

Owen County Commissioners
Minutes-August 2, 2021

Meeting was called to order by President Gary Burton.

Pledge of Allegiance was said, Opening Prayer given by Mr. Burton.

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

Public Sign in sheet will be attached for permanent record.

A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Dale Dubois; seconded by Bob Curry. Carried 3-0.

Commissioner Burton opened discussion on Claims and asked Mr. Bryan to review current Funds and Balances and that due to public comments being made about the Commissioners being the cause of the deficit wanted him to offer procedural information. Noted was the negative balance of 540,150.78 in the General and pending claims for today's date of \$76224.71 and a total Docket Amount of \$397,903.28. He further related that the Council was due to consider requesting additional appropriations from LIT-7332 and Riverboat-1191 to help reduce the deficit in the General Fund, with payroll only to be continued in the General. In review of the timeline, it is expected for this to possibly be the last claim cycle for approving claims in the red. It was determined to call a Special Meeting on August 18th to approve the Claims to get the claims transferred to the other appropriate funds/line items.

Mr. Bryan then reviewed the process of Commissioners approving claims. Council approves the Budgets; Auditor processes claims certifying that monies are available in Funds/line-items to place on the Docket for Commissioners Verification. Mr. Burton offered the box of Claims for view to the audience stating that they are approving something that is already done that was appropriated by the Council.

Mr. Bryan presented and read a new Ordinance 2021-015 pertaining to the approval and pre-approval of claims in advance and allowances. The Ordinance also notes that a list of Out-of-Cycle Claims are to be presented at each meeting. A motion to approve the Ordinance was made by Bob Curry; seconded by Dale Dubois. Carried 3-0.

A motion to approve the claims with noting a change in the line item for equipment \$6000 to contract and adding two out-of-cycle for Fender Excavating \$9000/\$7000 was made by Dale Dubois; seconded by Bob Curry. Carried 3-0. Copies of the Monthly Report and Treasurers Report were provided for their review.

IU Health Contract is still pending approval to possibly wave the incentive as part of the agreement. It will be presented at the August 16, 2021, meeting.

Kathleen Lamb in follow-up from the prior meeting, presented a signed copy of the fully executed License Agreement between Eastern Heights, Inc., and Owen County Communications Center.

An Agreement with Owen County and Transfinder Corporation to share/provide GIS Information to the Spencer-Owen Community School Corporation. A motion to approve the agreement was made by Bob Curry; seconded by Dale Dubois. Carried 3-0.

Mr. Bryan reviewed the Executive Budget Estimate pursuant to IC 36-2-5-7, IC 36-2-5-8, and IC 36-2-5-9. The Summary List was provided and read by Mr. Burton. Summary List will be attached for permanent record.

A Letter of Engagement was presented from Barnes & Thornburg to provide Legal Services for overseeing the Fiscal Recovery Fund (ARP). A motion was made Bob Curry; seconded by Dale Dubois to approve and present to Council at their next meeting for Funds Approval/Appropriation. Motion carried 3-0.

Sheriffs Department-Sheriff Hobbs was not present.

Highway Superintendent Greg Melton gave a brief review of the roads still closed or in stages of repair that included Bandy Road, Kelley Road, Surber Road, White Road, and Keith Road.

Next were Quotes that had been received for Bid Process-Bridge#189 from E&H Bridge and Grating, Inc. in the amount of \$56,734 and CLR Inc., in the amount of \$124,715 with alternate options in various amounts. Quotes were opened and read by Mr. Bryan. It was agreed to reject the Bids with a motion made by Gary Burton; seconded by Bob Curry. Carried 3-0. Mr. Melton offered that the Bridge would remain closed until repairs are done. Bridge Funds are at a minimum currently too. Mr. Bryan will prepare a Bid Packet for the next Meeting. Mr. Melton offered that he has four mowers running all over the county and one for potholes, but they are out and working.

Community Crossings deadline Date is October 1st for Steubenville Rd., Culross Rd., and Walden Rd.

Mr. Melton asked for direction and how to proceed with AT&T and Lines that are part of their workload and a hindrance with response from them. Mr. Bryan will obtain historical information and report back at the next meeting. Ms. Lamb also noted that they have issues within dispatch and response as well.

Next an Ordinance was presented and read by Attorney Bryan regarding a Surplus Auction to be held on August 30th with Internetgov.com. A motion to approve Ordinance 2021-014 was made by Dale Dubois; seconded by Bob Curry. Carried 3-0.

Public Comments were made regarding bridges and culverts on Switchboard Rd. Mr. Melton will go take a look at it and assess the situation. Mr. Sands had concerns about the total number of miles of roads that was given Versus what has been previously stated. Mr. Melton offered that Roads had been taken over by the County and not added by previous persons, we do have 720 total miles.

Lastly, he presented a Letter of Understanding from the Indiana State Department of Transportation for a Local Detour on SR42 8.82 miles west of SR243. A motion to approve the letter was made by Bob Curry; seconded by Dale Dubois. Carried 3-0.

A copy of the LOW Financial Program Annual Contract was presented and read for 2022 Budgetary Consideration. It was agreed that there are still options being considered but this is a requirement to proceed with the budget hearing approval by Council. Ms. VanDerMoere later gave an overview of the Programs that are available and allows for the processing of Property Taxes with a quicker, reliable process to offer a time savings component. Mr. Burton is still trying to provide a Time Management System with Payroll.

No additional comments were made by Elected Officials.

Public Comment-

Barron Barnett had added up to an estimated \$15Million Budget that had been presented and asked how the County can afford this; with not enough money coming in to support it. Taxation, raising taxes is bad for the people of the county. Mr. Burton related that the Council are the Taxing Authority not them.

Mr. Sands asked why County Highway Equipment is just sitting in Morgan Twp.; why aren't they grading Hale Hill and Bandy Road before moving out. Also why did the County start the dusting process if they weren't going to do all the roads. Equipment is just sitting; he can post pictures on FB if they'd like. Mr. Burton will follow up with Mr. Melton.

No further Attorney Comments were made.

No further Auditor Comments were made.

Nothing further from the Commissioners.

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