

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR SESSION**  
**Monday, March 7, 2022**

The Grant County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, March 7, 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, Commissioner Mike Burton, Commissioner Ron Mowery, County Administrator/HR Director Justin Saathoff, and Chief Deputy Auditor Angie Jarvis. Commissioner Bardsley called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Commissioner Burton led the prayer and Commissioner Mowery led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Bardsley stated for the record that the State of Indiana is no longer under a State of Emergency. It was lifted by the governor.

**Claims**

2-28-2022 Preapprovals: general \$112,943.25, other \$40,699.79, and Highway \$19,072.64 = \$172,715.68. Commissioner Burton made a motion to ratify the claims as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried 3-0.

3-7-2022: general \$458,911.92, other \$76,399.32, and Highway \$59,581.73 = \$594,892.97. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve the claims as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried 3-0.

**Payroll**

Preapproval was given on 3/1/22 in the gross amount of \$531,515.62 and paid out on 3/4/2022. Commissioner Mowery made a motion to ratify payroll #5. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried 3-0.

**Minutes**

None

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

1. Bob Jackson, EMA – Mr. Jackson stated that there was only one (1) positive COVID-19 case to report. The Governor has rescinded the emergency health declaration as positive cases dwindle. EOC meetings began almost two (2) years ago on March 12, 2020. Mr. Jackson also stated that there has been progress on all tower sites. 80 feet of steel has been built at the Upland site. Once completed, the crew will move to the Marion site. The steel for the Marion site is to be delivered on Wednesday.
2. Dr. Moore, Health Director – Dr. Moore stated that the state and county is moving out of a state of emergency in regard to the pandemic. He encouraged the public to continue to be cautious as restrictions begin to relax. Public distancing, masks, and washing hands are still very important precautionary measures. Alongside COVID-19, it is still flu season.

**IT – Marcus Elliott**

Mr. Elliott gave an update on his work regarding two factor and multi factor authentication. The next step is presenting the project to the council before moving forward with the request for proposals. Commissioner Bardsley reminded the board that this project is necessary from a liability standpoint. There is a worldwide movement of continual hacking with all types of businesses and governments. These hackers not only cause loss of data, but loss of major finances.

## **HIGHWAY – David White**

None

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Property Acquisition for Marion Utilities - Mike Conner, SHSHC&P  
Mr. Conner requested the transfer of the tax certificate to the City of Marion with the goal of titling it to Marion Utilities. The property in question is 115 Race Street, Marion, Indiana, parcel #27-07-06-204-228.000-002. This property is north of the old YMCA. If approved, once the certificate is received, a right of redemption notice will be sent out to anyone with any interest. For example, a judgement lien will have the ability to redeem the property. If no one redeems the property, then the city will move ahead with getting the tax deed. When the city gets these properties, the goal is to make them look presentable. Green spaces get created, so it is a win-win situation by all. Commissioner Mowery made a motion to approve Resolution 1-2022 as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried 3-0.
2. Naloxone Vending Machine Proposal - Tara Blair, National Center for State Courts  
Ms. Blair requested for a vending machine containing Naloxone kits to be placed in the jail so that inmates would have it available to them upon release. Indiana is one of eight states participating in the regional judicial opioid initiative program since 2016. Grant County has a high rate of overdoses. Ms. Blair indicated that she has spoken to Sheriff Nevels and he is in favor of the vending machine. The vending machine would be given to Grant County and become the county's property. The Naloxone kits would be supplied from either the state health department or a nonprofit organization. There have been 16 vending machines placed in jails in the state of Indiana. Commissioner Mowery expressed his disagreement with the idea. The Commissioners took the item under advisement and plan to discuss it in the next Commissioners' meeting on March 22, 2022.
3. Ambulance Purchase Proposal - Duaine Ashcraft, EMS  
Mr. Ashcraft proposed that the Board of Commissioners consider purchasing ambulances as soon as possible. Ambulances are generally replaced every 4 years. In taking bids, ambulance providers state that production is now about 700 days out. The bids are approximately \$70,000 more per vehicle than in the past, putting an average cost of \$250,000 per ambulance. Mr. Ashcraft estimates that in two years, we will have at least 5 ambulances with over 200,000 miles. The delayed wait time will allow the Commissioners and the Council to plan for the cost in the upcoming budgets. Mr. Ashcraft was asked to move forward with preparing for the purchase and to address the Council.
4. Ratification of GIS Data Proposal - Mark Bardsley, Commissioner  
The City of Marion asked the county to share some GIS data for a project with the road department. When asked, Commissioner Bardsley gave permission for the city of Marion to receive the data. Commissioner Burton made a motion to ratify the request. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.
5. Alcohol and Tobacco Commission Appointment - Mark Bardsley, Commissioner  
Stacey Sample is resigning from her appointment to the Alcohol and Tobacco Commission. She is able to serve through April 2022. Her appointment actually ends on 12/31/22. The board of

Commissioners will seek an appointment to finish out her term. The board will review all interested applicants and revisit this topic in the next regularly scheduled meeting.

6. Regional Elected Officials' Agreement - Mark Bardsley, Commissioner  
This is an agreement with elected officials from local area region 3 that includes the City of Fort Wayne and the following counties: Allen, Adams, DeKalb, Grant, Huntington, LaGrange, Nobel, Steuben, Wabash, Well, and Whitney. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve and sign the agreement as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Mowery; motion carried.
7. Consideration of Next Meeting - Mark Bardsley, Commissioner  
Commissioner Bardsley will be out of the state on 3/21/22, which is when the next Commissioners' meeting is scheduled. It was recommended to move the meeting to 3/22/22. By common consent from the board, the meeting will now be on 3/22/22 at 10:00 a.m.
8. Asset Planner and Space Planning Proposal – Mark Heirbrandt and Brad Driver, Ameresco  
Mr. Heirbrandt, Ameresco Senior Account Director, presented a proposal for a building study and a space planning investigation to help the Board of Commissioners and County Council to make educated and informed decisions when it comes to building repair, remodeling, or completely new construction. Mr. Driver stated that similar studies from Ameresco have been done in the past with the county's buildings. The information would need to be updated as some of the suggested projects have been completed. After all assessments have been completed, recommendations would be given to the county. There is a one-time fee for condition assessments, a one-time fee for the space planning, and an annual fee for the computer software. The total would be \$64,000. Commissioner Mowery added that he would like to have some time to work with members of the Council to review what Ameresco has proposed today. Commissioner Bardsley made a recommendation to discuss this with the Council and revisit at the next Commissioners' meeting.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. Mike Roorbach, Grant County Council Member – Mr. Roorbach thanked Ameresco for their presentation and thanked the Commissioners for including the Council in the decision. He commented that he felt like \$64,000 was not a lot of money to get a plan together when the project is coming in at \$10 million.
2. Randy Atkins of 8560 S Wheeling Pike, Fairmount, Indiana – Mr. Atkins spoke with concern in regard to the solar ordinance that is underway. He encouraged the Board of Commissioners to accept whatever proposal the Area Plan Commission brings to them.

This regular session was brought to recess by Commissioner Bardsley at 11:20 a.m. The next scheduled meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.