
Gibson County Board of Commissioners
Regular Session
November 17th, 2020

The Gibson County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on November 17th, 2020, at 5:30 PM 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 1st Deputy Auditor Kristy York.

Gibson County Auditor Sherri Smith is absent; Kristy York is setting in for Auditor Smith's absence.

This meeting is in accordance with the Public Meetings Executive Orders 20-04 and 20-09. This meeting was broadcast using Zoom.

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

Minutes: The minutes from November 4, 2020 regular 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 - \$143,478.86
Courts - \$3,706.80
Highway - \$34,059.96
Sheriff - \$25,191.17
ACH - \$29,669.19
CAW-1 - \$4,600.43
CAW-2 - \$1,671.19

LIT & Court Cost Distributions - \$534,980.34
Annual Support Fees & Prop Tax Payment from Surplus - \$1,653.21

Payroll for 11/6/2020 - \$328,955.08
Payroll Deductions for 11/6/2020 - \$145,297.97
Election Payroll on 11/13/2020 - \$13,875

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 9/30/2020 was acknowledged by the Commissioners

Old Business:

- City of Princeton – Seminary Water Project - Mayor Wright was present to request \$1.5 Million in TIF money if they do not receive the grant they have applied for. They still need to complete Phases 2-4 at an estimated cost of \$3.3 Million. They do feel confident on their grant submission but would like a backup plan, so the project moves forward without interruption. If they receive the Grant, this \$1.5 Million TIF request will be taken off the table. This project will supply water to 15 different industries with approximately 300,000 gallons of water supplied to them per month. Commissioner Key notated the importance of keeping these industries in business. Commissioner Key motioned to move the TIF request on to the Redevelopment Commission, contingent on the \$1.5 Million being reduced by the amount of grant monies received, seconded by Commissioner Bottoms. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 3-0.
- Weaver Boos Landfill Contract Adjustment – County Engineer Holden explained the original contract contained only 1 charge for ground water samples at the old landfill site, not the 2 required. This will increase the original contract by \$3700 from \$13,500 to \$17,200. The contract adjustment was approved by a motion from a motion from Commissioner Bottoms, seconded by Commissioner Key. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 3-0.
- Board of Zoning Appeals Appointment – Commissioner Key motioned to appoint Tony Wolfe, seconded by Commissioner Bottoms. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 3-0.

New Business:

- LEPC Plan – Stephanie McKinney presented this plan to the Commissioners and explained the plan did not change from the current plant. Commissioner Bottoms motioned to approve the plan, seconded by Commissioner Key. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 3-0.
- 2021 Holiday Schedule – Commissioners said the Courts have agreed to the schedule. Commissioner Key motioned to approve this schedule, seconded by Commissioner Bottoms. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 3-0.
- Major Medical Leaves (2) – Leaves were reviewed by Commissioners, without discussion. Commissioner Key motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Bottoms. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 3-0.

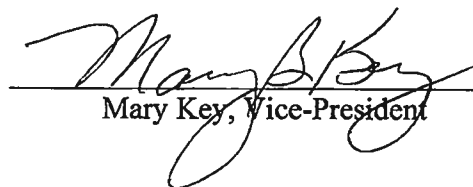
- CR 1000 S – This is the road that heads directly west out of Dewig Meats, Haubstadt to CR 25 W (Hunter’s Crossing Intersection). This road has numerous walkers with speeding vehicles. The Sheriff recommends posting the speed limit at 30 miles per hour. Commissioner Bottoms motioned to accept the Sheriff’s recommendation, seconded by Commissioner Key. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 3-0.
- Business Communications Services, presented a Contract for Courthouse Security. This is a comprehensive solution including alarms, turnstiles, monitors, etc. for Courthouse Security with a one-time cost of \$266,588.24. The Commissioners would like the Council to review and approve funding before they approve the contract. President Bledsoe tabled this item, seconded by Commissioner Key. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 3-0.
- County Buildings – COVID 19 – The Commissioners will be closing the North Annex, 225 N. Hart Street to public traffic. The public will need to request an appointment prior to entry to this building. All offices will be manned, they are closed to the public only. The Prosecutor’s Office has agreed to this public only closure. Screening and other safety measures are in effect at the other county offices and they will remain open to foot traffic. Commissioner Key motioned to close the North Annex to public foot traffic, seconded by Commissioner Bottoms. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 3-0.
- Gene Gard regarding COVID-19 and mask mandate – Ms. Gard was present to remind Commissioners of the high case numbers of COVID-19 in Gibson County and the importance of mask wearing, social distancing, and hand washing. She had heard in Indiana Governor Holcomb’s latest news conference that each county would be awarded \$20 Million to help deal with COVID-19. She asked Commissioners for their plan for use of this money. EDC of SWI, Debbie Bennett-Stearsman told Commissioners via zoom that the money had been mentioned, however there was no action on it at this moment. She will notify the County as soon as the grant is formally put into place. Commissioner Bledsoe told Ms. Gard they are not going to mandate anything in the County, it is up to the State to make the rules and individuals to adhere to these rules.
- Gibson County Economic Development Coalition announced there are 46 Businesses in the County that will share in the \$250,000 Grant thru OCRA. The money should arrive in 7-14 days, in which the Auditor’s office then has 5 days to issue a check to these businesses. Commissioner Bottoms thanked all those involved in this process, especially Economic Development Coalition of Southwest Indiana and Debbie Bennett-Stearsman.
- Debra Walker, Owner of Walker’s Hometown Store, is concerned with a local mandate for masks in businesses without food service and the issuance of fines. She explained this could certainly hamper her small business, as they already struggle. One customer walking away due to the mask mandate could make or break her store for the month.

Commissioner Key motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Bottoms. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 3-0.

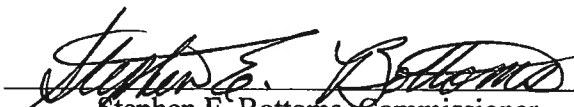
Minutes from the November 17th, 2020 Meeting.




Gerald Bledsoe, President



Mary Key, Vice-President



Stephen E. Bottoms, Commissioner



ATTEST: Kristy York 1st Deputy, Auditor