

Owen County Commissioners
Minutes-February 7, 2022

Meeting was called to order by President Gary Burton.

Pledge of Allegiance was said, and opening prayer was given Sheriff Hobbs.

Commissioners Present: Gary Burton, Bob Curry, and Dale Dubois. Also present was County Attorney Jim Bryan and Auditor Sheila Reeves. Public sign in sheet attached for permanent record.

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Bob Curry, seconded by Dale Dubois. Motion carried 3-0.

Attorney Bryan gave a brief financial overview, noting that the General Fund had a positive balance for the third month in a row ending on 01/31/22 with \$824,268.24. Only three funds were in the red currently listing 8904, 9125, and 9167 which are reimbursable Grant Funds. Spending still needs to be watched as revenue is still mainly only supporting payroll. He provided a copy of the funds overview and balances for their review. He also added to the Department Officials that were present that the Insurance Claims will be coming due in March and that the Claims will need to be made for their quarterly amounts.

A motion to approve Payroll in the amount of \$213,116.42 was made by Dale Dubois; seconded by Bob Curry. Motion carried 3-0.

Regarding Regular Claims submitted, Mr. Burton asked that the Claim for the Health Department in the amount of \$8359.92 be pulled for further review. A motion to approve the Regular Claims with the total adjustment for \$381,981.63 was made by Bob Curry; seconded by Dale Dubois. Motion carried 3-0.

A motion to approve the Out of Cycle Claims in the amount of \$90,445.48 was made by Bob Curry; seconded by Dale Dubois. Motion carried 3-0.

ARPA Plan Review-Attorney Bryan began by reviewing the proposed American Rescue Plan for Owen County. The County is to receive a total of \$4039962.00 with \$2019981.00 already received in July 2021. Significant changes from the original guidelines have now opened other areas for the Commissioners to consider. An Updated Plan dated for February 7, 2022, offered a summary of Proposed Uses for the following amounts Covid 19-\$0.00, Economic Impact-\$0.00, Premium Pay-\$300000., Provision of Government Services-\$3619962.00, Infrastructure-\$0.00, and Administrative-\$30000. The changes were no monies were now going to Infrastructure as originally given \$250000 in the December Plan and all other funds are now going to the County Highway for Roads/Bridges/Streets. The monies now being referred to as "Buckets" can be adjusted. Mr. Burton added that they are to receive Plans for any consideration of buckets. The only thing currently for any action is the Premium Pay. Anything not spent can be moved to a different bucket.

Mr. Burton opened to Public Comment even though it is not normal at their morning meetings.

To Chris Bault he asked if had an Engineering Plan for a \$250000 sewer to present to them? Mr. Bault said no they do not with a cost. Mr. Burton added that the county wants growth, and he doesn't want anyone to think that the money is just going to be set aside and that Mr. Melton will have a plan and then decide where the rest of it might go. He also thinks that there will be some premium pay funds. He wants to make sure that if anybody feels they have been misled; he wants to correct it right now, but they also think the Highway is the most important at this time. While the highway is important; why the urgency to get appropriated?

Mr. Burton stated that the county has bridges closed currently and they need to get them fixed as well as the roads. He was challenged by Mr. Abram asking him why he was coming at Chris, and it was being done very antagonistic. They don't have a plan either, but Ms. King is sitting over there with a Plan that has potential for additional free money. He further added that it almost seems too convenient on how they decided to go like that. Janet Rummel was present representing Non-Profits and stated she did have a Plan but has not presented it yet.

