

**COMMISSIONERS' MEETING**  
**February 24, 2020**

The Bartholomew County Commissioners met in regular session on February 24, 2020, in the Commissioners' Chambers of the Governmental Office Building, 440 Third Street, Columbus, Indiana. Commissioners Rick Flohr, Larry Kleinhenz and Carl Lienhoop were present. County Auditor Pia O'Connor and County Attorney J. Grant Tucker were also present.

Chairman Lienhoop called the meeting to order. Commissioner Flohr gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The first order of business was the approval of the February 17, 2020, Commissioners' Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Flohr made a motion to approve the minutes. Chris West, of the Auditor's Office, noted that the Weekly Reports dates were incorrect and should reflect the dates of 2/10 – 2/14. Commissioner Kleinhenz seconded the motion with the noted correction and the motion passed unanimously.

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

The next item was weekly reports. Chairman Lienhoop read the New Permit Report dated 2/17/20 to 2/21/20. Forty-one (41) permits were issued with fees collected of \$5,649 and estimated construction costs of \$6,573,279.

County Engineer Danny Hollander gave the Highway Weekly Crew Report which included the following work: patched roads in Clay, Flatrock, Harrison, Ohio & Wayne; dura-patched in Harrison and Hawcreek; picked up brush, worked on underbody truck wash system; worked on signs; crack-sealed; cleaned out pipes and side-winded Georgetown Road. The issues on Georgetown Road may be caused in part by the tri-axle trucks delivering rock to Atterbury. It was noted by Engineer Hollander that Atterbury has also been working on repairing the damaged County road edges in the area.

County Engineer Danny Hollander presented the Monthly Highway Report for January, 2020.

The next item on the agenda was a proposal for two (2) flashing stop signs as presented by County Engineer Hollander. These are to replace 2 damaged signs; one is

located at 500 E & 25<sup>th</sup> Street and the other is located at 600 N & Marr Road. These signs were taken out by hit and run accidents. Mark Webber asked if these were accidents or was someone hitting them intentionally. Engineer Hollander stated he believes they were accidents. Bids received were as follows:

LED Lighting Solutions	2 - 30" LED STOP Signs Solar Powered Flashing	\$1,174.99 Each	\$2,349.98
Solar Traffic Systems	2 – 30" Flashing STOP Signs	\$1,455.00 Each	\$2,910.00
Traffic Safety Warehouse	2 – 30" LED STOP Signs	\$1,500.00 Each	\$3,000.00

Commissioner Lienhoop motioned to approve the low bid of \$2,349.98 from LED Lighting Solutions. Tony London asked if these were solar powered and who installed them. Engineer Hollander stated they are solar powered with battery back-up and Highway takes care of installation. Commissioner Kleinhenz seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Mark Webber asked, as far as time, how far apart these were reported down. Engineer Hollander stated at least a week apart. Jo Flohr asked if a metal sign was installed in the interim. Engineer Hollander stated yes.

Next on the agenda was Emergency Operations Center Director Todd Noblitt who presented a Contract with Motorola for the E911 main radio communications system. The last contract was in 2014/2015. It provided maintenance as well as hardware & software upgrades. At that time, the County paid the cost upfront at just over \$500,000. That contract has expired. This new Contract is an 11-year contract with no cost during the first year (2020). It will expire in the year 2030. The cost for this is handled through the 55/45 split between the City and the County. This will be paid yearly out of the 911 budget and will be absorbed without any increases in budgeting. The contract includes maintenance services for the 7 existing consoles/positions in 2020 and is a 24/7/365 service. In 2021, it will include a system upgrade with an additional console/position and a maintenance update plan for the next 10 years. The radio system does not have any ties to the Information Technology department and thus needs no support from IT. In 2021 they will start refreshing the hardware and software updates will occur every other year. The amount of the contract is \$494,880.00. Mark Webber asked about the time frame on having the new system upgraded and running. Director Noblitt clarified that he was asking about the

phone system. There will be minimal training required for the phone system (that was approved at an earlier meeting) as most of the changes are on the back side. As far as this radio upgrade, there will be no training required as it is all on the back side of the system and there will be no changes to the user side. Commissioner Flohr motioned to approve the contract as presented. Commissioner Kleinhenz seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Commissioner Kleinhenz stated that Bartholomew County had been a leader in the State in this area. In the 90's, there were several PSAPs within the County. The County, working with the City, created a single PSAP in 2001 for all first responders in Bartholomew County. The agreement with the City provided the funding mechanism for any costs above the fees received from the State through 911 charges. This split was originally 65/35 and is now 55/45. Director Noblitt stated that there are only a few counties that have more than one PSAP and those are allowed by Statute. There is a Joint Council within the County that has worked very well. Commissioner Kleinhenz stated that we need the City's continued ongoing cooperation and funding support to maintain our well-functioning PSAP. Auditor O'Connor added that when the County Council enacted the LIT Public Safety, they have earmarked that money for the E911 Center.

