
Gibson County Board of Commissioners

Regular Session

September 1st, 2020

The Gibson County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on September 1st, 2020, at 8:00 AM 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 County Auditor Sherri Smith.

This meeting was broadcast using Zoom and social distancing was observed.

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

Minutes: The minutes from August 18th, 2020 regular meeting were read and approved through a motion by Commissioner Bottoms and seconded by Commissioner Key. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 3-0.

Claims:

County General - \$221,181.18

Courts - \$692.74

Highway - \$179,604.38

Sheriff - \$40,790.88

ACH - \$30,590.53

CAW-1 - \$52,303.88

CAW-2 - \$12,220.90

CAW-3 ACH - \$25,000.00

Ditch Claims paid by ACH/Check - \$26,064.57

Wheel, Sur, IRP, Riverboat and Innkeepers Distribution - \$221,013.06

Payroll for 08/28/2020 - \$340,737.54

Payroll Deductions - \$163,303.53

Election Check reissued 08/24/2020 - \$130.00

Commissioner Key made a motion to approve the claims, seconded by Commissioner Bottoms. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 3-0.

Department Reports:

Animal Services no report presented.

Veterans Services Officer Pickersgill reported 7 Veteran deaths in August. The Veteran population in Gibson County has declined over the past 2 years. It was around 2400 and it is down to around 2200. The makeup funeral count has 1 more completed and 1 in cue. He feels these are pretty much finished. The County transportation van is back up and running, as it had been idled. Mark Fehrenbacher donated a thin blue line, police flag to be flown. Commissioner Key asked how the Flag Box was doing. Officer Pickersgill reported it as a huge success.

Weights & Measures no report presented.

Highway Department, Superintendent Lewis reported the annual chip seal project will wrap up this week, 85 miles completed in house. They try to keep the pace of 80-100 miles of chip/seal per year to help preserve blacktop. There is a problem with wood bees at the Wheeling Covered Bridge. An exterminator will be contacted to try to help mitigate situation and avoid further structural damage. The Red Covered Bridge is getting a makeover today with large decorative rock replacing the guardrails.

Health Department, Director Hornby reported a very busy time at the Health Department. They are working with the schools on start-up. They will begin overseeing a new, free test site at the fairgrounds. This will be paid with a grant, in the amount of \$100,000. This site will open October 1; hours will be 10-6 Mon, Tues, Thurs, Friday, and 10-2 on Saturday. The Health Department will conduct the tests. They will send those to a lab, in hopes of quick results. They are in process of hiring people to run this testing site; they will have a 3-person crew. An email has been sent to the Commissioners with pay rates for these positions; the Council will be informed the same. She is working on a grant that will allow them to update their IT department. Commissioner Bledsoe thanked the health department for their hard, extra effort during this pandemic.

EMA, Director Hedges reported receiving a Personal Protective Equipment shipment for Fire, Police, and EMS. He has also been working on the submission of CARES Act money. Most of the CARES money is being utilized for medical equipment and necessities needed to help with COVID-19.

Flood Plain no report presented.

EMS no report presented.

Sheriff submitted monthly reports to Commissioners but had nothing to report.

Extension no report presented.

Park Board, County Engineer Holden reported his intent to submit the grant to DNR.

SWCD Soil & Water no report presented.

County Engineer Holden reported that Bridge 004 is complete and open. Community Crossings Grant striping was finished Friday; he is prepared to close out this grant. INDOT has not opened the 2nd round for this year, as they are uncertain of the funding due to COVID-19. They are compiling next year's tasks. Commissioner Key asked when SR 64 will be complete; Engineer Holden reported the end of August was their target, he will call and check on this date.

Parrish Consulting no report presented.

Old Business:

- Bid Opening for Sanitary Sewer Project Phase I of I69 & State Road 64 were as follows:

Koberstein Contracting, Inc. \$389,792	Miller Pipeline \$414,740
Midwest Mole, Inc. \$335,196	Sega Ag Works, Inc. \$290,000
Deig Brothers \$362,231	Van Hoy & Sons Contracting \$489,878
Kieffer Brothers \$466,363	Ragle \$457,372.
Blankenberger \$438,445	

Commissioner Bottoms made a motion to accept the low bid of Sega Ag Works, Inc., contingent of review by County Engineer and Attorney, seconded by Commissioner Key. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 3-0.

