

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

August 19, 2024

The Bartholomew County Commissioners met on August 19, 2024, in the Commissioners Chambers of the Governmental Office Building, 440 Third Street, Columbus, Indiana. Commissioners Carl H. Lienhoop, Tony London, Larry S. Kleinhenz, County Administrator Tina Douglas, County Attorney J. Grant Tucker, and Auditor Pia O'Connor were in attendance.

Commissioner Kleinhenz opened the meeting.

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

The next item was the Approval of Minutes for August 5, 2024. **Commissioner Lienhoop motioned to approve the August 19, 2024 Minutes, as presented. Commissioner London seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

The next item was the Approval of Payroll. **Commissioner London motioned to approve Payroll as presented. Commissioner Lienhoop seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

The next item was the weekly permits report as read by Commissioner London:

<u>Time Frame</u>	<u>New Permits</u>	<u>Fees</u>	<u>Value</u>
8/12/24 to 8/16/24	36	\$7,476.00	\$2,203,627

The next item was the Highway Weekly Crew Report, presented by County Highway Engineer Danny Hollander, as follows: Did chip and seal in Ohio, Harrison, and German Townships, put up signs, picked up trash, and mowed in Ohio Township. Chip sealing is about two-thirds of the way complete.

The next item was a Design Agreement with Strand Associates Inc. for the replacement of Bartholomew County Bridge No. 149 over Driftwood River and its approach roads on Tannehill Road presented by County Engineer, Danny Hollander. Tannehill Road over Driftwood, located at 01.14W of US 31 Bridge No. 03-00149 and built in 1966. The maximum span length for the bridge is one hundred four-teen (114) feet and with a roadway width of twenty-two (22) feet. The bridge will be a desk structure type, main span, continuous steel, and concrete cast. The term duration is the date of the last signature to the completion of the construction contract which is estimated to be December 31st, 2030, to be paid out of the Highway Bridge Funds. Notice to proceed from the Highway Department to Strand is estimated for October 1st, 2024. With an estimated schedule on April 18th, 2029.

Strand Associates, Inc. Fees: \$851,594.00

Commissioner London commented to Engineer Hollander that he was in awe of the design cost for the new bridge compared to when the bridge was originally constructed. Engineer Hollander explained that with Federal Aid and the size of this project there are guidelines to be followed, such as: searching for arrowheads, a lot of environmental ground work, and large watered areas to be surveyed.

Commissioner Kleinhenz mentioned that the bridge had been replaced about sixty-five (65) years ago and agreed that the bridge needs updating. Engineer Hollander commented that when the bridge was originally built, the construction was not completed as best as the bridge could have been rebuilt. The current bridge is a little undersized and has a fifteen (15) ton weight limit.

Commissioner London asked Engineer Hollander if they were looking at a seven (7) million-dollar bridge and Engineer Hollander confirmed yes, and the completion date is set for 2030.

Commissioner Lienhoop motioned to Approve the Design Agreement as presented with Strand Associates. Commissioner London seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The next item was a Consideration of an Admin Settlement Agreement for Right-of-Way on Lowell Road presented by

- ***LW FARMS Parcel 9:*** ***\$3,230.00***
 - o *Original Offer ran through 8/5/24 meeting*
- ***LW FARMS Parcel 9:*** ***\$5,700.00***
 - o *Counter Offer*

The counter offer was presented due to the property owner discovering a comparable sale that was not included in the appraisal causing the offer to be a little more than the other appraisal offers.

Commissioner Kleinhenz motioned to Approve the Consideration of an Admin Settlement Agreement as presented. Commissioner Lienhoop seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The next item was a Proposal from the Highway Department for a Concrete Box Culvert Replacement, between Shaffer lake and State Road 9.

County Road 500 North Culvert #3

- ***S&M Precast, Inc. (Henryville, IN)*** ***\$10,785.00***
 - o *4' x 2' Concrete Box – 42 LF*
- ***Indiana Precast (Columbus, IN)*** ***\$12,931.38***
 - o *4' x 2' Concrete Box – 42 LF*
- ***Civilcon (Jeffersonville, IN)*** ***\$21,506.54***

○ *4' x 2' Concrete Box*

Commissioner Lienhoop asked if the replacement would be for a metal culvert or replacing another cement box. Engineer Hollander explained that the Highway Department is planning to purchase an attachment for the current metal culvert, trying to obtain more area rather than height with the attachment.