Mr. Bault related he had come to the RDC meetings and was part of these conversations. On Friday he had Bid on a piece of property and won the bid. Come Monday he talked with Mr. Burton, and he told him that he was going to have Tom Winegar develop the county property down farther. Mr. Burton said he related that it has to go out for bids. Secondly said Mr. Burton told him he was not going to get any of that ARPA monies it was going to roads and bridges, this said even before the meeting. Mr. Bault doesn't understand why Owen County people won the bid and now going to have so much trouble from him? Mr. Burton was shaking his head no and Mr. Bault told him don't shake your head he knows that is what he said. Mr. Burton said that he is willing to give them \$500000 from Redevelopment; Mr. Bault asked "Who", Mr. Burton said the Committee. Mr. Burton says he sits on that committee and spoke with him after a meeting, and he agrees with him. Mr. Bault added-- why the change of heart after they won the bid? Mr. Burton said there isn't. As conversation was getting heated Mr. Curry stood up and asked for order and for them to stop the bucket heads and be gentlemen about this. Marce King said the question was does anyone have a Plan. She offered that they have two sets of Plans that have been approved by County Officials: both the Commissioners and Council. Mr. Curry said he has not seen them and that they had (including him) as they went before them. He apologized as he is new to all of this and trying to learn. Next Todd with BBP Water Company said the ARPA money could help with improvements, and they were part of the plan and need assistance too. They are trying to expand for the County. He feels they are being narrow minded by taking the whole bucket. BBP has already said they are willing to match any funds that are given. Asking that they think about it before just checking a box. Sheriff Hobbs reminded them that there have been numerous conversations stating that there was no hurry to spend the funds, Ms. King has been approved two times by them and he feels they should sit down and see what all was on the horizon with needs. Included Cooks, Sudol, Bault, BBP, Redevelopment, Non-Profits, department heads that are invested in this community. He's only one voice but the Commissioners gave their word to Ms. King in the last plan and now you're going back on your word. Table and Hold a Meeting until they can come together. Mr. Burton says that the County needs growth and a higher tax base is needed and still spending more than revenue and it's the cost of doing business. Further added that if signed today it could still be moved around and no one has come to them with a plan. Again, Sheriff Hobbs stated you're only as good as your word and you voted, and you need to hold true to what you said. Mr. Burton said they have not voted on a Plan; it was confirmed by Mr. Bryan that they had adopted one in December. BBP-Todd added that if no hurry lets go with money here/there and not get trapped inside a box. If they come back, they might get throwed scraps, why put everybody in a mouse trap before they even get started. Owen Camp could've been done a couple of years ago, but now they've missed bucket again.

Mr. Melton noted that his concern is with bridges and that Patricksburg is a perfect example. He does in fact have a Plan to ask the Commissioners for \$620000 today for fractured bridges and it is his responsibility to do so. Ms. Rummel asked if he would be applying for any of the \$8Billion with the new bill being considered.

Ms. King agreed Mr. Melton has done an excellent job and take some of the money. (In a side conversation to Mr. Curry he told him lets table this that he's not going to sit here and listen to this shit)

Mr. Burton asked Mr. Melton to read a letter from Economic Development that has a list of Bridge inventory-112 that have been identified by United Consultants relates one closed and eight fractured.

Mr. Burton closed Public Comment. Mr. Burton called for a vote to take action on this Plan. No motion was made. A motion was then made to table the Proposed Plan was made by Bob Curry; seconded by Gary Burton and hold a Public Hearing April 6th. Motion carried 3-0.

EMA Director-Jack White and Attorney Bryan began with the Emergency Declaration 2022-01 and 2022-02 that had been declared. A motion to officially terminate 2022-02 was made by Gary Burton; seconded by Bob Curry. Motion carried 3-0. A travel advisory status of Yellow will remain.

He then presented updated quotes for single cab trucks as he was requested to do at the last meeting. Following discussion on the different classification-quotes of two door and four door trucks it was determined to go with the class of a four-door truck. A motion to approve the lowest quote from Kelly Chevrolet Quote in the amount of \$36,140.00 was made by Bob Curry; seconded by Dale Dubois. Motion carried 3-0. The other two quotes for a four door were from Valley Chevrolet \$37955.25 and Andy Mohr \$46620.00. A motion was made by Bob Curry; seconded by Dale Dubois to reject all the two door truck quotes. Carried 3-0. The amount approved will be paid from a DHS Grant received in the amount of \$40000.

