

March 11, 2015

**BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**February 10, 2015**

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Representing:</b>	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Present:</b>
Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence	At Large	President	Present
Bill Lentz	At Large	Pro-Tem	Present
Jim Reed	At Large		Present
Chris Ogle	District 1		Present
Laura DeDomenic	District 2		Present
Mark Gorbett	District 3		Present
Jorge Morales	District 4		Present
Chris Monroe	- -	Attorney	Present
Barb Hackman	Auditor	Secretary	Present

The Bartholomew County Council met on February 10, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the County Council Chambers of the Governmental Office Building, 440 Third Street, Columbus, Indiana.

President Pence called the meeting to order.

Jim Reed gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The first item on the agenda was the approval of the meeting minutes of January 13, 2015. **Jorge Morales made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Bill Lentz seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item on the agenda was a Consideration of an Additional Appropriation for the Byrne JAG Grant Fund (*WRAP Grant*) (035) in the amount of one-hundred-thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) as presented by Rob Gaskill, Residential Work Release Director. Director Gaskill stated he had been here last month for an initial approval as they had not had time to advertise it correctly for that meeting. He is here tonight for a

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final approval. They have found this other source for Grant money which does not require a local match. We were named one (1) of three (3) Mentor Host Sites in the United States out of four-hundred-fifty-six (456) programs. This Grant will cover the Program Director, some workbooks as well as one (1) full-time and one (1) part-time contract employee from Center Stone. Jorge Morales asked why we were giving Center Stone over half a million dollars through the budget process and then adding this money on top of it. Attorney Monroe stated that these are not County General Funds, they are Grant Funds. It might be something to keep track of in the event the Grant ever goes away. **Mark Gorbett made a motion to approve the Additional Appropriation in the amount of one-hundred-thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) as requested. Chris Ogle seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item on the agenda was a Request for an Additional Appropriation of the JDAI (*Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative*) Grant Fund (034) in the amount of ninety-one-thousand three-hundred-fifty dollars (\$91,350.00) as presented by Anita Biehle, Youth Services Director. Director Biehle stated they had received the Grant in the amount noted. She would like to distribute it as follows: \$3,000 in 03-90 for travel; \$47,000 in 03-10 for Contracts; in the Alternative Initiative Funds \$1,500 in travel; \$22,100 in equipment; \$15,000 in Contracts; and \$2,750 in other. **Mark Gorbett made a motion to approve the Additional Appropriation in the amount of ninety-one-thousand three-hundred-fifty dollars (\$91,350.00) as requested. Bill Lentz seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

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The next item on the agenda was a request for an Additional Appropriation for the Health Fund (007) in the amount of sixty-five thousand dollars (\$65,000) as presented by Carla Wolff, Assistant Director of Nursing. Director Wolff stated this request is to purchase additional vaccines which will be reimbursed in the General Health Fund. Jorge Morales asked about the recent news of Measles outbreak. Asst. Director Wolff stated that as far as children, we are in very good shape. As the tracking of adults is new, she is uncertain. As for the foreigners that are here, most of the adults do not have any protection. Chris Ogle stated that he and his children had to have all the vaccines before being allowed to go to school. Asst. Director Wolff stated that there are a few waivers. Any child not immunized, in the event of a Measles case, those that are not vaccinated would be required to stay out of school for twenty-one (21) days. **Jorge Morales made a motion to approve the requested Additional Appropriation in the amount of sixty-five-thousand dollars (\$65,000) as requested. Laura DeDomenic seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item on the agenda was a Request for an Additional Appropriation in the Jury Supplemental Fund in Superior Court 2 and Circuit Court in the amount of ten-thousand dollars (\$10,000) each as requested by Judge Heimann for his and Judge Coriden's Court. Judge Heimann stated they have already had three (3) Jury trials this year. They had five-thousand dollars (\$5,000) at the beginning of the year and they are already down to eight-hundred dollars (\$800). President Pence asked how long the ten-thousand dollars (\$10,000) would last. Judge Heimann stated that it would just depend

