

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
MONDAY DECEMBER 20, 2021

The Grant County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, December 20, 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 via WebEx as allowed under the State's Emergency Declaration for 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

12/13/2021 preapprovals - general \$249,991.25, other and Highway \$340,518.72 = \$590,509.97. Commissioner Burton made a motion to ratify the claims as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.

12/20/2021 - general \$222,827.19, other \$277,659.48, and Highway \$148,323.89 = \$648,810.56. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve the claims as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.

Payroll

Formal approval of payroll #25 was given on 12/7/2021 in the gross amount of \$511,039.97 and paid out on 12/10/2021. Commissioner Burton made a motion to ratify the preapproval of payroll #25. Seconded with support by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.

Minutes

The minutes from 7/19/2021 and 8/2/2021 have been reviewed and edited. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.

Receipt of Monthly Report, Clerk of the Circuit Court - Month Ending 11/30/2021

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

Mr. Jackson updated the board on pandemic conditions. The number of positive cases continue to increase. It is forecasted to continue this trend for the next 5 to 6 weeks. 40% of the hospitals in the state are at or above capacity. The Indiana National Guard has ended their tour at Marion Health. Ball hospital and Blackford hospital will now be receiving help from the National Guard. The state has requested federal support for the hospitals at this time. It has not been granted yet. Mr. Jackson encouraged those who have not prepared for this to please do so, whether that is receiving the vaccine and/or having plenty of food and supplies on hand. Commissioner Bardsley added that even though the symptoms associated with the Omicron variant are not as severe, it is still deadly to a small population. The Commissioner encouraged residents to get the vaccine. Commissioner Bardsley added that the CDC is recommending a booster shot. This should help fight with the coming wave of Omicron. Breakthrough cases are showing a reduction of severe symptoms.

2. Kevin Hicks, Central Dispatch

Mr. Hicks reported that 4 dispatchers started on December 1st. They are twenty days into their training and all are doing very well. Two have previous experience and the hope is to get them out on their own in January. 911 is still short 3 dispatchers.

IT – Marcus Elliott, Director

1. Mr. Elliott requested approval for the RFP for the data center and network refreshes. The hope is to post it tomorrow and receive responses from the vendors by 1/31/22 at noon. The bids would be presented to the Commissioners. The bids would then be reviewed and awarded at the Commissioners' meeting on 2/7/22. Commissioner Bardsley questioned the funding for this project. Mr. Elliott stated that the project has already been budgeted for 2022. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve the request of the RFP as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.

HIGHWAY – David White, Superintendent

1. Mr. White presented an unofficial detour from the state. This is for SR35/SR22 just west of Gas City, west of the railroad track, to replace a small stretch for summer 2022. The road recommended to use is Pennsylvania Street to Old Kokomo Road down to Meridian and up to Adams Street. Mr. White requested approval for this detour. If approved, it will require signatures from the Commissioners. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve the unofficial detour request as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.
2. The Highway department is working with Area Plan to demolish more houses to help eliminate blight. The next house is on Water Street in Jonesboro. The goal is to have this job completed within the next 2 weeks.
3. The Auditor's office has advertised the fuel and stone bid for January 3, 2022.
4. Also advertised is the bid for bridge replacement on Bridge #39 on county road 1000 east for January 18, 2022. Bids are set to be open at the meeting. This is from a Community Crossing Grant that will require electronic signatures.
5. Mr. White gave an update on the Pennsylvania Street Bridge. He stated that it is going really well. An old deck has been removed and structures are being erected so that the new deck can be installed. The last day of work on the bridge was last Friday and the goal is to return after the first of the year weather permitting.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Shift Change - Kevin Hicks, 911
Mr. Hicks gave an update on the recent change 12 hour shifts. He commented that there was hesitation from the staff at first. They have now settled into the new schedule and have requested for it to continue. This is the recommendation from the policy board as well. Mr. Hicks requested a favorable recommendation from the Commissioners. The Commissioners gave a favorable recommendation by common consent. Central Dispatch will continue to run 12 hours shifts of 3 days on and 3 days off. This will run until the center is fully staffed. The schedule will be reviewed again at that time.

NEW BUSINESS

1. 2022 Staffing Appointments - Mark Bardsley, Commissioner
The following employees will continue serving their current roles:
 - a. IT Director - Marcus Elliott
 - b. Weights and Measures - Mark Fleming
 - c. Central Dispatch Director - Kevin Hicks

- d. Highway Superintendent - David White
- e. County Attorney - Kyle Persinger
- f. Veterans Affairs - Brad Hodson
- g. Maintenance Director - Vince Beneke
- h. EMS Director - Duaine Ashcraft
- i. EMA Director - Bob Jackson

Commissioner Mowery made a motion to approve the appointments as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried.

- j. County Administrator/HR Director - Justin Saathoff

Commissioner Burton made a motion to retain Justin Saathoff in his current role. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.

There is a recommendation from the drainage board to reappoint Patrick Pinkerton and Gordon Gough. These are 4 year appointments. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve the recommendations. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.

