

Owen County Commissioners
Minutes-May 16, 2022

Meeting was called to order by President Gary Burton.

Pledge of Allegiance was said with opening prayer given by Cris Lunsford.

Present: Gary Burton, Bob Curry, and Dale Dubois. Attorney Jim Bryan and Auditor Sheila Reeves.

Public sign in sheet attached for permanent record.

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Dale Dubois; seconded by Bob Curry. Motion carried 3-0. Following a brief financial review by Mr. Bryan regarding all major funds being in the positive, a motion to approve the payroll claims in the amount of \$223,599.62 was made by Bob Curry; seconded by Dale Dubois. Carried 3-0. A motion to approve the regular claims in the amount of \$287,720.42 was made by Bob Curry; seconded by Dale Dubois. Carried 3-0. A motion to approve the out of cycle claims for a total of \$19643.89 was made by Bob Curry; seconded by Dale Dubois. Carried 3-0. Copies of Mr. Bryans reports, claims dockets, and the Treasurer's Monthly Financial report are attached for permanent record.

Old Business-

Mr. Burton related that Towing Bids had been tabled at a prior meeting and that only one bid had been received from Bland's Towing. He made a motion to approve the Bland's Towing Bid; seconded by Bob Curry. Carried 3-0.

New Business-

Purdue Extension-Jennifer Abrell presented an overview of 4-H and several program areas that are provided. Two extension members Samuel Logsdon and Ily Swain gave a summary of some of the things that they have learned being in 4-H like responsibility, loyalty, public speaking, communication, and life-lessons. Copies of presentation are attached for permanent record. Mr. Burton also wanted it to be known that these programs can be taken to the other areas in the county, not just Spencer.

Economic Development-Marce King was present to request permission to hold the County Fireworks Display on July 1st. A motion to approve was made by Gary Burton; seconded by Dale Dubois. Carried 3-0.

EMA Director-Jack White presented a Grant Application request for funds from the OCCF in the amount of \$2500. Breakdown of \$1000-Emergency Shelter needs and \$1500 Emergency Management Communication. A motion to approve the application was made by Dale Dubois; seconded by Bob Curry. Carried 3-0. Mr. White also wanted to thank Ms. Reeves for her service to the County as she had submitted her letter of resignation.

911 Director-Kathleen Lamb, Deputy Matt Miller and Sheriff Hobbs related continued concern with the IDACS system/program still not being completed at the jail and No progress has been made since April. Ms. Lamb has sent repeated emails to all of the agencies involved and still not getting results and it is costing her monies from her own funds. Mr. Burton related that the county IT is maintenance only, and not for projects such as this. Mr. Burton stated that he will immediately follow up with this situation and make contact with persons necessary to fix the problem. Ms. Lamb will provide them all contact information.

Highway Dept-Greg Melton began with updating the roads are continuing to be patched, Klass Road repairs by Fender Excavating, and expecting Bridge #16 to still be done by June 1st. He had also lost another driver. Mr. Bryan related that the Fidler Road resurfacing was to be put out for bids and with a project start date July 6th and done before school starts in August. The Fidler Road Bid Packet was presented for approval/advertising for resurfacing a section of the road from Stone Mountain to Smith Road, for a total estimated cost of \$148,789. A motion to approve/advertise was made by Dale Dubois; seconded by Bob Curry. Carried 3-0. Also, WTH has fixed the mapping for the county and Mr. Melton will be able to re-apply for the funding that was originally applied for. A motion to approve the application the same as the original was made by Dale Dubois; seconded by Bob Curry. Carried 3-0.

Sealed Bids for Bridge #44 and #116 had been received from only one company-CLR. Mr. Bryan opened Bid Packet #44 Wasatch/King Creek first. He reviewed/read aloud all of the required documents contained in the packet and confirmed that everything had been included and the Bid Sheet Amount of \$158,375. had been quoted. Following discussion and a recommendation from Mr. Melton a motion was made to approve/accept the bid in the amount of \$158,375 with a start date of October 4th was made by Bob Curry; seconded by Dale Dubois. Carried 3-0.

The next Bid Packet was for Bridge #116. Mr. Bryan opened the bid and read aloud all the required documents that were needed and confirmed that all requirements had been met with a bid sheet in the amount of \$162,535. Following discussion and recommendation from Mr. Melton a motion was made by Bob Curry; seconded by Dale Dubois to approve/accept the bid in the amount of \$162,535. Carried 3-0.

