

## COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

### *"Boy Scouts in Government Day"*

**February 3, 2014**

The Bartholomew County Commissioners met in regular session on February 3, 2014 in the Governmental Office Building, 440 Third Street, Columbus, Indiana. Chairman Carl Lienhoop called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Commissioners Larry Kleinhenz and Rick Flohr, County Attorney J. Grant Tucker and County Auditor Barbara Hackman were also in attendance.

Chris West from the County Auditor's Office gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Several boy scouts attended the meeting in honor of *Boy Scouts In Government Day*. The Commissioners sponsored Scouts Bryce Turner, Will Hahn and Jim Adkins; the County Engineer sponsored Scouts Chandler Bartholomew and Luke Petty; the County Highway sponsored Scout Cole Whichurch; and the County Auditor sponsored Scout Christopher Jones.

The first item on the agenda was approval of the January 27, 2014 Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Kleinhenz made a motion to approve the Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Flohr, and the motion passed unanimously.

Next item on the agenda was approval of Payroll. Commissioner Flohr made a motion to approve the Payroll, seconded by Commissioner Kleinhenz, and the motion passed unanimously. County Auditor Hackman, following-up on a County-wide email, advised attendees that the February 7<sup>th</sup> paychecks would include a one-time supplemental pay to all full-time employees in the amount of \$300.00 in accordance with the 2014 budgeted payroll resolution.

The next item on the agenda was the weekly Permit report. Chairman Lienhoop read the New Permits Report dated 1/27/14 to 1/31/14. Seventeen (17) permits had been issued with a fee amount of \$3,387 and an estimated construction cost of \$1,390,801. Fees collected for the month of January totaled \$25,055.50.

County Engineer Danny Hollander submitted for signatures the previously awarded contract with Beam, Longest and Neff, L.L.C. for professional and engineering services for

the design and replacement of Bartholomew County Bridge No. 58 located at County Rd. 1010 East over Little Haw Creek (Hawcreek). Services include: route survey, design, soils investigation and report, assistance with the construction bidding phase, and general administrative and consultative services as shown:

<b><i>Route Survey</i></b>		<b><i>\$11,600</i></b>
<b><i>Design</i></b>		<b><i>\$48,200</i></b>
<b><i>Bidding Phase Services</i></b>		<b><i>\$ 2,500</i></b>
<b><i>Soils Investigation &amp; Report</i></b>	<b><i>Not to exceed</i></b>	<b><i>\$ 7,200</i></b>
<b><i>Additional Professional Services by Hourly Wage Classification</i></b>	<b><i>Not to exceed</i></b>	<b><i>\$12,400</i></b>
<b><i>TOTAL</i></b>		<b><i>\$81,900</i></b>

Chairman Lienhoop made the motion to sign the agreement with Beam, Longest and Neff, L.L.C. for \$81,900 to replace Bridge No. 58. Commissioner Kleinhenz seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Guest Scouts Bartholomew, Petty and Whichurch then read the County Highway Weekly Crew Report which included the following work: plowed and sanded roads, put up signs, patched roads, picked up trash, mixed salt and sand, and checked roads. The County received 200 tons of salt last week and has 140-150 tons backordered. Engineer Hollander estimated 1,200 tons for a typical winter and is allowed an additional 20%, if needed. The amount on backorder will meet the maximum for the year.

Commissioner Flohr reported to Engineer Hollander that a guard rail on the new bridge at SR 58 and Seymour Rd. has been knocked loose.

Commissioner Kleinhenz said that the Commissioners met with INDOT representatives last Thursday about its intent of putting in a single-lane roundabout on Southern Crossing at US 31 and 400S. Despite some negative aspects, INDOT touts studies that support its view that a roundabout would eliminate T-bone accidents and ultimately save lives by forcing traffic and trucks to slowdown for maneuvering. The project would be paid with federal funds designated for the US 31 corridor improvements. The project is slated for 2015 if it proceeds as expected. INDOT will give a full

presentation at a public meeting to be held February 13, 2014 at Clifty Creek School at 6:00 p.m.

Jean Wilkins, an audience member who lived in England for a time, said she does not particularly like roundabouts. However, if they are necessary, using your vehicle's turning signal is vital in letting other drivers anticipate your movements.

