

May 13, 2021

**BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY COUNCIL**

**April 13, 2021**

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

Additional people in physical attendance of the meeting were:

IT Director Scott Mayes	Commissioner Kleinhenz
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Additional people in "Zoom" attendance of the meeting were:

Chief Deputy Auditor Dalene Pattingill	Auditor's Tax Administrator Chris West
Engineer Danny Hollander	Comm. Corrections Director Brad Barnes
Recorder Tami Hines	Judge Jon Rohde
Barney Quick, QMix	Mark Webber, The Republic

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The Bartholomew County Council met on April 13, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Governmental Office Building, 440 Third Street, Columbus, Indiana.

President Bonnell called the meeting to order.

Bill Lentz gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The first item on the agenda was the approval of the meeting minutes for February 9, 2021. **Bill Lentz made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Matt Miller seconded the motion which passed unanimously (6-0).**

(Mark E. Gorbett joined the meeting via Zoom)

The next item on the agenda was the Formation of an Economic Development Commission as presented by Jason Hester, President of the Greater Columbus Indiana Economic Development. Mr. Hester stated that they have an opportunity that came to their attention. He stated that there has to be an Economic Development Commission in order to bond projects. The Commission would hold a public meeting. They would provide their findings to the Redevelopment Commission which would then go to the Council and Commissioners. The Redevelopment Commission is a 3-person commission per statute. Technically, the Commissioners appoint all 3 positions, but the Council, the Commissioners and the City Council each have a position. Jorge Morales stated that they need to appoint a person to represent the County. **Jorge R. Morales made a motion to create a County Redevelopment Commission.** Attorney Monroe stated his motion would suffice. Jorge Morales stated that they have moved slowly in the past, but now there

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has been several companies interested in the area in the last 6 months. Bill Lentz clarified that we have a Commission but this is a sub-committee that deals with bonding. Mr. Hester stated yes. He stated that this is not really a discussion about TIF. If the Redevelopment Commission is collecting funds and wants to bond, they have to have this Economic Development Commission to proceed. Jorge Morales stated that the Council has the final responsibility to approve any bonding. Bill Lentz asked about the Redevelopment Bonds, who pays the interest? Mr. Hester stated that if it is a TIF Anticipation Bond, it is based on the taxes anticipated to be collected. The payment is made by the collection of the taxes for the principal and interest. The company can purchase the bond. The bond holder collects the principal and interest. Greg Duke asked how we got to this point without creating the Economic Development Commission. Mr. Hester stated he is uncertain why it wasn't created at the same time as the Redevelopment Commission. He stated that they have had increased interests in the area. They had 4 site visits within the County TIF area and this was during a pandemic. One prospect may request a TIF Anticipation Bond to finalize the securement of this company. Jorge Morales stated that this is the first year that they will collect money and because of that, the Commission was not needed. Greg Duke asked what other County's do in this situation. Mr. Hester stated that he wouldn't venture a guess to an amount, but you would not get a warrant that would be more than the amount that you would expect to receive. Mr. Hester would hope that this would be passed tonight. The next step would be the appointment of the 3 people and they would have to be sworn in. **Mark E. Gorbett seconded the earlier motion which passed unanimously (7-0).**

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Jorge Morales stated that Roger Hackman is on the City Economic Development Commission. He would suggest that they ask Roger Hackman to serve on this Commission as well. He feels that would bring valuable information to this Commission. Mark Gorbett would like to digest this before appointing someone. Jorge Morales stated that the sooner we can do this, the better off we can be. Attorney Monroe stated that the law does not require the naming of a person tonight, however the group cannot function until the appointments are made. The term limits were stated for the 3 positions. There is a requirement of an annual organizational meeting at the first of the year and then as needed. Attorney Monroe stated that a member of the Council could serve and then resign later if they have someone else in mind for the position. Greg Duke stated he would do it. **Bill Lentz made a motion to appoint Greg Duke on the County Economic Development Commission. Matt Miller seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item on the agenda was a Request of Additional Appropriations for the Local Roads & Streets (1169) in the amount of \$812,000 for road preservation and overlay projects as presented by Highway Engineer Danny Hollander. This is his annual appropriation of unspent funds from previous year (2020). Greg Duke asked if this is a result of the expected shortfall due to legislative changes. Engineer Hollander stated it was not. That would only affect the Highway Fund. With these re-appropriations, he believes they should be fine for this year. **Mark E. Gorbett made a motion to approve the Additional Appropriation of \$812,000 as presented for the Local Roads & Streets**

