

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
September 18, 2023**

The Grant County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on September 18, 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, Mark Bardsley, and Steve Wright. 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 10:00 a.m. Lori Howard of the Grant County Chaplain program led in prayer. Commissioner Wright led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PREAPPROVED CLAIMS

September 11, 2023: General: \$91,783.20
Other: \$15,419.12
Highway: \$43,646.80
TOTAL: \$150,849.12

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

September 18, 2023: General: \$266,756.40
Other: \$102,083.36
Highway: \$16,958.02
TOTAL: \$385,797.78

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

PAYROLL

Payroll #19 carried a gross total of \$579,147.72. Formal preapproval was given on September 13, 2023, and paid out on September 18, 2023. Commissioner Stewart made a motion to formally ratify preapproved payroll #19 as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Wright; motion carried 3-0.

Receipt of Monthly Reports

Commissioner Wright made a motion to receive in the Treasurer's report for month ending 8-31-23. Seconded by Commissioner Stewart; motion carried 3-0.

Board Updates

None

IT Report

None

Highway Report

Superintendent David White updated the board on current and recent projects. Paving on Garthwaite and 38th street has begun. Gas City paved their portion of the roadway. They would like the county to pay for it and they will reimburse it in 2024. The cost should be \$30,000.00 or less. One building was demolished in Jonesboro in conjunction with Area Plan. The bridge on 1100 south, east of state road 37, needs replaced. The design work is still in the early stages.

Superintendent White stated he spoke with the gentleman about Bryon Drive off of 500 east. This is north of 100 south in an addition built in the 90's. It has never met the county specifications, so it was never taken into the county's inventory. It is in very bad condition. The gentleman was told if he wanted to get it up to the county's specifications, the county would probably not have a problem taking it into inventory. He is going to talk to the other residents to see what they think.

A culvert pipe will be installed on 800 south next week before. Superintendent White also stated he recently stopped a company from putting in fiber without trenching it. Discussion ensued concerning fines and permits.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Grant Update - Melissa Stephenson, Court Services

Grant County Court Services Director Melissa Stephenson updated the board on grants. She stated that the county received the official award Friday for the 2024 grant cycle, totaling \$248,954.00. This includes the salaries for 3 full time probation officers. They capped the benefits at 30% and the stipend for the coordinator. When looking at personnel, the funding for this grant is \$216,000.00. They also included \$30,954.00 for public defenders to be compensated for meaningful first appearances. This year the deficit for the remaining 70% of benefits is \$51,167.00, which is \$8,000 less than last year.

Director Stephenson provided an overview of the Bureau of Justice Assistance grant, which originally was a 3-year grant for the Drug Court program. This required a 3rd Probation officer assigned to handle the extra case load. That position was set to expire on September 30th of this year. An extension was granted allowing it to go through September 30th of 2024. The funding for the extension is \$156,719.00. That pays for the salary and benefits for the full time Drug Court Probation officer, contract work for inpatient treatment, coordination, transportation, program evaluation, training, and monthly community activities.

She also stated she received notice the problem-solving court grant applications for 2024 are open. Historically these annual grants have been capped at \$10,000.00. The county has received these funds for multiple years. Permission was requested to seek out this grant. Commissioner Wright made a motion to seek the grant for the implementation of a mental health court. Seconded by Commissioner Stewart; motion carried 3-0.

2. Proposal for Tower Inspection Services - Kevin Hicks, Central Dispatch

Public Safety Director Kevin Hicks presented the tower inspection quote and scope of work from MPX. No contract is necessary for the inspection. The sites should be inspected every two years. The cost is \$2,000.00 for each tower. Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve the agreement with MPX for \$2,000.00 per site with the approval of attorney review. Seconded by Commissioner Stewart; motion carried 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Eastbrook Community Schools Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) - Del Garcia, Sheriff

Sheriff Garcia presented the MOU to the board. The only thing that was changed from Service Resource Officer MOU's from the past was the amount of hours. The working hours were changed from 6 to 8. Commissioner Stewart made a motion to approve the MOU with Eastbrook. Seconded by Commissioner Wright; motion carried 3-0.

2. Blood Donation Host Request - Megan Borgmann, Versiti

Megan Borgmann requested the county to host blood drives alongside the city on the following dates in 2024: January 24th, March 21st, June 6th, August 15th, and November 13th. The Commissioners approved by common consent.

3. Presentation of Letters of Engagement, KSM - Mark Bardsley, Commissioner

Commissioner Bardsley presented the letters of engagement from KSM. The letters included the scope of work regarding any jail related project. Commissioner Stewart made a motion to approve the contract with KSM. Seconded by Commissioner Wright; motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Bardsley added that the agreement included a \$25,000 management fee and that \$5,000 has already been paid out to the county's former financial advisor, London Witte. These fees are paid from the ARPA funds. Auditor Jarvis suggested doing an additional appropriation, correcting those payments, and moving that \$5,000.00 payment to ARPA alongside the \$25,000. Commissioner Stewart made a motion to approve KSM for the scope of services, not to exceed \$25,000.00. Seconded by Commissioner Wright; motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Wright then made a motion to approve up to \$30,000.00 of ARPA money to help with the financial advisors' fees. Seconded by Commissioner Stewart; motion carried 3-0.

4. Presentation of BOT Contract, Sullivan - Mark Bardsley, Commissioner

Commissioner Bardsley presented the BOT procurement method attorney contract with Patrick Connor Sullivan. After some discussion, Commissioner Stewart made a motion to approve the contract with Patrick Conner Sullivan and his compensation to not exceed \$20,000.00. Seconded by Commissioner Wright; motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Myron Brankle of 5450 E 550 N, Van Buren asked the Commissioners if each would commit to not accepting any campaign donations from solar developers, architects, contractors, or developers wishing to build a new jail.

Jackie Sheets of southern Grant County asked how many people are in jail on misdemeanor charges that could maybe be released on home detention in order to help relieve some of the overcrowding issue. She also suggested not building a new campus, but to invest in what is already here.

The next scheduled meeting will be October 2, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

Commissioner Bardsley recessed the meeting at 11:09 a.m.

A complete video record can be found at www.grantcounty.net under the GC YouTube Page Quick Links.