

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR SESSION**  
**Monday September 21, 2020**

The Grant County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday September 21, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. in the Grant County Complex Council Chambers at 401 South Adams Street, Marion, Indiana.

In attendance were Commissioner Mark Bardsley, Commissioner Ron Mowery, Commissioner Mike Burton, Auditor Jim McWhirt, and Justin Saathoff County Administrator/HR. This meeting is also being conducted via WebEx.

This Grant County Commissioners meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by Commissioner Bardsley.

The prayer was said by Commissioner Bardsley. It was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Mowery.

**CLAIMS**

Single - 9/10/2020 - Star Card Member Services (Grant County Circuit Court) \$180.00

Claims - 9/14/2020 - general- \$119,393.60, other-\$63,106.23, highway-\$38,625.57 = \$221,125.40.

Commissioner Burton made a motion to ratify preapprovals from 9/14/2020 and single claim from 9/10/2020 as presented. Seconded with support by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.

Claims - 9/21/2020 - general-\$249,924.40, other-\$65,865.06, highway-\$3,879.10 = \$319,668.56.

Commissioner Mowery made a motion to approve the claims for 9/21/2020 as presented. Seconded with support by Commissioner Burton; motion carried

**PAYROLL**

Formal approval of #19 - Preapproval was given on 9/15/2020 and paid out on 9/18/2020 in the amount of \$509,667.63. Commissioner Burton made a motion to ratify the preapproval for payroll #19.

Seconded with support by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.

**MINUTES**

Approval for regular sessions of January 6, 2020, January 21, 2020, February 3, 2020 and February 18, 2020. Commissioner Mowery made a motion to approve January and February minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried.

**COMMUNICATIONS & BOARD UPDATES (ELECTED OFFICIALS, BOARDS, and SPECIAL COMMITTEES)**

Jim McWhirt, Auditor – The State Board of Accounts have completed the 2019 audit. The county received an invitation for the exit conference on September 24, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

**IT**

Marcus Elliott, IT

- a. The lease deadline for the county's Lexmark printers and equipment is approaching. In 2015, the county leased eighty eight printers. The printers now need returned. The cost for this is \$2,174.54. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve the request to return the equipment. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.

- b. Apple Business Manager Agreement – The voting locations are moving to the voting center locations and will be using iPads, which have the poll books on them. To be able to access, these must have an Apple business manager account. This is a web based portal and can be used to manage the devices. The commissioners need to sign off on the agreement so that the account can be set up and add the devices for the poll books into the system. Commissioner Bardsley stated Marcus Elliott was asked to be the main contact for this. Commissioner Mowery made a motion to approve the request. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried.

### **HIGHWAY REPORT**

Tony Smith

- a. Ordinance 11-2020 – The stop sign for Tyler and Barclay requires signatures from the Commissioners so that the signs can be put up. The ordinance will also need to be advertised in the newspaper. Commissioner Burton made a motion to adopt Ordinance 11-2020 amending the Grant County Code Traffic Schedules for Installation of Stop Signs on Public Roads in Grant County, Indiana. Seconded with support by Commissioner Bardsley; motion carried.
- b. The price for the cleaning of the fuel tanks will be done twice a year for the cost of \$5,616.65.
- c. The deck was poured on the Sixth street Bridge in Jonesboro. Brook's are to be in by end of the week for paving. Once paving is complete, the bridge will be reopened.
- d. There is another round of community crossing grants. The window to apply is from September 25, 2020 thru October 23, 2020. The Intention is to be able to get Washington Street bridge deck replaced. The grant is up to one million dollars and Mr. Smith requested to spend half of that amount on Washington Street Bridge. The rest would be spent on paving projects in 2021. The highway dept. will present a letter of support to be signed in a few weeks.
- e. The projected date to reopen the 700 East bridge is the middle of November.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- 1) Area Plan Commission Appointment - Larry Strange, Area Plan - Commissioner Bardsley stated that the Commissioners have a candidate that was recommended by the drainage board and surveyor but they have not received the final commitment. Commissioner Bardsley will appoint and ratify at the next October meeting. Approved by consent by all commissioners.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- 1) Certification of Proposed Zoning Ordinance Map Amendment - Larry Strange, Area Plan – This item will be tabled until October 5, 2020.
- 2) Bid Opening for EMS Garage Addition - Terry Burnworth & Todd Durnil, Pyramid - 6 bids for the EMS garage addition were received.
  - A) Barkley Builders Inc., Ossian, IN - \$264,000.00
  - B) Hamilton Hunter Builders Inc., Ft Wayne, IN - \$299,122.00
  - C) JG Bowers Inc., Marion, IN - \$263,000.00
  - D) Hearn Construction Inc., Kokomo, IN - \$359,686.43
  - E) KPS Commercial Construction, Arcadia, IN - \$353,000.00
  - F) Monroe Construction Group LLC, Kokomo, IN - 277,500.00All bids were opened by Pyramid Consulting and are being taken under advisement and scope review. Pyramid will return at the end of the meeting with a recommendation.

