

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

December 22, 2014

The Bartholomew County Commissioners met in regular session on December 22, 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 were present. County Attorney J. Grant Tucker and County Auditor Barbara Hackman were also in attendance.

County Assessor Lew Wilson gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The first item on the agenda was the approval of the December 15, 2014 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Kleinhenz made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Flohr seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Next was the approval of payroll. Commissioner Flohr made a motion to approve the payroll. Commissioner Kleinhenz seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The next item was weekly reports. Chairman Lienhoop read the New Permit Report dated 12/15/14 to 12/19/14. Twenty-five (25) permits had been issued with fees collected in the amount of \$2,633 and an estimated construction cost of \$1,465,763.

County Engineer Danny Hollander gave the County Highway Weekly Crew Report which included the following work: mowed in Clay and Rockcreek Township, patched roads; ran ditcher in Wayne Township; placed stone along road edges; put up signs; ditched on 250 W, Lowell Road and 200 W; striped roads 325 W and 25th Street; placed sand on roads Saturday morning due to weather.

Chairman Lienhoop stated that the bridge on Base Road looks good. Engineer Hollander stated that they have moved equipment into Newbern to start the bridge project. It is still understood that they plan to pick up the old bridge in one piece. Commissioner Kleinhenz stated that the new guardrail on 325 W will be helpful.

The next item on the agenda was the Recycling Center report. No one was present to give the report.

The next item on the agenda was a Request by Community Corrections Director Brad Barnes for a Letter of Support for the annual Community Corrections Program Grant Application.

Director Barnes stated that this is a 2 year Grant (2015 to 2017) and he simply needs a Letter of Support from the Commissioners. Commissioner Kleinhenz made a motion to approve the Letter of Support. Commissioner Flohr seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was Ratification of radio purchases by Community Corrections as presented by Director Brad Barnes. Director Barnes stated that they had purchased 10 portable radios and a base station radio. The purchases were necessary due to the new P25 standard. They had already purchased them to take advantage of a trade-in deal that saved the County \$5,225. The cost of the 10 radios was \$29,249.30 and the cost of the base station radio was \$4,090.70. That, combined with the trade-in amount resulted in a final cost of \$28,115. They did not need an Additional Appropriation as they had the funds available. Commissioner Flohr made a motion to approve the Ratification of the radio purchases. Commissioner Kleinhenz seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Mike Lovelace stated he would like to see them follow the rules and present this prior to purchasing using the bid process. Director Barnes explained that there is only one vendor that handles the radios and the urgency was in order to save the \$5,225.

Chairman Lienhoop had Tom Crawford, Veteran Service Officer discuss an issue that had recently developed. VSO Crawford stated that there had been an article in the paper that stated that Veterans that lived more than 40 miles from a VA medical facility could visit doctors that were local. He stated that he had 5 veterans that had done this. The VA will not reimburse them for these visits as there are 3 criteria they must meet first. They must live more than 40 miles from a VA medical facility or not be able to get

into a VA medical facility within 30 days; they must apply to the “Choice” program; they must be accepted by the program. If a Veteran is in a critical medical condition, they need to seek treatment at the nearest medical facility, but they must notify the VA within 72 hours. Commissioner Kleinhenz asked that the media outlets assist in getting this information out to the public.

The next item on the agenda was Approval of the Local Drug Free Communities Fund as presented by Larry Perkinson, Coordinator (Bartholomew County Substance Abuse Council), Rick Scalf, President (Bartholomew County Substance Abuse Council) and Lynn Pittman, (NYAP) (National Youth Advocate Program). Mr. Perkinson stated that there is an application process for agencies to utilize the user fees that are collected. This year, the total amount was \$58,269.12 that was available. They have four categories that they use the funds for: Prevention & Education, Treatment & Intervention, Criminal Justice Services and Administration. The Administration side was \$5,074 and that cost includes expenses for the website and the annual Desperate Household Conference. Including the Administrative costs, they had 12 agencies request the funding. They have divided it among all the agencies, trying to keep it at 25% of the funds for each category. Chairman Lienhoop stated that Judge Heimann had recently discussed with him the growing issue of drug use in the County. Mr. Perkinson stated that there had been worldwide articles stating that there had never been a better time to purchase high quality drugs at low prices. Heroin is currently rising in use due to just this issue. John Dishinger asked how prescription medications were an issue. Mr. Perkinson stated that individuals will receive more than they need and either give or sell the extras. Mike Lovelace stated that he had not heard the word “Meth” but hoped that some of these funds were to help those addicted to it. Mr. Perkinson stated that it was definitely a large factor in these programs. He stated though, to get one person the proper treatment to get off the Meth could take at least \$53,000 per person. He applauded the WRAP program that Community Corrections is doing. Mike Lovelace is concerned that they are robbing good people to get these funds, as it is not normally the person that is in trouble that is paying it

but rather a parent or grandparent. Chairman Lienhoop made a motion to approve the recommendations for distribution as presented. Commissioner Kleinhenz seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was the monthly Animal Control Report. Commissioner Flohr read the report that stated the following: 14 animals had been picked up; 1 fine issued; 0 bite cases reported; and 83 total calls.

Chairman Lienhoop reminded everyone that the County Offices would be closed Wednesday, December 24 through Friday, December 26, reopening on Monday, December 29.

Auditor Hackman stated that payroll would be deposited on Friday, December 26, which is the day it would normally be deposited. She also stated that the Clerk's Office would be closed from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. on Friday, January 2, 2015 for a staff meeting with the newly elected Clerk, Jay Phelps.

Auditor Hackman then read excerpts from a letter sent by Carolyn Massengale, Accounts Payable/Receivable Administrator in the Auditor's Office. The letter was a thank you regarding the assistance she and her Veteran father had received from VSO Tom Crawford as well as high compliments she had heard while talking with individuals at the VA. It stated that VSO Crawford always has the Veterans as his highest priority. Chairman Lienhoop stated he would hate to lose VSO Crawford to the State VA. Mike Lovelace did point out that previous to VSO Crawford's administration, the VSO position had been part-time only, now it is full-time. He believes the restructuring of the office by the Commissioners has also helped.

John Dishinger stated that the headphone system had worked to perfection today.

The next Commissioners' Meeting will be held on Monday, December 29, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Chambers. There being no other business the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Lienhoop at 10:45 p.m.

BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS

CARL H. LIENHOOP, CHAIRMAN

LARRY S. KLEINHENZ, MEMBER

ATTEST:

RICHARD A. FLOHR, MEMBER

BARBARA J. HACKMAN