

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR SESSION**  
**TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 7, 2021**

The Grant County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, September 7, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. in the Grant County Complex Council Chambers located at 401 South Adams Street, Marion, Indiana.

In attendance were Commissioner Mark Bardsley (via WebEx), 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 Mowery led the prayer and Commissioner Burton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Claims**

Single preapprovals:

1. 8/17/2021- AT&T \$413.57
2. 8/20/2021- Hilton Indianapolis Hotels (Assessor) \$565.00
3. 8/20/2021- Hilton Indianapolis Hotels (Assessor) \$1,546.00
4. 8/25/2021- Visa (Superior Court 2) \$1,867.97
5. 8/31/2021- U.S. Bank Equipment Finance \$368.00

Preapprovals docket 8/23/2021 - general \$115,233.61, other \$33,188.81, and highway \$8,915.05 = \$157,337.47.

Preapprovals docket 8/30/2021 - general \$78,694.00, other \$24,516.88, and highway \$5,269.75 = \$108,480.63.

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

Dockets dated 9/7/2021 - general \$195,420.42, other \$74,124.18, and highway \$55,338.90 = \$324,883.50. Commissioner Mowery made a motion to approve as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried.

**Payroll**

Preapproval for payroll #17 was given 8/17/2021 and paid out on 8/20/2021 in the amount of \$519,669.41.

Preapproval for payroll #18 was given 8/31/2021 and paid out on 9/3/2021 in the amount of \$511,612.12. Commissioner Mowery made a motion to ratify payroll #17 and #18. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried.

**Minutes**

None

**Receipt of Annual and Monthly Reports, Weights and Measures** – Reports from 4/16/ to 5/16, 5/16 to 6/15, 6/16 to 7/15, 7/16 to 8/15, and 6/16/20 to 6/15/21 were presented. Commissioner Mowery made a motion to receive the reports as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried.

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

Commissioner Bardsley stated that it was reported we would not see a spike in this particular COVID-19 strain until October 9<sup>th</sup>. This was reported by the state as of last week. If there are any other updates, they will be passed on.

**IT –Marcus Elliott**

None

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

1. The Washington Street Bridge project is progressing well. Additional patching that was not expected had to be done costing an additional \$30,000.00. One of the pillars on the north end needed some work.
2. Some parcels need approval for the purchase of right of ways on the 10<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge in order for the bridge to be replaced. Purchases would be as follows: Sharon Weaver in the amount of \$3,710.00, Cardinal Greenway in the amount of \$1,000.00, Henry and Evelyn Williams in the amount of \$1,000.00, and Sullex LLC in the amount of \$7,600.00. Mr. White will be asking if the Walkway and other landowners will donate their portion, but a fair price must be given if they are wanting reimbursed. Mr. White is hoping to submit this to Community Crossings this winter so it can be started next spring. Commissioner Burton made a motion to grant approval for the purchases of the parcels on the 10<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.
3. The Pennsylvania Bridge project is scheduled to begin on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. White met with the contractor and agreed to pay the additional \$2,200.00 for line striping on the south end of the intersection so that it can be kept open.
4. Mr. White met with Surveyor Todd in regard to the Dunn farms flooding issue. They agreed to begin work once the crops have been picked.
5. Mr. White gave a recommendation to buy a chassis from Vomac in the amount of \$123,523.00. Vomac can give the chassis available in early 2022. Commissioner Burton made a motion to accept the recommendation. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.
6. 600 East road lines are 95% complete. I will be completed this week. Shoulder stone is being completed this week as well on 900 East South of Wheeling pike to the county line.
7. When Jonesboro was annexed, one block around 12<sup>th</sup> Street was left out. This will be paved by fall.
8. All backfill with the tower project has been completed. Todd Durnil from Pyramid had requested stonework to be done, but the power and phone lines still need to be done. The decision was made to wait about 2 weeks and then finish the stonework.
9. The recycling of county road 300 South from State Road 5 to 700 East should only use one coat. This is to be completed today.
10. Mr. White received a call from DNR about 1 month ago regarding a road by the 1812 battle reenactment. The road in question has always been thought to be DNR's, when in fact it is the counties. The county has been receiving money for the past 30 plus years, which Mr. White was unaware of. Some much needed work to the road will start next week. The goal is to get the road back in shape before the Battle of 1812 weekend.

