

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
MONDAY OCTOBER 18, 2021

The Grant County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, October 18, 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 10:00 a.m. Commissioner Bardsley led the prayer and Commissioner Burton led the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Bardsley announced that per the Governor, the state remains in a State of Emergency.

Claims

Single Preapprovals:

1. 10/7/2021 - Star Card (Courts): \$260.34, \$180.00, and \$170.00
2. 10/12/2021 - Grant Blackford Mental Health: \$8,165.90
3. 10/15/2021 - Constellation New Energy Gas Division: \$549.67
4. 10/15/2021 - CenterPoint Energy: \$771.66, \$47.37, \$361.10, \$171.84, and \$18.19

10/12/2021 Preapprovals: general - \$124,701.07, other - \$54,837.00, and Highway - \$146,431.37 = \$325,969.44. Commissioner Burton made a motion to ratify all preapprovals as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.

10/18/2021 claims: general - \$79,433.75, other - \$219,696.50, and Highway - \$448,202.70 = \$747,331.95. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve the claims as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.

Payroll

Formal preapproval of payroll #21 was given on 10/12/2021 in the gross amount of \$511,034.17 and paid out on 10/15/2021. Commissioner Burton made a motion to ratify payroll #21. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.

Minutes

None

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

Bob Jackson, EMA

Mr. Jackson stated that this is day 592 of emergency operation for the county. COVID positive numbers continue to rise. The hospital census has remained steady, but there are still deaths related to the virus. Everyone, including EMA, is hoping to get back to business as usual soon.

IT –Marcus Elliott

None

HIGHWAY - David White, Superintendent

1. Mr. White reported that the deck was poured for the Washington Street Bridge. The goal is to have the bridge open to the public by the first of November.
2. Several paving projects began today.
3. Work continues on the Pennsylvania St. Bridge.
4. Mr. White requested to put a dump truck in the Christmas parade. The Commissioners happily agreed by common consent.

OLD BUSINESS

Soldier Burial Ordinance - Brad Hodson, Veterans Service Office

This item will be revisited on November 1, 2021. Clarification and redrafting of the ordinance is still needed at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Employee Vacation Proposal - Kevin Hicks, 911

Mr. Hicks requested for employee vacation time to be rolled over into next year. The employees are unable to use their vacation time due to extreme staffing shortages. Commissioner Bardsley stated this was against policy and asked if he would consider the idea of a payout instead. Commissioner Bardsley stated, "I think we have a use it or lose it clause. If we are forcing people to work overtime so that they can't take their prescribed vacation time, we might need to explore the concept of paying folks out for their vacation. We will start a discussion with our attorney and the Council about this critical point that we are at." The Commissioners agreed to continue this discussion to compensate the workers of Central Dispatch.

2. BZA Appointment Request - Ryan Malott, Area Plan

The current appointments to the BZA are Ed Hartman and Ron Howe. This is a four year term when reappointed. Commissioner Mowery made a motion to reappoint Ed Hartman and Ron Howe to the BZA as of 1/1/2022. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried.

3. Vaccine Reimbursement Grant - Dr. Moore, Health Department

Dr. Moore requested for the Commissioners to accept this vaccine grant, as the county has already received the payment. The State Government has provided a program for when insurance does cover vaccination, they allow for an administration fee. For all 92 counties, the State retains a small percentage of the fees, then returns it to the counties in the form of a grant. The amount and frequency of this payment is unknown. It was asked if grant says how the funds will be distributed and if it went back to general fund. Health Department Office Manager Tara Street stated that it goes back specifically to the Health fund and it is encouraged to be used for one time expenditures, as this is not going to be an ongoing grant. Commissioner Mowery made a motion to allow the Health Department to accept the grant as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried.

4. Masking Statement Request - Dr. Moore, Health Department

Dr. Moore is requesting the Commissioners to approve a recommendation from the Health Board to strongly recommend schools to implement a mask mandate until December 31, 2021. Two of the Grant county schools have already implemented this. Commissioner Mowery stated that he could not and would not support this recommendation. His viewpoint on the situation is to give parents and the students the freedom of choice in wearing a mask to school. Commissioner Burton made a motion to support the recommendation as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Bardsley; motion carried - 2 yes, 1 no.

5. RFP for Facilities Improvement - Brad Driver, Ameresco

Mr. Driver presented a legal notice for HVAC system improvements on the county buildings. Ameresco has also been doing exploratory work at the courthouse. Ameresco has determined the intrusion of moisture is from the foundation walls. It is not as severe as in other county buildings where water is visibly pouring in, but water is coming into the courthouse. It was found that previous work done sometime in 2000 or 2001 to prevent this infiltration has failed. Mr. Driver stated that he is working on a phased approach report in order to control costs. The goal is to have the proposal to the Commissioners in November. Commissioner Burton made a motion to adopt the legal notice for HVAC systems. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.

6. Small Project Service Agreement Proposal - Justin Saathoff, Administrator
Administrator Saathoff presented an agreement that was drafted by the county attorney, Kyle Persinger. The county's liability insurance, Liberty Mutual, has recommended that a small project service agreement is used for any job under \$25,000.00. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.
7. 2022 Holiday and 2022 Pay Schedule Presentation - Justin Saathoff, Administrator
This will be tabled until the next meeting on November 1, 2021.
8. Change Order Submittal - Terry Burnworth and Todd Durnil, Pyramid
Pyramid was not in attendance. Auditor McWhirt stated there are issues with the change order and advised against payment. Signatures are missing and there are amounts that do not add up and should not be on the paperwork. Commissioner Bardsley stated that this will need clarification before a payment is considered. Administrator Saathoff commented that both issues were addressed with Pyramid last week via email with no response.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

This regular session was brought to recess by Commissioner Bardsley at 11:00 a.m. The next scheduled meeting will be held on Monday, November 1, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.