

Gibson County Board of Commissioners
Regular Session
October 07, 2025 at Southwest Annex

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

Commissioners present

- Nick Burns, President
- Kenneth Montgomery, Vice President
- Chuck Lewis, Commissioner

Minutes - The meeting minutes of September 16, 2025, were approved as presented. President Burns called for a motion to approve minutes. Commissioner Montgomery made the motion, 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

Sheriff's Department presented by Sheriff Vanoven

- Deputy positions: fully staffed.
- Corrections: five open positions; working 12-hour shifts until they have adequate coverage.
- Communications: fully staffed.
- Community Corrections: fully staffed.
- Jail average population: 120 inmates.

Health Department presented by Administrator Shade

- It is breast cancer awareness month; she reminded everyone to do their screenings.
- They will host their 2nd SOFR (an acronym for Suicide-Overdose-Fatality Review) on October 21st at 6p.m.

EMS presented by AJ Aldridge

- Collections and staffing reports were provided.
- They will host a hiring event to test for part-time employees.

Courthouse Sidewalk presented by Andy Schafer

- A sidewalk update was provided. The east sidewalk is almost complete. Next, they will move to the north side and then to the south side. The west side will be completed last due to events that will take place on the west side.

Jail Project Update presented by Owners Representative George Ballard

- The new jail project has received another energy incentive from Centerpoint. This amounts to approximately \$35,000 in energy incentives. They are also expecting another \$100,000 reimbursement for the solar panels installed on the Sheriff's office and this will total \$200,000 once it is received.
- The auxiliary parking lot is progressing; it will receive an asphalt surface.
- Environmental study is in progress for the old jail; the county is awaiting the results. The old structure has been vacated, but they cannot disconnect any utilities until the study is complete.

Elevator Project Update

- Andy Schafer requested that north annex elevator project be done before the courthouse elevator. The North Annex is similar to the courthouse elevator and completing it first would provide a reference for planning and estimating downtime at the courthouse.
- The estimated cost for the North Annex elevator is \$93,631; while the courthouse elevator is estimated at \$110,000.
- Treasurer O'Neal asked if the courthouse elevator could remain online during the property tax collection season. Mr. Schafer assured the Commissioners they would make every effort to schedule the most convenient time.

Mainstream Easement Payment

- Auditor Watkins asked the Commissioners to clarify where the easement payment should be received.
- The Commissioners recommended depositing the payment into the health department fund.
- Commissioner Montgomery moved to approve depositing the easement payment into the health fund, seconded by Commissioner Lewis. The motion passed 3-0.

Change Order for Auxiliary Jail Parking Lot

- Owner's Representative Ballard explained that approximately 30' of curbing will be replaced as part of the original bid on the east side of Prince Street.
- This will leave a portion of the curb in poor condition, running south on Prince Street from Brumfield to the former dentist's office property, now owned by county.
- Ballard requested a quote to replace additional section so the entire area would be completed. This change will add 119' of new curbing to the project, ensuring all curbing is new.
- The change order is in the amount of \$4887.50.
- Commissioner Lewis moved to approve the change order, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The motion passed 3-0.

County Road 965 Presented by Robert Leek with Gibson Generating Station (Duke Energy)

- Mr. Leek presented diagrams for the proposed road closures on CR 965, adjacent to the Gibson Generating Station property to facilitate hauling materials for an on-site construction project.
- The request is to close the county road for five weeks from 7:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
- They have an active road bond, and this closure is consistent with previous requests. Duke Energy will provide all signage and road maintenance.
- County Engineer Holden approved the requested closure.
- Commissioner Lewis moved to approve the temporary daily closure, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The motion passed 3-0.

Commissioners New Business

Baker Tilly Agreement on Francisco Solar Project

- Attorney Spindler served as spokesperson for this matter. He explained that Baker Tilly will provide financial analysis services for the Francisco Solar Project, similar to previous project evaluations. The agreement specifies a minimum fee of \$20,000 and a maximum of \$50,000. Attorney Spindler reviewed and approved of the agreement and anticipates that the solar developer will reimburse the county for these costs.
- Attorney Spindler called for a motion to approve the Baker Tilly Agreement. Commissioner Montgomery moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner Lewis. The motion passed 3-0.

