

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
TUESDAY JULY 6th, 2021

The Grant County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, June 21st, 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 Justin Saathoff, and Auditor Jim McWhirt. Commissioner Bardsley called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Commissioner Bardsley led the prayer and Commissioner Mowery led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Claims

Single preapproval - **6/22/2021** CenterPoint Energy \$ 67.71

Single preapproval - **6/23/2021** Bright House Networks \$2,685.59

Preapproved Claim Docket **6/28/2021** - general \$161,389.58, other \$356,045.41, and highway \$82,703.66 = \$600,138.65.

Commissioner Burton made a motion to ratify all preapprovals as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.

Claim Docket **7/6/2021** - general \$184,758.17, other \$172,193.19, and highway \$200,794.25 = \$557,745.61.

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

Payroll

Payroll #13 was preapproved on 6/22/2021 and paid out on 6/25/2021 in the gross amount of \$520,803.08. Commissioner Mowery made a motion to ratify payroll #13. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried.

Minutes

The minutes from 4/19/2021 and 5/3/2021 were presented for approval. Commissioner Mowery made a motion to approve the minutes dated 4/19/2021 and 5/3/2021. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried.

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

None

IT – Marcus Elliott

1. The warranty and maintenance coverage with Schneider Electric has lapsed on the Galaxy VS 20kW Smart-UPS on March 3, 2021. This is used if there should be a power outage. This unit will keep Central Dispatch functioning right before it goes to the generator. Mr. Elliott requested to seek pricing on a maintenance warranty coverage for the next couple of years. This will ensure that if an issue should arise, the unit will be covered. As soon as quotes are received, Mr. Elliott will present them to the board. Mr. Elliott would prefer to have at least a 3 to 5 year coverage. Commissioner Mowery made a motion to grant the Commissioner President authority to approve the new warranty and maintenance coverage. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried. Once the pricing has been received, it will be determined what fund this should be paid from.

2. Last week one of the battery backups in the Annex building died. At this time, there are refurbished batteries being shipped here as a temporary fix. That system is over 10 years old. As a long term fix, Mr. Elliott requested to consolidate to one new system. This would be the Vertiv GXT5 model. The cost would be \$8,454.00. This does not include labor of installation. This new unit will help save on maintenance costs. Currently there is a smaller battery in the basement for the internet and the phone circuit, which has worked out well so far. This would just be a bigger system for the servers. This would be paid from the equipment fund and the installation would have to be done on the weekend. Commissioner Burton made a motion to move forward on the Vertiv in the amount of \$8,454.00. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.

HIGHWAY - David White, Highway Superintendent

1. Mr. White received a letter from the state requesting the county to verify the existence of the covered bridge in Matthews. It requires signatures from the Board of Commissioners and the Auditor. The county will receive \$1,850.00 for having a historical bridge.
2. In regard to the Washington Street Bridge (#728), Mr. White spoke with the designer and BFS (Butler, Fairman, & Seufert) about the mix design. The new product has only been used in Indiana at five different locations at this time. The counties that have used it, stated that they liked it and it seems to be performing well. A 2 year extended warranty was offered. Mr. White requested that the county try the new product. Construction is to start the first week of August. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve the contract for bridge #728. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; Motion carried.
3. 2 bids have been received for the paving project for 900 East from Wheeling Pike to 1200 South. (1) Brooks Construction of Ft. Wayne gave a bid of \$80,429.00. (2) E&B Paving, also of Ft. Wayne, gave a bid of \$97,971.60. Mr. White will take the bids under review. Since this is a Community Crossing project, the state will need to be notified. The bid will be awarded at the next Commissioners' meeting on July 19th, 2021.
4. Clearing of the log jam on Branson Street will begin tomorrow.
5. Mr. White requested to apply for a Community Crossing grant for the bridge on 1000 East (#39) and bridge #789, which is by Keith Sullivan Excavating. The application window opens today, 7/6/2021, and closes on July 31st, 2021.
6. Chip sealing has been completed in Washington and Van Buren townships. Monroe township is currently being worked on and Jefferson township will be next.
7. Another structure will be removed for Area Plan next Monday.
8. The tower project out on 800 East has been started. The Highway Department is currently clearing the brush.

Old Business

1. Proposal for Central Dispatch Building - Terry Burnworth and Todd Durnil, Pyramid
This will be revisited in the next Commissioners' meeting on 7/19/2021.
2. Van Buren Public Library Board Appointment - Mark Bardsley, Commissioner
This will be revisited in the next Commissioners' meeting on 7/19/2021. The board has no recommendations at this time.

New Business

1. Purchase Requests, Vehicles and Recording Device - Rodney Faulk, Prosecutor
- a. Justin Faw and John Kauffman, investigators from the Prosecutor's office, spoke on behalf of Prosecutor Faulk. Mr. Faw stated that currently if a felony interview needs to be conducted, they must go to the Marion Police Department because they have the recording equipment that

is necessary. Corman Security installed the video equipment for the MPD. They were contacted for a quote. The Prosecutor's office currently has a vacant room. A video camera and a directional microphone was requested. The cost for this is \$2,435.29 including installation. This would be paid from the 4921 fund (forfeit seizure). This would be a standalone system. Commissioner Mowery made a motion to approve the request. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried.

