

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS'
REGULAR SESSION
TUESDAY JANUARY 18, 2022

The Grant County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, January 18, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. in the Grant County Complex Council Chambers located at 401 South Adams Street, Marion, Indiana.

In attendance were Commissioner Mark Bardsley, County Administrator/HR Director Justin Saathoff, Auditor Jim McWhirt. Commissioners Ron Mowery and Michael Burton attended via WebEx as permitted under the Governor's Emergency Health Declaration. Commissioner Mowery did have connectivity issues throughout the meeting. Commissioner Burton was tardy dialing into the meeting. Commissioner Bardsley called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and led the prayer. Auditor McWhirt led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Claims

Preapproval 1-11-2022 - United Consulting - \$809.30

Preapproval 1-10-2022 – General - \$128,545.44, Other - \$102,278.51, and Highway - \$130,426.93 = \$361,250.88. Commissioner Mowery made a motion to ratify the claims as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Bardsley; motion carried 2-0.

1/18/2022 – General - \$158,737.20, Other - \$75,755.23, and Highway - \$17,110.87 = \$251,603.30. Commissioner Mowery made a motion to approve claims as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Bardsley; motion carried 2-0.

Payroll

Preapproval for payroll #1 was given on 1/4/2022 and was paid on 1/7/2022 in the gross amount of \$514,442.17. Commissioner Mowery made a motion to ratify payroll #1. Seconded by Commissioner Bardsley; motion carried.

Minutes

Minutes from 8/16/21 were presented. Commissioner Mowery made a motion to approve 8/16/2021 minutes as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Bardsley; motion carried 2-0.

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

1. Jim McWhirt, Auditor

The county received approval from the DLGF for the 2022 budgets. Recent contact with SRI, the tax sale vendor, indicates to having a Commissioners' sale on April 1, 2022. Grant County has not had one the last 2 years due to COVID. The board gave permission to proceed with SRI by common consent.

2. Bob Jackson, EMA

An EOC briefing was held this morning. The county is seeing an increase in COVID cases. 390 cases were reported over the weekend. Marion Health reported that they are extremely busy. A peak in cases is expected within the next 10 days. Commissioner Bardsley stated that that Omicron variant is flooding our county and state. A reminder of good hygiene, masking, and social distancing was stated. In other news, the Communications Policy Board met last week and is working on a recommended ordinance.

3. Kevin Hicks, Central Dispatch

Mr. Hicks has been working with Marion Health and Dr. Steven Keller in regard to the medical director position for the emergency medical dispatch program with Central Dispatch. "We are required to have a physician for that position. Dr. Keller is the lead physician over the emergency department at Marion Health." Marion Health has drawn up an agreement, which has already been reviewed by the county attorney, Kyle Persinger. Mr. Hicks requested \$200 a month as

compensation for the position. The money would come from the E-911 contractual fund. The contract can be presented on 2/7/22 for approval and signatures.

IT –Marcus Elliott

None

HIGHWAY – David White, Superintendent-

1. Mr. White opened bids for the Community Crossing Grant for Bridge # 39 located on 1000 East between 250 North and 200 North. The first bidder was Milestone Contractors of Portland, Indiana with a bid of \$731,767.34. The second bidder was Hoosier Pride Excavating Inc. of Springport, Indiana with a bid of \$607,768.25. Mr. White asked to take the 2 bids under advisement for now and to return at the next regular session with his recommendation.
2. Stone and fuel bids were opened at the last Commissioners' meeting. Mr White brought forth a recommendation of IMI of Swayzee, Indiana for the stone bid and Dawson Oil Company for the fuel bid. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve the recommendations. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried 3-0.
3. Mr. White presented the end of the year report for the recycle center. 15,586 customers were served in 2021.
4. Mr. White stated that currently 4 cell phones with Verizon Wireless are paid from the highway department. He requested to move to AT&T FirstNet, as it seems many other first responders are switching carriers for a savings. The switch would equate to a monthly bill of approximately \$190. The Board of Commissioners gave common consent for Mr. White to move forward with the switch.
5. Mr. White presented two unofficial detour letters of understanding from the state. The first detour is on SR 13 CR N00S. The detour recommendation would be east on 9th street to CR NOOS to 700 West back to SR 18. This is a 45 day closure. The second is on SR 37. The detour recommendation would be from 406 South over to Alabama, down to 300 South. This detour is a 75 day closure. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve the unofficial detours as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried 3-0.
6. Mr. White received his Employee in Responsible Charge recertification two weeks ago. This is needed by the state for any state projects including bridge inspections. January 28, 2022 is the last day for the first round of Community Crossing Grant. Mr. White will attempt to file for the chip seal program this year through that grant. Mr. White asked the board's approval for the county to match the funding for the program. The board agreed by common consent.

