

**BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**December 14, 2021**

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

The Bartholomew County Council met on December 14, 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.

Chris West, Real Estate Administrator in the Auditor's Office, gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The first item on the agenda was the approval of the meeting minutes of November 9, 2021. **Jorge R. Morales motioned to Approve the Minutes as presented. R. Scott Bonnell seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

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The next item was a Request for an Additional Appropriation for County General/Circuit Court (1000-36) in the amount of \$23,551.20 as presented by Judge Kelly Benjamin (via Zoom). This is for another Public Defender. This position would be basically a quarter-time position. They lost an attorney and have moved around another attorney. The attorneys are not wanting to work on the Juvenile Courts. They have found one attorney that will handle the Juvenile Courts hopefully for the next year. They have one attorney that has been switching between Juvenile and Adult Court, but due to changes in the law, this has become impossible to continue. Time frames have been reduced for Juvenile cases as well. She has 2 attorneys that would do full-time Adult Courts, 1 attorney split between the Juvenile & Adult, 1 attorney that will do the CHINS cases and one that will stay on to help with the Juvenile cases. There is also the issue of some cases where both parents have to have a separate attorney. If they stay on track this year, they will end with about 440 cases which is 64 cases more than in 2020. Jorge R. Morales asked if this would be an addition to her budget. Judge Benjamin stated it would be. Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence asked who she would be replacing. Judge Benjamin stated that she is aware, as of today, of 2 attorneys that will be leaving next year. Greg Duke clarified that they would be adding the money and the Judge would use the funds to contract an attorney, not adding a County employee. Judge Benjamin agreed. She stated that she does not have enough attorneys to handle the case load. Mark E. Gorbett stated that there had been a study completed a few years ago regarding Public Defenders and that showed that this was coming. Judge Benjamin stated that was correct. The Public Defenders are not getting

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raises but they are getting more cases. **Jorge R. Morales motioned to Approve the Additional Appropriation in the amount of \$23,551.20 as presented. Mark E. Gorbett seconded the motion which passed unanimously.** Attorney Chris Monroe stated that they did not need to have “roll call votes” as everyone voting was in the room.

The next item was a request for an Additional Appropriation for Adult Protective Services (8921) in the amount of \$11,280.35 as presented by Prosecutor Office Manager Brenda Mijares. This is money given to them from a Community Funding Grant for Hazardous Pay during COVID. It must be spent by February of 2022. This is a reimbursable grant. They are wanting to break it down as follows: Tonya Harden - \$3,426.79; Kevin Tompkins - \$3,426.78; Kris Weisner - \$3,426.78; and Sue Chapple - \$1,000.00. **Jorge R. Morales made a motion to Approve the Additional Appropriation for \$11,280.35 as presented. Greg Duke seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item was a request for an Additional Appropriation for Pre-Trial Release Grant (9107) in the amount of \$139,150.00 as presented by Community Corrections Director Brad Barnes. The bulk of this pays for the 2 pre-trial officers. The remaining money is for contractual services as needed. They have been receiving this since 1986 but it was switched from a fiscal budget to a calendar year budget. **Jorge R. Morales made a motion to Approve the Additional Appropriation for \$139,500.00 as presented. R. Scott Bonnell seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

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The next item was a request for an Additional Appropriation for Community Correction Adult (9101) in the amount of \$1,530,117.00 as presented by Community Corrections Director Brad Barnes. This is for the Community Corrections program. The bulk of the grant is for salaries and benefits. The employees are County employees but they are paid through this grant. The positions range from administration to the people working directly with the clients. **Jorge R. Morales made a motion to Approve the Additional Appropriation for \$1,530,117.00 as presented. R. Scott Bonnell seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item was a request for an Additional Appropriation for Community Corrections Project Income (1122) in the amount of \$734,397.00 as presented by Community Corrections Director Brad Barnes. They budget salaried positions and benefits. They also budget for food as well as uniforms for the employees that work in the field. The funds on this grant are on paper. In other words, this is funded through fines and fees that are brought in from the clients. They will not payout more than they bring in. They actually have 3 openings within this department that are not filled as they are not assured that will have the funding to pay the bills. A lot of the funding comes from the State but it comes in arrears by a month or two. They lost out in the race to compete with the Jail for employees when the Jail switched to the matrix pay. Due to that and the pandemic, they have struggled to find employees. Because of this, they are paying a lot of overtime and people are picking up double shifts. They have been discussing this with their Advisory Board regarding working on the pay issue. It will not help the bottom line

