
Gibson County Board of Commissioners
Regular Session
August 06, 2024

The Gibson County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on August 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 (absent), and Commissioner Nick Burns.

MINUTES: The minutes from the July 16, 2024, meeting were approved as presented. Commissioner Burns motioned to approve minutes, seconded by Commissioner Fleetwood. With no further discussion, the motion carried 2-0.

CLAIMS: Total claims in the amount of \$3,744,045.93 were presented by President Fleetwood. Commissioner Burns motioned to approve claims, seconded by Commissioner Fleetwood. With no further discussion, the motion carried 2-0.

Department Reports

Chief Deputy Ballard reported on behalf of Sheriff Vanoven that the average jail population was running around 85. Sheriff Vanoven also gave an employee report. They have two openings in the jail; they are still shorthanded and screening people for dispatch; they have an office manager position open in Community Corrections and one open work release field officer position; and they are short one deputy position. They have a new commercial grade drone contributed to the Sheriff Department anonymously; they have a person certified to operate it, which requires an FFA license.

COMMISSIONERS OLD BUSINESS

Update on Jail Project – Owner’s Representative George Ballard told Commissioners the project is approximately 85% done; the kitchen is 100% complete. They have a lot of wiring to do; dispatch equipment is sitting in Evansville and waiting to be installed. They have been having meetings with Motorola and fire chiefs to look at future radio frequencies. They expect to move into the new jail in late October or early November.

West and East TIF Roads Paving and CR 650 Millings/Paving for Hoehn’s Plastics - Consideration of Bids – Bill Lewis of Three I Engineering was present and told Commissioners there were two bidders on both projects. The TIF road paving project saw bids from JH Rudolph at \$370,483.56 and E&B at \$336,339.72; they had estimated this project at \$395,000. JH Rudolph bid \$367,003.20 and E&B bid \$61,362.00 on CR 650; the project was estimated at \$70,000. E&B was in line with this estimate. All bids were handed off to Auditor Watkins. Commissioner Fleetwood asked for a motion to approve the bids as Attorney Spindler and the Engineer had both reviewed the bids. Commissioner Burns motioned to proceed & awarded both projects to the low bidder, E&B Paving, seconded by Commissioner Fleetwood. With no further discussion, the motion carried 2-0.

New Walk & Curb Replacement Consideration of Bids – Attorney Spindler has talked with Mr. Donovan, and this item as well as the new parking lot surface bid will be tabled as he is awaiting a response from INDOT. Commissioner Burns motioned to table this item, seconded by Commissioner Fleetwood. With no further discussion, the motion carried 2-0.

New Parking Lot Surface Consideration of Bids – Commissioner Burns motioned to table this item, seconded by Commissioner Fleetwood. With no further discussion, the motion carried 2-0.

COMMISSIONERS NEW BUSINESS

Oakland City Library Appointment – The Commissioners appointed Valarie McCoy. Commissioner Burns motioned to approve this appointment, seconded by Commissioner Fleetwood. With no further discussion, the motion carried 2-0.

Gibson County Coal Bond Release of CR 50 S – Peter Wissel represented Gibson County Coal and asked Commissioners for permission to release a bond and agreement on a CR 50 S, a river-rocked, gravel road one-half mile south of SR 64/65 junction which led to a facility they no longer use. The Highway Superintendent drove the road and approved the condition of the road; Mr. Wissel told Commissioners he would be happy to drive the road with them, if they so desired. There is also drone footage of the road. Engineer Umpleby is comfortable with the release. Commissioner Burns motioned to release the bond on CR 50 S, seconded by Commissioner Fleetwood. With no further discussion, the motion carried 2-0.

LPA Consulting Contract for Bridge #289 – Debbie, from Highway Department presented this agreement to Commissioners. This is a federal bridge project that needs signature. Michael Stevenson, SJCA Representative told Commissioners this is the engineering contract and will allow 80% of the engineering fees paid by the County to be reimbursed by a state grant. The construction will begin in 2030. Commissioner Burns motioned to approve the contract, seconded by Commissioner Fleetwood. With no further discussion, the motion carried 2-0.

Princeton APC Appointment – The Commissioner will appoint Cecil Allen. Mr. Allen appreciates the appointment. He is a lifelong resident of Gibson County. Commissioner Burns motioned to, seconded by Commissioner Fleetwood. With no further discussion, the motion carried 2-0.