OLD BUSINESS

1. ARPA Funding Discussion - Mark Bardsley, Commissioner
In ending discussions with Gas City regarding the requested \$2.5 million for their auditorium project, the County Council meeting is tomorrow night. The MOU is still going back and forth with the attorneys, but the thought is that the money is capped and will only be drawn on if needed or "last dollars used." Commissioner Burton made a motion to move forward to the Council meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Presentation for Funding - Randy Chekouras, Board of Aviation
The airport is able to operate on a small city budget. The airport does hold an annual event, which not only helps the airport but other businesses around the community. The airport has completed many capital improvement projects throughout the years. Over the last 15 years, Marion has

secured \$19 million from federal and state funding programs. The Marion airport is planning to begin a sewer and water project in the near future. The extension to the airport is estimated at \$3 million for the lift stations and other structures. The Marion Board of Aviation has been in discussion with the city utilities department for an estimated 15 years regarding updates and projects with the water and sewage system at the airport and throughout the county. The next step is to create a 20 year plan for growth at the Marion airport. Any funds from the county would greatly assist with future businesses and development.

2. Presentation of 100R Report - Jim McWhirt, Auditor
This is a report that the county is required to publish and advertise each year. It contains the wages for all county employees. Commissioner Burton made a motion to receive the 100R report. Seconded by Commissioner Bardsley; motion carried 2-0.
3. MicroVote Maintenance Agreement - Pam Harris, Clerk
Commissioner Bardsley presented the agreement. This is an annual maintenance agreement to keep the current voting system in place. This has already been reviewed by the county attorney. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve the agreement. Seconded by Commissioner Bardsley; motion carried 2-0.
4. Visitors Bureau Appointments - Mark Bardsley, Commissioner
Randy Ballinger and David Loher's terms have expired. The recommendation is to reappoint both for the visitor's bureau for a period of two (2) years, ending December 31, 2023. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve the reappointment of Randy Ballinger and David Loher. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried 3-0.
5. Economic Development Commission Appointment - Mark Bardsley, Commissioner
Commissioner Bardsley suggested a reappointment for Tim Street. The term would begin February 1, 2022 and end on January 31, 2026. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried 3-0.
6. COVID Policy Update - Justin Saathoff, Administrator
Administrator Saathoff presented the incorporation of the new CDC guidelines to the current policy. The county currently has a 10 day isolation period, testing after day 5. The new guidelines are for positive cases to return after day 5, wearing a mask for an additional 5 days as long as symptoms are resolving. Commissioner Burton made a motion to adopt the update. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried 3-0.
7. Payment Request Packet #10 - Todd Durnil, Pyramid
The packet contained MPX Solutions trade package 35TM application #7 in the amount of \$27,075.20. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve and release the funds for payment. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried 3-0.

The Board of Commissioners noted that the Board of Finance meeting will be rescheduled to February 7, 2022 following the Commissioners' meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

This regular session was brought to recess by Commissioner Bardsley at a.m. The next scheduled meeting will be held on Monday February 7, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.