### **Old Business**

1. Soldier Burial Account Request - Brad Hodson, Veterans Affair  
The current cost given for the burial and setting the marker is \$100 each. Mr. Hodson requested the burial to increase to \$500 and the marker to increase to \$150. Commissioner Mowery made a motion to accept the request as presented and added that this is not retroactive. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried.
2. Stanley Security Agreement Proposal - Captain Todd Fleece, Sheriff's Department  
A one year option of the warranty at \$2,641.00 monthly was received and emailed to the Commissioners and Administrator. Captain Fleece recommended the three year option to save money overall. Commissioner Mowery made a motion to approve the recommendation for the

premium service plan which is \$4,480.00 monthly with additional appropriation pending approval from the council. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried.

### **New Business**

1. Introduction of Interim Director - Courtney Schmidt, Purdue Extension  
Ms. Schmidt is now the interim director for the Extension offices. The former director, Danielle Scott, moved to a county that is closer to her home. The area director is now Josh Winrotte. There are currently openings in Health and Human Sciences, Nutrition Education Program Assist, and Agriculture and Resource in Grant County. Ms. Schmidt informed the board that she will be physically present one day a week, as she also has a full time position in Miami County as part of the Agriculture and Resource and Health and Human Sciences departments.
2. Personal Property Review Agreement - Rhonda Wylie, Assessor  
This agreement is for abnormal obsolescence on personal property. There was one that Nexus reviewed because it had an abatement. After review, the cost was \$1.8 million. If Nexus does the review and defends it, it is \$95.00 hour. If we review it and want Nexus to defend us, it is \$95.00 hour plus attorney fees. There are 5 currently that do not have abatements that need to be reviewed. County Attorney Kyle Persinger has already review and signed the contract. Commissioner Mowery made a motion to approve the request. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried. Commissioner Bardsley gave permission to use his signature stamp to expedite the contract.
3. 911 Records Fee Proposal - Kevin Hicks, Central Dispatch  
Mr. Hicks requested a favorable recommendation on an ordinance for the Central Dispatch to charge fees for producing digital and printed copies of records. There is an ordinance from 2009, however it does not cover anything for the digital media. The charges were \$0.10 per page for non-color and \$0.25 a page for color copies, \$25.00 for recordings, and \$25.00 for any radio recordings. The new proposal has included this. It is still pending County attorney approval. Commissioner Mowery made a motion for a favorable recommendation for this proposal pending the Council's approval. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried
4. Presentation of Grant County Performing Arts Center Project - Bill Rock, Gas City Mayor  
Mayor Rock requested funding for the new performing arts center that will be built in Gas City. Mayor Rock has had meetings and preliminary discussions with Commissioners and County Council members. The project was originally put it out to bid in October 2020 and the COVID pandemic slowed down progression. By November, the project came in over budget due to the inflated material costs. Gas City has put roughly \$17 million into the project. Gas City is also seeking grant money to complete the center. Mayor Rock commented, "This will be a great asset to the county, bringing in tourism and a lot of visitors to the area that will be beneficial to everyone. There are new hotels and two new hospitals coming in. This performing arts center will just add to that." David Glickfield, city attorney for Gas City, stated "They are requesting help form the county to closes that gap on the \$4.5 million dollars needed for the performing arts and music center. We believe that the COVID relief monies received meet the criteria for what the money can be used for. We had to regroup and redesign a little bit and still at that, we are short \$4.5 million. Where the facility is located, there is about a mile and half strip of land that will fill up with economic development; probably on both sides of State Road 22. The mayor has talked to service businesses and as soon as construction begins, there will be negotiations for new hotels and restaurants. This will quickly become a focal point, if not the focal point of Grant County due to it being centrally located. The schools around the county will be able to utilize the building as well for different functions. In speaking with Commissioner Bardsley, he had suggested putting the visitor's bureau inside of this structure, which could become the Grant County Visitors Bureau.

