

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR SESSION**  
**MONDAY MARCH 22, 2021**

The Grant County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, March 22, 2021 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, County Administrator/HR Director Justin Saathoff, and Chief Deputy Auditor Angie Jarvis. Commissioner Bardsley called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. and also led the prayer. Commissioner Burton led the pledge of allegiance.

**CLAIMS**

**Preapprovals for 3/2/2021** - 1. BMV \$15.00, 2. AT&T \$87.72, and 3. AT&T \$116.55.

**Preapprovals for 3/8/2021** – general - \$277,051.83, other - \$79,498.72, highway - \$9,284.15 = \$365,834.70.

**Preapprovals for 3/15/2021** – general - \$225,990.79, other - \$22,378.82, highway - \$44,562.06 = \$292,931.67.

Commissioner Burton made a motion to ratify all preapproved claims. Seconded with support by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried

**3/22/2021** – general - \$152,721.99, other - \$48,263.23, highway - \$11,854.87, = \$212,840.09.

Commissioner Mowery made a motion to approve the claims as presented. Seconded with support by Commissioner Burton; motion carried.

**PAYROLL**

Payroll #5 was preapproved on 3/2/2021 and paid out on 3/5/2021 in the amount of \$559,143.40.

Payroll #6 was preapproved on 3/16/2021 and paid out on 3/19/2021 in the amount of \$525,033.84.

Commissioner Mowery made a motion to ratify payroll #5 and #6 as presented. Seconded with support by Commissioner Burton; motion carried.

**Minutes**

The following minutes were presented: 9/3/2020, 9/21/2020, 10/5/2020, 10/19/2020, 11/2/2020 and 11/16/2020. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve and adopt as presented. Seconded with support by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.

**Receipt of Monthly Report-Clerk of the Circuit Court Month Ending 2/28/2021-**

Commissioner Burton made a motion to receive the Clerk's report ending 2/28/2021. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.

**Communications & Board Updates (Elected Officials, Boards, special Committees),**

Bob Jackson, EMA Director – The EOC meetings have been moved to bi-weekly meetings. Schools are on spring break this week. There are currently weekly calls with the health department and MGH concerning the vaccines. They are going to start this week visiting some homes to give vaccines. The vaccines have been opened to teachers and 40 years old and up.

## IT

None

## HIGHWAY

David White, Superintendent

- A. The advertisement for the paving portion of the Community Crossing Grant for 600 E and the Washington Bridge has been published and bids will be opened at the April 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- B. Mr. White recommended the usage of Butler, Fairman and Seufert for the inspection of the Washington Street Bridge. The inspection will be at a cost of \$25,000.00. Mr. White would like to put them on retainer. The Commissioners, by unanimous consent, agreed to proceed with Butler, Fairman, and Seufert on retainer.
- C. The Recycle Building is over 20 years old. The back half is in need of some repairs. The tarp is in need of replacement. It was originally purchased from a company named Clear Span. Mr. White requested for Clear Span to come out and check the structure and tarp to evaluate what is needed moving forward. The cost of the inspection is \$5,040.00 and it will take 2 days. The cost can be reduced from the material cost if that company is chosen to do the repair work. The Commissioners said to proceed without objection.
- D. The low spot in the back parking east of the detention center lot will have to wait until the summer to get some asphalt material in there. An employee had fallen there.
- E. The road saw the highway department currently operates is 10 years old and cuts 24 inches deep. Mr. White requested to purchase one that will cut 30 inches deep. The proposed saw is located at Macallister's in Westfield, Indiana for \$21,299.38. Commissioner Mowery made a motion to approve the purchase. Seconded with support by Commissioner Burton: motion carried.
- F. The state is going to replace a small structure just east of the Upland hardware store. Mr. White requested a detour of 800 East to 400 South and over State Road 5. The Commissioners signed off on the request.
- G. The snowplows are cleaned, painted, and put away. The salt and sand supplies are back to full capacity again. Bridge cleanup is nearly completed. Liberty and Fairmount Townships still need to be cleaned.
- H. Mr. White requested to move the Highway department back to working 4 days a week around May 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Commissioners agreed by common consent.
- I. Mr. White met with Ryan Malott, the Executive Director of Area Plan, about 2 weeks ago to discuss tearing down some buildings in Jonesboro. Mr. Malott had a concern about the two and half story building in Jonesboro. The tear down of that building was started this morning and the hope is to have at least half of it down by this afternoon. The long reach excavator that is used in the river was used for this building. Mr. Malott is aware that Area Plan will be billed if the excavator is used beyond 2 days. The county normally has the excavator 6 days a year.
- J. Bridge #254 (Pennsylvania Street) was last bid on May 10<sup>th</sup> as a federal aid job. The estimated cost was 1.6 to 1.7 million. The low bid was 2.6 million. Any federal aid job over 15% must be rebid by federal law. It could not have been rebid for April because the deadline had already past. The bid for May was last Friday. Mr. White received a phone call Friday morning from the state. The state is willing to fund the rest of the project as long as the county paid the 20% for construction cost. The cost of the inspection is \$209,500.00, but Grant County will receive 80% of that back. The normal procedure is to have the Commissioner sign off saying "Yes, we will do that." When it goes to bidding, we will proceed a bit differently. At that time Mr. White will have to have the Commissioner President's electronic signature. The reason the cost came in so much

