

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR SESSION**  
**MONDAY AUGUST 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

The Grant County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, August 16<sup>th</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 Auditor Jim McWhirt. Commissioner Bardsley called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Commissioner Burton led the prayer and Commissioner Mowery led the Pledge of Allegiance

**Claims**

**8/9/2021** preapprovals - general \$68,419.06, other \$51,976.59, and highway \$77,623.97 = \$198,019.62. Commissioner Burton made a motion to ratify the preapprovals. Seconded with by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.

**8/16/2021** - general \$475,371.17, other \$25,220.55, and highway \$23,601.88 = \$524,193.60. Commissioner Mowery made a motion to approve the claims as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried.

**Payroll**

Formal Approval of Payroll #16, Preapproval given on 8/3/21 and paid out on 8/6/2021 in the amount of \$510,591.14. Commissioner Mowery made a motion to ratify payroll #16. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried.

**Minutes**

The minutes of Executive Session and Certification dated Friday, July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021 were presented. Commissioner Burton made a motion to ratify as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.

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

1. Jim McWhirt, Auditor – Auditor McWhirt gave a reminder of the upcoming budget meetings for the next two Wednesdays and Thursdays. Commissioner Bardsley added that arguments on the PSAP tax will likely be heard in one of these upcoming public meetings.
2. Bob Jackson, EMA – The county's positive COVID cases are holding steady. There were 47 positive cases reported over the weekend. The EOC returned to 2 week briefings effective as of this morning. Commissioner Bardsley added that most schools did report in this a.m. and that at this time Marion schools are requiring masks. The other Grant county schools are recommending but not requiring masks. If the county moves back into red status, the Commissioners will discuss mandating masks while doing business in the county buildings. Mr. Jackson stated that as of the morning there were 8 or 9 southern counties in the red at this time. Grant County is considered a highly contagious and low vaccination area. Mr. Jackson stated that the schools are probably the safest place for the kids to be at this point. He will continue to communicate with the schools weekly.

**IT – Marcus Elliott**

1. Mr. Elliott provided a follow up with regard to an annual payment on the battery back-up, Schneider Electric did say yes to the annual payments for the amount specified. The annual payment will be \$4,412.00 each year for 5 years. There was discussion as to what fund this would be paid from. Mr. Elliott and the Auditor will discuss as to which fund to use.

2. The IV-D office is currently in the processing of switching to an electronic based system. With this system, everything will be digital. In preparation, the department has been scanning documents so that it can be loaded into the new system. Mr. Elliott requested to purchase a small copier and permission to add that machine onto the maintenance agreement, which would be an extra \$60.00 monthly cost. IV-D has agreed to pay for the machine. Commissioner Burton made a motion to allow IV-D to purchase the new copier and allow it to be added to the county's maintenance agreement. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.

#### **HIGHWAY - David White, Superintendent**

1. There are 2 landowners that the county needs to buy some right of way off of to build a new bridge out on 1000 E. The first is Charles and Mary Howell. The appraised price is \$2,575.00. The second landowner is Lisa Corey. The appraised price is \$2,650.00. Mr. White requested approval to purchase. It would be paid out of the highway fund. Commissioner Mowery made a motion to pay the appraisals as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried.
2. In regard to the tower project, concrete was poured last week at the one off of State Road 18. The third location will be dug next week.
3. Mr. White requested to use Tawa Mulch Company to do the compost for the tree and lawn clippings. The quote received was \$6,785.00. The Commissioners gave common consent to proceed.
4. Mr. White gave a recommendation for an unofficial detour from I-69 on SR 26 to SR 9 in Fairmount Township. The bridge on SR 26 is being removed next year resulting in two detours. The first proposed detour is from 700 E to Wheeling Pike to 600 E. The second detour is from 975 S to 525 E to 450 E. Commissioner Mowery made a motion to accept the recommendation for the unofficial detour and enter into an agreement with IDOT. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried.
5. Paving is currently being done on 600 E north of SR 18 just north of the county line. The goal is to have it completed next week.
6. Washington street bridge repair work continues. It is still 2½ to 3 months to completion.
7. Mr. White question if the county should have something signed by the landowner stating we are going to do the work in Crane Pond. Commissioner Bardsley stated the permission could be tied to the MOU.
8. Mr. White emailed Kyle Persinger, county attorney, last week on the dump truck purchase but has not received a response.

#### **Old Business**

1. Solider Burial Account Request - Brad Hodson, Veterans' Service Office  
Mr. Hodson obtained additional information from other counties as requested. The findings were that a majority are still at \$100.00. There were 4 that pay out \$500.00, the highest amount allowed. The recommendation from Mr. Hodson was \$500.00 for the veteran and \$100.00 when the spouse passes away. The recommendation for the headstone and marker claim was \$150.00. Commissioner Bardsley stated that more research should be done before any action is taken. An ordinance is needed if changes are made.