- b. Mr. Kauffman requested permission to go to the council for additional appreciations to purchase three new cars for the investigators. The investigators deliver subpoenas across the state, tracks down witnesses for trials, and travels different places to collect needed documents. The fleet currently consists of (2) 2007 and (1) 2008 vehicles. All 3 cars have 140,000 miles or more. All vehicles have a lot of issues and putting more money into to them would be wasteful. Commissioner Bardsley agreed that the investigators need new cars, especially considering the travel that is done on a consistent basis. Commissioner Mowery stated he was surprised this request has not been made sooner due to the cars being old and unsafe and believed that it was time to update the cars for the safety of the investigators. Commissioner Burton agreed. Commissioner Bardsley stated the county could help with one of the cars and the council would have to appropriate out of the general fund for the other 2. Kauffman stated the they have quotes for (3) 2022 equinox at Barry Bunker. The total cost is around \$66,000.00. This is with the law enforcement discount. Commissioner Mowery stated that the council should know the unsafe conditions of the cars and that it puts the county at a disadvantage from a liability standpoint. Commissioner Mowery made the recommendation to approve that the Commissioners pay for one vehicle out of CCD and request the county council be approached for appropriations. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried.
2. Application for Development Standard Variance, Carmichael - Ryan Malott, Area Plan
The petitioner, Stacey Carmichael of 7662 S 500 E, Jonesboro, Indiana, requested for a one foot variance from the property line to build an accessory building. This property is adjacent to farmland. Commissioner Mowery made a motion for a favorable recommendation. Seconded by Commissioners Burton; motion carried.
3. Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative - Mark Bardsley, Commissioner
Resolution 4-2021 the commissioners have been asked to sign, as you look at the whereas this is being funded with 50 million dollars for each region that is doing economic development, Marion, Gas City, Jonesboro have already entered into a resolution this type, this is just saying we want to be a part of the region. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve resolution 4-2021. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried.
4. Presentation of Change Order - Terry Burnworth and Todd Durnil, Pyramid
Pyramid was not present at the meeting. Bob Jackson, EMA Director, spoke as to give an update on the EMS building. "We did have a punch list but to my knowledge, all of those items have been addressed. New gutters have been put up, the plumbing issue was addressed, and some cabinetry was relocated. Todd from Pyramid also had a list that was going to be finished up." Commissioner Mowery made a recommendation to not approve the change order until the item list has been corrected. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried. There will also be a hold on payment request packet #5 with MPX and Pyramid.

PUBLIC

1. Layla Price and Kayla Johnson (via WebEx) from the city of Marion are having a Christmas in July event on July 23rd, 2021. They are requested the use of the parking spaces around the courthouse, the use of electricity, and to place Christmas decor on the courthouse lawn. This is being promoted by Discover Marion Downtown. These monthly events focus on shopping, retail,

and culture in downtown Marion. The event will be July 23rd, 2021 from 5-9 p.m. They will have a cruise in as well. More information can be found on Facebook (Discover Marion Downtown). There is a link for those that would like to register for the car show. This event will also be advertised in the newspaper and on the radio. The focus is to welcome different populations from the community to come spend time downtown and get to know about the new and longtime businesses downtown. Washington Street will be closed from 1st to 6th Street. If there is an overflow of cars, the common lot on 5th street would be used. Ms. Johnson stated there will be different activities occurring including a jingle bell hop for the Linda Harmon Foundation. A ticket is \$10.00. Another activity is the recreation of the 1950's Christmas photos. At 2 different times (5:30 pm on the southwest side and again at and again at 8 pm on the north east side of the square) people will be asked to gather around and a drone will take some photos. Commissioner Mowery made a motion to approve and accommodate the request presented. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried.

2. Commissioner Bardsley spoke on behalf of Butch Embry from the Grant County Soil and Water District. Last year a request was made for a certain amount for the 2021 budget for the GCSWD that was laid aside because of questions the council had. At the last council meeting, Mr. Embry spoke with Shane Middlesworth, president of the county council. President Middlesworth stated that they would entertain a recommendation from the Commissioners on an emergency appropriation for the GCSWD. Their office will have to be shut down if they do not receive support in a fairly quick fashion. After discussion with President Middlesworth and in talking with Mr. Embry, it would be the recommendation that the Commissioners ask for a \$10,000.00 appropriation for GCSWD in an emergency request at the next county council meeting. This was cut at one time because of things not working well with the Drainage Board and GCSWD, both needing the secretary's attention. They have gone separate ways but have become two strong organizations. They still work off of the donations of the county and any fund raisers they can to make money, and the pandemic has been a burden on all. Commissioner Burton made a motion to send the request for emergency soil water district. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.

This regular session was brought to recess by Commissioner Bardsley at 11:15 a.m. The next scheduled meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 6th, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.