All copies were to be signed and originals given to the Auditors Office.

Mr. Bryan wanted to make sure that they had the total amounts for the current three projects, so they knew exactly what funds were available for the next project. Estimated at 1.1 million right now. He also thanked Ms. Reeves for her service.

Mr. Burton next spoke regarding the Armory Building and the appraisal's that were being done/pending. He then said that he and Bob had met with Cathleen and Rick about a month ago regarding their lease. He said they offered to sell the armory to them, but it wasn't something they were interested in. He said he went back last week, and we renegotiated a new lease that will be a substantial increase. It was for six years, with an opt out after four years and a four percent increase every two years to cover inflation costs. He wanted to reassure the folks that take their kids there, they are safe and secure. The increase is to cover county expenses. He said with the current lease they were losing money and that they were satisfied with the agreement and that he had gone over it with Bob and the Attorney and it will take effect September 5th. It is expected to be signed in late August. They will also be looking at possibly leasing out more of that building to make further profit.

Elected Officials

Treasurer Diane Stutsman related that \$9.9 Million had been collected to date and that everything is on track for Settlement on May 19th. Mr. Burton thanked her.

Attorney Comments-He addressed the Armory lease and that he'll have that drafted and could be ready for a formal approval at the June 6th meeting.

Auditor Comments- Mr. Burton began by thanking Sheila for her dedication as the auditor for the last year and a half as well as for over 22 years at the health department and dedication to the county.

She thanked everyone for their support over the years and will offer to help anywhere she can.

Public Comments

Darlene Kolster an LEPC member commented that if an earthquake were to hit town; former EMA Director Dave Wallace said the Armory would be the only building left standing.

Jeff Marks asked of officials present about training and specifically any AIC Courses that are available to them. He also asked in an email about their qualifications. Mr. Bryan related that he had attended three of the budgeting classes with AIC as well as degrees in business administration, law degree and involved with the county budgets for over two years now. Commissioner Burton related he had attended AIC Conferences as well. Mr. Curry said he was primarily involved in security, but they all work hard and has been involved in some training. No comment from Dubois.

Ms. Reeves related that she has taken/attended many of the Conferences/Courses as well and all of the trainings are archived on the state sites to allow everyone to still review them.

Rob White-Inquired about the incident/fall that had happened at the extension office and why the commissioners had denied the claim. Mr. Burton related that it was the County Liability Company that denied the claim. Mr. Burton related that it would be handled by the insurance companies at this point and then litigation. Mr. White noted that county maintenance had filled in/leveled off the area by the handrail where the fall had occurred afterward the incident.

He also asked about the current accident with the maintenance person hitting his personal vehicle and what did he need to do about it. Mr. Burton related that a claim would need filed with the auditor and filed with the insurance company. Ms. Reeves asked for Mr. White to speak with Sherry in the office for more information. Victor Vaillette asked three questions: Why are the Dockets for Regular and Out of Cycle Claims not posted on the bulletin board downstairs and out this room and that the public should be allowed to review them. They should not have to go to the Auditors Office and referenced like about the oil furnace claim signed by Burton. Mr. Burton asked what that had to do with anything and that he could go out to the highway to get warm because it is now installed. Mr. Burton told him he was discussing old business, Victor said and it just got installed. Nothing further on this.

He then referenced the resignation of Sheila Reeves and feels that this group has the responsibility for it. Mr. Burton said to ask her that. Mr. Curry said that he has never heard her say that. Stated that she has been the glue that has held the county together and her relationship with SBOA and has reached into her own pockets to buy supplies. Mr. Burton noted that he too has worked alongside and with SBOA as well. Ms. Reeves added that they were not the only reason for her resignation and that everyone (Comm, Council, Departments and Employees) is going to have to start communicating and working together to move forward. We all play a role in it! She also encouraged anyone/everyone to get involved to help. Lastly, he asked who would file for the caucus? Was related that is up to the Republican Party.

A gentleman asked in regard to Klass Road; is it just the bridge? Mr. Melton & Mr. Burton both related that they would be doing some ditching and holes.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Gary Burton; seconded by Bob Curry.