

Owen County Board of Commissioners
Minutes-November 21, 2022

Meeting was called to order by President Gary Burton.

Pledge of Allegiance was said with opening prayer given.

Members Present: Gary Burton, Bob Curry, and Joel Lowe. Also present, Attorney Bryan and Auditor Reeves.

Mr. Burton took a moment to Thank Attorney Jim Bryan as this will be his last meeting and presented a Gift Basket for him that several had donated toward for him and his family.

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 and Auditor Monthly Financial Report attached for record.

A motion to approve Payroll-\$244,601.23 was made by Curry; seconded by Lowe. Carried 3-0.

A motion to approve Regular Claims \$583,298.81 was made by Curry; seconded by Lowe with a correction on Cum Cap Fund #1138 Claim to be paid from Courthouse Maintenance Fund#1000-161 to contract services.

Ms. Reeves will make the correction in LOW. Carried 3-0.

A motion to approve Out of Cycle-\$50,399.02 was made by Curry; seconded by Lowe. Carried 3-0.

ARPA Plan Review/Update noted that the \$500000 for the Highway Road Plan had been approved by the Council at their last meeting for the proposed Roads-Combes, Hillcrest, Orchard Heights, and Farmers. A final approval regarding the ARPA Plan will be made at the December 5th Meeting to allow the new attorney Dana Kerr and Barnes & Thornburg to review. It was also discussed to possibly use the pending ARPA Funds to be received in the amount of \$100000 toward becoming ADA Compliant that can be presented to the Council at their next meeting in December at an estimated cost of \$70000.

The 2023 Purdue Extension Contract was presented by-Jennifer Abrell for approval, noting that Council had approved their budget also. A motion to approve was made by Curry; seconded by Lowe. Carried 3-0.

Mr. Bryan presented and read two Landfill Letter of Requests proposals that had been received from Peoples State Bank and Owen County State Bank. Ms. Reeves noted that the requests had also been sent to Crane Credit Union and Cloverdale Bank with no responses received. A motion to accept the letter from Peoples State Bank with an amount of \$5225.00 only if activated was made by Curry; seconded by Lowe. Carried 3-0.

Mr. Burton relate that he had spoken with RQAW regarding the old Health Building and an update will be given at the next meeting. He also noted that Brad Pell with Pell's Roofing was still holding the materials that had been approved and purchased for the roof.

EMS Director Cris Lunsford along with Mr. Bryan presented a revised Ambulance Bid Packet with a total of 75 pages. The Bid Packet Timeline with Notice to Bidders will be run on November 30th and December 7th with the Bids being opened on December 19th Meeting. Mr. Lunsford also related that they are still working on the purchase of a defibrillator with an estimated cost of \$30000. A letter of review was given by Mr. Bryan with Indiana Codes and County Ordinance references for the purchase.

*Burton noted to the public and those present that there were computer issues, and that YouTube was not working, and Mr. Doering was there trying to fix it.

Highway Department Rachel Whiting and Chad Walker (present) and Greg Melton by Phone gave a brief overview of the current road projects. He also noted that they will start receiving Salt tomorrow.

Regarding the Petition to Closing of Culross Road was again tabled pending the further necessary procedures and/or paperwork.

Mr. Bryan presented the only Bid Packet that had been received for Sandhill Road over Coon Creek. He opened and read the enclosed information per the Bidders Requirements. All documents were in order with a total Bid amount of \$183,560. Construction is to begin thirty days after the completion of Bridge 187 with a completion date to be no more than 180 days thereafter. Intent to award and contractor to proceed copies were signed by all following a motion made by Curry; seconded by Lowe. Carried 3-0.

A letter from AGCO Finance had been received noting that the Lease for the Massey Ferguson MF57 10 Tractor S/N MC170CJ5029032 was nearing expiration and offering to them to exercise the option to purchase. Mr. Melton asked that the letter be tabled at this time.

Sheriff Sam Hobbs presented a list of Courthouse Security issues that he requests for them to review and consider at their next meeting. Specifically discussed was the need for a Generator to run the cameras and doors. Reeves offered that they had a Future Building Fund with a Cash Balance of \$104000 that could possibly be used toward the purchases with items on the list. He then related that there would be having a Surplus Sale of three vehicles that had not been previously done. Mr. Bryan will write the Ordinance; Mr. Burton also wants it to include multiple items that has been gathered at the armory. Lastly, he informed members that he had spoke with AT&T regarding his cell phone. They have transferred the number to him personally and he will take over all payments effective immediately. An upgrade of .99cents was made and he also offered to pay that amount too. Concern for how AT&T is handling county offices requesting phones and plan changes. A motion to approve for Burton & Reeves to work with AT&T and review all county phones was made by Lowe; seconded by Curry. Carried 3-0. Mr. Lunsford is still having issues with his equipment through AT&T and is working with them to resolve the situation.

Mr. Bryan presented and read a Resolution for the 2023 Commissioner Meetings with a change being noted and agreed on by all three of them; that the second meeting of the month will now be held on Wednesday Mornings at 9am. Reeves agreed to the meeting changes and that it can be adapted to her office. A review in one year will be made to see if it is working. Hobbs added that no security would be needed either. Claim Submission dates will need to be adjusted accordingly. A motion to approve Resolution 2022-016 was made by Curry; seconded by Lowe. Carried 3-0. The next Resolution 2022-017 was for the 2023 Holiday Schedule was presented and read by Bryan. A motion to approve the Resolution was made by Curry; seconded by Lowe. Carried 3-0.

Auditor Reeves presented a request to add services provided by the LOW Financial System to process 1099's and /or 1095's and obtaining TCC Numbers and filing on the County's behalf. She will pay for the additional \$300 service from her own budget. A motion to approve was made by Burton; seconded by Lowe. Carried 3-0.

Mr. Bryan thanked everyone for his time with the County and will continue working with the new attorney during the transition.

Mr. Lowe apologized to two gentlemen that were waiting for discussion on Oberholzer Road and they were supposed to be at the next meeting when Melton is in attendance and everyone working together.

Burton wanted to comment/discussion only regarding no longer using You Tube. The use started with the Pandemic, and it would be nice to get the public back in to the seats. Lowe added that he is about transparency and said that if the videos aren't productive in any imagination, then why are they doing it. He agrees to get people back in the meetings, but he is not ready to decide yet. He offered to talk with anyone about it. Burton used Barron Barnett noting that he attends every meeting. Lowe added that it adds to Reeves workload at times. Burton and Bryan noted that it is not a legal requirement to stream it. Victor Vaillette related that there will still be transparency and feels that it will blow up in their faces. Ms. Reeves did relate that a recording system is necessary to be able to do the minutes and have it available to the public. A prior system had been purchased several years ago and she will bring it back before them to upgrade and renew. Barron Barnett commented on the Comprehensive Plan and Indiana Codes and for them to review and consider the contents of the plan versus what will be required once approved.

Beth Wood commented that she is here as a taxpayer not an employee getting comp-time. She then added that she feels they will get feedback on not using You tube especially without a newspaper and that transparency is needed. Vaillette added that minutes are not readily available; Reeves relating that she does not release any minutes until approved in case changes need made.

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