
Gibson County Board of Commissioners
Regular Session
April 02, 2024

The Gibson County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on April 02, 2024, at 4:45 p.m. at the North Annex Meeting Room.

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 March 20, 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 in the amount of \$925,862.66 were presented and read aloud by President Fleetwood.

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

Department Reports

EMA Director McKinney reported that the siren in Haubstadt is out of service because it needs a new battery. Commissioner Fleetwood has been helping Director McKinney try to get funding to replace all the sirens, which are very costly. She advised everyone to invest in a weather radio; she can assist in the programming of the radios, even over the phone. She recently applied for a grant from Duke to use for training of the county responders. She applied for \$10,000 and received \$11,000. EMA recently hosted an EMR class in Owensville; there were 12 Gibson County participants. The Commissioners have been allowing employees to get first aid/CPR training during working hours; there have been approximately 60 Gibson County employees trained over a two-year period. She has also been able to supply every county highway vehicle with a new first aid kit. The Gibson County Highway Garage has requested a new AED; Director McKinney made application with the Deaconess HeartSaver Program; they awarded the County two AED's. Soon, she is going to apply for a grant to get funding for weather radios. Commissioner Fleetwood plans to make a request for siren replacement with ARPA money; he does not feel he will be able to get the full amount, but he is hopeful to replace the worst and most problematic sirens. They will look at the best areas to make improvements.

Sheriff Vanoven reported that the average jail population was running around 89. Sheriff Vanoven also gave an employee report. They have five openings for correction officers; three openings in dispatch with six part-time employees and soon to be eight part-time employees helping fill these positions; one open field officer in work release; and zero open deputy positions. A "We Do Good Things" story was given by Sheriff Vanoven in which a couple of deputies helped save a person stranded in a vehicle. The Sheriff told Commissioners his deputies are all trained first responders. Last year, they trained 70 employees for CPR/AED. The Sheriff wanted to highlight Commissioner Burns for "doing great things" as he was spotted recently on a trash pickup detail, trying to help beautify the County.

Health Administrator Shade reported that they have distributed Narcan to all Town Halls and all Princeton city police officers will be carrying Narcan. They want the public to know they have test kits available for pickup. The test kits check for fentanyl and xylazine, which is a horse tranquilizer being illegally used by humans and Narcan does not reverse xylazine.

COMMISSIONERS OLD BUSINESS

Update on Jail Project – Owner’s Representative George Ballard told Commissioners the total project is 70% complete. The live camera had 9,497 people looking at the project in March. They will be moving the camera to a better location soon. They are putting siding on the building; electrical work is now taking place and the Sheriff’s Office painting will begin soon. They are trying to train all jail staff with first aid and CPR.

Opioid Grant – David Doughty was present to discuss how the opioid grant has been spent to date. A summarized list of expenditures was distributed. Youth First has kept the money in the County; it has been used to deliver social services and prevention strategies in sixteen Gibson County schools. To date, they have spent \$36,322 of the \$98,715 granted to them. Grant funding was provided to Addiction Solutions Men’s and Women’s Shelters. They will be volunteering to clean up the streets and parks after the eclipse, as volunteering is part of the recovery program. They have been provided \$26,075 to install windows and \$6,110 for brick tuckpointing at the men’s recovery house. Neither job has been completed, but they feel they are getting close to finding contractors to perform the job. They try to outsource all their work to Gibson County companies. Commissioner Burns, David Doughty, Ron Norvel, White River Baptist Church Pastor, and Sheriff Vanoven all serve on this board. Robert Schmits asked if contractors doing the work will have bid bonds. Attorney Spindler feels it is not required, but a good idea. Commissioners felt it was a good idea; someone will work with Addition Solutions to see this through.

