

## COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

December 11, 2017

The Bartholomew County Commissioners met in regular session on December 11, 2017, in the Governmental Office Building, 440 Third Street, Columbus, Indiana. Commissioners Rick Flohr and Larry Kleinhenz were present. Chairman Carl Lienhoop was absent. County Attorney J. Grant Tucker and County Auditor Barbara Hackman were also present.

In Chairman Lienhoop's absence, Commissioner Kleinhenz called the meeting to order and Commissioner Flohr gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The first order of business was the approval of the 12/4/17 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Flohr made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Kleinhenz seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Next was the approval of claims. Commissioner Kleinhenz motioned to approve the claims. Commissioner Flohr seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The next item was weekly reports. Commissioner Kleinhenz read into the minutes the New Permit Report dated 12/4/17 to 12/8/17. Twenty-six (26) permits were issued with fees collected of \$3,168 and estimated construction costs of \$1,403,533.

Next was the consideration of the **Data Board ratification items** that came out of its meeting that morning. IT Director Scott Mayes presented the following:

<u>Vendor/Item/Service</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Funding Notes/Split</u>
<i>County-Wide Security Systems</i>		
<b>Security Pros</b> /EOC Camera System/Approved \$13,900 earlier plus an annually recurring maintenance fee	\$ 934.99 \$ 1,325.88	(Ratification of overage - IT pays) EOC
<b>Security Pros</b> /County-wide Door Access System, plus the annually recurring maintenance fee	\$ 20,063.81 \$ 498.72	IT-\$5,594.51/Comm- \$14,469.30 IT
<b>CDW-G</b> /Trend Micro Anti-Virus Annual Renewal	\$ 4,999.12	IT
<b>Information &amp; Records Assoc.</b> /Docuware maintenance & support	\$ 2,684.00	IT w/ partial funding by Child Support
<b>AcrobatPro DC</b> /Adobe Systems annual subscriptions	\$ 2,158.68	IT
<b>CDW-G</b> /Counterpart to the Cisco ASA firewall for IDACs and VPM	\$ 6,965.13	IT
<b>Datacave</b> /setup more rack space at co-locations, plus a monthly recurring maintenance fee	\$ 3,275.00 \$ 1,755.00	IT IT
<b>CCS</b> (CIM Tech)/Audio System at Marr Road Co. Ext. Off., plus an opt. annually recurring maintenance fee (TBD later)	\$ 20,936.00 \$ 900.00	IT IT
<b>CDW-G</b> /Replacement desktop computers: E911 (1), Sheriff (11)	\$ 8,932.00	
<b>CDW-G</b> /Replacement color printer for Auditor's Off.	\$ 1,086.92	
<b>Purdue</b> Extension computer lease agreement (3 years)	\$ 1,680.00	IT

Mayes said that several of the listed items were agreements and he asked that approval be made contingent on their review by County Attorney Grant Tucker. The first motion was made by Commissioner Flohr to ratify the first item listed - the additional \$934.99 for the camera system at the Emergency Operations Center. Commissioner Kleinhenz seconded the motion that passed unanimously. (2-0) Commissioner Kleinhenz motioned to ratify the remaining items with the agreements being subject to review by the county attorney. Commissioner Flohr seconded the motion that passed unanimously. (2-0)

County Engineer Danny Hollander gave the Highway Weekly Crew Report which included the following work: finished side-winding stone on 325W; switched the trucks over to sandboxes; put in driveway pipe on 750N; wedged culvert pipes on Base Road, 850S, and 875W; worked on signs; and sprayed brine.

Hollander submitted the **Highway Monthly Crew Report** for November, 2017, which included crew work, status of bridge and road projects and upcoming crew priorities for November, 2017. He also submitted the County **Highway Monthly Financial Report** for November, 2017, which included the Financial Report, Budget Status Report and Revenue Comparisons for the Highway Fund, Local Roads/Street Fund and the Cumulative Bridge Fund.