From the Republic, Mark Webber commented that the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) has improved the method for chip and seal and was curious if Bartholomew County might adopt that same process. Engineer Hollander explained that the current method of chip and seal is very similar to INDOT's procedure, aside from INDOT has been able to tinker with the oil to make their chip and seal thicker and adhere better. Commissioner Kleinhenz also mentioned INDOT also sprays a black sealant overtop as well, which has helped eliminate complaints. This is because the sprayed sealant appears as new asphalt rather than chip and seal. Engineer Hollander mentioned doing the procedure this way costs more money by about 75% (seventy-five). Three (3) years prior the Highway Department got a full width chip spreader that has helped reduce overlap in the middle of the road, preventing spots that are softer and easier to break. **Commissioner Lienhoop motioned to Award the Proposal for S&M Precast, Inc. as presented. Commissioner London seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

The next item was the Consideration of Annual Joint Funding Agreement for water resource investigation from the Emergency Management Department presented by Director Shannan Cooke. Annual Joint Funding Agreement with the U.S. Department of the Interior U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) for water resource investigations. The agreement will start October 1st, 2024, and be completed by September 30th, 2025. It includes operation and maintenance of two (2) Haw Creek streamflow gauges (one near Clifford and one near Hope) which are part of the early flood warning system. There has been a six-hundred dollars (\$600) increase from 2023 that Director Cooke planned for and incorporated into her budget request for 2025.

- <u>US Geological Survey "USGS" pays:</u>	\$9,900
	<i>(\$4,950 each)</i>
- <u>Emergency Management pays:</u>	\$17,300
	<i>(\$8,650 each)</i>
- <u>Total amount of agreement:</u>	\$27,200.00

Commissioner Kleinhenz asked Director Cooke to explain for the public why the streamflow gauges are needed. Director Cooke informed the audience that streamflow gauges allow us to monitor the river levels, in the Northern part of Bartholomew County/Columbus, and based upon those levels it will give information on the impact from that water, the gauge allows them to see current river levels, and determine the two (2) to three (3) day forecast which allows them to take necessary precautions if there were to be any flooding and store previous data for historical purposes which helps with future planning efforts. Most of the streamflow gauges were put into place after the 2008 flood. Bartholomew County was without streamflow gauges prior to 2008, leaving Bartholomew County without information about the impact the river levels were going to have. The only streamflow gauge in Bartholomew County was located in the East Fork in 2008.

Audience Member Sandra Bush asked for clarification on how many streamflow gauges we have and Director Cooke explained that there are two (2) on the Haw Creek River, two (2) on Clifty River, one (1) on East Fork, one (1) on the Driftwood River, and one (1) on one (1) of the Flatrock Rivers totaling seven (7) streamflow gauges.

Audience member Zack Patchett asked if the streamflow gauges are equipment that we are renting, and Director Cooke confirmed that Bartholomew County rents this equipment from USGS. Which allows the ability to call if there is an issue with the equipment, which they will repair. The one-third (1/3) of the rental fee USGS paid allows them to pull information obtained by Bartholomew County for their data records. Mr. Patchett asked a follow up question regarding if the data is public information and how to obtain it. Director Cooke stated that the information for both the locations of the gauges and river level data collected is available online.

Audience member Ms. Bush inquired who receives the notification when the water levels start to rise? Director Cooke said that information goes to her office, Emergency Management

Commissioner Lienhoop motioned the Approve Consideration of an Annual Joint Funding Agreement. Commissioner London seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The next item was a Ratification of Expenditure for the Maintenance Department presented by Maintenance Director, Rick Trimpe.

