

\*\*\*\*\*

Gibson County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Session  
September 03, 2024

\*\*\*\*\*

The Gibson County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on September 03, 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 August 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 \$1,174,889.61 were presented by President Fleetwood. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve claims, seconded by Commissioner Burns. With no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0.

**Department Reports**

EMS Director Pond invited everyone out to a Groundbreaking Ceremony at the new EMS station land at 4:00 p.m.

Chief Deputy Ballard was representing Sheriff Vanoven at this meeting, and he reported that the average jail population was running around 87. They have completed a road study on CR 350 W and 400 S. They recommend a 4-way stop be installed, rather than a 2-way stop. They also recommend the placement of signage to warn of an upcoming stop sign. The highway department agrees to this change and the signs have been installed. Commissioners asked all county citizens to drive safely and avoid distractions. Commissioner Burns motioned to approve this road change, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The vote was 3-0.

Health Administrator Shade reported they have received their new vehicle. She has hired two new employees. They will work with all school corporations on a program titled Catch my Breath that will educate Teachers on tobacco and vaping. Research shows that vaping can be more dangerous because it is easily hidden and always accessible. This fall, they will work with the extension office on a program called Dining with Diabetes. Randy Hall asked if there are any indications of West Nile virus in Gibson County; Administrator Shade says they have not received any positive test results. The health department does have mosquito dunks to place into stagnant water; residents can stop by the health department to pick up this product.

**COMMISSIONERS OLD BUSINESS**

**Update on Jail Project** – Owner’s Representative George Ballard told Commissioners the project is moving right along. They recently met with the City of Princeton & INDOT regarding the new sidewalk being installed near the jail. They are still doing a lot of welding; they are installing screens on the second level to ensure safety; they will soon begin the installation of the jail controls and central dispatch equipment. They now have permanent power in the office area. The diesel-powered generator has been installed; it is very large and has a 1000 gallon tank.

**Courthouse Sidewalk Project Funding** – Commissioner Fleetwood told everyone that ARPA and LATCF funds were paying \$100,000 each for the Courthouse sidewalk, but another \$25,950 will be needed; Commissioner intend to use the Cumulative Building fund. Commissioner Burns motioned to approve the use of these funds, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. With no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0.

**New Parking Lot Surface at Probation/Public Defender’s Office - Consideration of Bids** – Attorney Spindler introduced Larry Donovan with Donovan/Donovan & Associates Architects/Engineers. Mr. Donovan is still waiting on INDOT to approve some items, but he recommended that Commissioners award the contract to the low bidder contingent upon INDOT approval. Mr. Donovan was unable to quote the exact amount of the low bid, but felt it was approximately \$110,000. Commissioners feel this item can also be paid for with the Cumulative Building fund.

Commissioner Fleetwood made the motion to approve the low bid, contingent on INDOT approval, seconded by Commissioner Burns. With no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Fleetwood asked if this would be reimbursed at 40%; Attorney Spindler agreed that it would receive a 40% reimbursement.

### **COMMISSIONERS NEW BUSINESS**

**Hummel Electric Traffic Signal Agreement** – This item will be placed on the next meeting agenda.

**Consideration for Tom Davis to Maumee Ditch Board** – Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve appointing Tom Davis to the Maumee Ditch Board after the resignation of a former appointed board member, seconded by Commissioner Burns. With no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0.

**Roadside Buffer Program** – Commissioner Montgomery says the Soil/Water Conservation asked Commissioners to pass out flyers introducing the “Roadside Buffer Program”. This program requests farmers not plant crops all the way to the edge of the road as it obstructs the view and can cause accidents.

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

**Burn Ban** – Commissioners motioned to ratify the first burn ban issued and they are extending it for another week. Commissioner Burns motioned to approve the burn ban, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The vote was 3-0.

Commissioner Fleetwood encouraged all department heads to come to a meeting on Thursday to work on the county’s website.

Minutes from the September 03, 2024 Meeting.



Warren Fleetwood, President



Kenneth Montgomery, Vice President



Nick Burns, Commissioner



ATTEST: Mike Watkins, Auditor

