

\*\*\*\*\*

Gibson County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Session  
September 7, 2021

\*\*\*\*\*

The Gibson County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on September 7, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. at the North Annex Meeting Room.

Prayer was led by Commissioner Montgomery followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**Roll Call by Auditor Watkins:**

- President Warren Fleetwood – Present
- Vice-President Kenneth Montgomery – Present
- Commissioner Mary B. Key – Present

Auditor Watkins noted a quorum was present.

**MINUTES:** The minutes from the August 17, 2021, meeting were approved as presented. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve minutes, seconded by Commissioner Key. With no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0.

**CLAIMS:**

RIVERBOAT DISTRIBUTIONS	\$132,528.18
GIBSON SOLAR PROJECT REIMBURSEMENT	\$39,227.00
DITCH CLAIMS AND EXCESS REFUNDS	\$16,880.19
CAW - 2	\$38,077.46
SHERIFF	\$9,410.79
HIGHWAY	\$77,314.82
COURTS	\$2,146.05
COUNTY GENERAL	\$116,611.31
ACH	\$59,589.12
CAW - 3	\$33,782.16
CAW - 1	\$6,904.06
PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS	\$165,172.37
PAYROLL FOR 8/20/2021	\$341,081.68
INSURANCE DEDUCTIONS	\$340,620.16
INNKEEPERS DISTRIBUTION	\$17,735.93
SHERIFF CLAIM FOR FORD EXPLORER	\$33,208.14
DITCH CLAIMS	\$6,850.00
Total Claims Presented on 9/7/2021:	\$1,437,139.42

Commissioner Key motioned to approve claims presented for payment, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. With no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0.

**Treasurers Reports for July 2021** was acknowledged by the Commissioners.

**Clerk's Reports for June 2021** was acknowledged by the Commissioners.

**Department Reports**

David Pond- EMS Director, presented his report for August. His department has collected over \$250,000 this month; he commended his office staff on this collection. Last month, Malcon made a presentation on excise fuel tax and Medicare reimbursement. He would like to move forward on signing their contract so

they can begin working with them to retrieve the money for the County as Pike County has been successful with this company. The excise fuel tax and Medicare reimbursements are sitting out there, and the office does not have time to do this. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to hire this company, seconded by Commissioner Key. This money will be received back into the General Fund. Commissioner Key feels we could give them a chance and revisit this topic after they have made collections. They can go 3 years back on this collection. It will take well over a year to receive the Medicare collections. The vote was 3-0.

Sheriff Bottoms gave his August report to Commissioners. The jail had an average of 106 in August while there are 107 incarcerated today. Sheriff Bottoms told Commissioners that Andy Schaefer had been meeting with the insurance adjuster looking things over after the storm damage. The reimbursement will come directly to the Commissioners. Commissioners thanked everyone for their help with the storm damage cleanup. The Highway Department and Sheriff Deputies all pitched in to help; it was a busy night with a lot of help from many people.

### **COMMISSIONERS OLD BUSINESS**

**EPIC Agreement – Liability Insurance** – ONI has merged with EPIC, the quarterly fee for insurance is now due to EPIC. Commissioner Key motioned to approve the agreement, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The vote was 3-0.

**United Consulting Task Order – TIF Crack Seal Project** – County Engineer Holden was absent, but President Fleetwood feels this matter should be taken care of at this meeting. Commissioner Key and Montgomery both agree as this is a county road and the project needs taken care of. Commissioner Key motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The vote was 3-0.

**Gibson County Detention Center-Federal Court Order** – Owners Representative, George Ballard reported to Commissioners that on 2/15/19 a federal lawsuit was filed. A settlement was made, and the County must move to complete their end of the deal by 6/2023. They are developing a site and trying to stay within their budget so the County can afford the new facility. The facility will be bid in phases. The fund currently has \$2.7 Million on hand, as collections are \$156,497 per month. They are dealing with the Courts and there are no plans to close work release at any time. They plan to continue operating even during construction. Mr. Ballard will try to be at all meetings to bring everyone up to date on progress.

