

Owen County Commissioners
Meeting Minutes-February 1, 2021

Present: Commissioners-Gary Burton, Bob Curry, Dale Dubois, Attorney Jim Bryan, Ron Remak, Greg Melton, Dakota Gibbs, Kathleen Lamb, Eve McDaniel, Judah McDaniel and Auditor Sheila Reeves

Zoom Attendees: Sam Hobbs, Suzanne Simmerman, Lori Quillen, Brittany Doering, Mary Frances, Christine Hutson, Nicole VanDerMoere, Polly Chesser, EDC Coordinator, Bob, Cris Lunsford, Gail Horn, Dan Zuerner, Donna McElroy, Greg Melton, Rachel Whiting, Loretta Foster, Treasurer, Andy Wood, K Gergely, I-phone, Laura Lane, Barron Barnett, Jack White, Paula Wood, Dakota Gibbs and Patty.

Noted recording wouldn't start/fixed at 9:10.

Meeting was called to order by President Gary Burton.

Roll was called; all present. Public present signed in.

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

A motion to approve the minutes for the January 19, 2021 meeting was made by Bob Curry; seconded by Dale Dubois. Motion carried 3-0.

A motion to approve the Highway-Special Meeting Minutes on January 15, 2021 was made by Dale Dubois; seconded by Bob Curry. Motion carried 3-0.

A motion to approve the Auditor-Special Meeting Minutes on January 26, 2021 was made by Gary Burton; seconded by Bob Curry. Motion carried 3-0.

A motion to table the Claims dated for February 1, 2021 due to them not being presented to the Commissioners for review as required by IC36-2-6-4 (c)2. Mr. Bryan read the Code for verification. Mr. Burton related that does not mean that they will not get paid; and that a Special Meeting has been called for February 4th to approve them. It was agreed to pull the Highway-Caterpillar Claim and the Sheriff's-Vehicle Claim and pay out of cycle. Motion was made by Bob Curry; seconded by Dale Dubois. Motion carried 3-0.

Insurance Representative-Ron Remak was present to further discuss the transition of moving from the HSA Insurance Plan to a more traditional plan that better fits the needs of County Employees that became effective on February 1st. Additional information was given regarding Ancillary Benefits that include Life Insurance and Disability. The Counties Medical Claims are running high and that will be reviewed during the next renewal process.

Insurance Representative-Katie Gergely and Brittany Doering presented an overview of a "Healthy Plan" that would lock-in the Counties current rates/benefits for a two-year period and requires that at least 50% of individuals would have to participate. On-site Screening Blood Draws two times a year with a finger stick will be required. The program also offers one on one Health Coaches, a My Strength Program and Nicotine Cessation Program with incentives for those participating.

Based on the information provided a motion to accept the Program and lock in the County Rates until 2022 was made by Gary Burton; seconded by Bob Curry. Motion carried 3-0. They will be contacting Ms. Reeves to schedule the on-site visits.

Attorney Jim Bryan presented a copy of a new Maintenance Superintendent Job Description for review. The position will be directly under the Commissioners; noting the key change that it was a supervisor and would now be a labor position. Further discussion was for the rate of pay of \$20/hour at 35- or 40-hour work week and maintaining the current budgeted amount for 2021. Mr. Curry asked that the minimum age be increased from 18 to 21. A final motion was made to approve the Job Description at \$20/hour at a 35 hours-week Non-

Exempt and a minimum age 21 was made by Dale Dubois; seconded by Bob Curry. Motion carried 3-0. The Job Description will be presented to the Council for approval. If approved it will then be advertised and interviews scheduled accordingly.

In addition, Mr. Burton requested that the full-time Labor position be changed to part-time position. Dale Dubois made the motion; seconded by Bob Curry. Motion carried 3-0.

Ms. Reeves noted that the other Old Business Items were tabled until further notice.

Sheriff Department-Jail Update was given by Dan Zuerner. He began by emphasizing the meticulous steps with factual basis that has been followed by the Committee that had been appointed for the study, including the scope, probable costs with no forecasts at this time. An existing floor plan had been uploaded into a software program capturing all aspects of the facility, persons walked with the drawings for comparisons. Architectural, Mechanical, Performance, Security Conditions, Physical Conditions Kitchen Consultant, Detention Equipment were reviewed. A Facility Assessment Report will be given by RQAW at the February 15th meeting will allow the Commissioners decide how to proceed.

Attorney Bryan reviewed that on September 28, 2020 an Ordinance 2020-0045 establishing the Jail Lit Tax had been implemented. The Average median income was \$48667, and residents are now paying approximately \$93 more dollars a year in taxes. The estimated income of \$600000 to \$845000 going into the fund will not be enough to fund a new jail. Further saying that a second tax increase will be needed. Code 36-2-2-24 states that the Commissioners will make the decision on how to proceed.

