

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
MONDAY MARCH 1, 2021

The Grant County Board of Commissioners' met in regular session on Monday, March 1, 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, Auditor James McWhirt, and County Administrator/HR Justin Saathoff. Commissioner Bardsley called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. He then led the prayer. Commissioner Burton led the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Bardsley announced that we continue to be under a state of health emergency per the governor of Indiana that will carry through March 31, 2021.

CLAIMS

2/22/2021 preapprovals: general - \$221,043.24, other - \$91,388.37, highway - \$67,205.99 = \$379,637.60. Commissioner Burton made a motion to ratify the claims presented for 2/22/2021. Seconded with support by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.

3/1/2021: general - \$272,948.65, other - \$74,311.01, highway - \$40,428.13 = \$387,489.79. Commissioner Mowery made a motion to approve the claims as presented. Seconded with support by Commissioner Burton; motion carried.

PAYROLL

Preapproval for payroll #4 was given on 2/17/21 in the amount of \$521,384.72. Commissioner Burton made a motion to ratify payroll #4. Seconded with support by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.

Minutes

None

Commissioner Bardsley asked that the next meeting, which would have been March 15, 2021, be moved to March 22, 2021 due to scheduling conflict. All Commissioners agreed by common consent to move the next Commissioners' meeting to March 22, 2021 at 10 a.m.

Receipt of Monthly Report-Clerk of the Circuit Court Month Ending 1/31/2021- The month report was accepted by common consent.

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

Bob Jackson, EMA Director – Grant County has progressed well through the COVID pandemic. The Emergency Operations Center is considering moving into a recovery response phase. The EOC meetings will go from every Monday to every other Monday. These meetings have been very beneficial. It provides a communication avenue with the schools, businesses, hospitals, long term facilities, and all first responders that attend the meetings. The goal is to stay in touch and provide support where it is wanted and needed. The EMA department is looking forward to picking up projects that have fallen behind due to the pandemic. Grant County is currently in the yellow and the numbers are going down. Moving into the month of April, the county is hoping to move back to full public access. Commissioner Bardsley stated that the county buildings will continue the use of masks to enter. Some of the smaller counties have already proceeded to opening back up to the public and have rebounded well. We will continue to monitor the situation especially in regard to citizens returning home from spring break.

IT

None

HIGHWAY - David White, Superintendent

- A. Bridge #254, which is the federal aid job, is to be bid out on March 10th. When bids are opened, they are all done through INDOT. At that point, the county has a window of 48 hours to say whether or not to proceed depending on low bid. This will be close to a \$2 million job. The county is required to pay 20% of the construction costs. That would be around \$400,000.00 that the county would commit to for that project. Commissioner Mowery suggested to communicate that with Commissioner Bardsley when the time comes. It will be reviewed by the state to assure that the bid is within the cost scope before it will be accepted.

- B. Mr. White provided an update on the Community Crossing grant. The projects included the Washington Street Bridge and some paving on 600 East. All paperwork was submitted to INDOT. They do a review and had a small issue which was taken care of after resubmission. It has all cleared and everything is fine and had went through this time.
- C. Mr. White requested to schedule April 5th for oil and asphalt bids for 2021. He would also like to bid out the Community Crossing grant for the Washington Street bridge and the paving project. This gives ample time to advertise. All bids will be opened at the Commissioners' meeting.
- D. Mr. White was given the report for the bridge inspection so that will be reviewed and submitted to INDOT for further review.
- E. Mr. White received an unofficial detour from the state. They are going to repair a bridge on State Road 9 just south of the Marion airport this summer. Mr. White recommended they use Old Kokomo road heading east on Meridian Street and then south to State Road 35. This does require a signature and date from the Commissioners for acceptance. The repair should begin April 1st and the closure could be up to 60 days.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Payment Request - Mike Clayton, 911 Director
The following requests were presented by Mr. Clayton from J&K Communications, Inc.: invoice #105122 in the amount of \$695.00, invoice #105123 in the amount of \$110.00, and invoice #105956 in the amount of \$2,043.75. These can be paid from fund 1222. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve the payment requests as presented. Seconded with support by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.
2. Proposal to Amend Grant County Code Sections 153 - Brenda Harrison, Area Plan
This proposal would be rezoning residential 1 to agriculture and was given a favorable recommendation by the Area Plan Commission at the last meeting on February 1, 2021. The address is approximately 0857 E 500 S, Marion, Indiana, and west of Meridian Street. Commissioner Mowery made a motion to adopt and approve general ordinance 3-2021 as presented. Seconded with support by Commissioner Burton; motion carried.
3. Applications for Development Standard Various - Brenda Harrison, Area Plan
The petitioners are James and Janet Claxon of 1421 Sylvan Ct., Marion, Indiana 46953. They are requesting to place a portable shed/garage within 8' of the north property line to match the angle of the driveway and house. This will be presented to the BZA tonight. There are no complaints at this point. Commissioner Burton made a motion for a favorable recommendation. Seconded with support by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.
4. Applications for Development Standard Various - Brenda Harrison, Area Plan
David Riggs of 4829 East 100 South, Marion, Indiana 46953 is the petitioner. An approval for a business sign for a blade sharpening business was requested. The sign will be created by using an actual 48 inch diameter saw blade with an upright support of 5 feet 10 inches tall and a support arm that the blade will be suspended from which is 5 feet 7 inches long. This does exceed the limit of 3 feet by 5 feet, which is the maximum size allowed with a Type 2 customary home occupation. Commissioner Mowery made a motion for a favorable recommendation. Seconded with support by Commissioner Burton; motion carried.
5. Elevator Repair Proposal - Vince Beneke, Maintenance
There is an elevator down in the lobby of the juvenile center. The technician came in and found that the control boards are bad. The elevator is 20 plus years old and the parts are obsolete. To replace one control panel, the cost will be \$10,290.60. If the panel is expedited, it would save two weeks but cost \$12,852.56. Non-expedited for two control panels is \$18,669.93. To expedite two panels, it would be \$23,876.95. Mr. Beneke recommended to not go with the expedited versions of either plan. Commissioner Burton made a motion to do both control panels not expedited. Seconded with support by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.
6. Ratification of Resolution to Support Local Control of Land Use Decisions - Mark Bardsley, Commissioner
The House passed legislation bill 1381 in order to take away local jurisdiction and control from the solar power and windmill operations. There is a major push now to go after the Senate to stop the bill. This resolution supports control at the local grass roots level. The

