

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR SESSION**  
**MONDAY NOVEMBER 1, 2021**

The Grant County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, November 1, 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 Burton led the prayer and Commissioner Mowery led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Claims**

Single Preapprovals:

**10/18/2021** – RedSky for \$200.00 and McClure Oil for \$56.57

**10/19/2021** – Visa for \$32.18 and Centerpoint Energy for \$46.00

**10/26/2021** – AT&T for \$87.72, AT&T for \$77.70, Constellation for \$2,222.44, and Gas City Utilities for \$310.52

**10/25/2021** Preapprovals: general - \$198,463.94, other - \$20,865.75, and Highway - \$256,526.52 = \$475,856.18. Commissioner Mowery made a motion to ratify all preapprovals as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried.

**11/1/2021:** general - \$50,950.68, other - \$52,873.33, Highway - \$15,781.07 = \$119,605.08. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve all claims as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.

**Payroll**

Formal approval of payroll #22 was given on 10/26/2021 in the gross amount of \$517,223.04 and paid out on 10/29/2021. Commissioner Mowery made a motion to ratify payroll #22. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried.

**Minutes**

None

**Receipt of Monthly Report, Clerk of the Circuit Court-Month Ending 9/30/2021**

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

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

Bob Jackson, EMA

COVID positive cases were down in the month of October. Also, J&K is doing some work on the EMA office.

**IT –Marcus Elliott**

None

**HIGHWAY - David White, Superintendent**

Mr. White reported that the Washington Street Bridge is now opened as of last Friday. The project did go over budget. Mr. White has called the State to see if they will offer assistance with the overages since the money was granted. Commissioner Bardsley questioned if that is a possibility. Mr. White did not have an answer because he has not been in this situation before. Paving projects are coming to an end. The Highway department is readying equipment for the winter. All lines for the tower projects have been



installed underground with the exception of electrical. Stone will be hauled in this winter. There is a call for federal aid projects for 2026 that opens 11/1/2021 through 12/5/2021. Mr. White requested to apply after results from the bridge inspection come back. Bridge inspection were completed last month. Next week, the Highway Department will be working with Area Plan to bring down some structures. Mr. White is also providing input to Ryan Malott, Area Plan Director, on the solar farm ordinance. Commissioner Bardsley stated that the ordinance needs to be as specific as possible with input from the Surveyor, Drainage board, and Highway Department.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Soldier Burial Ordinance - Brad Hodson, Veterans Service Office  
The initial proposal included a \$500.00 burial allowance and \$150.00 for the grave marker. This proposal was previously adopted. The county attorney suggested an ordinance to be drafted. Looking at the proposal from a budgetary standpoint, the Commissioners asked for the amount to be reduced from \$500.00 to \$250.00. The grave marker remained at \$150.00. Commissioner Mowery made a motion to adopt Ordinance 11-2021 authorizing Veterans Burial Allowance as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried.
2. Employee Vacation Proposal - Kevin Hicks, 911  
Mr. Hicks revisited the topic of his staff's unused vacation and personal time. Central Dispatch has had a staffing shortage for the entire year, forcing mandatory overtime and very limited time off. Commissioner Bardsley made the recommendation that these employees be paid out for the personal and vacation time that they were not able to use due to the staffing issues. Commissioner Burton made a motion to send the financial request to the council. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried. Commissioner Bardsley stated for the record that he wanted to thank Mr. Hicks for all he is doing and pointed out that the staffing issues are nationwide.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Annual Elevator Test, Courthouse - Vince Beneke, Maintenance  
In Mr. Beneke's absence, Administrator Saathoff presented the item. This is an annual safety test that is required. This particular test is for the courthouse elevator and comes at a cost of \$6,000 for work after business hours. In discussion with the county's TK Elevator representative, Jerry Hennessy, this has always been done after hours to avoid shutting the elevator down for the courts and court staff. If it were done during business hours, this test is actually covered through the current contract. Administrator Saathoff proposed that he arrange a good time to shut down the elevators with the judges to especially schedule it around jury trials. The elevators are only down for approximately 4 hours and this would save the county \$6,000. The Commissioners consented to proceed with arranging a time with the judges to avoid paying out unnecessary costs.
2. Insurance Renewal Proposal - Michelle Bunker, IMG  
Ms. Bunker presented the healthcare benefits renewal proposal to the Board of Commissioners. The county's current health coverage is through Anthem. All other coverages are through United Health Care. There has been a recent increase in claims. In forecasting the liability and claims for the next year, it is expected to be over \$1 million if the county stays with Anthem. Employee contributions are guaranteed to increase as well. Another provider, UMR, is estimating a cost savings for the county of \$850,000. UMR is the self-funded arm of United Health Care. UMR's pharmacy manager, is Optum. An analysis was performed on medications used, and there were none that were used in the last 12 months that Optum excludes. Furthermore, Voya is recommended as the stop loss provider and is a preferred contractor with UMR. Marion Health



