

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
November 7, 2022**

The Grant County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on November 7, 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 10:03 a.m. Commissioner Burton led in prayer. Commissioner Wright led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PREAPPROVED CLAIMS

October 24, 2022: General: \$90,747.21
 Other: \$256,618.59
 Highway: \$72,244.51
 TOTAL: \$219,610.31

October 31, 2022: General: \$190,498.84
 Other: \$89,298.94
 Highway: \$30,389.16
 TOTAL: \$310,186.94

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

CLAIMS

November 7, 2022: General: \$264,672.61
 Other: \$152,915.78
 Highway: \$10,509.04
 TOTAL: \$528,097.43

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

PAYROLL

Payroll #22 carried a gross total of \$524,569.07. Formal preapproval was given on October 25, 2022 and paid out on October 28, 2022.

Commissioner Burton made a motion to formally ratify preapproved payroll #22 as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Wright; motion carried 3-0.

Minutes

Minutes from 3/22/2022, and 4/4/2022 have been reviewed and edited. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Bardsley; motion carried 2-1, abstention by Commissioner Wright.

Receipts of Monthly Reports

Commissioner Burton made a motion to receive in the monthly report from Clerk of the Circuit Court for month ending 9-30-2022. Seconded by Commissioner Wright; motion carried 3-0.

Board Updates

EMA Director Bob Jackson stated that COVID numbers continue to trend in the right direction. There was a total of 163 reported positive cases in October. There was a wind event over the weekend that knocked out power for a handful of areas. As of 10:00 last night, all power had been restored. EMA is currently working on winter storm preparations.

IT Report

IT Director Marcus Elliott stated that he is working on some grants with Court Services for technological upgrades to the courthouse. Chris Cunningham was present to speak on that later in the meeting.

Highway Report

Superintendent David White was not present. Commissioner Bardsley gave an update for the Highway department. The Salin bank and probation department parking areas have been paved. The work on the storage barn at the Highway department is continuing and should be enclosed this week. Once it is enclosed, the cement will be poured. The Highway department is gearing up for winter.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Building Assessment RFP Recommendations - Dale Davis, Envoy
Mr. Davis (via web-ex) stated that the jail and juvenile facilities study is a statutory required process that evaluates the current condition of the buildings. Proposals from RQAW, Elevatus, and DLZ were received. Elevatus and DLZ were interviewed. After evaluation, Envoy recommended DLZ for the study. They have a proven track record, their timeline was shorter, and they had a favorable fee of \$9,000.00. Commissioner Wright made a motion to accept the recommendation. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Renovation Project for Mill Township Fire Department - Dennis Banks, Mill Township Trustee
Mr. Banks requested \$200,000 from the county's ARPA funds to assist with the renovation of the Mill Township Fire Department. After some discussion, the Commissioners took the request under advisement.
2. 2023 Benefits Renewal Proposal - Michele Bunker, IMG
Ms. Bunker presented the proposal to the Board of Commissioners. She recommended to stay with UMR, Optum, WellWorks, and BerniePortal. Ms. Bunker recommended a stop loss change from Voya to Tokio Marine. It was also recommended to change the dental coverage from United Health Care to Delta Dental. Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve the renewal executive summary and the recommendations from IMG. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried 3-0.
3. Walkway of Lights Event, Permission Request - Steve Wright, Commissioner
Commissioner Wright requested approval of use of the courthouse square for the Walkway of Lights events that begin November 19, 2022. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve the use of the courthouse square. Seconded by Commissioner Bardsley; motion carried 2-1 (Commissioner Wright abstained).

4. Court Improvement Grant Request - Chris Cunningham, Corrections
Director Cunningham requested approval to apply for the Court Reform Grant. This grant is due November 10, 2022. Director Cunningham presented documentation about the grant to the Commissioners. This grant covers three (3) areas: improving court security, technological innovations, and innovation grants. Director Cunningham presented the grant agreement and explained how the grant works. Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve pursuing the grant, not to exceed the grant availability amount and with approval by Council. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried 3-0.
5. Invoice #1910405-28 Payment Request - Todd Durnil, Pyramid
Mr. Durnil is not present. Administrator Saathoff stated that the door to the Upland shelter has not been installed and the paperwork requested by Auditor McWhirt has not been received. Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve invoice #191045-28 for \$35,690.00 once the requested paperwork has been received and the door at the Upland site has been installed. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried 3-0.
6. Extension Contractual Services Agreement - Kris Goff, Purdue Ext.
Kris Goff presented the Contractual Services agreement between the county and Purdue University. The contract was reviewed by the county attorney. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve the agreement as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Wright; motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Robert Sparks of 966 N 1000 E, Marion stated that he continues to have the same concern about his yard being purposely torn up by the neighboring farmer. Mr. Sparks presented pictures of the damage to his yard. Mr. Sparks urged the board to consider widening the road.

Debra Keefe stated that she continues to have concerns about the flooding on her property in the Crane Pond subdivision. There were talks of the Highway department doing the digging and the city was to pay for the pipe, but nothing has been done. This has been an ongoing issue and Ms. Keefe requested a timeline of when the work would be completed.

Ryan Howell of 2909 S Branson St., Marion expressed concern about being without power during winter storms and how that works with solar panels and windmills. Mr. Howell also questioned solar revenues.

The next Commissioners' meeting is scheduled for November 21, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

Commissioner Bardsley recessed the meeting at 11:49 a.m.