

Gibson County Board of Commissioners
Regular Session
August 05, 2025

The Gibson County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on August 05, 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 meeting minutes of July 15, 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.

Department Reports

Health Department – Administrator Shade provided Commissioners with their monthly reports and told them they are working on back-to-school vaccines. Tonight, they will help with National Night Out at the Fairgrounds. They are still doing the Food is Medicine Program; Dining with Diabetes will begin next month in Ft. Branch. They will also do a Matter of Balance class in Oakland City. She suggested that everyone follow the facebook page.

Sheriff Department – Chief Deputy Ballard told Commissioners that Duke Energy has refunded the jail project \$18,852. This refund is for signing up with their energy conservation program before they built the jail and then following through by installing qualified electronics. The department is in the process of discussing the demolition of the old jail and how this will all work.

EMA - Director McKinney told Commissioners they are now located at 306 N Prince Street, and they now have a working phone. She has received notification from Deaconess that they will be receiving two new AEDs on August 14th at noon. They will be providing one AED to the Senior Center, and the other one will go to Addiction Solutions. EMA, Health Department, and The National Weather Service will be hosting a free weather spotter class on October 7th at 6pm at the Fairgrounds. If they have a good turnout for the spotter class, they will consider holding an advanced class.

Highway Department – Engineer Holden told Commissioners they are still chip/sealing roads but are very close to finishing. Paving is now underway. They are behind on mowing due to weather and the movement of mowing crew onto the chip/seal crew. Demolition is almost complete on Bridge 74 in Wheeling area.

EMS provided their volume of runs. The open house/ribbon cutting was held on July 25th from 3-6; it went well as they did host a very nice crowd. They have been accepting applications and plan to hire more part-time employees.

COMMISSIONERS OLD BUSINESS

Recommendation from Committee to Review Storm Siren Requests for Proposals (RFP) – EMA Director McKinney explained that the requests for proposals have been accepted, and the Committee has made their recommendation. They received five RFPs, and the Committee recommends Commissioners

approving the American Signal proposal. This proposal will replace all emergency warning sirens in the County.

President Burns called for a motion to approve entering a contract with American Signal. Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve this action, seconded by Commissioner Lewis. The motion carried 3-0. The start and proposed completion dates are inside the RFPs. All sirens in the County are currently functioning properly.

Approval of Gibson County Jail Auxiliary Parking Lot –Lyle Mehringer of Three I told Commissioners that lowest responsive and most responsible bidder on the project was Garmong and all information in their packet was complete.

President Burns called for a motion to approve awarding this project to Garmong. Commissioner Montgomery made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Lewis. The motion carried 3-0.

COMMISSIONERS NEW BUSINESS

Reclamation Solar – Mr. Bill Behling with Zelestra presented three of the four conditions that are complete.

1. Road Use Agreement – This document defines the haul roads they will use for construction. They also set the road bond at \$1.5 million based on Ordinance 2015-01. Commissioner Montgomery feels the road bonding rate had increased from \$100,000 to \$200,000 per mile; they will check into this. Engineer Holden wonders if they could approve the document pending the outcome of the bonding rate. Commissioner Lewis motioned to approve the road use agreement based on the most current county ordinance for road bondage projects, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The motion carried 3-0.
2. Glint and Glare Study - Three I Engineering has reviewed this document. Mr. Mehringer asked Mr. Behling what had been updated in the document. Zelestra Representatives explained that the update presents different module types and different size modules. Mr. Mehringer recommends Commissioners approve of this study. President Burns called for a motion to approve the Glint/Glare Study as submitted. Commissioner Montgomery made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Lewis. The motion carried 3-0.
3. Cost Estimate for Professional Engineer – Zelestra has proposed that Kimberly Horn be the Professional Engineer. Commissioner Burns called for a motion to approve this engineering firm based on the recommendation of the County Engineer and Attorney. Commissioner Lewis made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The motion carried 3-0.

New Hire for Floodplain Administrator Contractor – EMA Director McKinney requests that a new flood plain administrator be contracted, rather than an employee. This will eliminate a benefits package. A transfer can be made from the personal service line into the other services and charges line. Commissioner Montgomery made the motion to approve this contract position through December, seconded by Commissioner Lewis. The motion carried 3-0.

Approval of Opioid Grant Money – The committee met last night; however, they do not have any recommendations at this time.

Medical Leaves– President Burns called for a motion to approve the medical leaves. Commissioner Montgomery made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Lewis. The motion carried 3-0.

Public Comment – Ron Cromer from Buckskin brought in pictures of roads that are overgrown on CR 1050 E; he does not feel roads have been drug for over three months. Engineer Holden said they should be going back out on regular maintenance since the chip/seal is complete.

Patty Vanoven still has envelopes until September 1st, when they will have the drawing. She invited everyone to stop by the Oakland City Sweetcorn Festival to visit them.

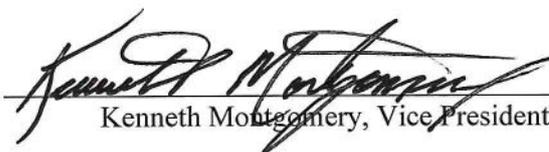
Kathy Lloyd – lives in Water Tower Subdivision in Haubstadt and asked what the plans were for correcting the chip/seal on their originally paved road. She feels the street sweeping they have done to try and correct the problem only works for a short time. She feels they have gone to a gravel road versus a paved road. Commissioner Lewis explained that once the issue is taken care of, the road should be in good shape. He went on to say that the road they started with was in very bad condition. Engineer Holden will take a look at this road.

With no further discussions, President Burns called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Montgomery made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Lewis. The vote to adjourn was 3-0.

Minutes from August 05, 2025



Nick Burns, President



Kenneth Montgomery, Vice President



Chuck Lewis, Commissioner



ATTEST: Mike Watkins, Auditor