has also come forward to provide members of Grant county government with discounted rates. In turn, that allows for an added tier of a \$1,000 deductible as opposed to the current deductible of \$2,500.00. Ms. Bunker recommended not to increase spending in the budget and not to increase employee contributions. She recommended to move to UMR, Voya, and Optum. She also recommended to stay with United Health Care for vision, dental, disability, voluntary life AD&D, critical illness, and accident coverages. The recommendation was also made to continue with the WellWorks program. Open enrollment will be November 8<sup>th</sup> through November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021 for the 2022 year through BerniePortal. Commissioner Mowery made a motion to approve the recommendations presented. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried.

3. Introduction and Presentation - Linda Johnson, Guardian Advocates

Ms. Johnson presented a letter of intent. Guardian Advocates is an organization founded in 2018 to help adults that do not have the capability or have no one to represent them. There is only 1 program per county allowed. The goal is that by 2029 that all 92 counties have a program. As of today, Guardian Advocates has 20 programs, that includes 51 counties. The programs largely work under grant funding. CASA is a sister program. Commissioner Bardsley stated that he would like to know more about the program and wanted to have some discussion with the judges regarding a future partnership. Auditor McWhirt was asked if the county sends money to CASA currently. Auditor McWhirt responded that Superior Court 2 does have a piece in their budget for CASA and that he thought it was a line item of around the \$40,000.00 range. This item will be revisited at the Commissioners' meeting on December 6, 2021.

4. Versiti Blood Drive Request - Megan Borgmann

Ms. Borgmann updated the Commissioners on 2021 blood drives hosted by Grant County. Over the course of 3 blood drives in 2021, the Grant county employees donated 57 units of blood. This is approximately 107 lives that were saved. The average blood drive usually generates 15 units on average. Ms. Borgmann requested the board to host more blood drives next year on the following dates: 1/26, 3/30, 6/1, 8/2, and 11/2 in 2022. The board agreed to accept the dates as presented by common consent.

5. Board of Finance Update - Tiffany Griffith, Treasurer

Treasurer Griffith gave a BOF update to the Commissioners. The American Rescue Plan funds were discussed at the last meeting. There have been no changes made with the investment policy as of January 19<sup>th</sup> of this year. The ARP money was deposited on June 1<sup>st</sup> of 2021 in the amount of \$6,387,428.50. The Commissioners are considering investing \$2 million of that. Per the objective of the policy plan, it is the policy of the Treasurer of Grant County to invest the public funds in a manner of which that will provide the highest investments return with maximum security while meeting the daily cash flow. With the bids received, they follow the guidelines. Treasurer Griffith stated, "I am currently looking into a certificate of deposit that meets the requirements of the I.C. Code 51347 and all the banks that have been issued a request from are all on the board of approved depositories. Please note that it is over 2 years. This follows the requirement of I.C. Code 51392. Out of the 9 banks that the request was sent to, I have received 3 bids back." Bids were received from Star Financial Bank, First Farmers Bank and Trust, and VIA Credit Union. Currently the operational account is at .25% interest. All banks were asked to provide an interest rate for 6 month, 12 month, and 18 month terms. First Farmer Bank and Trust gave the following bid : .08% for a 6 month term, .1% for a 12 month term, and .12% for an 18 month term. Star gave the following bids: .1% for a 6 month term, .15% for a 12 month term, and .2% for an 18 month term. VIA gave the following bids: .3% for a 6 month term, .5% for a 12 month term, and .7% for an 18 month term. Treasurer Griffith made a recommendation for VIA for the 18 month term, yielding \$21,085.26 in interest. These rates are good through 11/3/21. Commissioner Bardsley



