

TIPTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING: February 12, 2024
REGULAR MEETING:

The Tipton County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Sessions on Monday, February 12, 2024, 9:00 a.m. Those in attendance were Dennis Henderson, Tracey Powell, Nancy Cline, and County Attorney, Mark Regnier.

Others Present: Judge Tom Lett, Bill Steen, Melissa Pickering, Mike Cline, Kreigh Smith, Louis Wolford, Colleen Wolford, Dick Klein, Jim Ankrum, Steve Brown, Brian Pickering, Bret Morris, Abbie Smith, Rich Vautaw, Danielle Majors, Matt Tebbe, Allison Bordeaux, Tonya Prifogle, Meg Bradley, Whitney Huff

The meeting was opened with a word of prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance was offered by Commissioner, Pastor Brown from Normanda Christian Church.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

The previous meeting minutes were tabled until a review is conducted.

IN THE MATTER OF CLAIMS AND REPORTS:

The Payroll and Operating Claims were presented as follows:

Payroll Claims: The Commissioners' Payroll claims in the amount of \$216,229.62, for payment on 2-16-24, were submitted and approved as presented on a motion by Commissioner Cline and seconded by Commissioner Powell. The motion carried.

Early Docket: Drain maintenance in the sum of 37,306.90. The early docket was approved on a motion by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner Cline. The motion carried.

Operating Claims: The Commissioners' Operating claims for payment on 2.12.2024, in the amount of \$244,619.30, were submitted and approved as presented on a motion by Commissioner Cline. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Powell. The motion carried.

IN THE MATTER OF DEPARTMENT BUSINESS AND REPORTS:

Tipton County Highway:

Bret Morris: Sherri Crawford needs to be made the official ADA Coordinator currently until someone else is hired. Commissioner Cline moved to approve; Commissioner Powell seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Bid opening for Bridge #26: There are three bids. The bids were in sealed envelopes and given to the commissioners. Bret directed the commissioners to the itemized proposal page (page 16). Commissioner Henderson read the bid amount for E and B Paving first. The bid is \$649, 250. Commissioner Cline read the bid for HIS Constructors. The bid is \$646,500. Commissioner Powell read the bid for Hoosier Pride Excavating. The bid is \$563,845.51. Bret Morris stated that these bids will be taken under advisement.

Commissioner Powell made a motion to allow Bret Morris to take the bids under advisement and return with a recommendation. Commissioner Cline seconded. The motion carried.

Bret Morris asked for Mark Regnier per Louie Wolford to discuss the Hamm Radio Club tower which is used by the county Highway garage. The tower provides a vital service, but it needs repair and service due to age. If the power goes out or there is an emergency, the highway department members are on their radios to alert one another of the issue. This tower is used to assist with power to the radios. The antenna is 60 feet up the tower. There is a liability issue if a repair person is on the tower completing repairs. There is no county employee available to complete repairs if needed. Mark Regnier discussed the issue with an insurance advisor. It was suggested that the county hire that person who is in the business of repairing radios since that business has insurance. Mark will discuss this issue with Louie Wolford and bring a recommendation back to the Board of Commissioners.

Louie Wolford: There are three repeaters in the county: Tri Central, Kempton Fire Station, and the Tipton County Highway Garage. These places are reporters for weather-related events/emergencies. The emergencies are then reported via Hamm Radio to the National Weather Service because the NWS radars do not show below 1,000 feet. This is the reason for the equipment to be in working, "top-notch" order.

Phil Beer: County Engineer: BOT Project: Doctor's Park plans are continuing to be developed. Talked with ENVOY. Going to wait until the first Commissioners' meeting in April to bring the guaranteed maximum price to make sure that everything is covered. It was decided not to attach it to city sewers at this point to keep costs down. The existing septic system is still in working order. The second plan is to work with Bill Steen in IT to get internet service and established cost of the project.

Nothing new with the courthouse and fairgrounds. Phil will send Commissioners the draft version of the fairgrounds master plan and recommendations for changes that need to be made.

