

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS'
REGULAR SESSION
MONDAY, JANUARY 3, 2022

The Grant County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, January 3, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. in the Grant County Complex Council Chambers located at 401 South Adams St., Marion, Indiana.

In attendance were Commissioner Mark Bardsley, Commissioner Mike Burton, Commissioner Mowery, 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

PREAPPROVAL CLAIMS 12/22/2021

- A. Star Card - \$96.00
- B. Rabb Water - \$19.50
- C. Mike Anderson - \$594.17
- D. Star Card - \$2,420.68
- E. Staples - \$104.85
- F. Bright House - \$1,300.02
- G. AT&T - \$40.31
- H. AT&T - \$77.70
- I. AT&T - 88.13
- J. Gas City Utilities - \$335.78

PREAPPROVAL CLAIMS 12/28/2021

- A. Rex Collins - \$3,925.00
- B. Charter Communications - \$66.45
- C. United Consulting - \$56,589.82
- D. Star Card - \$86.80
- E. Irving Materials - \$589.47
- F. Gas City Utilities - \$925.53

PREAPPROVAL CLAIMS 12/29/2021

- A. Capital One - \$201.92
- B. Clarence Faulkner Community - \$775.00
- C. Verizon Wireless - \$148.66

Commissioner Burton made a motion to ratify all preapproved claims as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried 3-0.

CLAIMS 1/3/2022 – General - \$358,748.55, Other - \$16,835.74, and Highway - \$0 = \$375,584.29. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve claims as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried 3-0.

Payroll

Preapproval for payroll #26 was given on 12/20/202 and paid out on 12/22/2021 in the gross amount of \$508,884.10. Commissioner Burton made a motion to ratify payroll #26. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried 3-0.

Minutes

None

Receipt of Monthly Report, Weights & Measures – Reports from September 16 to October 15, October 16 to November 15, and November 16 to December 15 were presented. Commissioner Mowery made a motion to accept the monthly reports as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried 3-0.

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

Commissioner Bardsley informed the board that he currently sits on the Governor's Public Health Commission. In debates that have taken place this past month, he has learned that there is a formula for how many health nurses should be available in each county. Grant County currently has 1.5 public health nurses, which consists of one full time and one part time employee. According to the formula, there is supposed to be 1 public health nurse for every 5,000 residents in a county. That means Grant County should have 11-13 health care nurses. All counties in Indiana are at a disadvantage and are lacking in their health program. The commission is taking this information to legislation and the governor.

Bob Jackson, EMA - An EOC briefing took place this morning with the hospital, county schools, the health department, and other affected agencies. There were 199 positive cases of COVID over the weekend. "Honestly Grant County has not done badly in regard to how the rest of the state is doing, so that is encouraging." The hospital is reporting that they are still very busy and are still struggling to find beds. The bed shortage is all over the state right now and is a big concern. Flu cases are now present. Mr. Jackson advised to continue encouraging the vaccine. Long term care facilities are reporting very well and are almost at a 100% vaccinated status. The schools are just starting back from winter vacation so everyone is monitoring the spread rate.

IT –Marcus Elliott

None

HIGHWAY – David White, Superintendent

Mr. White opened bids for fuel and stone. A fuel bid from Dawson Oil out of Marion, Indiana, was received. The bid for gas regular was \$2.65 a gallon and road diesel for \$2.98 a gallon. Mr. White will take the bid under review and will revisit and make a recommendation at the next Commissioners' meeting. A stone and gravel bid from IMI Swayzee Montpelier plant #53 & #73 was received. The bid was for stone at \$12.35 a ton. #11 stone, which is mainly used for the chip seal program, was at \$14.45 a ton. Mr. White will take the bids under review and will revisit and make a recommendation at the next Commissioners' meeting. Mr. White was contacted by Petroleum Traders out of Fort Wayne letting him know that they will not be bidding this year.

The Highway department tested out the trucks yesterday morning and put some salt and sand out where needed.

Another demolition project with Area Plan began today in Jonesboro.

There will be a bid opening on 1/18/2022 for Bridge #39 located on county road 1000 east. At least two (2) bids are expected.

