

**Gibson County Board of Commissioners**  
**Regular Session**  
**December 16, 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
- Absent: Nick Burns, President

**Meeting Minutes**

- December 01, 2025 minutes approved.
- Commissioner Lewis made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The motion carried 2-0.

**Approval of Claims**

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

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**Sheriff's Department – Sheriff Vanoven**

- Staffing Report
  - Deputies & Communications Departments are fully staffed.
  - Community Corrections has one opening.
  - Corrections positions: 16 of 21 filled.
- There was an average jail population of 118 inmates.
- Corrections hosted their third annual holiday in-person visits for incarcerated people.

**Health Department – Director Shade**

- 2025 has been a good year.
- New program for 2026 titled: New Year, New You; this will target chronic disease prevention.
- Follow their facebook page for updates.

**Soil and Water Conservation Department – Dennis Simpson**

- GCSWCD has been awarded with three grants, including one that will allow them to purchase a ten foot drill that can be shared throughout the County.

**EMS (Emergency Medical Services) Presented by AJ Aldridge and Arica Cole**

- EMS is fully staffed.

## **2026 Gibson County Redevelopment Spending Plan – Jim McDonald**

- This is for notice only.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Jail Project Update – Owner’s Representative George Ballard**

- Auxiliary Parking lot is complete with striping, lighting, and surveillance.
- Three I Engineering continues to work on a plan to remove the old jail.
- Radio system is being updated.
- George is collaborating with a firm out of Evansville about the inflation reduction act and how the County can file for the tax credit for the solar panels installed on the sheriff’s office.

#### **Fuel & Material Bids for Highway Department**

- Engineer Holden has reviewed the bi-annual fuel bids and recommends that Commissioners approve Wabash Valley Fuel’s low bid.
- Engineer Holden has reviewed the bids for stone & gravel and recommends that Commissioners approve both bid submissions of Rogers Group and Mulzer. This will allow purchases based on availability and price.
- Engineer Holden has reviewed the bids for drainage structures and recommends that Commissioners approve bids from both Civilcon and Wholesale Drainage. This will allow purchases based on availability and price.

Commissioner Lewis made a motion to approve the above bids as recommended by Engineer Holden, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The motion carried 2-0.

#### **Bridge #73 INDOT/LPA Construction Contract – Engineer Holden**

- Bridge is located west of Wheeling.
- We will only pay 20% of the invoice and INDOT will pick up the remainder of the invoice.

Commissioner Lewis motioned to approve the INDOT LPA contract for Bridge #73, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The vote was 2-0.

#### **INDOT/LPA Bridge Inspection Contract for 2026-2029 – Engineer Holden**

- This contract calls for a reimbursement to the county at 80% of the invoice cost.

Commissioner Lewis motioned to approve the INDOT LPA Bridge Inspection contract, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The vote was 2-0.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Advertise 2026 CCMG - Engineer Holden**

- Gibson County has been awarded a \$1,000,000 Community Crossing Grant, which will fund improvements on tulip Tree Drive. Out of \$237 million of applications, only \$100 million was awarded. The county plans to submit another high-scoring project next year to remain competitive.
  - The bids for 2026 are due on January 20<sup>th</sup> and Engineer Holden requests permission to advertise this project.

Commissioner Lewis motioned to approve advertisement of the 2026 CCMG, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The vote was 2-0.

### **Highway Department “CHARTS” Software Contract - Engineer Holden**

- Requests permission to approve software contract.
- The cost is \$8,000 for the first year and \$2,200 per year thereafter.

Commissioner Lewis motioned to approve the software contract, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The vote was 2-0.

### **Request to Purchase Tractor for Groundskeeping of County Property – Andy Schafer**

- Director Schafer requests approval to purchase a John Deere Utility Tractor with front loader, snow pusher, and belly mower.
- There will be no trade-in; the old tractor will be retained as a backup. The cost will be \$24,604.44.

