

Owen County Board of Commissioners
Minutes-May 1, 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.

A motion to approve the minutes from April 19th was made by Curry; seconded by Lowe. Motion carried 3-0.

A motion to approve Payroll-\$256,836.61 was made by Curry; seconded by Lowe. Carried 3-0.

A motion to approve Regular Claims-\$162,249.04 was made by Lowe seconded by Curry. Carried 3-0.

A motion to approve Out of Cycle Claims-\$138,124.27 was made by Curry; seconded by Lowe. Carried 3-0.

Copies of the Payroll, Absence Balances, Monthly LOW Financial Report were provided for review. Reeves
Old Business-None

New Business-

Insurance Updates were given by Ron Remak and Brittany Doering that included Claims Expense Breakdown, Per Member Per Month Plan Costs for medical and pharmacy, High Dollar Claimants, Medical Utilization, PCP Visits, and Charts. Overall, the average year to date is favorable. A further update will be given at the June Meeting, along with Proactive MD who was not able to be present at this meeting.

A Rezoning Application for Donald & Lori Rudzinski/Overland Group for Parcel#60-02-20-203-100.001-026 was presented by the Plan Commission for consideration. Attorney Kerr gave a brief review. It was related that the Plan Commission findings were Unfavorable with a 6-0 Vote. A motion was made by Curry, seconded by Lowe, to reject the proposal. Carried 3-0.

Highway Superintendent-Greg Melton

Concord Road-Drainage Road Issue regarding a culvert pipe. A Mr. Lewinsky had contacted Suzanne Simmerman regarding the issue with a prior plan commission decision with Foster Farms Subdivision. He had reached out to Norm Warner to see if any mitigation had been done, he believes that Foster Farms has made the mitigation for the retention ponds. Simmerman related that after he started his first house and neighbors complained at that point. She had contacted him, and he put in a retention pond that same day. Burton explained the sizes of the replacement pipes 18'/24'. A motion to allow the highway to proceed with the project was made by Lowe; seconded by Burton. Carried 3-0.

United Consulting provided an updated Safety Cost Analysis-Option 2 for Baseline Road and Turkey Neck Road in the amount of \$88,878.00. He is asking for the project to be done. He has approximately \$23000 left from the community crossings monies 2023-1 that they would re-apply for and utilize funds left in his 1173 Fund to pay for the project. A motion to allow him to ask for the 2023-1 State \$23000 monies and the remaining portion to go to the Council for an added appropriation was made by Curry; seconded by Lowe. Carried 3-0. He will wait for State approval before going to the Council.

General Road Projects updates were also given.

Elected Officials-

Jennifer Abrell related she had requested to be on the agenda regarding the Opioid Funds received by the County. She gave a brief review of the people involved and was willing to work with the County on projects. Lowe related his intentions is to meet with several people and wants to get together with them and get the ball rolling. He will email information out to all parties for dates and times.

Reeves made a statement as a Department Head, not Commissioner Secretary regarding comments that were made after the last meeting about her staff and the department. Specifically, was them making comments

about them taking kickbacks from a vendor. She was adamant that it was unfair and that she has looked in the county policy book and she is not sure where to take it right now; but will not tolerate it any longer and invited them to sit in on a payroll day to see all the issues that are not her staff's fault. The company in question has worked in the County since 2015 and over 70 others in the state. No one commented about her concerns. Burton asked if other proposals had been received. Reeves was waiting to go before the Council and is concerned as she has just explained the General Fund Balance has been of concern for several months now. Her new staff member started this morning and is hopeful that things will work out. He hopes it takes some of the pressure from her. He also reminded her that any of the programs would have to come before them. She next reminded them that she still wanted a wall for security and privacy issues. Burton wants to keep offices open to the public, not feel like a fortress. Lowe did meet with her, and there are only wanting to mirror like the Treasurer's side is, not block off the public off. No decision was made at this time.

Attorney Comments-none

Commissioners Comments-

Burton wanted it to be known that there was Countywide Clean-up Day this Saturday-May 6th and related where the dumpsters are located, and they will be working. Posters have been distributed throughout the County to let as many people know where and what they are taking.

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