

Gibson County Board of Commissioners
Regular Session
January 20, 2026, at Southwest Annex at 8:00 a.m.

Commissioner Montgomery led the prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners present:

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

Suspend Regular Meeting to Conduct Financial Meeting

Financial Meeting - Financial Secretary and Treasurer O'Neal presented this report to Commissioners. The financial meeting was closed.

Commissioners Call Regular Meeting Back to Order

Meeting Minutes

- January 6, 2026 Minutes

Commissioner Montgomery made a motion to approve minutes as written, seconded by Commissioner Lewis. The motion carried 3-0.

Approval of Claims

Commissioner Lewis made a motion to approve claims, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The motion carried 3-0.

Clerk / Treasurer Reports were acknowledged by Commissioners

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Health Department – Presented by Director Shade

- 2026 is “Get Healthy Gibson County”
 - Join their program; browse Facebook for upcoming events.

Sheriff's Department – Presented by Chief Deputy Ballard

- A 2025 overview report was presented.
- Road study of John Ford & Thompson Roads is complete; suggestions include:
 - Pre-warning “stop ahead” signage & a 4-way stop addition to area.
 - The highway will review the suggestions.

Old Jail Demolition Project Update – Owner's Representative George Ballard

- Three I Engineering continues to work on a plan to remove the old jail; they are close to having bid packets ready to go out for bid.

Gibson County Senior Center – Presented by Director Colbert

- Thanked the County for their support/contributions; a 2025 overview report was presented.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Kuester Engineering

- Request that the County vacates a public utility easement and setback in the Town of Owensville.
 - The homeowner owns the land in which the public utility easement is located.
 - Notice was published in Princeton Daily Clarion on 1/10/26. No responses have been received.
 - 811 was contacted and lines were marked in November, 2025.
 - Certified letters were sent to adjoining property owners on January 4, 2026 without any responses.
 - There was no one present at this meeting to discuss the easement.
 - Attorney Spindler has reviewed the request and recommends Commissioners approve the vacation.
- Commissioner Lewis motioned to approve vacation of the public utility easement and setback, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The motion passed on a 3-0 vote.

Highway Department Three I Contract presented by Commissioner Lewis

- Engineer Holden wishes to contract with Three I to add onto the west side of the building. They are converting the tire/oil storage into office space. The funds are available for this project.
- Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve the Three I Contract, seconded by Commissioner Burns. The motion passed on a 3-0 vote.

Interlocal Agreement with Oakland City Regarding the Jackson Street Sewer Project

- Attorney Spindler explained to Commissioners that the agreement will allow the County to use Oakland City's engineering team on the project. The County will take over the maintenance of the line for five years.

Commissioner Lewis motioned to approve the interlocal agreement with Oakland City on the Jackson Street Sewer Project, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery. The motion passed on a 3-0 vote.

Redevelopment Commissioner Resolution 2026-01

- The TMMI TIF district has expired (after 30 years).
- There is still a TIF district on CR 550 for VUTEQ. This district was set up to assist Fort Branch in moving the wastewater. The VUTEQ building's wastewater is sent to the Ft. Branch wastewater treatment plant.
- The Owensville Coal TIF district is also still in effect. It was set up to assist with road and bridge infrastructure improvements.
- The RDC passed a declaratory resolution at the last meeting stating they wish to publish an advertisement for a public hearing to discuss establishing a new TIF district.
- Baker Tilly is compiling the fiscal report; it must be complete 10 days prior to the public hearing date of February 9th.
- This fiscal report will be provided to all overlapping tax units of Patoka and Union Townships.
- Tonight, they would like the Commissioners to pass a resolution that sets up the footprint of the TIF district.
- Attorney McDonald explained that Commissioners are voting on the map only tonight. The footprint is unchanged.
- The TIF district is being set up for improvement of infrastructure.
 - One portion of the infrastructure is moving wastewater to the Princeton Wastewater Treatment Plant.
 - Another portion is county roads, traffic signals, storm water, and water lines.

Commissioner Lewis motioned to approve the footprint of the new TIF district, seconded by Commissioner Burns. The vote was 3-0.

The Redevelopment Commission will discuss this in the public hearing on February 9th at the Southwest Annex Meeting room at 6:00 p.m.

Baker Tilly Feasibility Study Presented by Attorney Spinler

- This item was tabled until it can be presented to the Building Commission.

Building Commission Additional Appointments

Commissioner Burns motioned to appoint Robert Schleiter and Jay Riley to this board, seconded by Commissioner Lewis. The vote was 3-0.

Medical Leave (1)

Commissioner Montgomery motioned to approve the medical leave, seconded by Commissioner Lewis. The motion passed on a 3-0 vote.

Public Comment

- Ron Cromer lives in southeast portion of county. He asked Commissioners if company trucks could be utilized to haul firewood to the worker's homes. Commissioner Lewis will inform the Highway Superintendent of this action so it can be investigated.
- He also wonders when their roads will be graded as it has been seven months since this last happened. Commissioner Lewis will inform County Highway of this issue. They are advertising to fill vacant positions, which might be contributing to this problem.

Gibson County Chamber of Commerce, Patty Vanoven

- Chamber Day at Statehouse is January 26th.
- On February 13th, the Chamber will host "A Night of Love" at the Princeton Theatre. A gourmet Italian dinner will be served.
- They are compiling their 2027-2028 directory; interested parties should contact the Chamber.
- Sam Weiss, citizen is concerned about the formation of a new TIF district.
- Roy Lynch feels that he and most other taxpayers of Gibson County would be against renewing this TIF district; he feels thirty-years is long enough. He feels if the money was going into the general fund like his property tax money, then the county could have paid for the jail without the creation of a new tax.
- Larry Michel, citizen of County, spoke about the Redevelopment Commission and his representation on this board as representing the taxpayers of Gibson County. He discussed the formation of the new TIF district, the complications, the footprint, etc.
- Paul Turner is on the County Farm Bureau Board. He discussed the difference of solar fields from our county versus other counties. He wanted Commissioners to know state laws were changing. Commissioners thanked him and explained that ordinances could be changed.

Adjournment

Commissioner Montgomery motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Lewis. The vote was 3-0.

Meeting Minutes January 20, 2026



Nick Burns, President



Chuck Lewis, Vice President



Kenneth Montgomery, Commissioner



ATTEST: Mike Watkins, Auditor