Old Jail/Sheriff Residence: A company called Rebar Development would like to see what the cost would be to tear down the old part and/or the entire jail at no cost to the county. Commissioners agreed to Phil's talking with the development company and to coordinate.

Auditor Pickering: Elected Official Surety Bonds: Committee to sign.

Auditor Pickering/per Heath Moreland: Jack Wagon Car Club: There is a problem with the car club date for September 28; it was asked if the date could be changed to September 21, 2024. Commissioner Cline made the motion; Commissioner Powell seconded the motion; the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Cumulative Funds Discussion: Tabled

Meg Bradley/per Lisa Wallyn: Tipton High School Band: Lisa is asking for an annual sponsorship toward the marching band. Commissioner Cline suggested that a donation would need to be considered. Meg Bradley stated that donations are made through fundraising, donations, and sponsorships.

Sheriff Matt Tebbe/per Jail Commander: Annual Jail Report: The report details everything that transpired in 2023 including population, personnel, and agency jail inmate.

Kyle Mundell has left the position, and Ray Sheppard has taken over for him.

Dan Young was able to get a van ordered and is at American Eagle. Hoping to be here within the next couple of months.

Sheriff Tebbe discussed how the blacktop needs to be resealed, and he will take care of having that completed. It was sealed two years ago. Matt will get quotes for resealing and will bring that quote back to the commissioners for approval.

Commissioner Powell would like to discuss with Sheriff Tebbe a bill for the training of officers.

Whitney Huff: Tipton Girls Softball League: presented about the history of the league: the league is offered to ages 3-15, with a 5 and up, including up to 14 and up. There is a Spring league, pitchers' clinic, umpire clinic, indoor/Winter clinic, and an All Stars League. There are several fundraisers including a car wash at Dan Young. There is also a Spirit Wear fundraiser through Apple Group. A sponsorship form was sent to commissioners. A grant for an \$81,000 from the Tipton County Foundation has been applied for by the league.

Danielle Majors: Howard County Regional Health Fairbanks: An update on the program for mental health was given. Statistics were given.

(Insert copy of Howard Community Regional Health Fairbanks here)

There were questions from Commissioner Powell.

Allison Bordeaux (Community Fairbanks): stated that it is extremely important to have transparency. The biggest thing happening at the state level is centered around CCBHC (Certified Behavioral Health Clinic or Center). Community Fairbanks Behavioral Health Medicaid is the biggest payer in Tipton County.

George Heard, VP of CF, spoke last year about House Bill 1004. This bill has had a significant impact on the six big non-for-profit hospitals.

“What’s Up”: March 11.

Attorney Comments:

Mark Regnier: Mike Terry, President of RDC wanted it announced that the Feb. 21st.at 6:30 PM. Want to talk about the BOT project and other topics. Also wants this to be a joint meeting with the Council and the Commissioners.

Mark also discussed a resolution on the soccer fields. No discussion other than action could be taken at the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Terry Connelly: Agendas to be posted in a more timely manner so that public may be more engaged. He would also like to have more detail on the Cumulative Funds. He stated that he believed this sounded as though this involved a tax raise, so he would like more information on that. Federal funding for mental health is important and to take it seriously.

A motion to close public comment was made by Commissioner Cline and seconded by Commissioner Powell. The motion carried.

COMMISSIONER’S COMMENTS:

Commissioner Henderson stated that advertising for lawn mowing contracts needs to occur before the first March meeting. The committee will advertise that. Mark Regnier will look to see how this was completed last year. Commissioner Powell made a motion to advertise for mowing bids. Commissioner Cline seconded. The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned on a motion made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner Cline. The motion carried.

Approved this 12th day of February, 2024.

Dennis Henderson, President

Nancy Cline, Vice President

Tracey Powell, Commissioner

Attest:

Melissa Pickering, Tipton County Auditor and
Secretary to the Board of Commissioners
Meeting Minutes of February 12, 2024
MP (JPW)