Hollander then presented two (2) agreements for **remote sand/salt stockpile sites** through April 15, 2018. **Columbus Silgas** will charge \$4.00/ton to store reserves at 1864 West 550 North, Columbus, and **Milestone** will charge \$4.00/ton to store reserves at 6345 Jonesville Road, Columbus. Commissioner Flohr motioned to enter into both agreements for remote stockpile sites. Commissioner Kleinhenz seconded the motion that passed unanimously. (2-0)

Next was the consideration of two quotes received by County Highway for purchasing **two (2) tailgate spreaders**. One is a replacement and the other is an addition to the fleet. Reading Equipment & Distribution, LLC (Indianapolis) quoted \$6,040 each (\$12,080 total), and Palmer Power & Truck Equipment (Indianapolis) quoted \$11,047 each (\$22,094 total). Commissioner Flohr moved to accept the low bid. Commissioner Kleinhenz seconded the motion that passed unanimously. (2-0)

Hollander then asked for the Commissioners' consideration of a **drainage agreement** permitting placement of drainage pipe in the county road right-of-way and providing for the maintenance and/or removal, thereof. Landowner Jesse Walker has requested to fill a portion of county right-of-way adjacent to his property located at 5494 Brushcreek Drive, Columbus, in exchange for installing and maintaining drainage tile meeting certain specifications. The subject location is more specifically described as: Lot 43 in Sand Creek Farms, Phase Two, and recorded as Instrument No. 2017-8123. Commissioner Kleinhenz motioned to sign the drainage agreement. Commissioner Flohr seconded the motion that passed unanimously. (2-0)

Next, Hollander clarified **corrections to the year-end bids** entered into the minutes last week. Year-end items affected were Nos. 4, 6, and 9, as follows:

**#4** One (1) New 2017/2018 5500 Regular Cab White Dump Truck with Trade (Highway) -

*Read into the 12/4/17 Minutes: No bids received*

**Actual Bid:** *Bob Poynter (Columbus) 2018 Ram 5500 for \$57,341*

**#6** One (1) New 2017/2018 5500 White Sign Truck With Trade (Highway) -

*Read into the 12/4/17 Minutes: Bob Poynter (Columbus) 2018 Ram 5500 for \$57,341*

**Actual Bid:** *Bob Poynter (Columbus) 2018 Ram 5500 for \$123,012*

**#9** One (1) New 2014-2017 5500 4WD White Dump Truck (Maintenance Dept.) -

***Read into the 12/4/17 Minutes: Bob Poynter (Columbus) 2018 Ram 5500 for \$123,012***

**Actual Bid: No bids received**

Commissioner Kleinhenz noted that the bids have not yet been awarded and motioned to approve the corrections. Commissioner Flohr seconded the motion that passed unanimously. (2-0)

The next item of business was the consideration of a memorandum of understanding and agreement between the County Treasurer and the Association of Indiana Counties (AIC) acting as the Indiana Local Government Debt Setoff Clearinghouse to participate in the **AIC Tax Refund Exchange and Compliance System (TRECs)**. County Treasurer Pia O'Connor spoke about the program created in conjunction with the AIC and NACO (National Association of Counties) which allows county treasurers to intercept state tax refunds for payment of delinquent taxes. She went over the following talking points from AIC.

- AIC's TRECs debt setoff clearinghouse program allows local units of government to easily and efficiently collect delinquent debt through the withholding of a debtor's person income tax refunds
- Senate Bill 515 amended the Indiana Code in April 2017 to grant units of local government authority to participate in the state's existing debt setoff program from incoming state tax refunds. Please see Indiana Code IC 6-8.1-9.5.
- Indiana state agencies have been using debt setoff to collect their debts for years
- No cost to register or participate other than debtor notification
- A pilot based on Marion County's debts showed that Indiana counties can expect significant debt repayment
  - Marion County pilot results from just 4 different types of old debts, revealed over \$1,000,000 eligible for collection
- Participating units of local government would receive analysis reports on debts owed to the county and on the amounts of monies returned
- Tax equity is ensured as more citizens are paying their fair share for services
- AIC TRECs is favorable to the debtor
  - Lowered credit-rating impacts
  - Receives required notification letters and 30-day contestation period
    - From other state models, very few debtors contest the debt

- Notification letter itself often prompts debtors to pay
- Participating units of local government will receive notice of debtors who have passed away
- Easy and free method for collecting small debts of as little as \$25 or less if it can be combined with other debts to meet the \$25 threshold
- Ease of administration through easy download of debt files and upload of debt reconciliation data files that integrate into current utilized systems
- IT Helpline and clearinghouse staff easily accessible and available for question and assistance
- Debtor has two notification and contestation periods and benefits through lowered credit-rating impacts

County Auditor Barbara Hackman said this subject was brought up at a recently attended AIC board meeting. Several other counties are entering these agreements. The process is being positively received as an effective means of collecting past due revenues and reducing the number and cost of tax sale properties. O'Connor said it would also substantially reduce the number of judgements on mobile homes and personal property.

