 or 2016.

Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve this payment of \$53,476.94, seconded by Commissioner Burns. With no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0.

Next Dan told Commissioners they had discussed using the highway department as a location for disaster preparedness. Commissioner Fleetwood asked them to consider the North Annex basement as an option, Dan does not support using the north annex as they are too close in proximity to the new jail, in which they are backing up. While proximity is a large issue, the cost and expediency are solid reasons to consider the north annex. Dan contends that a hybrid solution might be better. The north annex should be considered, but another distant location should be considered as a long-term option. There are more items to consider if using the North Annex. Access control would need to be expanded to the room in which the equipment will be located so entry to the area is controlled. The area needs to be organized, as there are too many non-IT related items in the area, and they need to be removed. The lighting in the area needs to be modernized with LED lighting and emergency power lighting. There is no generator at the north annex. The outlets in the area should be generator protected and one outlet needs to be moved slightly. They need a new rack installed and it should be battery protected and with more networking equipment. They feel two techs could complete this work in a week's time. The cost will be approximately \$80,000 which includes, if needed, a generator which costs \$35,000. An electrician might cost approximately \$5,000. Dan would like to spend time in the north annex basement in the summer to see if HVAC is reliable and there is plenty of air movement. Attorney Spindler asked if the Parrish Contract included any services for security. The answer was no, BCS has the security component. Commissioner Fleetwood asked if the contract included language on who is responsible for backing up the data and security of the backup. Dan stressed the County is not losing any data at this time, but they do not want to get into that situation, thus the reason for the new equipment. The long-term plan is to continue doing the backups, but fully replicate them off-site. This would provide a real-time system off-site in the event of a catastrophic event. The County provides the equipment, but Parrish updates it and does the backups. Commissioner Fleetwood recommends this be tabled for further consideration. Dan would like to proceed with setting up the north annex for these backups.

Solar Update – Rick Reed has told Commissioner Fleetwood they are working on the project; they have experienced delays in receiving things, but it is moving forward. Mr. Reed feels the Gibson Project might get off the ground before the Elliott Project. The builder might soon be announced.

COMMISSIONERS NEW BUSINESS

Proclamation for EMS Week – May 21-27, 2023, is National Emergency Medical Services Week. Director Pond read and presented a proclamation to Commissioners. Director Pond told Commissioners his employees save lives every week. Commissioner Fleetwood motioned to approve this proclamation, seconded by Commissioner Burns. With no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0.

South Gibson School Corporation Request – Commissioner Fleetwood says he has heard from some people regarding the School Resource Officer (SRO) Program. The School Corporation is wanting to ramp up their security in the school corporation. Commissioner Fleetwood feels the plan is coming together, and he feels they are thinking they might allow some of the used vehicles in the sheriff’s fleet to be used by these SRO’s. They feel these vehicles become a deterrent if people notice a police presence on the campus. The cars might also help provide the SRO with a means to work accidents off campus, near their schools. Commissioner Fleetwood feels the Commissioners can help work with the Sheriff’s Department on this issue. Commissioner Fleetwood wonders if there will be four vehicles that can be used by the school corporations. Sheriff Vanoven feels this should not be on the agenda, as he does not work for the Commissioners, only with them and he is handling this situation. He assured everyone in the room that he will not sacrifice any student in Gibson County. He does have new vehicles coming and he will provide some vehicles for the SROs to drive to school and the schools will provide gas, insurance, etc. They will rotate the vehicles within the fleet. If there are issues with the memorandum of understanding between the Sheriff and South Gibson School Corporation, he would like to handle it.


INDOT Unofficial Detour on SR 168 – Engineer Holden told Commissioners that he has a memorandum of understanding for the unofficial detour route for the SR 168 project with a 120-day closure for a bridge deck overlay. Engineer Holden gave the route of CR 175 E going north to CR 600 S and E, turning south on CR 350 E in which he felt would be the most traveled. He will video this route before they get started. Commissioner Burns motioned to approve this detour, seconded by Commissioner Fleetwood. With no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0.

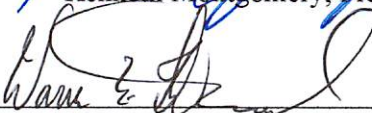
Major Medical Leaves (2) were approved by the Commissioners with a motion from Commissioner Burns, seconded by Commissioner Fleetwood. The vote was 3-0.

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 May 16, 2023 Meeting.


Kenneth Montgomery, President


Nick Burns, Vice President


Warren Fleetwood, Commissioner


ATTEST: Mike Watkins, Auditor

