

Gibson County Board of Commissioners
Regular Session
March 18, 2025

The Gibson County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on March 18, 2025, at 8:00 a.m. at the Southwest Annex.

Prayer was led by Vice President Montgomery followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Commissioners' Present: Nick Burns, Kenneth Montgomery, and Chuck Lewis

Minutes: The minutes of the March 4th meeting were approved as presented. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Lewis. With no further discussion, the motion passed 3-0.

Claims: Total claims presented on 03/18/2025 were \$2,687,794.25. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve claims, seconded by Commissioner Lewis. With no further discussion, the motion passed 3-0.

The Commissioners acknowledged the Clerk / Treasurer reports.

Department Reports

Sheriff Vanoven gave a brief on the weekend's F2 tornado and storm damage.

Commissioner Lewis gave an update on the EMS Building Project: The Brick masons are 50% complete; the flooring contractors are laying floor. The next major thing will be gutter drains and exterior concrete work. They hope to move into the new building in early May.

Soil and Water District was represented by Dennis Simpson. The district is trying to determine how the farming practices have changed over the years, and he will provide a report on this after completion.

COMMISSIONERS OLD BUSINESS

Jail Project update was given by Chief Deputy Ballard; the sewer line has been completed. They will have a ribbon-cutting ceremony and tours on April 5th. They are finishing concrete, and training within the facility.

Approval of Courthouse Projects –Elevator and Basement Floor Painting – Andy Schafer was present to discuss upgrading all the elevator controls, wiring, door detectors and the power unit. This upgrade will shut the elevator down for 3-4 weeks, if the work is planned. If the elevator goes down without preparation, it could be out of service for up to 16 weeks. The Commissioners will try to get this scheduled and let the public know. Mr. Schafer has one quote on the elevator; Commissioners ask him to seek out more quotes.

Mr. Schafer has two quotes on painting the basement floor; he would like to choose a contractor and get this project finished. This will be scheduled; and he feels the contractor could possibly paint in one day plus another day to cure. He will try to coordinate this job on a holiday when the contractor is working, but the county is closed.

Commissioner Lewis motioned to approve the low bid on the basement floor project, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. With no further discussion, the motion passed 3-0.

COMMISSIONERS NEW BUSINESS

Gwen Hopkins Request an Appraisal for Donation of 20 Acres

Commissioner Burns motioned to approve getting the 20 acres appraised, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. With no further discussion, the motion passed 3-0.

BCS Fire Inspection & Monitoring Contract Approval – Andrew from BCS was present to answer questions. The contract is scheduled to be renewed in May at the same cost. Commissioner Lewis asked if they could provide details, in writing, to the Commissioners when they complete the maintenance. Also, Commissioner Lewis questioned the automatic renewal clause and its meaning. Andrew says to strike the clause from the agreement, as the renewals should be presented each year. Attorney Spindler recommended that Commissioners table the agreement for further review. Commissioner Lewis motioned to table this item, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. With no further discussion, the motion passed 3-0.

2025 Vegetation Management – Commissioner Lewis explained that this is an ongoing program the county has. It takes care of brush, saplings, and invasive species around the county's bridges. The agreement is not to exceed \$50,000. Commissioner Lewis motioned to renew this contract, seconded by Commissioner Burns. With no further discussion, the motion passed 3-0.

Annual Donation to DPI – DPI request the annual donation of \$3,000 for downtown events. Commissioner Lewis motioned to approve the donation, seconded by Commissioner Burns. With no further discussion, the motion passed 3-0.

Storm Sirens – Commissioner Lewis talked about the weekend storm and the fact that four of the eighteen sirens were not working. They contacted a local electrician, and three of the four non-working sirens were repaired. They will review the contract that is currently in place as they are not satisfied with the service they are currently receiving. They will also begin working with the Council to try to implement an aggressive replacement program for the sirens.

Citizen Comments

Chamber Director Vanoven invited everyone to the April 11th lunch & learn workshop on "Teams Meetings". She also invited everyone to the May golf scramble.

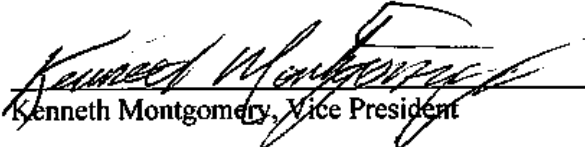
Mayor Deffendall of Oakland City came to the Commissioners to thank the County for all their help during the weekend storm.

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

Meeting Minutes from March 18, 2025



Nick Burns, President



Kenneth Montgomery, Vice President



Chuck Lewis, Commissioner



ATTEST: Mike Watkins, Auditor

