

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
June 5, 2023**

The Grant County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on June 5, 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 and Financials Deputy Stacey Stevens.

Commissioner Bardsley called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Pastor Kevin Hurley of Holy Family Catholic Church led in prayer. Commissioner Wright led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PREAPPROVED CLAIMS

May 22, 2023: General: \$ 127,292.29
 Other: \$ 96,339.77
 Highway: \$ 28,495.80
TOTAL: \$252,127.86

May 30, 2023: General: \$138,001.94
 Other: \$115,697.35
 Highway: \$273,579.63
TOTAL: \$527,278.92

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

June 5, 2023: General: \$525,179.37
 Other: \$ 39,070.83
 Highway: \$ 5,284.69
Total: \$569,534.89

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

PAYROLL

Payroll #11 carried a gross total of \$596,018.84. Formal preapproval was given on May 23, 2023 and paid out on May 26, 2023. Commissioner Stewart made a motion to formally ratify preapproved payroll #11 as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Wright; motion carried 3-0.

Minutes

Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve the minutes from 3-20-2023. Seconded by Commissioner Stewart; motion carried 3-0.

Receipt of Monthly Reports

Commissioner Wright made a motion to receive the monthly report ending April 30, 2023, from the Clerk of Courts and the monthly report months of January, February, and March 2023 from the Treasurer as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Stewart; motion carried 3-0.

Board Updates

Auditor Angie Jarvis stated she is to begin settlement with the Treasurer's office this Thursday. Also, budget worksheets will be distributed this week. Lastly, an exit interview for the State Board of Accounts is scheduled for 1:00 pm today.

EMA Director Bob Jackson reported a section of State Road 9 buckled in Grant County over the weekend. The road is currently closed between State Road 22 and State Road 37. A briefing with INDOT will be scheduled to plan for the repair and estimated closure time.

Director Jackson also stated he is hopeful that storm debris removal will be completed this week. Grant County Highway Department and Central Waste have assisted EMA greatly throughout this event. The threshold for FEMA reimbursement was not met, but Swayzee Elementary had the single largest loss and that was covered with their insurance.

Director Jackson stated IDHS has declared an extreme fire risk, but he does not believe a burn ban is needed for the county at this time. This can obviously change quickly. EMA will continue to monitor.

IT Report

IT director Marcus Elliott presented an updated quote for the access control door for the judges at the courthouse. The quote is for only that one door. The quote is from APTEK for \$8,362.97. This can tie into the camera system at the courthouse. Commissioner Wright made a motion to accept the bid from APTEK for \$8,362.97. Seconded by Commissioner Stewart; motion carried 3-0.

Director Elliott stated one of the radio tower huts recently overheated due to the malfunction of an air conditioner. A system to monitor the temperature and humidity in the huts were never installed. 911 Director Kevin Hicks requested quotes for 3 environmental sensors and internet cradle points for each site, as those sites do not currently have internet access. The sensors will report interior conditions constantly. The total cost for the sensors and cradle points is \$5,719.47. That price does include an ongoing cost of a monthly fee for the cradle points of \$89.97 that will be added on to the county's First Net bill. Commissioner Stewart made a motion to approve as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Wright; motion carried 3-0.

Director Elliott presented one last quote for an outdoor camera for the south end of the parking lot of Central Dispatch in the amount of \$2,040.50. Commissioner Stewart made a motion to approve as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Wright; motion carried 3-0.

Highway Report

Superintendent David White opened the bids for the Community Crossings grant for the 2023 paving projects on Garthwaite road and 200 S. Brooks Construction was the only vendor to bid. Their bid for 200 S from Stone Road to 400 E is \$613,546.64 and their bid for Garthwaite road from where Gas City and Grant County meet to 200 S is \$874,232.46. The bids will go under review and brought back at the next meeting.

Superintendent White requested to set the bid opening for Bridge #16 for July 17. Bridge #16 was awarded the Community Crossings grant. The annual fiscal report was presented to the board. Last year the total distribution for Motor Vehicle 1176 was \$2,231,451.17, Restricted was \$3,185,122.35, and Local Road and Street was \$765,000.00. This will be sent to the State Board of Accounts if approved.

Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve the annual report. Seconded by Commissioner Stewart; motion carried 3-0.

In other updates, Superintendent White stated that the removal of the log jam on Branson Street was to be started, but the machine broke. The goal is to clean up the log jam starting next week. Chip sealing will begin at the end of this week. He also stated that he intends to meet with the attorney tomorrow regarding the Blackford County road use agreement.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Public Health Emergency Preparedness Grant Proposal - Tara Street, Health Department

Tara Street requested approval to apply to the preparedness grant. This grant has been received every year since 2003. This grant runs from July to June and is provided by the CDC. Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve the Preparedness grant proposal. Seconded by Commissioner Stewart; motion carried 3-0.