higher is that the cost of steel has almost tripled from what they were six months ago. 20% is \$540,000.00 if it comes in at 2.7 million. There were two bids they were both 2.6 million. The other bid was an \$80,000.00 difference, so that is why Mr. White estimated it at 2.7 million. If it is bid in May, it will not be awarded until June. This makes completion questionable for this season. Commissioner Burton made a motion to move forward and allow the Commissioner President to use an electronic signature to sign off on this project. Seconded with support by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Cell Phone Allowance Request - Brad Hodson, Veteran Service Office  
Mr. Hodson requested a level 1 phone stipend for Stacy Carter, Veteran Service Office Administrative Assistant. This will allow her to take calls, schedule appointments, and make scheduling changes while out of the office. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve the level 1 phone stipend for Stacy Carter. Seconded with support by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.
2. Cell Phone Allowance Request - Vince Beneke, Maintenance
  - A. Mr. Beneke requested a level 1 phone stipend for Andrew Rumble and Shane Townsel. Both men work in maintenance. They will begin their on call rotation in June. Commissioner Mowery made the motion to approve the level 1 phone stipend for both employees. Seconded with support by Commissioner Burton; motion carried.
  - B. Mr. Beneke also stated that a lift will be rented for the courthouse windows as soon as the weather allows.
3. Introduction of Area Plan Executive Director - Ron Mowery, Commissioner  
Ryan Malott is the new Executive Director for the Area Plan department. There were three applicants and Mr. Malott was the candidate that was chosen by the board.
4. Ordinance to Amend Section 153 - Brenda Harrison, Area Plan  
Ms. Harrison proposed to rezone 2655 S 600 W. Marion from residential-2/agriculture to general business. This proposed amendment came with a favorable recommendation from the BZA. Commissioner Mowery moved to adopt general ordinance 3-2021. Seconded with support by Commissioner Burton; motion carried.
5. Application for Special Exception - Brenda Harrison, Area Plan  
The petitioner is the Madison Grant School Corporation. The petitioner seeks special exception to allow them to lease out the use of an existing building (the old administration building) to be used as a primary care medical office. Commissioner Mowery made a motion to give a favorable recommendation. Seconded with support by Commissioner Burton; motion carried.
6. Application for Development Standard Variance - Ryan Malott, Area Plan  
Jack Hodstedler of 6119 E. 400 N Van Buren, Indiana 46991 is the owner and petitioner. This owner has passed all requirements by the Area Plan Commission to have 2 homes on one property. The second residence is for his son and family. Mr. Hodstedler has cooperated and done everything that has been asked of him. The sanitization meets requirements and the

apartment is structurally sound. He continues to work on the home, as it is not completely finished. Commissioner Mowery made a motion for a favorable recommendation. Seconded with support by Commissioner Burton; motion carried.