- 3) Proposal to Amend Coronavirus Employee Policy - Dr. Moore, Health - Initially it was two weeks and two negative results to be able to return to work. The CDC recommendations are now ten days of isolation and no testing required to return to work. Dr. Moore recommended that the County adopt these new guidelines and amend the current policy. Commissioner Mowery made a motion to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried.
- 4) Central Dispatch Update, Michael Clayton
  - a. Employees signed up to begin EMD classes next week. Half of the employees are doing the physical classroom portion and the other half have elected to do the training online. This helps with shift coverage. Priority Dispatch will be sending the latest recommendations from the law office as far as the agreement is concerned. Once received, it will be presented for signatures.
  - b. Holiday pay for the employees have been squared away for the most part.
  - c. The council will need to sign off on the salary ordinance next month.
  - d. Mr. Clayton is still working on benefit time as it applies to the dispatchers that migrated over from different entities.
- 5) Proposal of Fee Collection, 911 Tape Production - Michael Clayton, Central Dispatch – Mr. Clayton proposed to charge fees for copies and research. “We want to charge for audio and reports that are requested from our office. We do receive requests from defense attorneys, law offices, and insurance companies. There is cost and time involved for the reports that are requested. Indiana code states that an employee’s time cannot be charged because they are being paid already, but we can charge for resources used and spent.” The proposal also states the money will go back in to the 911 fund and not to general fund or salaries. Commissioner Bardsley stated that when dealing with fees, it needs taken before the council to establish the fees. This proposal also needs to be reviewed by the County Attorney for recommendation of this proposal. The commissioners can set the policy and then the council sets the fees and how they are collected. The next step would be to send to Kyle Persinger for review, recommendations, or changes and then bring it back to Commissioners.
- 6) Proposal to Extend COVID-19 (Telehealth and Overall) - Michelle Bunker, IMG – IMG has been helping to advise, help, and monitor the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. “I am here today to inform you of some options of the next plan of action to take. This is for the self-funded plan and how COVID-19 claims and all other claims that are related to the pandemic are being covered. The decision today is if we continue to cover telemedicine cost share at a zero dollar co-pay for the members on your group thru the end of the year or not. Anthem would like a decision by the end of September.” A decision was previously made on May 26<sup>th</sup> to cover all telemedicine cost share regardless if it was COVID-19 related or not through September 13<sup>th</sup>. If the decision is made not to do this as of September 14<sup>th</sup> through the end of the year, members will be assessed their appropriate co-pay. The recommendation at this time is to cover the telehealth cost share until the end of the year. The projected cost is another five to six thousand dollars. One hundred and four members have used the telehealth this year versus ninety seven employees last year. With this recommendation, the co-pays will return to normal on 1/1/2021. Commissioner Burton made a motion to extend COVID-19 telehealth coverage. Seconded with support by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.

- 7) Ratification of Vehicle Purchase - Mark Fleming, Weights and Measures – The vehicle is a 2021 white ram 2500 truck in the amount of \$29,500.00 at Mike Anderson of Marion, Indiana. This is to replace the 21 year old truck currently being used. The new truck will be funded from the CCD fund/vehicle fund. Commissioner Mowery questioned Auditor McWhirt to make sure this purchase can be funded. Auditor McWhirt that the stated that he is not looking to not write the check until 2021. The expected arrival date is mid December 2020. This will ultimately depend on production and travel time. Administrator Saathoff stated that he wanted to use the 2020 budget. Auditor McWhirt stated that, if possible, he would like to keep the books clean. “If the truck comes in 2020, let’s get the check processed if possible but it can be done in 2021.” Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve the Mike Anderson bid, a second with support by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.
- 8) Proposal of 2021 Payroll Schedule - Jim McWhirt, Auditor – Auditor McWhirt requested approval for the 2021 payroll schedule. This will observe Christmas and New Years on the Friday before the holidays. Commissioner Mowery made a motion to approve the payroll schedule for 2021. Seconded with support by Commissioner Burton; motion carried.
- 9) Recommendations for Appointments to County Personnel Policies Handbook Committee - Justin Saathoff, Administrator – Mr. Saathoff requested to put assemble a committee to update the county policy handbook. All policies will be passed through the county attorney before the Commissioners give their approval. Commissioner Bardsley asked for a projected end date. Administrator Saathoff said that he hoped to have a new handbook by 2022. There are eighty-eight pages to break down and redo. The appointment recommendations are as follows:
  - a. Nancy Bender, HR
  - b. Justin Saathoff, Administrator/HR
  - c. Rhonda Wylie, Assessor
  - d. Pam Harris, Clerk of the Courts
  - e. Tiffany Griffith, Treasurer
  - f. Kim Parker, Prosecutor’s IV-D Office Manager
  - g. Angie Jarvis, Chief Deputy Auditor
  - h. Mark Bardsley, President of the Board of Commissioners (will just be there as an advisor)Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve the recommendations that were suggested. Seconded with support by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.
- 10) Proposal to Continue Schneider (formerly knows as Elevate) Services Agreement - Mark Bardsley, Commissioner – The County Attorney has reviewed the agreement. The county must provide a thirty (30) day notice in order to terminate agreement. It is recommended to continue with this service. Commissioner Burton made a motion to continue using Schneider. Seconded with support by Commissioner Burton; motion carried.
- 11) Ratification of Payment for Virtual AIC Conference - Mark Bardsley, Commissioner – The cost per county is \$500.00. The was preapproved to be paid last week out of the travel and conference fund. Commissioner Burton made a motion to ratify the payment for the AIC Conference. Seconded with support by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried. Auditor McWhirt suggested to pay a portion out of the elected officials training fund once the statement comes due.
- 12) Recommendation for EMS Garage Addition - Terry Burnworth & Todd Durnil, Pyramid - Commissioner Bardsley stated for the record that “as part of the cares act money, we were able

