

BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY COUNCIL
August 9, 2016

Name:	Representing:	Title:	Present:
Bill Lentz	At Large	President	Present
Jim Reed	At Large	Pro-Tem	Present
Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence	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 August 9, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the County Council Chambers of the Governmental Office Building, 440 Third Street, Columbus, Indiana.

President Lentz called the meeting to order.

President Lentz gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The first item on the agenda was the approval of minutes from July 12, 2016.

Jorge Morales made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mark Gorbett seconded the motion which passed unanimously (7-0).

The next item on the agenda was a Non-Binding Review of Estimated Levy Limits and Estimated Circuit Breaker Impacts of the Taxing Units per IC 6-1.1-17-3.6 (a). Per the new Statute, the other units had been invited to this meeting for any comments they wanted to make. President Lentz invited those units in the audience to speak if they wished to. He also stated that Assessor Lew Wilson had contacted him that

December 14, 2016

he would have the Gross Assessed Value completed tonight. Auditor Hackman explained that it is the Net Assessed Value that is used for budgeting, not the Gross Assessed Value. Three units were represented in the audience but were here to learn and had nothing to present.

The next item on the agenda was a request for a Transfer of Funds for the Immunization Program Grant (811) in the amount of three-thousand four-hundred-ninety-eight dollars (\$3,498) as presented by Amanda Organist, Health Department Director of Nursing. These funds will be for the purchase of equipment that will maintain the vaccine temperatures when away from the office. **Chris Ogle made a motion to approve the request for Transfer of Funds for the Immunization Program Grant (811) in the amount of three-thousand four-hundred-ninety-eight dollars (\$3,498) as presented. Laura DeDomenic seconded the motion which passed unanimously (7-0).**

Kristen Brown (*in the audience*) asked about the overall revenue estimates for the County. President Lentz stated they would get to that but after Amanda Organist was done with her requests.

The next item on the agenda was a request for an Additional Appropriation for the Health Fund (007) in the amount of twenty-thousand dollars (\$20,000) as presented by Amanda Organist, Director of Nursing. This is for more vaccines and is money they have received in fees. This will allow them to use the money to make the purchases they need. **Jim Reed made a motion to approve the request for an Additional Appropriation for the Health Fund (007) in the amount of twenty-thousand dollars**

December 14, 2016

(\$20,000) as presented. Jorge Morales seconded the motion which passed unanimously (7-0).

At this time, President Lentz began discussion of the estimated revenue for the County for budget year 2017. There is concern with the tax cap for the County possibly being double last year's amount. Treasurer Pia O'Connor had spoken with Assistant Superintendent Vaughn Sylva of BCSC as to whether the school rate would climb the anticipated twenty-eight cents (\$0.28) per the State estimate. He stated he expected it would stay flat. Auditor Hackman stated that she had spoken with him as well and he stated that he was not going to give too much credit to the calculations from the State. The State explained that the estimates were high but they are estimates only. There are various factors of which all the information was not available at the time of the calculations. It is probably very unlikely that the impact will be double. Jorge Morales believes we should have a financial advisor to the County. Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence agreed. Auditor Hackman stated that a Financial Advisor receives the same numbers from the DLGF that the Auditor's Office receives. President Lentz stated that last year was bad but they need to be fair to the employees and the tax payers. He stated that several office holders asked that the Council hire a financial consultant. He has looked at several companies. Mark Gorbett asked if they could get this together in a week for budgets. President Lentz stated that October was the First Reading. He was corrected in that the September meeting is the First Reading. There was discussion, with audience participation, regarding this item. Auditor Hackman stated that she felt it was too late for

December 14, 2016

this year but next year it might make sense. The Auditor's Office will have budget estimates Tuesday morning for the 2017 Budget session. Kristen Brown (*in the audience*) stated that they should have the revenue projections confirmed with an outside consultant. She keeps hearing of a projected revenue loss but does not feel comfortable that there will be a loss. President Lentz has called several other County Auditor's. He said that they stated that a lot of time you have personal feelings involved using the Auditor's numbers whereas a consultant would provide information without any feelings involved. The Council would approve the expenditure but the Commissioners would do the contract. This would require an Additional Appropriation. Jim Reed stated that Reedy had already given a presentation to the Council. Treasurer Pia O'Connor stated that she has money in her budget the Council could use to hire a company. Mark Gorbett asked what the process would be. Attorney Monroe stated that the Council has the approval to hire people to work with them in a consultant position. Auditor Hackman stated that all contracts have to have Commissioner's approval. As the three (3) Commissioners were in the audience, they were asked if they would approve a contract. All three (3) stated they would agree to a contract. **Jim Reed made a motion to hire Reedy Financial as a Financial Consultant. Jorge Morales seconded the motion.** Auditor Hackman, during discussion, stated she would like to be part of the decision as she will be working with the people to get the numbers. President Lentz stated it is the decision of the Council though. Auditor Hackman stated that when the City hired Reedy, Reedy received all their numbers from the Auditor's Office. Someone in the audience

