

Gibson County Board of Commissioners
Regular Session
November 04, 2025, at Southwest Annex

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

Commissioners present

- Kenneth Montgomery, Vice President
- Chuck Lewis, Commissioner
- Nick Burns, President (absent)

Meeting Minutes

- The minutes from the October 21, 2025 meeting were approved as presented.
- Commissioner Lewis made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The motion carried 2-0.

Approval of Claims

- Commissioner Lewis made a motion to approve presented claims, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The motion carried 2-0.

Acknowledgements

- Clerk's Monthly Reports
- Treasurer's Monthly Reports

Department Reports

EMS – Arica Cole

- Discussed money-saving initiatives.
- Commissioners expressed appreciation for their efforts.

Gibson County Soil & Water - Julie Loehr

- Applied for six grants; awarded five totaling \$231,000.
 - Lake & River Enhancement Grant - \$34,000 for soil health practices to improve water quality.
 - Clean Water Grant - \$28,000 for a no-till drill available for rent by local producers.
 - IDEM Section 319 Grant - \$119,000 for an EPA-approved water quality study on Coffee Bayou and Scott Ditch.
 - Regional Partnership Grant - \$50,000 for soil health on reclaimed mine lands.
 - Clean Water Indiana Grant (with nature conservancy) for a study from Knox to Posey County on Little Wabash, aiming to convert land into a national wildlife refuge.

Highway Department - County Engineer Holden

- Deck poured on Federal Bridge Project #74, near the Wheeling Covered Bridge.
 - Expected to open in December.
- Road grader positions are vacant and considered important to fill.
- INDOT aims to open both lanes of Highway 41 today.

Commissioners Old Business

Jail Project Update - Owners Representative George Ballard

- Auxiliary Jail Parking Lot
 - Striping completed yesterday.
 - 27 additional parking spaces were created.

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- Light pole installation pending.
- Lot opened for use today.

Asbestos Removal Agreement - 1948 Old Jail

Presented by Owner's Representative George Ballard

- A small section of asbestos was found in the 1948 jail.
- Removal cost is \$910.
- Ballard requested approval to sign the contract to proceed.

Commissioner Lewis motioned to approve the service agreement with Elite Environmental for asbestos removal, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The motion passed on a 2-0 vote.

Proposed Parcel Division – Request from Elite Companies, Inc. FKA SPM Development

- Scott Buedel, representing Cash Waggner & Associates, spoke on behalf of Elite Companies.
- Request to divide one parcel into three lots in Southern Hills Crossing.
- Lot sizes range from 1.07 to 1.76 acres.
- All testing is complete; each lot will have individualized septic systems.
- Ready to proceed with individual home construction.

Commissioner Lewis motioned to approve the parcel division, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The motion passed 2-0.

Commissioners New Business

Insurance Policies Renewal – Nathan Beloat

- Mr. Beloat and Andy reviewed all properties, vehicles, & policies.
- Successfully canceled all open workers' compensation claims, resulting in approximately \$20,000 in savings.
- The 11.2% increase amounting to \$77,982 includes the addition of the new jail, and the new EMS building.
- Commissioner Lewis inquired about educational safety programs as a way to reduce premiums; Mr. Beloat confirmed this would help.
- The animal shelter will be added to the policy upon completion which is estimated to be February 2026.
- The full insurance packet was presented to the Commissioners for review. They will follow up with any questions.

Memorandum of Understanding - Public Defender's Office

- The proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) provides reimbursement for the construction of the Public Defender building.

Commissioner Lewis motioned to approve the MOU, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The motion passed 2-0.

The Arc Southwest Indiana's Building Project – Stan Keepes, Executive Director

- The Arc serves over 200 people in Gibson County.
- Franklin school property was donated to the ARC in 2023 by the School Corporation.
- They are applying for a READY Grant, which requires local government support.
- The County Commissioners have allocated \$25,000 this year and next year through the Commissioner's budget.
- Mr. Keepes requests a letter from Commissioner's stating this allocation will support the building project.

Commissioner Lewis motioned to approve the County Attorney drafting a letter of support for this project, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The motion passed 2-0.

EMS New Ambulance Contract – Attorney Spindler & Arica Cole

- Attorney Spindler presented a purchase agreement for \$410,000 for a new ambulance.
- This price reflects Sourcewell’s cooperative purchasing program, eliminating the need for a formal bidding process.
- The cost includes ambulance wrapping with the EMS logo and installation of the living system.
- Commissioner Lewis motioned to approve the purchase agreement, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The motion passed 2-0.

LIT Money for Medic Four Ambulance

- A 2nd ambulance is needed and if done now, a discount can be secured.
- Commissioner Lewis motioned to approve approaching the Council for this funding, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The motion passed 2-0.

Commissioner December Meeting Rescheduled

- All Commissioners will be in training on December 2nd.
- The December meeting has been rescheduled to Monday, December 1st at 8:00 a.m.

Citizen Comments

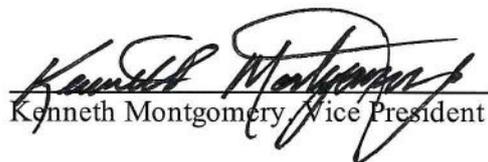
- Patty Vanoven, Director, Gibson County Chamber of Commerce
 - Community Cleanup Day will be held Saturday; suggestions for cleanup locations are welcome.
 - Volunteers will meet at Commissioner’s Office from 2:00–5:00 p.m. If it rains, the event will be canceled.
 - The annual awards night will be on November 20th. Tickets are \$35.
- Mark Fehrenbacher
 - Asked if the federal government shutdown is affecting the local level of government.
 - Commissioners noted no current impact. Federal aid bridge reimbursements may experience delays, but funding through INDOT is expected to remain intact.

Adjournment

Commissioner Lewis motioned to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The motion carried 2–0.

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Nick Burns, President


Kenneth Montgomery, Vice President



Chuck Lewis, Commissioner



ATTEST: Mike Watkins, Auditor



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