Sheriff Hobbs inquired about receiving Mr. Whites old truck. A surplus ordinance will be written for the truck.

A copy of an Annual Contract from Intertec had been provided for approval in the amount of \$5752.80 (discount of \$367.20). Mr. Curry requested that the Coroner's Building and the outside of the Storage Units be included/added. The contract was tabled until the next meeting with the added building with a motion from Gary Burton; seconded by Bob Curry. Motion carried 3-0.

EMS Director Cris had obtained Bids for additional equipment needed for the new Tahoe from Signature Public Safety-\$11,282.88, American Eagle-\$10,503.45, and JTN Services-\$9960.76. A motion to approve lowest bid from JTN was made by Bob Curry; seconded by Dale Dubois. Motion carried 3-0.

Mr. Lunsford related that they had faired the snow emergency pretty well. Runs did take a little longer due to the road conditions and he had to bring in another crew to help.

He later added that the Highway did a phenomenal job with the storms.

911 Director Kathleen Lamb began by echoing what Cris had just said. She thinks people did heed the warnings and stayed off the roads. Staffing-still two short and one out on military leave. She had made an offer to an individual that she had interviewed over the weekend.

CAD Server move did not occur. She gave a timeline of events to date however Forthphaze still has not addressed the need for the move for communication with all agencies involved. The Production server was not moved because they did not have the connection from the Jail to the Training Server. She feels they dropped the ball on this project and still do not have it working not has received any replies from Mr. Doering.

Mr. Burton was going to immediately contact Forthphaze and check the status. He further stated that if they need to get somebody else, they will get this done.

Sheriff Sam Hobbs also thanked the highway for a great job and thanked the Public and everyone heading all the warnings given and to help make this as well as it was.

He informed them that he had a Jail Inspection coming up on the 24th.

He also reminded them of the upcoming Jail-Public Hearing on the 21st.

Highway Superintendent Greg Melton began by relating that had to pull the Bridge #16 Plans due to having to pay for his inspections and does not have his INDOT reimbursements back yet. He is expecting tow more inspections later in the year. Mr. Bryan related that if notice was put out today, it would be the end of March for the timeline, but no guarantee of the financial status. A motion to put Bridge #16 Bids out was made by Bob Curry seconded by Dale Dubois. Motion carried 3-0. The Bidders will receive the 36-page guide to be available at the Highway and Auditors Office. Notice will be given in the paper on February 16th.

Mr. Burton asked for the ARPA Public Meeting to be moved up to March 23rd, all members agreed.

Mr. Melton asked that Request for Proposals for "Towing" be put out for bids. Commissioners can interview the proposals and select and/or reject all that are received. Advertisement will be on February 16th and March 2nd. A motion to allow the RFP to be requested was made by Bob Curry; seconded by Dale Dubois. Carried 3-0.

Lastly, Mr. Melton thanked his "Employees" for a job well done during the snowstorm as well as other emergency response agencies that were involved.

A Special Meeting has been called on February 17th @ 3pm that will allow for additional highway issues to be addressed.

Mr. Bryan further discussed options regarding roads/bridges/streets and financing. Options are to do nothing, provide ARPA Funds, Public Financing, or status quo. Mr. Burton noted that the Highway Budget is a maintenance budget, not a build roads/bridges budget and has been that way for years. He confirmed that they had looked in to a \$2 million proposal to raise money for the highway if they don't use the monies that are available to them. The County has an obligation to 22000 residents to keep the roads taken care of.

Elected Officials

Treasurer Diane Stutsman presented information that had been asked at the prior meeting during the Board of Finance about the disbursements amounts with Settlement Funds for the town of Gosport. The amounts distributed by the Auditors Office in the Fall was \$39787.39 and Spring-\$50950.09. Mr. Burton thanked her for the report. He also noted that they will now receive some of the new Jail PSAP funds.