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**(1169) for road preservation and overlay projects. Jorge R. Morales seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item on the agenda was a Request of Additional Appropriations for the Highway Fund (1176) in the amount of \$105,648 as presented by Highway Engineer Danny Hollander. He wants to put \$1,000 in for Office Supplies (1176-01-02-10), \$35,000 for Garage and Motor Supplies (1176-04-02-30), \$22,000 for Tractors and Mowing Equipment (1176-04-04-43) and \$47,648 for Garage Equipment (1176-04-04-46). They want to purchase a zero turn mower and a ride-on sweeper for the new garage facility. **Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence made a motion to approve the Additional Appropriation of \$105,648 as presented for the Highway Fund (1176). R. Scott Bonnell seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item on the agenda was a Request of Additional Appropriations for the Cumulative Bridge Fund (1135) in the amount of \$1,383,000 as presented by Highway Engineer Danny Hollander. He would like to place \$700,000 in Bridge 44 (1135-01040-44); \$10,000 in Bridge 188 (1135-01-41-88); \$15,190 in Bridge 189 (1135-01-41-89); \$500,000 in Bridge 278 (1135-01-42-78); and \$157,810 in Contractual Services (1135-02-03-91). **Bill Lentz made a motion to approve the Additional Appropriation of \$1,383,000 as presented for the Cumulative Bridge Fund (1135). Mark E. Gorbett seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item on the agenda was a Request of Additional Appropriations for the Drug Recovery Court (1147) in the amount of \$5,500 as presented by Community

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Corrections Director Brad Barnes. These are User Fees from the program participants. They request this when they have enough funds available. This can be used for testing supplies or other items needed for the Drug Recovery Court. **Mark E. Gorbett made a motion to approve the Additional Appropriation of \$5,500 as presented for the Drug Recovery Court (1147). Bill Lentz seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item on the agenda was a Request of Additional Appropriations for the Veteran's Treatment Court (9108) in the amount of \$9,500 as presented by Community Corrections Director Brad Barnes. This is also from User Fees. He would like to place \$500 in Other Services (9108-01-03-90); \$4,000 in Office Supplies (9108-01-02-10); and \$5,000 in Equipment (9108-01-04-10). These can be used to pay the cost for graduation ceremonies and office supplies. In the equipment line item, he needs to purchase new monitoring equipment. The monitoring equipment has changed due to the ever decreasing use of land lines. The cell towers are now changing as well and the equipment will no longer be needed with the coming tower changes. It will be a major investment and they may have to go to a "leasing" program. With the Veteran's Court, the equipment they have will continue to work for several years. Matt Miller asked how much the fee the user pays would recoup of the cost of the new equipment. Director Barnes stated that he would foresee them charging slightly more than the cost of the device itself, so that it would cover for those that cannot pay. **Mark E. Gorbett made a motion to approve the Additional Appropriation of \$9,500 as presented for the Veteran's Treatment Court (9108). Jorge R. Morales seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

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The next item on the agenda was a Request of Additional Appropriations for the Informal Adjustment/Juvenile Probation (2504) in the amount of \$5,000 as presented by Community Corrections Director Brad Barnes. These fees have accumulated over time. He would like to place \$4,000 in Other Services (2504-01-03-90) which would allow interpreters for the Spanish speaking individuals. He would like to place the remaining \$1,000 in Training (2504-01-03-10). Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence asked if the juveniles contribute to this. Director Barnes stated that this is a User Fee Fund. **Bill Lentz made a motion to approve the Additional Appropriation of \$5,000 as presented for the Informal Adjustment/Juvenile Probation (2504). Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item on the agenda was a Request of Additional Appropriations for the Emergency Court Interpreter Grant (8929) in the amount of \$4,000 as presented by Judge Jon Rohde. He has a 2-day trial coming up that will require a Chinese Mandarin Interpreter. He had requested the Grant for the amount of \$1,900. The award was for more than twice that amount at \$4,000. **Bill Lentz made a motion to approve the Additional Appropriation of \$4,000 as presented for Emergency Court Interpreter Grant (8929). Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item on the agenda was a Request of Additional Appropriations for the Jury Pay Supplement Fund (2502) in the amount of \$10,000 as presented by Judge Rohde. At the beginning of the year, the fund had \$250 budgeted. This is to cover the costs of the anticipated jury trials that may occur this year. Jorge Morales asked about the previous

