

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR SESSION**  
**MONDAY DECEMBER 6, 2021**

The Grant County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, December 6, 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 Mike Burton, County Administrator/HR Director Justin Saathoff, and Auditor Jim McWhirt. Commissioner Ron Mowery attended the meeting via WebEx as allowed by the State's Emergency Declaration due to the COVID-19 pandemic. 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.

**Claims**

**11-22-2021** preapprovals - general \$218,038.19, other \$74,528.84, and Highway \$13,557.08 = \$306,124.11.

**11-29-2021** preapprovals - \$77,369.06, other \$51,314.13, and Highway \$41,099.86 = \$169,783.05. Commissioner Burton made a motion to ratify the claims as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.

**12-6-2021** - general \$101,679.04, other \$48,945.33, and Highway \$68,475.16 = \$219,099.53. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve the claims from as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.

**Payroll**

Formal approval of payroll #24 was given on 11/22/2021 in the gross amount of \$504,902.35 and paid out on 11/24/2021. Commissioner Burton made a motion to ratify preapproval of payroll #24. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.

**Minutes**

None

**Receipt of Monthly Report, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Month Ending 10/31/2021**

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. Jim McWhirt, Auditor – Fall settlement has been completed and is scheduled to be distributed today.
2. Bob Jackson, EMA – Mr. Jackson updated the Commissioners on the latest news of the COVID-19 pandemic. The amount of positive cases remains high in the county. Grant County is still in red status. The hospital remains short staffed. The ER is now diverting customers to other hospitals. The results from the state's strike team have come back in at a 22% positive testing rate. The strike team will return again this week from Wednesday to Saturday from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the EMS building on Garthwaite Road in Gas City.  
Mr. Jackson will be visiting the tower sites today to get an update as to where the progress is at this time.

**IT – Marcus Elliott**

Mr. Elliott submitted the RFP to Administrator Saathoff last week for the data center and networking refresh. Commissioner Bardsley stated that it will be reviewed by the attorney and sent for approval by the board.

### **HIGHWAY – Tony Smith**

1. The Highway department has received bids for fuel and stone for 2022. Mr. Smith requested to open the bids on January 3, 2021.
2. A dump truck was sold to the town of Upland. A loader was sold to the city of Marion. 3 dump trucks were traded in to Vomag. Another dump truck will be traded to Gas City in exchange for their vacuum machine. Also, 4 vehicles were sold on an online auction that went very well.
3. The close out on the Community Crossing Grants for 2-2021, 600 E to the County line to the bridge just south of State Road 18, has been completed. The close out for 1-2021 which was 900 East down by Matthews has also been completed.
4. Resolution 5-2021 is a resolution authorizing execution of the INDOT Agreement. Mr. Smith requested for it to be approved and signed. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve resolution 5-2021. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.
5. Jeff from United was present with the title sheet for Bridge #39, which is located on 1000 E. It has been approved for the Community Crossing Grant money. The Commissioners just need to sign off on it.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Board of Finance Update - Tiffany Griffith, Treasurer  
Ms. Griffith stated that at the last meeting, there was discussion about the investment of \$2 million from the ARP funds. She has obtained investment rates again as requested. The rates are the same as last time. VIA has the best overall with 3 different terms at 6 months (.3%), 12 months (.5%), and 18 months (.7%). The return for the 18 month term is \$21,085.26. First Farmers Bank and Trust's rate are as follows: 6 months at .08%, 12 months at .1%, and 18 months at .12%. Star Financial's rates are as follows: 6 months at .1%, 12 months at .15%, and 18 months at .2%. The bids change every 3 weeks. These rates are good for today and tomorrow.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Pretrial Services Grant Request - Mike Small, Correctional Services  
Mr. Small presented the grant and asked for a favorable recommendation. The grant request would then be taken to the County Council. This grant runs from January 1, 2022 until December 31, 2022. Grant County is one of the originally pilot counties for the pretrial services. Grant County was the first certified by the state a couple of months ago. The Grant currently funds 3 full time employees' salaries and benefits. The county began utilizing this particular grant in 2017. Commissioner Burton made a motion for a favorable recommendation on the request. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.
2. Ratification of Preapproval for End of Year Expenses - Mark Bardsley, Commissioner  
Chris Cunningham from Community Correction sent this request for the preapprovals necessary for the claims for the end of the year. This has already been preapproved and needs ratified. Commissioner Burton made a motion to ratify the request. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.
3. Preventive Maintenance Proposal - Vince Beneke, Maintenance  
Ribble's painting was here this morning to quote the painting and repair for the walls in the juvenile center and courthouse. Mr. Beneke also presented a quote from MacAllister for the generator for Central Dispatch in the amount of \$1,735.23. This would be paid from the preventive maintenance fund. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve the amount of \$1,735.00. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.
4. Vehicle Purchase Agreement - Cori Anderson, Assessor's Office