December 14, 2016

stated that it should not be someone that the Auditor has a hand in naming as they will be checking the Auditor's numbers. Auditor Hackman stated in rebuttal that they will not be checking the Auditor's Office numbers but rather numbers from the DLGF that the consultant will obtain from the Auditor's Office and she takes this a little personally. When she used Dan Eggermann as the Financial Consultant over the past years, which they didn't listen to, he was using the numbers that had been given to the Auditor from the DLGF. President Lentz stated that some of them he had talked with had some really innovative revenue ideas. Someone in the audience stated that if they had talked to several companies then why not line out three of them and let the Commissioners chose. It was stated that this is a Council decision. Mark Gorbett stated that he is not informed enough about the companies to make a decision at the 11th hour. Kristen Brown spoke in favor of Reedy Financial. Someone else in the audience stated they agreed with Mark Gorbett. If you have three companies then get the quotes. President Lentz stated that one company didn't want to be mentioned and the other one was Tim Barry (*former State Auditor*) and his costs would have been between six-thousand and ten-thousand dollars (\$6,000 - \$10,000). Jim Reed asked what Dan Eggermann was paid last year. It was fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000). Mark Gorbett stated that they had a consultant for the past two years but did not listen to them. Why hire someone if we are not going to listen to them. He would leave it to President Lentz to pick the company. **The motion on the floor was to hire Reedy Financial for two-thousand dollars (\$2,000) for a revenue quote. Jim Reed changed his motion to state that they hire Reedy Financial for no**

December 14, 2016

more than five-thousand dollars (\$5,000). Chris Ogle would like an outside voice to compare as he knows nowhere that he gets one opinion. He also is like Mark Gorbett that he does not like coming into a meeting to make this major of a decision. Yes he is in favor of doing it but no he is not sold on Reedy Financial. He also is not in favor of using someone that won't let them tell their name. Jorge Morales stated he had suggested that they hire an outside person. Chris Ogle would like to see more financial companies come to the table next week. Jim Reed called for the question. Commissioner Larry Kleinhenz stated that the Commissioners will get the people in Thursday and get this done, but it is up to the Council. He suggests that they sit down and talk to a couple of people. Laura DeDomenic asked about modifying the motion to allow President Lentz to choose a company up to five-thousand dollars (\$5,000). **President Lentz stated the motion is to hire Reedy for one year at a not-to-exceed amount of five-thousand (\$5,000).** Attorney Monroe asked where the money would be coming from and that it needed to be in the motion. It was stated that the Treasurer's Office. Auditor Hackman stated that it was not appropriate to use the Treasurer's Funds. The Auditor still has a line item of fifteen-thousand dollars (\$15,000) that she had used for Dan Eggermann and that would be a more appropriate place to pull the money from. **President Lentz called for the vote. The motion carried five-two (5-2) with Mark Gorbett and Chris Ogle voting against.** President Lentz will make contact with Reedy tomorrow. Commissioner Kleinhenz stated if the agreement is worked out by Monday, they will sign it at that meeting. Attorney Monroe stated that there needs to be a contract with either the

December 14, 2016

Commissioners or the Council. Auditor Hackman wishes that this had been discussed with her prior to a public meeting. She thought the Council thought more of her and her office than to blindside her like they have tonight. President Lentz thanked her for her comment. Auditor Hackman stated he did not need to thank her as that was not meant to be nice. She usually tries to stay nice, but not with that comment. President Lentz stated they would run it through the Commissioners on Monday so they have everything straight.

The next item on the agenda was the Request for Transfer of Funds of the State Street Annex Project (850) to Rainy Day Funds (014) in the amount of six-hundred-ninety-thousand two-hundred-fifty-seven dollars and ninety-seven cents (\$690,257.97) as presented by President Lentz. This amount is everything except twenty-five-thousand dollars (\$25,000) held back for outstanding bills. **Jim Reed made a motion to approve the transfer as requested. Mark Gorbett seconded the motion.** A member of the audience asked why the money was being transferred. It was explained that they are not building the new Annex building. **The vote was called for and passed unanimously (7-0).**

The next item on the agenda was a request for a Salary Ordinance Amendment for the Sheriff (001-05) as presented by President Lentz. This is due to a change in a State payment on which the Sheriff's pay is based. **Jorge Morales made a motion to approve the Salary Ordinance Amendment for the Sheriff to comply with State Statute.** A member of the audience asked if the Sheriff will be receiving a lump sum. It

