

Owen County Commissioners
Minutes-September 6, 2022

Meeting was called to order by President Gary Burton.

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

Mr. Burton introduced newly appointed Commissioner Joel Lowe. Public Ernie Dufault asked for Mr. Lowe to give a little information about himself and those present that might know him. Mr. Lowe gave a brief speech on who he was and what he feels he can bring as a fresh perspective to the table and available to everyone. Mr. Dufault asked that he be provided a copy of the new proposed Comprehensive Plan.

Present: Gary Burton, Bob Curry, and Joel Lowe. Also, present 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 Gary Burton. Carried 2-0-1ab/Lowe. Mr. Bryan presented summary reviews of the overall financial expenditures and revenues of the monthly report, noting all major funds having a positive cash balance. Copies of the monthly reports were given for review, Ms. Reeves noting the updated copy included the now account interest that had been added in the amount of \$11645.62. Copies of the monthly Treasurers Report was also provided to members.

He gave a brief overview of the Jail Project that with hypothetical numbers and concern for a viable plan with budgeting of LIT Funds, Loan Institution requirements, Bonding, and a good cash balance of \$1.2-\$1.4 million dollars. Later in the meeting Mr. Burton noted (Curry/Lowe also agreeing) that the Jail Project was being tabled this year, but it is still on the books and would be re-addressed.

A motion to approve payroll in the amount of \$229,579.20 was made by Mr. Burton; seconded by Mr. Curry. Carried 3-0. It was also noted that this amount included an overpayment for past Commissioner Dale Dubois and that a letter will be sent for him to refund the county for eight days.

A motion to approve Regular Claims in the amount of \$705,246.03 was made by Mr. Curry; seconded by Mr. Lowe. Carried 3-0. Mr. Burton noted that this amount included the ARPA Hardscrabble Road Project, and a three week claims cycle.

A motion to approve the Out of Cycle Claims in the amount of \$25,648.47 was made by Mr. Curry; seconded by Mr. Lowe. Carried 3-0.

Nothing was presented under old business.

Mr. Bryan presented a Letter of Credit template to request bids for the Owen County Landfill Irrevocable Trust in the amount of \$418,000. A motion to approve the template and send to local banks was made by Mr. Lowe; seconded by Mr. Curry. Motion carried 3-0.

Engineer Proposals for the Health Department Building specifications was tabled until the next meeting. Christine McBride presented a certificate of appointment to the county health board. Mr. Bryan provided and reviewed Indiana Code for member appointments. A motion to approve Reba Dorsett for a term beginning September 6, 2022, was made by Mr. Curry; seconded by Mr. Lowe. Carried 3-0.

A Grant Application Request was presented for approval of \$110,000 that will serve kids in the community and work with the schools. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Curry; seconded by Mr. Lowe. Carried 3-0.

A copy of the Armory Lease was presented and reviewed by members. A motion to approve the Lease was made by Mr. Burton; seconded by Mr. Curry also allowing the Commissioners and Tenants to meet and sign the paperwork together with the auditor and a notary. Motion carried 3-0.

EMS Director Cris Lunsford gave an update to new member Mr. Lowe regarding the power load and power cots systems available. Stryker Company is the only Company that makes this type of system/equipment. Mr. Lunsford per IC 5-22-10-13 is to write a letter stating that they are single source only for supply and present at the next meeting.

Highway Greg Melton began by relating that Andy Naanes was working on Hauser Road with an estimated ten-day completion date. Due to continued staff shortages, he only has one hole patcher and chip-seal two days a week. He is intending a pot-hole blitz.

Commonwealth who is working on River Road lift stations to the State Park has asked for fees to be waived by the County. The contractor did not have a written plan and needs a written letter. The Commissioners agreed unanimously not to waive the fees. River Road is of concern with sharing with bicyclists. He is to meet with each commissioner for options/proposals.