Ms. Anderson spoke on behalf of Assessor Wylie. She presented 3 estimates. The desired vehicle was the 2021 Ford EcoSport S from Southworth Ford in the amount of \$17,220.00, This vehicle would be paid from the reassessment fund. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve the purchase. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.

5. Request for GIS Data - Alex Abode, Bair, Goodie & Assoc.  
Mr. Abode was not present for the meeting. This item was tabled for future discussion if necessary.
6. Energy Saving/ARPA Planning Bid Opening - Mark Bardsley, Commissioner  
One bid was received from Ameresco for the HVAC systems and updates for the county buildings. The bid will be taken under advisement and will be brought back for discussion at the next Commissioners' meeting.
7. Extension Contractual Service Agreement - Mark Bardsley, Commissioner  
The annual contract with Purdue Extension was presented. The agreement has been reviewed and approved by Kyle Persinger, the county attorney. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve the agreement. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.
8. COVID-19 Policy Update Proposal - Justin Saathoff, Administrator  
Administrator Saathoff stated that he was challenged to create an incentive for county employees to get the vaccine. The Families First Coronavirus Response Act was law under the Trump administration. This law allowed paid leave for positive and exposed individuals. It sunset at the end of 2020. The proposal is to mirror that law with a caveat of only allowing paid leave for positive individuals that are fully vaccinated. The county would cover up to 10 days annually for employees the provide proof of a positive test (home kits will not be accepted) and proof of full vaccination. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried. Commissioner Bardsley added that this will not be retroactive.
9. Ratification of Carpet Bid Preapproval - Justin Saathoff, Administrator  
Bids were taken from Kyle's, Morrell's Carpet, and Stagg's Carpeting. The preapproval went to Kyle's to complete carpeting for the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> floors for \$18,583.90. Commissioner Burton make a motion to ratify the preapproval. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery: motion carried.
10. Payment Request Packet #09 - Todd Durnil, Pyramid  
Mr. Durnil was present via WebEx. Payment Request Packet #09 was presented and included the following: trade package 35TM, application #6 from MPX Solutions for \$35,625.00 and trade package professional services, application 1910405-23 from Pyramid Architecture/Engineering for \$11,075.20. The grand total was \$46,700.20. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; Motion carried.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Robert Sparks of 966 N 100 E, Marion.

Mr. Sparks had placed big rocks at the edge of his yard and was informed by Area Plan, the Highway department and the Sheriff's department that he had to move them. Mr. Sparks did remove the rocks. He now has large ruts in his yard from farming equipment. This issue has been discussed and presented before. Mr. Sparks is claiming that he is being harassed. He requested for the road to be widened. Commissioner Bardsley stated that he would get with the attorney and the Highway department to explore this option. He will then reach out to Mr. Sparks with an answer.

This regular session was brought to recess by Commissioner Bardsley at 11:15 a.m. The next scheduled meeting will be held on Monday, January 3, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.