

April 11, 2019

**BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**February 12, 2019**

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Representing:</b>	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Present:</b>
Matt Miller	At Large		Present
Bill Lentz	At Large		Present
Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence	At Large		Present
R. Scott Bonnell	District 1		Present
Laura DeDomenic	District 2		Present
Mark E. Gorbett	District 3		Present
Jorge R. Morales	District 4		Present
Chris Monroe	- -	Attorney	Present
Pia O'Connor	Auditor	Secretary	Present

The Bartholomew County Council met on February 12, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the County Council Chambers of the Governmental Office Building, 440 Third Street, Columbus, Indiana.

President Matt Miller called the meeting to order.

Bill Lentz gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The first item on the agenda was the approval of meeting minutes of January 8, 2019. **Jorge R. Morales made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. R Scott Bonnell seconded the motion which passed unanimously (7-0).**

The next item on the agenda was a Request from VOA (Volunteers of America) for a Fresh Start Recovery Program for funding for the renovation of a building as presented by Mary Ferdon, Executive Director of Administration and Community Development for the City of Columbus, Julie Abedian, Vice President Community Partnerships & Corporate Responsibility for Columbus Regional Health and Shannon

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Schumacher, Executive Vice President of VOA Indiana. Ms. Schumacher presented a power point presentation discussing what they do and how the program works. She presented information regarding statistics specific to Bartholomew County. They have served 8 women from Bartholomew County at other Fresh Start facilities as well as 14 women from the counties surrounding Bartholomew County. Mark Gorbett asked if they are so busy with surrounding counties, how do we know that our County citizens are going to be taken care of based on the fact that we would be funding the project. Ms. Schumacher stated that County residents would be given priority. Matt Miller followed up as he is concerned when he hears the word "Region" as to how the County residents will be served. Ms. Schumacher stated they will come first. There were 137 newborn babies at CRH in 2017 that tested positive for illicit drugs. One reason they want to establish a center in Bartholomew County is to get mothers into the program and have better follow up with them when they go home. Currently, there are approximately 30 infants in the neo-natal unit at CRH. Jorge Morales asked if the 22 bed facility that they just purchased were not full with Bartholomew County residents, will there be residents from the surrounding counties in the beds. Ms. Schumacher stated yes. Jorge Morales asked if the other Counties would be paying. Mary Ferdon stated that the request is only for funding for the renovation of the building. The treatment operations are paid for by the State. Once the remodeling is completed, there will be no more costs to the County. They have received a Grant from the State for \$1,240,000, \$100,000 from CRH and they are asking for \$100,000 from the City of Columbus and \$100,000 from the County. They

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have also received a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Grant for \$150,000. Mark Gorbett stated that, in his opinion, the bottom line is that it is an investment in our community and he supports it. Ms. Schumacher stated that other Counties will support this as they will be soliciting the other Counties for funds to help pay down the remainder of the loan. Jorge Morales is just concerned about the other Counties getting a free ride. He would like to see other Counties return some of the money to Bartholomew County. Matt Miller wanted to know what kind of guarantee or contract the County would get so that they do not renovate the building and then cash out. Ms. Schumacher stated that the State has guaranteed 6 years. **Mark Gorbett made a motion to approve the request for one-hundred-thousand dollars \$100,000 to be paid out of Alliance for Substance Abuse Progress (ASAP) appropriated funds (001-42) and Laura DeDomenic seconded the motion.** Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence asked if the clients would be drug tested? Ms. Schumacher stated they definitely will be. They are watched very closely and Columbus Police Chief John Rohde (*in the audience*) there are not concerns regarding security. Ginny Whipple, County Assessor, asked what the programming is based on. Ms. Schumacher stated they use evidenced based programs. They are a Christian based organization (*since 1896*) and they feel that every human being, regardless of religious affiliation, deserves to get the help they need. Jorge Morales stated he hopes the surrounding Counties will do their part. Mary Ferdon stated that there may be some out of County residents treated, but there is no shortage of Bartholomew County/City of

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Columbus residents that need this help. **The vote was called for and passed unanimously (7-0).**

As a side note, Mary Ferndon stated that the REALM program already has 7 clients participating in it based on an e-mail she received from Community Corrections Director Brad Barnes.

