

Gibson County Board of Commissioners
Regular Session
August 19, 2025

The Gibson County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on August 19, 2025, at 4:45 p.m. at the Southwest Annex.

Vice President Montgomery led the prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Minutes: The meeting minutes of August 5, 2025, were approved as presented. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Lewis. The motion carried 3-0.

Claims: President Burns called for a motion to approve claims. Commissioner Montgomery made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Lewis. The motion carried 3-0.

The Treasurer's Report was acknowledged.

Department Reports

Sheriff Department: Sheriff Vanoven presented the annual jail inspection report. The staffing report indicated that deputies are fully staffed. Corrections have five openings, with five officers currently in training. The department is operating on 12-hour shifts to accommodate the staffing shortage. They are continuously hiring, testing, and interviewing. There are two openings in communications, while Community Corrections is fully staffed.

Commissioners Old Business

Jail Update: Owners Representative Ballard reported an upcoming meeting with Three I Engineering regarding paving the parking lot, including striping, sidewalks, and curbs.

Three I Engineering / Old Jail Demolition: Attorney Spindler presented a decommissioning package from Three I Engineering. A representative from Three I Engineering explained the steps required to decommission the old jail, including plans for each floor. The electricity currently feeds from the new jail into the old jail, necessitating a separate electric feed. The package covers both old jail buildings but does not include environmental testing. Commissioner Burns suggested tabling the item to review funding sources. Commissioner Lewis motioned to take the bid under advisement and review finances, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The motion carried 3-0. Three I Engineering will provide an environmental inspection estimate and attend the next meeting for updates. The submitted estimate of \$37,500 is for building deconstruction and utility decommissioning, not the actual removal of the old jail.

Reclamation Solar Road Use Bond: Clint Carnell, representing Zelestra and the Reclamation Solar Project, acknowledged the forthcoming amendment to Ordinance 2015-01, which increases road bonding rates to \$200,000 per mile for paved roads and \$30,000 per mile for gravel roads. Zelestra is submitting a road use bond totaling \$3,016,000. Attorney Spindler reviewed and approved the bond documentation, confirming it aligns with the amended ordinance. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve the road use bond, seconded by Commissioner Lewis. The motion carried 3-0.

Reclamation Solar Decommissioning Bond: Mr. Carnell also presented a decommissioning bond prepared by Professional Engineer Kimberly Horn. The cost estimate is approximately \$13,678,114. Per Ordinance 2021-03, the year-one bond requirement is 25% of the cost, equating to \$3,419,528. Mr. Carnell requested approval to post this bond amount. Attorney Spindler confirmed agreement with County Engineer Holden on the documentation and proposed amounts. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve posting the bond, seconded by Commissioner Lewis. The motion carried 3-0.

Mr. Carnell stated that the four conditions set forth in the ordinance have been met and requested confirmation from Attorney Spindler. Attorney Spindler agreed, with the exception of contingencies from the Drainage Board Meeting. He will provide documentation to reflect this, as the minutes will not be approved until the September 2, 2025 meeting.

Commissioners New Business

Amended TIF Annual Spending Plan 2025: Attorney Jim McDonald presented the amended spending plan, as required by the State Board of Accounts. No motion was required, only notation in the minutes. The plan allocates \$1,774,956 for the Fort Branch Wastewater Treatment Project and \$500,000 for the Gibson County Animal Shelter.

Amendment to Ordinance 2015-01 Road Use Bonding Rates: Attorney Spindler presented the amended ordinance, which removes chip seal roads based on County Engineer Holden's recommendation. Subsection D in Section III of Ordinance 2015-01 has been changed to \$600,000. A copy of the new ordinance was provided. The amendment reflects updated costs for rebuilding paved roads. Chip seal roads will now be considered paved roads and, if damaged, will be repaved.

Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve the amendment, seconded by Commissioner Lewis. The motion carried 3-0.

Attorney Spindler recommended suspending the rules and approving Ordinance 2025-04 upon first reading. Commissioner Lewis made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Burns. The motion carried 3-0.

County Vehicle GPS: Commissioners proposed equipping county vehicles with GPS. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Lewis. The motion carried 3-0.

Medical/Personal Leaves (2): President Burns called for a motion to approve two medical/personal leaves. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Lewis. The motion carried 3-0.

Public Comment: Patty Vanoven from the Gibson County Chamber invited everyone to the ribbon cutting for the Isaiah Project at the YMCA at noon on August 25.

Ron Cromer inquired about which roads would be bonded by the solar company. All roads used for construction will be bonded. A public meeting will be held to allow questions; details are forthcoming.

A resident reported a dangerous drop-off on CR 600 W in Owensville following recent paving. Commissioners will have the Highway Department inspect the condition.

With no further discussion, President Burns called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Lewis. The motion carried 3-0.

Minutes from August 19, 2025



Nick Burns, President



Kenneth Montgomery, Vice President



Chuck Lewis, Commissioner



ATTEST: Mike Watkins, Auditor



Commissioner's Meeting August 19, 2025