

**Gibson County Board of Commissioners
Regular Session
April 01, 2025**

The Gibson County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on April 01, 2025, 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.

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

Minutes: The minutes of March 18, 2025, meeting were approved as presented. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Lewis. The motion passed 3-0.

Claims: Total claims presented on 04/01/2025 were \$1,310,660.77. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve claims, seconded by Commissioner Lewis. The motion passed 3-0.

Department Reports

Sheriff Vanoven gave the staffing report. There is one open Deputy position; three open Corrections positions; no open Communications positions; and Community Corrections is fully staffed. April 5th will be the open house and ribbon cutting of the new jail.

EMS reported their March run volume; they recently had someone retire after 20 years of service.

Sharon Werne with Animal Services reported that they will be getting \$500,000 from the Redevelopment Commission and TIF. They have secured funding of \$2,000,000; they would like to get to \$2,400,000 so they can build the building in full. Arevon Solar Company will be providing a very nice donation before the end of April, because they have a generous donor that will be matching every donation up to \$50,000 through the end of April. Upcoming events for the shelter include: Bobes Pizza will have 15% giveback on Saturday; SGSC is having a food drive for the seven puppies that were recently dumped at GSHS; 4/12/2025 Camp Carson will have an adoption event; 4/13/2025 there will be an adoption event at the Easter Egg Hunt at the Gazebo; and finally, there will be an adoption event at the upcoming car show and antique machine show.

A jail project update was given by Chief Deputy Ballard; the sewer issue is resolved, and the street will be paved mid-April, weather permitting. They are finishing concrete work this week and installing computer systems. The main walkways have been painted. The 17th federal report has been sent off. An open house/ribbon cutting ceremony will be held on April 5th.

COMMISSIONERS OLD BUSINESS

Removal of Bond on CR900 S – Commissioner Montgomery has looked at this road and feels it is in good shape. A concerned citizen wonders if the County can hold the bond to ensure it stays intact. They will wait until a new engineer is hired and let them decide on releasing the bond, as no action must be taken tonight.

Commissioner Lewis motioned to table the removal of this bond until an engineer can review it, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The motion passed 3-0.

MOU Renewal – Mainstream Broadband – Mainstream Representatives Troy Johnson and Ryan Clem were present to request this renewal of the MOU. They are working on installing broadband in the underserved areas of Gibson County. Attorney Spindler and Three i Engineering have reviewed the MOU. Commissioner Lewis wants to ensure they follow all road agreements and right-of-way permits. Mainstream told Commissioners they will work with the new Highway Engineer.

Commissioner Lewis motioned to renew the MOU with Mainstream, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The motion passed 3-0.

BCS Fire Inspection/Monitoring and Contract Approval – The contract is basically the same as 2024 but less in cost. Attorney Spindler reminded the Commissioner's that the revision included the auto-renewal clause removal.

Commissioner Burns motioned to approve the two contracts with BCS, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The motion passed 3-0.

COMMISSIONERS NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance Prohibiting Private Copying of Recorded Documents Using Personal Electronic Device – Attorney Spindler provided this ordinance upon the request of Recorder Schurmeier; the ordinance prohibits the public from coming into the Recorder's Office and snapping pictures of documents they should pay a fee to receive.

Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve the ordinance as presented, seconded by Commissioner Lewis. The motion passed 3-0.

Commissioner Montgomery motioned to suspend the rules and approve the ordinance upon the first reading, seconded by Commissioner Lewis. The motion passed 3-0.

Easement in Favor of Elliott Solar, LLC – Mathew Scott, Lead Developer from RWE was present to introduce himself and his company. RWE is a global company that has 1500 employees across the US and they are the developers of the Elliott Solar project, which they acquired from R3 in November 2024. Elliott Solar is a 200-Megawatt solar and 100-Megawatt battery storage facility, located south of Francisco. Attorney Kyle Resetarits with Dentons Firm of Indianapolis was on the phone to request Commissioners accept the easement agreement at Hopkins Park. This agreement modifies the easement to allow for a widening expansion of the area. Attorney Spindler has three documents for Commissioners. The first document ratifies an agreement that separates an agreement from Gwen Hopkins and the Commissioners. The second document is an amendment to the transmission easement agreement to modify the width of the easement and the payment to Commissioners. The third document is a memo to be recorded against the parcel the commissioner's own. Attorney Spindler asked for any questions and explained that the expansion equates to approximately 1.6 acres; it was originally 3.54 and is now 5.15 acres with the expansion. The compensation is more for the county with the additional acreage. Michael Stevenson asked if the money would go to the park. Commissioner Montgomery feels the easement will go through the park; thus the money would go to the park. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve expansion of easement, seconded by Commissioner Lewis. The motion passed 3-0.

Medical Leaves (4) – Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve medical leaves, seconded by Commissioner Lewis. The motion passed 3-0.

Estimate from Holcomb Foundation Engineering to Repair a Gas Probe at Landfill – Attorney Spindler explained that the estimate for the gas probe was \$2,010. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve the repair, seconded by Commissioner Lewis. The motion passed 3-0.

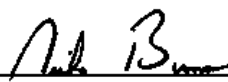
Citizen Comments –

A citizen asked if CR 1000 S a road that goes into the back side of Lynnville Park would open again; Commissioner Montgomery feels there is a plan to re-open the road.


Mark Fehrenbacher, Ft. Branch had two items concerning 4th of July. He said that Veterans Service Director Pickersgill had approved the donation of a Betsy Ross flag to fly over the courthouse on July 4th, so Mr. Fehrenbacher made this donation to Commissioners. Next, after the meeting or at another time, Mr. Fehrenbacher would like to discuss another idea for July 4th with Commissioners. Commissioner Burns agreed to meet him sometime next week.

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

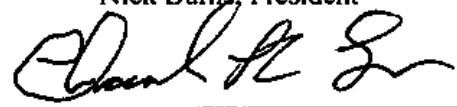
Meeting minutes from April 01, 2025



Nick Burns, President



Kenneth Montgomery, Vice President



Chuck Lewis, Commissioner



ATTEST: Mike Watkins, Auditor
Kristy York, First Deputy