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Gibson County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
November 21, 2023

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The Gibson County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on November 21, 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. A moment of silence was observed for Commissioners Burns as he is in surgery.

**Members Present:** President Kenneth Montgomery, Vice-President, Nick Burns (absent) and Commissioner Warren Fleetwood

**MINUTES:** The minutes from the November 8, 2023, meeting were approved as presented. Commissioner Fleetwood motioned to approve minutes, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. With no further discussion, the motion carried 2-0.

**CLAIMS:** Total claims presented on 11/21/2023 were \$1,552,254.43. Commissioner Fleetwood motioned to approve claims, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. With no further discussion, the motion carried 2-0.

**Clerk Report** was acknowledged by the Commissioners.

**Department Reports**

Health Department Administrator Shade gave the department reports to Commissions. She requested permission to advertise and hire a new nurse, as they recently had a nurse leave. She would like to hire a replacement before December 4<sup>th</sup> so the new nurse can go through the state training on December 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. The Commissioners are okay with advertising and hiring a replacement. The Health Department also requests permission to advertise and hire for a new position that will work out of the Health Department; and the title will be Educator/Counselor/Social Worker. The state will provide the money for this long-term position's salary and benefits. If the state revokes the money, the position will go away; language will be added to the job description and/or the union contract, stating as much. Commissioner Fleetwood motioned to approve this new position, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The vote was 2-0.

Sheriff Vanoven presented his report to the Commissioners. Captain Borchelt retired yesterday after 27 years of service. She had served as Captain for almost 10 years.

**COMMISSIONERS OLD BUSINESS**

**Update on Jail Project** – Owner's Representative George Ballard told Commissioners there is a lot of work going on. They are leveling the area for the jail pod and within the next 10 days, people will see a lot of progress.

**Handbook 3<sup>rd</sup> Party HR Company Approval** – Attorney Spindler told Commissioners that the HR Committee had voted on the Company New Focus to rewrite the employee handbook. He asked Commissioners to approve this recommendation from the HR Committee. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve hiring New Focus, seconded by Commissioner Fleetwood. With no further discussion, the motion carried 2-0.

**Conviction Inmate Processing Fee** – Attorney Spindler requested that Commissioners approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of this ordinance/resolution, which will essentially allow the sheriff department to remove uncollected charges.

Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve this ordinance/resolution, seconded by Commissioner Fleetwood. With no further discussion, the motion carried 2-0.

**Longevity Pay Policy and Procedure** – Auditor Watkins presented an updated Policy and Procedure for Longevity Pay.

Commissioner Fleetwood motioned to approve the updated policy and procedure, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. With no further discussion, the motion carried 2-0.

### **COMMISSIONERS NEW BUSINESS**

**Burn Ban** – Attorney Spindler said Interim Director EMA had spoken with area Fire Chief's about lifting the burn ban, but they were split on the matter. Commissioners chose to leave the burn ban in place, it will expire 7 days from when it was originally issued.

**Bridge 289 - Bridge Replacement Financial Commitment Letter** – Michael Stevenson, representative for SJCA presented this commitment letter to Commissioners seeking approval for the County to apply for federal assistance on this bridge. The Commissioners must sign off on a commitment letter to follow through with this project. Mr. Stevenson explained the requirements set forth by INDOT that Commissioners must meet.

Commissioner Fleetwood motioned to approve this letter, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. With no further discussion, the motion carried 2-0.

**Community Crossing Grant** – Commissioner Fleetwood asked if the Community Crossing Grant work had been completed. Michael Stevenson explained that the asset management plans were being updated, which is a requirement before making an application. Mr. Stevenson feels the deadline is in January, but the pre-requisites must be completed first.

**Maximus Contract** – Auditor Watkins requested Commissioners approve renewing this 3-year contract. They assist in the DCS/Child Services Grants. The price increased \$200 from the prior contract.

Commissioner Fleetwood motioned to approve renewal of this contract, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. With no further discussion, the motion carried 2-0.

**Larry Michel** – Mr. Michel explained that the state had done a lot of work and spent a lot of money east of Highway 41 on SR 168 as they have been replacing bridges and culverts. He would like to see another 2' of shoulder installed onto this road. He feels they will repave in the next couple of years. He wondered if Commissioners would request this from INDOT; he feels it is a safety issue with ag traffic and Toyota traffic. Commissioners will speak to INDOT on this matter.

**Office Space Lease** – Attorney Spindler explained that he has a 12-month lease extension he would like to negotiate with the Landlord if Commissioners approve.

Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve negotiation of the lease, seconded by Commissioner Fleetwood. The vote was 2-0.

**Minor Subdivision Division** – Attorney Spindler requested a recess in the meeting to do research. Attorney Spindler returned to the meeting after about a 10-minute recess and the meeting was reconvened. An issue has been brought to Attorney Spindler's attention regarding a minor subdivision split of agriculture land, under 40 acres. Attorney Spindler is comfortable with the Commissioners acting upon this matter tonight. Commissioner Fleetwood feels the Commissioners can decide on these types of land divisions, thus Commissioner Fleetwood motioned to approve this minor division of land,



Commissioner Montgomery will not move on this item as he is not aware of the issue. Commissioner Fleetwood explained that there has been an ag land parcel split sitting in the Surveyor's office for a month due to an illness and the person involved has requested Commissioner Fleetwood's assistance in moving this project forward. After Commissioner Fleetwood explained this situation to Commissioner Montgomery, he understood that this person might be frustrated for the item being held up. Michael Stevenson explained this is subdividing a parcel and not a creation of a subdivision. Attorney Spindler read language on this parcel division; and explained that in the event of an appeal, the matter could end up with Commissioners anyway. Commissioner Montgomery made a second to the motion and the vote was 2-0.

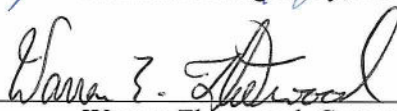
**Major Medical Leave (1)** was approved by the Commissioners with a motion from Commissioner Fleetwood, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The vote was 2-0.

With no further discussions, Commissioner Montgomery motioned to adjourn the meeting,

Minutes from the November 21, 2023, Meeting.

  
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Kenneth Montgomery, President

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Nick Burns, Vice President

  
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Warren Fleetwood, Commissioner

  
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ATTEST: Mike Watkins, Auditor

