

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
October 2, 2023**

The Grant County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on October 2, 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. Gary Ashbrook from The River Church led in prayer. Commissioner Bardsley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PREAPPROVED CLAIMS

September 25, 2023: General: \$159,286.90
Other: \$141,446.13
Highway: \$ 33,230.77
TOTAL: \$333,963.80

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

October 2, 2023: General: \$130,317.49
Other: \$120,316.35
Highway: \$ 27,984.74
TOTAL: \$278,618.58

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

PAYROLL

Payroll #20 carried a gross total of \$577,558.59. Formal preapproval was given on September 27, 2023, and paid out on September 29, 2023. Commissioner Wright made a motion to formally ratify preapproved payroll #20 as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Stewart; motion carried 3-0.

Receipt of Monthly Reports

The Commissioners received in the Clerk of Courts report for month ending 8-31-23 by consent.

Board Updates

EMA Director Bob Jackson updated the board. He stated the Health Department reported very few incidents of COVID currently. Director Jackson stated the county is in a D-1 (moderate) drought condition. Rain is not expected within the next 10 days. There are no active burn bans in the state as of this morning. EMA had a full-scale hazmat exercise on Saturday in the Gas City area with 50-75 participants. Director Jackson gave an update on the train accident that occurred. Director Jackson stated that the railroad crossing is dangerous and immediate action has been requested. IDHS is hosting a solar eclipse meeting

at the Indianapolis fairgrounds. DNR has one at Fort Harrison as well. He will be attending both events to gather more information on the solar event.

IT Report

IT Director Marcus Elliott requested to install a camera in elevator of the courthouse. The total cost is \$7,696.356 and would come from IT's contractual services account. Commissioner Wright made a motion to accept the work order of \$7,696.356. Seconded by Commissioner Stewart; motion 3-0.

Director Elliott also stated that a plan is being prepared for the installation of AT&T internet at the new EMS building.

Highway Report

Superintendent David White updated the board on several projects. Road line striping will start this week on the Garthwaite road and 38th street project and other roads that were chip sealed this summer. The Highway department returned to the 5-day work week schedule beginning today. Roof and concrete work continue on the new storage building.

Superintendent White stated he would like to get an agreement with BFNS on bridge #712 (Branson Street) in hopes that it is selected for a federal aid job in the future, which is an 80/20 split on right of way construction, utilities, and actual construction of the project. The Commissioners gave consent to proceed with starting the contract agreement.

The second phase of county wide bridge inspections begins today. All 204 bridges will be inspected. This project should be completed by the middle of October.

EMS Billing Administrator Dawn Harness updated the board on the recent EMS fire. Administrator Harness stated she is in the content counting portion of the claim. Everything in the building is be assessed for damage and value. After this portion is complete, it will then move on to the cleaning portion. Construction has begun on the storage room in the garage. The walls are up but will not be finished until all things electrical are completed.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Downtown Event Request - Rose Cadena, Walkway of Lights

Rose Cadena was not present. Commissioner Wright stated he sits on the committee for the Walkway of Lights. He requested permission for the Walkway of lights parade and to put a Santa house and lights on the courthouse lawn. Commissioner Stewart made a motion to approve the request as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Bardsley; motion carried 2-1 (Commissioner Wright abstained).

2. GIS Data Extraction Request - Mark Bardsley, Commissioner

Commissioner Bardsley presented the data request, which was received through the Drainage Board and the Surveyor's office from USI Consultants. USI is doing some work on the Bloomfield and Blue drains. Schneider can release this information with the Commissioners' permission. Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve releasing the GIS information to USI Consultants at their request. Seconded by Commissioner Stewart; motion carried 3-0.

3. Tax Sale Certificate Transfer and Acceptance - Steve Wright, Commissioner

Commissioner Wright stated Gas City would like to acquire some property in their area. This required a resolution drafted by county counsel. This parcel needs cleaned up and Gas City is willing to do that. It also gets the property back on the tax roll. The property is in the 200 block of South M Street in Gas City. Commissioner Stewart made a motion to approve resolution #13-2023. Seconded by Commissioner Wright; motion carried 3-0.

4. Presentation of 2024 Holiday Schedule - Justin Saathoff, Administrator

Administrator Saathoff presented the holiday schedule for 2024. Commissioner Stewart made a motion to approve the holiday schedule as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Wright; motion carried 3-0.

5. Presentation of 2024 Payroll Schedule - Angela Jarvis, Auditor

Auditor Jarvis presented the payroll schedule for 2024, noting there are 262 workdays and 26 pays. Commissioner Stewart made a motion to approve the 2024 payroll schedule as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Wright; motion carried 3-0.

6. Employee Leave Request - Justin Saathoff, Administrator

Administrator Saathoff presented an employee leave request. This employee is having a second surgery this year and will run out of FMLA leave. They are requesting an approved unpaid leave of absence. Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve the employee leave request as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Stewart; motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Bardsley asked about the recent donation to The Boys and Girls Club. Administrator Saathoff stated they are currently doing the environmental testing. If everything comes back clean, they will accept the donation.

EMS Director Duaine Ashcraft asked about the depth of the cleanup from the fire. Administrator Saathoff commented that he would work with EMS and the insurance to resolve the matter.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

The next scheduled meeting will be October 16, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

Commissioner Bardsley recessed the meeting at 10:49 a.m.

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