

Owen County Commissioners
Minutes-December 6, 2021

Meeting was called to order by President Gary Burton.

Pledge of Allegiance was said, and Opening Prayer was given by Sheriff Hobbs.

Roll was called, all three were present. Attorney James Bryan and Auditor Sheila Reeves. Public sign in sheet will be attached for permanent record.

A motion to approve the minutes from November 15th by Bob Curry; seconded by Dale Dubois. Carried 3-0.

A Financial Funds review was given by Attorney Bryan. Copies of Fund Balances will be attached for permanent record. Noted was that no claims were made from the General Fund and expecting with settlement that the Fund will be in the black/positive. There should still be spending that is not necessary to reserve in the Riverboat and LIT. The Highway, EMS, 911 Dispatch all have positive balances that will carryover. It was specifically stated by Mr. Burton that there will be absolutely "No" Encumbrances from the *General Fund*. Ms. Reeves will send out an email letting all departments know. A copy of the November Monthly Report was provided for their review.

A motion to approve the Payroll Dockets for November 19th \$225066.87 and December 6th \$228341.04 was made by Bob Curry; seconded by Dale Dubois. Motion carried 3-0. A motion to approve the Regular Claims Docket \$240154.65 was made by Bob Curry; seconded by Dale Dubois. Motion carried 3-0. A motion to approve the Out of Cycle Claims was made by Dale Dubois; seconded by Bob Curry. Carried 3-0. Utilities, Covid, Toshiba, Palmer Trucks, Toshiba Maintenance, and Visa's.

Old Business

Assessor Kenny Anderson requested that the current Contract that had been submitted be denied. New Bids will be requested for December 20th. A motion was made by Bob Curry; seconded by Dale Dubois. Carried 3-0. My Path-Mark Rogers has sent notice that he would not be present. A motion to table was made by Dale Dubois; seconded by Bob Curry. Carried 3-0.

New Business (Agenda Order was rearranged)

Clerk Lesliann Burton presented an Order Establishing Precinct Boundaries that were mandated by State. The Order was read by Mr. Bryan. A motion to approve the Order was made by Dale Dubois; seconded by Bob Curry. Motion carried 3-0. Ms. Burton will advertise the Order.

Jennifer Abrell presented the 2022 Purdue Extension Contract for review/approval. A motion to approve was made by Dale Dubois; seconded by Bob Curry. Carried 3-0. Mr. Burton also related that he would be contacting her later in the day to discuss some things.

EMS Cris Lunsford informed members that he had requested three quotes for a Tahoe. It was agreed that he should attend the Council Meeting on the 13th and clear the appropriation and come back on the 20th. A motion for him to pursue options as was made by Bob Curry; seconded by Dale Dubois. Carried 3-0.

Sheriff Hobbs related that they are finishing up and working on odds/ends. He is also fixing the outside lights at the Storage Units. Mr. Burton said that there should be maintenance funds available to pay for the lights.

Next Mr. Bryan presented a request for an Elected Official to be appointed to the Opioid Lawsuit Settlement that is pending. Owen County has a unique Registration Code and must be entered in the national website and requires use of Docusign. A motion to appoint Auditor Reeves as was made by Gary Burton, seconded by Bob Curry. Motion carried 3-0. Exact amount is unknown, and Updates will be provided as they become available.

Attorney Bryan then presented information regarding the ARPA Monies and process necessary to move forward. First was preparing for setting up a resolution and preliminary numbers. He will work with Barnes and Thornburg to develop a Plan to present on 12/20/21. Premium Pay discussion is being discussed with Commissioners and Council for possible stipends of essential workers. It will require a lot of work from the Auditors Office to determine who qualifies with specific details. Regarding the County Plan it was discussed to initiate three primary areas that will be included at this time. Premium Pay-\$300000, Infrastructure-\$250000, and Administrative/Other. The Premium Pay that is being considered in the amounts of one-time payout of \$2000 for Full-time and \$1000 for Part-time Employees. Marce King reminded members of the State Read-Plan and possible matches of the Funds that would be specific designated if used. Also noted was that it was being discussed on the State/Federal Level to possibly release the specific use of the funds to allow Counties more flexibility for their communities. A motion to approve the areas named and that it would be effective as of today's date-6th for current employees to qualify was made by Dale Dubois; seconded by Bob Curry. Motion Carried 3-0. Mr. Bryan reminded them that this was only the first step and that the Plan will be provided at their next meeting.

Highway-Greg Melton began with a road update that they have lost two concrete structures in the last three weeks one being 91 years old. Culverts are needing replaced on Dutch Bethel, Big Four and Otterbein. He requested that a 7tonage limit be placed on Otterbein Church Rd. A motion was made by Bob Curry; seconded by Dale Dubois. Carried 3-0 to allow Mr. Bryan to prepare the Ordinance.

Mr. Melton asked them to consider a four-way stop at the intersection of Smithville Rd. and Otterbein Church Rd. Mr. Bryan will prepare the Ordinance for the next meeting.

Next he asked permission to close sections of Freeman Rd while ditching from 7:30 to 3pm on December 13th. A motion to approve was made by Gary Burton; seconded by Dale Dubois. Carried 3-0.

Next was discussion about Hancock School Road to put up guardrails. He will try to purchase used and has the posts needed. A motion to approve was made by Dale Dubois; seconded by Bob Curry. Carried 3-0.

