

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR SESSION**  
**January 2, 2024**

The Grant County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on January 2, 2024, 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 10:01 a.m. Matt Trexler, Lead Pastor of The River, led in prayer. Commissioner Wright led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Election of 2024 Officers**

Commissioner Bardsley (via WebEx) made a motion to elect Ron Stewart as President and Steve Wright as Vice President for the 2024 calendar year. Seconded by Commissioner Wright; motion carried 3-0 via roll call.

**PREAPPROVED CLAIMS**

December 26, 2023: General: \$94,257.58  
Other: \$76,641.51  
Highway: \$577,547.02  
**TOTAL: \$748,446.11**

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

January 1, 2024: General: \$99,845.31  
Other: \$9,073.44  
Highway: \$ 156.52  
**TOTAL: \$109,075.27**

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

**PAYROLL**

Payroll #26 carried a gross total of \$568,612.32. Formal preapproval was given on December 19, 2023, and paid out on December 22, 2023. Commissioner Wright made a motion to formally ratify preapproved payroll #26 as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Bardsley (via WebEx); motion carried 3-0.

**Minutes**

Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular session on October 2, 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 report from the Clerk of Courts for month ending 11-30-2023.

## **Board Updates**

None

## **IT Report**

IT Director Marcus Elliott presented an invoice for 45 new wireless access points system in the amount of \$12,952.80. This will come out of the IT equipment fund. Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve as requested. Seconded by Commissioner Bardsley (via WebEx); motion carried 3-0.

## **Highway Report**

Superintendent David White presented an unofficial detour from the state, on state road 22 between 300 and 400 west. The state is going to replace a small structure this summer. The closure would be 21-30 days. The detour is 300 west to 600 south and back to 400 west. Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve as requested. Seconded by Commissioner Bardsley (via WebEx); motion carried 3-0.

Superintendent White gave a few more updates. A few county trucks were out Sunday night for some icy spots. He also stated that he recertified his ERC (Employee in Responsible Charge) training, which is a requirement for federal and state aid.

EMA Director Bob Jackson spoke about the fire at Jennerjahn Machine in Matthews.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

1. 2024 Health Board Appointment - Mark Bardsley, Commissioner

Commissioner Stewart stated we have a recommendation from the new mayor of Marion, Mayor Morrell. The recommendation is Jeannette Hoeksema. She would replace Dr. Renfroe. Commissioner Wright made a motion to appoint Dr. Hoeksema to serve on the County Health Board. Seconded by Commissioner Bardsley (via WebEx); motion carried 3-0.

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

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

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

Area Plan Director Ryan Malott stated this ordinance was approved at the last meeting, but an ordinance number was not assigned. Commissioner Bardsley (via WebEx) made a motion to approve ordinance #1-2024 as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Wright; motion carried 3-0.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. 2024 Commissioner Assignments – Mark Bardsley, Commissioner

Commissioner Stewart read the 2024 Commissioner Assignments as follows:

Area Plan Commission: Ron Stewart

ECISW: Steve Wright and Mark Bardsley

Drainage Board: Mark Bardsley

Economic Growth Council: Steve Wright

LEPC and Emergency Management Advisory Committee: Ron Stewart

Justice Reinvestment Advisory and Community Corrections: Ron Stewart

Opioid Subcommittee: Ron Stewart

Broadband Ready Committee: Steve Wright

Cybersecurity Committee: Steve Wright

Commissioner Bardsley (via WebEx) made a motion to approve the assignments as agreed upon for 2024. Seconded by Commissioner Wright; motion carried 3-0.

2. 2024 Staffing Appointments – Mark Bardsley, Commissioner  
Commissioner Stewart read the 2024 Staffing Appointments as follows:

Public Safety Director: Kevin Hicks

EMA Director: Bob Jackson

County Administrator/HR Director: Justin Saathoff

IT Director: Marcus Elliott

Veteran Affairs Officer: Brad Hodson

Maintenance Director: Vince Beneke

Weights and Measures: Mark Fleming

Interim EMS Director: Dawn Harness

Highway Superintendent: David White

County Attorney: Kyle Persinger

Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve the 2024 Staffing Appointments as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Bardsley (via WebEx); motion carried 3-0.

3. 2024 ECI Regional Planning District Board Appointments – Mark Bardsley, Commissioner  
Administrator Saathoff stated he and President of the County Council, Shane Middlesworth, currently serve as the appointments and both are happy to continue if desired from the board. Commissioner Bardsley commented that he would like to see a Commissioner back on the ECIRPD. Commissioner Stewart stated he would be willing to be appointed. Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve Commissioner Stewart and Justin Saathoff for the ECI Board appointment. Seconded by Commissioner Bardsley (via WebEx); motion carried 3-0.

Administrator Saathoff scheduled the annual Board of Finance meeting for January 16<sup>th</sup>, following the regular session.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Commissioner Stewart stated Commissioner Wright and Commissioner Bardsley are going to be involved in election campaigns for the next several months. He asked that there be no election discussion or questions during the public comment section of the Commissioners' meetings. This is not the proper forum for that type of discussion.

Michael Duke of Bradford Pike spoke about the solar ordinance and expressed the desire for a public meeting held by the Commissioners to accept further input from the community.

The next scheduled meeting will be January 16, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

Commissioner Stewart recessed the meeting at 10:52 a.m.

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