Next on the agenda was the proposed Drug Court. Judge Kelly Benjamin presented a power point presentation along with Prosecutor Bill Nash and Mary Ferndon also participated in the presentation. Judge Benjamin discussed the slides and showed data regarding drug courts across America. A study found that drug courts can reduce the costs on the judicial system and the community. Completion rates are about 60% which is 2/3<sup>rd</sup> higher than probation. The court will use motivational tactics, give participants insight into why they are using drugs and develop skills to help them succeed. Judge Benjamin stated it takes about 18 months to get the brain back to thinking as it was before the drug use. Prosecutor Nash will screen the cases as they come in to help get them into the drug court quicker. They also want to separate high-risk from low-risk. The clients will be seen on a weekly or bi-weekly basis. If they complete the course after 18 months, their case will be dismissed. The Drug Court will use incentives for encouragement. Clients can also get up to 5 days in jail if they are not meeting the requirements. Clients will be subject to random drug screens weekly and will be monitored very closely. The drug court will meet every Tuesday afternoon. To be eligible it will require non-violent, low-level felony offenders. Mental health, as well as

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the amount of the abuse, will be considered. Recovery from drug use is a process; there is a treatment phase and then the recovery process. It will take time and participants will have to learn to live with sobriety for the rest of their lives. There will be no excuses. This will be an every week process to keep it instilled in them. Each participant will have a team made up of a Judge, the Prosecutor, a coordinator (*County*), a case manager (*BJA*), a defense attorney (*BJA*), law enforcement, the community and the treatment/recovery providers. There is Certification Oversight by the State that has to be met and maintained. The Drug Court will have to measure the effectiveness for the State as well as for the County Council. The team members have to attend trainings to continue to be Certified. The number of drug cases in Bartholomew County has doubled since 2014. They are asking for total of \$92,602.00, split equally between the City and County at \$46,301.50 each. They have acquired other funding in the amount of \$146,255 for the total 2019 budget of \$238,858. Scott Bonnell asked how the clients would go to work during the program and about driving to and from their jobs. Judge Benjamin stated that is part of the program. They will see to it that they have access to ways to seek and maintain employment. Judge Benjamin stated that she was not in favor of a drug court 2 years ago. Now, she believes with ASAP and the community involvement, it is a project that is capable of working. If it were not for the community involvement, she would not be here today to ask for the court. Mark Gorbett asked about looking forward as far as future funding that will be needed. Mary Ferndon stated that City Council had the same question. They hope to have some metrics in May and June regarding the Drug Court,

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REALM and ASAP. They hope to use this to assist with the 2020 budgeting requests. Jorge Morales asked how long it will be before they will know whether if this is working. Judge Benjamin stated that there are 13 pages of statistics that they have to give to the State. They won't have good numbers until 18 to 24 months in as that is the length of the program. If 6 months in, 6 of 6 have failed the program, then she will want to know why. Mary Ferndon stated that the Grant is for 4 years (*through 2022*). Prosecutor Nash stated that each year will give us better data. They will have some information in a year but it will be a few years before they have hard data to prove that it is working. **Laura DeDomenic made a motion to approve the request as presented. Jorge R. Morales seconded the motion which passed unanimously (7-0).**

The next item on the agenda was the Request for a 2019 Salary Ordinance Amendments for Adult Protective Services as presented by Prosecutor Bill Nash. **Jorge R. Morales made a motion to approve the request as presented. Laura DeDomenic seconded the motion.** There was a discussion regarding when this would take effect. It was decided it would be immediately. **Jorge R. Morales amended his motion to include that it would be "effective immediately". Laura DeDomenic seconded the amended motion which passed unanimously (7-0).**

The next item on the agenda was a Request for an Additional Appropriation in the Rental Payment Fund (*351*) in the amount of \$65,000 as presented by the County Commissioners. Commissioner Lienhoop stated they need this for property taxes, association fees and to repair the small elevator in the Governmental Office Building.