Next on the agenda was the Monthly Animal Control Report from Animal Control Director Mark Case as follows:

	<b>Dogs</b>	<b>Cats</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Picked up</b>	8	5	-	13
<b>Audits</b>	-	-	-	131
<b>Violations</b>	1	-	-	1
<b>Fines</b>	-	-	-	0
<b>Bite Cases</b>	2	-	-	2
<b>Door Hangers</b>	-	-	-	4
<b>Animals Reclaimed</b>	1	-	-	1
<b>Traps Loaned to Public</b>	-	4	-	4
<b>Total Cases</b>	45	11	8	64

They drove 2,429 miles between the two vans. Commissioner Lienhoop made a motion to accept the report as presented. Commissioner Flohr seconded the report which passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda was the Monthly Veteran’s Report as presented by Veteran’s Service Officer Larry Garrity as follows:

<b>In Office Interviews</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>Out of Office Interviews</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Walk-ins</b>	<b>83</b>
<b>Incoming Phone</b>	<b>192</b>
<b>Outgoing Phone Calls</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>Mileage on Van</b>	<b>1107</b>
<b>Trips to VA Hospital</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Outgoing Mail</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>New claims filed</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Veteran Disability Compensation Claim Filed</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Veteran / Surviving Spouse Pension Claims</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>All Forms filled out for Veterans</b>	<b>126</b>
<b>Miscellaneous Events (See Below for Explanation)</b>	<b>3</b>

On January 7, they conducted the 1<sup>st</sup> interview for the Assistant VSO position. On January 17, they conducted the 2<sup>nd</sup> interview and then offered the position to Mr. Barton Scott Land on January 21<sup>st</sup>. Scott, as he goes by, was present and was introduced. Commissioner Kleinhenz made a motion to approve the report as presented. Commissioner Flohr seconded the motion which passed unanimously. VSO Garrity stated that Jennings County now has a VSO. He traveled there to meet him and assist him in learning the job.

Next was the Clerk’s Monthly Report. Commissioner Kleinhenz made a motion to approve the Clerk’s Monthly Report as presented. Commissioner Flohr seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mark Webber brought up the “2A” project. It is a project asking County and City Officials to sign a document pledging to not uphold any Federal laws banning firearms or firearm items. Mr. Flohr read from his copy that stated they (the Commissioners and Mayor) were hiding from making the statement. Commissioner Flohr stated that to say that they, as Commissioners, do not support gun owners is inaccurate. They support gun owners as well as the Constitution of the United States. To state that they are going to be for or against some future law/event is not something they can speak to at this time. Attorney Tucker stated that it does not change the position at this time. Commissioner

Kleinhenz stated that they did not take a vote but they did make a joint statement with the Mayor. They are all gun owners and very much support the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment. Just because he does not agree with every point that this group is wanting them to, does not mean he does not support the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment. He believes people are confusing this with Sanctuary Cities. They are not against legal immigration or gun ownership. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment was put in place for a reason and needs to stay in place as it is. Mike Lovelace asked if this was a letter to the editor. Mark Webber stated that it was a letter sent to the Commissioners and to the paper from a person from Hamilton County. Mr. Lovelace stated that if they wanted comment from the Commissioners then they should attend the meeting. Attorney Tucker stated that there was no point for any further comment. Tony London stated that he feels it is very dangerous to have people not in law enforcement determine what laws law enforcement officials are to uphold or not uphold. That is for the judicial system to determine. Dan Arnholt stated that he agreed that there is a process to make laws in the United States that needs to be utilized. Jo Flohr stated she agreed with the previous statements so there is nothing more to say. She believes in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment and her family owns guns. Commissioner Lienhoop stated that two of the hot topics in America are immigration and gun ownership. He does not believe the surrendering of guns will ever happen in the United States. Immigration, particularly in the border States, has many different issues than those that the interior States have. Commissioner Kleinhenz referenced a History Channel special on George Washington where Washington stated that we have to maintain the Courts to keep us from falling into a state of anarchy. He has taken an Oath of Office to support the Constitution of the United States. He will not sign the document that was sent to him. Commissioner Flohr stated that the people doing this are needed and he means no disrespect to them.

Auditor Pia O'Connor stated that there have been some changes within in her office and Laura Lamb will no longer be working on the minutes of these meetings. Chris West will be doing the minutes from here on. The Commissioners praised the work that Ms. Lamb had done with the Commissioner minutes.

The next regular session of the Board of Commissioners will be held on Monday, **March 2, 2020** at 10:00 a.m. in the GOB Commissioners' Chambers. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

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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PIA O'CONNOR