to request a preapproval on the building, which would allow two bays, an area for the coroner's morgue refrigeration unit, storage (for PPE and records), and Medic-1. This allows us a zero balance payout from the general fund rather than receive a reimbursement so that there is no cost factor and that allows us to demolish the old Walnut Creek building. With the cares act money, we can take this step at no cost to the county and clean up the mess that we have been trying to work on for quite some time." Mr. Burnworth made a recommendation for the EMS addition to go with JGBowers. They had the lowest bid of \$263,000.00. With approval, the building can start and should be completed by December. Commissioner Burton made a motion to accept the JGBowers bid for \$263,000.00 for the EMS garage addition. Seconded with support by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.

- 13) Communication Services Agreement (CSA) for Phase 2 (Atlas System) - Terry Burnworth & Todd Durnil, Pyramid - Approval was given a couple of months ago to begin negotiations with Motorola Solutions. They had to meet three requirements. They only met one. The technology board looked at scores again and saw that the J & K Communications, which is the Atlas system, was actually a better score. This was approved by the technology and 911 boards. Mr. Burnworth requested approval from the Commissioners to enter into negotiations with them. "We will not return until next month with the CSA. The CSA will only be approved pending funding. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve the negotiations with J & K. Seconded with support by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.
- 14) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for SE and SW Tower Sites, Phase-2 - Terry Burnworth & Todd Durnil, Pyramid -Communication systems have to be IP based first. There are two sites. The SE tower site is at the Ballinger's golf course and was approved last week by the BZA. Approval was given to run fiber to the new site. There are three towers and the backbone is a microwave system. The County Attorney has already reviewed these MOU's. Even after approval, there is still 4 to 6 months of permitting processes. Commissioner Mowery asked if this was the only place they can put the tower to be considerate to the residents in that area. Mr. Burnworth stated that this happens to be a high elevation and that the broadband provider could get the fiber to the site. With a true IP based system, it will be a backhaul system. Pyramid looked at other locations but all locations/properties have to meet all of the requirements and that would be part of a compromise. Commissioner Mowery recognized the need for the towers and their function to central dispatch but stated that he cannot be in favor of the placement of the tower site with the reason being that he believes there are other locations for the tower that will give everyone what they want. Mr. Burnworth stated that they can relook at the SE tower site and search for a different location. Upland is the ideal location for the tower. The SW tower location at the old Liberty School site still needs approval from the BZA. As of now, there has been no objection for the SW site. Commissioner Mowery made a motion to table the SE tower for now and to revisit it at the October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting and approve the SW tower pending the BZA. Seconded with support by Commissioner Burton; motion carried.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Paul Richards of 4141 S 700 E Marion IN. 46953 – Mr. Richards stated for the record that he is in favor of the tower. His house is directly south of the proposed tower site. He received a letter from Area Plan on July 24, 2020. The letter stated that they had spoken to the residents in the area of the tower. "Well that is a lie. No one contacted me by any means. If 3 million dollars are being spent on the tower, then you should be able to spend one hundred thousand more to make it taller and place it somewhere else."

Mike Dobbs, the Fire Chief in Gaston, who is a friend of the speaker was not happy when he learned about the tower because of the bleed through from Grant County which cancels out their emergency management claimed Mr. Richards. Commissioner Bardsley said that if Mr. Dobbs is having a problem with his emergency management, he needs to contact his director. Mr. Richards stated that "this is in no way the view that I want to see daily." Commissioner Bardsley suggested that if Mr. Richards would like to put together any other questions, the Commissioners will do their best to answer them. He did ensure Mr. Richards that they are going see if the tower can be placed somewhere else.

The meeting was brought to recess by Commissioner Bardsley at 11:55 a.m. The next Commissioners' meeting will be held on Monday, October 5, 2020, at 10:00 a.m.