Mr. Dunn and Mr. Willie's projects were reviewed. out on river road, also looked at Mr. Willie's project also. For Mr. Dunn, the tile can be changed and kept on the right of way and not even go on Mr. Dunn's property. The water would be on the north side of his entrance and would drain down in the wooded area that is on his property that goes to a creek. As far as Mr. Willie's project goes, "It is a messed up situation. A tile was moved when a pond was installed. It was placed in in the middle of a bunch of trees and this is way off the right of way. The tile was turned and missed the pond." Commissioner Bardsley asked if this

was a mutual or private drain. Mr. White stated that he believed it was private and was not sure what the county can do to resolve the issue outlets on 350 East.

OLD BUSINESS

1. 2022 Health Board Appointments - Mark Bardsley, Commissioner
Reappointments for Brandy Swanner and Barbara Ihrke to the health board was discussed. The Commissioners reappointed Ms. Swanner to her term beginning on January 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2025. Barbara Ihrke's reappointment was postponed due to some concerns from Commissioner Mowery. Commissioner Mowery stated that Ms. Ihrke has in the past given the Commissioners ultimatums. He also stated that he personally asked Ms. Ihrke to investigate a situation where he was being falsely accused of certain actions. No investigation took place and no one was held accountable. Commissioners Burton and Commissioner Bardsley did not have concerns about the reappointment. Neither have had any issues with Ms. Ihrke. Commissioner Bardsley made a motion to reappoint Barbara Ihrke. Seconded by Commissioner Burton and opposed by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried 2-1.
2. Solar Ordinance Update - Ryan Malott, Area Plan
This ordinance must be done in a timely manner as the state may override if not published in the near future. The state's ordinance will be much more lax than that of the county APC. Mr. Malott stated the process for approval has been difficult as the APC has spent hours discussing changes and recommendations that then are to be approved by the Commissioners. Mr. Malott stated that his concerns are that there is an ordinance put together that the Commissioners may never pass. All APC meetings and solar workshops are available on the Grant County Government YouTube channel for public viewing. Mr. Malott stated that hopefully after tonight's meeting, they can get it to a public meeting status but at this time no public meeting has been scheduled. The Commissioners will await a recommendation from the Area Plan Commission. Upon review, the Commissioners will strike, rewrite, and send back. The APC will then act and then take it to the Commissioners for a final decision.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Courthouse Repair Proposal - Brad Driver, Ameresco Senior Project Advisor
Mr. Driver presented an amendment to the last phase, phase 3, of the Ameresco project. "This is for the storm water management moisture intrusion upgrades over at the courthouse. Our company was asked about a year ago to investigate moist intrusion at the southeast corner of the basement of the courthouse." Samples were collected due to concerns of possible mold. It was later determined that there was no mold. It was moisture getting into the interior walls. In January and February further research was done. This past summer Ameresco did a dig on the southeast corner trying to figure out what was happening with the foundation. During that process, the flagstone foundation was uncovered. A structural engineer was then brought in at that time for an assessment. The report that was received came with a recommendation to resolving the issue. Basically, the exterior foundation needs waterproofed along with the installation of a drainage system that could tie into the city's existing system. The estimated cost of this project is \$2,263,537.00. Mr. Driver stated the quote is good for 60 days. Commissioner Bardsley suggested that the county may utilize American Rescue Plan funds to complete the project, which would relieve the county of financial hardship. This will have to go before the council due to usage of ARP money. Auditor McWhirt recommended getting on the county council's agenda for the January 19th meeting to discuss and ensure that everyone is on the same page and hopefully the first meeting in February it could be made official. Administrator Saathoff added that the county attorney, Kyle Persinger, has already reviewed the contract.

2. Pyramid Payment Request - Jim McWhirt, Auditor

Two (2) invoices have been received. One is from J&K for tower equipment, which is through capital lease US Bank (\$1,454,384.77). This is paid from the lease, not county funds. Auditor McWhirt requested approval to submit to US bank for payment. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve payment to J&K. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Bardsley stated that all steel for the towers have been constructed and are ready to be staged. Electricity still needs to be run to the southeast tower site.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

This regular session was brought to recess by Commissioner Bardsley at 11:15 a.m. The next scheduled meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 18, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.