

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION  
June 21, 2022**

The Grant County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on June 21, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. in the Grant County Complex Council Chambers located at 401 South Adams Street, Marion, IN.

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

Commissioner Bardsley called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Commissioner Burton led in prayer. Commissioner Bardsley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PREAPPROVED CLAIMS**

June 13, 2022:	General:	\$753,646.67
	Other:	\$ 52,471.82
	<u>Highway:</u>	<u>\$ 41,598.00</u>
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$847,716.49</b>

**Single Claim:** Pitney Bowes \$4,038.50  
Preapproval on 6-15-2022

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

**CLAIMS**

June 21, 2022:	General:	\$107,034.63
	Other:	\$ 93,449.53
	<u>Highway:</u>	<u>\$163,816.04</u>
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$364,300.20</b>

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

**PAYROLL**

Payroll #12 carried a gross total of \$541,989.54. Formal preapproval was given on June 7, 2022 and paid out on June 10, 2022. Commissioner Burton moved to ratify the preapproval of payroll #12 as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Bardsley; motion carried 2-0.

**MINUTES**

None

**Receipts of Monthly Reports**

Commissioner Bardsley stated that they would receive the Circuit Court report, month ending May 31, 2022 by common consent.

**Board Updates**

None

**IT Report**

1. IT Director Marcus Elliott presented the Barracuda email and security service. Director Elliott followed up on the question the Commissioners had at the last meeting. The .gov act is an initiative from the government, encouraging local county governments to sign up and move their top-level domain to the.gov. It is for transparency and to provide a better security access to that top level. Currently only 10% of local county governments utilize it. They have waived all fees and have recently been taken over by the CISA. They have not posted a timeline for the migration. Commissioner Bardsley expressed it was hinted to him that they were going to force the migration eventually for all government entities. Director Elliott stated that the annual cost of the Barracuda email and additional protection is \$12,147.94. This can be paid from the IT security software account. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve the Barracuda email protection program as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Bardsley; motion carried 2-0.
2. Director Elliott requested to upgrade the KnowBe4 training system. Administrator Saathoff would like a platform for certain trainings for county employees from the HR perspective. The quote to get the upgrade is \$3,501.99, which includes a 25% discount. This can be paid from the IT contractual services account. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve the upgrade as requested. Seconded by Commissioner Bardsley; motion carried 2-0.
3. Director Elliott stated that IT's needs have outgrown the current help desk software. With the current program, Maintenance cannot access the help desk. Solar Winds helpdesk has a software program that is more configurable. Employees can send an email or go to a web page and fill out a form for the issue they are having, allowing for more tracking for IT and Maintenance. The current renewal will be in October. The annual fee for Solar Winds is \$7,808.55. This can be started in the next couple of weeks and can be paid from the IT contractual service fund. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve the Solar Winds package at \$7,808.55 as requested. Seconded by Commissioner Bardsley; motion carried 2-0.

#### **Highway Report**

1. Superintendent David White stated that he has a certificate from INDOT stating Grant County has one covered bridge and he needs the Commissioners' signatures. Commissioner Burton gave consent and both Commissioners signed the certificate with Auditor McWhirt attesting. Superintendent White will send the certificate back to INDOT.
2. Superintendent White presented an ordinance prepared by the county attorney for a change of fees for driveways, right of ways, and utilities. The changes are as follows: driveway went from \$25.00 to \$50.00 and inspections on the right of way went from \$75.00 to \$100.00 for every ¼ mile or 1320 feet. This will be Ordinance #6-2022. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve Ordinance #6-2022 as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Bardsley; motion carried 2-0.
3. Superintendent White stated he has a signature page for bridge #789 on 10<sup>th</sup> street in Marion for design work. This is supposed to go to bid within the next month. This requires the signature of the Commissioners. Commissioners Burton and Bardsley approved by common consent and Commissioner Bardsley signed the signature page.
4. The tile work on 100 N (Mr. Roush) has been completed.

