
Gibson County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
June 18, 2023

The Gibson County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on June 18, 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 June 4, 2024, meeting were approved as presented. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve minutes, seconded by Commissioner Fleetwood. With no further discussion, the motion carried 2-0. Commissioner Burns was absent from this meeting, thus he abstained from voting.

CLAIMS: Total claims presented on 06/18/2024 were \$3,407,909.85. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve claims, seconded by Commissioner Fleetwood. With no further discussion, the motion carried 2-0. Commissioner Burns did not vote on this motion.

Clerk/Treasurer Reports were acknowledged by the Commissioners.

COMMISSIONERS OLD BUSINESS

Update on Jail Project – Owner’s Representative George Ballard told Commissioners the water line is installed and functional; the city furnished them with a 4” water meter. The gas and electricity are installed, but Duke needs to connect the electricity to a power pole. They are painting in the evenings and still have a lot of things left to accomplish. They are waiting for their radio system to be delivered. They will plan for a ribbon cutting for the public before opening. There will be a Gibson County Facilities Holding meeting this Thursday.

COMMISSIONERS NEW BUSINESS

Approve Advertising bids for Courthouse Sidewalks and Paving of the Probation Office

Parking Lot – Attorney Spindler would like a motion to proceed with the publication of the advertisement for bids.

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

Approve a Change Order for the Prosecutor’s Office Remodeling – Attorney Spindler conveyed Three I’s request for a change order in the amount of \$14,042. There are several items on the change order request that include “to be determined” pricing, so the change order is not inclusive of the “to be determined items” and the change order will increase with those items. The change order does include floor leveling, drilling for a new water cooler, and modification of a wall. The “to be determined items” include safe removal, patching terrazzo and removal of plaster and bulkheads.

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

Approval to Hire County Engineer – They have received an interest from a previous engineer, John Umpleby, a retired engineer with around 40 years of experience. Commissioner Fleetwood would like this hire to be a salary employee, assuming the same wages as the previous engineer. Commissioner Burns is unaware of the interview process, as he has been absent from the County for the last ten days; he would like to see due process before hiring an employee for this position. Commissioner Burns motioned to allow the engineer to serve as a contracted engineer until the end of the year. Commissioner Fleetwood has spoken to this individual one on one. Mr. Umpleby is not interested in contracting this position; he no longer has a private practice and no longer carries the insurance required to be a contracted engineer. Commissioner Fleetwood feels the County has several upcoming projects that need the engineer's oversight and they have advertised twice and contacted three different engineers, aside from Mr. Umpleby. Mr. Umpleby currently has an inactive license; he feels that once he takes the online classes and submits this and a registration fee to the Board of Engineers, they will reactivate his license. He will take 16 hours of online courses at an approximate cost, to the County, of \$1,000 to get his status back to an active state. This is a requirement for all engineers. Commissioner Burns knows there are many upcoming projects, but he wants to ensure this process is done correctly. Given the situation, knowing they need an engineer and have a Gibson County resident, with a great deal of experience, Commissioner Fleetwood asked for a motion to hire. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve hiring Mr. Umpleby, seconded by Commissioner Fleetwood. With no further discussion, the motion was carried 2-0; Commissioner Burns cast a nay vote as he is concerned due hiring process has not been conducted. Commissioner Burns' motion on County engineer failed for lack of a second as implied by the subsequent motion by Commissioner Montgomery, which was seconded and approved.

Firework Sponsorship – Commissioner Burns explained to Commissioners that the County and the City of Princeton contributed \$1,000 last year and they would like to request this same amount. There is room in the budget for this contribution. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve this sponsorship, seconded by Commissioner Burns. With no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0.

Major Medical Leave (1) was approved by the Commissioners with a motion from Commissioner Montgomery, seconded by Commissioner Burns. The vote was 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 commentors must approach the podium, state their name and address.

Patty Vanoven, Gibson County Chamber of Commerce, told everyone there will be January 2025 legislative change (voted into law in 2011) regarding corporate transparency that business owners holding a tax identification number should be aware of or face \$500 per day fines. They will be holding a workshop at the Princeton Public Library on June 27, 2024. Registration can be found at GO Gibson.

Commissioner Fleetwood asked those that traveled to Tahara, Japan, Princeton's sister city, to give a quick overview of their cultural experience. Patty felt the group felt very welcomed and the people of Japan were very hospitable. They visited several shrines; toured the Boshoku, VUTEQ and Toyota plants in Japan and found them to be very similar to Gibson County plants. They learned how they engrained and incorporated the businesses into their community was very similar to Gibson County. They found this country to be very clean and wished Americans would incorporate this idea. Children are not taught English in school, but many do speak English and they found people seeking them out to practice their English. The sleeping quarters are much smaller, but made you realize your needs. Commissioner Burns thanked the Commissioners and the City of Princeton for allowing him the opportunity to visit Tahara. There were nine kids from Gibson County Schools (3 from each Corporation) that were offered the opportunity to travel to Japan with the group; they stayed with Japanese host families and experienced the Japanese culture of school, classroom and family life. Commissioner Burns felt it was neat and amazing

that the school kids took care of all the cleanup of the schools, there were no janitors. They also assisted in serving lunches that were put together by an outside vendor and shipped into the school.

Tom White says the paving of CR 300 S has caused a speed issue. The road was paved from CR 300 S to 425 W, and he would like to see this speed limit reduced from 35 to 30 miles per hour. This would require a traffic study by the Sheriff office.

Commissioner Burns motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The vote to adjourn is 3-0.

Minutes from the June 18, 2024, Meeting.



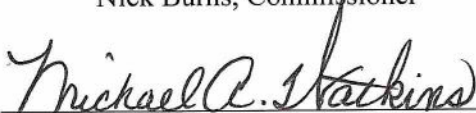
Warren Fleetwood, President



Kenneth Montgomery, Vice President



Nick Burns, Commissioner



ATTEST: Mike Watkins, Auditor