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on how many jury trials they have. The next case is a high profile case and may even have to be moved out of this County. Mark Gorbett asked if this was from the Jury Supplemental Fund. Auditor Hackman stated it was and there was a little over two-hundred-thousand dollars (\$200,000) currently in that fund. **Mark Gorbett made a motion to approve both Requests for Additional Appropriation of ten-thousand dollars (\$10,000) each for Superior Court 2 and Circuit Court as requested. Bill Lentz seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

The next item on the agenda was the Consideration of a 2015 Salary Ordinance Amendment regarding the Chief Probation Officer's salary as presented by Circuit Court Judge Steve Heimann, Youth Services Director Anita Biehle and Community Corrections Director/Chief Probation Officer Brad Barnes. Judge Heimann stated that Bartholomew County is very good at detention alternatives for youth. We are doing the same thing on the adult side to coordinate efforts. The State will be awarding Grants to Counties who have Alternative Placement programs. Bartholomew County has been ahead of the curve since 2001 due to good leadership regarding the juveniles. He feels they (*Council and those responsible for the programs*) should meet to have an in depth discussion. When Vic Parker took over as the Chief Probation Officer, they started taking user fees to pay for his position. Up until last fall, Brad Barnes salary had come out of the user fees. In 2014 we were awarded a Grant. Due to the user fees not keeping up with the out going money, Director Barnes had asked the Council to take his salary out of County General and was told no as it would have grown the County budget. He then asked to take it out

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of another Grant. Tonight, they are asking to move Director Barnes salary from a portion of that Grant to an existing budget of Youth Services Center. There will be no new money; it is just going from one location to another. Mark Gorbett had spoken with Director Barnes yesterday and his question is whether it will change the budget money for 2016. Director Barnes stated that the plan would be to come before the budget for 2016 with a long range plan. President Pence noted that Director Biehle had returned one-hundred-seventy-nine-thousand dollars (\$179,000) at the end of 2015. Jorge Morales asked if that would also cover the benefits. Auditor Hackman stated that benefits are paid from a line item in the Commissioners budget. Judge Heimann stated they will come back in August (*during budget hearings*) with a longer plan. Mark Gorbett asked if there was a way to absorb the medical fees from the Commissioners. Director Barnes stated he has been talking with Auditor Hackman to plan this out. President Pence asked if there are programs that we should stop doing because of the lack of user fees. Judge Heimann stated just the opposite as there are programs we should have regardless of user fees to prevent the additional hidden costs. We do not have a Residential Substance Abuse Program for adult males. We have the WRAP program for women and we are one of the top three (3) in the country for juvenile programs. President Pence asked if they would be replacing any existing programs with new programs. Judge Heimann stated no as you want a menu of options. There is more money available from the State for youth programs. The programs we have in place have reduced the number of children we have sent to boys/girls school. They have been effective. There is an overall decrease in the

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number of kids being sent to detention or probation. Mark Gorbett asked if we approve this, will the Commissioners be able to absorb the additional costs for insurance. Auditor Hackman stated that we should be able to absorb it. Bill Lentz asked if they see any loss of Grants as the State tightens its budgets. Director Barnes stated that they have seen a reduction, but Director Gaskill has found a new Grant to fund the program discussed earlier this evening. Jorge Morales stated that half of the County budget is based on Grants but it is stated that if the Grants go away then the program would go away. Judge Heimann stated that they anticipate getting more Grants. Jorge Morales stated that we have covered the salary with the Grants, but we are not covering the benefits with the Grants. He understood that there may be some positions that are currently open that we can use those funds to support the benefits. He is having an issue of the funding of the benefits and not putting any additional stress on the insurance funding. Judge Heimann stated that if we look at the big picture, Vic Parker's salary had been funded from Drug & Alcohol user fees. He believes it has just continued forward from that point. He believes that the Chief Probation Officer salary should be coming out of County General instead of Grant money. Jorge Morales asked if there are open positions in the Youth Services Center. Director Barnes stated yes, there are open positions. Jorge Morales asked if those positions could pick up the benefits. Auditor Hackman again stated that all benefits come out of County General through the Commissioners. Chief Deputy Auditor Sandy Beatty stated that they should be fine in absorbing one person. Commissioner Chairman Larry Kleinhenz (*in the audience*) stated that whether we can or cannot afford the year,