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**Laura DeDomenic made a motion to approve the request for the Additional Appropriation of \$65,000 in the Rental Payment Fund (351) as presented. Mark E. Gorbett seconded the motion which passed unanimously (7-0).**

Jorge R. Morales asked for an update on the new Highway Garage. They still believe that about \$7,500,000 to \$7,600,000 should complete the project. The Commissioners are meeting every 10 to 14 days with the contractors. If the Commissioners sell the property on State Street where the current Highway Department resides, then they will build a salt barn at the new site. Matt Miller asked why they wouldn't build the salt barn now. Commissioner Kleinhenz stated it was just an issue of money. They are trying to stay within the bond budget. Mark E. Gorbett asked if there is a timetable to meet the bonding. Auditor O'Connor stated that she just received an update today and they have until June or July.

The next item on the agenda was a Request for an Additional Appropriation in the Jury Supplemental Fund (310) in the amount of \$10,000 as presented by Judge Coriden. Judge Coriden stated that they have \$1,000 in their Jury Fund. Every time someone files for a Jury trial, this is the fund they use. **Mark E. Gorbett made a motion to approve the request for an Additional Appropriation of \$10,000 in the Jury Supplemental Fund (310) as presented. R. Scott Bonnell seconded the motion which passed unanimously (7-0).**

The next item on the agenda was a Request for an Additional Appropriation in the VASIA Funds – Thrive Alliance (037) in the amount of \$50,000 as presented by Auditor

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O'Connor on behalf of Judge Worton. This is a Grant. **Laura DeDomenic made a motion to approve the request for an Additional Appropriation in the amount of \$50,000 for the VASIA Funds – Thrive Alliance (037) Grant as presented. Jorge R Morales seconded the motion which passed unanimously (7-0).**

The next item on the agenda was a Request for an Additional Appropriation in the Sales Disclosure Fund (322) in the amount of \$2,872.13 as presented by Assessor Ginny Whipple. Assessor Whipple stated that this is for a laptop computer and 2 desks. This is money that is collected from Sales Disclosures. **Mark E. Gorbett made a motion to approve the request for an Additional Appropriation in the amount of \$2,872.13 in the Sales Disclosure Fund as presented. Bill Lentz seconded the motion which passed unanimously (7-0).**

The next items on the agenda were updates by the Council members regarding Boards and Commissions as follows:

**R. Scott Bonnell:**

*County Extension Bd* – nothing to report

*Solid Waste Management District Bd* – placed money into the Rainy Day fund.

*Health Bd* – nothing to report

**Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence:**



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County Parks & Recreation Bd – Commissioners encouraging them to hire a Park Board Director. They have turned in a Grant request.

Job Review/Classification Committee – nothing to report

Youth Services Center Advisory Committee – returned some money. Have used some overtime as they are short personnel.

JDAI – nothing to report

Affordable Housing Meeting – nothing to report

**Bill Lentz:**

Job Review/Classification Committee – nothing to report

Personnel Administrative Committee – nothing to report

Cols Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Bd – nothing to report

**Matt Miller:**

Personnel Administrative Committee – nothing to report

Job Review/Classification Committee – nothing to report

**Jorge R. Morales:**

County Plan Commission – nothing to report

Sheriff's Merit Bd – nothing to report

Cols Economic Development Bd – nothing to report

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Bartholomew County Redevelopment Commission – nothing to report

**Laura DeDomenic:**

Bartholomew County Redevelopment Commission – There is an area up North that may need to be looked at to add to the TIF District.

Greater Columbus Economic Development Bd – nothing to report

ASAP – the next ASAP meeting will be in May and they hope to have budget amounts for 2020.

**Mark E. Gorbett:**

Emergency Management Bd – nothing to report

It Council Emergency Dispatch Services – nothing to report

Community Corrections Bd – nothing to report

Data Board – nothing to report

Drug Epidemic Committee – nothing to report

Mark Gorbett stated that E911 Director Todd Noblitt will be coming to the Council in the following months regarding new employees for this year and next year. Also, Representative Ryan Lauer testified against a change in a bill that would have hurt Bartholomew County regarding LIT Distributions. That change was successfully amended out of the bill.

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Auditor O'Connor stated that Representative Lauer had his first bill approved on the floor today.

**Mark E. Gorbett made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Laura DeDomenic and passed unanimously.**

**BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY COUNCIL**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Matt Miller, President

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Bill Lentz, Pro-Tem

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
R. Scott Bonnell, Member

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence, Member

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jorge R. Morales, Member

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Laura DeDomenic, Member

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mark E. Gorbett, Member

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Pia O'Connor, Auditor  
Bartholomew County