

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR SESSION**  
**January 3, 2023**

The Grant County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on January 3, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. in the Grant County Complex Council Chambers located at 401 South Adams Street, Marion, IN.

In attendance were Commissioners Ron Stewart, Steve Wright, and Mark Bardsley. Also present were Auditor Angela Jarvis, County Administrator/HR Director Justin Saathoff, and Financials Deputy Stacey Stevens.

Commissioner Bardsley called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. Matt Trexler led in prayer. Councilman Mike Roorbach led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Bardsley stated that the President and Vice President positions need reviewed with the new year. Commissioner Wright made a motion to reappoint Mark Bardsley as President. Seconded by Commissioner Stewart; motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Stewart made a motion to appoint Steve Wright as Vice President. Seconded by Commissioner Bardsley; motion carried 2-1 abstention Wright.

**PREAPPROVED CLAIMS:**

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

**PREAPPROVED SINGLE CLAIMS** 12-19-2022 to 12-22-2022:

AT&T Mobility \$69.96	Pam Harris \$102.12
BI Inc. \$11,000	Rabb Water \$17.00
CDW Government \$285.04	Sharyn Sherron \$78.00
Charter Communications \$1,139.93	Staples Advantage \$339.98
Craig Persinger \$180.12	Staples Advantage \$53.56
Culligan Water \$1,161.30	Thomas Reuters \$180.12
Ebenezer Sports Wear \$102.50	Thomas Reuters \$270.12
EMCOR Services \$61.12	Capital One \$441.53
Gas City Utilities \$242.46	Spitzer Herriman Stephenson Holdread \$3,999.00
Gas City Utilities \$1,004.02	Spitzer Herriman Stephenson Holdread \$3,250.00
Gas City Utilities \$180.76	Spitzer Herriman Stephenson Holdread \$3,000.00
Grant County Ec. Gr. Council \$25.00	Star Financial Card Members \$813.28
Hoosier Jiffy Print \$36.00	Star Financial Card Members \$6400
Indiana Election Division \$1,625.00	Well Works \$820.00
Nancy Bryant \$78.00	Capital One \$441.53

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

**CLAIMS**

January 2, 2023:   General: \$85,226.85  
                              Other:   \$53,005.60

Highway: \$13,676.51  
**TOTAL: \$151,908.96**

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

#### **PAYROLL**

Payroll #26 carried a gross total of \$537,890.23. Formal preapproval was given on December 19, 2022, and paid out on December 22, 2022. Commissioner Wright made a motion to formally ratify preapproved payroll #26 as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Stewart; motion carried 3-0.

#### **Minutes**

Minutes from 7/5/2022, 7/18/2022, and 8/1/2022 were presented. Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Bardsley; motion carried 2-1 abstention Stewart.

#### **Board Updates**

EMA Director Bob Jackson gave an EOC briefing update. Positive COVID numbers were 30 over the weekend and 10 today. The county is trending very well. The hospital is seeing a lot of flu and RSV.

Director Jackson stated that there is a representative from Homeland security here today who works in the exercise division. Their representative will be helping to put some plans together and assist with an exercise later in the year. Director Jackson will be sending his end of year report to the Council and the Commissioners. An assessment of threats and hazards for the county was completed. The top 5 are as follows: severe weather, utility failures, fire-explosions, cyber-attacks, and acts of terrorism. Our advisory levels are as follows: yellow-advisory, orange -watch, and red-no travel.

**IT Report** - Director Marcus Elliott requested the Commissioners decide if they would like the county website to move to the in.gov state platform or stay with the current vendor. Director Elliott gave the Commissioners a pros and cons list. He stated that, from an IT standpoint, it would be in the county's best interest to go with the state. This recommendation comes from a cost and compliance perspective. After some discussion, Commissioner Stewart made a motion to go with the state website platform. Seconded by Commissioner Wright; motion carried 3-0.

Director Elliott gave an update on the camera project at the D-Home and Courthouse.

**Highway Report** - Superintendent David White requested the stone and oil bids to be moved to the February 6 meeting. The Commissioners approved by consent.

Superintendent White stated that he received a notice of funding opportunity from the state. He will work with United Consulting to see if any of the county's bridges would apply. The deadline is February 28. He also stated he will apply for a Community Crossings grant money for Bridge 16 on E 00 W in the 600 N area. Commissioner Wright made a motion for Superintendent White to apply for the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) and the Community Crossings grant. Seconded by Commissioner Stewart; motion carried 3-0.

Superintendent White stated he is currently getting his Employee in Responsible Charge (ERC) training updated. He must keep up with this for grant purposes.