2. Local Public Health Funding Discussion - Tara Street, Health Department

Tara Street stated in August of 2021 the State of Indiana created the Governor's Public Health Commission. Commissioner Bardsley was a member of this commission. They met monthly through June of 2022 and did several listening tours throughout the state to receive input from the public. One of the recommendations was the state needed to increase their financial investment in public health with stable and accessible funding. Act 4 and Act 101 were presented by the Senate and House and were adopted, respectively, resulting in state funding to provide local health departments the resources to deliver core public health services. Grant County could receive a matching grant of \$775,085 throughout 2024 and 2025. This is the annual spend average that Grant County has incurred on public health. In year 2 the state would provide a minimum of \$1,550,000 and Grant County would have to match that at 20% (\$325,000.00). Ms. Street presented an agreement to the board to opt into the funding. She also expressed to the Commissioners that if they opt in, a local health services fund would need to be created in the budget. Commissioner Bardsley commented that the agreement was not whole and that it would need to be redrafted by the county attorney before adoption. Commissioner Stewart made a motion to approve to opt into the Local Health Public funding after attorney approval with an effective date of June 5, 2023. Seconded by Commissioner Wright; motion carried 3-0.

3. Local Advisory Council Member Appointment - Chris Cunningham, Corrections

Chris Cunningham brought an appointment to the Community Corrections Advisory Board under statute 11-12. This is an appointment that is made by the county council. Council president Shane Middlesworth sent an email designating Councilman Chuck Poling to the appointment. The Commissioners acknowledged by common consent.

4. Street Jurisdiction Discussion - Brad Kline, Jonesboro

Brad Kline from the city of Jonesboro presented 7 streets, totaling 2 miles, that are currently under the county's inventory. These roads border the corporate boundaries of Jonesboro. It was requested to include these in Jonesboro's inventory. Mr. Kline stated that he would submit the request to INDOT if approved. Commissioner Wright made a motion to move forward with the request and to draft a formal resolution once their attorney advises. Seconded by Commissioner Stewart; motion carries 3-0.

5. Zoning Map Amendment Proposal, AG to GB – Ryan Malott, Area Plan

Director Malott presented a petition for a zoning map amendment from agricultural to general business. The petitioner is Joe McCoy of Marion Box Company. The initial hearing date with the Area Plan Commission was February 26, 2023. The location is 1115 S Pennsylvania street in Marion. Area Plan Commissioner had an initial hearing, then had a continuance on May 31, 2023. After deliberation, the APC put forth an unfavorable recommendation on the rezoning. Director Malott had put it forward as a favorable recommendation. It is zoned agricultural, but has been a business for 50 to 60 years. Most of the area there is zoned residential one. The VFW on Pennsylvania Avenue is also zoned agricultural. This property appears to be zoned incorrectly. Mr. McCoy stated that there has been much opposition from the neighbor to his south. There was recently an incident where Mr. McCoy was burning a fence row and the fire burned the neighbor's shrubs. The shrubs had grown over the fence line and caught on fire. Mr. McCoy stated that he replaced all the shrubbery that was destroyed, but this has only hardened the opposition's stance.

Justin Shannon (the opposition) of 1121 S Pennsylvania spoke to the board and asked for this matter to be resolved. He stated that many things in the area are zoned incorrectly and that there are other issues, such as drainage and fires. Mr. Shannon also stated that he had a petition against Mr. McCoy that all neighbors have signed.

Commissioner Wright expressed that this matter has been of great discussion with the APC. The Marion Box Company has been in business for approximately 123 years. This is more or less a print shop. Commissioner Wright stated that he is in favor of the building plans and would hate to see another business close or leave the area.

After some discussion, Commissioner Bardsley recommended taking no action. Commissioner Stewart made a motion regarding the zoning proposal to take no action. Seconded by Commissioner Bardsley; motion carried 3-0.

6. Comprehensive Plan Introduction - Ryan Malott, Area Plan

Director Malott stated that the current comprehensive plan was written in 1991 and last updated in 1997. This plan would be considered out of date. There are several things out of code. Bill Walters from East Central Indiana Planning district is familiar with the plan process and has expressed interest in helping Grant County create the plan. It would first involve an income survey. Mr. Walters introduced the county to Mike Kleinpeter of Kleinpeter Consulting Group. Mr. Kleinpeter gave a short presentation to the board. After some discussion, Commissioner Bardsley suggested to review the budget and then to come back and vote on this at the next regular session.

7. Major Litigation Fund Discussion - Ryan Malott, Area Plan

Director Malott stated Area Plan is searching for a new attorney. The attorney's current salary is \$12,000.00 and has been since 2014. Director Malott requested to increase the salary to \$20,000.00. The idea of a major litigation fund has been of topic recently. After some discussion, Commissioner Bardsley recommended Director Malott needs to first discuss this with the Council. No action was taken at that time.

8. Presentation of ARPA Resolution-Mark Bardsley, Commissioner

This agenda item was tabled for a later time.

9. Presentation of BOT Attorney Contract-Mark Bardsley, Commissioner

This agenda item was tabled for a later time.

Commissioner Wright stated Bob Highley resigned as the Commissioners' appointment to the APC. He added that Pat Nevers would make a great addition to the board. Commissioner Wright made a motion to recommend Pat Nevers to the APC board appointment for 3 ½ years. Seconded by Commissioner Stewart; motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ryan Howell of 2909 Branson Street thanked the Commissioners for making the money spent in Grant County very transparent. Mr. Howell expressed a concern about the public health grant and the cost to taxpayers.

Commissioner Bardsley stated a trustee appeal has been received and a special session will be scheduled with the board of Commissioners within 10 days.

The next scheduled meeting will be held on June 20, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

Commissioner Bardsley recessed the meeting at 12:10 a.m.