

BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY COUNCIL

October 10, 2023

Name:	Representing:	Title:	Present:
Greg Patterson	District 1		Present
Leah Beyer	District 2		Via Zoom
Mark E. Gorbett	District 3	Vice President	Present
Jorge R. Morales	District 4	President	Present
Matt Miller	At Large		Present
Bill Lentz	At Large		Present
Evelyn Strietelmeier-Pence	At Large		Present
Pia O'Connor	Auditor	Secretary	Present
Dalene Pattingill	Auditor	Chief Deputy	Present
Chris Monroe		Attorney	Present

The Bartholomew County Council met on October 10, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Governmental Office Building, 440 Third Street, Columbus, Indiana.

President Morales called the meeting to order.

Micah Barber, Pastor of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, gave the invocation and President Morales started the Pledge of Allegiance immediately after.

The first item was the Approval of Meeting Minutes for Budget Hearings. President Morales stated that Evelyn Strietlemeier-Pence made some grammatical corrections to the minutes but they could go ahead and approve the minutes as submitted. He continued by stating the grammatical errors will be corrected and that Ms. Strietlemeier-Pence had turned them in to Chief

Deputy Pattingill. President Morales called for a motion. **Mark Gorbett moved to approve the minutes for the Budget Hearings. Matt Miller seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item was the Approval of the Flatrock Township Budget presented by Flatrock Township Trustee Lisa Moore. Ms. Moore started by asking if everyone had received a copy of her budget and had copies to pass out if needed. She then stated that she has one firefighter and one regular member on her board and the budget had already been approved by the township. It was then brought to her attention by Vicky Neely, her Department of Local Finance rep, that since they have a Firefighter on the board, she would need to seek approval from the county council for her budget. Ms. Moore mentioned that the increases were of a small amount. President Morales then asked if anyone present in the meeting had any questions for Ms. Moore or wanted to review each item line by line. Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence asked where on the proposal the increases could be found. Ms. Moore stated the Fire Fighting Fund went up by \$5,000, the Cumulative Fire Fund by \$3,000, the Township Assistance by \$1,000, and General/Miscellaneous Township expenses were up by approximately \$200. President Morales asked if Leah Beyer had any questions, she did not. He then called for a motion. **Matt Miller moved to approve the revised 2024 Flatrock Township Budget. Mark Gorbett seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item was a request for appropriation for two funds presented by the Sheriff's Matron Bobbie Shake via Zoom. Matron Shake stated the first grant was a Duke Energy Grant the Sheriff's Department received in the amount of \$5,000 for emergency water rescue. President Morales asked if anybody present had any questions for Matron Shake, no questions were asked. President Morales called for a motion. **Bill Lentz moved to approve the appropriation of the Duke Energy Grant. Mark Gorbett seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

Matron Shake went on to present her second request for appropriation of the Heritage Fund Mental Health Grant in the amount of \$2,500. President Morales asked if there were any questions. Mark Gorbett asked if the grant is going to a fund or to be earmarked. Matron Shake said it is earmarked for an agreement with Breathe Halo Therapy that offers therapy sessions and this program goes beyond the current county offered EAP. They offer 450 sessions and an employee can go twice per month. President Morales called for a motion. **Greg Patterson moved to approve the appropriation of the Heritage Fund Mental Health Grant. Mark Gorbett seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item was a request of appropriation of an Energy Security Grant in the amount of \$45,000 presented by Shannan Cooke, Director of Emergency Management. Ms. Cooke explained that this is an energy security grant from Indiana Office of Energy Development. Mark Gorbett asked if this will need to be advertised due to a slight change in the grant name. Chief Deputy Pattingill responded that it will not need advertising. Ms. Cooke stated that Utilities and First Responders are to create a plan and test exercise for the county. President Morales called for a motion. **Mark Gorbett moved to approve the appropriation of the Energy Security Grant. Greg Patterson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item was a request of an additional appropriation for Superior Court II (1000-38-03-90) for mental health competency evaluations in the amount of \$15,000 presented by Office Manager Janet Ketron. Ms. Ketron stated that they need additional appropriation due to the amount of money that has already been spent on the following: 3 mental health requests that have cost \$8,500, 2 pending claims in the amount of \$4,400 and another evaluation that has been completed but not yet billed. She stated over \$12,000 was spent before October 1, 2023 and she is not sure what the cost will be on the pending evaluation invoice. President Morales asked if there were any

questions for Ms. Ketron. Greg Patterson followed by asking if the amount needed has been built into next year's budget to which Ms. Ketron answered no, it has not. She mentioned this is the first year that they have had 4 evaluations in a year. The average is usually one or two. She said the county may need to add this amount into the budget next year, but every year is different. President Morales followed by asking if this will be a trend or ongoing issue into next year. Ms. Ketron said it's possible with a lot of mental health issues. President Morales asked if the courts have worked with the Alliance for Substance and Abuse Prevention (ASAP) on this issue or if they should be. Ms. Ketron was unsure. President Morales asked if there were any further questions. **Bill Lentz moved to approve the request. Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence seconded the motion which passed unanimously.** President Morales asked Ms. Ketron to keep the council posted on the situation.