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item and why we needed to provide an interpreter. Judge Rohde stated that the individual is being represented pro-bono and it is a custody case. There was much discussion and research as to whether the County was responsible for the interpreter and in the end it was determined it is the responsibility of the County to pay for the interpreter in this case. **Bill Lentz made a motion to approve the Additional Appropriation of \$10,000 as presented for Jury Pay Supplement Fund (2502). Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item on the agenda was a Request of Additional Appropriations for the Superior Court II (1000-38) in the amount of \$10,000 as presented by Judge Rohde. This request is because there is currently only \$5,000+ in the fund and he has received invoices for almost \$7,000. Most of these are expenses are from trials that occurred in 2020, but were not finalized until 2021. Of the \$10,000, he will set aside \$3,000 for appeal costs. This is due to an anticipation of an increase in appeals. **Mark E. Gorbett made a motion to approve the Additional Appropriation of \$10,000 as presented for Superior Court II (1000-38). Jorge R. Morales seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item on the agenda was a Request of Additional Appropriations for the American Rescue Plan Fund/ARP (8950) in the amount of \$16,248,421 as presented by Auditor Pia O'Connor. Auditor O'Connor stated that the American Rescue Plan will provide Bartholomew County with \$16,248,421 dollars in the form of a payment of \$8,000,000+ this May and another payment in 2022. The funding must be spent by December 31, 2024 or the remaining funds will revert back to the Federal Government.



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Yesterday, the Commissioners created a fund for this money. We have to follow Section 603(C) to utilize this funding. Mark Gorbett asked if there was an end date on use or lose the funds. Auditor O'Connor stated December 31, 2024. Bill Lentz asked if this was the City, Towns and County. Auditor O'Connor stated the full amount is for the County only. The City will receive their own allocation as well as the Schools. She stated that the Townships do not receive any funding. Our funds come directly from the Federal Government. If we do not spend it within the direction of the document (S603(c)), then we will have to pay it back. Jorge Morales asked if the Council had any say as to how the money will be spent. Auditor O'Connor stated that, as by State Statutes, the Commissioners decide how it is spent in a public meeting. Matt Miller asked if it was Federally decided that the Commissioners spend the money. Auditor O'Connor stated that is the Executive Body and that is the responsibility of the Executive Body. Greg Duke is concerned that we are giving up complete control of \$16,000,000+ that we will never see again. Mark Gorbett stated he disagrees. Attorney Monroe stated that this is Federal funding and he is not certain about all the details as to how it works. Greg Duke stated that he will not vote for it if they do not have any say on it. Auditor O'Connor stated that the rules are in Section 603 and are very specific. We cannot buy things such as golf carts for each county employee with these funds. They are Federal Rules that the Commissioners must follow or the funding will have to be repaid. Greg Duke would like to see the rules as stated in Item 5 of the Ordinance they passed. Commissioner Kleinhenz stated that this had just come about in the last 2 weeks. They have been working on the plan utilizing the

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guidelines that are required by the Federal Government. Bill Lentz asked if they could have dialogue with the Commissioners going forward. Commissioner Kleinhenz stated that there will definitely be communication with the Council. He wishes the Council could do all of it. Dalene Pattingill stated that when the money comes in, she only has 3 days to receipt the money into a fund. With the CARES Money from last year, it was not originally required to be appropriated by the Council. SBOA changed the rules during the process and stated that it had to be appropriated using the guidelines for spending, which the County complied with. This action will allow the appropriation to be entered into the fund. Then, when the Commissioners have their plan, they will come before the Council to appropriate into the different line items, which the Council will have to approve. Mark Gorbett stated that if they do not agree with the spending, they can discuss it at that time. **Jorge R. Morales made a motion to approve the Additional Appropriation of \$16,248,421 as presented for the American Rescue Plan Fund/APR (8950).** Greg Duke will not vote for it because they do not have the rules spelled out. Commissioner Kleinhenz stated that if there is the ability to designate that the Council distribute the funds, he is certain the Commissioners would be happy to do that. Bill Lentz stated that there is a compromise and they need to vote on it. Commissioner Kleinhenz has offered to include the Council on the spending of the funds. Jorge Morales feels that we should proceed or we will lose \$16,000,000. Mark Gorbett agrees with Jorge Morales. **Mark E. Gorbett seconded the motion that was on the table.** He stated that we do not want to pass up this funding opportunity. Commissioner Kleinhenz would hope that the vote is unanimous. The