Animal Shelter Letter of Support – Animal Shelter Advisory Board Member, Sharon Werne was present to receive approval on the letter of support from the Commissioners. This letter of support is required to apply for grants, and they are seeking grants to help build the new building. Attorney Spindler has reviewed the letter, he recommends that Commissioners approve. Ms. Werne says they are back to regular fund raising; they hosted an adoption event on Super Bowl Sunday; they were present for the Easter Egg Hunt at the Courthouse Gazebo, where they took photos and educated the public on raising rabbits. This coming Saturday, Bobes will hold a 15% give back event between 10 a.m.-10 p.m.; animal services will also have animal adoptions at the pocket park; and on Sunday they will host an adoption event at the Downtown Princeton event. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve the letter of support, seconded by Commissioner Burns. With no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0.

Ms. Werne put on her Deputy Prosecuting Attorney hat and thanked the health department for their service in supplying the Narcan and drug test kits. She feels the xylazine is coming to our area; it has been detected in Vanderburg County. She reiterated the danger of this drug and the non-reversible effects and fears it will result in death. She explained that people are putting the xylazine in all sorts of drugs, including marijuana; the drug is very potent and people in larger cities are dying at alarming rates.

COMMISSIONERS NEW BUSINESS

OMTFPD New Cumulative Fire Fund – Fire Chief, Jeremy Wade and Fiscal Officer, Georgia Straw was present to discuss this new fund with Commissioners. The OMTFPD will soon hold a public hearing to adopt this new fund. If the Fire District adopts the new fund, the rate will add \$.0333, which equates to \$33.30 per year per \$100 of assessed value to the property taxes in Montgomery Township. The rate will begin on property taxes 2024 pay 2025. If the Fire District adopts the new fund, the Commissioners must approve the establishment of the fund by resolution; this will be done in a future

commissioner meeting. The new fund will help replace aging equipment and possibly even make building payments. There is an ambulance base in this building; the county does not pay anything to house the EMS in this building and OMTFPD has even purchased ambulances for the County's use. Nothing is required at tonight's meeting; it is information only.

Southwest Annex Roof – This is referring to the Clarion Building that the Commissioners will be moving into. Andy Schafer has talked to a roofer; Commissioner Fleetwood would like to take the project to the ARPA Committee if all Commissioners agree. Commissioner Burns wondered if standard procedure would be to go to the ARPA Core Group first and then bring it back to Commissioners. It has been taken to the core group, but there was no cost attached. Commissioner Burns wonders if the building should be named prior to taking it to the ARPA meeting; Commissioner Fleetwood feels it can be identified by address. Commissioner Fleetwood is not asking for a commissioner vote on this, only support. The meeting will be on Thursday at 4:30 p.m.

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

Gibson County Chamber of Commerce Director, Patty Vanoven wanted to remind everyone about the solar eclipse; she feels it is an opportunity to showcase the community and show everyone how great Gibson County is to work, live, and visit. She asked that everyone be courteous, kind, and gracious and show Hoosier hospitality throughout the event. There will be a workshop on meeting etiquette at the Princeton Public Library on April 25, 2024 from 5:30-7:30. There is now a Gibson County Rotary Club, and they are meeting at Dick Clarks on the 2nd and 4th Thursday at noon.

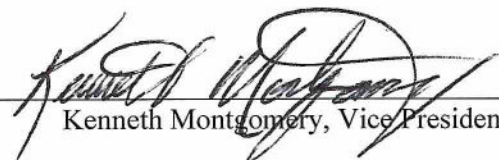
Larry Michel, Ft. Branch told everyone he had been observing Gibson County citizens involving themselves in a lot of different things throughout the county in the last two hours and he is proud to be a part of Gibson County; he feels everyone in the county should pat themselves on the back for being Gibson County. He recently stopped along a county road to talk on his cellphone and a county deputy pulled in to check and ensure he was okay, he appreciated that. He asked everyone to put their hands together for Gibson County.

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 April 02, 2024 Meeting.



Warren Fleetwood, President



Kenneth Montgomery, Vice President



Nick Burns, Commissioner



ATTEST: Mike Watkins, Auditor