- *Environmental Assurance Company, Inc. (Indianapolis, IN)*

\$5,500.00

- o Other quotes were requested but not received

Due to the Courthouse and HVAC loop system remodel and the age of the building, the 2nd and 3rd floor restrooms are being renovated for ADA Compliance. A small section of the wall that was opened, had insulation surrounding the piping that needs to be removed, tested, and disposed of. This will be paid out of the Commissioners' Budget. Commissioner Kleinhenz asked Director Trimpe if there will be another location where the wall needs to be opened and inspected, Director Trimpe confirmed there could be a spot on the second floor, but there should not be anything that needs to be removed. Mark Webber, with the Republic, commented that during a two (2) hour session, he attended at the courthouse he barely heard any remodeling noise in the background and was impressed with the contractors. **Commissioner London motioned to Approve the Ratification of Expenditure as presented, Commissioner Lienhoop seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

The next item was the Consideration of Consultant Study Agreement with DLZ Indiana, LLC for Youth Services Center presented by Charlie Day with DLZ. The study is a first step to generate an awareness of the needs, and then start to build a consensus for a work-in-progress plan. It will take one hundred twenty (120) days to complete. DLZ has completed over two hundred (200) need assessments for facilities and over one hundred (100) of those justice assessments are for County Facilities like the proposed study.

The study will include the following:

- *Review juvenile needs to determine what Bartholomew County needs*
- *Make sure facility meets all State Requirements*
- *Agreed Amount (plus reimbursables):* **\$15,000**

Commissioner Kleinhenz asked Commissioner Lienhoop what the Council wants us to do on this topic. Commissioner Lienhoop said they asked us to do the study and that the Council would ultimately have to fund any project. He stated professional service agreements can be awarded as seen fit and do not need multiple quotes.

Audience member Zack Patchett asked if the potential outcome of the study would be that we keep the building, or tear down the building and then build something new? Commissioner Kleinhenz confirmed that is what happens and that there is a lot of programming that goes on behind the scenes to confidentially determine what we should or should not do.

Audience member Sandra Bush asked if the fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) was just for the study cost alone, and Commissioner Kleinhenz confirmed. Commissioner London also commented that the

cost of the funding is greater than the cost we are being charged. DLZ will end up spending more money conducting this research than what they have charged us in total.

Commissioner Lienhoop motioned to Approve the Consideration of Consultant Study Agreement with DLZ as presented. Commissioner London seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The next item was the Presentation of Form 144's presented by Auditor Pia O'Connor. Form 144's are requests by departments for salary increases for 2025. The personnel cost for all funds that will be reviewed by Council this week total forty million six hundred ninety-six thousand one hundred sixty-seven dollars (\$40,696,167). The County is one of the largest employers in Bartholomew County and that's the amount that the County contributes to overall salaries for all funds. The General Funds, one based on property taxes, as well as local income taxes, and other miscellaneous revenue, and personnel cost for that fund are twenty-three million five hundred sixty-six thousand six hundred thirty-four dollars (\$23,566,634). Of that total, salaries are seventeen million nine hundred thirty-eight thousand four hundred seventy-seven dollars (\$17,938,477) for an increase from last year of 3.7%. Most departments asked for a 3.0% raise, with a few for various reasons asking over 3.0%, including new employees. This all will be reviewed by council later this afternoon, starting at 1:00 PM August 19, 2024.

Commissioner London clarified with Auditor O'Connor that the 3.7% increase was for the General Fund and that is within the 4.0% growth quotation mandated by the state, to which she agreed. Auditor O'Connor further explained that the Growth Quotation is the amount of property tax that we can increase as mandated by the state.

Audience member Sandra Bush clarified with Auditor O'Connor that the state mandate says that the County can go up to a 4.0% property tax increase, Auditor O'Connor confirmed.

Audience Member, Eric Brunn inquired how many employees does the County employ? Auditor O'Connor said approximately four hundred and fifty (450) people. **Commissioner Kleinhenz motioned to Accept the Presentation of Form 144's as presented by Auditor O'Connor. Commissioner Lienhoop seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS

LARRY S. KLEINHENZ, CHAIRMAN

TONY LONDON, MEMBER

CARL H. LIENHOOP, MEMBER

ATTEST:

PIA O'CONNOR, AUDITOR