

Owen County Commissioners  
Minutes-April 5, 2021

Meeting was called to order by President Gary Burton.

Pledge of Allegiance was said, and Prayer was given Sheriff Hobbs.

Roll was called: Present: Gary Burton, Dale Dubois, Bob Curry, County Attorney Jim Bryan and Auditor Sheila Reeves. Public Sign-in Sheet attached for permanent record.

A motion to approve the March 15<sup>th</sup> minutes as presented was made by Bob Curry; seconded by Dale Dubois. Motion carried 3-0.

A motion to approve the claims was made by Dale Dubois; seconded by Bob Curry. Motion carried 3-0. Ms. Reeves also presented the out of cycle claims for signatures.

#### Old Business

Mr. Burton related that the individual that had been selected at the last meeting for the Maintenance Superintendent Position has taken another job offer. Therefore, a motion to appoint Garland Franklin as the Maintenance Superintendent was made by Gary Burton; seconded by Bob Curry. Motion carried 3-0.

In follow up from the last meeting it was confirmed that Linda St. John is eligible for the open category 3 position to the Board of Health. A motion to appoint her was made by Gary Burton; seconded by Bob Curry. Motion carried 3-0. Attorney Jim Bryan noted that this leaves two remaining Physician Position open.

Credit Card Policy discussion was tabled.

My Path Trail System discussion was tabled as Mark Rogers is still working on the agreement proposal.

911 Director Kathleen Lamb related that she had sent out three RFQ's to J&K Radio, ERS and Commercial Radio. Only one company responded by today's deadline--J&K Radio. Attorney Bryan stated it is allowable per State Statute to accept the bid received. A motion was made by Bob Curry to accept the Bid from J&K Radio in the amount of \$35814.17 to be paid from a Grant that Ms. Lamb had written and received. The motion was seconded by Dale Dubois; motion carried 3-0.

Ms. Lamb brought up the TAC Rotation schedule that she had presented at the prior meeting. It was tabled until the June Meeting as she will not be able to attend the May Meeting.

She next related that the week of April 11<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> was National Telecommunications Week and that she will be providing daily informational items to acknowledge 911 Dispatch and her staff.

#### New Business

Sheriff Hobbs discussed the continued-on going maintenance issues with the Jail. It was further discussed about the Jail LIT monies and their allowable uses and possible need as they are understaffed and maintenance issues. The LIT monies can pay up to 20% for jailers. Sheriff Hobbs will attend the Council Meeting on April 12<sup>th</sup> for possible appropriations. Mr. Burton noted that due to the current county financial situation that the funds might have to be used to pay salaries.

A letter or review was provided by Attorney Bryan regarding the new jail and procedures and requirements in moving forward.

EMS Director Cris Lunsford related that their new Generator needs on a service agreement in the amount of \$840 annually with Everhart.

He then informed them that he had received a Grant in the amount of \$36900 for new "Rescue Tools"; and added that they all are battery powered. He also had received a Grant for \$5000 for new inflatable boats.

Highway Superintendent Greg Melton and Caterpillar Representative Barry Howe reviewed the Contract for a five-year "Loader" agreement for Annual payments of \$19192.32 that will finance the balloon payment of \$90000 and a \$1 buyout at the end. It was noted by Attorney Bryan that Caterpillar is on the State Bid Program. The equipment is already insured by the County Insurance in which they are responsible for. A motion to sign the agreement was made by Gary Burton; seconded by Bob Curry. Motion carried 3-0. Mr. Melton is to provide the original signed copies to the Auditor for permanent record.

Mr. Melton provided a copy of the Intact Specialty Solutions Insurance Claim showing the total settlement amount received of \$36377. He will go to Council to appropriate the funds into the equipment line item.

He informed Commissioners that due to a collapsed culvert he was doing emergency repairs on Pumpkin Ridge Road.

Purchasing Procedures-Attorney Bryan presented and read an Ordinance 2021-007 amending ordinance 2018-002 to adopt purchasing procedures. The amendment is to reduce the amount from \$10000 down to \$5000 to allow oversight of expenditures due to the current county financial situation. A motion to approve the Ordinance as amended was made by Bob Curry; seconded by Dale Dubois. Motion carried 3-0.

Next Attorney Bryan reviewed the American Rescue Plan directives that have been received from the State. The initial funds will be received in May for \$2 million and in approximately one year the balance for a total of \$4,033,838.00. The Commissioners must adopt an ordinance establishing a local ARP fund. All funds must be appropriated by the fiscal body and are not allowed to be transferred to other funds. Additional updates and directives are expected and will be provided accordingly.

Regarding the State Requirement and Timeline Due for establishing of a Cum Cap and Cum Bridge Funds it was agreed not to pursue at this time. Mr. Burton explained that they do not want to raise taxes for anybody.

Attorney Bryan presented the requirements for appointment to the Plan Commission due to a current vacancy on the board. A motion to appoint Mike Swafford was made by Dale Dubois; seconded by Bob Curry. Motion carried 3-0. He further stated that the Council will make an appointment to the BZA board on April 12<sup>th</sup>.

In discussion for the upcoming 2022 Budget Hearings and Commissioner requirements Attorney Bryan stated IC 36-2-5-4 that states that all Budgets are due by July 2<sup>nd</sup>. He read the 14 categories that are required per IC 36-2-5-7 with a deadline of August 5<sup>th</sup>. It was agreed that there is serious work to be done in preparation due to the financial situation and needed cuts. Mr. Burton related that his schedule has changed that will allow him to be available after two o'clock every day. Further noted was that an expected meeting will be provided shortly from Crowe LLC to update the Audit Report that they are working on.

Next Mr. Bryan reviewed the Monthly Financial Comparison Report from the Treasurer/Auditor for the month of March. It is still obvious that the county is still spending more than they are bringing in. The Crowe report is expected to provide some of the areas of concern. In his summary review provided it shows the County General Fund negative \$1,372,856.30 as well as 11 other funds for a total of \$2,467,957.35. Monthly Receipts-\$2095283.85 versus Expenditures-\$3035292.04. Report attached for permanent record.

Mr. Burton asked Ms. Reeves to send an email to all Departments asking for their total number of employees including the number of Grants employees. Ms. Reeves offered to Councilman Wood who was in attendance she also felt that it is important to move up the pre-Budget process and maybe ask for all budget estimates to be submitted by May 15<sup>th</sup> to allow for extra Meetings for both the Commissioners and Council to review before the scheduled Hearings in August. Mr. Burton added that he wants real numbers not projected.

Elected Officials-

Coroner Angela Frank presented copies of a Contract from Ninja Construction to be signed for the work on the new building in the amount of \$9500 to be paid from the Cum Cap Fund. It had been approved to sign at a previous Meeting, so no motion was required. Also noted was still to move the garage door and install building cooler units and floor drain.

No other comments from any Elected Officials or Department Heads.

Attorney Bryan had no further comments.

Auditor Reeves presented the request from former employee-Bill Minton to be paid for his Vacation, Personal and Comp-time he had earned during his employment. She was instructed to present it to Council for appropriation.

Commissioner Curry and Commissioner Dubois had no further comments.

Public Comment came from resident Ernie Dufault stating that he feels the Commissioners need to hire their own Administrative Assistant. All agreed but unfortunately no funds are available to pay for position.

Lastly Commissioners were reminded that they had a Special Meeting on April 14<sup>th</sup> at 10am at the Gosport Secrest Bridge.

A motion to adjourn was made by Bob Curry; seconded by Dale Dubois. Motion carried 3-0.