commented that the board is looking at all options on how to best use the ARP funds. The investment will be taken in to consideration.

6. Cell Phone Allowance Request - Dawn Harness, EMS

Ms. Harness requested cell phone allowances for David Ashcraft and Taylor Knox. Both are newly hired EMT supervisors that will be on call 24/7. Commissioner Mowery made a motion to approve the phone stipend for both as requested. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried.

7. Annual Certifications of Elected Officials - Justin Saathoff, Administrator

Administrator Saathoff presented the certifications to the Board of Commissioners. One certificate is for Compliance with County Contract Disclosure Policy. The other is Compliance with County Nepotism Policy Concerning Hiring and Supervision of Relatives. All other elected officials have completed their certifications. The Commissioners need to complete each one to ensure that the county remains in compliance with the Indiana Codes. The Commissioners agreed to sign the certifications.

8. Amendment of 2021 Ordinance #'s - Justin Saathoff, Administrator

In reviewing the 2021 Ordinances, it was discovered that a number was used twice. Ordinance #3 was passed on March 1<sup>st</sup> and again on March 16<sup>th</sup>. The county attorney, Kyle Persinger, stated that a motion could be made to change the first #3 to #3A and the second #3 to #3B as long as it is reflected in the minutes. Commissioner Burton made a motion for ordinance numbers to be changed to #3A-2021 and #3B-2021. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried. The ordinance will be re-recorded.

9. 2022 Holiday Schedule Proposal - Justin Saathoff, Administrator

Administrator Saathoff proposed the 2022 holiday schedule. This is an election year so those dates are included in the schedule. The only other thing to note is the addition of the Juneteenth holiday on Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup>. The state has adopted the holiday. It would be observed on Monday, June 20<sup>th</sup> for Grant County. Commissioner Burton made a motion to adopt the 2022 Holiday schedule as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.

10. 2022 Payroll Schedule Proposal - Justin Saathoff, Administrator

Chief Deputy Auditor Angie Jarvis noted that there are 4 different dates that are not a Friday. Those dates are as follows: 4/14, 11/10, 11/23, and 12/22. All are due to holidays. Commissioner Burton made a motion to adopt the 2022 payroll schedule as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.

11. Change Order Submittal - Todd Durnil, Pyramid

Mr. Durnil presented a change order in the amount of \$2,600.00. This cost comes from labor to rework some sewage drainage from the new building. This change order will add to the overall total making it \$265,600.00. This will finalize payments to JGBowers and complete payments for the EMS garage building, which will allow Mr. Jackson to begin work on the reimbursement portion. The \$2,600.00 change order was approved at a prior meeting. It now just needs approval to be paid. In addition to the change order, application #6 in the amount of \$2,470.00 and application #7 for retainage in the amount of \$13,280.00 need approved. Commissioner Burton made a motion to pay all as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.

12. COVID Update - Bob Jackson, EMA

Mr. Jackson stated that he was just made aware that the State department is bringing in a strike team from Wednesday (11/3) to Saturday (11/6) from noon to 8 p.m. at the Garthwaite EMA building. A drive through will be set up for the state team to give vaccinations. All three vaccine types (Moderna, Pfizer, and Johnson & Johnson) will be available for the first, second, and booster. This is being operated by the state so there will be no cost to the county.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

This regular session was brought to recess by Commissioner Bardsley at 11:40 a.m. The next scheduled meeting will be held on Monday, November 15, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.