

# Owen County Board of Commissioners

## Minutes – August 7, 2024@9:00 AM

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 17, 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 Lowe Abstained approved.

**Financial Report:** Copy of the Financial Report is provided through the end of July 2024, Proposed budget copies were in the packets, excepting a few departments. Motion to accept budgets from Commissioners by Lowe seconded by Curry 3/0 approved.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**LOW Time Keeping System Update:** Maddie Chesser stated she received policies from Kerr she will review make suggested edits then forward to Kerr the Commissioners and Auditor to make any corrections for the next meeting. Time keeping system is going well outside departments are being onboarded.

Working with Bill C Brown on open enrollment should be scheduled for November.

Expect an increase in insurance, figures should be received by the end of September.

**Jail Project Update:** Burton stated that Redevelopment Committee (RDC) had an Executive meeting on July 18, 2024 the project was discussed and the proposed site was visited, other than that nothing to report. Next meeting is August 20, 2024.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**911 Communications Director:** Director Cherie Anderson explained staffing issues with dispatch, will approach the Council to seek approval for a \$2.00 per hour raise, it is difficult to compete with surrounding counties wages. Anderson feels the department will be able to handle the financial increase for this year and next. Anderson would like to implement a training coordinator position.

#### **Highway Department:**

Superintendent Melton brought United Consulting to discuss Bridge # 14 on Tower Rd with repair recommendations. Bill Williams with CLR talked about some rehab completed

in 2004. Discussion included the solutions, time, and expense of repair. There is video turned over to the State Police which has spoken with the Prosecutor about the suspected vehicle that did the damage. Burton asked to keep Kerr updated.

Beech Church Road a culvert pipe has deteriorated and will need replaced a cost estimate was discussed. Motion was made by Lowe to allow Melton to purchase the culvert pipe acquire soil tests and to deem as an emergency repair, have outside contractors bid on the job, seconded by Curry 3/0 approved.

Road work plan discussion, funds and previous Community Crossing Roads, with Melton's calculations the amount of work to accomplish the plan he states the Department has \$94,000, the plan would require \$108,000. Asks to move forward as quickly as possible, discussion continues what is available for appropriation and what is available currently, asked the Auditor to figure what is available then come back for the additional request. Motion in favor by Lowe seconded by Curry 3/0 approved.

There are funds from the Department of Interior of \$14,285 to go to the highway, Motion by Lowe seconded by Curry 3/0 approved.

Bridge work to begin on Bandy Rd in 2 weeks.

Melton brought up the subject a new grant program sponsored by Purdue's Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) for backing the program, which is a 100% grant, the Soybean Federation Coalition of building bridges with old rail cars, a package deal that is backed by Purdue motion by Curry and seconded by Lowe 3/0 approved to move forward with this project on Precinct Rd.

There is a large pipe needing replaced on Texas Pike, with the amount of work left to complete this summer and still doing storm work. Melton reached out to a couple of local contractors for bids to do the labor, materials to be provided, first sealed bid from Fender Excavating \$16,000 with equipment and labor. 2<sup>nd</sup> sealed bid from Duboise Excavating \$9,475 with equipment and excavating. Motion by Lowe seconded by Bob to utilize Dubois Excavating for the job 3/0 approved.

**New PPL Policy:** Kerr explained Policy 320 Paid Parental Leave motion to approve policy by Curry seconded by Lowe 3/0 approved. Copies to be distributed to all departments and employees.

Kerr stated he is currently working on a social media policy we have a resolution in place regarding the County website and postings. Working on creating a personnel policy for the guidance of personnel on regards to social media. Also, the Unsafe Building law begins preceding next week on 3 troublesome properties.

### **Elected Officials and Department Heads**

Jack White asked for guidance and response from an email he forwarded. He received a request from Greene County EMA director to be on standby if needed while he is out of

town, Lowe made a motion to allow White to fill in for Greene County's EMA director under the direction of Greene County Commissioners, seconded by Burton 3/0 approved. Discussion for requests for Food Inspection, availability for public information can it be posted in the newspaper or on social media.

Burton talked about the issue of the sewer lines and estimated completion, there was a bottle discovered from 1890 brought into the Courthouse he personally hasn't seen it.

The Courthouse emergency generator is currently not working due to the gas line removal for the sewer lines, all other generators are up and running and tested weekly.

Gentry road has small problem with some homeless issues, law enforcement was notified along with Health and Building Departments they will be dealing with that problem.

Motion to adjourn by Curry seconded by Lowe 3/0 approved.