He offered that he has snow fleet ready, and the forecast is all over the place at this time and invited them to come and look at the new trucks that have arrived. Mr. Burton noted that these trucks are also equipped to be used year-round.

The County Five Year Road Plan has been submitted to LTAP as required. Noting that Millings are probably going to be impossible to get. It was agreed to use cold mix this year to fix roads.

Next Mr. Bryan presented and read Ordinance 2021-41 to establish the maximum speed limit on Country Club Road of thirty (30) miles per hour. A motion to approve the Ordinance was made by Dale Dubois; seconded by Bob Curry. Carried 3-0.

The next Ordinance read was 2021-42 to establish a maximum speed limit on Romona Road at thirty (30) miles per hour. A motion to approve the Ordinance was made by Bob Curry; seconded by Dale Dubois. Carried 3-0.

Mr. Melton then related due to multiple Vandalism incidents to County Equipment they were going to have to possible return everything back to the garage each day, which slow down the daily workload with having to go back and forth.

The next items presented were RFP's that had been received for Professional Engineering Services-County Bridges Inventory Inspections. Notifications had been re-sent to United Consulting, RQAW, and BLN. Mr. Bryan opened and read the sealed bids of each Firm. RQAW sent a letter relating that they were not interested. BLN letter offered that they appreciate the opportunity but gave no submission of proposal. United Consulting had submitted the required packet information for the 2022-2025 period requested. Mr. Bryan read the bid. Mr. Burton asked to confirm that 131 Bridges are what the County has; Mr. Melton acknowledge that is correct. Mr. Melton related that they have a good work relationship with United. A motion to accept the Bid was made by Dale Dubois; seconded by Bob Curry. Motion carried 3-0.

A motion to take a five-minute recess was made by Bob Curry; seconded by Gary Burton. Carried 3-0.
Meeting resumed at 10:55pm.

Highway Bid Packets for Materials were presented and Read by Attorney Bryan.
**Copies of all Bid Packets will be attached for permanent record/review.

He began with "Aggregates" from Rogers Group, Martin Marietta, Lincoln, Jones Quarry, and US Aggregates. All bid amounts were presented and read. A motion was made by Dale Dubois; seconded by Bob Curry to accept Rogers, Lincoln, Jones, and US Aggregates. Carried 3-0.

The next Bid Packets presented and read by Mr. Bryan was for "Bituminous" from Jones Quarry, Reith Riley, EMB Paving, Milestone (2) packets. A motion to approve EMB Paving, and both Milestone was made by Bob Curry; seconded by Dale Dubois. Motion carried 3-0.

Bid Packets for "Culverts" presented and read from E-3, Core & Main Water Works provided various amounts for plastics and Mr. Melton asked members to re-bid and put back out for specific quotes/quarterly or as needed basis. A motion to reject was made by Gary Burton; seconded by Dale Dubois. Motion Carried 3-0.

All other Bids for "Guardrails, Gas Motor Oil, and Fuel" were presented and read by Mr. Bryan. A motion to reject all bids for each Category was made by Bob Curry; seconded by Dale Dubois. Motion carried 3-0. It was agreed that requesting quarterly quotes on the open market might be less expensive compared to the current market prices. A motion to reject Lubricants was made by Gary Burton; seconded by Dale Dubois. Motion carried 3-0. Mr. Bryan explained the necessary process for re-advertising quarterly quotes.

It was agreed to table the 2022 Holiday and Payroll Schedule for further review by the Attorney. Elected Officials/Department Head no comments were made.

Ms. Reeves presented a Letter of Credit in favor of the Commissioners-Department of Environmental Management (Landfill) in the amount of \$418000.00 for the period of 02/03/2021 to 02/03/2023 with a fee of 1.25% or \$5225.00. A motion to approve was made by Bob Curry; seconded by Dale Dubois. Carried 3-0.

Commissioner Burton gave a review of IT-Forthphaze and savings that they have been able to provide the County with reviewing accounts and services that will save an estimated \$1000/mo. Federal Government is covering fireide so that amount will be saved this year too. He also noted that all computers must be brought up to Windows 11 and would like to get started and be done in three years with the cost savings that have been presented.

Next was discussion that the Maintenance Supervisor had resigned his position and gave his letter and County Keys to Mr. Curry on Saturday-4th. Ms. Reeves was instructed to advertise the position immediately. The keys were given to Mr. Burton. Mr. Burton also asked Mr. Melton if his employees could temporarily help with trash pick-up. Mr. Dubois offered to help with snow removal—for free.

Mr. Burton brought up the status of the Health Department and still being temporary located at 9 Crane Ave. and that he has been exploring options for relocating them. His suggestion was to possibly relocate/switch the Extension Office and Health Department Offices. This would allow for the Health Department to provide both the Covid Testing Clinic and Vaccine Clinic from one location; as well as maintain the other services from the department. He confirmed with Attorney Bryan and Mr. Curry that the Health Department was told to move back in given the Engineers Report that it was deemed safe. At this time a motion was made to go ahead and move forward with the switch by Bob Curry; seconded by Dale Dubois. Carried 3-0.

No other business came before the Board. A motion to adjourn was made by Bob Curry; seconded by Dale Dubois. Motion carried.