

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
October 3, 2022**

The Grant County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on October 3, 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, Steve 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 10:01 a.m. Commissioner Burton led in prayer. Commissioner Wright led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PREAPPROVED CLAIMS

September 12, 2022: General: \$115,372.17
Other: \$66,392.67
Highway: \$195,835.33
TOTAL: \$377,600.17

SINGEL PREAPPROVED CLAIMS

September 26, 2022, Visa Cardmember Service \$543.92
September 27, 2022, Visa Cardmember Service \$30.00

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

CLAIMS

October 3, 2022: General: \$103,955.91
Other: \$ 81,805.02
Highway: \$308,096.07
TOTAL: \$493,857.00

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

PAYROLL

Payroll #20 carried a gross total of \$519,451.58. Formal preapproval was given on September 27, 2022 and paid out on September 30, 2022.

Commissioner Burton made a motion to formally ratify preapproved payroll #20 as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Wright; motion carried 3-0.

Receipts of Monthly Reports

Commissioner Burton made a motion to receive in the monthly report from the Clerk of Courts month ending 8/31/2022 as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Wright; motion carried 3-0.

Board Updates

Public Safety Communications Director Kevin Hicks stated that there were 46 new COVID cases and 2 deaths last week. The numbers in September are down 30% from August.

Director Hicks also gave an update on the new towers. The Atlas system is still being tested. Once completed, all fire departments will have the same coverage.

Highway Report

Highway Superintendent David White presented the Commissioners with a spreadsheet of the roads that have been paved (expenditure of \$1,380,814.00) and chip sealed (expenditure of \$748,254.00).

Superintendent White stated that he had an unofficial detour notice from the state for the bridge on state road 22/ US 35 between state road 9 and 37 for a spring 2023 project. The unofficial detour will be county road 100 W to 600 S and back to state road 9. This does need approved and the signatures of all 3 Commissioners. The Commissioners signed the unofficial detour agreement. Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve the unofficial detour. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried 3-0.

Superintendent White requested to buy a bed for a dump truck. The 3 quotes are as follows: Leinco for \$78,863.00, W.A. Jones for \$59,986.00, and Kalida Trucks for \$82,500. Superintendent White is recommending W. A. Jones at \$59,986.00. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve W. A. Jones for a new truck bed in the amount of \$59,986.00 as recommended. Seconded by Commissioner Wright; motion carried 3-0.

Superintendent White gave an update on bridge #39 on county road 1000 E between 200 and 250 N. The paving and guardrail replacement is scheduled for next week. The goal is to have the road back open by mid-October.

Superintendent White stated that the lumber for the new building project at the Highway department was purchased last Friday and they are to begin tomorrow.

Superintendent White stated that he is getting ready to have a kickoff meeting in the next couple of weeks for the bridge on 10th street. Bridge #16 and #138 are still in design work and the goal would be to apply for a community crossings grant the first of 2023. He also stated that he would like to apply for federal funding for the Branson Street bridge in November for a total replacement.

Approximately half of all railroad crossings in the county have been repainted. Last year, the county received a \$50,000 grant for the line stripping. Thermal paint is being used and should last 10-15 years. A large culvert pipe on 1100 S between 200 E and 250 E was replaced. There are 2 more pipes needing replaced that will be done in the next few weeks.

Commissioner Bardsley asked Superintendent White if he would be available in the next month and a half to meet with EMA and Emergency Services to review emergency protocols. Superintendent White stated that he could be available.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Timekeeping System and Tax Information Website Proposals - Andrew Low, LOW Associates

Andrew Low joined the meeting via WebEx. Mr. Low presented the timekeeping system and tax solution website (LTI) to the board. The two proposals have been bundled and discounted if approved. Commissioner Bardsley asked how this would be funded. Administrator Saathoff explained that the Sheriff's Department would be funding the initial upfront timekeeping system fees, which is estimated at \$32,500. The Commissioners would then take on the monthly maintenance and licensing fees at \$2,325. For the LTI, it will be \$10,000 up front for the build, \$10,000.00 annually, and another \$3,000.00 for maintenance. This will come from the Commissioners' contractual services account. Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve LOW's bid for both the website build and the timekeeping system. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried 3-0.

2. RFP Recommendation - Dale Davis, Envoy

Commissioner Bardsley stated that 3 RFP's were received in regard to the studies and assessments of county buildings including the jail. Two seem to be positive, but more clarification is still needed. Face-to-face meetings within the next two weeks will be requested from the 2 vendors. The board will have a recommendation recommendation by the end of this month.

3. Public Defender Commission Appointment - Mark Bardsley, Commissioner

Commissioner Bardsley stated that the board was made aware of the expiration of a Public Defender appointment. That person continues to serve until a new appointment is made. Commissioner Bardsley stated that he had spoken to the current appointment, Rodney McKellar, and he is happy to continue to serve. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve Rodney McKellar to continue as the Public Defender Commission appointment. Seconded by Commissioner Wright; motion carried 3-0.

4. Fencing Proposal, Salin Bank Building - Justin Saathoff, Administrator

Administrator Saathoff presented the fencing proposal in the amount of \$4985.00 on behalf of EMA Director Bob Jackson. This is to enclose the area behind the Salin Bank building to protect outdoor equipment. This is an initial quote and is for normal chain link with 3 strands of barbed wire. The Commissioners would like the fence to be coated with black vinyl but no barbwire at this time. Administrator Saathoff will request a new quote from Director Jackson.

5. Presentation of 2023 Holiday Schedule and 2023 Payroll Schedule - Justin Saathoff, Administrator

Administrator Saathoff presented the holiday and payroll schedules for 2023 for approval. Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve the schedules with a caveat to review the municipal elections to see if we are required to make those dates a day off. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

David Kratzer of 3948 E 650 N in Marion expressed he applied for a solar permit and it was rejected by Area Plan. Area Plan Director Ryan Malott (via electronic device) stated that they are not accepting applications until the meeting later this evening. Mr. Kratzer questioned as to why his permit was denied if the ordinance has already been passed.

Julie Hartman of 3640 E 1050 S in Fairmount commented to Mr. Kratzer that there were illegal parts in the solar ordinance that was passed.

The next Commissioners' meeting is October 17, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

Commissioner Bardsley recessed the meeting at 10:53 a.m.