

Owen County Board of Commissioners
Minutes-April 3, 2023

Meeting was called to order by President Gary Burton with the Pledge of Allegiance and Opening Prayer given. Members Present: Gary Burton, Bob Curry, and Joel Lowe. Also, attorney Dana Kerr and auditor Sheila Reeves. Public Sign in sheet attached for permanent record.

Mr. Burton started the meeting by thanking all first responder agencies, EMA, EMS, Highway, DNR, Fire Departments, Dispatchers, Kincaid's, and the Community for their hard work throughout the weekend due to the storms and tornados that hit on Friday night.

Minutes were tabled.

A motion to approve Payroll-\$248,690.80 was made by Mr. Curry; seconded by Mr. Lowe. Carried 3-0.

A motion to approve Regular Claims-\$371,005.95 was made by Mr. Curry; seconded Mr. Lowe. Carried 3-0.

A motion to approve Out of Cycle-\$26,499.93 was made by Mr. Lowe; seconded by Mr. Curry. Carried 3-0.

Copies of the Payroll, Absence Balances, Monthly LOW Financial Report, and Cumulative Docket Summary were provided for their review.

Old Business

Paycor Payroll-Mr. Burton began by saying they had been asked to help with payroll for the last few months and years but due to the transition with the Auditor and Treasurer we're going to rescind all payroll comments and contracts of any kind. The motion was made by Mr. Curry; seconded by Mr. Lowe. Carried 3-0. Mr. Burton apologized to departments out there that desperately need help, but it will not be dealt with at this time.

New Business

Assessor-Dusty White presented a contract for Eagle View to be considered. He related that he had already been appropriated the funds for his 2023 Budget. Mr. Curry asked if it was compatible with WTH; White affirmed. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Curry; seconded by Mr. Lowe. Carried 3-0.

WTH Live Event proposal was presented for approval by Building-P&Z Suzanne Simmerman. She provided a brief summary of the program that will benefit first responders and the community during emergency events as well as access to other county events throughout the county. 911 Director Kathleen Lamb will oversee the entries. A motion to approve, and request to Council for an additional appropriation from Fund#4908 was made by Mr. Curry; seconded by Mr. Lowe. Carried 3-0.

Highway Department-Greg Melton & Chad Walker provided a folder of information for review. He began with the Weather Event over the past several days. A list of nineteen Roads were still closed with wires down due to the storms/tornadoes. His crews have been out around the clock. Mr. Melton also provided a cost analysis for the Weather Event 03/24-03/28.

LTAP CDL Training Site has been picked for them in the first round with a \$8300 value. Tim Newton will be the designated employee and required to stay for a certain period of time for the training. Mr. Melton will work with the attorney to develop requirements and an amortization table.

Bridge#52-A single quote from CLR Inc. was opened and read by Mr. Kerr for the construction and repair of County Bridge#52. The bid amount of \$81,515.00 was approved with a motion from Mr. Curry; seconded by Mr. Lowe. Carried 3-0. This total includes (4) Driving Steel H-pipe.

Storm Costs-Mr. Burton related that an Emergency Declaration had been signed and that they needed to keep track of all expenses. Mr. Melton also noted that Little Flock Road is still shut down due to the weather.

Coroner Shelby Hershberger related that her coolers were down during the storms and that she does not have a generator. She is required per Indiana Code 36-2-14 to maintain climate control. Members assured her that this would be addressed.

She next presented information on obtaining a new Vehicle with a State Bid price and will need to bring it to them and present the funding request to the Council.

911 Director Kathleen Lamb offered that she had staff members step up during the storms and was very appreciative to them and all responders. She again reminded members that being in their metal building during storms and that at times they couldn't even hear radio traffic and phones as it was so loud with the rain and hail. She has looked into sound barriers and feels it is absolutely necessary to do something.

Another concern is what if something happened to dispatch; where do they go? Station 4 was radio tower was down with no transmission capabilities, and concerned with the new storm predictions that are being given. Mr. Burton was to get with Maintenance and look into possible solutions for sound barriers.

EMS Director Cris Lunsford offered that he had all five ambulances out during the storms along with the Rescue Team, Mass Casualty Trailer and lots of people responding—Controlled Chaos but that everyone stepped up to help. He and several others described the Park devastation and the response from people was overwhelming. Joe Frye was thanked for his immediate response with heavy equipment to be able to get to the campers that were trapped.

Sheriff White offered that he had spoken with Mr. Burton and Mr. Lowe about placing the EMA Director at the Jail-Storage Building units that would allow for bigger office and supply storage. The units would need to be finished out. Mr. Curry and Mr. Lowe agreed that it is a good area with all services in one area and far better situation. White also commented that if ever a new jail built that he would like for EMA and Coroner to be part of it to allow them all to work hand-in-hand as one team. Mr. Burton related that there were some funds available to help with the project.

Auditor-Presented the DNR Timber Sales Information again from the previous meeting. She explained that the full amount had not been appropriated and requested that they consider distributing the full amount that had been received of #36,100.74 to the seven Fire Departments. A motion to give \$5157.25 to each department was made by Mr. Burton; seconded by Mr. Curry. Carried 3-0.

Attorney Kerr presented and read Emergency Declaration 2023-001 declaring Owen County a local emergency and noted it had been signed as required by the County Executive Gary Burton. Mr. Burton reminded again those departments present to keep track of expenses.

Commissioners-Mr. Curry wanted it recognized that the School Corporation had stepped up to help during the tornadoes, Mr. White adding they were an awesome resource. Mr. Lowe offered that they had learned a lot over the last several days and a lot to improve on and will resolve to make things better.

Mr. Burton again thanked everyone for stepping up and working together.

Mr. Burton added the approval for a Copier Contract with Toshiba to be approved. A motion was made to approve, however Reeves noted that they would need an additional appropriation, so they agreed to have them go to Council for funding first.

In summary-Throughout the Meeting the following people thanked everyone/each other for their hard work and how grateful-proud they were, that all agencies had come together along with the Community and worked together in this tragic event. Sheriff Ryan White, EMS Director Cris Lunsford, 911 Director Kathleen Lamb, Coroner Shelby Hershberger, Councilwoman Polly Chesser, added was ISP, ICP, and Health Department. EMA Director-Jack White was thanked for coordinating and providing resources during the storms, and will continue to do so. He and several others described the Park devastation and the response from people wanting to help was overwhelming. Joe Frye was thanked for his immediate response with heavy equipment to be able to get to the campers that were trapped. Mr. Lunsford and Lee Freeman were the field on-sight Coordinators at the Park.

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