

**BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**August 18, 2020**

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Representing:</b>	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Present:</b>
Matt Miller	At Large	President	Present
Bill Lentz	At Large		Not - Present
Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence	At Large		Present
R. Scott Bonnell	District 1	Pro-Tem	Present
Laura DeDomenic	District 2		Present
Mark E. Gorbett	District 3		Zoom
Jorge R. Morales	District 4		Present
Chris Monroe	- -	Attorney	Zoom
Pia O'Connor	Auditor	Secretary	Zoom

Additional people in physical attendance of the meeting were:

IT Director Scott Mayes	County Treasurer Barb Hackman
Veteran's Service Officer Larry Garrity	County Engineer Danny Hollander
Park Board Treasurer Dave Apple	

Additional people in "Zoom" attendance of the meeting were:

Chief Deputy Auditor Dalene Pattingill	Auditor's Tax Administrator Chris West
County Assessor Ginny Whipple	County Recorder Tami Hines
County Treasurer Barb Hackman	Karen Niverson, Visitors Center
County Parks Director Rich Day	VIP President Josh Burnett
Park Board President Dennis Pierce	VIP Treasurer Nick Sprague
SWMA Director Heather Siesel	SWMA Controller Diana Hodnett
Mark Webber, The Republic	

The Bartholomew County Council reconvened on August 18, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. in the County Commissioners Chambers of the Governmental Office Building, 440 Third Street, Columbus, Indiana.

President Miller reconvened the meeting.

**Information Technology (1000-41)** – as presented by IT Director Scott Mayes.

Director Mayes stated that they are still trying to determine what the new level of Normal will be. So far he has been able to continue on with his 10-year plans. He is trying to plan so that he can avoid large spikes in his budgets, keeping his budget on a more even trend yearly. Mark Gorbett asked if he had included additional money for the body/car cameras. Director Mayes stated he has not as they believe it is covered or paid for by the Sheriff. With COVID, county government has become much more of a mobile environment. Going forward, he will be purchasing laptops instead of desktops/zero clients. This will allow the employees to work in the field or at home if the situation arises. He does have to keep the licensing costs in control and that means replacing the systems with laptops, not adding laptops in addition to the desktop/zero clients. His biggest challenge has been keeping up with the work. A work queue is great but he has to watch how deep that queue gets. There are some departments that are happy with their turnaround times and some that are not. He has added some contract labor. He did lose Spencer Kindred as he is pursuing his own personal IT business. It will be a challenge to replace/train a new person. He relies on the elected officials'/department heads as to whether they are meeting the needs of the County in a timely manner. He did not add a staff member to his budget as he tried to keep it flat as requested. Jorge Morales asked if he could increase the consulting money to help out until he can figure out how many people that he will need. He has left his consulting money alone so that is an option. He thanked Tina Jeffries, Carolyn Massengale, Dalene Pattingill

and Auditor Pia O'Connor for their help with his claims and other items. Jorge Morales asked if IT could support the additional software that was requested by Assessor Whipple yesterday. Director Mayes stated that he is aware that she was looking for software but he has not had any updates as to the software or that she had made a choice. He explained that they use the Data Board to determine purchasing of new software. The IT Department first evaluates the cyber safety concerns and then the impact on the system. He tells offices that if the software is Cloud based and states that they do not need our IT Department then he tells them to go for it. Assessor Whipple stated that she had told Director Mayes about the software Engage and she had invited him to a demo of it. She was told that he didn't need anything more about it until she had the funding approved through the Council. She will get him the information this week for his review prior to Friday for the Council. Jorge Morales stated that we had recently purchased a new phone system and it has been down several times since installation. Director Mayes stated that they have a backup internet provider for the phone system. Right now, one of the internet providers is not playing well with the phone system. They have had issues with a glitch in one provider and the other provider then is having issues with the phones. Jorge Morales still believes that they need to increase his consultant line item so he has the time and manpower to continue to grow. He stated that Director Mayes has helped him to connect with his private equipment in order for him to be able to continue to do work for the County. He is questioning that instead of a \$58,000 decrease, should that money be put back into the consultant line item. Mark Gorbett stated that the Data Board is where that runs through and if he had an issue then it