Audience member Mike Lovelace supported the idea of taking tax refunds to pay for taxpayers' delinquent bills – "they owe the bill and that's part of doing business", he said. He has noticed that past due taxpayers never seem to go on the tax sale and asked how long a property has to be delinquent before going to tax sale. O'Connor said taxes have to be three installments delinquent to be eligible for tax sale. Taxpayers can make minimum payments which then resets the process. He thanked O'Connor for finding another way to collect back taxes. Lovelace concluded that after searching on the county's GIS software, taxpayers appear to be beating the system while the county struggles with money shortages.

County Attorney Grant Tucker had some concern that the Treasurer's Office has the responsibility to update the [clearinghouse] agency as payments are made. However, O'Connor believes software will meet that requirement. She has consulted with the Marion County Treasurer, who is using the same software vendor as O'Connor's office. She would have collaborative support from Marion County and could incorporate their practices currently in use.

In spite of the apparent merits of the program, Commissioner Flohr thought it did not feel right. He noted with all the kinds of taxes, it uses [the taxpayer's overestimated] income tax to

pay property tax. Commissioner Kleinhenz didn't like that it is a forced collection when a system is already in place and thought it intrusive to lien against someone's tax refund. Given the attending commissioners' apprehensions and the absence of Commissioner Lienhoop, Commissioner Kleinhenz made a motion to table the item for further deliberation until next week. Commissioner Flohr seconded the motion that passed unanimously. (2-0)

Audience member Charles Doup asked for an explanation of the current process for collection. Commissioner Kleinhenz stated the tax sale process is a cumbersome system that greatly favors the property owner because of its duration. A property can actually be sold, but the delinquent owner has a year to pay the back taxes, plus fees, to regain legal ownership. The owner can also postpone the action with partial payments. Doup agreed with Commissioner Flohr's opinion and suggested amending the current tax sale procedures to be less cumbersome for the county. O'Connor said that TRECs also includes an appeal process to accommodate exceptional hardships.

For the next agenda item, County Clerk Jay Phelps presented a renewal agreement with **KnowInk** Innovative Election Solutions for software licensing, support and maintenance on 34 polling pads. Polling pad inventory has been increased the last few years with batch purchases producing three separate maintenance agreements having different dates of coverage. Phelps said this contract combines the multiple contracts into one contract for all 34 pads. The cost would be \$5,100 for the year (\$150 per unit). The contract term is for 36 months running from 1/1/18 through 12/31/20 and will poll three elections during that period. Commissioner Flohr moved to sign the maintenance agreement with KnowInk. Commissioner Kleinhenz seconded the motion that passed unanimously. (2-0)

Next was the consideration of a **claim from Plainfield Correctional Facility** to reimburse them \$1,390.25 for their payment to the Hendrick's County Coroner for an autopsy performed on inmate Donald Saunders on 9/20/16. In accordance with IC 4-24-4, Sec. 2, the county from which the inmate was committed pays for autopsy fees. Commissioner Kleinhenz moved to approve the claim. Commissioner Flohr seconded the motion that passed unanimously. (2-0)

Commissioner Kleinhenz acknowledged the receipt of the November, 2017, **Treasurer's Monthly Report** signed by County Treasurer Pia O'Connor. He moved to accept the report. Commissioner Flohr seconded the motion which passed unanimously. (2-0)

The next Commissioners' Meeting will be held on Monday, December 18, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Chambers. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS

*Absent*  
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CARL H. LIENHOOP, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

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LARRY S. KLEINHENZ, MEMBER

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BARBARA J. HACKMAN

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RICHARD A. FLOHR, MEMBER