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we will have to wait and see. The gist of it is that the result is adding another person for the Commissioners to cover. It was explained that other positions that are not being utilized would cover the position based on the fact that the amount funded in the budget is an estimate. Chief Deputy Beatty stated that the insurance amount is five-million seven-hundred-thousand dollars (\$5,700,000) no matter how many employees we have. Chairman Kleinhenz stated that is correct, but there is no money being deposited into the account. Chris Ogle stated that there was money returned at the end of last year. In August they will come to us with a budget that includes the Chief Probation Officer and that may be in cutting elsewhere in their budget to make it work. Bill Lentz asked if there would be any cuts in staff based on the programs as Johnson County has been able to do. Director Biehle does not see that at this time as they have already cut some part-time positions. Director Barnes stated that we just do not know what the year will bring. Judge Heimann stated that it just depends on the circumstances. They are looking to see what programs they are missing that could make us more effective. Jorge Morales is not looking at it as Brad's job, but as a manpower issue. He is willing to go along with it with the understanding that if we get into issues with the Health Fund we will have to revisit this issue. Jim Reed stated there is no net cost increase for 2015 and we will address it during the 2016 budget session. **Mark Gorbett made a motion to approve the 2015 Salary Ordinance Amendment as requested. Chris Ogle seconded the motion.** Bill Lentz stated that he agrees with having a discussion regarding the future of the programs and funding. **The vote was called for and passed unanimously.**

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The next item on the agenda was the Consideration of a Resolution of the County Council of Bartholomew County, Indiana Approving the Refunding of the Bartholomew County Building Corporation Lease Rental Bonds of 2006. The Resolution would approve an amendment. Rick Hall, partner with Barnes & Thornburg and Jason Semler, a partner with Umbaugh. Mr. Semler distributed a handout showing the amounts that can be saved by refinancing. This is the same basic principal as refinancing your home. The Market changes every day, changing the rates. The first schedule shows the amount of principal outstanding money currently at eighteen-million two-hundred-ninety-five dollars (\$18,295,000). The last column shows the payments that are paid from tax dollars. The second page shows the cost of refinancing. There is an amount that was set aside for the original construction in the amount of five-hundred fifty-six-thousand fifty-six dollars and forty cents (\$556,056.40) that can be used to refinance. Bill Lentz asked if since we are doing this early, are we going to have any costs due to the early call. Mr. Semler stated that shouldn't be an issue. Also, he doesn't know what the rates will be in a year, but right now they are good. Pia O'Connor (*in the audience*) stated that there is a difference of seven-hundred fifty-thousand dollars (\$750,000) in principal. It was stated that was correct. The length of the "call-able" time frame helps determine the interest as a shorter call time will cause the rates to go up. The best rate as of Friday was 2.05%. Mark Gorbett asked how this would affect us on the first year. Mr. Semler stated that if you take the nineteen millions dollars (\$19,000,000) we would have to borrow, the first year savings would be about one-hundred-ninety-thousand dollars (\$190,000). The



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savings the County would see would be, based on the current information, in the first year and there after we would be saving about \$190,000 each year. The total costs associated with the refinancing would be about \$110,000. Laura DeDomenic asked Mr. Semler to correlate what was in their packet versus what he had handed out tonight. The third proposal is the only one that would commit to the rate so that is what he had handed out. They have committed to that rate until the middle of March. Mark Gorbett stated that it seems like a no brainer and he knows the Commissioners are in favor of it. Jim Reed asked if the discount was about the same from each of the three proposals. Mr. Semler stated that two of them were close but the other one had higher fees. Jorge Morales asked if they approve this, will they still be able to “negotiate” the interest and the costs. Mr. Semler stated that to be locked in at that rate and the length of time to commit to it was a good thing and he believes we are at the best rate we can get. Commissioner Chairman Kleinhenz stated that the Commissioners had put it off another week as a local company had expressed interest in bidding on this. Luckily they did not suffer from delay. They were able to get another 5 basis points during this delay. **Jorge Morales made a motion to approve the Resolution Approving the Refunding of the Bartholomew County Building Corporation Lease Rental Bonds of 2006 as presented. Chris Ogle seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** Jim Reed asked Attorney Grant Tucker when the Jail Commission would meet. Attorney Tucker stated the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February.