would come through there. R. Scott Bonnell asked if they were still trying to replace the open position. Director Mayes stated they are in the process. He noted that he sends out questionnaires in March or April to find out each departments technology needs for the following years. This year he only received 5 replies out of all the departments. He knows there will be more requests next year than just these 5 departments. Jorge R. Morales is just concerned they will be back in the middle of next year. Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence stated that Director Mayes is doing what was requested of him from the Council and the Auditor. President Miller asked about the difference in the \$1,000 laptop prices for the Council but \$2,000 for a laptop for the Coroner. Director Mayes stated that it is based on the tasks that will be done with that computer. The Coroner was wanting to run programs with detailed graphics. He also noted that the \$7,000 for the Council's 7 laptops were actually purchased with CARES Act money just this week so he can remove that amount from his 2021 budget. Jorge Morales thanked him for the work that he has done and feels comfortable with his budget. He hopes to hear back from him and Assessor Whipple regarding her software request. Laura DeDomenic thanked him for keeping his budget flat. Mark Gorbett asked him to look at the ongoing maintenance for the software the Assessor is looking at. It is \$12,000 a year. Please check on that. Laura DeDomenic asked him to also see if there wasn't a cheaper software to accomplish the same end result.

**Veteran's Office (1000-27)** – as presented by Veteran's Service Officer Larry Garrity. VSO Garrity had left most things as they were last year. He added funding for the burial of service officers as they have had quite a few this year. R. Scott Bonnell asked

if a \$1,000 increase is enough. VSO Garrity stated that it probably needs to be \$45,000 but he is trying to do as much as he can for as little as he can. Mark Gorbett asked about the numbers in the Changes columns. Auditor O'Connor stated that she had removed raises that were in the request. VSO Garrity has become Nationally Accredited to allow him more access to the ongoing process that allows him to provide more information to his Veteran's. His assistant has come on and is getting up to speed so that if he takes a vacation, his assistant can fulfill his duties while he is gone. His assistant has already helped out greatly. They have started using "Because He Is My Brother" which uses grant money to help with Veterans needing their homes repaired.

Auditor O'Connor stated that Treasurer Hackman had just sent a revised budget for her office in which she removed all the raises except for her Chief Deputy.

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**Treasurer's Office (1000-03)** – as presented by Treasurer Barb Hackman. She reached out to the other County Treasurer's and received 27 responses. She is requesting 80% of her salary for her Chief Deputy. She changed her request by not giving herself or other employees raises, only her Chief Deputy. She also noted that only 1 of the 27 counties that responded actually work 40 hour weeks. The other counties work 35 hours per week so they are paid a higher per hour rate based on that. The Chief Deputy pay is the main change. The remainder of her budget has changed enough to offset the increase in the pay. Her budget for 2021 is actually slightly less than her 2020 budget. Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence stated that she had received a call stating that Mark Stamper in the

September 25, 2020

Treasurer's Office had been very helpful. Treasurer Hackman stated that they are going to do the Tax Sale via online. She is looking into getting a kiosk for taking tax payments. She has spoken with Auditor O'Connor and IT Director Mayes regarding this. The Governor's postponing of the penalty applications did work out. They are in their new office.

President Miller asked if there were any comments on the IT Budget. There were none.

**Local Roads & Streets (1169)** – as presented by Highway Engineer Danny Hollander. Engineer Hollander stated that the revenues will be down next year by roughly \$25,000. The gas tax was all over the place with the COVID lockdowns. Budget wise it is essentially the same. They took \$25,000 out of Salt & Sand as they did not use any this past winter. Contractually they had to take 80% of their order. The salt barn is packed to the door. He is doubtful they will even use the reduced amount of \$315,000 next year.

**Cumulative Bridge (1135)** – this is basically the same. He has 2 bridge projects planned for next year (188 & 189). Everything else was the same. R. Scott Bonnell asked if the maintenance and repairs stay the same. Engineer Hollander stated it does generally.

**Highway (1176)** – this fund had restrictions put on it by the State requiring 50% be spent on road preservation. This is becoming a real issue. He distributed a handout showing the issues. He will email a copy to the Auditor. It is not the 50% for the road preservation. He stated that it is the other half that is not meeting the needs of the salaries, insurance, equipment or other items. For 2020, \$2,200,000 was needed not for roads but

