

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
December 19, 2022**

The Grant County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on December 19, 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. Commissioner Burton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PREAPPROVED CLAIMS

December 12, 2022: General: \$374,489.45
 Other: \$ 36,801.20
 Highway: \$35,532.89
 TOTAL: \$446,823.54

PREAPPROVED SINGLE CLAIM

Spitzer Herriman Stephenson Holderread Conner & Persinger \$3,200.00
Preapproval was given on 12-15-2022.

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

CLAIMS

December 19, 2022: General: \$384,020.68
 Other: \$71,589.05
 Highway: \$534,066.18
 TOTAL: \$989,675.91

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

PAYROLL

Payroll #25 carried a gross total of \$529,132.37. Formal preapproval was given on December 6, 2022 and paid out on December 9, 2022.

Commissioner Burton made a motion to formally ratify preapproved payroll #25 as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Wright; motion carried 3-0.

Receipts of Monthly Reports

Commissioner Burton made a motion to receive the monthly report month ending November 30, 2022 from the Clerk of Courts as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Wright; motion carried 3-0.

Board Updates

Veteran Affairs Officer Brad Hodson stated that he had three claims that did not get paid by the calendar deadline because of absences within his office due to illness. Mr. Hodson requested for his claims to be reviewed and paid alongside today's claims. The claims were as follows: Ebenezer for \$250.00, Staples for \$339.98, and Hoosier Jiffy Print for \$36.00. Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve payment as requested. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried 3-0.

EMA Director Bob Jackson gave an update on COVID. Grant County had 23 positive cases this weekend. The hospital has been able to maintain and care for all patients. There is a potential for a winter storm. EMA has been in contact with the National Weather Service and I&M. Director Jackson also stated that the Health Department will cease as a COVID testing site at the end of next week.

Judge Mark Spitzer shared information regarding the opioid settlement. There is a settlement of opioid funds on its way to the county. There is another settlement as well that may be on the horizon. The settlement is expected to provide the county with just under \$2 million over the next 18 years. A subcommittee has been formed to research, discuss, and recommend how to best use the funds. The funds will largely be restricted with given parameters, such as opioid prevention and treatment.

IT Report

IT Director Marcus Elliott presented a quote from Sentinel One for new anti-virus software. The annual fee is \$32,684 with a set up fee of \$4,955.00, totaling \$37,639.00. This amount will come out of the IT security budget next year. Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve as requested. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried 3-0.

Director Elliott presented a quote from DSN Group for new backup software in the amount of \$26,352.27 for 5 years. Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve as requested. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried 3-0.

Director Elliott requested for the Commissioner President to sign off on a form regarding moving forward with the IN.gov domain. Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve as requested. Seconded by Commissioner Wright; motion carried 3-0.

Director Elliott informed the board that the courthouse camera installation will begin tomorrow.

Highway Report

Superintendent David White stated that he has received the \$45,000.00 check from the federal government for the railroad crossings grant.

The Highway Department is preparing for the upcoming winter weather.

The concrete for the new storage building has been paid for and the pour will take place in the spring.

Superintendent White stated that he has been working on a small structure inventory. The last one was completed in 2012. These are to be performed every 5 to 6 years. There are over 530 small structures on inventory right now. Superintendent White recommended using USI for the inspections at an amount of \$165,000. If load ratings are needed, an additional \$65,000 will be required; not to exceed \$200,000. The state does not reimburse like they do for bridge inspections. This will be advertised online for the public.

Commissioner Wright made a motion to enter in a contract with USI, not to exceed \$200,000. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried 3-0.

Superintendent White requested for the fuel bid to be set up for 2023. Commissioner Bardsley expressed that the second meeting of the year would be the best time. Superintendent White will set this up for January 17, 2023.

