

Owen County Board of Commissioners Meeting

Minutes – October 16, 2024 @ 9:00 AM

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

Also present: County Attorney Dana Kerr

- The meeting called to order by President Gary Burton.
- The Opening Pledge of Allegiance recited, and prayer was given.

Approval of minutes for October 2, 2024 Meeting

Motion by Curry to approve the minutes, seconded by Lowe. Approved 3/0.

Approval of minutes for the October 8, 2024 Special Meeting

Motion by Lowe to approve the minutes, seconded by Curry. Approved 3/0.

Approval of Payroll and Claims

- **Discussion:** See attached
- **Motion:**
A motion to approve the total payroll and claims made by Lowe. (Pending State Board of Accounts Audit)
- **Second:**
The motion was seconded by Curry.
- **Vote:**
The motion passed unanimously 3/0

Financial Report

- **Note:**
No financial report was presented at this meeting as Auditor Reeves was unavailable.

New Business

Claims and Medical Group Update

- **Presenter:** Ron Remak with Bill C Brown
- **Discussion:**
Ron provided an update on the group medical claims and the upcoming insurance renewal. Key points included:
 - **Premiums and Claims:**
Year-to-date premiums amounted to \$845,000, while claims paid out totaled \$661,000, with \$166,000 coming from two large claims.

- **Large Claims:**
Two claims exceeded \$50,000, one amounting to \$73,000 and the other to \$92,000. Both claimants are still active.
- **Pharmacy Costs:**
Prescription costs made up 43% of overall claims, significantly higher than the industry average of 15-20%.
 - Brand name drugs increased by 9.7%.
 - Specialty drugs increased by 23%.
 - Generics costs decreased, possibly due to the Proactive MD Clinic providing free generics.
- **Hospital Admissions:**
Four hospital admissions were reported, the same number as last year, with an average length of stay reduced to two days from 6.25 days the previous year.
- **Renewal and Insurance Update:**
IU Health Plans proposed a 39% rate increase for a two-year period, which was negotiated down to 25%. A one-year renewal option with a 19.9% increase was also presented.
- **Healthy Results Program:**
A key strategy for managing future costs includes getting 50% of employees to participate in the Healthy Results program, which involves a finger-stick test to monitor health metrics. An other day will be scheduled out at the Highway Garage to meet the criteria, Sheriff's Department will be notified as well.

Veterans Honor Guard Fund Transfer

- **Presenter:** County Attorney Dana Kerr
- **Discussion:**
The proposal was made to transfer the Veterans Honor Guard Fund (Fund 4003) to the American Legion Post 285 due to their support for the Honor Guard, including rifles and uniforms.
- **Motion:**
A motion to approve the transfer with corrections to American Legion Post 285 was made by Lowe.
- **Second:**
The motion was seconded by Curry 3/0 passed unanimously.
- **Resolution 2024-25 Approval:**
A motion to approve Resolution 2024-25, transferring the Veterans Honor Guard Fund from Fund 4003 to American Legion Post 285, was made by Curry.
- **Second:**
The motion was seconded by Lowe 3/0 approved. The auditor will process the transfer.

Adoption of Park View Drive and Riley Court into County Highway System

- **Discussion:**
An ordinance was proposed to adopt Park View Drive and Riley Court into the Owen County Highway system after an inspection found both roads in good condition.
- **Motion:**
A motion to approve Ordinance 2024-020 adopting Park View Drive and Riley Court into the highway system was made by Curry.
- **Second:**
The motion was seconded by Lowe 3/0 approved.

2025 Community Crossing Roads Grant

- **Discussion:**
The 2025 Community Crossing Grant request was presented naming the following roads or portions of: Holly Brook Road, Pea Ridge Road, Klass Road, Pleasant View, Kelly Road, and Freedom Road. If there are any funds left, would include Anderson Road. Melton requested approval to proceed with the grant application.
- **Motion:**
A motion to approve and let Melton to start working on the Grant process for the 2025 Community Crossing Grant request was made by Lowe.
- **Second:**
Motion was seconded by Curry 3/0 approved

Road Closure Discussion (State Road 67 and Lingle Road)

- **Discussion:**
Lingle Road experienced significant traffic due to a detour related to the closure of State Road 67, causing damage to roads and bridges. Barricades were discussed to control traffic while still allowing access for local farmers.
- **Motion:**
A motion to allow the Highway Department to place secure barricades and gates on Lingle Road was made by Lowe.
- **Second:**
Motion was seconded by Curry 3/0 approved.

Other Business

Road Maintenance Update

- **Presenter:** Melton
- **Discussion:**
Cold mix was completed on Ellis Lake, and work has shifted to Orman Road, with approximately 4,500 tons of cold mix available.

Public Transportation in Owen County (Rural Transit)

- **Presenter:** Chris Myers with Rural Transit

- **Discussion:**
Myers requested continued financial support for Rural Transit services in 2025. Last year, the county provided \$18,000 from ARPA funds. The commissioners will review the remaining funds and discuss potential contributions for 2025.

Bridge 14 Height Restriction Update

- **Presenter:** Greg Melton
- **Discussion:**
The height restriction for Bridge 14 will be set at 9 feet 6 inches. Signage will be ordered, and the bridge will reopen once the signage is installed.

Broken Arrow Ordinance Proposal

- **Discussion:**
The board discussed the need for a new ordinance concerning safety risks posed by projectiles leaving private properties, such as archery or shooting ranges. A broader ordinance is necessary to address these issues across the county.
- **Motion:**
A motion to draft a new ordinance was made by Lowe and seconded by Curry 3/0 approved, and the ordinance will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Commissioner Comments

- **Discussion:**
The commissioners discussed final points, the Auditors Office asked to support claims management as needed.

Adjournment

- **Motion:**
A motion to adjourn was made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF OWEN COUNTY:

Gary Burton, President

Robert Curry, Vice-President

Joel Lowe, Commissioner

ATTEST: _____
Sheila Reeves, Auditor