the income at 50% was only \$1,700,000. Some of the labor can be used for road preservation such as chip seal. He is estimating \$300,000 of labor can be used paid out of the road preservation portion. The Commissioners are helping in 2020 with \$300,000 from CEDIT. He has been told that they will not be able to help in 2021 with CEDIT Funding. Jorge Morales asked if the State has to live under the same rules. It is unknown. Matt Miller stated that it reads like the State is giving us less money and more unfunded mandates. Engineer Hollander has talked with the State Legislatures but he gets the standard answer. The Commissioners sent letters to all of them that it needs to change. In 2020, he had revenues of \$3,600,000 but they are projecting \$3,000,000 for 2021. His budget is bare bones. His only place to cut would be pavement, which leave him no flexibility for anything. At the end of the year, he will have cash, but they won't be able to pay the bills that will need to be paid. Road Preservation is road maintenance. They pave or chip & seal. They do not count filling pot holes, trees down in the road or plowing snow from the roads as "preservation" of the roads, yet they are. Jorge Morales would be willing to email a form letter to the Legislatures if Engineer Hollander would put the letter together for them. Engineer Hollander did that for the Commissioners. He will email that letter to the Auditor for the Council members. The City has the same rules but they have different funds that they can use and they do not rely as heavily on the MVH funding. Laura DeDomenic stated that the Mayor and the Schools have representatives on the Economic Development board and if they are all together on this issue maybe something can get taken care of. The AIC is onboard but they have no support to remove it

completely. They are going to try to change the percentage from 50/50 to 25/75 with 25% for preservation. Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence asked about Bridge 188 & 189 on 400 W, is that because of the new addition? Engineer Hollander stated that is past SR 58. There are 2 bridges very close and he is doing them as one project. There was a question regarding whether a subdivision was going in at Tannehill Road and 250 W. Engineer Hollander stated that is Jim Puckett's property and he is doing a lot of clearing of trees but there has been no communication regarding any development. There was discussion regarding a road off of Goeller Road and whether it was City or County. Engineer Hollander stated that some that is City and some of it is County. There is a project in development for that to connect the 2 areas of Tipton Lakes to SR 46.

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**SWMA** – as presented by Director Heather Siesel and Controller Diana Hodnett. A handout was distributed. Director Siesel stated that the major increases in the budget were for a new cell construction and recycling. The last cell construction was in 2015 for \$4,300,000. She stated that in the 100's, there are no increases. They did leave the Loyalty Pay in. The packet includes their Salary Resolution. They are asking for a slight increase in one position at the landfill. They have 2 positions that do the same work but are paid \$0.42 difference per hour. That would be a little over \$1,000 for the year. The only other change is Salary line for Saturday for the Convenience Stations. This would replace contracted staff. It will reduce the cost overall by going back to this process as they use to do it. It will save them a transportation fee as well. There is a slight increase in the



Differential pay. They did increase PERF a little as they are running tight in the 2020 budget. The total for the 100's is \$1,103,129. There were no changes in the 200's from last year. In the 300's, they have several increases. (they were having delayed updates on their (SWMA) end). They did bump up the Legal Services as they are reviewing their Personnel Policies. No increase in the Landfill Services. Due to the new Cell Construction, they have increased the Engineering Services. Recycling line items have also increased. They need a new cardboard truck, but they are going to hold off on that for this year. The total for the 300's is \$2,136,800 which is an increase over the \$1,978,500. Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence asked if there is a place to recycle computers and such. Director Siesel stated they do that at the landfill but they do have to charge for monitors and televisions. Laura DeDomenic asked about the cardboard recycling. She has a building in town that the cardboard container was taken away. Director Siesel stated that it should not have been removed without notice. She will follow up with Jessica regarding this issue. In the 400's, there are a few changes. In machinery and equipment, they requested computers and copiers as well as construction of fiber optics to the site in 2020. This will be encumbered from 2020 to 2021. They added \$8,000 for repairs to the current cardboard truck. The big increase is for the new cell construction of 4.5 acres. This is a larger area than has been done and thus it is a little more expensive. The total for the 400's is \$1,282,300 over the 2020 amount of \$294,300. The total SWMA budget is \$4,643,902 which is an increase over the 2020 amount of \$3,459,929. Laura DeDomenic asked about the building

improvement line items. Director Siesel stated those are continuous maintenance of the buildings and the numbers have stayed the same over the past years.

The Council discussed the Veteran's Office. There were no issues with this budget. As to the Treasurer's Office, Jorge Morales stated the only thing is the Chief Deputy's salary. Mark Gorbett is okay with the 80% for the Chief Deputies. He is concerned with the Clerk's Office raising the Chief and Office Manager by 80%. Laura DeDomenic agrees that the Office Manager should be in line with the Court Office Managers, not the Chief Deputy. As far as the Highway, there were no changes. There were questions regarding the SWMA and raises. Auditor O'Connor stated that they have their own City/County Board that controls them. R. Scott Bonnell sits on this board. He was not at their budget meeting. Chief Deputy Pattingill will review this before tomorrow's meeting.

