

Gibson County Board of Commissioners
Regular Session
April 15, 2025

The Gibson County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on April 15, 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 April 1st 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 for approval on 04/15/2025 were in the amount of \$1,554,997.71. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve claims, seconded by Commissioner Lewis. The motion passed 3-0.

The Commissioners acknowledged the Clerk / Treasurer reports.

Department Reports

Sheriff Vanoven gave their staffing reports. They have one open Deputy position; five open Corrections positions; Communications and Community Corrections are both fully staffed.

EMA Director McKinney told Commissioners she has the siren audit back from American Signal; she will forward that to Commissioners. On April 10th Princeton was hit by a tornado; there are also flooding concerns in the county; a public assistance meeting will be held this week for possible reimbursement. She has been working with the health department on public outreach and community education. She has also been working on the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Planning Grant. Commissioner Lewis asked and EMA Director McKinney confirmed that there was a line item in their budget for the annual siren maintenance contract. She is also checking on using Public Safety LIT money for these sirens as she feels other counties use this fund for EMA expenses. Attorney Spindler has been researching the use of Public Safety LIT and he has communicated this to Councilman Riley

Abby Heidenreich with the Extension Office was present; they have been having a lot of meetings; it is 4-H enrollment season, and they are seeing a slight increase in their 4-H numbers, especially in the smaller kids' programs. The Health and Human Sciences (HHS) area has been partnering with the Health Department and providing community education. HHS has also been going to elementary third grade classrooms to educate the kids on budgets and financial literacy. In the agricultural area, they have been conducting farmer's educational programs. They are also doing embryology in all Gibson County schools. They will be conducting grain bin safety and homesteading classes.

Hopkins Park is doing good; the park has been busy the last couple of weeks; the youth fishing weekend is on April 26th.

The Health Department Administrator was on hand for the meeting. Measles outbreak is contained in Allen County; now they have 4 kids and 2 adults infected. She advises everyone to get their vaccine. People with a date of birth between 1957-1968 should see their doctor to ensure vaccinations are up to date. They will conduct a back-to-school immunization program at the fairgrounds on April 30th. On Friday's from 8:30-9:30 a.m. between May 2nd – August 1st the Health Department have a walking program at the park; they will also offer some tests at this event.

Arica and AJ reported on the EMS; they presented their large April run volume to Commissioners. They are fully staffed with full-time employees. There were no injuries reported in the recent local tornado. Lowe's donated to the tornado victims.

Jail Project update was given by Chief Deputy Ballard. They had a nice turnout at the open house; the street is paved after the stormwater/sewer project; the road will remain closed until they get the lines painted. Chief Ballard advised the transfer of inmates from the old jail to the new jail will be done from the interior of the building and this transfer will happen soon.

Commissioner Lewis gave a report on EMS Building Construction. The exterior is almost finished; and on the interior, the flooring, cabinets, and plumbing fixtures are set. Exterior concrete will be started soon. They are approximately 92% finished; they might be moving in late May.

COMMISSIONERS OLD BUSINESS

YMCA Consent to Transfer – Attorney McDonald says this project is almost complete and all the RDC TIF allocation has been spent. The Commissioners provided the YMCA with a forgivable loan, that expires in August. They are seeking new market tax credits from another entity and the YMCA needs to close the current outstanding loan. A report will be filed with Commissioners by August to show all items in the forgivable loan document have been accomplished. The YMCA will hold a ribbon cutting/grand opening on May 22. Jonathan Pope thanked the Commissioners for the TIF money. He feels this project will have a significant impact on the community. Attorney Spindler has reviewed the consent to transfer document presented by Attorney McDonald and told Commissioners they may act on this item.

Commissioner Burns motioned to approve the consent to transfer document, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The motion passed 3-0.

Annual Report Provided by the RDC -Attorney McDonald presented the annual report that is required to be filed by April 15th of each year. No vote is required on this item, it only needs to be a part of the meeting minutes. The report shows allocation areas; board members; debt obligations; expenditures and balances in TIF.

COMMISSIONERS NEW BUSINESS

Proclamation for National Dispatcher's Week – Sheriff Vanoven read a proclamation for April 13-19, 2025 for National Public Safety Telecommunications Week. Commissioner Lewis motioned to recognize the Sheriff's Department Dispatchers, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The motion passed 3-0.

Application for Solar Permit Preliminary Discussion – Attorney Spindler introduced Bill and Clint regarding the permit application for Zelestra. This is an opportunity to ask questions regarding this project. They are diligently working on this permit application, if no questions, they will move to the next agenda item as there is no approval needed at this time.