#### **New Business**

1. Ratification of Preparedness Grant Preapproval - Mark Bardsley, Commissioner  
A preapproval was given for the grant so that an employee could be paid out promptly. The grant is for \$25,000.00 and ran out in June 2021 so the employee was not paid in July 2021.

Commissioner Mowery made a motion to ratify the preapproval for the public health emergency preparedness grant. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried.

2. Grant Proposals - Dr. Moore, Health Department

a. The grant for epidemiology and laboratory capacity for infection diseases is for \$100,000.00. This is essentially to run a COVID-19 testing site. Dr. Moore stated that, "We are looking to use the space next to the nursing unit. It would be a drive up. If we are unable to have the site here, we would need to have monies appropriated from the county to add additional staff." Commissioner Bardsley stated that the State Board of Accounts use that room, so they would have to be relocated. Many testing sites often run out of tests causing citizens to be sent elsewhere. The outlook is that this will more than likely continue to happen as this next wave hits the county. Assessor Rhonda Wylie offered her office space to them if it is needed. Commissioner Mowery made a motion to approve the request. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried.

b. The grant for immunization and vaccines for children is in the amount of \$137,797.20. There is a description on how it is to be used and distributed. The breakdown of the grant is as follows: personnel \$85,434.26, travel \$4,133.91, supplies \$23,425.52, equipment \$4,133.91, and contractual operations and responsibilities \$13,779.72. The county council approved this pending approval by the Commissioners. The Health Department could provide education to the public should it be requested. The Health Department will not be going door to door. This grant helps with hiring additional help at an hourly rate of \$16 to \$22. This is a part time position. Commissioner Mowery made a motion to approve the request. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried.

3. Bid Opening, Nexus Group - Rhonda Wylie, Assessor

Only one bid was received. This was from Nexus Group with an amount of \$334,000.00. The scope of work includes a study of all property classes, field review of all parcels (new industrial and construction), unlimited legal support, and continued education. This is a four year contract. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve and except the bid from Nexus in the amount of \$334,000.00 pending approval of the county attorney. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.

4. Elevator Testing Request - Vince Beneke, Maintenance

A work order from TKE elevators for the 5 year loan safety test is in the amount of \$8,000.00. The state does require that this be done. Mr. Beneke requested approval from the Commissioners to proceed forward. This will be paid out of the preventive maintenance fund. Commissioner Mowery made a motion to approve the request. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried.

5. Presentation of Ordinance to Renumber Precincts - Pam Harris, Clerk

Commissioner Bardsley spoke on Ms. Harris's behalf. This is a process that is going on from the state. Ms. Harris has developed a product for the state election board renaming the districts that have a zero in their titles. For example, Fairmount 01 and Fairmount 02 would be renamed Fairmount 1 and Fairmount 2. It is more editing than anything else. Ms. Harris requested that the Commissioners order the renaming of those districts. Commissioner Bardsley requested to adopt Ordinance 9-2021. Commissioner Burton made a motion to adopt Ordinance 9-2021. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.

6. Renewal of Eastbrook School Agreement - Chief Tim Holtzleiter, Sheriff's Department

This is for the school resource officer. The county has been in this contract 4 or 5 years now. The school corporation pays all benefits. The salary is for the officer for 180 days, 6 hours a day. All included, it is \$34.41 per hour totaling \$37,162.08. Commissioner Mowery made a motion to

approve the renewal of the contract with Eastbrook. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried.

