
Gibson County Board of Commissioners
Regular Session
July 21, 2009

The Gibson County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on July 21, 2009, 6:00 PM, in the North Annex Meeting Room.

Members present:

Bob Townsend, Pres. Gerald Bledsoe, VP
Don Whitehead Attorney James McDonald

Members absent:

The meeting was called to order with all present standing and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting, July 7, 2009, were approved with a motion by Whitehead seconded by Bledsoe and passed 3-0.

Claims: The following claims were submitted for approval: Payroll, 7/17/09, \$287,793.32; County General, \$137,256.71; Sheriff, \$38,304.71; Highway, \$115,345.63; Courts, \$1843.47. These claims were approved with a motion by Bledsoe seconded by Whitehead and passed 3-0.

Old Business: Jail Control Bids: The opening of the bids was extended until July 31, 2009, at 10:00 AM, in the North Annex Meeting Room due to late interest. An addendum was added to the specifications. The date change was to allow the bidders the necessary time to complete the bids.

Open Bids to Demolish House at 212 N. Gibson, Princeton: Attorney, James McDonald opened the bids and stated all was in order. There were two bids: J.S.E. Excavating, \$9,875.00 and Roy's Welding Shop, \$26,071.35. County Engineer, John Umpleby, stated that the low bid is what he would consider an appropriate bid and would recommend the bid be accepted. A motion to accept the lowest bid by J.S.E. Excavating was made by Whitehead seconded by Bledsoe and passed 3-0.

Closed Landfill Monitoring Bids: Attorney, James McDonald opened the bids: Astbury Environmental Engineering, Inc. , \$75,005.75; Weaver Boos Consultants Inc., \$75,400.00; Environmental Management Consultants Inc, \$65,400.00; Summit Environmental Services Inc., \$179,030.00. McDonald stated that the bids should be taken under advisement to study and come back to the next meeting with a decision. A motion to take under advisement was made by Whitehead seconded by Bledsoe and passed 3-0.

Steve Bottoms: Mr. Bottoms spoke of his concern after a decision was made at the last meeting to change the amount of hours for a part time position with the County. The hours allowed had been 950 hours for a part time employee and the new ruling was 1800 hours. He stated that he thought that amount of hours was too high for an employee to still be considered part time. He also asked if the Council had been consulted on this manner. Councilman Allen stated that they had not and this should be included in the Salary Ordinance. Sheriff Harmon said that he didn't think the hours were too high. His department is one of them that have a difficult time with the 950 hours. Whitehead stated that if a problem arises, it can be taken care of at that time.

New Business: Policy Concerning Driving Restrictions on Individuals with Poor Driving Records: Ken Greuble stated that with the new insurance carrier for the County that there needs to be a policy covering poor driving records and the use of county vehicles. This had been taken care of through the former carrier requirements. A couple examples would be for a DUI conviction – possible 5-7 year ineligibility or on a lesser traffic violation – possible 3 year ineligibility. He also would like to have them consider a cell phone usage policy. After discussion it was decided that the Commissioners would consult with Attorney McDonald and bring it back to a meeting in the near future.

Highway Department doing work on Private Property: Jerry Heldt stated that there had been concerns mentioned of the Highway department doing paving on private property. IC code number 8-19-7 allows for this to happen as long as they are in the area and had the time. Materials have to be provided and equipment and labor expenses are to be paid by the owner of the property. There was discussion on this topic.

Road Salt: He stated that they had the opportunity to purchase salt through the State for \$74.92/ton.

Distressed Road Loan: Heldt stated that the County does have the opportunity to apply for a distressed road loan for up to 1 million dollars from the State with no interest. A motion to approve this application was made by Bledsoe seconded by Whitehead and passed 3-0.

Funeral Leave: The question of an employee having funeral leave for a step grandparent has arisen. It is not covered in the hand book. Having discussed the issue a motion to grant a 3 day leave for a funeral for a step grandparent was made by Bledsoe seconded by Whitehead and passed 3-0.

Six Month Sick Leave: A request was made by the Clerk's office for an additional six months sick leave allowed by the Union contract for an employee without pay. This was approved with a motion by Whitehead seconded by Bledsoe and passed 3-0.

Six Weeks Sick Leave: A request for a six weeks sick leave was presented by the Sheriff's department for an employee. This was approved with a motion by Bledsoe seconded by Whitehead and passed 3-0.

Speed Limit Request: Sheriff Harmon asked for a 35-40 MPH speed limit be posted on CR 700S from Highway 165, approximately 3 miles, to where the road turns into a straight way. A motion to set a 35 MPH limit on the section of CR 700S was made by Bledsoe seconded by Whitehead and passed 3-0.

Sheriff Harmon stated that there had been a repair needed concerning the new Work Release facility that was not under warranty. After discussion the bill for \$512.00 was approved to be paid out of the TIF Surplus Fund by a motion made by Whitehead seconded by Bledsoe and passed 3-0. There was some discussion on when the maintenance contract was up on the older building and the need to start work on a possible contract to include both buildings. Sheriff Harmon stated that his department already has a SOP for use of cell phone usage and would be glad to get a copy to Ken Greuble and the Commissioners to look over for a county wide policy.

Request for bids for Bridget 137: John Umpleby spoke on the need to replace this bridge due to there is now a 10 ton limit on the bridge and there are a lot of highway stone trucks and farmers that travel over the bridge. He asked for approval to request bids for bridge kits to replace the present bridge. A motion to approve this was made by Whitehead seconded by Bledsoe and passed 3-0.

United Consulting: Steve Jones, representing the company that there had been request issued last year for possible grant money to do more bridge work. There was discussion concerning completed projects and upcoming projects with the hope of receiving federal grant money. Bledsoe stated that on bridge 235 project that the road approach be considered due to during high water the road can be closed on both sides of the bridge. County Engineer John Umpleby stated that he thought bridges 22, 16 and 15 could be removed from the agreement with United Consulting because of time restraints on getting the projects completed. After discussion a motion to approve these bridge removals was made by Whitehead seconded by Bledsoe and passed 3-0.

Bill Miller stated that he appreciated the chip and seal of several county roads near his home and the materials used.

EMS: A six month comparison report was distributed on the activities of the ambulance service. A six week leave was requested for an employee retroactive from June 28th when the employee's sick days were used. This was approved with a motion by Whitehead seconded by Bledsoe and passed 3-0. Two paramedics have resigned and they will be testing and interviewing for replacement in the coming weeks.

Having no further business a motion to adjourn was made by Whitehead seconded by Bledsoe and passed 3-0.


Bob Townsend, Pres.


Gerald Bledsoe, VP


Don Whitehead

Attested: 
Mary B. Key, Auditor