Commissioner Lewis motioned to move forward with the purchase, second by Commissioner Montgomery. The motion passed on a 2-0 vote.

### **Medical Contracts for Sheriff Vanoven– Dr. Emerson (Jail Physician) & Gibson General Hospital**

Commissioner Lewis motioned to approve both contracts, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The vote was 2-0.

### **Approval of 2026 Holiday and Meeting Dates/Times**

- Commissioners set 2026 meeting times as first Tuesday of each month at 8a.m. and the third Tuesday of each month at 4:45p.m.

Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve the meeting schedule, seconded by Commissioner Lewis. The vote was 2-0.

- The holiday schedule was approved as listed in the current contract.

Commissioner Lewis motioned to approve the holiday schedule, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The vote was 2-0.

### **Francisco Solar Permit**

- Matthew Spaccapaniccia, RWE requested that Commissioners vote on the solar permit.
- Attorney Spindler recommended Gibson County Commissioners hereby approve the issuance of the SECS/SESC permit for the Francisco Solar Project (also known as Elliott Solar) subject to the express conditions and contingencies set forth below. The permit shall not authorize any land disturbance or construction activity of any kind, unless and until Gibson County has confirmed in writing that all ordinance requirements, conditions precedent, and contingencies of approval have been fully satisfied.

○ The conditions and contingencies of this permit issuance include the following:

- 1. Identification of Responsible Permit Holder**
- 2. Written confirmation identifying a single legally responsible permit holder, owner, and operator.**
- 3. Insurance Compliance**
- 4. Submission and County approval of ordinance-compliant insurance, including actual additional insured endorsements naming Gibson County and required cancellation and notice provisions.**
- 5. Decommissioning Security**
- 6. Approval of the decommissioning cost estimate and posting of the required bond, letter of credit, or other financial security in the form and amount approved by the County.**

7. **Drainage Authorization**
8. **Issuance of the required Drainage Permit by the Drainage Board and posting of any required drainage-related financial assurances.**
9. **Execution of Agreements**
10. **Final execution and County approval of the Road Use Agreement and Decommissioning Agreement.**
11. **Signage and No-Disturbance Certification**
12. **Installation of required signage and submission of written certification that no land disturbance has occurred which constitutes construction activity, and none will occur until the conditions of the permit are satisfied.**
13. **County Confirmation**
14. **Written confirmation by Gibson County that all ordinance requirements, conditions precedent, and contingencies of approval have been fully satisfied.**
  - Upon written confirmation by Gibson County that all conditions and contingencies have been satisfied, the applicant may proceed with construction in accordance with the ordinance and permit terms.

Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve the solar permit as recommended by Attorney Spindler, seconded by Commissioner Lewis. The vote was 2-0.

#### **Medical/Personal Leaves (0)**

#### **Public Comments**

- Ron Cromer from Southeast portion of county told Commissioners that people in his area are unhappy about the election polling place changes.
- He also feels the roads in the southeast portion of the county need work. The highway department has no one working the grader until January.

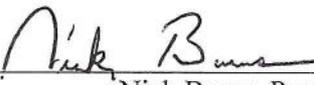
#### **Gibson County Chamber of Commerce, Patty Vanoven**

- Today, the Visitor's Bureau is hosting an open house to honor Director Heidenreich's retirement after 27 years of service.
- Alleycats will open full-time after the holidays; but they will host an open house on Friday.
- Evansville Thunderbolts will have Chamber Day on New Years Eve.
- Chamber Day at Statehouse is January 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Bob Schmits spoke in favor of the solar farm.
- Tony & Judy Scott and Patsy O'Neal, Somerville residents, expressed their opinion on the election polling location moving out of Somerville. They fear people will not vote.
- Larry Michel reiterated information about solar tax credits. He feels there should be a 40% rebate available for these projects, however, the Big Beautiful Bill will end the tax credits.

#### **Adjournment**

Commissioner Lewis motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The vote was 2-0.

Meeting Minutes December 16, 2025

  
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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

