

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION  
APRIL 18, 2022**

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

In attendance were Commissioners Mike Burton, Commissioner Mark Bardsley, Auditor Jim McWhirt, County Administrator/HR Director Justin Saathoff, and Financials Deputy Stacey Stevens. Commissioner Ron Mowery was absent.

Commissioner Bardsley called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Commissioner Burton led in prayer. Commissioner Bardsley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PREAPPROVED CLAIMS**

April 11, 2022:   General: \$257,110.98  
                          Other:   \$109,690.56  
                          Highway: \$ 95,300.30  
                          **TOTAL: \$462,101.84**

Commissioner Burton made a motion to formally ratify the preapproved claim dockets as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Bardsley; motion carried 2-0.

**CLAIMS**

April 18, 2022:   General: \$151,150.09  
                          Other:   \$ 54,375.29  
                          Highway: \$ 9,576.40  
                          **TOTAL: \$ 215,101.78**

Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve the above claim dockets as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Bardsley; motion carried 2-0.

**PAYROLL**

Payroll #8 carried a gross total of \$522,520.07. Formal preapproval was given on April 12, 2022 and paid out on April 14, 2022. Commissioner Burton moved to ratify the preapproval of payroll #8 as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Bardsley; motion carried 2-0.

**MINUTES**

None

**Board Updates**

1. Bob Jackson, EMA
  - a. Mr. Jackson reported that COVID-19 numbers continue to be down, but still need monitored.
  - b. He also stated that there was nothing new to report on the towers. The weather has prevented work being done for a few weeks now.
2. Kevin Hicks, Central Dispatch

Mr. Hicks asked for permission to attend a conference on June 16 and 17, 2022. Commissioner Bardsley and Commissioner Burton approved the request by common consent for Director Hicks to attend the conference.

### **IT Report**

1. IT Director Marcus Elliott presented three (3) different lease quotes to the Commissioners for the Data Refresh Project. Director Elliott recommended American Financial. The equipment cost is \$334,586.00. This will be for a five (5) year agreement with a \$1 buyout. The lease payment will be \$71,585.77 annually at 3.490%. Director Elliott will present this to the Grant County Council at the next Council meeting on 4/20/22. Commissioner Burton moved to approve as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Bardsley; motion carried 2-0.
2. Director Elliott also expressed the need for cyber protection and is suggesting a cloud-based storage option with a company named Wasabi. The storage would cost \$2,247.26 annually. Mr. Elliott reviewed the storage option with EMA Director Bob Jackson as Commissioner Bardsley previously requested. Mr. Jackson has no issues with moving forward. Commissioner Burton moved to approve as requested. Seconded by Commissioner Bardsley with the assurance of nothing being done until there is approval from the county attorney; motion carried 2-0.

### **Highway Report**

1. Superintendent David White stated that the Pennsylvania Street bridge is expected to be done in May.
2. Superintendent White opened one asphalt bid from Brooks Construction and will take this bid under advisement. His recommendation will come to the board at the next meeting on 5/2/22.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Presentation of Payment Packet Request #12 – Todd Durnil, Pyramid  
Pyramid was not present and the needed documentation was not submitted. This item was tabled until the next meeting.
2. Ambulance Purchase Proposal - Duaine Ashcraft, EMS  
Director Ashcraft expressed the need to replace four (4) ambulances. He asked for approval to begin the bid and financing processes. Commissioner Burton moved to approve as requested. Seconded by Commissioner Bardsley; motion carried 2-0.
3. Ratification of Mail Service Proposal - Justin Saathoff, Administrator  
Administrator Saathoff presented the Pitney Bowes mailing system that had been preapproved. The cost will be \$289.09 a month plus postage. Commissioner Burton moved to ratify the preapproval as requested. Seconded by Commissioner Bardsley; motion carried 2-0.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Hog Daze Event Request – Don Osborne and Pat Mitchell, Indiana Motorcycle Preservation Society  
President Pat Mitchell requested to have a reenactment of the Hog Daze race from 1919. He introduced Mr. Don Osborne to present the details. There will be a \$20.00 entrance fee and traffic will need to be rerouted for a four (4) hour period, from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on August 20, 2022. This paperwork will need to be reviewed by the county attorney and will need to be brought back and presented.
2. Presentation of CY 2023 Community Corrections Grant - Melissa Stephenson, Court Services  
Director Stephenson presented and requested approval of the CY 2023 Community Corrections/Justice Reinvestment grants. There are three (3) sections to the Grant:  
General Community Corrections Grant: \$ 888,628.00

Court Recidivism Reduction Programs: \$ 503,315.00

Jail Treatment: \$ 52,500.00

TOTAL \$1,444.443.00

Commissioner Burton moved to approve as requested. Seconded by Commissioner Bardsley; motion carried 2-0.

3. Solar Ordinance Proposal - Ryan Malott, Area Plan

Director Malott presented the Area Plan Commission's recommendation for the Solar Ordinance. The APC voted 7-1 to move forward with the proposal with a favorable recommendation asking that this be adopted as written. Commissioner Bardsley stated that this is available online and that the certification process began on April 14, 2022. The Board of Commissioners acknowledged receipt of the proposal and noted that they now have 90 days to review and make a recommendation back to the APC.

4. Area Wide Zoning Ordinance Amendment Proposal - Ryan Malott, Area Plan

Director Malott presented the proposed amendment for address 3940 W 900 S, Fairmount. Area Plan has given this an unfavorable recommendation. The Board of Commissioners took the proposal under advisement. This item will be tabled until the May 2, 2022, meeting.

5. Organization of APC Ordinance Amendment Proposal - Ryan Malott, Area Plan

Director Malott presented the proposal for digital and animated signage. This would be Ordinance #2-2022. Commissioner Burton moved to approve Ordinance #2-2022 as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Bardsley; motion carried 2-0.

6. Presentation of Employee Discount - Justin Saathoff, Administrator

The Indianapolis Zoo has given the opportunity for county employees to take advantage of a 40% online discount. Administrator Saathoff asked if the Commissioners wished to advertise this offer. Commissioners Burton and Bardsley both gave consent for the advertisement.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Jackie Sheets of 9409 E 1200 S encouraged the Commissioners to vote yes on the proposed solar ordinance.

Andy Ellis of Fairmount stated that he is in support of the proposed solar ordinance and echoes Jackie Sheets' sentiments. Mr. Ellis encouraged the Commissioners to adopt the solar ordinance as written. "This is important to our community. This will affect us, our property values, and farm ground for generations. If this company wants to work with us, they will work within the ordinance we have adopted."

Michael Roush of 7824 N 200 W Hartford City stated that he owns property in Grant County and spoke about three (3) past precedents that have been set in the county: wind farms, medium security prison, and CAFO. All of which were denied. Mr. Roush expressed that he is against solar farms on productive farm ground, but not against them in areas that are abandoned or not usable for agriculture production. "The ordinance needs to be considered and accepted as is."

Debra Cain does not live out in the county but is an elected official. Ms. Cain encouraged the Commissioners to listen to their constituents that put them in office. Ms. Cain has been at meetings in other counties where the public are disappointed with the outcome of the setbacks. They wish that they

had been set back further per the ordinance. There are a lot of people that would like to see this ordinance passed as written and not changed.

Commissioner Bardsley recessed the meeting at 11:22 a.m. The next scheduled meeting will be held on Monday May 2, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.