

Owen County Board of Commissioners
Minutes-November 7, 2022

Meeting was called to order by President Gary Burton.

Pledge of Allegiance was said with opening prayer given by Robert Murphy.

Members Present: Gary Burton, Bob Curry, and Joel Lowe.

Also present, Attorney Jim Bryan and Auditor Sheila Reeves.

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Curry; seconded by Lowe. Carried 3-0.

Mr. Bryan gave a financial overview noting all major funds have positive operating balances.

Copies of Mr. Bryans summaries, Auditor Monthly Financial Report, and Treasurers Monthly Statement attached for permanent record.

A motion to approve Payroll-\$239,709.13 was made by Curry; seconded by Lowe. Carried 3-0.

A motion to approve Regular Claims-\$1,379,358.27 was made by Curry; seconded by Lowe. Carried 3-0.

A motion to approve Out of Cycle-\$23,005.56 with an addition of \$35,000/Fender Excavating was made by Curry; seconded by Lowe. Carried 3-0.

ARPA Plan Review/Update noted that the \$500000 for the Highway Road Plan was still pending Council approval. Notice had been received that the County was to receive an additional \$100,000 from the American Rescue Plan. A motion to allow the Auditor to apply appropriate paperwork to receive the funds was made by Lowe; seconded by Curry. Carried 3-0.

Executive Meeting Review-A motion to appoint and sign a Contract for Legal Services with Dana Robert Kerr from November 14, 2022, to December 31, 2024, was made by Curry; seconded by Lowe. Carried 3-0. A motion to accept the resignation of James Bryan was made by Curry; seconded by Lowe. Carried 3-0. Mr. Kerr will be billing by the hour through November 30th.

A motion to appoint Jacob Gilbreath as the new Building Inspector was made by Lowe; seconded by Curry. Carried 3-0.

RQAW Engineers proposal for the Health Building is still pending.

EMS Director Cris Lunsford presented specs/drawings for the new Ambulance Bids. It was determined that alternative bids were needed as the amount is over one-hundred fifty thousand dollars. It will be place on the November 21st agenda. Mr. Lunsford also related that three new cots were due in on Wednesday and the power-load system expected mid-December.

Highway Greg Melton began by thanking Sheriff/911/EMS/Citizens/Farmers for all their help during the wind storms the county just had. Noted that they had one incident with an employee hurting a finger.

He next presented a copy of 1982-4 Ordinance that he would like to be reviewed and updated as the Plan is forty years old regarding county highway maintenance and road repairs. It was agreed to have the attorney review it and be discussed at the next meeting.

He related he has an individual with a CDL License who is willing to come back for plowing.

Pat Conder Road Closed Petition for Culross Road was discussed regarding a bridge, property owners, how it would be closed, access to fields, how many feet were involved. It was agreed to table the Petition request until the December 5th meeting to further discuss possible options and have the petitioners (Hutchinson's-Samples) themselves present by Curry; seconded by Lowe. Carried 3-0.

Bill Pursell asked again for the recording of Parcel #'s on all surveys/documents in the Recorders Office. Attorney Bryan related that he had spoken with the Recorder and it's not as simple of a process entering the sixteen-digit parcel number and a form would be needed. Mr. Pursell said when he had initially talked with her, she had said it would not be a problem that her system has a place to enter those numbers. Now concerned with a tow different stories per Mr. Pursell it was agreed to table and have both Ms. Foster and Mr. Pursell come to the next meeting.

Auditor asked for consideration of a six-month extension on the County Personnel Policy regarding the maximum number of vacation/personal balances of two of her staff members in which she had inherited most of them and they do not have the option of shutting the office down. We are not asking for a buyout/payout only to address it. Mr. Burton and Mr. Bryan agreed that it was a Council decision as it has fiscal implications.

Regional Prevention coordinator presented information about the Opioid Settlement Funds that the County is due to receive and possible uses of the \$402000 and unrestricted in the amount of \$100000+/- . Mr. Burton related that he had received the letter from the attorney general and had spoke with some individuals already. Everyone agreed that a committee/group should be formed to discuss the funds and options.

No other comments from the Attorney were made.

No other comments from the Auditor were made.

Commissioners-Mr. Lowe asked of Sheriff Hobbs had the Rocky Hill Road communications project been done yet. Hobbs related that he had sent more emails to Jim Doering, and as of right now-not yet. Lowe will follow up on the situation.

A motion to adjourn was made by Burton; seconded by Curry. Carried 3-0.