2. 2022 Health Board Appointments - Mark Bardsley, Commissioner

- a. Brandy Swanner and Barbara Ihrke's terms expire at the end of December. There is a recommendation for both to be reappointed and return for another 4 year term. Commissioner Mowery expressed hesitation for Ms. Ihrke's appointment. The motion was withdrawn and will be revisited during the next Commissioners' meeting.
- b. Shane Middlesworth and Justin Saathoff were recommended to be reappointed to the East Central Indiana Regional Planning District. Commissioner Burton made a motion for the reappointments. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.
- c. Current Commissioner assignments include the drainage, solid waste, tech, and Area Plan boards and commissions. Commissioner made a motion to leave the current Commissioner assignment as they are. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried.
- d. Commissioner Mowery made a motion to leave the current President and Vice President Board of Commissioner roles. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried.

3. County Administrator Discussion - Mark Bardsley, Commissioner

The County Administrator was originally hired below the approved salary under a different title and set of duties. The approved salary for 2022 is \$55,000.00. In considering the recent raises, Administrator Saathoff is set to make \$48,000. Commissioner Bardsley stated that he has discussed a proposed increase in pay with Commissioner Mowery due to the responsibility and added duties of the Administrator. Commissioner Bardsley proposed to raise the salary to \$51,000 annually. With more time and a completion of a certification process, another raise would be proposed for the full set amount. Administrator Saathoff stated that he confirmed that this could be done with the Auditor's office and President Shane Middlesworth without having formal approval at a Council meeting. Auditor McWhirt stated that it was true that the Commissioners could do as they wished with the salary as long as it does not go above what is written in the salary ordinance. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve the recommendation. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.

4. Converse-Jackson Township Public Library Appointment - Mark Bardsley, Commissioner

A correction was presented in regard to the reappointment of Mrs. Anna Larrison. Her term should end in 2024, instead of 2025. The Commissioners consented to allow Commissioner Bardsley to sign off on the correction.

5. Transfer of Tax Sale Certificate Request - Michael Conner, Attorney

Mr. Conner requested for a transfer of properties to the city. The parcel numbers are 016-19003-00 and 016-19003-01. These properties did not sell at the tax sale. Notices would go out to the owners giving them a chance to redeem the property. If they are not redeemed, they will be titled

over to the city of Marion and later transferred to Marion Utilities. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve Resolution 6-2021. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.

6. Presentation of Union Contract - Phil Stephenson, Attorney

There were seven changes presented to the board of Sheriff's department's union contract. The contract has been approved by the Sheriff, the union, and the County Council. Below are the highlighted changes:

- a. Section 1.1: Central Dispatch was removed.
- b. Section 14.1: Juneteenth was added as a holiday.
- c. Section 14.4: Holiday pay was redefined as time and a half. The previous contract had it as \$7.50 in addition to regular wages.
- d. Section 25.1: This is a new section that states that all bargaining unit employees may obtain the Hepatitis B vaccination and an annual tuberculosis test at the employer's expense.
- e. Section 26.1: This is a new section that states Merit officers who reside in Grant County, Indiana or reside within ten (10) miles outside of the county limits, may drive their vehicles home.
- f. Section 27: This has been modified for a 6% pay increase for the year for all deputies, sergeants, captains, lieutenants, and jailers and a \$2,000.00 a year raise for the 2022 year for food workers, clerks, and other office staff.
- g. Section 27.2: This is just a 1 year pay incentive. Negotiations will begin July 1, 2022.

Commissioner Bardsley recommended to sign off on the contract. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve the union contract as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.

7. WellWorks Contract Amendment - Justin Saathoff, Administrator

Administrator Saathoff presented the amendment. It simply extends the already existing agreement with no changes to the price or the program. The price will continue to be \$820 monthly and the requirements will continue to be the following: an annual physical exam, 2 preventative screenings, and a signed tobacco attestation (or completion of a 6 week tobacco cessation e-learning course). Commissioner Bardsley commented that the wellness program is working good for the county in the fact that it helps to catch medical issues on the front end. Therefore reducing major medical expenses for things such as a heart attack or stroke while having healthier employees overall. Commissioner Burton made a motion to continue the WellWorks program. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.

8. Emergency Declaration for Courthouse Repair - Mark Bardsley, Commissioner

A coil burst an air handling unit at the courthouse above Superior Court 2's offices. Major water damage incurred in Superior Court 2's office and the Public Defender's office. There was some minor damage to Judge Spitzer's chambers. Commissioner Bardsley suggested declaring an emergency in regard to the repair. The county attorney, Kyle Persinger, did confirm that this could be done. The declaration would help to speed up the bidding process in order to get Superior Court 2 back to normal working conditions. This emergency declaration would allow 2 bids to be considered, instead of the normal 3 bids. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve the emergency declaration for the courthouse to help speed up the repair process for the courthouse. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.

9. FSSA Agreement for Medicaid Coverage - Mark Bardsley, Commissioner

This agreement allows inmate medical charges to be applied to Medicaid. Signing this agreement simply extends the agreement already in place. If this is not signed, the county would be responsible for all medical charges. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve the FSSA agreement for Medicaid coverage as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.

10. Energy Savings/ARPA Planning Recommendation - Mark Bardsley, Commissioner

Only one bid was received for the energy savings project with regard to HVAC systems in all county buildings. That bid was from Ameresco. Commissioner Bardsley recommended for Ameresco to be the lead vendor in this project. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve the recommendation as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.

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, January 3, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.