Requests were sent out again for Otterbein Church Road culvert replacement. Three Contractor Bids were received per IC 5-22-8-3 from Fender Excavating, Frye Enterprises, and All Out Construction and Excavating. Mr. Bryan opened and read each Bid. Fender Excavating-\$11000, Frye Enterprises-\$32800, and All Out Construction-\$18000. Mr. Melton related he had met and talked with each company and ask that Fender Excavating be approved. A motion to accept the Bid from Fender Excavating in the amount of \$11000 was made by Mr. Curry; seconded by Mr. Lowe. Carried 3-0.

ARPA Funds were discussed in approving an additional appropriation in the amount of \$500,000. Mr. Burton related that the Council had not done what was agreed in the original plan. Mr. Melton presented three small projects for Orchard Heights, Hillcrest Drive, and Farmer's Road. Mr. Bryan is to present an updated ARPA Plan at the next meeting, and then to the council at their October meeting for project financial approval.

A copy of an ADA Self-Assessment Assistance and Transition Plan Services Request for Proposal document was given and reviewed by Mr. Bryan. It was stated by Mr. Burton that the County is in Compliance and this Plan is specifically directed for the Highway to receive Community Crossing Grant Funds. An estimated cost of \$75000 for the plan will be presented to the Council after Commissioner review.

Also noted about the Community Crossing Grant and timeline of November 1st for receipt of funds there will be no projects done until the spring of 2023.

Mr. Melton asked for members to consider reduced speed limit signs on Hardscrabble Road.

Mr. Burton thanked the School Corporation for their cooperation and working with Mr. Melton on bus traffic. Angela Frank (bus driver) was present and commented about going out the back and side berms were of concern. Mr. Melton was to talk with the school and follow-up.

Ms. Reeves had provided copies of a request for the abandoning of a roadway to Mead Property/parcel of Fiscus Cemetery Road. No one was present for discussion. Mr. Bryan was also to review further and place on the next agenda.

An Ordinance #2022-017 for Surplus for the Owen County Sheriff was presented and read by Mr. Bryan for twos 2015 Ford Police Interceptor Utility Vehicles. Attached for record. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Lowe; seconded by Mr. Curry. Carried 3-0. The notice will be published in the Evening World on 09/21.

Elected Officials

Sheriff Hobbs wanted it noted that Mr. Lowe does the county generator work for the Sheriff's Department and EMA. Mr. Lowe agreed he will file a conflict-of-interest form with the Clerk's Office.

Ms. Frank related that she has resigned as the County Coroner and a caucus is to be held. She also is recommending Shelby Hunter, a current deputy coroner and that she and Mr. Frank will stay involved to keep things running smoothly. She noted that she is moving to another county position and that finally her Wi-Fi is now working in the office. Ms. Frank also presented an employee Work Agreement Letter to be considered that would allow current county employees to serve as and be paid as deputy coroners. Mr. Bryan is going to review the letter and policy further.

Mr. Dufault asked that Mr. Lowe be provided a copy of the new proposed Comprehensive Plan.

Attorney Bryan had nothing further.

Auditor Reeves presented a GIS Limited Use Agreement that had been received from 120Water Corporation. A motion to approve the agreement was made by Mr. Burton; seconded by Mr. Lowe. Carried 3-0.

She also requested due to the limited amount of Credit Card Funds permission for Departments be able to open Business Accounts (NO Credit Cards). A motion to approve was made by Mr. Curry; seconded by Mr. Lowe. Carried 3-0.

Commissioner Bob Curry wanted it noted that the rumors of him resigning are absolutely false and in fact he will be re-running for a second term.

Commissioner Burton noted that the new EMA Truck was now complete with lights and emblems and on the road. He also noted that it was agreed to give the old truck to the Highway Department.

Lastly Mr. Burton reminded members of the upcoming Commissioners Conference and that they would all three be attending as well as the Attorney, stressing that Mr. Bryan would be paying for his own conference fees. Ms. Reeves will get them registered.

No other business was made and a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Burton; seconded by Mr. Lowe.