Commissioners do not believe that the state knows the need and concerns of the counties. It is the county's best interest to maintain power over itself.

Commissioner Burton made a motion to ratify resolution 1-2021. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.

7. Reschedule Next Commissioner Meeting - Mark Bardsley, Commissioner
This was addressed earlier in the meeting. The next meeting will be on March 22, 2021 at 10 a.m.
8. Proposal to Extend COVID Treatment Cost Share - Justin Saathoff, County Administrator/HR
As an employer, Grant County has been covering the out of pocket expenses for COVID treatments. "The question is do we want to extend this expense. The county's insurance broker recommended to end the coverage." Commissioner Bardsley stated that everyone now has an opportunity to receive the vaccine free of charge. "We have taken care of our employees up to this point and it is their choice as to take the vaccine or not." The Commissioners will conclude the COVID cost share program and not extend the coverage. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve. Seconded with support by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.
9. Family First Coronavirus Response Act - Justin Saathoff, County Administrator/HR
The extension of this policy ended on February 28th of 2021. The question is to end or extend the policy. "From the HR stance, we are not seeing much movement. We currently have one or two employees that are out due childcare and school shutdowns. Auditor McWhirt asked what the impact would be if the Commissioners chose not to extend this policy. Administrator Saathoff explained that employees would have to use their own accrued time, which is what is already happening with some if they have used their originally allotted time off from the Act. The Commissioners agreed by consent to not to extend this policy.
10. Pay Request Review - Terry Burnworth, Pyramid
 - A. Payment application #2 and #5 are for radio and the EMS garage addition. Pyramid will present #4 at the March 22nd meeting. Application #2 of J&K Communications is billing for their bond and application #5 of JG Bowers is for EMS. Commissioner Burton made a motion to pay application #2 and #5. Seconded by Commissioner Bardsley; motion carried. Application #2 for J&K Communications will be paid through the bank and not through the Commissioners.
 - B. Hamilton Hunters - They still have 4 open contracts. Pyramid is requesting approval of payment for payment for 3 of them (1.) Rough carpentry - \$1,765.50. (2.) Insulation - \$3,556.00. (3.) Sprinklers - \$5,722.75. Number 4 is still under review at this time and will be presented on March 22nd. They did ask for a change order request which was rejected due to not being fully compliant. Mr. Burnworth stated that "they subcontracted out almost every bit of the demo and when there is additional work to be done by some contractors, per your contract, they have to surface the bid and bills of the subcontractors. They just keep making up their own bills. I have explained they cannot do that. They subcontracted it out, so I need the subcontractor's bills." Pyramid will provide signed invoices for the other three bills so that they can be paid. "I will have all final bills at the March 22nd meeting. We are working on closing this out."
11. MOU for radio System Site Usage - Terry Burnworth, Pyramid
The MOU site usage for the southwest location was amended. This is the one that EI WIFI owns. The one thing missing in the MOU was the usage of their fiber. The Ballinger's already signed off on that. Pyramid requested approval of the amended MOU. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve. Seconded with support by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.
12. FCC and SHPO Memorandum of Agreement - Terry Burnworth, Pyramid
The FCC permitting is a bit slow. The sites are all over 200 feet and that takes a 4 to 6 month process, but we are down to the last 30-60 days. The FAA has already approved all locations. The FCC 106 process is halfway completed. There is a 20 to 30 day review left to do with the Indian tribes. There were 25 tribes that did respond. There are half a dozen that still needed the archeological reports that Ball State completed. There is no objection to the reports at this time, so hopefully in the next 60 days the 106 process should be done. There is one SHPO issue after adequate mitigation. The county will donate \$500 to the Grant County Historical Society for the Liberty site. There is a Greek Revival farmhouse within a half mile of that site. Mr. Burnworth did say that he believes that the ASR antenna structure registration should be issued in April and at that time he

can break ground. The other FCC issue that is being worked through is a 601 process. The county will own 600-700 megahertz channels within the next 90 days. It is now setting at the FCC and has been fully submitted. The county has already been preapproved for the 6 channels and equipment is already being built. The county will not receive call letters until April or May. Commissioner Bardsley stated that we needed to approve the MOU between the Federal Communications Commission, the Indiana State Historic Preservation Office, and Grant County. The Board also needs to approve the \$500 donation to SHPO. Commissioner Mowery made a motion to approve this request. Seconded with support by Commissioner Burton; motion carried.

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, March 22, 2021 at 10:00 am.

COMMISSIONERS:

ATTEST:

MICHAEL H. BURTON

JIM MCWHIRT
AUDITOR

MARK BARDSLEY

RON MOWERY