### **COMMISSIONERS NEW BUSINESS**

**Andrew Beitler-Business Communications Solutions- North Annex Access Control** - Mr. Beitler is working with Kay and Commissioners on securing this building. They plan to install access control on a couple of existing doors by adding the hardware to make the access control work. If a guest wants to enter, they will buzz the intercom; the video intercom will display to the employee and employee will be able to communicate with the person trying to gain access to the building. The employee will decide if the person is safe to enter the building and they will make a choice to unlock the door. The system can be a cascade system so not every phone is buzzed. This system will be hardwired thru the building. Credentials can be used to log in and remotely lock or unlock doors. It will track everyone with credentials entering and leaving. The Commissioners want this security system enacted for the safety of the employees. The Prosecutor's office is aware of the new system, as is the Veteran's Service Director; all are in favor. Attorney Spindler asked if they could ring a certain department. BCS feels they can specify a department but will double check. The camera on the front door will be at face level; it should broadcast a good picture, as well as broadcast if the person has other people with them. Mr. Beitler checked on the change to notify one specific department; it is possible to arrange the system in this manner. Ms. Vore told Commissioners this money is appropriated; EMA has also applied for a grant; Director Hedges feels favorable of this grant application. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve this security at the north annex, seconded by Commissioner Key. The vote was 3-0.

**Cash Wagner & Associates – Request for Public Hearing on Fairview Heights Subdivision**

Glen Meritt from Cash Wagner; requested a public hearing for this subdivision. Attorney Spindler suggested the Commissioners add this public hearing to their October 5, 2021, agenda. The meeting will begin at 5:30 pm. Mr. Mair feels Surveyor Scott Martin will make the notification to adjacent landowners with a list provided by Mr. Mair. President Fleetwood also suggested fire protection authorities be notified. Commissioner Key motioned to approve the public hearing on the above matter, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The vote was 3-0.

**Application for Hoosier Enduring Legacy Program (HELP)-OCRA Grant for ARP Funding -**

Auditor Watkins has found we can use a portion of the ARP money to pay for a grant writer/ someone to oversee ARP Funds and keep the County on task with these funds. OCRA has a grant program in which they will match the funds up to \$20,000. A job description has been provided by Evansville Regional Economic Partnership. This would be a contract position, so no benefits would be paid. The job description provides 30 hours per week for one year. If the County were to hire this position, it could possibly qualify the county for another \$1,000,000 from OCRA. The grant application is due October 5; the award will be November 5, 2021. After notification of award, the County would then be able to hire someone for this position. Commissioner Key feels this could be very beneficial for the County and possibly lead to other grant opportunities. Auditor Watkins feels application should be made. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve application of the grant, seconded by Commissioner Key. The vote was 3-0.

**Authorize making a uniform offer for land acquisition with Resolution 2021-08** – Attorney Spindler presented Resolution 2021-08, which authorizes the county to make an offer on property. The County is trying to acquire property located at 106 E. Brumfield. An offer letter will be sent out to the property owner. Commissioner's Montgomery and Key are not in favor of eminent domain. The resolution requires the Commissioners to expressly authorize eminent domain, if needed. The appraisers hired to appraise the property are well established and well respected. It is the Commissioners intent to be good neighbors and make a fair offer on this property. The Federal Courts have mandated a date of June 30, 2023, for this project to be completed, one extension has been given and they will not allow any other extensions; therefore, it is imperative this project keep moving. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve Resolution 2021-08, seconded by Commissioner Key. The vote was 3-0.

**Advertise for bids for razing of Good Samaritan Building** – This building was recently damaged by the storm that hit the jail. George Ballard told Commissioners the driveway on this property has a portion of the brick wall holding the gravel for the driveway. RQAW Engineer recommends keeping part of this wall to maintain proper drainage. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve advertisement of bids, seconded by Commissioner Key. The vote was 3-0.

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

**Request I 69 Signage – New Lake - Hopkins Park - Gas & Food** – Eric Heidenreich has offered to assist with this project. Outreach will be made to the State to see if they can assist with this signage. The idea is to attract some business from the interstate and help the small businesses in the area.

**Hub 127 – Facebook Page** – This is the home to Economic Development Commission of Gibson County. The 2<sup>nd</sup> floor is wide open and with a lot of opportunities. They would like to advertise this space on a facebook page.

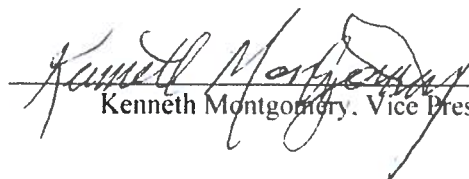
**Heritage Days Festival** - Patty Vanoven, Gibson County Chamber of Commerce President, reminded everyone of the festival dates September 17-19, 2021.

With no further discussions, Commissioner Montgomery motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Key. The vote to adjourn was 3-0.

Minutes from the September 7, 2021, meeting.



Warren Fleetwood, President



Kenneth Montgomery, Vice President

Mary B. Key, Commissioner



ATTEST: Mike Watkins, Auditor