5. Superintendent White is reviewing replacement work on Branson Street. He is working with a firm to see what the best solution will be. Superintendent White is guessing it will be a total federal aid project. If it is over a \$2.5 million project, the county can apply for federal aid.
6. A paver has been put up for sale online. This is supposed to be sold by July 26 on bidders.com, an online auction.
7. The Highway Department is currently doing a tile project on 700 South for the surveyors.
8. The log jam was removed by Gas City Park last week. There is another log jam on Branson Street that will be removed today.
9. Chip sealing began this morning. Approximately 6 miles of chip sealing will be done in each township. The tentative schedule for paving with Brooks is after July 4.
10. Superintendent White expects to have costs for construction of a storage building at the Highway Department by the next meeting.
11. Superintendent White requested approval for Debco Metal Culverts to do a slip line project on county road 950 East, just north of 1000 South. This is a 24" tile to slip line. It is in a deep ravine and it will be more cost effective to do it this way. The price for the total job is \$24,750.00. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve as requested. Seconded by Commissioner Bardsley; motion carried 2-0.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Solar Ordinance Discussion - Mark Bardsley Commissioner  
Commissioner Bardsley stated that findings from the board were to be released today. The Commissioners are still individually working on findings. They will be ready prior to the July 5 meeting, when the ordinance will be considered. All actions of this board are per the attorney's advice. Input from all pro and con solar are being considered.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. GeoPermits Recommendation - Ryan Malott, Area Plan  
Director Malott stated that the Area Plan department is currently working with software that was installed in 1997. The request is for upgraded software. Director Malott stated that he has spoken with several different companies including Snyder, DocuSign, and Teamworks and has narrowed the recommendation to Snyder. Snyder owns Elevate, which the county already uses Elevate GIS. Snyder also incorporates other departments into their system. It is not just Area Plan specific. A presentation was given by Snyder to several department heads, the Commissioners' office, and a member of the Council. All had positive things to say about the proposed software. There is interest from the Food and Environmental department and the Surveyor's office. There are major advantages when looking at the software from an inspection and permit perspective. This would literally save hours of work and redundancy daily. Standard package A is \$30,792.00 with an annual fee of \$7,380.00. This includes the setup of GeoPermits, set up of online payment processor and remote training. Flex package A is a one-time fee of \$3,312.00 with an annual fee of \$20,628.00. Flex package B is a one-time fee of \$3,312 with an annual payment of \$33,876.00. Flex package C is a one-time payment of \$30,792.00 and an annual fee of \$20,628.00. Director Malott recommended standard package A. It is a 3-year contract with a \$5,760 legacy transfer one-time fee. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve as requested pending appropriation approval of the Council. Seconded by Commissioner Bardsley; motion carried 2-0.
2. Presentation of Payment Request Packet #15 - Todd Durnil, Pyramid  
Todd Durnil nor anyone from Pyramid were present. Commissioner Bardsley stated that funding should not be released yet. He also stated that there will be ribbon cutting ceremony at the

Upland safety tower site at 9:00 am on July 7. The lieutenant governor is expected to be in attendance. The public is invited. Mr. Durnil became present via WebEx. Commissioner Bardsley stated that he would let him explain the request for payment. Mr. Durnil asked if payment #14 had gotten approved. It was then explained that the board has not approved payment due to the lack of appropriate paperwork. After some discussion, Auditor McWhirt stated that based on the contract, if they have completed their work and the board is satisfied with what has been done, payment should be issued. Commissioner Burton made a motion to pay the \$50,676.25 and \$10,135.25 requests. Seconded by Commissioner Bardsley; motion carried 2-0.

Commissioner Bardsley asked Mr. Durnil about paperwork from Pyramid. Mr. Durnil explained what amounts need paid. The audio connection was not good, making it difficult to understand him. Auditor McWhirt stated that "there are enough questions on what we are asking you that you need to meet with us in person, so we can make sure this is done correctly. There were some questions on the fencing project as well." Mr. Durnil agreed to get with Administrator Saathoff to arrange a meeting.

### **Public Comments**

**Solar** - Commissioner Bardsley stated that he would allow public comment concerning the solar ordinance at two (2) minutes per person.

Julie Hartman of 2640 E 1050 S, Fairmount stated that "after months of discussion in the Area Plan and with residents, there has not been one person who lived in the area where the solar farms you're wanting to put in who has been in favor of the solar farms. All the residents there that have spoken are against putting it on the farm ground and around our residents. This devalues our homes and takes our farmland. We need to feed more people not less. The farming is a big part of our economy in Grant County."

Myron Brankle, a third generation Grant County farmer, stated that "this is the most serious ordinance Grant County is ever going to deal with. The impact it is going to have if not approved correctly is going to be devastating to our economy, our farmers, and our homeowners. We have worked on this ordinance for months and met with farmers, homeowners, and interested people who all support this ordinance as it is. We have 494 farms, 190,076 acres that we are dealing with. This is no small matter. These farmers have not said, "No solar." They have said, "Do it right." This ordinance has been approved, presented to the public...the public supported it and we have had nobody come and say, "I don't like this, I think we should have solar everywhere."

Don Wright of 650 S, Jonesboro made a statement to the Commissioners. "As you make a decision on this ordinance, I would make a plea that you listen to your constituents and the taxpayers of this county and not the solar companies that profit from this and who are going to leave this area. What tax dollars you get from the solar companies are going to be offset by the loss of the things that come from agriculture."

Andy Ellis of Fairmount stated that "we are not against all solar. We don't support large scale solar farms on our productive farm ground. We should not have to sacrifice the environment to try to go green. It does not make sense to do that. The ordinance was written to reflect the will of the people."

The next Commissioners' meeting is July 5, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

Commissioner Bardsley recessed the meeting at 11:24 a.m.