

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
June 20, 2023**

The Grant County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on June 20, 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 (via WebEx), 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. Reverend Brad Terhune, Executive Director of the Grant County Rescue Mission led in prayer. Commissioner Bardsley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PREAPPROVED CLAIMS

June 12, 2023: General: \$120,410.68
Other: \$36,776.74
Highway: \$2,415.312
TOTAL: \$159,602.73

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

PREAPPROVED SINGLE CLAIMS

At & T Mobility (Data Processing) \$1,756.48
Preapproval was given on June 7, 2023.

Commissioner Stewart made a motion to ratify the preapproved claim as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Wright via WebEx; motion carried.

June 20, 2023: General: \$67,456.34
Other: \$105,408.97
Highway: \$126,012.36
TOTAL: \$298,877.67

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

PAYROLL

Payroll #12 carried a gross total of \$584,461.09. Formal preapproval was given on June 6, 2023, and paid out on June 9, 2023. Commissioner Stewart made a motion to formally ratify preapproved payroll #12 as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Wright via WebEx; motion carried 3-0.

Minutes

Commissioner Wright made a motion via WebEx to approve the minutes from 4/3/2023. Seconded by Commissioner Stewart; motion carried 3-0.

Receipt of Monthly Reports

Commissioner Bardsley presented the Clerk's report month ending 5-31-2023. The Commissioners received the monthly report by common consent.

Board Updates

Auditor Angela Jarvis stated spring settlement has been completed and has been distributed to the units.

IT Report

IT director Marcus Elliott has a letter of authorization for the Granite proposal. This agreement was not approved yet. The county attorney received this letter of authorization in lieu of the agreement and has reviewed it and signed off on it. Commissioner Stewart made a motion for the Commissioner President to sign the agreement and move forward. Seconded by Commissioner Wright via WebEx; motion carried 3-0.

Highway Report

Superintendent David White recommended Brooks Construction for the Community Crossing paving projects. The total for both projects is \$874,232.46. Commissioner Stewart made a motion to approve as requested. Seconded by Commissioner Wright via WebEx; motion carried 3-0.

Superintendent White presented the 2023/2024 salt bids. Three companies submitted bids: Compass Minerals at \$99.94, Cargill at \$98.11, and Morton Salt at \$93.83. Superintendent White recommended Morton Salt. The Commissioners approved by consent.

Next, he presented the annual covered bridge declaration and paperwork for road usage for the Popcorn Festival. The Commissioners gave approval by common consent and signed.

Superintendent White presented an unofficial detour for the town of Upland. The state is repairing State Road 22 right through the middle of Upland. They plan on starting late this fall or early next spring. The unofficial detour submitted was 1050 E up to county road 500 S then back across. Commissioner Wright made a motion via WebEx to approve the unofficial detour. Seconded by Commissioner Stewart; motion carried 3-0.

Chip sealing has been completed in Washington Township. Van Buren is next on the list. Bridge #16 is set for bid on July 17. This is also a Community Crossings project. Superintendent White also stated that he is currently working on his budget.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Administrator Saathoff presented a resolution for the Local Public Health Funding that was drafted by the county attorney. The agreement was technically authorized at the last regular session, but the paperwork needed to be corrected. Commissioner Wright made a motion via WebEx to pass resolution #11-2023. Seconded by Commissioner Stewart; motion carried 3-0.

2. Credit Card Vendor proposal - Tiffany Griffith, Treasurer

Treasurer Tiffany Griffith presented a 3-year contract for InvoiceCloud. Commissioner Stewart made a motion to approve the contract with Invoice Cloud. Seconded by Commissioner Wright via WebEx; motion carried 3-0.

3. Center Township Relief Appeal, Baity - Mark Bardsley, Commissioner

Commissioner Bardsley reminded Ms. Baity and Trustee Cain that they are still under oath from last week's hearing. Commissioner Bardsley asked Ms. Baity to come to the podium and give any available updates. Ms. Baity stated she had found some receipts and an invoice from the gentleman who worked on her car. She stated she now has her daughter's login for Career Connect alongside her own. Ms. Baity also brought a witness to speak about her job at Dollar General. Trustee Cain stated she gave Ms. Baity a paper of a list of items that is needed for the Trustee's office by a certain date. That date has passed, and nothing was turned in. The store manager from Dollar General submitted a letter of termination. Trustee Cain went through the state statutes and reasons for denial. Commissioner Bardsley read from the rights and procedures form. After some discussion, Commissioner Stewart made a motion to uphold Trustee Cain's decision as Center Township Trustee. Seconded by Commissioner Wright via WebEx; motion carried 3-0.

