

April 14, 2015

**BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY COUNCIL
March 10, 2015**

Name:	Representing:	Title:	Present:
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 March 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.

Chris Ogle gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The first item on the agenda was the approval of the meeting minutes of February 10, 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 the approval of the Special Meeting minutes of February 23, 2015. President Pence noted corrections on page 3 from changing the word “worried” to “worry” and on page 5 from “would” to “to”. **Jim Reed made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Jorge Morales seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

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The next item on the agenda was a Request for Transfer of Funds in the Commissioners Funds (001-30) as presented by Auditor Hackman (*the Commissioners were attending Road School*) in the amount of fifty-thousand dollars (\$50,000.00). **Bill Lentz made a motion to approve the Transfer of Funds in the amount of fifty-thousand dollars (\$50,000.00) as requested. Jorge Morales seconded the motion.** He noted that some of the funds were from the gasoline as it has been cheaper. They will pay consultants with the transferred funds. **The vote was called for and passed unanimously.**

The next item on the agenda was a Request for an Additional Appropriation and Salary Ordinance Amendment for Adult Protective Services (524) as presented by Office Manager Brenda Mijares in the amount of eight-thousand dollars (\$8,000). Ms. Mijares noted that this money was received from another County. She is asking to grant a salary increase to Ms. Deffler as she is currently the lowest paid County employee. This increase will make her the second lowest paid County employee. Ms. Deffler gave a presentation as to the work they do and the issues they encounter. Ms. Mijares stated that she is concerned that if the money that is received from other Counties is reverted back to County General, she is fearful that the other Counties will not continue to provide any further funding. Jorge Morales asked if the ASPCA or Humane Society should be taking care of these situations. Mr. Deffler (*in the audience*) stated that Adult Protective Services only get involved when a person is mentally incapable of making the correct decisions. They do contact the Humane Society or ASPCA for assistance when animals

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are involved. Mark Gorbett stated he is personally in favor of this as he has seen the work they have done and he would not be able to do the job they have do. **Jorge Morales made a motion to approve the Additional Appropriation in the amount of eight-thousand dollars (\$8,000) as requested, setting the salary to twenty-seven-thousand six-hundred-ninety dollars (\$27,690). Bill Lentz seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item on the agenda was a request for an Additional Appropriation for the Co-op Extension (001-23) in the amount of six-thousand five-hundred dollars (\$6,500) as presented by Elisabeth Smith, Continuing Education Director. Ms. Smith stated that this money is from the 4-H Council and she is asking to use this money to pay for two (2) summer interns. **Chris Ogle made a motion to approve the requested Additional Appropriation in the amount of six-thousand five-hundred dollars (\$6,500) as requested. Jorge Morales seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

President Pence noted that Nathan Pevlor from Boy Scout Troop 559 was in the audience working toward his Civic Badge. He is also her grandson.

The next item on the agenda was further discussion regarding the funding of the Annex Building Project. Auditor Hackman began the discussion as the Commissioners were at Road School. She stated that the Commissioners were unclear from the last meeting as to where the three-million two-hundred-fifty-thousand dollars (\$3,250,000) would come from as well as where the additional two-hundred-fifty-thousand dollars (\$250,000) for the demolition was coming from. She stated that Jorge Morales had

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contacted the Commissioners after the last meeting as he was concerned with the vote he had made and whether they would be able to build what we need. She stated that using in-house money would be problematic for the County for several years. She would like for the Council to reconsider bonding. She has talked with the Commissioners and they are not comfortable using all of the CEDIT Funds. They have given the Council almost six-hundred-thousand dollars (\$600,000) for public safety in all the years past so that the Council could reduce the Annual County Budget. They have also done over a million dollars (\$1,000,000) in road repairs and construction. Last year we had a crisis in the Benefit Trust which caused the Commissioners to use one-million dollars (\$1,000,000) to shore up the Trust. The CEDIT Funding is the Commissioners Plan, the Council has to appropriate it, but it is the Commissioners money. The Commissioners have helped out with public safety through funding Sheriff vehicles and radios as well as the 911 Center short-falls. If the project is bonded, it will be paid back with CEDIT money; it will not be put on the property tax payers as a tax rate. Reducing the Rainy Day Fund to such a low level could cause our bond rating to decrease. The Rainy Day Fund is the first thing that is asked for by the S & P when they gather information about the County. Bonding would allow us to cover if something were to come like the Benefit Trust issue did last year. There is no on-going revenue that replaces the Rainy Day Fund. Once it is gone, it is gone. She stated that they want to protect the County General Fund as that is where the salaries are paid. Think of this as borrowing for a home. Most people do not pay cash to purchase a home. Our Financial Consultant Dan Eggermann has recommended that they

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bond this project. The cost of the Bonding would be more like one-hundred-thirty-thousand dollars (\$130,000), not the original two-hundred-thousand dollars (\$200,000) as discussed in earlier meetings. If the Bond was at 4 or 4.5 million, that would cover the majority of the project and then the reserves could be used to finish the project. Laura DeDomenic asked if the interest in the handout today was from the Re-Funding of the Jail Bond or were the rates more recent. Auditor Hackman stated they were updated rates. President Pence asked if the Commissioners had agreed to use the Telecommunication money. Auditor Hackman stated yes, but she would not recommend that they tie the Telecommunication Funds to the project but rather let that Fund be for overruns and other issues that might occur. The Commissioners have had other Architects look at the project and they have several changes that can reduce the cost. Jim Reed stated that unless one of the four (*that voted for in-house funding*) changes their minds, we are just spinning our wheels. Mark Gorbett feels the same way. He believes we are taking our reserves too low and setting ourselves up for trouble. Bill Lentz appreciates all the input but he doesn't feel comfortable making a change without the Commissioners present. Auditor Hackman stated that we cannot delay this. She does not believe that there would be any difference if the Commissioners were here as it would just be a rehashing of the same discussions. She stated that we need to move on. Bill Lentz believes that we can get the money without bonding. Chief Deputy Sandy Beatty stated that we do have the money, but once it is gone, it is gone. Jorge Morales stated that we have agreed to a four-million dollar (\$4,000,000) building no matter where we