7. Review of Memorial Day Flag Request - Mark Bardsley, Commissioner  
The American Legion is asking for a donation of \$1,800.00 to help purchase flags for 2021 to put on veteran's graves. This is budgeted annually. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve the request for the donation. Seconded with support by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.
8. Proposal to Amend Ordinance # 12-2019- Bob Jackson, EMA  
This is an ordinance amending the Grant County Public Safety Operations Center Policy Board. Due to some changes made to accommodate the city of Marion's request, the EMS director was inadvertently dropped off of the board. It is requested to amend the ordinance so that the EMS director is a voting member. This is the recommendation of the policy board. Commissioner Burton made a motion to adopt and approve General Ordinance 4-2021. Seconded with support by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.
9. Review of Parcel Data Request - Justin Saathoff, County Administrator/HR  
A request was received from Jacob Woods, a GIS Analyst from Jacobs Engineering Group in Ohio, to approve Schneider to release parcel data. This group is working alongside AEP on transmission line replacements through the county. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve the request. Seconded with support by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.
10. Building Restriction Update - Mark Bardsley, Commissioner  
Grant County has been in the blue for the last few weeks in regard to COVID status. The Governor has ordered the state of emergency until March 31<sup>st</sup>. "If we continue to stay in the blue we could potentially open the building up on April 5<sup>th</sup>. At this time, I am still questioning that due to the fact that there is a 10-14 day germination/incubation period and this is spring break for the schools. I am questioning whether to extend the closure a bit longer for assurance that we are protecting the public if we should have another spike. We do have the right to extend even if the governor lifts the restrictions. We cannot do less than what the state requires, although we can say we are going to extend our lockdown longer." The lockdown will continue through Monday April 19<sup>th</sup>. The Commissioners will again approach the topic on that date. All three Commissioners consented to that discussion and decision.
11. Review of Payment Request - Todd Durnil, Pyramid  
Closing out the dispatch project, two of the contracts required change orders. These items had to be completed in order to move forward.
  - A. 1. Change orders, 1.TP02D-04 Demolition has an increase of \$16,023.00 (Hamilton Hunter). 2. TP02D-05 Demolition has an increase of \$6,622.00 (Hamilton Hunter) 3. TP02D-06 has a deduction in the amount of \$8,237.05 (Hamilton Hunter). That will take care of all the demolition contracts. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve trade packages TP02D 04, 05, and 06 (Hamilton Hunter). Seconded with support by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.
  - B. Review payment Fire and Sprinkler- 1. TP21-01 this is at a zero sum (Hamilton Hunter). 2. TP21-02 is \$4,591.70 (Hamilton Hunter). This was to change out some parts on the exterior of the building. When this package was bid out, there was an alternate that read to make adjustments to the sprinkler system to meet the new design. A full replacement on pipes and sprinkler heads

were done. Commissioner Mowery made a motion to pay TP21-01 and 02 (Hamilton Hunter). Seconded with support by Commissioner Burton; motion carried.

- C. Payment request for Payment packet #4 MGH radio & recorder consoles system from J&K Communication, Inc. in the sum of \$15,950.00. This is a retainage fee. Once approved, this will be sent to MGH for payment. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve payment package #4 in the amount of \$15,950.00. Seconded with support by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.
- D. Payment request for Payment Package #6 is for remodeling projects (payee for all Hamilton Hunter) consisting of TP02D-4 \$15,221.85, TP02D-5 \$6,290.90, TP02D-6 retainer \$1,424.22, and TP21-3A (which is seen above) for \$4,591.71. The grand total equals 27,528.67. This will be the final bill. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve payment package #6 in the amount of \$27,528.67. Seconded with support by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.
- E. Payment request #3 EMS garage (JGBowers) application #4 in the amount of \$60,173.77, and application #5 in the amount of \$31,912.40 (which has already be paid). This will take care of the EMS garage to date. The retainage of \$13,000.00 is still being held. The two concerns the building inspector had have been satisfied. One was the electrical outlets in the garage area. He wanted a GFI and they were Standard plugs. Chris Collins from Rex Collins Electric found a cheap solution. He set up GFI breakers. This fix was one-third of the cost it could have been. The other concern was water lines running out into the garage area and gas has not been hooked up at this time. Insulation or a shut off valve is needed. A punch list to JG Bowers has been submitted. There are a few items that need completed before the retainage is paid out. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve payment request package #3, application #4, in the amount of \$60,173.77. Seconded with support by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.
- F. Tower Project Update- The impact of steel prices has raised some concerns. MPX has gone back to ask them to honor the prices that were bid. Hopefully they will honor the contract price. Commissioner Bardsley stated that this is one thing that does not concern him due to the 12.6 - 12.7 million that is getting ready to come to the county that can be used for broadband system and construction projects. Mr. Durnil stated that they may look into changing foundations which could save some cost for the county.

12. Governor's Press Conference - Mark Bardsley, Commissioner

Commissioner Bardsley stated at the end of the meeting that the county would wait for the Governor's discussion about the state of emergency on whether it will continue into the month of April. If he chooses to extend into the month of April, that will allow the county to continue to do public meetings via WebEx. If the restrictions are lifted, the county will be back to business as normal. WebEx will continue to be a presence in all meetings moving forward for recording purposes and public access.

PUBLIC

None

This regular session was brought to recess by Commissioner Bardsley at 11:20 a.m. The next scheduled meeting will be held on Monday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.