
Gibson County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
July 16, 2024

The Gibson County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on July 16, 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 July 2, 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 07/16/2024 were \$1,108,746.93. Commissioner Burns motioned to approve claims, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. With no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0.

Clerk/Treasurer Reports were acknowledged by the Commissioners.

Department Reports

EMS Director Pond invited everyone out to look at one of the two new ambulances. One ambulance will be stationed in Ft Branch area; the other will be located in Oakland City. He thanked Commissioners for their help acquiring these two new ambulances. The two new ambulances are equipped with load assistance, which makes a total of six ambulances equipped with load assistance.

Health Department Administrator Shade gave the department reports to Commissions. They handed out first aid kits and bike helmets at the fair. The Health Department will partner with Tulip Tree, MDWise, Walmart, and some other entities to hold a back-to-school carnival at the fairgrounds 4-H Building, on August 21, 2024 from 4-6 p.m. They will be giving immunizations, dental and eye exams, school supplies will be issued, and a food truck will supply them with dinner for that night.

Sharon Werne gave a report on the Animal Shelter; she thanked everyone that helped with animal rescues during the recent storm event. They are having a lot of difficulties with the current Animal Services building; they are looking forward to moving into a new building. They are still fundraising, because they do not intend to ask for tax dollars to build, as they will need this support after the new building is built. By the end of July, they hope the specs are ready to go out for bid. They plan to have animals in a new building before the end of the year. They will participate in the farmers market this Friday and are hopeful they will get some animals adopted out, as the shelter is currently at capacity.

Stephanie McKinney, EMA Director, was applauded by the Commissioners for her hard work during the recent storm event. All county resources have been dedicated to helping clear storm damage. Director McKinney informed everyone to call 211 or In211.org to report storm damage; the report will go to IDHS and County EMA to try to get assistance through ISBA for a small business loan. Director McKinney told Commissioners the weather radios have been delivered; she has disbursed some radios in Johnson. She has also delivered some to Oakland City and she is on her way to make a delivery in Hazleton. She will let people know how to acquire them as she has placed an order for 300 more.

Debbie Marvel was present from the Highway Department; she presented a reimbursement agreement on Bridge #74 for signature. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve the agreement, seconded by Commissioner Burns. The vote was 3-0.

Next, Superintendent Heldt told Commissioners they are milling some roads, but were taken away from that to work on storm damage. They have 80 miles of chip/seal to get done and they will return to Johnson for storm damage cleanup after chip/seal is completed.

COMMISSIONERS OLD BUSINESS

Second Reading of Storm Water Ordinance Amendments to Base Fee Schedule for

Commercial/Industrial Projects – Commissioner Fleetwood explained again this fee adjustment will not cost residents of Gibson County. Residential and agriculture land is exempt; it will only affect storm water drainage from commercial and industrial projects. These projects must have an engineering overview to ensure the storm water will be adequately handled; thus, these fees will cover those review costs. Attorney Spindler told Commissioners they can take a vote on this change. Commissioner Fleetwood entertained a motion to approve the new storm water fees. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve the fees, seconded by Commissioner Burns. With no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0.

COMMISSIONERS NEW BUSINESS

Johnson Tornado Relief Dumpster Rental – Commissioner Fleetwood says they did an emergency declaration for the storm damage, and they hope to get state aid. The Solid Waste District has delivered extra dumpsters to the compactor site in Johnson to handle organic debris and construction materials, upon Commissioners request. If state aid is not provided, the Commissioner will pay for the cost of the extra dumpsters, which will run around \$1,000. Commissioner Fleetwood entertained a motion to expend up to \$1,000 for dumpster rental. Commissioner Burns motioned to approve this expenditure, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. With no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0.

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.

Ron Cromer, Buckskin wonders if they still plan to pave CR 900 S; Commissioner Montgomery and Engineer Umpleby have talked to the Coal Mine and were told they plan to do this paving.

Randy Hall, 4473 E 200 N, Princeton wanted to thank Superintendent Heldt for mowing both sides of CR 450 and CR 200. He asked if there are plans to abate the solar project. Commissioner Fleetwood says the Council has the say on abatement, not Commissioners. Mr. Hall feels the solar companies need to mow the areas they intend to place the solar panels, as weeds are very high. Commissioner Fleetwood informed him that the new agreements will include a clause addressing high grass; it is not to exceed 13”.

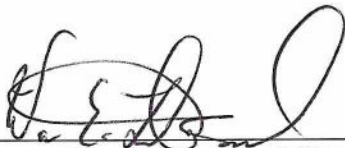
Juli Shade, Owensville wanted to let everyone know how well the community, businesses, and churches came together during the recent storms, which makes her proud to be a part of this community. Tom White agreed with Ms. Shade’s sentiments.

Dick Smith, Owensville told everyone that he appreciated all the volunteer work at the Maumee Cemetery after recent storms. He then provided some paperwork to the Commissioners and told them that he has concerns about employees’ misuse of public resources and funds. Commissioner Fleetwood stopped him to tell him the Commissioners welcome him and his comments but cautioned him about making accusations about county employees; he prefers that he meet with the county attorney on this. Commissioner Fleetwood says they are not in business to discuss personnel matters in a public meeting. Commissioner Montgomery told him about a call from the State Police saying they are finished with the investigation as they found nothing. He went on to explain that when a county employee has a piece of equipment parked at their house, they have the right to put rock in an area for the parking of the

equipment. Mr. Smith asked how many different parking places were needed. Commissioner Fleetwood cautioned Mr. Smith again about making accusations. Attorney Spindler asked if, after the meeting, a separate meeting can be arranged between the attorney, Mr. Smith, a commissioner, and a highway official.

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

Minutes from the July 16, 2024, Meeting.



Warren Fleetwood, President

Kenneth Montgomery, Vice President



Nick Burns, Commissioner



ATTEST: Mike Watkins, Auditor