
Gibson County Board of Commissioners
Regular Session
February 19, 2013

The Gibson County Board of Commissioners met on February 19, 2013, at 6:30 PM at the North Annex Meeting Room.

Members Present: Gerald Bledsoe, President, Steve Bottoms, Commissioner, Kay Vore, Administrative Assistant, Jim McDonald, County Attorney and Sherri Smith, County Auditor. Alan Douglas was absent.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited and welcome led by Gerald Bledsoe.

Minutes: The minutes from the February 5, 2013 meeting was read and approved through a motion by Steve Bottoms and seconded by Gerald Bledsoe. Motion carried 2-0.

Claims:
County General - \$96,828.68
Court System - \$3,777.53
Highway – \$72,993.13
Sheriff – \$85,250.18

Steve Bottoms made a motion to approve the claims and was seconded by Gerald Bledsoe. Motion Carried 2-0.

Department Reports:

EMS - Dan Alvey made report and asked for January write-offs in the amount of \$33,967.38. Steve Bottoms made a motion to approve January write-offs, seconded by Gerald Bledsoe. Motion carried 2-0.

4 Week Medical Leave Request began as possible Workman’s Comp Claim – Steve Bottoms made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Gerald Bledsoe. Motion carried 2-0.
EMT with 37 years of service – “Honorary Lifetime Certificate” request to be sent to the State. Steve Bottoms made motion to approve the request, seconded by Gerald Bledsoe. Motion carried 2-0.

Old Business:

No old business conducted.

New Business:

Paul Maier – voiced extreme concern regarding the terrible condition of the Wabash Township Roads. President Bledsoe stated that Supt. Jerry Heldt will oversee the discussions as well as the

road repairs. Supt. Heldt has been in contact with Rex Oil Company and Citation Oil Company and a nine month agreement has been reached and everyone understands that the Oil Companies can be denied access to these roads at any time. Oil Companies have hauled and spread seventy-nine loads of gravel to date. Roads to be brought back to former condition or the County has the right to go in, repair the roads and then bill the Oil Companies.

Open Bids for Reconstruction of Bridge #26
Blankenburger Bros. - \$271,000.00
CLR Inc. - \$185,973.50 with a credit provision
Goldman Construction Asphalt - \$275,725.00
E.K. Parker - \$185,742 with a credit provision

Steve Bottoms made a motion that we take these bids under advisement, seconded by Gerald Bledsoe. Motion carried 2-0.

Sheriff George Ballard – Medical Services for the Jail – Lisa Scroggins with “Quality Correctional Care” provides health care services for 15 jails in the State of Indiana. They provide nurses, medical staff and training for Corrections Officers. Dr. Emerson approves program and will remain as Correction’s Physician and Medical Director. The contract runs from 02/25/13 until 12/31/14, thirty-seven hours a week for a cost of \$154,040 and eliminates the need for a part-time nurse. Steve Bottoms noted a higher quality of care and that inmates will no longer have to leave the jail for medical or dental care which will reduce security risks. Sheriff Ballard noted that they would actually be able to utilize the medical room within the jail. There are new “State Jail Standards” released a few days ago and Corrections should be in full compliance. County Attorney Jim McDonald has reviewed the contract, with a few amendments made, it looks pretty good.

Steve Bottoms made a motion to approve the contract with Quality Correctional Care and final review of contract with our County Attorney, seconded by Gerald Bottoms. Motion carried 2-0.

George Ballard – Handed out a 2012 report regarding “all calls for service”, including 911 calls for the county. Fifteen-thousand six-hundred “911” calls broken down by days of the week and hours of the day. This number does not include the administrative lines.

QC Communications, Inc. – Dark Fiber Contract – County Attorney does not have an agreed upon contract at this time. Jim McDonald stated “you may want to go ahead and make a motion to proceed with the work subject to the contract being approved.” Dark Fiber Cable installed between the Sheriff’s Department and the Courthouse, overhead through the alley, then underground to the Courthouse in the amount of \$17,500.

Steve Bottoms made a motion to allow QC Communications, to proceed with the work subject to the contract being approved by the County Attorney, seconded by Gerald Bledsoe. Motion carried 2-0.

Black History Month – Recognition of Lt. Aaron Fisher - Steve Bottoms addressed the Commissioners and the Public in attendance. February is Black History Month and across our

great state of Indiana, a great American is being remembered for the heroic deeds he performed for our Country. This great American was Aaron Fisher, of Gibson County. Fisher was born 05/14/1892 in the Lyle Station area and attended elementary school at Lyle Station. He also attended the all-black Lincoln High School in Princeton. In 1911, at the age of 18, he joined the U.S. Army and by 1916, was serving in the Mexican Punitive Expedition that chased Poncho Via out of the U.S. and back to Mexico. By August 1918, Fisher was in France fighting for his Country during World War I. On September 3rd, 1918, Fisher, now a Lieutenant, was given the charge over a group of seven men to hold a trench outpost. Soon after taking charge of this outpost the Germans attacked with artillery cutting off his under-manned position. Fifty German Raiders then attacked Fisher and his men. In the chaos of battle, Fisher, though severely wounded by machine gun fire, directed his men to stand and fight. When reinforcements finally arrived, the wounded Fisher crawled outside the safety of his post to lead a counter attack that would eventually drive off the Germans. At least half the attacking Germans were killed in the battle. After the battle, Fisher's superiors were amazed at his accomplishments and were eventually awarded the Nation's 2nd highest medal awarded to combat veterans, the Distinguished Service Cross. His DSC citation noted that in fierce combat, "Fisher showed exceptional bravery in action, when his position was raided by superior forces of the enemy, by directing his men and refusing to leave his position, although he was severely wounded." He also received the United States Purple Heart and the French Croix de Guerre with gold star, a major French military award. Fisher would stay in the Army as a training officer until 1947. He had attained the rank of Captain, when he would be forced to retire due to medical problems. He and his wife lived the rest of their lives in Ohio and were active in civic and social affairs. It is an honor tonight, for us to honor Lyle Station and Gibson County native, Captain Aaron Fisher. Indiana Historical Society has an article, written by historian Dr. Randy Mills, of Oakland City University, about Aaron Fisher. He is being honored at the Statehouse this month and since the people of Indiana are honoring Captain Fisher, we should note what a wonderful person and recognize what he has done for our Country.

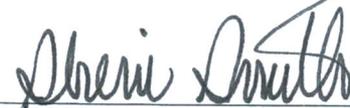
With no further business, Steve Bottoms made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Gerald Bledsoe. Motion carried 2-0.



Gerald Bledsoe, President



Steve Bottoms, Commissioner



ATTEST: Sherri Smith, Auditor