

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

The Grant County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on November 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 Commissioners Mike Burton, Steve Wright, and Mark Bardsley. Also present were Auditor Jim McWhirt, County Administrator/HR Director Justin Saathoff, and Financials Deputy Nissha McCormick.

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

**PREAPPROVED CLAIMS**

November 14, 2022: General: \$38,982.19  
Other: \$46,414.79  
Highway: \$ 4,285.67  
**TOTAL: \$89,682.65**

**SINGLE PREAPPROVED CLAIMS**

November 10, 2022: Pitney Bowes Bank Inc. \$7,573.50. Preapproval was given 11/9/2022.

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

**CLAIMS**

November 21, 2022: General: \$263,437.62  
Other: \$38,933.29  
Highway: \$394,818.74  
**TOTAL: \$697,189.65**

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

**PAYROLL**

Payroll #23 carried a gross total of \$525,828.73. Formal preapproval was given on November 7, 2022 and paid out on November 10, 2022.

Commissioner Burton made a motion to formally ratify preapproved payroll #23 as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Wright; motion carried 3-0.

**Minutes**

Minutes from 4/18/2022, 5/2/2022, and 5/16/2022 have been reviewed and edited. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Bardsley; motion carried 2-1 abstain by Commissioner Wright.

### **Board Updates**

Auditor McWhirt stated that the 2022 audit has been made public and should be on the State Board of Accounts' website.

EMA Director Bob Jackson stated that he has seen a slight uptick with COVID and RSV numbers. The fencing company was calling for locates so they could start driving the fence posts. The Upland hut site still has no change. Commissioner Bardsley stated that if the work is not done by the end of the day, the board will authorize Director Jackson to have the work completed by an outside vendor. Commissioner Wright made the motion, Commissioner Burton seconded; motion carried 3-0.

Auditor McWhirt requested an update on the tower sites. Public Safety Communications Director Kevin Hicks stated the VHF side of the system is set to go live on December 1<sup>st</sup> for the fire departments, both Marion and County fire. The goal is to have law enforcement on the new system after the first of the year.

### **IT Report**

None

### **Highway Report**

Superintendent David White updated the Board of Commissioners on the following projects. Bridge #39 on 1000 E is now open. Things are going well with the new storage building. The next step is to do the electrical work and get prices on concrete. Superintendent White stated that the Recycle Center is currently open on Wednesdays from 8-6. He stated that there are almost no customers from 4:00 to 6:00 during the winter months. Superintendent White requested if the Recycle Center could close at 4:00 on Wednesdays starting January 1, 2023 through March. The Commissioners approved the request by consent. Superintendent White expressed his concern with the Crane Pond/Keefe issue. There are a lot of unknowns. He committed to having a future meeting with everyone involved to reach a resolution.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Central Dispatch Vacation Request - Kevin Hicks, 911  
Director Hicks stated that Central Dispatch has continued to struggle hiring employees. There are currently 5 vacancies. With the lack of staff, it has been difficult for employees to take time off. Director Hicks requested for the board to consider paying out unused vacation time. Discussion ensued. The Commissioners will take this under advisement and discuss this at the December 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.
2. Application for Development Standard Variance, Dixon - Ryan Malott, Area Plan  
Area Plan Director Ryan Malott (via WebEx) presented a standard variance form the area wide zoning ordinance for Steven E Dixon. The property is located at 1720 W Overlook Road in Marion. Mr. Dixon is asking for the variance to allow a 25 square foot, free standing sign in a R-1 zoning district, instead of the maximum 8 square foot. The sign will be 6.5 foot in height. Director Malott presented pictures of the sign as it stands. This does not appear to be an issue with the intersection or line of site. After some discussion, Commissioner Wright made a motion for a favorable recommendation pending BZA action. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried 3-0.

3. Application for Development Standard Variance, Thrasher - Ryan Malott, Area Plan

This is for a development standard variance from the area wide zoning ordinance for Cindy Thrasher. The property is located at 975 E 500 S. This is a local business. They are requesting to allow for a 112 square foot sign in a local business zoned district instead of the maximum of 60 square foot allowed. They are replacing the current sign with the same size sign but in a different location. Currently, the sign is within the parking lot. They are wanting to move the sign to the west side of the property outside of the parking lot. After some discussion, Commissioner Wright stated that he would like to drive out to look at this and suggest holding this until the next Commissioner meeting on December 5<sup>th</sup>. The Commissioners agreed with consent.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ed Hartman of Fairmount and BZA Chairman stated that state code does not allow the Commissioners to make zoning decisions and recommendations. Mr. Hartman requested the Commissioners rewrite this part of the county code. Commissioner Bardsley stated that the Commissioners will take this under advisement.

Bob Jackson of 608 Fairmount Ave. spoke on this matter. Mr. Jackson's concerns are about the board members being appointed and not elected.

The next Commissioners' meeting will be held on December 5, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

Commissioner Bardsley recessed the meeting at 11:03 a.m.