

Owen County Board of Commissioners
Minutes-September 20, 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 Payroll-\$263,047.48 was made by Curry; seconded by Lowe. Carried 3-0. Copies will be provided for signatures at the next meeting.

A motion to approve Regular Claims-\$287,172.65 was made by Lowe; seconded by Curry. Carried 3-0.

A motion to approve Out of Cycle Claims \$51,109.07 was made by Curry; seconded by Lowe. Carried 3-0. Copies of the Payroll, Absence Balances, Monthly LOW Financial Report, and Docket Summary were provided for review.

Old Business-

Opioid Plan-Lowe reviewed that Departments-EMS, Probation, Coroner, Sheriff, and 911 received the first round of distributions. Reeves provided a copy of the required State Submission Report. Additional funds will be received each year and other departments and/or agencies plans will be considered.

Building Department-Suzanne Simmerman related those letters had been received for purchases of County properties. Contracts for each Property were reviewed by Attorney Kerr. The first property known as Forest Lane was voted on with a motion made by Curry; seconded by Lowe to award William L. Jennings. Motion carried 3-0. The second property known as Wilson Village 4793 Wilson Village Rd was awarded to Ricky Lee Harris with a motion made by Curry; seconded by Lowe, Motion carried 3-0. Both Contracts were signed by Gary Burton. Burton noted that there were other properties that will be considered.

New Business-

Highway Department-Greg Melton presented the following:

-Owen County Bridge Inventory 2022 Manual was presented for review by United Consulting. He related that the County is full Compliance with State and Federal Regulations. He offered that Greg Melton has done outstanding work, also noting that the use of ARPA monies allowed them to get a good handle on bridges. The Bridge Inventory Manual is available for view at the highway and auditor's office.

-Due to advertising constraints Bid Proposals for Bridge #138 Sutton Road/Fall Creek will be presented at the October Meeting.

-Cold Mix was still being used on road repairs and that Hot Mix would start next week on Jefferson Rd., Farmers Rd, and Culvert Old P 'Burg Rd/St Rd 46. Road widener will begin on Fidler Rd upon arrival of equipment.

-A motion was made by Burton; seconded by Curry to allow Wedging to be done on the hill of Pea Ridge Rd. Motion carried 3-0.

-Concern with Little Flock and Burke Shiloh Rd due to excessive wear and tear from prior State Highway projects, the daily truck traffic and detours that continue.

-Surplus Ordinance 2023-013 declaring the Highways 2020 Rosco Chip Spreader Model SPRH-H Serial #34475 was presented and read by Kerr. A motion to approve was made by Curry; seconded by Lowe. Carried 3-0.

-Kerr then presented and read Resolution 2023-011 establishing 4 Day-10 hour per day of work week for the Highway Department. A motion to approve was made by Lowe; seconded by Curry. Carried 3-0.

-A motion was made by Burton; seconded by Curry to allow Wedging to be done on the hill of Pea Ridge Rd. Motion carried 3-0.

Elected Officials/Departments

EMA-Jack White wanted to Thank members of the COAD Team and gave a summary of their work that was conducted-volunteered during the Tornado Event. A total of 16 volunteers worked 151 hours with ten cases

and case management to those who had needs. The people thanked included Janet Rummel, Maria O'Connor, Ken Knight, June Taylor, Darryl Bault, Zamboni Driver, and Community Foundation. Donations had been received and disbursed with the overall goal of keeping residents in their homes with little resources. Burton thanked them all.

Public Comments-

Hamilton Center-Cindy commented on the distribution of the Opioid Funds and hopes that they follow the guidelines that were given. Lowe assured her that the Plans had been reviewed. Sheriff White offered to her about the DARE Program being implemented and working with the other departments.

Lee Haust with the Department of Forestry-Crisis Management and wanted to comment on the Proposed Logging Permit Ordinance. Feels it is a power play, provided some statistics and feels there is better ways to address road issues. Lowe asked him what ordinance he was referencing as no ordinance has been approved. It's an ongoing conversation and absolutely no decisions have been made. Burton ended the conversation with a statement saying that no more conversation will be allowed in their meetings on this subject.

Douglas Stites-Resident on Pleasant Hill Rd presented concerns with Road Conditions, Trash Complaints and Animal Complaints. It was explained that they are working on updating Ordinances with Enforcement powers. The council did not fund an enforcement officer was added and to talk to them. His Road is being part of the Crossings Grant next year.

Sam Hobbs asked about the Auction that had been held at the storage units. He directly asked Curry and Lowe if they knew about it; both replying no. How was it possible to take place outside of a commissioners meeting approval. Should have been declared surplus. Burton explained the units are a business entity and separate from county government. Kerr related that notice was given to abandoned unit owners and that Suzanne handles them as an administrative function.

Auditor Comments-Noted that the cameras had frozen up at the start of the meeting. Burton said that they will get them addressed.

Attorney Comments

EMS Director Cris Lunsford had received notice that a Chassis was available immediately. Kerr related that the Indiana Code allowed the purchase and had prepared and read Resolution 2023-012 approving the Special Purchase of an Ambulance Cab and Chassis. A motion to approve the resolution was made by Curry; seconded by Lowe. Motion carried 3-0.

Next Kerr presented a Draft Ordinance for members to review regarding Fee Schedule for the Owen County Zoning and Subdivision Ordinance. It will be considered at their next meeting.

Commissioner Comments-

Burton related that the EMA Building Contract with Steve Carrell "Bid" will be rescinded. A motion made by Curry; seconded by Lowe to accept. Carried 3-0.

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

**All Copies of Items-Ordinances, Resolutions, Policies, Documents that were submitted for review/consideration/approval are available upon written request per Public Records Request.