We need assistance on the short fall on this \$4.5 million. We are requesting that amount. However, if the amount is less than that, we certainly would appreciate that as well. We are ready to bid on this project. More than ready to get it started. As Mayor Rock stated earlier, Gas City does have \$17 million that is being put forward for this project. Gas City is ready to help with county roads and willing to help with central dispatch.” Commissioner Mowery stated that he had met with mayor Rock and it was his understating the money would be paid back. Commissioner Mowery stated that he could not support the amount requested. Commissioner Burton added that there has to be a meeting with the Council as to how and what funds can be spent on and have a written document. Commissioner Mowery motioned to table the matter until a meeting with the Council and the Commissioners can be had. Commissioner Bardsley asked if the \$4.5 million was not available, would it stop the project. Mr. Glickfield stated that certainly \$4.5 million is the icing on the cake, but if it can get into the \$2.5 million range, they would be ready to go. Gas City will find alternative means to get the center built if need be.

5. Application for Development Standard Variance - Ryan Malott, Area Plan  
Homeowner, Gary Freibruger of 4419 N. Grand Drive Marion Indiana 46952, is requesting to build a garage addition onto the house that ends 4.34 feet from the property line, instead of the required 25 feet. The proposed structure will be more than 20 feet from the road. This will be for personal use only. The location of the house leaves no room for the proposed garage without the need of the variance. The garage will be on the east side of the house where the driveway currently exists. Commissioner Mowery made a motion for a favorable recommendation. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried.
6. WellWorks Wellness Program Renewal - Justin Saathoff, Administrator  
Administrator Saathoff requested to continue the WellWorks wellness program. The contract is about to expire. Nothing is being changed for the renewal. The price per employee remains at \$2.05, which equated to a monthly cost of \$820.00. Commissioner Mowery made a motion to accept the renewal contract. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried.
7. Personnel Policies Handbook Committee Appointment - Justin Saathoff, Administrator  
Kim Parker from the 4-D office has resigned, leaving a vacancy on the committee. The recommendation for the vacancy is Tony Smith from the Highway department. Commissioner Mowery made a motion to accept the recommendation and appoint Tony Smith to the handbook committee. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried.
8. Payment Request Packet #6 - Todd Durnil, Pyramid  
All three tower foundations have been manufactured. The electrical began last week. Pyramid requested approval on payment packet #6: MPX in the amount of \$11942.10, Rex Collins in the amount of \$56,183.20, and MPX in the amount of \$27,112.67. A line item of \$5,667.44 for Pyramid has been tabled until clarification is provided. Commissioner Mowery made a motion to pay payment packet #6 as requested. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried. Payment packet #7 will be reviewed at the next Commissioners’ meeting on 9/20/2021.

## **PUBLIC**

Linda Wilk, 1016 West 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Marion - Hands of Hope Family Services Inc.

Ms. Wilk requested approval to use the west side of the courthouse square, between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> street, on September 30, 2021 at 7 pm. October is Domestic Awareness Month. Ms. Wilk would like to kick off the month with an event from 7pm to 8pm. There would be law enforcement and first responders present. Electrical access would be required. Clean up would follow the event. A few songs will be sung and a couple of speeches will be given to those in attendance. Commissioner Mowery made a motion to approve the request. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried.

This regular session was brought to recess by Commissioner Bardsley at 11:30 a.m. The next scheduled meeting will be held on Monday, September 20, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.