

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
MONDAY OCTOBER 4, 2021

The Grant County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, October 4, 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 10:02 a.m. Commissioner Burton led the prayer and Commissioner Mowery led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Claims

Single preapproved claims - 9/21/21 - \$167.06 Visa, 9/27/21 - \$930.27 Bright House, 9/27/21 - \$1,325.40 Bright House.

9/21/2021 preapproved - general \$279,732.94, other \$30,374.57, and highway \$1,562,188.22 = \$1,872,295.73. Commissioner Burton made a motion to ratify preapprovals as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.

10/4/2021 - general \$265,687.90, other 56,131.38, highway \$22,310.69 = \$344,129.97. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.

Payroll

Formal preapproval of payroll #20 was given on 9/28/2021 in the gross amount of \$508,730.26 and paid out on 10/1/2021. Commissioner Mowery made a motion to ratify preapproval on payroll #20. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried.

Minutes

Minutes from 5/17/2021 and 6/7/2021 were presented. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.

Receipt of Monthly Report, Weights and Measures-8/16/21 to 9/15/2021

Commissioner Burton made a motion to receive the monthly report. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.

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

1. Bob Jackson, EMA, reported that COVID positive cases going up. 77 cases over the weekend with 40 just this morning. MGH reported that the census is currently down but staffing issues remain. Everyone is watching for the October 9th peak and hoping that it trends down from there.
2. Commissioner Bardsley announced that a committee has been formed for the American Rescue Plan efforts and it consists of Commissioners, Council members, the Auditor, and the Administrator. The committee is currently working on finding a team (attorneys and/or accountants) that can advise us and guide us through the set parameters.

IT –Marcus Elliott

None

HIGHWAY - David White, Superintendent

1. The Pennsylvania Street Bridge is now closed and will be closed for at least 6 months. The Washington Street Bridge demolition has been completed and Highway is looking to pour the deck next week.

2. The million dollar claim for the Community Crossing has been closed out. All documents have been submitted to the state and are awaiting final approval. The Washington Street Bridge is also a Community Crossing grant.
3. Mr. White had a kick-off meeting this morning with United Consulting on the county wide bridge inspection that starts tomorrow. The inspection will be on all 193 bridges in the county and has to be completed in the month of October to be in compliance with the state and federal government.
4. Mr. White sold some equipment last week on an online auction site based out of Michigan. Almost \$12,000.00 was received for a used bucket truck, used chipper, and a road saw.
5. A couple of dump trucks were traded in for the chassis at Vomac.
6. A section of the parking lot in the Annex parking lot B was dug up. There was a large section that had sunk last winter. An old footer was found there. The footer has been removed and stone will be dumped in with an asphalt pour on top.
7. Mr. White requested to purchase a holding tank. Equipment Marketing Company sells a tank that holds hot oil all year around. The company was getting ready to increase prices because of the inflated steel prices so he went ahead and purchased the tank for \$59,550.00. A pad is still needed for the tank to sit on before it is installed. Commissioner Bardsley asked if it was a free standing exterior tank. Mr. White replied that it was and that it will be placed on the south end of the building because it will have to have electricity for the heater. Once it is installed, the electric will be ran to the tank. Commissioner Mower made a motion to approve the request presented. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried.
8. Mr. White requested to purchase a new loader. Mr. White requested that the new loader has the same capabilities as their current one. He has located one (2018) in Indianapolis with only 264 hours on it. It originally come from out west. They will typically purchase one and use it for snow removal. If they don't get used for a couple of years, it is often sold. The price from Macalister Machinery is \$100,095.00. Mr. White has already looked it over and it seems to be in mint condition. The city of Marion has been offered to bid on the old one that should be valued around \$40,000. The new loader will be paid from the equipment line item. Commissioner Mowery made a motion to approve the request to purchase a new loader for the Highway department. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Performing Arts Center Proposal - Bill Rock, Gas City Mayor
Mayor Rock requested to revisit the performing arts center proposal that was presented at a previous meeting. Gas City is investing \$17 million and is asking for additional funding from the county from their ARP funds. There are a couple new hospitals coming that would be able to use the center for conferences, all the schools in Grant county are welcome to it, and the entertainment alone will bring in new hotels. A Hilton brand has verbally committed to building just east of Gas City. Mayor Rock stated that "this will bring a lot of good things to not only Gas City, but also to the county. We are asking for help. The ARP guidelines do say you can use it for tourism. It is not like we are just planning this. We are ready to go, ready to start the bids in December and start building in January. The foundation has already been poured. We have everything ready to go. We are short because of COVID-19. The cost of construction and steel materials increased significantly because of the pandemic. I want to reiterate this is not something being put into plan. It is in the works and ready to go if we can receive help from the ARP." Commissioner Mowery asked if Gas City had spent their entire ARP budget on this project. Mayor Rock stated that they have put roughly half of their funds to this project. Gas city received 1.2 million which was put into a new street barn, into the new auditorium, and also into some new

water and sewage lines that was helping PCA (the old Owens factory) to continue to exist. Gas City has also applied to the READI grant for \$5.7 million. Gas City went in with the Central Indiana group along with several other counties. Results of the READI grant should be known by December. Mayor Rock commented that Gas City would be willing to sign a MOU of repayment if \$4 million could be given. Commissioner Bardsley stated that last time they met for discussion he had heard the number 4 million but that the bottom line could be \$2.5 million if money was indeed granted through READI funding. Mayor Rock commented that other avenues are also being explored for funding. Commissioner Mowery stated that he was not surprised and is very pleased with Gas City's progression under Mayor Rock. Commissioner Bardsley stated that the board still needs to find direction with the funds and are awaiting further guidelines to be released. The board took the Gas City project under advisement and committed to an answer as soon as they could.

2. Proposal to Amend Areawide Zoning Ordinance, Map Amendment - Ryan Malott, Area Plan
The questions surrounding as to when the land was changed from business to residential will remain unanswered simply because they cannot be found. Ordinance 11-2021 has been reviewed and discussed. Commissioner Mowery again stated that he cannot go against a small community, but at the same time he commended Mr. Leming for trying to make something out of nothing. Commissioner Burton agreed. Ordinance 11-2021 died for lack of motion.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Application for Development Variance - Ryan Malott, Area Plan
The owner is Carolyn Burbank of 6002 S. 400 E., Gas City, Indiana 46933. She is proposing to build a garage at 8 feet from the northern property line. The current set back is 14 feet. It would be to store cars and tools. It does line up with the existing driveway and it will be near a line of trees so the neighbor that owns this property will have limited visibility of the structure. The main reason is to stay north of the leach field associated with the septic system for the existing house. Mr. Malott did state that Area Plan had no issues with this. Commissioner Mowery made a motion to give a favorable recommendation to the request. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Commissioner Bardsley commented that the Governor did extend the State of Health emergency through this month even though we are looking at the surge to be over this week. However, everyone is still encouraged to wear a mask and keep a safe social distance from others.

This regular session was brought to recess by Commissioner Bardsley at 10:40 a.m. The next scheduled meeting will be held on Monday, October 20, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.