

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
September 6, 2022**

The Grant County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on September 6, 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, Steven Wright, and Mark Bardsley. Also present were 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 Wright led in prayer. Commissioner Burton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PREAPPROVED SINGLE CLAIMS

August 24, 2022,	Kelly Chevy (Commissioners) \$76,444.00
August 31, 2022,	Star Financial (Corrections) \$1,820.96
August 31, 2022,	Star Financial (Prosecutor) \$139.95

PREAPPROVED CLAIMS

August 22, 2022:	General:	\$134,310.70
	Other:	\$70,133.57
	Highway:	<u>\$2,187.57</u>
	TOTAL:	\$206,631.84

August 29, 2022:	General:	\$133,975.19
	Other:	\$20,608.31
	Highway:	<u>\$911,418.90</u>
	TOTAL:	\$1,066,002.40

CLAIMS

September 6, 2022:	General:	\$197,580.87
	Other:	\$69,235.86
	Highway:	<u>\$128,582.22</u>
	TOTAL:	\$395,398.95

Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve the claim dockets above as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Wright; motion carried 3-0.

PAYROLL

Payroll #17 carried a gross total of \$518,592.86. Formal preapproval was given on August 16, 2022 and paid out on August 19, 2022.

Payroll #18 carried a gross total of \$522,803.39. Formal preapproval was given on August 30, 2022 and paid out on September 2, 2022.

Commissioner Burton made a motion to formally ratify preapproved payroll #17 and #18 above as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Wright; motion carried 3-0.

MINUTES

Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve the minutes from February 7, 2022, and February 22, 2022, as presented. Second by Commissioner Bardsley; motion carried 2-1 (abstention by Commissioner Wright).

Receipts of Monthly Reports

Clerk of Courts month ending 7/31/2022. Commissioner Burton made a motion to receive in the monthly report of Clerk of Courts. Seconded by Commissioner Wright; motion carried 3-0.

Board Updates

Auditor Jim McWhirt expressed the Tax sale is set for September 14, 2022.

EMA Director Bob Jackson gave a COVID update. There were 40 cases over the weekend. We do still have vaccines and testing at the Health Department until the end of the year. We will continue to keep an eye on everything. Director Jackson also expressed all three (3) towers sites are live and we are testing the equipment.

Highway Report

Superintendent David White gave an update on a few things. Paving projects are completed for now, we have done almost 12 miles so far.

The bridge on 1000 East between 200 N and 250 N most of the steel is done and in the next two weeks we will be pouring the deck.

The building pad for the new construction of our building is done. The contractor is hoping to get the building started in September.

Superintendent White can get the paperwork started with Kyle to donate the Boys and Girls club building and the cell tower that is on the property. Commissioner Bardsley expressed that needed to be done and to move forward with the paperwork.

There is still about 25 miles of chip-sealing to be done. Superintendent would like to have this completed in the next couple of weeks.

OLD BUSINESS

Duaine Ashcraft, EMS Ambulance bid recommendation-EMS Director Duaine Ashcraft expressed at the last meeting we presented the ambulance bid agreement, the attorney has looked it over and made sure it is compliant under the IC codes of Indiana. The purchase agreement is for \$1,042,764.00 for 4 units and is for a period of 5 years. Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve the agreement pending finance from the County Council. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried 3-0.

Rich Taylor, Envoy-Proposal of Professional Services Agreement-Commissioner Bardsley expressed Rich Taylor is not present, but we have signed the proposal for professional services agreement with Envoy. This is the group that is helping us to look at our footprint of our building's needs. They will do the assessment of what it would take to repair our current structures and what a footprint outside of the downtown area would look like.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Ryan Drown, Fusion Arts Alliance-Ryan Drown is present via WebEx. Mr. Drown is requesting use of the Courthouse lawn on the pavilion side and will need use of the electricity as well. This is for a festival the Fusion Arts Alliance is having and will be held on September 16, 2022. Commissioner Wright made a

motion to approve the use of the Courthouse lawn with use of the electricity. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried 3-0.

2. Ryan Malott, Area Plan-Application for Special Exception, Ehler-We have an application for the installation for a shipping container, this is allowed by special exception in a residential suburban area. The petitioner is seeking the special exception from the area wide zoning ordinance to install an 8-foot wide by 8-foot 6 inch tall, 53-foot-long shipping container. There is a slab present, and the location is behind the house and almost hidden from public. This will go to the BZA for an outcome. Commissioner Burton made a motion for a favorable recommendation to the BZA. Seconded by Commissioner Wright; motion carried 3-0.

3. Mark Bardsley, Commissioner-Garthwaite Road Survey-Commissioner Bardsley has the Garthwaite road survey. Commissioner Bardsley preapproved this survey, the property is on the south side of property we own which use to be the George Jr. home. This property has been sold to a different individual; part of our land is interchangeable with their land. They would like to clear this up, so I preapproved to get a surveyor out there to get a survey done. Kyle is reviewing this now and it will come back to us for action. We will continue to keep the gravel road as it is, as part of the county.

4. Mark Bardsley, Commissioner-Commissioner Bardsley has been given a public defender board commission, to reappoint Mr. Lewis for a three (3) year term. The Commissioners have taken this under advisement.

5. Commissioner Wright expressed on Monday September 12th at 6:30 pm we are having a solar panel discussion at the Walton Auditorium at Marion High School. The solar companies will be there, and I will be asking the top 10 questions that people have given me with their concerns. The solar companies will speak then I will pose the questions and show a video to them of concerns we have.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Solar-Jackie Sheets-is disappointed with the meetings she has been to. Mrs. Sheets is disappointed that draft 7 is gone and we are back to draft 4. Mrs. Sheets wants the setback to stay at 1320. Mrs. Sheets expressed this does not affect you because you don't live there.

Ted Otis, Marion-asked who are the farmers that are selling their land for this, and where does the electricity go that is made from these solar farms? Who is making money off this?

Julie Hartman 2640 E 1050 S-asked when can we have a discussion with the Commissioners? Mrs. Hartman asked when a decision will be made. Mrs. Hartman expressed we would like to discuss draft 4 with our commissioners.

Randy Atkins 8560 S Wheeling Pike, Fairmount- expressed the APC voted on a recommendation to the Commissioners and that recommendation was to turn down the ordinance and to put in a moratorium. Mr. Atkins expressed it is my understanding you have an option for a moratorium. It is important that we know who is accountable for these solar farms after they are built.

Harold King, Swayzee-expressed the most important question for these solar people, give me some examples of where they have done these large solars and the generation of tax money. There will be a handful that get 3 times what they would farming, but the rest of us won't be getting that, we get to look at it.

The next Commissioners meeting is September 19th, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

Commissioner Bardsley recessed the meeting at 11:01 a.m.

