

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

The Grant County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on December 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 (via WebEx), and Steve Wright. Also, present were Auditor Angela Jarvis, County Administrator/HR Director Justin Saathoff, and Financials Deputy Stacey Stevens.

Commissioner Wright called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. Commissioner Wright led in prayer. Commissioner Stewart led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PREAPPROVED CLAIMS**

December 11, 2023: General: \$568,454.03  
Other: \$48,636.03  
Highway: \$27,378.45  
**TOTAL: \$644,468.51**

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

December 18, 2023: General: \$132,240.30  
Other: \$263,946.94  
Highway: \$12,976.47  
**TOTAL: \$409,163.71**

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

**SINGLE PREAPPROVALS**

12-4-2023 Elan Financial Services \$1,068.83

Commissioner Stewart made a motion to ratify the preapproved claim as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Bardsley (via WebEx); motion carried 3-0.

**PAYROLL**

Payroll #25 carried a gross total of \$609,517.15. Formal preapproval was given on December 6, 2023, and paid out on December 8, 2023. Commissioner Stewart made a motion to formally ratify preapproved payroll #25 as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Bardsley (via WebEx); motion carried 3-0.

**Minutes**

Commissioner Stewart made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular Session on September 18, 2023, as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Bardsley (via WebEx); motion carried 3-0.

**Receipt of Monthly Reports**

By Common consent the Commissioners received in the monthly reports from Weights & Measures: 7-16-23 to 8-15-23, 8-16-23 to 9-15-23, 9-16-23 to 10-15-23, and 10-16-23 to 11-15-23.

## **Board Updates**

None

## **IT Report**

IT Director Marcus Elliott presented an extension agreement for 1 year with Centrex for county fax lines. Commissioner Bardsley (via WebEx) made a motion to approve the extension as presented, noting the Vice President has the authority to sign. Seconded by Commissioner Stewart; motion carried 3-0.

Director Elliott presented a 5-year support agreement for the county's BMS system. This ensures the county receives server updates. The agreement carries a cost of \$3,670.00 and extends through July 2028. Commissioner Stewart made a motion to approve as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Bardsley (via WebEx); motion carried 3-0.

Director Elliott also presented a purchase agreement and an updated maintenance plan for 1 copier and 2 printers that were lost in the EMS fire. The total cost for the equipment is \$6,758.42. Commissioner Stewart made a motion to approve as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Bardsley (via WebEx); motion carried 3-0.

## **Highway Report**

Superintendent David White presented a plaque to the Commissioners for the best paved road in the state from the APAI Association. This was for the 38<sup>th</sup> Street paving project. Superintendent White shared that the Community Crossings grants for 2024 have a 1.5-million-dollar levy. He will apply for the 38<sup>th</sup> street bridge in the first round of 2024. The fuel and stone bids are set for the January 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Superintendent White also stated he was recently contacted by Jonesboro Street Department. They are seeking a pick-up truck with a plow. The county does have one that he would like to sell. It is a 2016 Ford truck with a Boss plow. The sale price would be for \$25,000.00. Commissioner Stewart made a motion to approve the sale. Seconded by Commissioner Bardsley (via WebEx); motion carried 3-0 via roll call vote.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

1. 2024 Health Board Appointment - Mark Bardsley, Commissioner

This agenda item was tabled.

2. Presentation of Capital Asset Ordinance Amendment - Angela Jarvis, Auditor

This agenda item was tabled.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Presentation of J&K Communications Agreements - Kevin Hicks, 911 Director

Public Safety Director Kevin Hicks presented 3 agreements from J&K. The first one is #57171. This is a 5-year service agreement for the 6 positions in the dispatch center. Each amount is billed annually. The amounts are as follows: \$39,608.00 for 2024, \$38,612.00 for 2025, \$39,608.00 for 2026, \$39,608.00 for 2027, and \$41,246.00 for 2028. This maintains system software updates. The next agreement is #57254. This is for the microwave communications links and is 5 years as well. These links are between this building and our 3 tower sites. This would be billed annually through 2027 for \$14,910 and \$15,655.50 for 2028 totaling \$75,295.00. The last agreement is a 10-year agreement with J&K. This is on the radio equipment itself. The total price is \$1,043,434.00. Commissioner Stewart made a motion to approve all 3 agreements pending attorney review. Seconded by Commissioner Bardsley (via WebEx); motion carried 3-0 via roll call vote.