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Commissioners cannot spend the money without a plan. Once the plan is created, they will present it to the Council and the Council will have the final say in appropriating the funds from the APR Fund (8950) to the desired funds. He is hoping to provide funding to Township Trustees; Volunteer Fire Departments; the health department; the maintenance department; fund vaccine clinics; cover short falls in salaries; cover shortfalls within our own budgets; possibly even the HVAC at the Jail and the Courthouse. Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence asked about making a larger payment on the Jail Bond. Auditor O'Connor stated that is not an option under Section 603(c). Matt Miller asked if they could pay salaries, then offset the Jail Bond with the salary funding. There was further discussion. **The vote was called for and passed 6-1 with Greg Duke as the dissenting vote.**

The next item was a Request for Transfer from the Auditor's part-time (1000-02-01-19) to Professional Services (1000-02-03-10) in the amount of \$15,000 as presented by the Auditor's Chief Deputy Dalene Pattingill. Chief Deputy Pattingill stated that they will be utilizing a real estate fund to pay for a part-time employee that is working on platting items. With this transfer, the money in part-time will go to more training of personnel with the accounting software. When the system was implemented, it was not necessarily set up in the best manor. **Jorge R. Morales made a motion to approve the \$15,000 transfer from 1000-02-01-19 to 1000-02-03-10 as presented. Mark E. Gorbett seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item on the agenda was the 2020 Year End Actual to Budget Results as presented by Auditor O'Connor. Auditor O'Connor explained the differences between the

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2020 Budgeted and 2020 Actual. These funds, \$1,479,388, can be transferred from the General Fund to the Rainy Day Fund. Last year when we were shut down for COVID, we did not make any transfers to the Rainy Day Fund due to the unknown of the money effect of the COVID shut down. With this transfer, the Rainy Day Fund will have approximately \$6,000,000 in it. **Jorge R. Morales made a motion to approve the transfer of \$1,479,388 to the Rainy Day Fund as presented. R. Scott Bonnell seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item on the agenda was the discussion of a Salary Study as presented by Auditor O'Connor. Chief Deputy Pattingill stated that they reached out to Wagner, Irwin, Scheele (WIS) in regards to a Salary Study for Bartholomew County based on statements from the Council during the 2021 Budget Hearings. She needs direction on this as there have been some concerns regarding whether or not they should proceed. She has reached out to Johnson County and they stated their Salary Study was very useful. She also reached out to Shelby County but they have not gotten back with her as of today. Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence stated that she read the minutes of the 2021 Budget Hearings and believes them to state that the majority of the Council wanted to have an in-house committee. She had called WIS and a woman with the company stated that they would just call other counties and see what they are paying. Chief Deputy Pattingill stated that she was correct in that they did say that in the minutes. Also, WIS will contact other Counties, but they will also contact Cities and other agencies for their research. She asked if the Council would take the advice of an in-house committee versus an independent

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company hired to do this. Jorge Morales stated that this is a big job. It is not fair the way we are treating and paying our employees. Matt Miller asked if there had been a large turnover. Jorge Morales believes we are under paying our employees based on some comparisons that he has done. Mark Gorbett stated that we need a professional organization to come in and do a study as we do not have the time nor the expertise to go through the 350 employees in the County. It is a study, not an end-all. He believes the correct thing for our employees is to have a comprehensive study completed and work from there. He feels the amount spent on the study will be of great benefit to the County. The cost of the study from WIS would be \$25,000. Bill Lentz thought the study had already been done. Auditor O'Connor stated that it had not been done and that she had pulled the contract request from the Commissioners as she heard there was push back from some Council members. Bill Lentz believes they have done the best they can within the budget. Mark Gorbett stated that if they had listened to the IT department regarding their pay requests year after year, then the fiasco of losing the entire IT staff could have been avoided. The same holds true for the Sheriff's Department which they finally worked on. As far as he knows, we may be competitive. We may even be overpaying. He does not know the answer and that is why we need a professional study. **Mark E. Gorbett made a motion to approve the Salary Study with WIS. Jorge R. Morales seconded the motion.** Greg Duke is conflicted on this. He sees the value but questions how you do this during COVID when some employees are working from home. He would not mind spending more money, if needed, to get several opinions but how can a company reasonably forecast

