

Owen County Board of Commissioners
Minutes-February 22, 2023

Meeting was called to order by President Gary Burton.

Pledge of Allegiance was said, and Opening Prayer was given by Robert Murphy.

Present: Gary Burton, Bob Curry, and Joel Lowe. Attorney Dana Kerr and Auditor Sheila Reeves.

Public Sign in Sheet attached for record.

A motion to approve the Minutes-January 18, 2023, was made by Curry; seconded by Lowe. Carried 3-0.

A motion to approve the Minutes-February 6, 2023, was made by Curry; seconded by Lowe. Carried 3-0.

A copy of the Monthly LOW Financial Report was provided for their review.

A motion to approve Payroll-\$252256.87 was made by Lowe; seconded by Curry. Carried 3-0.

A motion to approve Regular Claims-\$275,099.12 was made by Curry; seconded by Lowe. Carried 3-0.

A motion to approve Out of Cycle Claims-\$116550.54 was made by Lowe; seconded by Curry. Carried 3-0.

Mr. Burton asked about encumbrances, Reeves explained there are still some pending with the Highway and Utilities bills are still coming in from companies for December.

Old Business-None

New Business-

An Event Application had been submitted and required fees paid by the Lions Club for the Apple Butter Festival to held on September 15th, 16th, and 17th. A motion to approve the Application was made by Curry; seconded by Lowe. Carried 3-0. Reeves asked for permission to add a signature line for Commissioner, agreed.

Assessor Dusty White presented a Contract from Worrell Corporation who prints the Form 11's and mailings for the year. A motion to approve the contract was made by Lowe; seconded by Curry. Carried 3-0.

Landfill Letter of Credit from Peoples State Bank was presented for Signatures by Reeves. It had been approved prior and only required Mr. Burton to sign. A motion to allow Burton to sign was made by Curry; seconded by Lowe. Carried 3-0.

Paycor Time Management & Payroll Proposal was presented by Representative Christina Kuzma as a follow-up conversation with Council at their February 11th Meeting that had presented. She had been contacted by Burton after discussion for a Time Management System with Ms. Reeves. All members present at that meeting agreed a system was needed to help reduce the vacation/personal/comp balances that keep exceeding policy and the expensive buyouts. Attorney Kerr feels it will be a cost savings, paper trail, and help prevent lawsuits with the time tracking and integrity for all departments. Policy Updates was also agreed to develop within 30 days if approved. Based upon the proposal given it was agreed to pursue possible options. Ms. Reeves noted that some changes and further discussion on the list of items was needed. *Good pros-cons and that is why she wants to go through them one by one as she doesn't want to waste county money. She also commented that council had just given her a full-time position and that maybe she wouldn't need that position but did note that she still needs backup.* Ms. Kuzma made herself available to departments after the meeting for any questions they may have. She was also to meet with Payroll Deputy Ms. VanDerMoere and Reeves to review current processes and paperwork. Ms. Kuzma also related that she has since the original proposal in 2021 that failed; contacted and reviewed with LOW to understand their programming that we use. A motion was made to accept the Proposal with council funding approval at their meeting on March 13th and be paid from the ARPA Funds. Motion was made by Burton; seconded by Curry. Carried 3-0.

ARPA Fund Distributions were already approved for Paycor pending Council Funding Approval. In addition, was approval for Sheriff's Department K-9s in the amount of \$18000 for training, handling, food, and vet costs associated with them. Policy and clauses will be developed by the Attorney and Sheriff. A motion to approve the K-9s was made by Lowe; seconded by Curry. Carried 3-0.

Highway Department-

A general update on roadways was given by Mr. Melton.

Bid Packets for Brige#52, Community Crossings Grant Projects and ARPA Funds had been received. They were given to the Attorney who verified proper receipt with seals and labeling had been met. He opened and read all bids/documents received for each category/project. All Bids are available for review upon request.

A single Bid Packet had been received from CLR-Bridge#52 Rattlesnake Creek for a total cost of \$462,975.00. Melton asked Commissioners to reject this bid and is wanting to have a design build created to be put back out for bid at a later date. Motion to reject was made by Lowe; seconded by Curry. Carried 3-0.

Hillcrest Drive-Project #1 All Price Sheets are available for review
Milestone-\$111,347.25
E&B Paving-\$106,320.55

Combes Road- All Price Sheets are available for review
Milestone-\$260,350.03
E&B Paving-\$264,131.10

Community Crossings Grant- All Price Sheets are available for review.
Fidler Road, Steubenville Road, and Concord Road, 350E
E&B Paving-\$960,563.77
Milestone-\$967,902.44

Melton asked to review the packets and stepped out to look at them with his staff. Following his review, he asked Commissioners to schedule a Special Meeting to address the All-Bids received. A meeting was scheduled for February 28th @1:00pm in the Commissioners Room.

Reeves provided several copies of items received for their review:

EDC Access Flyer that had been received by Marce King

IDEM Construction Permit Application-Town of Spencer

Joint Workshop Training-Comprehensive Plan reminder for February 28th@ 6pm

Proactive MD Monthly Report

Misty Morning Campground letter regarding, roads, parcels, addressing. Letter was turned over to Mr. Melton.

Public

Jeff Marks related his concern for a serious incident involving a red truck that showed up at a recent emergency scene on his road. Possible concern if it was a County Vehicle.

He also asked them to consider attending the upcoming Legislative Meeting to voice their concerns about roads and funding. (or lack of)

Attorney Kerr related that Rules of Procedures had been adopted by both Plan Commission and BZA Boards. The Long Property Rezone will be certified at the March 6th Meeting.

Commissioners-

Curry and Lowe thanked the Highway Department and their hard work that is being put forth on the roadways. Kerr is still working on an Ordinance for the distressed roads in the Coal City areas due to horse and buggy traffic. Another area of concern is Loggers who are ignoring and violating road limit signs and is unfair to taxpayers who pay the costs to repair them. It also will be reviewed and policy/rules to be determined.

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