

Owen County Board of Commissioners

Minutes – May 1, 2024 @9:00 AM

Commissioners present: Gary Burton, Bob Curry, and Joel Lowe

Also present: County Attorney Dana Kerr and Auditor: Sheila Reeves

Meeting was called to order by President Gary Burton.

Opening Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance were given.

Approval of minutes for April 3, 2024, motion by Curry to approve the minutes as read seconded by Lowe, motion carried 3/0.

Approval of minutes for April 17, 2024, motion by Curry to approve the minutes as read seconded by Lowe, motion carried 3/0.

Approval of Claims and Payroll \$635,106.01 with 11 out of cycle claims

- Payroll \$313,598.00
- Regular \$238,780.11
- Out of Cycle \$82,727.57

Motion by Lowe to approve the claims as submitted, seconded by Curry, motion carried 3/0.

The monthly LOW Financial Report was provided for review. Also noted/copies that the Economic Development Annual Financial Report had been submitted to the state.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Jail meeting discussed; a committee put together to examine/consider further options.
- Code Enforcement Officer tabled going back to the Council.
- Pending Ordinances Attorney Kerr has updated and has everything in format to present to American Legal to produce and get an estimate for the cost of preparation for the Floodplain Ordinance and Unsafe Building Ordinance.
- LOW Time Keeping Maddie Chesser updated email sent out to department heads concerning training for the new system, as which departments will use a card swipe, or the mobile app will be determined, a decision will be made whether this will be a motion or a policy. Easy Hire and Easy on Board are part of the new program.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Economic Development and Chamber no representatives present, discussed letter presented for additional funding in the previous commissioners meeting.
- Proactive MD holding off on presentation/discussion.
- Application for County Fireworks hosted by the Chamber of Commerce asking to waive the \$100 event fee, motion by Curry and seconded by Low motion carried 3/0.
- IDHS Hazard Mitigation-Sirens presented by Shannon Brock State Hazard Mitigation Officer with the Indiana Department of Homeland Security acronym is SCHMOO, FEMA has cut the HMG funding by \$1,000,000, all county projects must be reduced. One siren will be funded, additional funding will be obtained through the BRIC program. Jack White will be the project manager and Shannon Brock and Garrett Gough will help work through it, subject to FEMA using their guidelines. A motion by Low to approve and move forward with the BRIC program seconded by Curry motion carried 3/0. The county's match will be 25%.

- A motion made by Low to allow Curry to sign off on the grants pending review by White, seconded by Burton motion carried 3/0.
- Highway Department Review/Updates/Bids Freeman Road Project.
- Reclaim road using calcium fluoride process Sherfield Road 2,012.8 ft, motion by Lowe seconded by Curry motion passed 3/0. Also reclaim Newport Road 2,585 ft. between Mitten and Anderson in leu of cold paving Otterbein Church Rd that has been prepped and use calcium chloride for treating this road motion by Lowe seconded by Curry motion passed 3/0. Melton discussed damage to culverts and bridges will get with Kerr to follow up with insurance company. Motion made by Curry to have Kerr put together an ordinance to reduce the speed of Freeman Rd to 35 mph seconded by Lowe motion passed 3/0.
- Bids opened and read aloud by Dana Kerr, noting all three were sealed and received on time. Three Bids from E&B Paving-\$426,800.40, Wallace Brothers-\$599,417.28 and Milestone-\$443,968.80. Motion to accept bid by E&B Paving \$426,800.40 was made by Curry seconded by Lowe, motion carried 3/0. Discussion continued about Community Crossings Grant.
- EMS Lunsford discussed billing and accounts with patients that have old/outstanding bills for 4 years Motion made by Burton to write off outstanding debt not over \$900.00 seconded by Curry motion passed 3/0. Kerr stated that the total outstanding debt is \$885.40.
- EMA White discussed siren installation and location of Phase II project.
- Auditor ATT Prime Service and Centrex Service 3-year renewal for intercom and phone systems. The three-year term is \$10,875.60 annual charge motion by Lowe seconded by Curry motion passed 3/0.
- Discussion about countywide community clean-up, volunteers, and locations for dumpsters on Saturday May 4th.
- Reminder of generator test at noon today.
- Motion by Lowe to approve quote from Breezy Electric for installation of EMS parking lot lights, includes 6 new bases, set 4 poles with lights locate existing conduit seconded by Curry and passed 3/0.
- Motion by Lowe to allow Melton to conduct the appropriate detouring route on Highway 246 to allow commissioner Curry to sign an agreement to get the ball rolling seconded by Burton passed 3/0.
- Motion to adjourn made by Curry and seconded by Lowe.