

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION  
December 5, 2022**

The Grant County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on December 5, 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 and County Administrator/HR Director Justin Saathoff.

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

**PREAPPROVED CLAIMS**

November 28, 2022:   General: \$95,753.14  
                          Other:    \$ 9,088.63  
                          Highway: \$ 1,786.14  
                          Election: \$25,126.03  
                          **TOTAL: \$131,753.94**

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

**CLAIMS**

December 5, 2022:   General: \$475,848.45  
                          Other:    \$132,197.99  
                          Highway: \$368,522.38  
                          **TOTAL: \$976,568.82**

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

**PAYROLL**

Payroll #24 carried a gross total of \$541,993.13. Formal preapproval was given on November 21, 2022 and paid out on November 23, 2022.

Commissioner Burton made a motion to formally ratify preapproved payroll #24 as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Wright; motion carried 3-0.

**Minutes**

Minutes from 6/6/2022 and 6/21/2022 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.

**Receipts of Monthly Reports**

Commissioner Burton made a motion to receive the monthly report month ending October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022 from the Clerk of Courts as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Wright; motion carried 3-0.

## **Board Updates**

Auditor McWhirt stated that the settlement has been completed and submitted and that he is awaiting final approval. Preapproval has already been given.

Commissioner Wright spoke about attending the Commissioners' conference and training. Commissioner Wright stated that the conference was very informational and well done.

EMA Director Bob Jackson stated that Dr. Moore and the Health Department reported 48 COVID cases over the weekend. Director Jackson expects the upward trend to continue. Marion Health hospital is already at full capacity with primarily the flu and RSV.

Director Jackson also stated that he sent the Commissioners the updated version of the storm preparedness for the county. The new additions include a signature page for the Commissioners and a list of roads that are top priority to keep clear during a winter storm. This will assist emergency vehicles to continue to have access to all parts of the county. Commissioner Wright made a motion to adopt the Grant County winter storm plan. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried 3-0.

Director Jackson also stated that an announcement for a cybersecurity committee has been sent out. A committee is needed in order to begin applying for grants.

EMA is also beginning to prepare for the April 8, 2024 solar eclipse. Grant county is in the zone of totality. They are expecting millions of people from across the world to come into the area to be able to see eclipse. EMA is currently working with IDHS on a plan to deal with that when it happens.

## **IT Report**

Director Marcus Elliott gave an update on the courthouse camera project. The company CHI will be here on the 19<sup>th</sup> to start the process of getting those cameras installed around the courthouse. They will also be working on a plan for the detention center.

Director Elliott also gave an update on the county's antivirus software. Currently in use is software from Vortex. IT will be making a request and presenting a quote at the next regular session to switch to Sentinel One. We are looking to switch from vortex to sentinel one.

Director Elliott stated that he continues to work on the new EMS building. Rex Collins will be on site next week to begin their work.

## **Highway Report**

Superintendent David White updated the board on current projects. All trucks are ready for inspection for winter maintenance. Federal aid has been applied for the Branson Street project. The construction year for the project is 2028. This federal aid project is 7 million dollars. The county will be financially responsible for 20% of that. Discussion ensued between Superintendent White, Commissioner Bardsley, and Auditor McWhirt concerning what fund the money will go into and where the 20% will come from. Superintendent White stated that he will have to find a consulting firm to do the engineering design, right of way, etc. The Highway department is working with Area Plan today to get one final structure down in the county for the year. He also stated that he applied for the Recycle Center grant. A determination will be made around the first of the year. There are a couple of bridges that are in need of repair and maintenance: 38<sup>th</sup> street bridge over the river and Branson Street bridge; the south end

has some repair work that needs done. Superintendent White stated that he continues to reach out to the individual with the flooding issue at Crane Pond with no response.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Central Dispatch Vacation Request - Kevin Hicks, 911

Public Safety Communications Director Kevin Hicks requested for dispatchers' vacation days to be paid out. The request would total \$6,700.00. Commissioner Wright urged Director Hicks to handle this matter from a managerial perspective in the future. Employees should be encouraged to use their vacation time earlier in the year. Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve the request. Second by Commissioner Burton; motion carried 3-0.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Proposal of Mobile Home Processing Fee Ordinance - Tiffany Griffith, Treasurer

Treasurer Tiffany Griffith presented an ordinance of processing fees for mobile home transfer and moving permits. The Treasurer's office receives several requests each week that are both walk-in and email of mobile home permits. Each permit requires significant time and labor for the department. The request is to incorporate a processing fee of \$15.00. After some discussion of fees charged to taxpayers in other offices, Commissioner Bardsley asked if this request needs to be advertised before being put into place. The Commissioners asked Treasurer Griffith to come back with more information at the meeting on December 19<sup>th</sup>.

2. Proposal of Tax Sale Certificate Resolution - Jayson Puckett, SRI Inc.

Mr. Puckett stated that there were 339 parcels that did not sell in September's tax sale. The county is the owner of the tax sale certificates for these properties. The Auditor and Treasurer would like to hold a certificate sale in the next coming months to try and get some of those back into the ownership of someone who will pay taxes. A contract addendum was presented by SRI. Commissioner Wright made a motion to move forward with SRI. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried 3-0.

3. Fairmount Public Library Board Appointment - Justin Saathoff, Administrator

Linda Magers, Fairmount Public Library Director, has submitted a recommendation for Brianna Carr as the Fairmount Library Board appointment. Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve as requested. Second by Commissioner Burton; motion carried 3-0.

4. Gas City-Mill Township Public Library Board Appointment - Justin Saathoff, Administrator

Kathy Moorman and Nikki Gosser were recommendations for the Gas City-Mill Township Library Board appointment. The Commissioners took the recommendations under advisement.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

The next Commissioners' meeting is December 19, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

Commissioner Bardsley recessed the meeting at 11:02 a.m.