7. Stanley Security Agreement Proposal - Captain Todd Fleece, Sheriff's Department  
In regard to the camera security system, the Stanley representative failed to inform the county that the service agreement warranty expired in July of 2020. Information was sent out to the county informing that a service plan needs to be selected if coverage is wanted. The service plan will cover any repairs, after hour call outs, and software updates. The Sheriff's department has already had to call Stanley in for electronic repair, which was a cost of approximately \$24,000.00. In addition to that repair, a hard drive malfunctioned six weeks ago and nothing was being recorded. Stanley was able to rebuild the hard drive rather than replacing it. An invoice for this has not been delivered yet. Captain Fleece requested for the Commissioners to pick a service plan so that no more costs would incur outside of the coverage. He recommended the premium service plan at a cost of \$4,480.00 per month for a term of 36 months. Commissioner Bardsley asked if it was possible to look at a lower plan just to get through this year so that something could be built into the 2022 budget. More internal discussion is needed before a decision is made. The issue was tabled and will be revisited in the next Commissioners' meeting.
8. Receipt of Employee Resignation - Mark Bardsley, Commissioner  
Commissioner Bardsley reported in the public session that the Commissioners received an employee resignation. Michael Clayton has tendered his resignation. His last working day was 8/13/2021 and he is no longer an employee of the county. This resulted from a review of a sub-committee and recommendations coming from the policy board. Everyone was in agreement and Mr. Clayton has signed off on all paperwork. The recommendation of the policy board was to hire Kevin Hicks and to appoint him the interim Director of Grant County Central Dispatch. Mr. Hicks spoke stating that this has been a dream of his for quite some time and he is excited to take this and move it forward building on the successes over the past year. The goal is to get fully staffed quickly. Commissioner Mowery made a motion to formally appoint Mr. Hicks as interim director of Grant county central dispatch. The recommendation was that he serve throughout the rest of 2021. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried. Commissioner Bardsley noted that during the search process, Mr. Hicks was in the mix and at the top of the pick list.
9. Payment Request Packet #6- Terry Burnworth and Todd Durnil, Pyramid  
neither one are present this will be tabled until next commissioner meeting on 9/7/2021. Need more clarification.

## **PUBLIC**

1. Willy Clariett of 978 S 372 E, Marion, Indiana 46953  
Mr. Clariett reported a drainage issue on his property. Water that comes from the east comes directly through his yard and turns north down to Lugar Creek. Mr. Clariett has already paid a local contractor to come out and take care of the issue, which seems to have made it worse. The water now runs from north to south flooding his yard even more. The contractor refuses to come back out to correct the problem and Mr. Clariett hoped that the county can give a solution. Grant County Surveyor, Jim Todd, presented some photographs to the board and stated that this has been an issue for some time and agreed that last fall's work from the contractor, at a price of \$2,400, worsened the issue. There is and has been a vacancy just north of Clariett's property for years. Surveyor Todd stated that the tile was installed right against the property line and trees. Due to the nearby pond, the property was unable to be leached. Roots and debris most likely are clogging the tile. Commissioner Bardsley commented that there would have to be permission given to take down trees in order to put any kind of line in.

Commissioner Mowery made a suggestion to involve David White from the Highway department. Mr. White should be able to dig and clear the tile. The landowner of the pond would need to be notified. Commissioner Bardsley recommended that the Highway department and the Surveyor work together to resolve the issue.

2. Bob Dunn, owner of Dunn Farm Inc.

Surveyor Todd presented photographs to the board of erosion on the Dunn farm. Mr. Dunn claimed that this was a result of some work done by the Highway department on River Road. Several other farms have been affected as well. Mr. Dunn has spent approximately \$20,000 of his own money trying to correct the issue with no avail. Mr. Dunn believed the problem to be the creek drainage from Shady Hills, tree root growth, and the shallowing of the ditches. Surveyor Todd commented that traditionally the water used to cross down by Glendale drive and the side ditch use to be on the west side two lots down. "This happens all over the county. Someone decides they no longer want the maintenance, so they put a tile in and that restricts it. A few years ago, the drainage tile got put straight across against Mr. Dunn wishes. It caused damage. The erosion on his side is 28 to 30 inches deep and 6 ½ to 7 foot wide. This has created a ditch that goes out into his field. Now it is an expensive fix because if you try to keep the water on the west side it would have to be a really large tile. There are 18 acres that come down there to a 32ft fall. A little bit from the golf course and a lot of driveways and pavements. When it gets flooded, the water runs onto the road and also runs on the west side where it has historically gone. Then there is a driveway pipe that sits deep. That was the depth of the side ditch. It backs up and runs over the road." Surveyor Todd recommended that the Highway department needs to work or rectifying the situation, including installing a tile and some ditch work. Surveyor Todd has spoken with Mr. White once on the phone with concerns that something needs to be done to correct this issue. Surveyor Todd stated that you cannot do a drainage project on a mutual drain and in turn dump it on someone else. Additional money and work need to be done to contain and cut off the damage. The excess water could go around and go to the same stream. Commissioner Bardsley added that if work was done on both the east and west sides, that should help with the water problems. It will cost the county some money, but it sounds like the situation needs resolved by the county. The Highway department could use some of the dirt to fill in the ruts or bring in some soil from Irving brothers. This should come at the Highway department's expense. Commissioner Mowery added that the bottom line is the county should correct the problem. Commissioner Bardsley suggested to continue the dialog and continue the plan to work with, not only the landowner, but those who would be involved on all sides. Mr. Dunn added that this sounds good to him and thanked the Surveyor and the Commissioners.

This regular session was brought to recess by Commissioner Bardsley at 12:24 p.m. The next scheduled meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 7, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.