

July 13, 2023

BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY COUNCIL

April 11, 2023

Name:	Representing:	Title:	Present:
Matt Miller	At Large		Present
Bill Lentz	At Large		Present
Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence	At Large		Present
Greg Patterson	District 1		Present
Leah Beyer	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 April 11, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Governmental Office Building, 440 Third Street, Columbus, Indiana.

President Jorge R Morales called the meeting to order.

Pastor John Cordrey of St. Peter's Lutheran Church gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The first item on the agenda was the Approval of the meeting minutes from February 14, 2023. **Mark Gorbett made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections. Leah Beyer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

The next item on the agenda was a Request for the Additional Appropriation of the Security ID Fund (1160) in the amount of \$40,000.00, presented by County Recorder Tami

July 13, 2023

Hines. Greg Patterson made a motion to Approve the Appropriation for \$40,000, as presented. Mark Gorbett seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The next items on the agenda were Requests for Additional Appropriations of the STOP Grant (8896) for \$68,906.00 and of the VOCA Grant (8921) in the amount of \$8,649.00, as presented by Prosecutor Lindsay Holden-Kay.

- *ICJI approved this grant from October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023*
- *Supplement of \$8,649 was awarded to VOCA Grant*

Evelyn Strietelmeier-Pence made a motion to Approve the Appropriation of \$68,906 from the STOP Grant, as requested. Leah Beyer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Next, Leah Beyer made a motion to Approve the Appropriation for \$8,649.00 from the VOCA Grant, as requested. Matt Miller seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was a Request for an Additional Appropriation of the State Grant for Pre-trial II Fund (9203) in the amount of \$10,000.00, as presented by Director of Court Services, Brad Barnes.

- *\$5000 used for training*
- *\$5000 used for First Appearance Court Public Defender.*
- *This is what allows the court to be certified Pre-Trial Court and receive state funding.*

July 13, 2023

Bill Lentz made a motion to Approve the Appropriation as requested for \$10,600.00, as presented. Evelyn Strietelmeier-Pence seconded the motion, unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was a Request for Additional Appropriation of the Drug Recovery Court Fund (1147) for \$10,600.00, as presented by Director Barnes.

- *Cost is recoverable from participants' user fees*
- *\$600 designated for fees to rent to Commons for Graduation for the Drug Recovery Program*
- *\$5,000 for travel and training*
- *\$5,000 for Drug Recovery Court fees*

Mark Gorbett made a motion to Approve the Appropriation for the Drug Recovery Court Fund for \$10,600.00, as presented. Leah Beyer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was a Request for Additional Appropriation of the Veteran's Treatment Court Fund (9108) in the amount of \$6,500.00, as presented by Director Barnes.

- *Cost is recoverable from participants' user fees*
- *This takes place in Superior Court I with Judge James Worton*
- *\$500 for other services*

July 13, 2023

- *\$4,000 for travel and training*
- *\$2,000 for office supplies*

Bill Lentz made a motion to Approve the Appropriation for the Veteran's Treatment Court Fund for \$6,500.00, as presented. Greg Patterson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was a Request for an Appropriation of the Juvenile Adjustment Fund (2504) in the amount of \$5,000.00, presented by Director Barnes.

- *\$5,000 for training expenses*

Greg Patterson made a motion to Approve the Appropriation for the Juvenile Adjustment Fund for \$5,000.00, as presented. Mark Gorbett seconded the motion, which unanimously.

The next item for consideration was the Request to Increase the Salary for the Jail Matron in the amount of \$9,641.90, presented by Sheriff Chris Lane.

- *Increase of \$9,641.90*
- *\$11,748.65 with FICA and PERF*
- *Increase to follow state statute and job description*
- *Paid out of County General/Sheriff's Salary Budget (1000-05)*

July 13, 2023

Greg Patterson made a motion to Approve the Salary Increase as requested. Mark Gorbett seconded the motion, passing 6-1 with Matt Miller dissenting.

The next item was a Request to Increase the Shift Premium Differential for the Jail Staff from \$1.25/hour to \$2.50/hour.

- *Total for this would be \$46,832.63, including FICA and PERF*
- *Effective date May 1, 2023*
- *Targets the need to increase employee recruiting and retention for 2nd and 3rd shifts*
- *Paid out of LIT Correctional/Jail Budget (1114)*

Mark Gorbett made a motion to Approve the Shift Premium Increase as requested.