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The next item on the agenda was the Consideration of a Resolution Granting Personal Property Abatement for Georg Utz, Inc. as presented by Michael Chiado, General Manager and Penny Grubbs, Finance Manager. Ms. Grubbs stated that Georg Utz is preparing to add two-million one-hundred-thousand dollars (\$2,100,000) in equipment that will increase their employment by 5 full-time positions. Jim Reed asked if the new positions would have benefits. Ms. Grubbs stated that they will have full benefits. Georg Utz pays the full medical costs of insurance for their employees. The equipment will take six (6) months to receive after the order is submitted. They will hire as soon as the equipment is installed. The installation will take a week or two at most. **Jorge Morales made a motion to approve the Resolution Approving the Personal Property Abatement for George Utz, Inc. for a period of five (5) years with a schedule of 100% for year 1, 80% for year 2, 60% for year 3, 40% for year 4 and 20% for year 5. Chris Ogle seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

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

**Jim Reed** – Deferred to Jorge Morales as to the BCRC.

**Mark Gorbett** – Had nothing to report. He questioned if they were going to discuss the funding for the new Annex building. It was stated that they would discuss that under miscellaneous items in a few moments.

**Jorge Morales** – County Plan Commission has been cancelled. The BCRC is having a public hearing next Tuesday, February 17 at 6:00 p.m. in this room.

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**President Pence** – Park Board had met and they have brought a copy of the insurance for the BMX racers to the Auditor's Office to have it on file.

**Bill Lentz** – Job Review/Classification had one meeting in which Clerk Jay Phelps requested changing a job description without affecting any money. They had approved that request.

**Laura DeDomenic** – Data Board approved software maintenance agreements. The Health Board reviewed the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Report. They have been asked by the State that they create a plan to spend the remaining money from the Grants that has accumulated to over \$400,000. She asked the Health Board if it could be used for the Annex Building. They said possibly office equipment, but probably not the building itself. Also, they could possibly use it for a truck as the Council had cut a truck that had been requested out of the 2015 budget.

**Chris Ogle** – Had nothing to report.

Under miscellaneous, President Pence asked if there were any further updates on the insurance. Auditor Hackman stated there was nothing new since the Work Session.

Jorge Morales wanted to thank Chris West for the updates based on the new tax rates for 2014pay2015.

Auditor Hackman brought up the Annex Funding. The Commissioners had met with the Architect and wanted to know if they (*the Commissioners*) wanted to make any comments regarding the financing. She has preliminary site plans if anyone would like to see them. The square footage will be adjusted based on the meeting the Commissioners

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had yesterday with the Architect. Auditor Hackman would like to see another meeting and would like to discuss the option of bonding for this project. Attorney Grant Tucker stated that he tries to stay out of the decision making. He is just concerned that if we go down the road with a three-million two-hundred-fifty-thousand dollar (\$3,250,000) project and do not look at bonding he feels we are making a mistake. He would like the Council to consider the bonding option which will aid in what type of building we can have built as well as not damaging the financial status of the County. Mark Gorbett knows that financial status of the County has changed since last year when this was started so he would like to have a meeting to discuss this. Auditor Hackman would like to look at some time in the next two weeks. Attorney Tucker believes a two week window would be nice for all involved. Auditor Hackman wanted to know what time would work best for the Council. It was determined that next Monday at 5:00 p.m. at the Commissioner's Chambers would be best. Auditor Hackman will get the publication notices out.

Auditor Hackman stated that the Budget Order was received yesterday morning. This sets the tax rates for the 2014pay2015 year. Chris West will put the information into a tax rate card. Mr. West explained that 3 units had gone up while all the other units had decreased.

Hearing no other business, Jim Reed made a motion to adjourn. Chris Ogle seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

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**BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY COUNCIL**

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

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

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chris Ogle, Member

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

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

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

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Reed, Member

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Barbara J. Hackman, Auditor  
Bartholomew County