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take it from, either in house funding or bonding. He feels we are moving too fast as far as the funding. Bill Lentz stated that the Council and the Commissioners need to sit down at the table together. Laura DeDomenic would like to hear from the Commissioners as she is hearing conflicting statements from what the Commissioners are saying and what she is hearing from Auditor Hackman. Auditor Hackman stated that the Commissioners are concerned that the County will be strapped due to funding this project. Mark Gorbett is concerned that the public safety funding that the Commissioners have done in the past as far as funding patrol cars for the Sheriff's Department will be eliminated. If the money is for the Annex, then the Council would have to find the funding for items such as those that have been previously funded out of CEDIT. President Pence stated she wanted in writing what the Commissioners were going to do with their money (*CEDIT*). Jorge Morales stated that they need to fully understand what the Commissioners plan to do especially as far as the possibility of a new highway garage. He believes the project can go ahead with a four-million dollar (\$4,000,000) Annex building. That discussion does not need to happen tonight. President Pence is concerned that the VIM is building a fifteen-thousand square foot building (15,000) and wonders who will be maintaining that building. Auditor Hackman stated that the VIM is a totally separate building and VIM will be responsible for their building. President Pence is concerned about having to hire more cleaning staff for the increased building. Auditor Hackman stated that allowing them to build a four-million dollar (\$4,000,000) building will deplete the County funds. If they bond, then they would have the reserves

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available for overruns such as how much will it cost to move the personnel out of the current location and rent somewhere until the new building is completed. Jorge Morales thought this was determined last August. Mark Gorbett stated that since then we had to shore up the Benefit Trust that was not planned. Chris Ogle stated that we are just beating a dead horse. Four people do not want to bond while three do want to bond. If a meeting is needed, then set up the meeting and move on. Bill Lentz stated that he thinks we are close. Chris Ogle asked Bill Lentz where we are going to get the three-million two-hundred-fifty-thousand dollars (\$3,250,000). Attorney Monroe stated that the question regarding what the relationship is between the VIM and the County needs to be spelled out. If that determination is going to enter into the decision, then questions need to be asked. Laura DeDomenic asked if the Supreme Court decision coming later this year will affect the VIM or our own Health Department. Jorge Morales answered that with or without the Affordable Healthcare Act, some people cannot afford insurance. He agreed there are a lot of questions surrounding this issue. He stated that we do have an obligation in this County to take care of people that cannot afford medicine and such. President Pence stated that she has heard there will be many issues with the Affordable Healthcare Act. Attorney Monroe stated that there is not a need for the questions if it does not impact the Council vote. Mark Gorbett was unclear as to where we go from here. Jorge Morales stated we go with what Chris Ogle had stated. Auditor Hackman stated we only have three funds that we can take the money from. Chris Ogle stated that until they meet, the questions are going to be unanswered. Mark Gorbett asked Attorney

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Monroe if they should sit down and come up with numbers on paper, then proceed from there. Auditor Hackman explained that where the money had originally been earmarked as coming from won't add up. Bill Lentz summarized that if we don't bond, then we know where the money will come from. Auditor Hackman stated that was correct and would deplete our Rainy Day Funds and it is not fiscally responsible to do this. Mark Gorbett stated that it scares him to reduce the Rainy Day Fund to such low levels. Auditor Hackman stated that she had spoken with Jason Semler at Umbaugh. She stated that he cringed when he heard the plan to spend the Rainy Day Funds. Mark Gorbett stated that he tends to believe we should go with the recommendation of our Financial Consultant who has been with the County for years.

Moving on, President Pence asked for an update on the Benefit Trust. Auditor Hackman stated that Greg Fox would like to do quarterly updates to the Council, but right now we look good.

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

Jim Reed – Had nothing to report.

Mark Gorbett – Extension had cancelled due to weather.

Jorge Morales – County Plan Commission meets tomorrow. The BCRC's next meeting is March 24 at 6:00 p.m. in this room.

President Pence – Park Board had met but she had been unable to attend. They are still working on the restrooms at Dunn Stadium.

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Greg Duke, of the Sheriff's Department, spoke regarding the body cameras. IT Director Hartsook had met with them and believes he can save some funding after looking at the network.

President Pence – Attended a JDAI meeting and they are making progress. Youth Services had cut 25% out of their overtime and reduced part-time from 9 to 6 employees.

Bill Lentz – Nothing to report.

Laura DeDomenic – Data Board had a presentation regarding the Print Services and updating some printers. They also discussed software for the Assessor regarding the GIS.

Chris Ogle – Had nothing to report.

Jorge Morales – County Plan Commission meets tomorrow. There was no Personnel/Job Description meeting. The Economic Development Board also meets tomorrow. The Bartholomew County Redevelopment Commission will be meeting March 24 at 1:30 p.m. to discuss expenditures.

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

BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY COUNCIL

By: _____
Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence, President

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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