

\*\*\*\*\*

Gibson County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Session  
November 8, 2023

\*\*\*\*\*

The Gibson County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on November 8, 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 October 17, 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 11/08/23 were \$3,565,558.67. Commissioner Burns motioned to approve claims, seconded by Commissioner Burns Fleetwood. The motion carried 3-0.

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

**Department Reports**

Sheriff Vanoven presented the October reports. He reported the average daily incarcerated population of the jail at 86. They are continually hiring; he gave those statistics and reported that the deputy positions are now full. He also reported on “we do great things”.

Health Department Administrator Shade gave the department reports to Commissions.

**COMMISSIONERS OLD BUSINESS**

**Update on Jail Project** – Owner’s Representative George Ballard told Commissioners the body scanner is now in Gibson County in storage. The building is in Evansville and will be trucked to Gibson County sometime this month. There is progress on this building; he invited everyone to watch the live webcam.

**Conviction Inmate Processing Fee Update** – Attorney Spindler explained that the Sheriff’s Department currently has Ordinances 2011-3 and 2017-3 on the books; they allow the Sheriff’s Department to charge a \$25 booking fee with mechanisms to collect the fees. Through the years, there are fees they have been unable to collect, and the new ordinance provides language that would allow them to clear these old, uncollectable fees off the books after 2 years. Tonight, this change is being introduced as first reading; this will be put on the next Commissioners agenda for adoption. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to move forward with this change, seconded by Commissioner Fleetwood. With no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0.

**Longevity Pay** – A policy and procedure plan was presented for longevity pay by Auditor Watkins. This pay will be \$50 per year for a maximum of 30 years, the pay will begin in 2024, paid in one lump sum in December with no PERF withholding and a flat 20% tax withholding. Commissioner Burns motioned to approve the longevity policy and procedure of \$50 pay per year up to a maximum of 30 years, seconded by Commissioner Fleetwood. With no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0.

Next, Auditor Watkins will modify the policy and procedure for longevity pay and resend it to the Commissioners for their review and vote on the PERF and taxes at the next meeting. This longevity pay will be determined each year.

### **COMMISSIONERS NEW BUSINESS**

**2024 Holiday and Eclipse Event Approval** – Commissioners approved the 2024 holiday schedule and included the eclipse event, which is a one-time event. Essential workers will be required to work the Eclipse Event.

Commissioner Fleetwood motioned to approve this holiday schedule, subject to Council approval, seconded by Commissioner Burns. With no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0.

**Approve Highway Department Vehicle Transfer to EMA** – EMA Interim Director McKinney told Commissioners she has traded vehicles with the Highway Department. EMA's 2017 Dodge Truck will transfer to the Highway Department; the Highway Department's red 2023 GMC will transfer to the EMA.

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

**Approve EMA Box Trailer Transfer to Animal Shelter** – EMA Interim Director McKinney told Commissioners she will transfer a box trailer to Animal Services. Commissioner Burns motioned to approve this transfer to animal services, seconded by Commissioner Fleetwood. With no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0.

EMA would also like the Highway Department to take an EMA dump trailer into their upcoming auction.

**Civilcon Contract** – Commissioner Montgomery presented a contract on behalf of the Highway Department. Civilcon is not increasing their prices in 2024; thus, the County would like to renew the current contract. The Highway Department purchases pipe, culverts, etc. from Civilcon.

Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve this contract renewal, seconded by Commissioner Fleetwood. With no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0.

**EMS Request Permission to Accept Bids for New Building Construction** – EMS Director Pond requested permission from the Commissioners to accept bids on construction of this new building. This project has been approved for up to \$2,000,000 of TIF funding. The Princeton Building Commission and the City of Princeton have both approved the building plans. They now need to get bids for the construction of this station. Commissioner Fleetwood feels this is a good project for the County. This will help bring great EMS services to highly populated and underpopulated areas. This will provide a hub for training and professional development. They hope to start training future EMT's in this building, as they have never been able to do this. Training is an important component for the EMS industry. Commissioner Fleetwood motioned to approve request for bids, seconded by Commissioner Burns. With no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0.

