

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR SESSION**  
**MONDAY AUGUST 2, 2021**

The Grant County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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 10:05 a.m. and led the prayer. Commissioner Mowery led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Claims**

**Preapprovals 7/26/2021** - general \$233,458.08, other \$23,590.96, and highway \$125,190.32 = \$292,837.29. Commissioner Burton made a motion to ratify the preapprovals. Seconded with by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.

**Claims Docket 8/2/2021** - general \$47,589.36, other \$55,106.77, highway \$11,977.77 = \$114,673.90. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve the claims as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.

**Payroll**

Formal Approval of Payroll #15, Preapproval Given on 7/20/21, paid out on 7/23/2021 in the amount of \$521,346.90. Commissioner Burton made a motion to ratify payroll #15, a second with second by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.

**Minutes**

None

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

None

**IT – Marcus Elliott**

None

**Highway - David White, Superintendent**

1. The 2021 chip and seal project has been completed. 76 ½ miles was done. With stone and oil, the cost spent \$466,000.00.
2. As for an update on the tower project, the 800 East hole was dug last week. The contractor came out and finished the rebar and concrete. The backfill will begin this week.
3. Working alongside Area Plan, a barn on State Road 15 has been removed.
4. Mr. White requested to sell and trade off some old equipment. He stated that he would like to do a trade with Gas City and sell equipment to Upland. He would like to sell or auction off the remaining 4 pieces of equipment and trucks. Mr. White requested to use the money from the sales to purchase a new chassis. Mr. White was contacted by a dealership the county works with about the availability and potential purchase of a chassis this year. When he checked with another dealership he was informed it could be November or December of 2022 before he could purchase a chassis from that dealership. Mr. White has a truck from his fleet that has been in the garage for at least a month because they are waiting on parts to come in. He did speak to another dealership and they confirmed that it could be the end of 2022 until a chassis comes in. Commissioner Bardsley commented, "I kind of wondered how long we could go without facing

this type of dilemma.” The Commissioners gave common consent for Mr. White to work with the county attorney, Kyle Persinger, to ensure that correct processes are followed to trade in vehicles and to purchase the new chassis. Mr. White stated that he will do an online auction and use GovDeals.com. Commissioner Mowery excused himself at 10:20 a.m. due to a prior obligation.

5. The Highway department will begin recycling roads. There are about half a dozen to start with.
6. Mr. White reported that he has submitted applications for the next round of Community Crossing state-matched fundings for Bridge #39 on 1000 East. He also submitted for a railroad crossing grant. This is not a matching grant. If the county does receive the grant, it will receive the full amount of \$48,100.00. This would be used so that a contractor could repaint all railroad crossings with a special grade paint.
7. The Washington Street Bridge is shut down as of this morning. The Pennsylvania Bridge is to start between Labor Day and October 1<sup>st</sup>.
8. Brooks will start paving 600 East this Thursday.

#### **Old Business**

1. Van Buren Library Board Appointment - Mark Bardsley, Commissioner  
Duaine Ashcraft has volunteered to serve on the Van Buren Library Board. The Board of Commissioners appointed Duaine Ashcraft to the Van Buren Library Board by common consent.

#### **New Business**

1. Health Department Grant Proposals (3)- Dr. Moore, Health Department  
This item was tabled until the 8/16/2021 Commissioners’ meeting.
2. Soldier Burial Account Request - Brad Hodson, Veterans Service Office  
Families of the deceased veteran currently receive \$100 for the burial and \$100 for headstone placement or a marker at the gravesite. The state statute says the burial benefit can be between \$100 and \$1,000. Mr. Hodson stated that “burials, like everything else go up in price over time.” The county currently appropriates \$18,000 annually to pay out these benefits. In 2019, \$10,300 was paid out and in 2020 \$13,500 was paid out. Commissioner Bardsley commented that the county has had the same amount for as long as he could remember and that he was open to considering an increase for that benefit. The Board asked Mr. Hodson to consult with other Veterans Service offices around the state to see what rate is being utilized for these benefits. Mr. Hodson committed to checking with the offices, funeral homes, and cemeteries. All agreed to revisit this on August 16<sup>th</sup> at the next Commissioners’ meeting.
3. Payment Request Packet #6 - Terry Burnworth and Todd Durnil, Pyramid  
Pyramid was not in attendance. This item will be tabled until the 8/16/2021 Commissioners’ meeting.

#### **PUBLIC**

None

This regular session was brought to recess by Commissioner Bardsley at 10:32 a.m. The next scheduled meeting will be held on Monday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.