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the value of someone's work when even the company itself is working from home. Auditor O'Connor stated that the employees are back in the office. Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence stated that she has requested that they do merit reviews every so often, but she is not sure anyone is doing that. Some lady told her that some companies are not paying retirement benefits. Jorge Morales stated that he had seen a McDonald's sign that they are hiring at \$18 per hour. There was discussion that the \$18 was actually \$13. Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence stated that if they do the study, they will be obligated to pay the determined amounts. Mark Gorbett stated that they would not be obligated to do anything, but they can use it as a tool for the future. Greg Duke asked if a cause of action could be brought against the County by an employee for not paying the same amount for a similar position. Attorney Monroe stated they can be sued for anything, but that would not be a legitimate lawsuit. Bill Lentz would like to know how WIS would do the study. Auditor O'Connor stated that they will do more than just compare straight salaries. They will factor in the benefits as well as many other items. WIS, because they work with so many Indiana counties, understands what a payroll administrator does in Bartholomew County versus what an assistant payroll administrator does in another county. They will also compare Bartholomew County to Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation, the City of Columbus as well as other private companies. Bill Lentz stated that we are the only County that works 40 hours in the State of Indiana. Attorney Monroe stated that there are a lot of questions and the Council could ask WIS to come to a meeting and answer these questions.

**The call for the vote was made and the vote was 2-5 in favor of the motion. The motion**

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**failed. Mark Gorbett and Jorge Morales voted in favor of the motion, with all other members voting nay.** Greg Duke stated that if they want \$25,000 they will drive an hour to answer questions. Chief Deputy Pattingill stated that WIS will come in or Zoom in to answer their questions. She asked if they would like them at the next Council meeting. **Greg Duke made a motion to have WIS at the next Council meeting so they could ask questions regarding a Salary Study. Bill Lentz seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item on the agenda was the Approval of the 2022 Budget Calendar as presented by Auditor O'Connor. Auditor O'Connor asked for approval for the 2022 Budget Calendar. **Bill Lentz made a motion to approve the Calendar as presented. Matt Miller seconded the motion which passed unanimously.** Auditor O'Connor stated she has heard a lot of Council members complaining that they are not receiving emails. She is having IT setup County emails for each Council member. Once these are established, all emails will go to their County email addresses only.

The next item under miscellaneous was the re-appointment of Gary Gron to the Bartholomew County Library Board. **Jorge Morales made a motion to re-appoint Gary Gron to the Bartholomew County Library. R. Scott Bonnell seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next items on the agenda were updates by the Council members regarding Boards and Commissions as follows:

**R Scott Bonnell:**

County Extension Bd – nothing to report

Solid Waste Management District Bd – nothing to report

Sheriff's Merit Bd – nothing to report

**Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence:**

County Parks & Recreation Bd – concern over the parks and playground equipment with COVID.

Job Review/Classification Committee – nothing to report

Youth Services Center Advisory Committee – nothing to report

**Bill Lentz:**

Personnel Administrative Committee – nothing to report

Cols Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Bd – nothing to report

Health Bd – nothing to report

**Matt Miller:**

Personnel Administrative Committee – nothing to report

Job Review/Classification Committee – nothing to report



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Greater Columbus Economic Development Bd – what Mr. Hester brought tonight is the biggest item.

Bartholomew County Broadband Initiative – nothing to report

**Jorge R. Morales:**

County Plan Commission – no meetings

Greater Cols Economic Development Bd (proxy) – nothing to report

Bartholomew County Redevelopment Commission – nothing to report

Bartholomew County Broadband Initiative – nothing to report

**Greg Duke:**

Emergency Management Bd – nothing to report

Jt Council Emergency Dispatch Services – nothing to report

Job Review/Classification Committee – nothing to report

Bartholomew County Redevelopment Commission – nothing to report

**Mark E Gorbett:**

Community Corrections Bd – nothing to report

Data Board – nothing to report

Drug Epidemic Committee – nothing to report

ASAP – nothing to report

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Greg Duke has sent out a memo to the Council members regarding the management of funds and presentations brought before the Council. He is wanting written information from those requesting funds prior to the meetings and wants that information posted on the county website. He believes the meetings could be more enlightening. He will be sending it out with updates. Jorge Morales, Mark Gorbett and Auditor O'Connor have not seen any emails.

The next meeting will be on May 11, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Council, **Mark E Gorbett made a motion to adjourn. Jorge R Morales seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

**BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY COUNCIL**

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

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

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Matt Miller, Member

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

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

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By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Greg Duke, Member

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

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