**Park Board (1000-25)** – as presented in person by Dave Apple. They left pay the same as requested. Utilities have been increased. Ash Tree removal is an ongoing project. They increased machinery and equipment. They have one field at Dunn Stadium that needs to have the lighting updated. Other than the \$60,000 for the lighting, the budget only increased by \$1,477. They have had a lot of people at Anderson Falls. Heflin Park has been full since it was opened. They are having tournaments start back at Dunn. The lighting at Dunn is for an upgrade. Clifford is creating a Pollinator Park that is being done by a Grant from Cummins, but it has been pushed back due to COVID. County Park Director Rich Day (via Zoom) stated that they had Lumen test done at Dunn. It should be between 15 to 20 Lumens per area. On this field they are getting Lumens of 4 to 8. A local

company came in with a bid to do the one field for \$60,400. They would like to do one field a year. Auditor O'Connor told the Park Board to keep this request in their budget as they bring in revenue and this project will enhance the area. Mr. Apple stated that they have needs of upgrading playground equipment to ADA compliancy. They are looking for grants and other funding but most of which require matching funds. They will need another truck and probably another mower. In the non-reverting fund, they have \$114,000. The new mower will probably cost \$45,000 to \$50,000. They may not need to purchase the mower, but they do need another truck. The ADA playgrounds is what they need to work on and this money can be used as the match for those grants. The vandalism has gone down greatly over the past year according to Director Day. Sometime later this month, there will be the largest BMX meet in the area at the track. They are working with the group on the buildings. Laura DeDomenic asked about the County's Liability with the BMX. It was stated that it is all covered through the BMX, the same as it is with the softball tournaments. Director Day stated that the outer parks are being used for softball/baseball practices. Wayne Park is getting a lot of use for this. Mark Gorbett asked if the \$60,000 is for each field each year. Director Day stated that is the plan. They want to start with the worse field first. Going with LED's will save money as well. They do hope to do one a year over the next 4 years.

Auditor O'Connor asked Karen Niverson if she had any presentation to be shown. Ms. Niverson stated she did not.

Chief Deputy Pattingill stated that she had confirmed with SWMA Director Siesel that they do follow suit with the County regarding wages and salaries.

**VIP (1127)** – as presented by Karen Niverson of the Visitors Center, VIP Treasurer Nick Sprague and VIP President Josh Burnett. Karen Niverson stated that the 2021 Budget is very similar to the 2020 Budget. It is a budget up to \$1,400,000 based on the Inn Keeper's Tax. It is contingent on the amount being collected. It is apparent that they will not collect \$1,400,000 as they have in past years. They understand that they will have to work within the money they do receive. Jorge Morales asked how they are doing that. Ms. Niverson stated that they have furloughed the hourly staff and have the salaried staff filling in. They had a staff of 19 pre-COVID and are now operating with 8 staff. They have done several other cuts, including not replenishing inventories. Treasurer Sprague spoke to the hotel losses due to COVID. They were hoping it would only be a few weeks of issues. March and April were historically the worst months they have had in the industry. Some hotels have shut down due to the loss of business. He stated that things have improved since then. Nationally, he believes occupancy is around 50%. Ms. Niverson stated that the report came out today and Bartholomew County is right at 52% for July. Last year in July it was 73.5%. Year to date to the end of July is 37% for 2020 while it was 67% in 2019. year to date was 67%. Treasurer Sprague stated that business travel is still non-existent. He is hearing that type of travel may not come back until the first or second quarter of next year. He believes it will take several years to back to pre-COVID numbers. They want to be able to spread the word about Columbus, but if the money is not there,

they cannot give it out. Jorge Morales asked what the total income of 2020 are they expecting to receive. It was stated that it could be 30% to 50% less than the anticipated \$1,400,000. Ms. Niverson stated she is expecting around \$800,000 to \$850,000 for the year. Jorge Morales asked how they could approve a budget of \$1,400,000 if they are expecting only \$800,000. Laura DeDomenic stated that it is “up to” that amount. If the numbers rebound, then they would have the \$1,400,000. If it only generates \$800,000, then they will only receive \$800,000. Treasurer Sprague hopes they are over \$1,000,000 next year, but that is yet to be seen. Ms. Niverson stated the \$1,400,000 is a placeholder so that they do not lose track of what a good, solid destination marketing budget should be.