Approval of Polling Location Changes in Owensville

- Clerk Sherri Smith and her staff presented this item. She explained that the Secretary of the State recently hosted statewide meetings to discuss voting centers. The Gibson County Election Board

has approved both changes presented to Commissioners. She recommends moving two polling locations - the Owensville Town Hall and Fire Station - to the Owensville Community Center. All equipment and workers will be relocated. The change should occur now to allow time to notify voters.

- Commissioner Lewis made the motion to approve the resolution consolidating polling locations in Owensville, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The motion passed 3-0.

Approval of Polling Location Changes in Fort Branch

- Clerk Smith also proposed moving the polling location from the Union Township Fire Station to the Fort Branch Community Center.
- Commissioner Lewis made the motion to approve the resolution to relocate the polling site in Fort Branch from the fire station to the Community Center, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The motion passed 3-0.
- Clerk Smith informed Commissioners that 67 of Indiana's 92 counties currently use voting centers. A Zoom meeting will be held next week; if legislation passes, Gibson County will be required to adopt voting centers. With no elections scheduled this year, the goal is to implement voting centers now and prepare for the 2026 Primary. She requested to be placed on the next agenda to discuss this matter further.

Highway Department – Advertise for Annual Bids

- County Engineer Holden requested permission to advertise for annual bids for sand, gravel, and drainage structures. In the past, these bids were solicited bi-annually. He also requested permission to advertise for the bi-annual fuel bid.
- Commissioner Lewis moved to approve advertising for these bids, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The motion passed 3-0.

Highway Department – Roll Over Asphalt Materials

- To maintain cost efficiency, County Engineer Holden requested permission to extend the current asphalt material pricing for one additional year through 2026.
- Commissioner Lewis moved to approve maintaining the current asphalt materials price, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The motion passed 3-0.

Highway Department – HWC Contract For Traffic Study And Design

- County Engineer Holden explained this item relates to the TMMI Grant approved at the previous meeting.
- TMMI requested a traffic study and related improvements which they will fund. HWC, having participated in prior Toyota projects and possessing a strong understanding of the traffic needs, was recommended for this work.
- Commissioner Lewis made the motion to approve the agreement, providing Attorney Spindler is in favor of approval, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The motion passed 3-0.

Highway Department – SJCA General Services Contract

- This agreement is nearing expiration. County Engineer Holden recommended extending this no-cost retainer contract. SJCA Representative, Michael Stephenson explained that the contract covers various service needs that may arise, for which SJCA would be tasked with specific projects.
- Commissioner Montgomery moved to extend the agreement, seconded by Commissioner Lewis. The motion passed 3-0.

Highway Department

- County Engineer Holden informed the Commissioners that he will host the IACES meeting on Thursday at Patoka Lake Winery; two other Gibson County highway workers will accompany

him. As Southwest District Director, Holden noted that this meeting brings together highway engineers and staff to discuss departmental matters.

- He also reported that the Community Crossings Grant was submitted on Friday, October 3rd.

EMS Building

- The new building is experiencing internet issues. Parrish submitted a \$45,801 proposal to hardwire the internet connection. Commissioner Lewis requested approval to approach the County Council for payment from the LIT (Local Income Tax) Public Safety Fund.
- Commissioner Montgomery moved to approve seeking payment from the LIT Public Safety Fund, seconded by Commissioner Burns. The motion passed 3-0.

Medical Leave

- President Burns called for a motion to approve medical leave.
- Commissioner Montgomery moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner Lewis. The motion passed 3-0.

Citizen Comments

- Gibson County Chamber of Commerce Director Patty Vanoven informed the Commissioners of upcoming events:
 - The Chamber will host a regional Women's Leadership Conference on October 24th. Registration is available on the Chamber's website.
 - The Chamber's Annual Awards Night is scheduled for November 20th.

Adjournment

- President Burns called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.
- Commissioner Montgomery moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Lewis. The motion carried 3-0.

Meeting Minutes October 07, 2025

Nick Burns, President

Chuck Lewis

Chuck Lewis, Commissioner

Mike Watkins

ATTEST: Mike Watkins, Auditor

Kenneth Montgomery
Kenneth Montgomery, Vice President



Commissioner's Meeting October 07, 2025