

Owen County Board of Commissioners  
Minutes – July 17, 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 July 3, 2024, motion by Curry to approve the minutes seconded by Lowe, approved 3/0.

Approval of Claims and Payroll \$641,228.97 with 6 out of cycle claims

Payroll	\$316,973.00 (July 12,2024)
Regular Claims	\$251,087.31
Out of Cycle (6)	<u>\$73,168.66</u>
Total Payroll & Claims	\$641,228.97

\*\*Payroll Pending State Board of Accounts Audit

Motion by Lowe seconded by Curry, 3/0 approved

**Financial Report:** Copy of the Financial Report is provided, will be basically the same going into budget hearings in the next 4-6 weeks. The numbers for the cash balances are what will be used to determine the amounts that will be needed.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**LOW Time Keeping System Update:** Maddie Chesser asked that department heads have authority to fix their departments and their own time sheets final approval and sign off must be completed by a commissioner, motion to allow Burton to sign off on all bi-weekly payroll made by Lowe, seconded by Curry 3/0 approved.

**Jail Update:** Burton stated that Redevelopment Committee (RDC) is in the process of moving forward with the land swap. Kerr read a prepared Resolution 2024-009 authorizing the transfer of County owned real estate to RDC for the jail project. Motion made to approve resolution by Curry seconded by Lowe 3/0 motion approved. An executive meeting for the RDC will take place soon; the appraisals will be disclosed to the board members, and soon after to the public.

**Code Enforcement Officer:** Director Simmerman has a couple applicants; she is still working on filling position.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Special Events Application:** Hilly Hundred taking place on October 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> 2024. Motion by Burton to approve the event application with the stipulation that the Sheriff's Department has been notified and any safety issues have been taken care of, seconded by Lowe, 3/0 approved. Burton then stated the application fee will be waived and asked if all the insurance is in place Auditor Reeves has everything in the packet.

**911 Communications Director:** Director Cherie Anderson introduced Consultant Terry Burnsworth he talked a bit about his background and experience with radio equipment systems. Discussed options for the county, recommending a review and an evaluation of the equipment and the process. It should take place in phases. All key players or stakeholders should be part of the process. A motion was made by Lowe, pending the attorney's satisfactory review of the contract for consultation services, seconded by Curry, 3/0 approved

**Highway Department:** Melton discussed the employees injured on the job and workers compensation, he spoke with the insurance representative John Parmley and the Auditor everything should be taken care of. Both employees are classified as operators and are also truck drivers, Highway currently down 2 part time laborers. Mow trimmer still down.

All Community Crossing roads must be completed by the end of August. Continued discussion concerning funds, budget, equipment, road work progress. Burton suggested they should get with Melton by weeks end to address the remaining 30,000 of Community Crossings funds and where they should be used.

Discussion continued concerning the closed bridge on Tower Road and another with restricted weight limits. Lowe made a motion to open Tower Road Bridge at a reduced load limit of 3 tons after conduction of repairs, also monitor the two bridges with signage and video surveillance on Tower Road, seconded by Curry 3/0 approved. There is a pending investigation into the suspect(s) that did the damage to the Historic Bridge. Lastly Melton asked for the end-of-life vehicle program to protect the workers, commissioners originally awarded \$2,000 for purchase. Melton found a car for a little above the price \$3,400. The car would be painted orange, lime green and yellow with black hash marks, insured and plated and allow workers to drive to job sites. Lowe made a motion seconded by Curry to pursue the purchase of a vehicle for no more than \$3,500 3/0 approved.

**New NPL Policy:** Kerr said the policy had been sent out to Department Heads, he will see if any changes are needed and will have that at the next meeting.

**Department Head Comments:**

**EMA Director:** Jack White regarding the June 25<sup>th</sup> storm. There has been a great response to 38 requests; the Community Foundation is helping with funds and donation and other donations sources.

**EMS:** Cris Lunsford new ambulance in town radio system install today, Power Lyft will be installed on Friday wants to know if the payment for the lift is coming from ARPA funds, Burton thought so but would need to check.

**Public Comment:** Mr. Hobbs reached out he wants transparency. Asked who the Liaison is for 911, Lowe stated it is him, they will meet at some time to further discuss some things.

**Auditor Comment:** Reeves stated that the Highway Department is still in an audit for workman's comp, they need more than a list of employees and their positions, they need to know exactly who is filling the positions of laborers and operators specifically. The information previously provided was not in-depth. The new company requires this information.

**Attorney Comment:** Kerr received an estimate from Blue Moose for asbestos abatement at the Armory, stating there is a small leak in a water line that needs repaired, estimate is for \$2,450 they are properly licensed, and after review of the agreement all seems in order. Burton stated of course everything down in the Armory is covered in asbestos, and it needs to be fixed. Lowe made a motion to conduct an asbestos abatement in the Armory, seconded by Curry 3/0 approved.

**Commissioner's Comments:** Lowe stated the generators are all fixed with a new installation on Rocky Hill Rd for the one that failed during the storm in June. Reeves reminded Commissioners there are 3 full weeks in between meetings some claims may already be a week old, motion by Lowe seconded by Curry to pay any out of cycle claims that may need to be paid before next meeting 3/0 approved.

Dismissal by Burton