

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
January 6, 2025**

The Grant County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on January 6, 2025, 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, Shane Middlesworth, and Chuck Poling. Also present were Auditor Angela Jarvis, County Administrator/HR Director Justin Saathoff, and Financials Deputy Stacey Stevens.

Commissioner Stewart called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. Executive Pastor, Amy Biegel, of the River Church led in prayer. Commissioner Stewart led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Election of 2025 Officers

Commissioner Poling made a motion to elect Shane Middlesworth as President. Seconded by Commissioner Stewart; motion carried 2-0 (Commissioner Middlesworth abstained).

Commissioner Poling made a motion to elect Ron Stewart as Vice President. Seconded by Commissioner Middlesworth; motion carried 2-0 (Commissioner Stewart abstained).

Commissioner Middlesworth made a motion to elect Ron Stewart as President of the Board of Finance. Seconded by Commissioner Poling; motion carried 2-0 (Commissioner Stewart abstained).

PREAPPROVED CLAIMS

December 23, 2024: General: \$167,208.42
Other: \$488,079.97
Highway: \$ 60,945.37
TOTAL: \$716,233.76

December 30, 2024: General: \$ 83,217.08
Other: \$634,674.58
Highway: \$421,617.85
TOTAL: \$1,139,609.51

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

CLAIMS

January 6, 2025: General: \$287,547.79
Other: \$ 63,956.72
Highway: \$ 313.16
TOTAL: \$351,817.67

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

PAYROLL

Payroll #26 carried a gross total of \$648,108.64. Formal preapproval was given on December 17, 2024, and paid out on December 20, 2024. Payroll #1 carried a gross total of \$643,968.55. Formal preapproval was given on December 31, 2024, and paid out on January 3, 2025. Commissioner Stewart made a motion to formally ratify preapproved payrolls #26 and #1 as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Poling; motion carried 3-0.

Monthly Reports

The Board of Commissioners formally received the Clerk's monthly report, month ending 11-30-2024 and the Weights & Measures reports 9-16-2024 to 10-15-2024 and 10-16-2024 to 11-15-2024.

Minutes

Commissioner Stewart made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular Session on October 21, 2024, as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Poling; motion carried 3-0.

Board Updates

Public Safety Director Kevin Hicks presented a proposal from CM Buck for services on the UPS at Central Dispatch. The UPS supplies electricity is between power outages and when the generator starts. The agreement is for one year at \$4,539.00 and includes annual inspection and all parts except for batteries and capacitors. Commissioner Stewart made a motion to approve the proposal as presented and authorize Director Hicks to sign the agreement. Seconded by Commissioner Poling; motion carried 2-0.

Sheriff Garcia stated the jail is currently fully staffed and even has a waiting list for full time positions. Sheriff Garcia also gave an update on the police action shooting.

EMA Director Bob Jackson shared concerns for current weather patterns including snow and ice. A travel advisory was issued this morning at 6:00 am. The EOC level 3 was also activated due to the cold alongside activation of ESF6 which takes care of our housing and human services. Director Jackson is also working with shelters and warming centers. The 3 warming centers that are normally open are Grant County Rescue Mission (open 24 hours), St. Martin Community Center (7:30 am to 4:00 pm, Monday to Friday), and the YMCA (5:00 am to 9:00 pm, seven days a week).

IT Report

None

Highway Report

Superintendent David White updated the board on recent Highway activity regarding the weather. He also requested to set up fuel and stone bids for 2025. They will be advertised and opened the first meeting in February. This will be the same for the Community Crossings grant for 2024 for the second round. The board consented to the request.

Superintendent White stated he has completed his ERC training for 2025. A copy of the annual report of the recycle center for 2024 was presented. He also stated that he signed the contract for United Consulting totaling \$519,990.58. The state will pay 80% of that.

