

Owen County Commissioners
Minutes-October 4, 2021

Meeting was called to order President Gary Burton.

Pledge to Allegiance was said and Opening Prayer was given by Sam Hobbs.

Roll was called and Public Signed in. Attached for permanent record.

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

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

Mr. Bryan reviewed copies of the monthly Financial Report noting the balances in the General Fund of a negative \$355,765.34, Riverboat \$407,087.34, Lit Edit \$799,361.99 and a total of thirteen funds still in the red, the Claims Docket presented for a total of \$493,451.34 and out of cycle for an estimated \$56,000.

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

Old Business-Nothing was presented.

New Business-

Highway Superintendent Greg Melton was moved up first to allow for him to get back out on the roads due to the storms over the weekends. He began with an update saying that Fall Creek had been paved, Childers and Dillman. He has pugmill product left as of right now too.

Milestone is on track with the Community Crossing Roads-Steubenville, Culross, and Walden. They have two crews running and expect to be done by the end of next week.

He is concerned with being short staffed with only eighteen employees and two of them on vacation and the guys are exhausted; and he will start sending them home to rest.

Mr. Melton asked Commissioners to consider repealing the current County Ordinance for installing driveway culverts until Spring due to costs and budget. A motion to cease and desist any private installation until May 1, 2022, was made by Dale Dubois; seconded by Bob Curry. Motion carried 3-0.

He next presented concerns for product costs that are increasing rapidly, noting plastic resin is up 300%. He has beams sitting on the lot for the Surber Road Bridge. Mr. Bryan gave a funds update relating that his Cash Balances were 1169-\$266,253.68, 1173-\$197,660.02, 1176-\$185,910.03, and 1135-\$179,691.45. Expenses due now are Workman's Comp-\$40,000, Liability-\$56,000, Community Crossings \$280,000 and payroll estimated at \$42,000. Cash balances of \$458,303 and expenses of \$418,000. This leaves only \$40,320 in his budget making it difficult to operate, and ballpark of \$100,000 left at the end of the year. Based on discussion Mr. Bryan suggested no bridge repairs without an Engineers Certification should be done.

Mr. Dubois asked about Mudd Road and its condition, Mr. Melton stated that the county does not maintain it and is not sure of who the property owners are and their intent of the area. Currently it is being logged back in the area and gravel will be placed after they are done. It had been previously talked about it being developed. He and Mr. Dubois will look into it further and bring back to the October 18th Meeting.

Highway Ordinances regarding Speed Limits for Adel-Ord#2021-23, Steubenville-#2021-24, Culross-#2021-025, and Walden-#2021-26 were presented and read by Mr. Bryan. Following discussion, regarding the speed being proposed too low; a motion to table the Ordinances until October 18th was made by Dale Dubois; seconded by Gary Burton. Motion carried 2-1.

He related that the Amish have bought the Beech Church in Coal City and it may become an active School and/or possibly already has and the need to zone the area with speed/school signs. It will be brought back to the next meeting as well.

Ron Remax and Cory Melchi with IU Health Insurance presented an agreement for review for the Human Resources Benefit OnBoard Program they offer and related that they will offer at no cost to the County for a period of one year and it will be returned for use today if so agreed. A motion to approve was made by Dale Dubois; seconded by Bob Curry. Motion carried. A motion to allow Mr. Burton to sign the agreement was made by Bob Curry; seconded by Dale Dubois. Motion carried 3-0.

911 Director Kathleen Lamb presented an estimate for a Cloud Hosted System from HICOM Inc for a one-time cost of \$508. The cost due to the changes being made is much cheaper and the intentions of bringing on other departments in the future. Ms. Lamb has the funds available in her Dispatch Fund. Also noted was that it is a month-by-month bill. A motion to approve was made by Gary Burton; seconded by Bob Curry. Carried 3-0. She related that she has advertised her two open positions and has not had a positive response. Mr. Burton related it is the same concern for the Highway and EMS. She is trying to keep staff moral up being short.

Library Director Ginger Kohr informed members that the library will be building a new pavilion with donations that have been received but assured them that county employees can continue using the parking lot as was agreed in exchange for the County to continue snow plowing. They thanked her for the update.

Economic Development Director Marce King reviewed the allowable uses of the ARPA Monies with the key areas of housing and broadband and to capitalize on the uses and bring more funds to the county. Specifically, about Broadband and that Owen County has received \$3.5million and multiple agencies are working together to make this happen. (Endeavor/SCI-REMC/Smithville) The process requires that the County must develop and have a Plan in place to move forward. A survey has been put out for interest in the project. Mr. Burton stressed that this needs to include all of the County not just the Town of Spencer. Mr. Bryan related that a basic-generic Plan with no amounts can be written. A motion was made by Gary Burton; seconded by Bob Curry to allow Mr. Bryan to work with Barnes and Thornburg to begin the process. Motion carried 3-0. She also provided a flyer that features Lieutenant Governor Suzanne Crouch will be holding a Roundtable on October 6th regarding Broadband.

Ms. King also provided a copy of the OCRA Grant Agreement-\$60000 for the Planning Funds that had been previously presented and approved and requires a commissioner's signature. Mr. Burton signed the agreement.

He next asked for the commissioners to consider allowing him the use of the dormant fund #6007 that had been identified in the amount of \$27674. The use would be for body armor, vests, body cameras, and the new E-tech System for the vehicles. Mr. Bryan and Ms. Reeves related that the Dormant Funds List was already to be placed on the October 18th Agenda pending further information from the State. Mr. Bryan noted that three funds have already been identified as the Sheriff's for \$15940.11.

Sheriff Hobbs began with asking for everyone to keep our Community and Employees in their prayers and that we need to bring God back. He is also concerned with the turnover and retaining of staff. Mr. Burton again stressed the concern for all departments that are facing the same challenges.

EMS Director Cris Lunsford offered that he had written a Grant with IPEP.

Health Department Christine McBride presented a letter for IT Upgrades required from ISDH for all 92 Counties that will provide an electronic pay system. The State is paying for the expenses.

Sheriff Hobbs thanked Ms. McBride for providing 50 doses of Narcan to the Sheriff's Department.

Mr. Bryan apologized to Christine that he had misspoke during council meeting and using the wrong words and that it was in regard to the Proactive Clinic not the Covid Clinic.

Coroner Angi Frank had received a letter from Terre Haute Regional Hospital regarding a new Agreement that will become effective September 1, 2021, if accepted. Mr. Bryan had reviewed the Agreement and that it runs for three years and related the fees. A motion to approve and allow Ms. Frank to sign the Agreement was made by Dale Dubois; seconded by Bob Curry. Motion carried 3-0.

Ms. Reeves provided copies of the proposed 2022 Budgets that have been submitted for a total amount of \$16,763,938.00 with the General Fund only being \$3,967,581.00.

M. Bryan repeated that we still have three more claim cycles and that we need to keep working together and it is still possible in keeping within the funds for the LIT and Riverboat. Mr. Burton noted the thirteen funds that still need to be addressed and specifically the ones that can be fixed.

Mr. Bryan also reminded members that in regard to "Grants" and the required process. Copies of all grants must be presented to the Commissioners for approval, and then presented to the Council for budgeting. This is a mandatory process, and it can be as simple as a generic budget, but it must be done, and make sure that they are not overspent.

No other business came before the board.

A motion to adjourn was made by Dale Dubois.