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but it will offset the bottom line. Jorge R. Morales asked if these jobs were included in the Salary Study. Auditor O'Connor stated that they were. She stated that these positions are also part of the Loyalty Pay and they have received some of the ARP money due to lost revenue. Jorge R. Morales stated that they have helped out by assisting with benefits and such as needed. Director Barnes stated that it has gone beyond that at this time. Matt Miller asked what percentage of the fees that they collect. They have historically collected 35% to 50%. He stated that Rob Gaskill has done a great job with improving the collections on the residential side. **Jorge R. Morales made a motion to Approve the Additional Appropriation for \$734,397.00 as presented. Matt Miller seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item was a request for an Additional Appropriation for Health Trust Fund (1206) in the amount of \$58,200.00 as presented Nursing Director Amanda Organist (via Zoom). Director Organist stated this is a carry-over Grant of money that was left over. This will help offset the dental and immunization programs supplies, PPE, staff and the calibration of the equipment. Jorge R. Morales asked if the amount is the what is being appropriated. Director Organist stated that she had provided the breakdown she was asking for and it totaled \$58,200.00. **R. Scott Bonnell made a motion to Approve the Additional Appropriation for \$58,200.00 as presented. Jorge R. Morales seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item was a request for an Additional Appropriation for Health Trust Maintenance (1168) in the amount of \$74,304.00 as presented by Environment Health

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Director Link Fulp. Director Fulp stated that the majority of this funding will be used to upgrade their records keeping system including part-time help for scanning as well as all the setup and purchase of the system. Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence asked what this would do for their office. Director Fulp stated that currently they hand search paper records and that would be eliminated. They also hope to link some of the information through the GIS system down the road. **Jorge R. Morales motioned to Approve the Additional Appropriation in the amount of \$74,304.00. Matt Miller seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item was a request for the General/Veteran's Office (1000-27) in the amount of \$21,124.92 as presented by Auditor O'Connor. Auditor O'Connor stated that during the 2022 Budget Hearings, it was suggested that the Veteran's Office trade in their current van for a smaller, more maneuverable van. R. Scott Bonnell asked how many people could be transported in the van they are wanting to purchase. Auditor O'Connor stated it has seating for 7. The request is for the amount needed to purchase a new van for the Veteran's Office after trade-in of the current van. **Mark E. Gorbett made a motion to Approve the Additional Appropriation for \$21,124.92 as presented. Jorge R. Morales seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item was a request for an Additional Appropriation for Jury Supplemental Fund – Superior Court II (2502) in the amount of \$10,000.00 as presented by Dalene Pattingill, Auditor's Office Chief Deputy. Chief Deputy Pattingill stated this was an error on her part. This was submitted at budget time, but was missed during that session. Judge

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Rohde stated that this is what they have used in previous years. It used to be done during the first meeting of the year in January but he wants to get it into the budget process. **Mark E. Gorbett made a motion to Approve the Additional Appropriation for \$10,000.00 as presented. Matt Miller seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

Auditor O'Connor stated that IT Director Mayes wanted to update the Council that he was able to find a person to fill the position that they had granted him.

The next item on the agenda was Discussion regarding County Council Board Appointments for 2022. R. Scott Bonnell asked if the Council members were interested in staying on the same Committees they are on currently. If they wish to change, they need to let him know. They will check with the public members to see if they are still willing to serve.

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:**

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County Parks & Recreation Bd – nothing to report

Job Review/Classification Committee – nothing to report

Youth Services Center Advisory Committee – nothing to report

**Bill Lentz:**

Personnel Administrative Committee – not present

Cols Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Bd – not present

Health Bd – not present

**Matt Miller:**

Personnel Administrative Committee – nothing to report

Job Review/Classification Committee – nothing to report

Greater Columbus Economic Development Bd – meeting tomorrow. Recap meeting that was to follow has been cancelled due to COVID.

Bartholomew County Broadband Initiative – nothing to report

**Jorge R. Morales:**

County Plan Commission – nothing to report

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

Bartholomew County Redevelopment Commission – nothing to report

Bartholomew County Broadband Initiative – nothing to report



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He attended a meeting with AT&T regarding their interest in working on Broadband in Bartholomew County. Commissioner London was unable to attend due to a surgery. He stated that the City did not assign any money from the ARP for Broadband. Of course, the City is in a better position as far as internet service is concerned.

**Greg Duke:**

Emergency Management Bd – routine meeting – nothing new 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

There being no further business to come before the Council, **Mark E. Gorbett** made a motion to adjourn at 6:50 p.m. **R. Scott Bonnell** seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

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**BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY COUNCIL**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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