Superintendent White stated he applied for a federal aid job for Branson Street bridge. The project will be presented to INDOT on January 22. He also presented the amounts of ARPA funds spent at the Highway department.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Jail Proposal Update - Brad Battin, BW Construction

Brad Battin of BW Construction (via WebEx) gave a brief update on the jail study potentially saving \$50 to \$60 million of taxpayer money. Mr. Battin stated he would like to come on January 22 to a joint public meeting to present all options in detail. Attorney Connor Sullivan (via WebEx) stated he would draft a notice to proceed and that a new committee would need to be formed. Commissioner Stewart made a motion to preapprove moving forward with limited permission to the next phase of the project. Seconded by Commissioner Poling; motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Poling then made a motion to create a new committee for the jail design to include Sheriff Garcia, Commissioner Middlesworth, 2 Council members, Administrator Saathoff, and Auditor Jarvis. Seconded by Commissioner Stewart; motion carried 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS

1. 2025 Commissioner Assignments – Shane Middlesworth, Commissioner

Commissioner Middlesworth read aloud the Commissioner Assignments as follows:

Area Plan Commission - Commissioner Stewart

East Central Indiana Solid Waste District - Commissioner Middlesworth and Commissioner Stewart

Drainage Board - Commissioner Poling

Economic Growth Council - Commissioner Middlesworth

Local Emergency Planning Council & Emergency Management Advisory Committee-
Commissioner Stewart

Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council and Community Corrections Advisory Board -
Commissioner President or designee.

Opioid Subcommittee - Commissioner Poling

Broadband Ready Committee - Commissioner Middlesworth

Cybersecurity Committee - Commissioner Middlesworth

2. 2025 Staffing Appointments – Shane Middlesworth, Commissioner

President Middlesworth announced the board will be making 60-day appointments. The Board of Commissioners will be meeting with each appointment in an executive session before making the annual appointment. The 60-day appointments are 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

EMS Director - Dawn Harness

Highway Superintendent - David White

County Attorney – Connor Sullivan

A local attorney will also be chosen in the near future. Commissioner Stewart made a motion to approve the appointments for 60 days. Seconded by Commissioner Poling; motion carried 3-0.

3. 2025 ECI Regional Planning District Board Appointments – Shane Middlesworth, Commissioner

President Middlesworth stated Commissioner Stewart and Administrator Saathoff have served on the ECI board in recent years and recommended to extend the appointment. Commissioner Poling made a motion to approve as recommended. Seconded by Commissioner Middlesworth; motion carried 2-0 (Commissioner Stewart abstained).

4. Presentation of Medical Director Agreement - Kevin Hicks, Central Dispatch

Director Hicks presented a copy of a proposed contract with Dr. Steven Keller from Marion Health. This is to oversee the emergency medical dispatch program and is a requirement by state statute. The agreement is for \$300.00 per month and would be paid from E-911 contractual. Commissioner Stewart made a motion to approve the medical director's agreement pending legal review. Seconded by Commissioner Poling; motion carried 3-0.

5. Ratification of Tower Equipment Services - Ron Stewart, Commissioner

Commissioner Stewart stated he preapproved the agreement for preventative maintenance on December 22nd in the amount of \$2,340.51 per tower. Commissioner Stewart made a motion to ratify the preapproval. Seconded by Commissioner Poling; motion carried 3-0.

6. Presentation of Solar Moratorium – Ron Stewart, Commissioner

Commissioner Stewart stated there is currently no moratorium in place. The previous moratorium expired in August. Commissioner Stewart made a motion to put another 6-month solar moratorium in place, effective January 6, 2025. Seconded by Commissioner Poling; motion carried 3-0. Attorney Connor Sullivan stated he would have a resolution for the Commissioners to sign at the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dallas Street briefly spoke about former Genex Solar employees.

Brian Jefferies of 7867 S 100 E LaFontaine presented some paperwork to the Commissioners. Mr. Jefferies stated he needs help with funding for the upkeep of the Estates of Serenity cemetery.

Center Township Trustee Deb Cain spoke about Brian Jefferies and about the requested funds to help with the upkeep of the cemetery.

Pete Bonfitto stated he lives south of the IMI property on Tulip Drive and expressed his concerns with the possible land usage regarding the 1812 project.

The next meeting scheduled will be January 21, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

Randy Atkins of 8560 Wheeling Pike gave an Area Plan update.

Commissioner Middlesworth recessed the meeting at 11:13 a.m.

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