December 14, 2016

was clarified that they had to match if from July to December due to the State being on a Fiscal Calendar, not a yearly calendar as the County is. Attorney Monroe stated that though the Sheriff is a County employee, it is required by law that the Sheriff be paid a minimum of eighty-percent (80%) of the Prosecuting Attorney pay. **Chris Ogle seconded the motion which passed unanimously (7-0).**

The next item on the agenda was the notification of a vacancy in the Commissioner's Office. Commissioner Chairman Rick Flohr explained that County Administrator Debbie Londeree will be leaving the Commissioner's Office for the Sheriff's Office. Tina Jeffries will be filling that position so they will have Tina's position open. Jorge Morales asked if they could wait to fill this position until after the budget session. Commissioner Carl Lienhoop stated that this position needs to be filled so that they can keep the office open during vacations and such. Jorge Morales stated that the Auditor and the Clerk had expressed that they could help out. Auditor Hackman stated that the Auditor's Office could help during lunch times. Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence asked if the Maintenance Department had a full time secretary that could be shared. Mark Gorbett stated that they cut a Maintenance person and an IT position last year and have already hired them back. He does not have the expertise to determine whether or not a position is needed. Jorge Morales stated that technically they could hire the person as they have the money in the budget for this year and then the Council will have to determine whether or not the money is there for next year. Laura DeDomenic

December 14, 2016

stated that when she met with the department heads it was a common statement that maybe we needed a full time Human Resources person.

The next item was the consideration of the 2017 Budget Schedule. The Council wants Reedy to be there Tuesday morning during the two (2) hour start of the session. Mark Gorbett asked about the budget books. Pam Clark (*in the audience*) asked if the Council had given any consideration to allowing the Department Heads to help make cuts in their departments. Chris Ogle stated that they have extended their time with each department and if it doesn't happen at that time, then they will call them back to discuss any major changes. Mark Gorbett seconded that thought specifically pointing out the thirteen (13) cars as asked for by the Sheriff's Department. Chris Ogle believes the 200's, 300's and 400's have been cut to the bone. He believes it comes down to people now. Mark Gorbett hopes that the mindset of the Council is different than usual in that the employees are the first thought, not whatever is left. Jorge Morales hopes to give a raise to employees on Tuesday and then see what is left available to fund. Chris Ogle made a motion to approve the 2017 Budget Schedule as presented. Laura DeDomenic 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:

Liaison to Sheriff's Merit Bd – Sixteen (16) applicants but only four (4) passed the written test – looking at changing the test. They are going to start

December 14, 2016

recruiting at IU. Six-Sigma recommended they spend fifty (50) hours a week serving papers by using two (2) part-time people for this. Mark Gorbett stated that the test they give they had set it to eighty-percent (80%) to pass and that may be what they are looking at changing. Chris Ogle asked if they could use the Reserves to serve papers. The Reserves are down in numbers.

Job Review/Classification Committee – nothing to report

Bartholomew County Redevelopment Commission – nothing to report

Mark Gorbett:

Emergency Management Bd – nothing to report

Emergency Dispatch Services – extreme amount of calls and 2nd a/c issue

Community Corrections Bd – Director Barnes seeking more grants

Liaison to Work Release Center Bd – nothing to report

Jorge Morales:

County Plan Commission – nothing to report

Personnel Admin Committee – nothing to report

Cols Economic Development Bd – nothing to report

Bartholomew County Redevelopment Commission – meets next Monday at

2:30 with Umbaugh and Donaldson to review the TIF.

President Bill Lentz:

Liaison to Sheriff's Merit Bd – nothing to report

Job Review/Classification Committee – nothing to report

December 14, 2016

Personnel Administrative Committee – nothing to report

Cols Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Bd – nothing to report

Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence:

County Parks & Recreation Bd – booked through 2017. Dunn Stadium has been annexed into the City of Columbus. It will remain a County Park. They are still talking about creating a County Park Foundation.

Job Review/Classification Committee – nothing to report

Youth Services Center Advisory Committee – nothing to report

JDAI – nothing to report

Laura DeDomenic:

Computer & Data Processing Bd – old news, have a new director starting the 29th.

Columbus Economic Development Bd – goal was to have five (5) sight visits for the year and have already had eight (8) sight visits. They have a lunch in two weeks for their annual meeting on the 22nd. Tickets are available at the Economic Development Board.

Health Board – discussed their budget and the immunization plan

Chris Ogle:

Liaison to Health Bd – nothing to report

County Extension Bd – nothing to report

Solid Waste Management District Bd – nothing to report

December 14, 2016

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

BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY COUNCIL

By: _____
Bill Lentz, President

By: _____
Jim Reed, Pro-Tem

By: _____
Mark Gorbett, Member

By: _____
Jorge Morales, Member

By: _____
Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence, Member

By: _____
Laura DeDomenic, Member

By: _____
Chris Ogle, Member

ATTEST: _____
Barbara J. Hackman, Auditor
Bartholomew County