

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

Special Meeting

February 23, 2023

The Bartholomew County Commissioners met on February 23, 2023, in the Commissioners Chambers of the Governmental Office Building, 440 Third Street, Columbus, Indiana. Commissioners Tony London and Larry S. Kleinhenz, County Auditor Pia O'Connor, Attorney Grant Tucker and County Administrator Tina Douglas were in attendance. Commissioner Carl H. Lienhoop was unable to attend.

Commissioner London opened the meeting.

Commissioner Kleinhenz gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The first item was the Approval of Payroll. **Commissioner Kleinhenz motioned to Approve Payroll as presented. Commissioner London seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

The next item was the First Reading of an Ordinance Amending the Flood Hazard Area Standards of the Bartholomew County Zoning Ordinance, presented by Planning Director Jeff Bergman. These revisions were prompted by the *Indiana Model Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance*, provided by IDNR, which is FEMA's agent in Indiana. Director Bergman stated that there seem to be no significant changes for residents of Bartholomew County, but included some language changes essential for clarification.

- *The Model Ordinance represents the minimum standards required for local communities to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program, making federally-backed flood insurance available to local property owners.*
 - *Because of a unique-to-Indiana relationship between the Planning Code and Enforcement Departments, the role of Floodplain Administrator is shared. The proposed revisions include text that better defines the floodplain management tasks of these two departments.*
 - *Storage of hazardous materials in a floodplain would only be allowed if indoors and properly elevated and/or flood protected.*

- *Requiring non-complaint existing structures located in a floodplain to become compliant prior to second additions or improvements exceeds the minimum requirements for National Flood Insurance Program participation, but is an optional regulation that may be adopted locally. The Planning Department has found this requirement to be difficult to track and enforce and potentially inconsistent with community preferences and will be removed from the existing Ordinance.*
- *A separate, required provision, states that structures must be brought into compliance in the event of an addition or improvement that equals or exceeds 50% of that structure's value; this provision remains.*

Commissioner Kleinhenz asked if this would apply to a fuel tank used as a heating source on a property. Director Bergman said that no, it would not, according to how he would interpret the language. He further explained that Bartholomew County would not include the optional requirement for existing structures to be brought into compliance prior to allowing new additions or improvements.

Commissioner London called for questions from the public. With no further comments, Commissioner London closed the hearing.

Commissioner Kleinhenz motioned to Adopt the First Reading of the Amendment of the Flood Hazard Area Standards of the Bartholomew County Zoning Ordinance, as presented. Commissioner London seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Kleinhenz motioned to suspend the rules to allow for a second reading, as the Amendment to the Ordinance is time sensitive. Commissioner London seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner London officially opened the hearing to the public for questions regarding the Second Reading of the hearing to Amendment of the Flood Hazard Area Standards of the Bartholomew County Zoning Ordinance, as presented. With no further questions or comments, Commissioner London closed the hearing.

Commissioner Kleinhenz motioned to Adopt the Second Reading of the Amendment of the Flood Hazard Area Standards of the Bartholomew County Zoning Ordinance, as recommended

by Planning Director Jeff Bergman. Commissioner London seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Under Miscellaneous Business, Mark Webber, via Zoom, expressed concern for the illegal dumping of trash in Bartholomew County, which seems to be increasing due to recyclables not being taken or getting too expensive. He asked if the Commissioners are aware of how much it has increased and who would be the best person to address these concerns. The Commissioners were not aware of an increase. Commissioner Kleinhenz directed him to County Highway Superintendent Dwight Smith. Commissioner London also suggested that Heather Siesel at the Solid Waste Department would be the best person to contact regarding recycling.

The next Commissioner's Meeting will be Monday, February 27, 2023.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS

TONY LONDON, CHAIRMAN

LARRY S. KLEINHENZ, MEMBER

CARL H. LIENHOOP, MEMBER

ATTEST:

PIA O'CONNOR