Highway Superintendent-Greg Melton presented information regarding the Kelly Road Bridge #240. Due to issues with the Engineers Design the approval for the project had to be tabled. No other information will be affected that had been provided and a Special Meeting was called for February 4th @ 3:30pm to present the update and approve. Meeting was called by Gary Burton; seconded by Bob Curry. Motion carried 3-0.

Next Attorney Bryan presented and read Ordinance 2021-003 Establishing Driveway Permit & Culvert Pricing for bids noting the changes from prior ordinance 2019-002 was section 9 for costs. A motion to approve the amendment for the Ordinance was made by Bob Curry; seconded by Dale Dubois. Motion carried 3-0.

Mr. Melton then presented information about Bridge #60-000139 Steubenville/Hauser Road. He asked Commissioners to declare an emergency with a weight limit of 8 ton and seek quotes for repairs. Mr. Bryan confirmed that IC36-1-12-9 states that they can declare it an emergency. Mr. Melton reminded them that Hauser Road was on the Community Crossing Grant list.

Lastly, he asked Commissioners for permission to close the Highway Facebook Page due to the constant negativity that it produced. He will utilize the Counties Website for updates and Public Information. A motion to allow him to closedown/terminate the Facebook page in ten days was made by Gary Burton; seconded by Bob Curry. Motion carried 3-0.

911 Communication Director Kathleen Lamb presented information about the current policies and procedures regarding the overtime hours that employees have incurred; and the use-it or lose-it verbiage. Therefore, she requested approval to use monies from her regular wages to carryover to pay out the list of individuals that had been presented. She noted that it had changed and would provide an updated copy for the record.

A motion was made by Dale Dubois; seconded by Bob Curry to allow Ms. Lamb to present the list to the Council for approval in the amount of \$12585.40. Motion carried 3-0.

Mr. Bryan presented a Letter-of-Credit regarding the Owen County Landfill that is required. He thanked the former Auditor taking it upon herself and getting it approved by the former Commissioners. It is a two-year letter of credit in the amount of \$418000 with the Counties portion of only \$6270. A motion was made by Dale

Dubois; seconded by Bob Curry to sign the paperwork presented. Motion carried 3-0; also noted was for Mr. Burton as the only signatory to sign them.

Resident-Gail Horn was asking for Commissioners to consider paving the rest of County Line Road. Mr. Burton related that it was only discussed, not approved to complete the road. Additional discussion included the flooding area at river bridge and not having the funds available nor the ability to properly raise it to keep it from washing out. It had been studied previously that included DNR and Indian Artifact procedures to no avail. She added her concern for the increase in traffic due to the Hwy 37 project/Monroe County and safety issues. Mr. Melton related that he would go look at the road and see if spot-paving could be done. He will report back at the next meeting.

Ms. Horn also wanted to offer an apology to Mr. Melton for leaving a message about no salt/sanding on the road when in fact it had been done.

Attorney Bryan presented and read Tax Sale Resolution 2021-09 noting Attachment "A" properties that will be included in the Commissioners Delinquent Tax Sale. A motion to approve the Resolution was made by Bob Curry; seconded by Dale Dubois. Motion carried 3-0.

Attorney Bryan presented and read Resolution 2021-10 Condition Yellow for continuation in keeping the Courthouse closed to the Public due to COVID until March 1st. A motion to approve the Resolution was made by Dale Dubois; seconded by Bob Curry. Motion carried 3-0.

Attorney Bryan presented and read LOW Password Resolution 2021-11 that gives "Administrative" rights to the Auditor, Treasurer, Commissioner President and Council President only. All other Elected Officials and/or Department Heads will have "View Only" rights. A motion to approve the Ordinance was made by Dale Dubois; seconded by Bob Curry. Motion carried 3-0.

Sheriff Hobbs related to Mr. Bryan that the Agreement with Gosport would be ready by the Feb. 15th Meeting.

Auditor Comments: Ms. Reeves reminded the Commissioners of the Special Meetings on 02/04/2021 starting at 3:30 with the Highway-Kelley Road Bridge, 4:00-Claims Approval and 5:00/6:00pm with Paycor and LOW.

Commissioner Burton discussed the Maintenance Vehicle and asked for fellow Commissioners to consider not allowing it to be a take home vehicle. A motion was made by Dale Dubois; seconded by Bob Curry to not allow the vehicle to be taken home and parked in the garage at the armory when not in use. Motion carried 3-0.

Mr. Burton related that he wanted to thank the Spencer Nazarene Church for donating their facility to be used by the Health Department for COVID Vaccine Clinics and requested for a donation to be made to them. The motion was made by Bob Curry; seconded by Dale Dubois. Motion carried 3-0.

Sheriff Hobbs informed Commissioners that he would be totally vacated from the armory by the 12th.

Lastly Dale Dubois informed the board that he would not be available for any meetings next week; however, he could be reached by phone.

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