For the next agenda item, Major Gary Myers from the Sheriff's Dept. presented bids for the replacement of the electronic door-locking system at the County Courthouse which is in disrepair and obsolete. He presented three bids:

<i>Security Automation Systems, Indianapolis</i>	<i>\$16,300</i>
<i>Stanley Security Solutions, Noblesville</i>	<i>\$14,277</i>
<i>Staublin Technology Service, Columbus</i>	<i>\$ 5,936</i>

Major Myers recommended accepting the low bid. Commissioner Kleinhenz made a motion to accept the bid from Staublin Technology to replace the Courthouse door-locking system for \$5,396. Commissioner Flohr seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Commissioner Lienhoop noted that the newly remodeled Courthouse bathrooms turned out very nice. The new bathrooms on the first floor are also now ADA-compliant.

Mike Lovelace, in the audience, asked how much longer before the handicapped entrance to the Courthouse is complete as it is already two or three months overdue. The handrail was to be delivered that day and any extra costs because of the delay would be addressed later.

County Highway Superintendent Dwight Smith then asked the County to ratify the purchase of 300 tons of bulk salt from Midwest Salt of Fort Wayne, LLC. The County normally buys salt at \$60/ton, but the depleted nationwide supplies has inflated the cost of purchasing precautionary salt reserves, if the product is found at all. Midwest Salt quoted salt for \$191 per ton. Chairman Lienhoop made the motion to ratify the purchase of 300 tons of salt from Midwest Salt of Fort Wayne at \$191/ton. Commissioner Kleinhenz seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Likewise, Commissioner Lienhoop mentioned that not only was this salt purchase coming from Texas, but Silgas (the local LP gas provider) also has recently sent trucks to

Texas as well as Mississippi to meet local needs due to shortages created by the extreme winter conditions.

Mike Lovelace asked why the County doesn't stockpile salt in the summertime when prices are reasonable. Chairman Lienhoop stated that the County's facilities are old and the salt barn holds 400 tons maximum and Engineer Hollander confirmed that the salt barn was filled to capacity this summer. Salt cannot be dumped wherever, but has to be stored according to EPA regulations, e.g., a salt barn. The unpredictability of amount needed is at least somewhat compensated by being able to order 20% over the annual commitment. A salt barn sized to hold 1,000 to 1,500 tons of salt would be adequate for most winters.

Mark Webber, addressing the Commissioners independently as a professional journalist, wanted to thank the local government for their honesty, cooperation and willingness to disseminate information to the news media and public.

Jean Wilkins expressed her appreciation for the people in public service who serve for the benefit of others and the good of the Columbus area over any self-serving objectives and believes that makes all the difference to the community.

Commissioner Lienhoop asked John Dishinger, in the audience, about the history of the Newbern Bridge. Mr. Dishinger stated that stories of the previous bridge at the site of the current Newbern Bridge being washed away in 1913 have not been documented. An oddity that Mr. Dishinger pointed out is that the southern abutment is laid up with stone (which was probably the original abutment) and the northern abutment is cement. Stories of washing out may have been referring to the abutment. The current Newbern Bridge was moved from 25<sup>th</sup> Street to replace the covered bridge.

Mike Lovelace asked about the status of the Annex Building project. That evening the Commissioners were planning to attend a meeting with the County Council and Financial Consultant Dan Eggermann to discuss options.

Mark Webber, Journalist for The Republic, asked if the Association of Indiana Counties (AIC) had considered the possibility of providing backup salt storage facilities for communities similar to federal oil reserves. County Auditor Hackman said that she had never heard of any such proposal and doesn't know if the County Highway being an affiliate member of AIC has ever addressed the issue with them. The issue could be

brought up at the Legislative Conference on February 4<sup>th</sup> or to the executive director to see if there is any interest.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Lienhoop at 11:00 a.m. The next Commissioners' Meeting will be held on Monday, February 10, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Chambers.

BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS

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CARL H. LIENHOOP, CHAIRMAN

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LARRY S. KLEINHENZ, MEMBER

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RICHARD A. FLOHR, MEMBER

ATTEST:

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BARBARA J. HACKMAN