Superintendent White stated Blackford County is looking at installing a solar/wind farm. One of the roadways they want to use is Grant county road 1200 E, from state road 18 to 500 S. Prairie Creek LLC has given the county a road use agreement. This will be reviewed by the attorney.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

None

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### **1. Grant Review - Chris Cunningham, Corrections**

Chris Cunningham stated the Court Reform grant has been received. This grant had to be reduced by 3.2% because of the number of applications received. That difference can be made up within the IT budget. This grant is for security cameras at the courthouse. This will double the amount of courthouse security cameras from a little over 20 to 40. It will add 4 mobile stations, some iPads, and the software to do facial recognition and a census of the people in the courthouse. The total amount of the grant is \$78,742.00. The county will need to pay \$2,631.00. Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve the Court Reform grant. Seconded by Commissioner Stewart; motion carried 3-0.

Chris Cunningham spoke with the judges about the possibility of a separate entrance at the courthouse. Right now, they are funneled through the same entrance that the inmates and general population use. Judge Todd suggested using the north entrance of the courthouse. They would prefer a card swipe, but in the short term we can use a key for that. IT Director Marcus Elliott will get more information on this.

##### **2. 2023 Commissioner Assignments - Mark Bardsley, Commissioner**

The Commissioners agreed to call a Board of Finance meeting on January 17, 2023, after the Commissioners' meeting.

Commissioner Bardsley named the following appointment for the Commissioners and/or their representatives:

ECI Regional Planning District: Justin Saathoff and Shane Middlesworth	
ECISW: Steve Wright and Mark Bardsley	JRAC: Mark Bardsley
Drainage Board: Mark Bardsley	Opioid: at least one Commissioner at meeting
Economic Growth Council: Steve Wright	Broadband: Ron Stewart
Emergency Management LEPC: Ron Stewart	Cyber Security: Ron Stewart
Emergency Agency Advisory: Ron Stewart	Area Plan: Steve Wright

##### **3. 2023 Staffing Appointments - Mark Bardsley, Commissioner**

Commissioner Bardsley recommends reappointing the following: HR/County Administrator - Justin Saathoff, Maintenance Director - Vince Beneke, IT Director - Marcus Elliott, Central Dispatch Director - Kevin Hicks, County Attorney - Kyle Persinger, Weights and Measures - Mark Fleming, Veterans Affairs - Brad Hodson, EMS Director - Duaine Ashcraft, EMA Director - Bob Jackson, and Highway Superintendent - David White. Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve as recommended. Seconded by Commissioner Stewart; motion carried 3-0.

##### **4. Health Board Appointments - Mark Bardsley, Commissioner**

Commissioner Bardsley presented a recommendation of Health Board reappointments for Denise Pearson and Dr. Bragg. Commissioner Wright made a motion to renew the Health Board members. Seconded by Commissioner Stewart; motion carried 3-0.

5. Economic Development Commission Appointment - Mark Bardsley, Commissioner

Commissioner Bardsley presented a recommendation for David Morgan for the EDC. Commissioner Stewart made a motion to reappoint Mr. Morgan for 4 years. Seconded by Commissioner Wright; motion carried 3-0.

6. Resolution and Agreement for Farmland Lease - Justin Saathoff, Administrator

Administrator Saathoff presented the agreement and resolution for a 3 year lease of the county's farmland. By recommendation of the appraisers, the minimum bid that will be accepted is \$250.00 per acre. If approved, the advertisement is set for January 4 and January 11. Bids will be received beginning tomorrow until noon on February 10. Each bid must be accompanied by a cashier's check in the amount of \$1000.00. Bids will be opened on February 21 followed by an oral auction. The best bid will be accepted or rejected by 4:00 pm on March 6. Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve the agreement and resolution 1-2023. Seconded by Commissioner Stewart; motion carried 3-0.

7. Annex Flooring Bids, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor - Justin Saathoff, Administrator

Administrator Saathoff presented 2 bids for carpet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Annex building: Kyle's at \$19,356 and Staggs at \$19,280.95. Staggs was recommended as the lowest and best bid. Commissioner Stewart made a motion to approve the Staggs bid as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Wright; motion carried 3-0.

8. Replacement of Ordinance - Justin Saathoff, Administrator

Administrator Saathoff stated the Commissioners approved an ordinance setting moving permits fees to \$15.00 last year. There were typos in the Indiana Code. The attorney has corrected this and advised for this ordinance to replace the other one, but a new number is needed for this year. Commissioner Wright moved to approve ordinance #1-2023 as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Stewart; motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Bardsley requested to call an executive session for January 5, 2023, to discuss personnel matters. Commissioner Stewart made a motion to call and advertise the executive session for Thursday January 5, 2023, at 4:00 pm. Seconded by Commissioner Wright; motion carried 3-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Jackie Sheets of southern Grant County - Ms. Sheets requested for all sitting around the table to state their name and position.

Commissioner Bardsley recessed the meeting at 11:22 a.m.