4. Comprehensive Plan Introduction - Ryan Malott, Area Plan

Director Malott requested action on the \$5,000.00 for the income study. Commissioner Bardsley stated he thought the county would benefit from an income study. Administrator Saathoff suggested the funds be taken from Contractual Services. Commissioner Bardsley agreed. Commissioner Bardsley recommended to approve the income study contract with Mike Kleinpeter pending the approval of the appropriation by the Council. After some discussion Commissioner Wright made a motion via WebEx to transfer funds into Contractual Services and to move forward with the contract. Seconded by Commissioner Stewart; motion carried 3-0.

Regarding the major litigation fund, Commissioner Bardsley suggested a separate legal fund for unusual situations for the APC and recommended the Council look to appropriate those funds. The Commissioners approved by consent.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Election Equipment Upgrade Request - Pam Harris, Clerk

Clerk Harris stated there have been changes in the Indiana Election process. She will be receiving 105 cases from the state to hold the VVPAT (Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail) and the voting machine units. The Clerk stated that the county needs to update the voting machines. The cost is \$294,000. Steve Shamo from MicroVote is here today to help answer any questions. Clerk Harris asked the Commissioners to help shoulder the expense. After some discussion and questions, the Commissioners took the request under advisement.

2. EMS Job Classification Discussion - Duaine Ashcraft, EMS

Director Ashcraft stated he would like to reorganize the EMS office. He is retiring soon and hopes that Dawn will become director. Director Ashcraft requested to create a new position of Clerical Office Manager at 35 hours weekly. This would be starting in July until the end of the year. If approved, a transfer of funds would be needed. Another additional position of an EMT Certified full time. There is no benefit package because those benefits were there originally. The EMTs work 72 hours a pay not 70. The two positions would take the place of one EMT Supervisor position. Auditor Jarvis stated these are all salary ordinance amendments the Council would do and AOD would need informed of the hours matter. The board took the matter under advisement.

3. Termination/Engagement of CPA Services - Mark Bardsley, Commissioner

Commissioner Bardsley recommended to terminate services with Mr. James Higgins, a financial advisor from LWG CPAs. He explained that Mr. Higgins has been unavailable to the county. The Commissioners

and Administrator Saathoff have not been able to reach him for the last 5-6 weeks. By contract, the county must give a 30 day termination notice. Commissioner Wright made a motion via WebEx to terminate the contract with Mr. Higgins. Seconded by Commissioner Stewart; motion carried 3-0.

4. Presentation of ARPA Resolution - Mark Bardsley, Commissioner

Commissioner Bardsley spoke about the ARPA resolution. He explained that the county has the ordinance that established the ARPA line item. The next step is to create a formalized spending plan. That plan would include \$2.5million toward the performing arts theater construction in Gas City, \$500,000 for the airport water sewer project, 200,000 for the Drainage Board projects, \$200,000 for the Mill Township fire house and administrative offices, and 1.3 million for the jail/annex chiller/boiler project. After some discussion, Commissioner Wright made a motion via WebEx to seek out the funding for all 4 of the advertised ARPA fund requests. Seconded by Commissioner Stewart; motion carried 3-0.

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

Commissioner Bardsley recommended to hire Patrick Connor Sullivan to give the county legal services regarding the BOT jail/annex boiler/chiller project. Commissioner Stewart made a motion to approve Patrick Connor Sullivan for the BOT boiler/chiller project pending the appropriation (\$1.3 million) from the Council. Seconded by Commissioner Wright via WebEx; motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Linda Sutton of 1221 S 350 E in Marion asked for information and help concerning the Area Zoning Board and permits. Mrs. Sutton shared concern of a recent approval for a business owner in a residential zone. Commissioner Bardsley advised Mrs. Sutton she needed to go to the Area Plan Commission and/or the BZA. If there is no help or action at that level, then it is a civil litigation.

Center Township Trustee Deb Cain asked the board if she needed to start with the Commissioners or the Council for ARPA requests. She is building a presentation for a request to supply local fire departments with radios. Commissioner Bardsley stated that the request would start with the Commissioners, as they are the county executives and designate funds. The Council makes the appropriation.

The next scheduled meeting will be July 3, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

Commissioner Bardsley recessed the meeting at 12:03 p.m.