

Gibson County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Session  
May 20, 2025

The Gibson County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on May 20, 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 May 6<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved as presented. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Lewis. The vote was 3-0.

**Claims:** Total claims presented on 05/20/2025 were \$3,273,324.79. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve claims, seconded by Commissioner Lewis. The vote was 3-0.

The Commissioners acknowledged the Clerk / Treasurer reports.

**Department Reports**

Sheriff Vanoven reported that the April average jail population was 103. They have no open Deputy positions; three open Corrections positions; no open Communications positions; and Community Corrections is fully staffed.

The Health Department Administrator was on hand for the meeting. They are conducting a walking program on Fridays from 8:30-9:30 at Lafayette Park. Along with walking they also provide A1C tests, cholesterol checks, and blood pressure checks.

The Highway Department was represented by Superintendent/County Engineer Holden. He requests that Commissioners advertise for the 2025 paving project. He would also like to approach the Council about an additional appropriation for this paving. Commissioner Lewis motioned to approve Engineer Holden putting together bid packages and advertising them, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. Next, Commissioner Lewis motioned to approve Engineer Holden approaching the Council for additional appropriations, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The vote was 3-0

Clerk Sherri Smith told the Commissioner they will attend the June meeting regarding Princeton's Redistricting. She introduced her new employees, Amber Earles and Ashley Meyer. She then told Commissioners that she and Leather had graduated from the CEATS program at Ball State; they are now certified in election administration, technology & security. Leather also received national recognition from the US Election Assistance Commission on her capstone project named Gibson County's Learning Lab. They remain very busy refining their absentee voting processes. They are also looking to enhance some of their polling locations for the 2026 election. They will be attending fairs/festivals again this year to discuss voting and encourage people to register to vote. They have added a tablet translator to assist with non-English speaking citizens of Gibson County. Commissioner Lewis thanked the Clerk's office for all their hard work and on-going training.

AJ reported on the EMS.

**COMMISSIONERS OLD BUSINESS**

**Owensville Fire District Cumulative Tax – Public Meeting** – County Attorney Spindler opened the public meeting and invited anyone wishing to speak about the new proposed tax to approach the podium

and introduce themselves. There were no patrons voicing concerns about the proposed cumulative tax by the OMTFPD. Attorney Alyssa Ricker was present; she explained if the rate is established, the rate will begin at \$.0333 per \$100 of assessed value for those constituents living in Montgomery Township. The cumulative fire equipment fund is established by statute. OMTFPD has satisfied all steps leading up to their 30-day remonstrance period, which began on April 11<sup>th</sup>. Being that there were no remonstrances, Auditor Watkins has provided a "No Remonstrance Certificate". Today, OMTFPD requires approval from the Commissioners. The Commissioners appoint the OMTFPD board members and they were present and ready to answer any questions. Commissioner Montgomery has not heard any complaints against this tax; thus, he motioned to move forward in establishing this tax, seconded by Commissioner Lewis. The vote was 3-0.

Jail Project update was given by Chief Deputy Ballard; they have moved into the new facility! He commended all employees for stepping up and helping in this huge endeavor. Three I Engineering created a study for paving the parking lot as they only have 120 days to get this completed, per an agreement with the City of Princeton. Since they are out of the old jail, they need to speak with Garmon for moving forward to take down the old jail. Commissioners thanked Owner's Representative for over-seeing this project and keeping everyone up to date on all the happenings. This is the biggest project Gibson County has ever completed.

Commissioner Lewis gave a report on EMS Building Construction. He says they are zeroing in on the final stages and finishing concrete on the exterior; he hopes to get a firm move-in date from the general contractor.

### **COMMISSIONERS NEW BUSINESS**

**AirMedCare Network (AirEVac)** – Holly Lagenour presented an employee perk package membership. She explained that major medical typically does not cover life-flight and this package would give employees and members of the household (no age limitations) coverage of this service. She presented a map of all their bases in the US; they have over 380 bases across the United States. Evansville is one base; other close bases to this area would be Paoli, IN and Olney, IL. The cost of this membership is based on the number of employees (she used 350 employees as an example), the cost would be \$270 per employee, for a 5-year plan, which is where the best rate can be found, however, other time spans can be accessed. Commissioner Lewis asked if they could join with other cities/towns/schools to bring the cost down. She felt this could be done, and everyone would fall under one umbrella. She left her card and pricing for the Commissioners to review. Vincennes and Davies County, IN are participants in this program.

### **Opening Bids for Phase II of I-69/SR 64 Intersection SE Quadrant Sanitary Sewer Project**

Attorney Spindler opened these bids and read the base bid for each.

Koberstein Contracting, Inc of Evansville	\$1,046,636.00
Ragle, Inc. of Newburgh	\$1,217,289.00
S.A.M.M. Trucking & Excavating, Inc. of Newburgh	\$ 963,097.00
Kieffer Bros Construction Co. Inc. of Mount Carmel, IL	\$ 946,278.11
Van Hoy & Sons Contracting, Inc. of Washington, IN	\$ 820,715.00

Attorney Spindler recommended that Commissioners take the bids under advisement. Commissioner Lewis motioned to take the bids under advisement for further review, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The vote was 3-0.

**The South Gibson Community and Teen Center** – Mr. Bill Knapp told Commissioners they are nearing the end of project and have unexpected expenses. A backup water valve must be installed; they had to install 3-phase electrical service; the natural gas line is not big enough; and they must run an extra sewer line. They would like permission to go to the RDC for extra money, if there is any available.



Commissioner Lewis motioned to approve them going to RDC for additional funding, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The vote was 3-0. Mr. Knapp then asked Commissioners to write in their list that they are also going to request solar panel funding, which was requested at the previous meeting.

**Opioid Approval**– Sheriff Vanoven is requesting to use opioid funds to purchase a kiosk for check-in at the probation office. They request \$22,500 this year; this will pay for the purchase, installation, and training from now through the end of the year. Going forward, they will budget the annual cost. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve the request to use opioid funds, seconded by Commissioner Burns. The motion passed 3-0.

**Medical Leaves (2)** – Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve medical leaves, seconded by Commissioner Lewis. The motion passed 3-0.

#### **Citizen Comments –**

Chamber Director Vanoven told Commissioners the Chamber will have a ribbon cutting on 5/22 at the YMCA and on June 6<sup>th</sup> they will attend the Log Inn's 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary.


Jim Mackey feels the intersection of Heights Chapel Road and Highway 64 needs attention. He says people are coming to a complete stop on the highway to see if the train is on the track. This is causing a road hazard. He wonders if a sign could be put onto the highway to alert people heading west on Highway 64 advising traffic if the crossing is open or closed. Commissioners will need to consult with INDOT about this issue.

Mr. Mackey also wonders if the paved roads could be painted uniformly. Commissioners explained if the road is not wide enough, a center line might not be allowed.

Ronda Colbert from the Senior Center thanked Commissioners for their support. She would like to do some flooring updates at the Center. She explained that their attendance has really grown, and she provided those numbers to the Commissioners. She would like to go before the Council and the RDC to request money, but asked Commissioners to approve first. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve her request for this funding, seconded by Commissioner Burns. The vote was 3-0.


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

Minutes from May 20, 2025, Meeting

  
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Nick Burns, President

  
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Kenneth Montgomery, Vice President

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Chuck Lewis, Commissioner

  
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ATTEST: Mike Watkins, Auditor

Commissioner's Meeting May 20, 2025