Matt Miller seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The next item was a Request to Increase the Salary Matrix for Corrections Staff and Court House Security, also presented by Sheriff Chris Lane.

- *Base pay would be \$50,000 including Correction Officers assigned to courthouse security, which is an approximate annual increase of \$4000 per employee*
- *Currently Staffed at 80%*
- *Total Increase would be \$189,253.34*
 - *\$178,625.59 out of Jail Salary (1114)*

July 13, 2023

- *\$10,627.75 out of Courthouse Security Salary (1000-47)*

Mark Gorbett made a motion to *Table the Discussion until Budget Hearings*. Evelyn Strietelmeier-Pence seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The next item was a Request of to Add Two Additional Deputy positions, presented by Sheriff Lane. This will allow recruitment to continue on a rotating process while new Deputies go through the 12 to 14-month cycle of Training Academy and supervised training prior to full, independent effectiveness.

- *\$50,067.50 requested*
- *Paid out of Sheriff Salary Budget (1000-05)*

Sheriff Lane stated he is working on a 5-year plan, which will be addressed at future Budget Hearings. Matt Miller suggested adding only one new position now and focus more on retaining the Officers we already have. Sheriff Lane agreed that it is essential to focus on retention. **Mark Gorbett made a motion to Approve the Addition of Two New Deputy Positions. President Morales seconded the motion, which passed 4-3 with Evelyn Strietelmeier-Pence, Bill Lentz and Matt Miller dissenting.**

The next item was a Request for Signatures to Approve the Sheriff's Department using the Commissary and Phone Money to pay for the health and well-being of inmates. No vote was required for this approval; it was signed by President Morales, Mark Gorbett, and Bill Lentz.

July 13, 2023

The next item, under Miscellaneous, was Amanda Organist, Director of Nursing for the Health Department, coming before the Council to present a request to increase the Hourly Rate for Registered Nurses in the Health Department from \$27.86 to \$37.59.

- *Staffing Vacancies have caused a reduction of important and necessary services for the community*
- *The current base rate is so far below the local competitive wages for equivalent positions that she has been unable to fill vacant positions for more than a year.*
- *Increased wages would total \$93, 431.82*
- *This can be funded by existing 8885-03 grant funds still remaining*

After much discussion, **Leah Beyer made a motion to Approve the Request for the Salary Increase for the Health Department Nurses, as requested. President Morales seconded the motion, which passed 6-1, Bill Lentz dissenting.**

President Morales called for a motion to Amend the Salary Ordinance to reflect all changes voted on in tonight's meeting. **Bill Lentz made a motion to Amend the Salary Ordinance. Leah Beyer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

President Morales stated that the Council Members have been invited to Dedication of the new Court Services Building on May 4, 2023. Also, the next County Council Work Session is scheduled for May 1, 2023 at 3:00 pm instead of 6:00 due to election day on May 2, 2023.

July 13, 2023

The next items on the agenda were Boards and Commissions update. President Morales called on Council Members to share what they had to report.

Evelyn Strietelmeier-Pence suggested it would be beneficial to share with office holders about the 5 Year Plan. President Morales stated that the Work Session would address the Budget Sessions and outline what the procedures would be.

Mark Gorbett asked if Commissioners could attend the Work Session and give an update on the Courthouse.

Greg Patterson shared that the Sheriff's Merit Board had six good interviews and they were very happy with all the applicants.

Leah Beyer shared that the Bartholomew County Redevelopment Commission had met and she had seen the Annual Report. They will be meeting officially in June and will be sending out public notification of this meeting prior to that date.

President Morales shared that the County Plan Commission recommended to the Commissioners to accept the new area created when Otter Creek was sold and the City of Columbus relinquishing the land.

There being no further business to come before the Council, **Bill Lentz made a motion to adjourn. Mark Gorbett seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

July 13, 2023

BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY COUNCIL

By: _____
Jorge R. Morales, President

By: _____
Mark E. Gorbett, Pro-Tem

By: _____
Matt Miller, Member

By: _____
Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence, Member

By: _____
Leah Beyer, Member

By: _____
Bill Lentz, Member

By: _____
Greg Patterson, Member

ATTEST: _____
Pia O'Connor, Auditor
Bartholomew County