

Owen County Board of Commissioners

Minutes – August 21, 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.

The Opening Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and Prayer was given.

Approval of minutes for August 7, 2024, motion by Curry to approve the minutes seconded by Lowe, approved 3/0.

Approval of Claims and Payroll (see attached)

Motion to approve claims by Curry seconded by Burton, 2/1 approved Lowe Abstained

Financial Report: Copy of the Financial Report is provided through August 16, 2024, the amounts are close to what us in the Budget Hearing packets, LIT amounts are in for the hearings as well. Kerr did not read the complete Time Keeping Policy but highlighted most important parts of the Policy, see attached. Motion was made by Lowe and seconded by Curry to approve Time Keeping Policy 401 with the amendment for the EMA and EMS Directors use the mobile app for after hour meetings 3/0 approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Time Keeping: Kerr stated the policy has gone out for review to the Department Heads and Elected Officials some adjustments were made policy is written to keep as accurate time as required by State and Federal Laws

NEW BUSINESS:

Treasurer Direct Deposit Request: Treasurer Townsend presented a service agreement with a new company, govtech was our credit card company we utilized, they have been bought out by Catalyst and will offer the public several new ways to pay tax bills and several new ways to help prevent errors by the time the payment is received in the Treasurer's office. This is a three-year contract; the equipment is free Treasurer Townsend was able to negotiate some lower fees. Kerr has examined and approved the contract, Townsend noted she did have the language changed to not allow a debit to the County account, motion by Lowe and seconded by Curry to allow Townsend to sign the agreement 3/0 approved.

Owen County Public Library: Ginger Kohr Library Director, requesting a new Board member due to personal reasons Paula Bault needs to step down. Kohr provided two candidates and has no preference. Burton states Curry has some background with the library wants his recommendation. Curry makes a motion to recommend Alicia Owen for the position, seconded by Lowe 3/0 approved.

Planning and Zoning Rezone Ordinance: Two properties requested rezoning in the month of July both received favorable recommendations to move forward for a rezone.

-Ordinance No. 2024-17 First Church of the Nazarene 2523 E State Highway 46; Spencer Indiana 47460 / Parcel No. 60-10-23-300-060.000-027 Motion by Lowe to approve a rezone from Agricultural to Institutional/Public seconded by Curry, Burton abstained due to church membership 2/1/0 approved.

-Ordinance No. 2024-18 James & Christine Hall 9164 Drunkards Pike; Gosport, IN 47433 Motion by Lowe to rezone from agricultural to single family seconded by Curry 3/0 approved.

911 Communication Director: Director not in attendance

Highway Department Review/Update/Bids/Ordinances:

-Melton discussed equipment availability the on-time delivery is not on schedule which was promised.

-Asked Commissioners to review the roadside maintenance for mowing, some complaints from residents for lack of mowing.

-Shortage of employees,

- Down 2 Truck CDL drivers due to injury on workman's comp and others on vacation and sick days. Burton suggests that a local contractor be hired to fill truck voids.

Resolution Adoption Declaratory Amending EDA/Plan

-Adopt and amend a change in the Redevelopment Plan by resolution. The Plan Commission did not get a majority from the Plan Commission Membership to approve the resolution to change the Economic Development Plan. The next meeting for the Plan Commission is Next Tuesday August 27, 2024 @ 6:30 they will revisit the change to the Economic Development Plan. Kerr said he will contact Attorney Meeks and review the timeline, handling the advertising for the meetings.

Elected Officials & Department Heads:

-Chesser will have a meeting regarding training for the AOD system this Friday in the Commissioners Room. She is also looking to schedule the healthy results for lower Insurance rates, looking for some time in October.

Public Comment:

-Nancy's Broken Arrow: The Plan Commission has decided on some fines and fees of \$500 per day of Event, for disobeying a Cease-and-Desist order. Motion made by Burton to stay in line and support the Planning Commission and their rate of fine per the two-day event seconded by Lowe 3/0 approved. Kerr asked if he needed to file an injunction, Burton declares to keep as is for now.

-Hearing Impairment System in the Courthouse: the system was installed, and training was completed on Monday. EMA Director Jack White was not attached to any email correspondence between the parties therefore he was unaware of the process. David from ADA is aware of it stated Burton. The court staff have been trained. Lowe stressed the fact that the process is complete due to a complaint filed against the County.

Soil and Water: Tammy Bingham would like support with a Grant from CWI for a matching grant. \$60,000 for a 3-year period, S&W Board of Directors are in support of \$5,000 per year. Motion by Curry to provide a letter of support for the grant and take to Council seconded by Lowe 3/0 approved.

Public Comment: Questions about the Roadside mowing, is the state responsible? Where do you draw the line on special events

EMA: Would like to work with Kerr to draft some sort of agreement with the DNR to put up 3 sirens that will be maintained by the county after the warranty expires. Motion by Lowe to work with Kerr on a letter of understanding seconded by Curry 3/0 approved.

Motion by Lowe to use up the final ARPA interest funds for preservation of the previous Community Crossing grants of \$40,697.15 seconded by Curry 3/0 approved.

Motion to adjourn by Burton seconded by Lowe.