Midwest Deferred Compensation (MDC) – Representative Amy Hauptert told Commissioners they work with governmental employees exclusively and help facilitate them to and through retirement. They work beside the PERF plan with a 457 deferred compensation plan to supplement the PERF plan. They would come in and determine the best product for Gibson County; conduct an employee census; hold group meetings with employees. This is a 401K designed exclusively for governmental employees. The 457 plan earnings are non-taxable. There is an employer and employee contribution component, and the county can do whatever they want, it can be voluntary employee contributions only. She requests the

Commissioners' blessing to work with the Auditor's Office. Mike Hurt feels this Midwest Deferred Compensation program is leaps and bounds above what anyone else has ever presented to him. Mr. Hurt has spoken to Auditor Watkins and Login Vickers; he felt they were onboard with this product. Attorney Spindler does not feel any action is needed.

Citizen Comments –

South Gibson Teen Center - Bill Knapp told Commissioners they have received money from the Redevelopment Corporation but are finding themselves short by approximately \$500,000. They request permission to go before the RDC and request additional funding for solar panels that will assist with their utility bills; they also need tuckpointing on their 80-year-old building. Commissioner Lewis motioned to approve them approaching the Redevelopment Commission for additional funding, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The vote was 3-0.

Chamber Director Vanoven told Commissioners that the Chamber will have a couple of ribbon cuttings; Rexing Butcher Shop (formally Kenny Dewig Meats) on April 26th at noon; and Tiger Alley on May 7th @ 5 p.m. They still have room at the annual golf scramble on May 8th at Oakland City Country Club.


Commissioner Burns says the landscaping at the gazebo will be done before Easter. They will be posting agendas on the new facebook page. He reminded everyone about the flooring project on May 23rd; the courthouse will be closed for this project.

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

Meeting minutes from April 15, 2025



Nick Burns, President



Kenneth Montgomery, Vice President



Chuck Lewis, Commissioner



ATTEST: Mike Watkins, Auditor



CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT APPROVAL

THE FOLLOWING CLAIMS WERE PRESENTED AND READ AT THE

Tuesday, May 6, 2025

COMMISSIONERS MEETING.

PAYEE	REPORT DATE	MEMO	AMOUNT ALLOWED
WIRE TRANSFER - COURTHOUSE LEASE REVENUE BOND PAYMENT	4/15/2025		\$36,941.59
CLAIMS PD 4/25/25	4/25/2025		\$128,825.99
ACH CLAIMS PD 4/15/2025 (ommitted on 4/15/2025 docket)	4/10/2025		\$282,144.59
CAW0415	4/14/2025		\$87,144.08
CAW0429	4/28/2025		\$47,765.54
PAYROLL CLAIMS	4/14/2025		\$479,862.79
ELECTRONIC PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS	4/16/2025		\$173,439.84
PAYROLL DEDUCTION CHECKS	4/17/2025		\$6,129.58
MARCH HEALTH INSURANCE CLAIMS	4/8/2025		\$540,577.75
MARCH INSURANCE TRANSFER	4/8/2025		\$428,108.40
APRIL UNION DUES	4/22/2025		\$10,742.50
COUNTY GENERAL CLAIMS	4/30/2025		\$104,182.99
HIGHWAY CLAIMS	4/30/2025		\$20,649.98
SHERIFF CLAIMS	4/30/2025		\$343,253.43
ACH CLAIMS	4/30/2025		\$407,876.08
TOTAL CLAIMS			\$3,097,645.13

TOTAL CLAIMS

\$3,097,645.13

I hereby certify that each of the above listed vouchers and the invoices, or bills attached thereto, are true and correct and I have audited same in accordance with IC 5-11-10-1.6.

Mike Watkins

Gibson County Auditor

ALLOWANCE OF VOUCHERS

(IC 5-11-10-2 permits the governing body to sign the Accounts Payable Voucher Register in lieu of signing each claim the governing body is allowing.)

We have examined the vouchers listed on the foregoing accounts payable voucher register, consisting of multiple pages, and except for voucher not allowed as shown on the Register such vouchers are allowed in the total amount of:

\$3,097,645.13

Date May 6, 2025

Rich Benson

Nick Burns, Commissioner

Ken Montgomery
Ken Montgomery, Commissioner

Ken Montgomery, Commissioner

Charles K. Linn

Chuck Lewis, Commissioner

SIGNED COPIES:

Kristy

Lynda

Logan