Superintendent White stated that Bridge #39 has been completed.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Proposal of Mobile Home Processing Fee Ordinance - Tiffany Griffith, Treasurer
Treasurer Griffith asked if a decision had been reached regarding the proposal. Treasurer Griffith stated that she had already requested to be on the Council's next agenda pending Commissioner approval. After some discussion, Commissioner Wright made a motion to pass ordinance #8-2022 Establishment of Processing Fee for Mobile Home Transfer and Moving Permits by Grant County Treasurer, effective 1-1-2023. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried 3-0.
2. Gas City-Mill Township Public Library Board Appointment - Justin Saathoff, Administrator
Administrator Saathoff revisited the appointment request. The two recommendations were Kathy Moorman and Nikki Gosser. Commissioner Wright recommended going with the library director's recommendation. Commissioner Wright made a motion to appoint Kathy Moorman to the Gas City-Mill Township Library Board. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried 3-0.
3. Marion Airport Update - Phil Stephenson, SHSHC&P
Mr. Stephenson expressed the airport is getting to the point where they are desperately needing to do something about the sewage. That system was put in 30-35 years ago. Back then, the usage of that system was pretty much just the terminal. The airport has kept adding on. The hospital service has 4 people living there 24 hours a day and there are students there from local colleges and that has expanded the system quite a bit. The cost for this is \$1.8 million. A bid process is needed but the airport would like to first have commitment of funding. The utility board has committed \$500,000. The airport is hoping that Marion city will contribute and are looking at the TIFF in Marion for 2023 that could also allow for contribution. The water could and should be done at the same time which increases the amount needed to \$3 million dollars. Mr. Stephenson requested for the County to pledge \$500,000. Commissioner Bardsley expressed the Commissioners will have some dialogue with our attorney and our financial advisor over the holidays.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Right-of-Way Dedication Request, Bluffs at Blue Heron Lake - Phil Stephenson, SHSHC&P
Mr. Stephenson requested the Commissioners to consider assuming the dedication of roads at Blue Heron. The assessed evaluation is \$4.3 million. There are many empty lots that would allow for construction. The total taxes paid in 2022 was over \$40,000. Highway Superintendent White has looked at the area and stated that the streets look to be in good condition. Some signage does need to be installed. After some discussion, Commissioner Wright made a motion to receive the deed of dedication of the public right-of-way of the Bluffs at Blue Heron; ordinance #9-2022. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried 3-0.

2. Ratification of Payment Preapproval - Chris Cunningham, Corrections
Administrator Saathoff stated that Mr. Cunningham had previously requested preapproval to pay all Community Corrections billing that occurs prior to 12-31-2022 upon receipt. Commissioner Bardsley made the preapproval on December 7, 2022. Commissioner Burton made a motion to ratify as requested. Seconded by Commissioner Wright; motion carried 3-0.
3. Resolution to Remove Properties from the Tax Sale - Mark Bardsley, Commissioner
Commissioner Bardsley stated that there were two parcels of interest in the upcoming tax sale: parcel #1 and parcel #2 400 S Miller Avenue, which is the old Dana plant. Commissioner Bardsley recommended to remove the two properties from the sale and would like to work with some of our locals to see if that property can be put to better use. Commissioner Wright made a motion to pass resolution #6-2022 to remove the parcels from the tax sale. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried 3-0.
4. Township Board Member Appointments - Mark Bardsley, Commissioner
Commissioner Bardsley stated that there are town board vacancies for Pleasant Township, Liberty Township, and Richland Township. Commissioner Bardsley stated that the Commissioners will need formal notice from the Auditor's office. Administrator Saathoff has already spoken with the attorney and stated that someone will speak with Auditor McWhirt on this issue. A special session will need to be held by December 31st.
5. Area Plan Commission Appointment - Mark Bardsley, Commissioner
Commissioner Bardsley stated that there were a couple people interested in the Area Plan Commission appointment; Myron Brankle (current appointment) and Bob Highley. Commissioner Wright stated that he would like to see a change in the commission and moved to appoint Bob Highley to the APC for 2 years. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried 3-0.
6. Families First Coronavirus Response Act Policy Recommendation - Justin Saathoff, Administrator
Current policy allows for paid COVID leave, up to 10 days a year, if positive and vaccinated. Administrator Saathoff advised sunseting the current policy and deferring to CDC recommendations. He commented, "We need to start treating this like any other illness. We do not have a policy for RSV or the flu or anything of that nature. That would be my recommendation." Commissioner Burton made a motion to sunset the county COVID policy at the end of this year (2022). Seconded by Commissioner Wright; motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dwayne Rogers requested permission to display posters on the courthouse square. Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve Mr. Rogers to display religious posters for a period of two weeks starting Wednesday December 21st as long as he is present alongside the display. Seconded by Commissioner Burton; motion carried 3-0.

Richard Kibby of 2804 Walnut Way stated that he lives in Dunn's Woods addition. The addition was recently paved and he learned that not all of the edition is in the county's inventory. There is approximately 400 feet that is not included. There are 4 households beyond where the county takes responsibility. The request is for the county to consider taking in the 400 feet. After some discussion, Commissioner Bardsley agreed to take this into consideration after discussion with the attorney.

Myron Brankle expressed his concern regarding the Area Plan Commission appointment and the Commissioners' intentions with the Solar Ordinance.

Harold King of 707 S Sims Street, Swayzee thanked Commissioner Burton for the many years of service and also expressed his opinion on the APC appointment.

Ed Hartman expressed his opinion regarding the APC appointment.

Julie Hartman expressed her opinion on the APC appointment.

Commissioner Bardsley noted the possibility of an executive session on December 30th, 2022.

Commissioner Bardsley recessed the meeting at 11:46 a.m.