
Gibson County Board of Commissioners
Regular Session
November 06, 2024

The Gibson County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on November 06, 2024, at 4:45 p.m. at the Southwest Annex.

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

Members Present: President Warren Fleetwood, Vice-President, Kenneth Montgomery, and Commissioner Nick Burns.

MINUTES: The minutes from the October 15, 2024, meeting were approved as presented. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve minutes, seconded by Commissioner Burns. With no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0.

CLAIMS: Total claims presented on 11/06/2024 were \$5,952,903.90
Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve claims, seconded by Commissioner Burns. With no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0.

The Commissioners acknowledged the Treasurer reports.

Department Reports

Sheriff Vanoven reported that the average jail population was 100. Sheriff Vanoven also gave an employee report. They have four openings in Corrections, three openings in Communications, and one open Deputy position. Sheriff Vanoven reminded Commissioners about the road study that was conducted on CR350 S which runs from Highway 41 S to CR 350E. Their recommendations were to change the speed limit on CR 350S to 30 mph from CR 100E to CR 350E; place a 4-way stop at the intersection of CR 350S and CR 175 E; speed limit signs on CR 350S should be posted in accordance with state law; Commissioners should look at the shoulder on CR 350S, which the Sheriff's Office feels is a hazard; lastly is the speed limit on CR 275E off of 350S should be consistent on both sides of the road.

The Soil and Water District has hired an invasive species employee, and the district has never been paid the \$7000 agreed upon amount to help fund this position. Auditor Watkins told Soil and Water Board Member, Dennis Simpson that the Commissioners should present a claim so the amount can be paid. The invasive species employee gave a short presentation. She has identified a lot of Bradford Pear trees, but they are mostly in residential settings and landscaping.

EMS Director Pond gave an update on the building project.

Animal Shelter Representative, Sharon Werne says the shelter is bursting at the seams as they continue to work on the building project and pursuing additional funding aspects. They currently have secured \$1.6 million in funding; the architect feels if they can reach \$1.9 million, they can begin a building. There is a \$20 vaccination clinic at Princeton Vet Clinic for dogs and cats; this will get them fully vaccinated and give a quick wellness check. The vaccines are being donated by a pharmaceutical company. She asks that interested people contact the shelter to reserve a spot; this will give them an idea of how many dogs and cats they will be processing through the clinic.

Health Department Administrator Shade gave department reports to Commissioners. They will be hosting opioid overdose prevention and Narcan training in various locations in conjunction with First Responders and Addiction Solutions; tonight, they are in Owensville. Their Facebook Page shows all their events dates, times and locations. On 11/17/24 they will provide a community baby shower; any expecting mother can attend. It will be held at the Princeton Fire Department; call to make a reservation.

COMMISSIONERS OLD BUSINESS

Update on Jail Project – Owner’s Representative George Ballard told Commissioners they are closing in on the jail project; they will be doing a lot of paving this week. The body scanner install will begin in about 10 days. The recording equipment and furniture are being installed in the interview rooms. The State Jail Inspector was present last week; they passed all tests and scored well above standards. A ribbon cutting, open house and tours will be held on December 8th at 1p.m.

Treasurer Request an ARPA Equipment Purchase – Mary Ann O’Neal was present to discuss a method to improve the efficiency of property tax payments. She would like Commissioners to give their approval on a \$40,000 Core Group approved ARPA request to purchase 2 pieces of equipment. The first is a check/tax coupon scanner for use in their office; the next is a kiosk which could be placed downstairs in the courthouse. This kiosk will provide a self-service option for the public to pay property taxes. The cost will also cover a 3-year maintenance service agreement. Commissioner Burns motioned to approve the equipment purchase with ARPA money, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. With no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0.

COMMISSIONERS NEW BUSINESS

Purdue Extension Contractual Service Agreement – Attorney Spindler presented this 2025 contract to Commissioners; the cost is \$132,680 which is a 4% increase over the 2024 contract; Attorney Spindler has reviewed and approved as the contract contains the same terms as this year. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve the contract, seconded by Commissioner Burns. With no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0.

Littering at Bridge on County Road 550E Over Houchins Ditch – Commissioner Fleetwood told everyone that the county is seeing a lot of littering, and he wants the public to know that the county is paying attention, and they will start dealing with the situations; they will issue fines for littering. A concerned citizen was present to discuss littering on the west side of a bridge on CR 550E over Houchins Ditch. He reported that the ditch has two toilets, a large metal frame, approximately 10-12 tires, and a large snag of brush that is caught on the bridge deck. Commissioners will reach out to the highway department and solid waste to try and get the area cleaned.

Request for Road Study by Sheriff at 2520W 950S, Fort Branch and Possible Stop Sign Consideration – Sheriff Vanoven will conduct a study on this area.

Citizen Comments – Commissioner Fleetwood reminded everyone of the 2-minute time limit to voice comments and concerns; a clock will keep track of the time limit. All commentors must approach the podium, state their name and address.

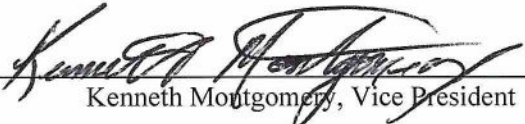
Patty Vanoven with Gibson County Chamber of Commerce told Commissioners the school corporation had contacted her about creating a work base learning program for the Class of 2029. Annual awards night is November 21st; she encouraged everyone to purchase a ticket to attend. She also invited the Community to share events on the GoGibson.org website in the events tab.

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


Minutes from the November 06, 2024 Meeting.



Warren Fleetwood, President



Kenneth Montgomery, Vice President

Nick Burns, Commissioner


ATTEST: Mike Watkins, Auditor

