

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
October 16, 2023**

The Grant County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on October 16, 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. Reverend Doctor Alex Husky of Ivy Tech's Marion campus led in prayer. Commissioner Stewart led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PREAPPROVED CLAIMS

October 10, 2023: General: \$172,946.91
Other: \$66,084.49
Highway: \$13,311.34
TOTAL: \$252,342.74

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

October 16, 2023: General: \$64,917.24
Other: \$65,925.36
Highway: \$84,154.32
TOTAL: \$214,996.92

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

PAYROLL

Payroll #21 carried a gross total of \$570,313.54. Formal preapproval was given on October 11, 2023, and paid out on October 13, 2023. Commissioner Stewart made a motion to formally ratify preapproved payroll #21 as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Wright; motion carried 3-0.

Minutes

Commissioner Stewart made a motion to approve the minutes from June 6, 2023, and July 3, 2023, as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Wright; motion carried 3-1 (Commissioner Bardsley abstained from the minutes of July 3, 2023).

Board Updates

Commissioner Bardsley stated SRI conducted a recent Tax Sale for the county. There was a good showing, and all went well.

EMA Director Bob Jackson stated that he and Commissioner Wright attended a solar eclipse information session last week in Indianapolis. Director Jackson shared experiences that were had by other counties in 2017 and best practices on how to best handle the influx of people. 600,000 people are expected within

this area's solar band. Interstate travel will be a major concern. The event will occur on April 8, 2024, and will last approximately 4 minutes starting at 3:07 pm. A task force will be assembled next month.

IT Report

None

Highway Report

Superintendent David White updated the board on current projects. Paving will begin tomorrow in Forest Ridge followed by 500 East. Full replacement of Bridge #16 on E00W will begin next Tuesday. A consulting firm will review replacing the bridge on 14th street very soon. Bridge #84 will be ready for bid at the first of the year.

Superintendent White stated the storage building has been completely repaired from the storm damage. The total cost of the repair work was \$32,000.00, which is mostly covered by insurance.

Superintendent White stated he may have a solution for the EMS building drainage issue. There is a tile going across Garthwaite Road that should be accessible. Superintendent White recommended running a 12" pipe from the catch basin to the building. A 10" pipe will need installed around the building for drainage of all downspouts and gutters. 3 trees will need removed. The estimated cost of materials is \$6,000 to \$9,000.00. The Commissioners consented to the recommendation.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Presentation of Gas City MOU, Inmate Work Crew - Del Garcia, Sheriff

Detention Director Jason Camery presented a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Grant County Sheriff's Office and Gas City. The MOU will allow Gas City use of the inmate work crew. Commissioner Wright made a motion to adopt the MOU as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Wright; motion carried 3-0.

2. Medical Director Appointment - Dawn Harness, EMS

EMS Billing Administrator Dawn Harness stated Dr. Woods has agreed to accept the position of EMS medical director. The start date will be October 23rd. The end date for Dr. Rudolph is October 22nd. Commissioner Stewart made a motion to approve Dr. Woods as medical director. Seconded by Commissioner Wright; motion carried 3-0.

3. Insurance Renewal Proposal - Michelle Bunker, IMG

Michelle Bunker, Benefits Consultant from IMG, stated that open enrollment will begin November 13th through November 30th. Ms. Bunker read through the recommendations for 2024 for Grant County. This included lifting the spousal carve-out, continue direct contract with Marion Health, retain UMR for health coverage, switch to Tokio Marine for Stop Loss coverage, obtain organ transplant coverage, maintain employee contributions, maintain UHC for vision coverage, maintain Delta Dental for dental coverage, maintain WellWorks for the wellness plan, switch from BerniePortal to Employee Navigator, switch to BPP for COBRA coverage, and switch to OneAmerica for life and disability coverage. Commissioner Stewart made a motion to accept the insurance renewal proposal as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Wright; motion carried 3-0.

4. Presentation of Sheriff's Union Agreement - Mark Bardsley, Commissioner

Commissioner Bardsley presented the agreement that is between the Sheriff, the Sheriff's Union, the County Council, and the Board of Commissioners. The Commissioners' portion is strictly on policy. The board has agreed to requests of the retirees. Commissioner Wright moved to approve the agreement starting January 1st, 2024. Seconded by Commissioner Stewart; motion carried 3-0.

5. Presentation of ARPA Spending Plan - Mark Bardsley, Commissioner

Commissioner Bardsley presented the ordinance for the ARPA spending plan. Grant County received \$12.7 million from the ARPA program. Conner Sullivan, legal counsel, was introduced to explain the plan. Mr. Sullivan assisted in putting the plan together. ARPA funds can only be spent in limited areas. The Senate and the United States Congress determined that up to 10 million dollars can be captured as "loss recovery" money that can be used for broader purposes. The ARPA spending plan is a legally required step that outlines the intention of the funds and states that Grant County will use the funds for any permitted purpose as legally permitted under the American Rescue Plan Act, Indiana code, and/or any other State Board of Accounts, Department of Local Finance regulation, or memorandum of understanding. Commissioner Stewart made a motion to approve ordinance #9-2023. Seconded by Commissioner Wright; motion carried 3-0.

6. Sweetser Trail Proposal - Steve Wright, Commissioner

This item was tabled.

7. Ambulance Agreement Ratification - Mark Bardsley, Commissioner

Commissioner Bardsley stated Marion Health has had a string of accidents with several of their ambulances. They were in dire need of transportation units. The county did have an extra ambulance that was not in use. An agreement was drafted between the county and Marion Health. Commissioner Bardsley preapproved the agreement on 10/10/23 due to the urgent need. Commissioner Wright made a motion to ratify the ambulance lease agreement with Marion Health. Seconded by Commissioner Stewart; motion carried 3-0.

8. Bid Read, Boiler/Chiller Project - Mark Bardsley, Commissioner

Commissioner Bardsley stated the request for proposals referencing the jail/annex boiler/chiller project has ended and 2 bids were received; Brewer-Garrett of Ohio and Ameresco of Indianapolis. Both companies were interviewed last week. Commissioner Bardsley recommended Ameresco for the project. They are an Indiana company and Grant County has worked with them previously. \$1.3 million has been appropriated for the project. A public hearing will be set for November 6th. Commissioner Stewart made a motion to approve the boiler/chiller project with Ameresco and a public hearing on November 6th as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Wright; motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

The next scheduled meeting will be November 6, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

Commissioner Bardsley recessed the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

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