Clerk Lesliann Burton presented a contract for the annual maintenance agreement with Microvote in the amount of \$13000.00 for a four-year agreement. A motion to approve the contract and signed by Mr. Curry was made by Dale Dubois. Motion carried 2-1/Abstention-Burton. He noted that he will be signing a Conflict-of-Interest form. Due to Lesliann being in the Clerk's office.

Surveyor Bill Pursell reviewed a Drainage Board Issue with Greene County as they are wanting to impose a tax. He went through all the records and has confirmed that it does not come into Owen County and will relate that information at a meeting with them to be held next week. He will report back to the Commissioners. Nicole VanDerMoere added that there was a ditch in the past that was regulated, or if a resolution had been done since then. Mr. Burton agrees with her/them that we have no regulated ditches. For tax purposes if implemented it would be a year or two before it would show up. Mr. Pursell has a map from the State confirming. Jeff Marks asks for verification that all of them agreed on this, replied yes from Mr. Burton.

Coroner Angi Frank related that she was unable to get out during the snowstorm and had to use a non-county vehicle to go pick up a body. Mr. Burton told her to get with Greg/Dakota to come through for them. Additional construction work is still pending for access and was told that him or Bob will get some quotes. She asked about Trash pick-up as hers hasn't been lately with no maintenance person.

Councilwoman Polly Chesser thanked the Highway for their hard work during the storm. She also commented about the ARPA Funds and concerned that with the fixed incomes that many of the counties aged residents in regard to what specific options are available that is being considered.

Attorney Comments-nothing further.

Auditors Comments

Mr. Bryan is to draft an updated mileage Ordinance-.41cents per State. It will be presented to the Council. A copy of the Cataract Owners Association bill was re-presented by for discussion. Mr. Bryan was to review and report back to the commissioners.

A letter had been received from an individual concerning the condition of Livingston Cemetery. Mr. Bryan was to review the situation further and added that in the past it has always been the Township Trustees that takes care of the County Cemeteries.

Commissioners-

A Meeting was called for February 22nd at 4pm for Maintenance Application Reviews and Interviews.

Public Hearing for ARPA Plan was moved up again to February 23rd at 6pm.

Quotes for the Health Department Repairs had been received from Machango Construction Inc. and Weddle

Brothers and will be reviewed further at the next meeting. They are to be asked to attend the next meeting and the bills will be paid from Cum Cap Funds. The Health Department can move back in immediately as soon as they get it cleaned up as the Nurses Station was done.

Insurance Meeting included that a possible increase of 25% for Liability and Cybersecurity up 25% was discussed. Mr. Parmley also informed them that a double entry system will be required. Mr. Burton said he was looking into a thumbprint entry.

Ms. McElroy said to consider a second back-up option in case something happens to a person finger. Also, she noted that their sidewalks were not touched during the snowstorm. Mr. Burton will let them know.

Next, she asked for confirmation of the dates on the Claims being paid today as she had turned some in on the 2nd. Ms. Reeves reminded them all that a Claims Schedule had been provided with due dates that coincides with the schedule of noon on Wednesdays prior to Commissioners Meeting per their direction. She is concerned with the timelines of things being paid. Mr. Burton was concerned with claims being for the month of December that he had reviewed. He compared claims to the process of submitting checks daily; adding that when a bill is received it needs to be turned in to make sure they are getting paid in a timely manner.

Ms. Reeves reminded him that several of those claims were being encumbered and the funds brought forward to pay them. She also noted that there was an extra week in the calendar month between meetings and IT would be that way again in March so most will be three weeks plus from being paid.

Mr. Burton did ask about a Sheriff's Department GFC Claim, stating we do not have contracts with them anymore. She told him she would look into it and let him know.

A motion to adjourn was made by Bob Curry; seconded by Dale Dubois.