

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION  
December 4, 2023**

The Grant County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on December 4, 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 10:01 a.m. Commissioner Bardsley led in prayer. Commissioner Wright led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PREAPPROVED CLAIMS**

November 27, 2023: General: \$130,658.77  
Other: \$141,881.79  
Highway: \$10,330.72  
**TOTAL: \$282,871.28**

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

December 4, 2023: General: \$181,428.49  
Other: \$294,724.61  
Highway: \$505,585.38  
**TOTAL: \$981,738.48**

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

**PAYROLL**

Payroll #24 carried a gross total of \$592,107.81. Formal preapproval was given on November 21, 2023, and paid out on November 22, 2023. Commissioner Wright made a motion to formally ratify preapproved payroll #24 as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Stewart; motion carried 3-0.

**Minutes**

Commissioner Stewart made a motion to approve the minutes from the Joint Session on September 13, 2023, as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Wright; motion carried 3-0.

**Board Updates**

Auditor Jarvis stated that certification was completed for the fall settlement from the Treasurer's office. Grant County received preapproval from the state. The distribution will be sent out this week.

EMA Director Bob Jackson stated he has seen a recent uptick in COVID and other respiratory issues. He will continue to monitor and report appropriately. Work crews are currently working on the railroad crossings on 500E and 700E. They are scheduled to be done by Wednesday. Commissioner Bardsley reported 2 COVID deaths in the county in the last week. Director Jackson reported 131 exposures with

this new round of COVID. He urged good hygiene practices such as coughing in your sleeve, washing your hands, and if you or someone else is sick it is good to have some distance. The county's winter operations review has been completed with the Sheriff's Office, INDOT, and the Highway department. This is to ensure everyone is on the same page when it begins snowing. Solar eclipse preparation continues.

#### **IT Report**

None

#### **Highway Report**

Superintendent David White updated the board on recent events. Snowplow training begins today at 11:00 a.m. Chainsaw training will begin this Wednesday. Truck inspections for winter maintenance will also begin this week. 2030 federal aid for the Branson Street Bridge was filed last Friday. A phone stipend was requested for the Highway's road and bridge foreman. Auditor Jarvis instructed how it is to be paid. Superintendent White shared information regarding his training at the Commissioners' conference last week. Superintendent White also stated he continues to work on the wind farm agreement with Blackford County. He also happily reported that the Highway department received an award (Best in the State, Rural Paving) this year for the 38<sup>th</sup> street paving project. Work continues on the E00W bridge. The goal is to have it open yet this winter. The asphalt and dirt work can be completed in the spring.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

None

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### **1. Presentation of Jail Health Care Service Contract, QCC - Del Garcia, Sheriff**

Jail Commander Jason Camery presented the contract to the Commissioners. It is the same agreement, but needs renewed annually. It has been reviewed and approved by the county attorney. Commissioner Wright made a motion to accept the Jail Health Care Service contract as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Stewart; motion carried 3-0.

##### **2. Health Board Appointment - Mark Bardsley, Commissioner**

This item was tabled.

##### **3. Drainage Board Appointment - Mark Bardsley, Commissioner**

Commissioner Bardsley nominated Kenny Cates for reappointment to the Drainage Board. He represents the western part of the county. This is a 4-year term. Commissioner Stewart made a motion to reappoint Kenny Cates to the Drainage Board. Seconded by Commissioner Wright; motion carried 3-0.

##### **4. Updated Ambulance Lease Agreement - Mark Bardsley, Commissioner**

Commissioner Bardsley presented an updated agreement extending usage terms of a county owned ambulance. Marion Health has had to take several ambulances off the road due to vehicle accidents. The county allowed Marion Health to borrow an ambulance. This agreement extends the terms for another 6 months. Commissioner Stewart made a motion to approve the agreement as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Wright; motion carried 3-0.

##### **5. Presentation of Capital Asset Ordinance Amendment - Angie Jarvis, Auditor**

This item was tabled.

Administrator Saathoff stated there is a Board of Finance meeting after the next Commissioners' meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Myron Brankle of 5450 E 550 N, Van Buren requested for the Commissioners to hold a public meeting to answer questions about solar and other community items. The Commissioners stated that they would take the request under advisement.

Michael Duke, a Grant County resident, supported Mr. Brankle's request.

Commissioner Bardsley urged the public to view the solar ordinance from a property rights perspective. He noted that the ordinance is in place to set regulations and guidelines.

The next scheduled meeting will be on December 18, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

Commissioner Bardsley recessed the meeting at 10:43 a.m.

A complete video record can be found at [www.grantcounty.net](http://www.grantcounty.net) under the GC YouTube Page Quick Links.