2. Purdue Extension Contractual Services Agreement - Kris Goff, Purdue Extension

Director Kris Goff presented the Extension Contractual Service agreement between Purdue University and Grant County Government. This agreement is signed every year by the two organizations. It provides 2 ½ extension educators to Grant County. This has been reviewed and approved by the attorney. Commissioner Stewart made a motion to approve the agreement. Seconded by Commissioner Bardsley (via WebEx); motion carried 3-0 via roll call vote.

3. Amendment of Areawide Zoning Ordinance, AG to I2 - Ryan Malott, Area Plan

Director Ryan Malott (via WebEx) presented an agreement between the Commissioners and Legacy Meat Makers. This is a written agreement for a slaughterhouse just south of Fairmount. It is the same written agreement with the previous owners, with the exception of a request for retail sales. This will be secondary and not their primary use. The Area Plan Commissioner set a favorable recommendation, and this has been approved by Kyle. Commissioner Bardsley (via WebEx) made a motion to approve as recommended by the APC. Seconded by Commissioner Stewart; motion carried 3-0 via roll call vote.

4. Regulation of Ponds Ordinance - Ryan Malott, Area Plan

Director Malott (via WebEx) introduced the Pond Ordinance. Area Plan has had several issues recently with ponds. Grant County does not currently have any regulations for ponds under 1 acre. Anything over 1 acre is considered an artificial lake and is regulated by Rule 5 and the USDA. The Drainage Board and Health Department helped to draft this ordinance. The APC has approved and gave it a favorable recommendation. It was also reviewed and approved by the county attorney. Commissioner Stewart made a motion to approve ordinance #10-2023 as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Bardsley (via WebEx); motion carried 3-0 via roll call vote.

5. Presentation of Intern MOU, ECIRPD - Ryan Malott, Area Plan

Director Malott (via WebEx) stated Bill Walters of ECIRPD has offered us an intern for 2024 for 15 hours a week. ECI is going to pay for the intern. The agreement has been approved by the county attorney. Commissioner Stewart made a motion to approve the MOU as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Bardsley (via WebEx); motion carried 3-0 via roll call vote.

6. Fairmount Public Library Appointment - Mark Bardsley, Commissioner

Administrator Saathoff stated this is a reappointment suggestion by Library Director Jean Decker. This would be a continuation of the appointment for Helen Reff. Commissioner Bardsley (via WebEx) made a motion to approve as requested. Seconded by Commissioner Stewart; motion carried 3-0 via roll call vote.

7. Credit and Signer Authorization - Justin Saathoff, Administrator

Administrator Saathoff stated the county is trying to get new credit cards through Northwest Bank and they need authorization for the person through meeting minutes to obtain credit on behalf of the county. As President, Commissioner Stewart will have primary authority. Other departments can be umbrellaed under him. Commissioner Stewart made a motion to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Bardsley (via WebEx); motion carried 3-0 via roll call vote.

8. Recognition of Service, Ashcraft - Mark Bardsley, Commissioner

Commissioner Wright recognized Duaine Ashcraft for his 26 years of service with Grant County EMS. He will be retiring at the end of the year and. The county thanks him for his dedication and efforts.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Randy Atkins of Fairmount questioned the public comment guidelines that are read before the public is allowed to speak. He also read a magazine article aloud regarding Commissioners and their duties.

Myran Brankle asked the Commissioners if they will hold a public meeting as previously requested. Commissioner Wright stated the Commissioners are exploring the option. Commissioner Bardsley expressed concern about the legal restrictions of such.

Linda Morgan of Upland spoke about the public meeting in support.

Jackie Sheets of southern Grant County spoke about draft 4 not having a public hearing. Ms. Sheets also suggested a moratorium on the solar ordinance.

Jason White of Upland asked Commissioner Wright if he had any questions about the paperwork that was sent to him. Commissioner Wright expressed he had not had a chance to look at it. Mr. White stated Delaware County has a 500-foot setback and suggested looking at other counties.

Eric Wright of Fairmount presented the Commissioners with a survey from Farm Bureau.

Dallas Street stated the solar ordinance has been hidden from the public. Mr. Street suggested a vote for a moratorium on solar projects.

Randy Atkins spoke about the impact of solar projects to farms and families.

Nolan Holloway of Marion urged the Commissioners to do their job.

Brenda Worrick stated she is worried about being surrounded by solar.

Don Huston of Gas City supported the idea of a moratorium as he may have solar fields on all 3 sides of his home.

Pam Bozell asked about a meeting on Lawson Road with Commissioner Wright.

Randy Atkins shared comments from an APC member about solar applications.

The next scheduled meeting will be January 2, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

Commissioner Wright recessed the meeting at 11:39 a.m.

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