- INDOT LPA Agreement for Bridge No. 74 Replacement, which is a federal aid project, the Commissioners approved earlier in the year. United Consulting was selected as the engineer on this project, which is slated for 2025. This project is an 80/20 local match; This bridge is directly parallel to Wheeling Covered Bridge, it is a large, triple span bridge of approximately 100'. This contract covers field survey, environmental services, utility coordination, product design & plan, engineering, post bid design services, etc. The agreement has been approved by INDOT at a not to exceed amount of \$325,000. The estimated total project cost is \$1.3 million. The County's 20% match will be paid to the State, ahead of project and state will take care of paying for the project.

Commissioner Bottoms made a motion to accept LPA Agreement for Bridge 74, seconded by Commissioner Key. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Bottoms thanked the Engineer Holden for his work on this bridge.

- Right-Turn Lane Improvements at CR 350 S Part-time Inspection Agreement- This project is out for bid. This Construction Inspection Agreement from United Consulting is a not to exceed amount of \$37,800.

Commissioner Bottoms made a motion to accept the 350 S/Highway 41 Part-time Inspection Agreement, seconded by Commissioner Key. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 3-0.

New Business:

- Fred Kuester – Subdivision Plat Appeal – Craig Kuester explained that Kuester Surveying had surveyed a 1.45 plat for clients; they dispute a double section corner. Kuester Surveying requested a few minutes to explain the reason they do not agree with an additional section corner. It is the duty of the County surveyor to identify the section corners. They feel Surveyor Martin is using antiquated methods to make his decision not to remove this additional corner section. Attorney McDonald will communicate with Kuester Surveying's Attorney.
- GCEDC, Paul Waters was present to discuss an ERA request. GCEDC has been working with a solar company, Tenaska and their subsidiary company, Midwest Solar. They are to a point they need professional legal and financial advice. Midwest Solar has agreed to reimburse a not to exceed amount of \$40,000 for the cost for these professional services plus another \$15,000 for McDonald Law services. GCEDC requests approval to continue this path. Attorney McDonald explained this approval is needed from the Commissioners to proceed only, not enter contract. Commissioner Bottoms made a motion for GCEDC to move forward with the solar energy project, seconded by Commissioner Key. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 3-0.


GCEDC explained, in order to discuss property tax abatement, the area must be designated as an Economic Revitalization Area. Commissioner Bottoms made a motion to move forward with the creation of an Economic Revitalization Area, compliant with the Elliot Field Project located in Center Township, seconded by Commissioner Key. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 3-0.

- Planning Commission Administrator - Commissioner Key made a motion to appoint Stephanie McKinney as Planning Commission Administrator; she will be extending her duties as a present county employee, seconded by Commissioner Bottoms. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 3-0.
- The Commissioners will need to appoint three (3) members to the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA). County Attorney McDonald explained they will review applications and permits along with the Administrator. It is a 5-member board. (1) Three members are appointed by the Commissioners and they have chosen Robert Schleeter for a 2-year term and they must select one APC Board member and they chose Steve Obert, for a 1-year term. The Commissioners still have a 3rd member to appoint and must be a Gibson County Citizen living in a non-incorporated area. (2) The County Council will appoint one member. (3) The APC Board will appoint one member. The Commissioner motioned to approve the current BZA Board (2 members) with a motion from Commissioner Key, seconded by Commissioner Bottoms. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 3-0.


- Approval to Advertise for Bids for Probation and Public Defender Building – County Attorney McDonald explained that Landmark Associates have been working with the Judges, Prosecutor, Probation, and Public Defender Departments to renovate the old furniture store on North Main. All Departments have agreed on the design and are now ready to advertise for bids for the revitalization of this building. Commissioner Bottoms made a motion to approve the advertisement of bids for this new office, seconded by Commissioner Key. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 3-0.
- With the engineering and design complete on this project, Landmark is requesting payment. Commissioner Bottoms made a motion to forward the Landmark engineering and design charges to the County Council, seconded by Commissioner Key. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 3-0.
- County Attorney McDonald requested approval from the Commissioners for assistance on the ongoing Jail Project from Ice Miller and Baker Tilly. Commissioner Bottoms made a motion to continue the appointment of Ice Miller and Baker Tilly on the jail project, seconded by Commissioner Key. With no further discussion, the Motion carried 3-0.

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

Minutes from the September 1st, 2020 Meeting.



 Gerald Bledsoe, President



 Mary Key, Vice-President



 Stephen E. Bottoms, Commissioner



 ATTEST: Sherri Smith, Auditor