Be It Remembered that the Greene County

Board of Commissioners met in Regular

Session on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at

9:30 a.m. in the Commissioners’ Room on

the third floor of the Courthouse.

The meeting was called to order by Nathan Abrams.

The Pledge of Allegiance opened the meeting.

Those present were Nathan Abrams, Ed Michael, Rick Graves, and County Attorney, Marvin Abshire.

**Re: Minutes**

Ed Michael moved, and Rick Graves seconded, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on January 16, 2024. Motion passed 3-0.

**Re: Claims**

Ed Michael moved, and Rick Graves seconded, to approve the claims submitted for Tuesday, February 6, 2024. Motion passed 3-0.

**Re: Payroll**

Ed Michael moved, and Rick Graves seconded, to approve the payroll submitted for Friday, January 26, 2024. Motion passed 3-0.

**Re: Community Corrections (Excess Vehicle Sale)**

Community Corrections Director Lynn Wininger requested permission to advertise and sell a surplus vehicle, namely: 2006 Chevy Tahoe Z-71, 126,000 miles, for a minimum bid of $6,500.00. Rick Graves moved, and Ed Michael seconded, to approve the advertisement and sale of said surplus vehicle. Motion passed 3-0.

**Re: Bloomfield First Baptist Church**

Bob Weeks appeared before the Commissioners representing Bloomfield First Baptist Church. Mr. Weeks noted with the daycare no longer occupying the Christian Life Center (CLC) at the First Baptist Church, the church is reaching out to various organizations to see if there are any needs of the county that aren’t being met due to a lack of facility. He is requesting any charitable-type organization in need of a facility to reach out to Bloomfield First Baptist Church for the church council’s consideration. The Commissioners expressed their thanks for the offer.

**2023 Salary Report**

Commissioner Nathan Abrams noted that the 2023 Wage Report for Greene County has been published and acknowledged as required.

**2023 Receipts and Disbursement Reports**

Commissioner Nathan Abrams noted the Greene County 2023 Annual Financial Report of Receipts and Disbursements for Greene County has been published and acknowledged as required.

**Hamilton Center- Annual Report**

Director of Hamilton Center South Matt Hayes summarized the required annual report for 2023.

Financial data points from Greene County’s tax support of $177,518.00 are as follows.

* Charity care of $124,803.00 was provided.
* Salary and benefits for employees including 23 employees who live in Greene County cost $1.1M.
* Hamilton Center incurs $660,000.00 in annual expenses.
* Greene County in-patient care expense was $202,000.00.
* Total expenditure for Greene County was $2M.

Highlights of the report are as follows:

* 1,255 consumers have been served in Greene County.
* 215 people received substance use treatment in Greene County. The number one stimulant is meth.
* The number one diagnosis in youth is trauma and stressor related disorders.
* The number one diagnosis in adults is depressive disorder.

Matt Hayes closed with a statement that the biggest obstacle facing Hamilton Center is a shortage of providers.

**Re: Commissioner Board Appointments**

* Ed Michael moved, and Rick Graves seconded, to reappoint Stephen Schantz, Thomas Pafford, and Tim Barker to the Greene County Building Corporation. Motion passed 3-0.
* Rick Graves moved, and Ed Michael seconded, to reappoint Dr. Paul Dunkerly, Maureen Strong, Dr. Owen Batterton, Shari Hostetter, and Patti Jones to the Health Board. Motion passed 3-0.

**Re: Economic Development-Brianne Jerrels**

Greene County Economic Development Director Brianne Jerrels provided her focus goals for 2024.

1. Increase marketing for business retention expansion.

1. Expand relationships with the Ag community and elected officials in cities and towns.
2. Increase small business entrepreneurship, youth retention, housing, childcare, and broadband.

**Re: County Attorney**

Marvin Abshire noted receipt of Wolfe Construction Company of Vincennes, Inc. performance and payment bonds and certificate of insurance. A Notice to Proceed for the Greene County Community Event Center addition and renovation is ready for signature at the conclusion of the meeting.

**Re: Discussion Items: County-Wide Broadband**

Nathan Abrams reported the County has been approached by a developer with a promise to provide fiber optic broadband to every household in Greene County. One of the main questions is how the county would provide its portion of the project.

Marvin Abshire noted three major funding options:

1. Personal property abatement for company to be approved by the County Council.
2. Creation of an infrastructure development zone. Creation of an IDZ falls under the authority of the Commissioners as opposed to the Redevelopment Commission and would identify an infrastructure zone and infrastructure focus. Private investment made in the zone, in the specified infrastructure category, results in a 100% abatement of personal property tax on the investment. Marvin’s opinion is that this is probably not the right choice for now.
3. Spider TIF. If you think about how electrical lines and fiber optic lines run, they basically look like a spider web. The idea behind the spider TIF is to create an economic development area wherever the lines are installed, along the backbone as well as any laterals. Because of the spider TIF, the county would recover the taxes through the Redevelopment Commission and then the Redevelopment Commission could essentially enter into a financial agreement with a developer to route tax collections back to the developer to replace what they have paid for the development. Marvin recommended this approach.

Marvin Abshire presented Resolution No. 2024-03, “A Resolution to Encourage Development of Fiber Optic Broadband Infrastructure Throughout Greene County”. The Resolution states the Commissioners seek a reliable developer of that infrastructure to invest in the County. The Commissioners will work closely with the Greene County Redevelopment Commission (RDC) and will strongly encourage and urge the RDC to establish a tax increment finance district limited to the fiber optic broadband backbone and to a distance of one mile on either side of said backbone to cover installation of laterals. After extended discussion, Rick Graves moved, and Ed Michael seconded to approve Resolution No. 2024-03 as presented. Motion passed 3-0.

**Re: Elected Official Comments**

Sheriff George Dallaire provided the Commissioners with an annual letter on the current jail conditions consistent with statutory requirements. Sheriff Dallaire further noted the annual jail inspection went very well. During the inspection it was suggested the department update its staffing analysis since the last one was completed in 2017. The department is working toward that.

Sheriff Dallaire further reported the walk-in cooler equipment replacement is complete and working well.

Health Department Administrator Shari Lewis reported she has returned from leave on an interim basis and will officially return on February 16, 2024. The Health Department has safe solar glasses for the eclipse. The Health Department also has Narcan and fentanyl strips for the Sheriff’s Department. Shari Lewis will be meeting with EMA Director Roger Axe and other departments tomorrow regarding the eclipse so that they can all pull their resources together.

**Re: Public Comments**

George Ferree, a resident of South of Linton, District 3, requested consideration to repave 2nd Street, 3rd Street, 4th Street, and 5th Street in Linton at the intersections with Baseline Road. Mr. Ferree reported the roads have not been paved since 1980 and are 10 feet wide. Rick Graves noted all funds are obligated for 2024, but he will address the request at the next meeting with the Highway Department when looking at 2025 projects.

Commissioner Ed Michael reported that Crane base near the Burns City gate area will be conducting annual training exercises on February 9, 2024, and February 21, 2024, resulting in loud noises from aircraft and pyrotechnics. Ed Michael further noted throughout the month there will be various training exercises taking place at Crane base which may result in gate traffic delays.

There being no further business to come before the board, Ed Michael moved, and Rick Graves seconded, to adjourn. Motion passed 3-0.

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Nathan L. Abrams Edward L. Michael Rick Graves

Lori D. Dickinson, Chief Deputy Auditor