Commissioners motioned to approve the land acquisition of \$125,000 with Commissioner's funds; then RDC will reimburse the county with TIF money. There have been 2 appraisals on the property. Commissioner Burns made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The vote was 3-0.

**County Road 350 Commercial Traffic** – Todd McConnel and Travis Nolcox presented a petition to Commissioners with approximately 40 signatures requesting that Commissioners consider making changes to commercial traffic on CR 350 S. They offered some solutions to what they feel is a problem of commercial hauling by 18-wheel vehicles on CR 350 S, east of highway 41, excluding the county highway garage, farm equipment, and solid waste district. They feel the citizens of this area are endangered by the commercial traffic; the soccer fields are located on this road, and both North and East Gibson School buses travel this road daily. They do not feel the road is designed for 18-wheel trucks;

they feel there are other roads they could be accessing as the 18-Wheel trucks always straddle the center line. They say CR 350 S is lined like a highway, but it is only 20' wide without a shoulder. The concerned citizens do not feel a lower speed limit will help this situation; they want the truck traffic stopped. Attorney Spindler feels the manufacturing companies should be notified to see if they can divert their semis; a brain-storming session with the manufacturers could be helpful as well. Commissioner Fleetwood feels google maps should be notified so they keep this road off their maps. Sheriff Vanoven has researched this problem, but there have not been a lot of accident reports due to the reportable damage amount of \$2,500. There are many hills on the road that include no passing signs. Sheriff Vanoven wonders if it is lawful to allow solid waste/highway department semis but no other industry traffic; but Attorney Spindler feels it would be lawful. A meeting will be scheduled for this issue as soon as possible.

**On-Call Agreement for Gibson County Task 01 with SJCA**- Commissioner Montgomery told other Commissioners that Engineer Stevenson and SJCA has been helping the Highway Superintendent in the absence of an Engineer. They presented an agreement for this task; SJCA will help ensure the county is compliant with INDOT. There are some upcoming deadlines that the County needs to ensure are in place and federal money is not put at stake. The contract is an on-call agreement and a task order. Attorney Spindler has reviewed and approved the agreement. Commissioner Burns made a motion to approve this agreement, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The vote was 3-0.

**Land Development Issue** – Attorney Spindler explained that it had been discussed that the County increase the permit fee for solar project. He recommended the Commissioners conduct a public hearing on these potential adjustments. The Commissioners would like to hold a special meeting; they will set the meeting for December 4, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. This meeting will primarily look at the ordinance and see how it will impact future projects coming into the county. It will not impact the projects that have already been approved.

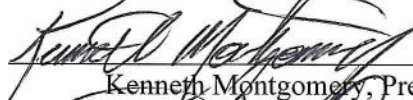
**Major Medical Leave (1)** was approved by the Commissioners with a motion from Commissioner Burns seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The vote was 3-0.

**Meeting to be Resumed** - This meeting will be resumed tomorrow at 4:00 p.m. to exclusively receive an update from the Web Developer. The meeting was recessed at 5:48 p.m.


**Meeting Reconvened at 4:00 P.M. on November 9, 2023** - all Commissioners were present. Web Developer, Robert Owen showed Commissioners the new county website. He explained the page was just a beginning for the Commissioner to see and explained the different views. Mr. Owen asked for comments on the first page of the website. Ideas and recommendations were discussed for the website. Mr. Owen recommended a meeting to view updates and templates for the website. The meeting will be on Thursday, December 7, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

**Adjournment** - Commissioner Fleetwood motioned to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Burns.

Minutes from the November 8, 2023 Meeting.

  
Kenneth Montgomery, President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nick Burns, Vice President

  
Warren Fleetwood, Commissioner

  
ATTEST: Mike Watkins, Auditor