City of Princeton Easement for EMS Building – Director Pond presented an agreement for an easement from the City of Princeton for an eight-inch waterline that runs through the property where EMS intends to build. The fair board initially installed the waterline for use at the fairgrounds. The line goes under Embree Street and attaches on the east side of Embree, then goes through the EMS property and on to the Toyota Events Center. This easement approval should clear up all the red tape and allow them to break ground at the end of August. Director Pond is concerned because Princeton does not want them to hook into the eight-inch line, which could require boring under the road for a water connection resulting in a larger than expected fee. August 21st is the next meeting of the Princeton Area Plan Commission; he would like this easement approved so they can present the agreement at that meeting and move forward. Commissioner Fleetwood wonders if there are any options. Attorney Spindler says the Commissioner's next meeting is the day before the APC meeting; and Commissioners could wait until that meeting to approve the agreement. Another option is that Commissioners could approve/adopt the easement contingent upon Princeton accepting Attorney Spindler's recent proposal. The proposal includes decreasing the easement to fourteen-foot, rather than the originally proposed twenty-foot; plus providing a water tap at no charge. Commissioner Fleetwood feels that the County and Princeton try to be good partners, he feels the city will reciprocate. Director Pond is in favor of conditionally approving this, if the county does not have a large expense to get water to their property. Commissioner Burns motioned to allow Attorney Spindler to draft the agreement allowing the 14' easement in exchange for a water tap and running lines to the property at no expense to the County, seconded by Commissioner Fleetwood. With no further discussion, the motion carried 2-0.

Medical Leave (1)– All paperwork is in order. Commissioner Burns motioned to approve this medical leave, seconded by Commissioner Fleetwood. With no further discussion, the motion carried 2-0.

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.

Jeff Meeks is a 60-year resident of Gibson County and currently resides in Country Ayre Estates II. He is concerned about sinkholes that continually appear in his yard and all over the subdivision. The holes are so bad, he fears losing a child in one of the sinkholes. The plat map shows drainage on both sides of the road, but he does not feel the drainage was installed. He wonders who is responsible for fixing this problem.

Mr. Meek's neighbor is David Powell, he has been a resident since 2008. He feels the road and electrical panels are eroding from the drainage problem; this is leaving the electrical panels wiring exposed. He feels the only drainage in the subdivision is in a span of 3-4 blocks and the remainder of the subdivision is not tiled. He has a son with a disability, and he fears he will get caught in the drainage. Attorney Spindler asked if the subdivision had a Home Owner's Association (HOA); a letter was received by the subdivision homeowners saying that prior landowner/subdivision developer was releasing himself from the HOA. Attorney Spindler wonders if the HOA has money remaining; the homeowners do not feel there was ever an HOA established. Attorney Spindler asked if anyone had reached out to Mr. Gruebel, the subdivision developer; Mr. Powell is not sure he is aware of the sinkholes. Attorney Spindler feels the owners should reach out to Mr. Gruebel. Mr. Meeks will contact Mr. Gruebel through his attorney, Mr. Meeks would rather not go this way, he just wants it fixed. Attorney Spindler will also contact Mr. Gruebel to make him aware that Commissioners know about this drainage issue. The subdivision plat notates that all roads within the subdivision will be maintained by Country Ayre, Inc and other lot owners of the subdivision; these roads will not be dedicated to the public.

Todd McConnell, a lifelong resident of Gibson County asked Commissioners if they could put someone in place to oversee projects. He used the prior topic as an example; he feels once the developer submits plans, there is no one inspecting the project as it develops, and important things fall through cracks. Mr. McConnell says there is not enough time for the County Engineer to go around and make sure all the projects are up to specifications. He feels that starting with Gibson Solar, the County should hire an engineering firm to oversee projects. The agreements that Commissioners sign contain a lot of information, and someone should be looking at the information and verifying it has been done. Commissioners could amend their ordinance to make the project pay for this additional expense. Commissioner Fleetwood feels this is a good idea; he feels the constituents provide valuable tips and they are the Commissioners eyes. Commissioner Burns wondered how engineers in the building felt about this idea. Mr. McConnell feels that whatever Commissioners decide to do must be binding so that it cannot be overlooked.

Randy Hall, Princeton asked if anyone had been to Petersburg to see the massive solar project; he feels it has created a large amount of dust. He feels that Gibson County residents need to know the solar companies do not care because they just came in and sprayed weeds and now there will be soil erosion to try to deal with. Commissioner Fleetwood says they plan to bring in fescue. Mr. Hall feels that when the solar company changes hands, a new plan should be submitted to Commissioners for approval. Commissioner Burns says they have talked to the solar company, and they will monitor the dust.

Tom White, Gibson County resident asked for an update on a request for speed reduction on CR 425 W. Commissioner Fleetwood feels that Sheriff Vanoven was going to do a traffic study. Commissioner Burns feels it is more about getting eyes on the traffic rather than posting speed limits. Chief Ballard will remind Sheriff Vanoven about this traffic study.

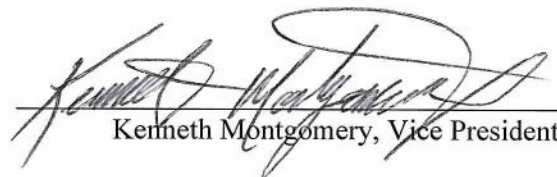
Cecil Allen lives on CR 350 W, and he feels it is a racetrack. He feels there are problems on many county roads and wonders if traffic control would help.

With no further discussions, Commissioner Burns motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Fleetwood. The vote to adjourn was 2-0.

Minutes from the August 06, 2024 Meeting.



Warren Fleetwood, President



Kenneth Montgomery, Vice President



Nick Burns, Commissioner



ATTEST: Mike Watkins, Auditor



Commissioner's Meeting August 06, 2024