

OWEN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES-FEBRUARY 15, 2021

Zoom Attendees: (Meeting was held via Zoom due to the snowstorm)

Commissioner's: Gary Burton and Bob Curry. Dale Dubois initially was on but lost reception.

Attorney Jim Bryan (also had connection issues during meeting at times) Auditor Sheila Reeves.

Greg Melton, Norm Warner, Anton Neff, Levi Miller, G7ThinQ, Brenda Miller, Rachel Whiting, Jack White, Dan McBride, Bill Snodgrass, I-Phone, Polly Chesser, Laura Lane, Kathleen Lamb, DKS, Mary Frances, Jill, Cris Lunsford, Christine Hutson and Patty.

Meeting was called to order by President Gary Burton.

Roll was called-Gary Burton, Bob Curry and Dale Dubois-(lost reception), Attorney Jim Bryan and Auditor Sheila Reeves.

Mr. Burton lead both the Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer.

A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Bob Curry; seconded by Gary Burton. Motion carried 2-0.

A motion to approve the claims dated for February 15, 2021 was made by Bob Curry; seconded by Gary Burton. Motion carried 2-0.

Old Business

An update regarding the construction for the Coroners Building was tabled.

Attorney Jim Bryan related that the Maintenance Superintendent Position-Job Description had been presented and approved by Council on February 8th as was required by Statute. A motion to advertise the position for one week at the Courthouse, Local Paper/Spencer Evening World, Indeed and County Website was made by Gary Burton; seconded by Bob Curry. Motion carried 2-0. Councilman Neff added he had emailed some additional technical information regarding the job description.

Brenda Miller asked if Commissioners had discussed or reviewed the County Ordinance for ATV's and noise violations; Mr. Burton indicated that he had spoken with Sheriff Hobbs. He understood that both the Sheriff and DNR had been to the residence in concern and that no violations were observed. They were on their own property and that nothing can be done unless on the roadway or after 11pm. She stated that they were modifying the mufflers on their vehicles/trucks now too. In review of the noise ordinance, equipped with mufflers and excessive noise were both noted by Mr. Bryan. Mr. Burton related that he would get with the Sheriff and call or email her.

Gail Horn was not present on Zoom regarding County Line Road, tabled.

New Business

Sheriff Hobbs was not available due to the Snow and road conditions.

Sheriff's Department-RQAW and Dan Zuerner were tabled until the March 1st Meeting.

Mr. Burton related that the Interlocal Agreement between the Sheriff's Dept and Gosport was denied by Gosport. No further action and/or discussion will be taken.

Highway-Superintendent Greg Melton

Bridge #139-Steubenville Rd had been declared an Emergency under IC36-1-12-9 and a Bid Notice had been placed. Mr. Melton had received only two quotes. Mr. Melton related that the highway would be providing the 71 yards of concrete, Rebar and Aggregate for the project.

KGI Contractor submitted a quote for \$40820. Fender Excavating submitted a quote for \$9000.

Mr. Burton related that Mr. Fender had done good on other County jobs that he had performed. Mr. Melton requested that they accept Mr. Fender's offer. Mr. Curry made the motion to accept the bid from Fender Excavating in the amount of \$9000; seconded by Mr. Burton. Motion carried 2-0.

County Line Road-Mr. Melton related that due to a wreck that took out the guard rail it requires an Emergency Repair. Barrels have been placed at the deck level as a precautionary measure for motorists.

Per IC36-1-12-9 Emergency Declaration; Mr. Melton invited three companies: E-3 Bridge, Fender Excavating and CLR for the emergency repair. Only one bid was received from E-3 Bridge in the amount of \$12700 that included two flagmen. However, if the County would allow the Road to be closed for eight hours each day, they could have the project done in two days for a cost savings of \$3100. Commissioners and Mr. Melton agreed that for both the safety of the workers and expediting the project to allow the road closure. The motion was made by Bob Curry to accept the bid with the cost savings amount now added to be only \$9600; seconded by Gary Burton. Motion carried 2-0. Mr. Melton also noted that this repair was caused by a traffic accident and that they will be expecting an Insurance refund.

Mr. Melton then provided comment that he had read and re-read the information three times regarding the Kelly Road Bridge Bid Packet and felt it was ready for Public Notice. Mr. Bryan had prepared the documents for review. A motion was made Gary Burton to approve the Bid Packet and send out Public Notice on February 19th and again on March 5th as required by Statute; seconded by Mr. Curry. Motion carried 2-0.

Mr. Melton gave an overview of funds shortage due to State cuts in his Cumulative Bridge Fund and unexpected repairs. He asked for the Franklin Road and Wasatch Lake Road projects to be scratched at this time. Commissioner's will review possible options later in the year.

Next, he asked for consideration to cancel the Chip and Seal Project on South Cataract Rd as he felt it was not the right type of repair materials for that road and/or a waste of money; and then be allowed to move to a one-mile area on Truesdel Road. Mr. Burton made the motion to allow the change in roadways; seconded by Bob Curry. Motion carried 2-0. The South Cataract Road could possibly be put on the next Community Crossing Grant.

Mr. Melton then gave an update relating to the Snow-Storm situation. He has sixteen trucks out plowing only due to the heavy snowfall, and they are fighting snow drifts. He has three grader crews and rotating staff as well. He related that the State had took charge of all Salt Supply, so he had to search other options for materials. IMI provided Sand, Beech Grove-Salt and J.W. Jones-Trucks. They will provide updates throughout the rest of the evening and on Tuesday.

Ms. Reeves related that she was prepared to set-up places to feed the Highway, EMS, Sheriff and Fire that were working; just contact her if they were in need. He related that food has been brought in by several and that he thought they were okay at this time.

Later in the meeting Mr. Melton asked to add his concern regarding an Insurance Claim that has never been received in the amount of \$25000 from Mt. Carmel Road. It was agreed that it had been approved by the Commissioners last year. He had spoken with John Parmley who was going to investigate the claim and see if it had been issued or cashed. No records were available indicating the monies were applied for and/or received as was instructed to be done last April.

Mr. Burton asked if any Department Heads had anything to discuss; no comments were made.

Attorney Jim Bryan had lost communication with the Commissioner's throughout the meeting.

At this time Mr. Burton presented a Resolution 2021-12 that Mr. Bryan had prepared regarding the Travel Status for Owen County. He reviewed as "Orange" that allowed persons to go to-from work, seek medical supplies, food and shelter. IF they went "Red" that would restrict travel to Emergency Workers Only.

Mr. Neff added that there was chatter in the community that if the County did not go Red, they would have to report to work or possibly lose their jobs. Andy Wood wanted to make sure that Guidance was put out there in various forms for the public to keep them updated. Mr. Burton again reviewed his concern of going Red and feels that many have hardships due to lost jobs from Covid and other circumstances and just need to use common sense when traveling. A motion was made by Mr. Burton to remain as "Orange Travel Status"; seconded by Mr. Curry. Motion carried 2-0.

County Attorney had lost reception, so no further comments were made.

County Auditor had nothing at this time.

No other business came before the Board.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Curry; seconded by Mr. Burton. Motion carried 2-0.