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**VIP** – Jorge Morales stated that he is concerned with the Visitor’s Center. They have been told that the Council has no say in their budget. We are to just give them the money that is collected. The best number he has heard is \$850,000 for 2020. He wants to give them the amount that he has heard, not the amount that they will not be getting. Mark Gorbett stated that the \$850,000 is for 2020, not 2021. Historically, they have received \$1,400,000. You can only assume a better year next year. Laura DeDomenic asked if he is suggesting that we base the County budget on a worst case scenario. Jorge R. Morales stated no. Laura DeDomenic stated that the County and the VIP kept their budget flat. Mark Gorbett asked if they reduce it by 50%, then the furloughed employees would be fired. R. Scott Bonnell stated that the Visitors Center has laid off all their personnel that they can at this time. Jorge R. Morales stated that they only have authority over the Inn

Keeper's Tax. They have no authority over the Visitor Center. He stated that they looked into this years ago because they were not interested in giving money to Hope. He is proposing that they get a better projection for next year and approve only that amount. He believes they have not done their job by not adjusting the amount that they expect to receive from the Inn Keeper's Tax. He stated that if they miss the projection and there is more money, they can come back next year when that happens and grant them that additional money. Mark Gorbett stated that he heard that they need to have them back with a projection for next year. President Miller stated that he would call them and have them come back at 1:45 on Thursday to provide better estimates of revenue.

**Park Board** – the only issue was the lights. They are okay with the lights as it will end up in additional revenue to the County as well as saving money with the LED lighting. Jorge Morales stated that Turtle Bay cut their expenses in half by going to LED's.

Salaries are the only thing still hanging out at this point. Regarding the Chief Deputies, they like being consistent with the 80% of the elected officials. Auditor O'Connor and Chief Deputy Pattingill showed a sheet with the Chief Deputy changes at 80%. Chief Deputy Pattingill showed the Office Manager and Voter's Supervisor with the other pay rate of the Court House Office Managers. The Commissioners are requesting that their Administrator be paid in accordance with the Chief Deputies. President Miller asked if we are paying as merit based or not because we are going back and forth with this issue. Jorge Morales stated that he feels the Commissioners Administrator is more of an Office Manager than a Chief Deputy. Laura DeDomenic is not in favor of independent

elected officials. They should all be treated the same. Jorge Morales does not believe they should raise the current elected officials, but the next term only. Mark Gorbett asked if they were all in agreement with the 80% for the Chief Deputies that are on the chart. Most of the members are in agreement, Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence is not in favor of it. R. Scott Bonnell stated he is in favor of bringing all the Chief Deputies to 80% because they are on the line if the Elected Officials are incapacitated. It was clarified that it would be only the ones that were requested as they did last year. President Miller stated that he is good with what is currently on the screen. They started this last year and anticipated this would happen this year. President Miller stated that if they agree to a county wide pay increase, then these numbers will stay the same. A 3% pay changes the matrix pays as well. Mark Gorbett stated that the years of service determine which level of the matrix you fall into. Jorge R. Morales stated that we have decided not to give raises. It was stated that decision has not been made and won't be until the end of Thursday or Friday. Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence is concerned with the days off that the employees receive. Chris West stated that you are trying to compare time off to business but County employee pay is not being compared to the same business pay. Regarding the Office Manager for the Clerk's Office, Auditor O'Connor stated that they should bring Clerk Phelps back in for a better explanation of the job descriptions of the Chief Deputy, Office Manager and Voter's Supervisor. She believes the Office Manager runs the office while the Chief Deputy is more of a special projects person. It was stated that the Assessor's Chief Deputy is working on special projects. Mark Gorbett stated that he has a hard time telling the Clerk no as he

has come in every year and done what was asked. President Miller agrees but once he is gone, that amount is still there and who knows how that office will be run with someone else in charge. Laura DeDomenic asked if we have given bigger raises than other employees to the Clerk's Office Manager and Chief Deputy in the past year. Chief Deputy Pattingill will get that information.

President Miller will call the VIP and Clerk Phelps to come back on Thursday at 1:45 and explain to them what they are looking for.

Motion to recess by Laura DeDomenic and seconded by Jorge R. Morales which passes unanimously.

**BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY COUNCIL**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Matt Miller, President

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Bill Lentz, Pro-Tem

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
R. Scott Bonnell, Member

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence, Member

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jorge R. Morales, Member

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Laura DeDomenic, Member



September 25, 2020

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mark E. Gorbett, Member

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Pia O'Connor, Auditor  
Bartholomew County