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Gibson County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Session  
November 05, 2014

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The Gibson County Board of Commissioners met on November 05, 2014, at 8:00 AM at the North Annex Meeting Room.

**Members Present:** Included President Alan Douglas, Vice-President Gerald Bledsoe, Commissioner Stephen E. Bottoms, Administrative Assistant Kay Vore, County Attorney Jim McDonald, and County Auditor Sherri Smith

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Welcome were recited and led by President Douglas.

**Minutes:** The minutes from October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014, meeting were read and approved through a motion by Commissioner Bledsoe and seconded by Commissioner Bottoms. Motion carried 3-0.

**Claims:**

County General - \$87,708.48  
Courts - \$5,425.91  
Highway - \$100,865.31  
Sheriff - \$40,948.27

Commissioner Bottoms made a motion to approve the claims, seconded by Commissioner Bledsoe. Motion carried 3-0.

Payroll - \$276,755.65

Commissioner Bottoms made a motion to approve the payroll for October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014, seconded by Commissioner Bledsoe. Motion carried 3-0.

**Department Reports:**

Veterans Officer Jerry Wright – A monthly report is on file in the Auditor’s office.

Weights and Measures Inspector Gary Dawson presented the monthly report.

Highway Supervisor Chuck Lewis informed the Commissioners that the cost of doing the shoulder work that the Commissioners wanted done on CR 900 S will be about \$10,500 for material cost alone plus labor. Commissioner Douglas asked Mr. Lewis to check into renting a machine for the shoulder work, or possibly contracting the job out. The decision was postponed until a later meeting.

Commissioner Bottoms asked about the brush cutter. Mr. Lewis stated that the new brush cutter came in. They used it about three hours and there was a major mechanical malfunction. There was a bad structural crack in the main support arm for the mower. It was not repairable. The Company is correcting the problem with no charge to the County.

Commissioner Bottoms also asked Mr. Lewis about CR 700 S. He has not checked it as of the meeting.

EMS Supervisor Dan Alvey presented the monthly report. Commissioner Bledsoe made a motion to approve the write offs for the month of October 2014 in the amount of \$102,627.62, seconded by Commissioner Bottoms. Motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Bottoms asked Mr. Alvey about the ambulance remount. Mr. Alvey stated that he had not heard anything.

EMA Director Terry Hedges stated that on November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 6:00 PM in the North Annex, there will be a meeting for the Hazard Mitigation Steering Committee. After every five years, FEMA requires counties to have an updated Mitigation Plan. All Communities of the County have been invited for representation. If there are any mitigation problems going on at this time, they will be discussed at the meeting. This will be a public meeting.

Mr. Hedges also stated that last month the EMA, the EMS, and the Sheriff's Department worked with Duke Energy to develop an emergency action plan to help with the water basins in case of a flood.

Deputy Sheriff Troy Baize stated that the Sheriff was unable to attend and that he did not have anything to report.

Animal Services - A copy of the Animal Services monthly report is on file in the office of Administrative Assistant, Kay Vore.

### **Old Business:**

- Public Hearing on Flood Plain Ordinance – With no public comment, Commissioner Bledsoe made a motion to approve ORDINANCE 2014-3 FOR FLOOD HAZARD AREAS, seconded by Commissioner Bottoms. Motion carried 3-0.
- Peabody Road Closures and Private Rail Agreement – Howard Kiefer representing Peabody Coal, asked the Commissioners for permission to close three roads in Barton Township. The list includes a dead end road 1250 E, 1.25 miles of 850 S, and one half mile of 1300 E. This will be taken under advisement.

Gibson County Resident Nancy Gehlhausen spoke strongly against the closing of any more roads in East Gibson. She stated that nature is being disturbed. Streams are being taken away as well as trees. Wildlife is suffering from all of the stripping. She also stated that the East Gibson School Corporation is suffering from all of the people moving out of the area. The area is not good for potential residents, as far as houses to buy and land to build on.

Commissioners Bledsoe and Douglas stated that they would contact East Gibson School Corporation Superintendent Michael Brewster about the low student enrollment, and the impact of the coal mines in the area.

- Commissioner Douglas stated that on November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 6:30 PM there will be a public meeting in the North Annex in order to discuss the road closures request in Barton Township.

Gary Fritz representing Fritz Kohlmeier, LLC stated that the impact on the real estate business in Barton Township has not been good.

Other residents including Kenneth Hornby, Cheryl Siekman, and Dennis Tepe spoke strongly against the road closings.

Kevin Hornby stated that the coal mine bought his home and gave him ample time to move. Commissioner Bledsoe stated that he is worried about the water supply in Barton Township.

Mr. Keifer gave some examples as to what the coal mine has to do after mining the land, as far as making it usable. Some other back and forth comments were made by residents and Mr. Keifer.

Commissioner Douglas reminded everyone about the public meeting, and stated that a decision on the road closings would be made at that time or at the next regularly scheduled Commissioners meeting.

- Blight Elimination Grant - Commissioner Bottoms stated that \$1,440,000 has been awarded to Gibson County for the Blight Elimination Program. Gibson County did receive a grant through the Economic Development Corporation of Gibson County. This money will be used to tear down houses in the county that are irreparable. Some houses have been designated and there is money left for others to be torn down.

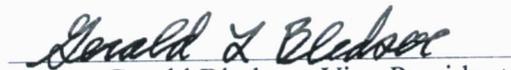
### **New Business:**

- Major Medical Leave for EMS - Clarification was given on the recent approval of a major medical leave for an EMS employee.
- Purchase Agreement North Main St Property - Commissioner Bottoms made a motion to approve the purchase agreement for the property located at 214 N Main St in Princeton Indiana, seconded by Commissioner Bledsoe. Motion carried 3-0.
- Sarah Bradley representing AFLAC asked the Commissioners for permission to speak to County employees about their AFLAC policies. Commissioner Bottoms made a motion to allow an AFLAC representative to speak to the county employees, seconded by Commissioner Bledsoe. Motion carried 3-0.

- Commissioner's Tax Certificate Sale for 2015 – Commissioner Bottoms made a motion to approve Resolution 2014-3 – A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE INTENT TO CONDUCT A COMMISSIONERS' SALE TO SELL TAX SALE CERTIFICATES FOR PROPERTIES THAT ARE SEVERELY DELINQUENT IN PAYMENT OF PROPERTY TAXES, seconded by Commissioner Bledsoe. Motion carried 3-0.
- Wabash Levee # 5 requests permission to use the County's Tax ID # -- Commissioner Bledsoe made a motion to allow the Wabash Levee to use the county's tax ID# to obtain a loan from German American Bank, after an OK from State Board of Accounts, seconded by Commissioner Bottoms. Motion carried 3-0. The money will be held at the bank in a trust and the claims will be paid through the trust.
- Commissioner Douglas stated that there will be an Executive session on November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 7:30 AM for the purpose of looking over the applications for an EMS Director, due in by 4:00 PM November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014.
- Private Rail Agreement - The decision on the Private Rail Agreement for a guardrail located in Barton Township was postponed until the next meeting.

With no further business, Commissioner Bottoms adjourned the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Bledsoe. Motion carried 3-0.

  
 Alan Douglas, President

  
 Gerald Bledsoe, Vice-President

  
 Stephen E. Bottoms, Commissioner

  
 ATTEST: Sherri Smith, Auditor