
Gibson County Board of Commissioners
Regular Session
November 18, 2014

The Gibson County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on November 18, 2014, at 6:30 PM 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 the November 5th, 2014 Regular Meeting and the November 12th, 2014 Executive Session, were read and approved through a motion by Commissioner Bledsoe, seconded by Commissioner Bottoms. Motion carried 3-0.

Claims:

- County General - \$488,503.79
- Courts - \$2,067.17
- Highway - \$85,610.61
- Sheriff - \$45,178.56
- Payroll – November 14, 2014 in the amount of \$294,986.84

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

Meetings Announced – Commissioner Bottoms made a motion to hold an Executive Session on Thursday, November 20th, 2014 at 5:00 PM to interview applicants for the position of a new EMS Director, and a Special Session on Monday November 24th, 2014 at 9:30 AM to appoint a new EMS Director, seconded by Commissioner Bledsoe. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Bottoms also announced that on December 29th at 1:00 PM in the Circuit Court courtroom of the Courthouse, the swearing in of the newly elected and reelected county officials will be held, with Judge Penrod presiding.

Coal Mine Road – The County Engineer and Commissioner Bledsoe announced that Coal Mine Road is now opened after many weeks of repair on Bridge 235.

Department Reports: None

Old Business: None

New Business:

- FMLA for EMS Employee – Commissioner Bledsoe made a motion to approve an FMLA leave for an EMS employee, seconded by Commissioner Bottoms. Motion carried 3-0.
- EMS Director Dan Alvey announced that the ambulance involved in an accident, will be back in use on November 24th, 2014.
- Resolution 2014-04 – Commissioner Bottoms made a motion to pass Resolution 2014-04, a RESOLUTION TO PURCHASE REAL ESTATE on NORTH MAIN STREET in PRINCETON INDIANA, seconded by Commissioner Bledsoe. Motion carried 3-0. This property is located at 214 N Main Street in Princeton Indiana and the purchase price is \$101,000.00. This property adjoins other properties already owned by the County and will be used for offices and storage and possible future construction.
- Soil & Water Conservation District presents Storm Water Pollution & Prevention Plans Tabitha Anthis, representing the Gibson County Soil & Water Conservation District spoke to the Commissioners about storm water pollution & prevention plans. The first reading of an adopted fee schedule and permit requirements was presented. A decision will be made at the December 30th, 2014 Commissioners meeting or possibly the first meeting in January 2015.
- Peabody Road Closing Hearing – 1250 E for 3 years; 850 S for 3 years; 1300 E for 5 years plus two crossings. For approximately forty-five minutes, several concerned citizens of Gibson County spoke before the Commissioners, for and against the road closing requests in the Barton Township area. Many great points and comments were made. After a very orderly discussion, President Douglas closed the hearing for public comments.
- Commissioner Douglas- What I've been asked for is a ten minute recess for the Commissioners to deliberate on this a little bit, so if you will allow us, is that possible, Mr. McDonald? Mr. McDonald said no. You can recess and go to the bathroom and come back but you cannot deliberate. Mr. Douglas - Alright, very good, I don't have a problem with that. OK, we'll move right on. What we are down to now is a decision upon the Commissioners pertaining to the road closures of proposals of the Peabody Coal. I ask my colleagues if they have any comments or anything else they'd like to address. Commissioner Bottoms –Mr. Chairman, I would like to say that there's been a lot of people here that have sacrificed a lot. I personally worked at seven different mines. My Great Grandfather was killed underground. My Grandfather was permanently injured underground. My uncle has black lung and I lost a job going into Vanderburgh County because they outlawed strip mining many years ago, so I am in understanding a little bit of the situation.

Commissioner Douglas-Do you have any comments, Mr. Bledsoe? Mr. Bledsoe-No. Mr. Douglas-OK. Mr. Bledsoe - I think that in the last three weeks probably I have received

unbelievable amount of calls. I've talked to employees of the mine, I've talked to citizens of Gibson County, a lot and there is two sides to this story and so a decision up here has to be made what I hope that the commissioners look at is what is going on now and what is going on down the road and future. This is long term decisions that we make up here, and it will change Barton Township either way that we go. I'll make a motion, that now this is going to be lengthy so I'll explain after it's over with. A motion to close 1250 E, North of 850 S, with the agreement 1100 E is opened back up. Now safety concerns with 1100 E, the reason I want 1100 E opened back up, it was closed for a normal about amount of time, by the Commissioners and it hasn't ever been opened back up. So there is problems with opening that back up with the embankments on the side, so that would have to be cleared and opened up with sides and I think the coal mine understands what I am talking about. 1100 will be opened with a crossing under the supervision of the Gibson County Highway Superintendent. And I think crossings have to be updated for the times. A lot of these crossings that we have up there now, in my opinion need to be lighted. They need warning lights coming up approaching to those crossings, and the crossings have to be made with a hard surface that cross, concrete or asphalt both ways. And not just at the crossing but the approaches to the crossing. So, so many feet before you get to the crossing and after you leave the crossing and the same thing on the coal mine side. That way when they scrape the muck, as I call it, off of that, they scrape down the road farther than the crossing whatever the hard surface is laid and the same thing where the mine comes across scrape both ways. Also under the motion the County agrees to a crossing on 850 S under these new requirements of crossings, surfaces, and lights. Also this motion 850 S and 1300 E will not be mined and will be left open to traffic. Mr. Bottoms - second the motion Mr. Chairman. Mr. Douglas - We have a motion by Mr. Bledsoe, a second by Mr. Bottoms of the closing 1250 E if I understand it right, opening of 1100 E. Mr. Bledsoe - I think the coal mine said that they would only have that closed for three years and then build it back. Mr. Douglas - 1250 E in their original proposal was three years. Yes. And then crossing under the supervision of the Highway Department with concrete or asphalt at the x amount of feet of crossing, is that correct as to what your statement was? Mr. Bledsoe - Right and what I'm saying is probably 75 feet before you get to the crossing and 75 feet after and the same thing on the mine side. Mr. Douglas- and that you would not close 850 N or 1300, is that correct? Mr. Bledsoe - Not close 1300 E or 850 S, so the only road that would be closed in this agreement would be 1250 E, and just that short section of dead end, that would be north of 850 S only. Mr. Douglas - We got the motion by Mr. Bledsoe, seconded by Mr. Bottoms, I question the motion, this could change though some of this road agreement in all probability. Mr. Bottoms-The motion is made. Mr. McDonald-The motion is made. Mr. Douglas-I understand, I just, OK. We have a motion, all in favor signify by saying aye. Mr. Bledsoe and Mr. Bottoms said aye. Mr. Douglas opposed. Mr. Douglas - That is the motion, that is statements made.

Anyone else here for any other purpose other than what we've been discussing this evening.

If not I'll entertain a motion to adjourn. Mr. Bottoms - Motion to adjourn Mr. Chairman. Mr. Bledsoe - seconded. Mr. Douglas - We have a motion by Mr. Bottoms seconded by

Mr. Bledsoe to adjourn. All in favor signify for saying aye. All said aye. Mr. Douglas – well I want to thank you all for coming. I want to thank you all for being so very orderly. With no further business, Commissioner Bledsoe adjourned the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Bottoms. Motion carried 3-0.



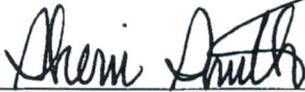
Alan Douglas, President



Gerald Bledsoe, Vice-President



Stephen E. Bottoms, Commissioner



ATTEST: Sherri Smith, Auditor