The next item was a transfer of funds request presented by Chris West, Director of Weights and Measures. Before he began, Mr. West handed out a breakdown report showing council where Weights and Measured stood at that time. He requested a transfer of funds from 1000-28-04-40 to 1000-28-03-90 in the amount of \$450. Mr. West stated that it is a job requirement to be certified by the State, and must maintain that certification and that must be done by attending a conference. He must have 15 hours of continuing education. Hotel expenses and food will cost over \$400. He stated this has been included in the 2024 budget along with some needed increases. President Morales asked if anybody had any questions for Mr. West. There were no questions related to the request. **Mark Gorbett moved to approve the transfer request. Matt Miller seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item, not on the agenda, was an additional appropriation request presented by Tami Hines, County Recorder. Ms. Hines stated that the office has books that are in dire need of repair and presented photos of the damages. She stated some have been taped together, 11 books

are in bad shape and a mortgage book from the 1800's has pages that are falling out of it. They have checked for vendors and there is only one in the state of Indiana and she wanted to avoid shipping out of state. She mentioned there is money in the Perpetuation fund for this year, they just need to be moved from the 400's to the 300's. She has \$20,000 set aside for equipment repairs that she hasn't had to use and would like to move \$15,000 of that money over to repair the books. President Morales asked if anybody had questions for Ms. Hines. No questions were asked and President Morales continued by calling for a motion. **Greg Patterson moved to approve the request. Matt Miller seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item was a review of staff and salary changes within the Auditor's Office presented by Auditor Pia O'Connor. Ms. O'Connor mentioned that an employee in the office decided to leave, which led to an evaluation of staffing needs within the Auditor's Office. She stated that after evaluation, they were able to reallocate duties to others in the Auditor's Office by cross training employees that were willing to take on more responsibilities. She proposed the position be fully eliminated and increase the salary for the Director of Finance and the Second Deputies in the Real Estate/Deduction area and it carry over into 2024. Ms. O'Connor stated these changes can still be absorbed into the budget for 2023 with money left to spare. The change would also have a savings of \$61,120 saved in the 2024 Auditor budget. Ms. O'Connor rounded back to asking for a change of salary ordinance for the Director of Finance for 2023 and 2024. President Morales clarified that the money is already available in the 2023 budget for these changes to which Ms. O'Connor answered yes and it would add savings for 2023 and 2024. Matt Miller asked if she was confident in other employees taking on the additional duties. Ms. O'Connor answered yes. Mark Gorbett commended Ms. O'Connor for eliminating positions. President Morales called for a motion to approve the new salaries for Director of Finance to the amount of \$55,000 and Second

Deputy for Real Estate and Deductions to the amount of \$46,698 for 2023. **Mark Gorbett moved to approve the request. Matt Miller seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item was the 2nd reading of the 2024 Budget for Solid Waste and Salary Ordinance presented by Heather Siesel, Director of Solid Waste Management. Ms. Siesel began by stating that additional appropriation is needed first. She asked for \$11,500 to cover moving a part-time employee to full-time, in order to cover an employee that is out on workman's comp and not having a return date. This is already accounted for in their 2024 budget and is just needed to cover the remainder of 2023. President Morales asked if anybody had any questions. **Mark Gorbett moved to approve the additional appropriation. Greg Patterson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.** Ms. Siesel then continued by stating in the 2024 budget there is no major landfill work planned. The tax rate increased to 3.25% and gate rate to 36% but the budget is largely down from 2022. The personnel services is at \$1,221,310 and that's with the 4% salary increase, supplies are at \$102,000, in the 300's they have \$2,340,750 and the 400's are at \$346,550 bringing the total budget to \$4,010,610. President Morales asked if anybody had any questions and called for a motion. **Greg Patterson moved to approve the 2nd reading of the 2024 budget and salary ordinance for Solid Waste. Mark Gorbett seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item was the 2nd reading of the 2024 budget for Bartholomew County presented by Auditor Pia O'Connor. Ms. O'Connor said that a few things had changes, including the Auditor's budget. She mentioned the Sheriff budget also changed and went down due to the jail drug treatment program being taken over by ASAP. She mentioned that ASAP should be able to absorb the jail treatment with money in their budget and grant money, so the department at the jail has been eliminated. President Morales asked if the Council wanted to hear the budgets for each department line-by-line. Mark Gorbett answered by saying only the two numbers changing would

need to be reviewed. President Morales stated the Auditor's Office budget was reduced by \$61,120. Mark Gorbett asked how much the Sheriff's Office budget has gone down, to which Deputy Chief Pattingill responded \$218,947. Mark Gorbett asked for a grand total along with President Morales. Deputy Chief Pattingill stated the first total was \$67,584,014 and the second is \$67,814,314. She then mentioned that the Youth Service Center did not account for the 4% salary increase in her 2024 budget and that's why there is a difference. President Morales asked if there were any questions for the Auditor's Office. He then called for a motion. **Greg Patterson moved to approve the new 2024 Bartholomew County budget of \$67,814,314.00. Mark Gorbett seconded the motion to which the vote was 6-1 with Matt Miller voting nay, the motion passed.**

2024 BUDGET

Fund	Amount
Clerk	497,484.00
Auditor	515,036.00
Treasurer	288,705.00
Recorder	228,041.00
Sheriff	5,647,576.00
Surveyor	531,670.00
Coroner	204,342.00
Prosecutor	1,045,815.00
Assessor	360,150.00
Code Enforcement	628,707.00
Employee Resource Office	79,600.00
Emergency Management	204,056.00
Drainage Board	9,925.00
Voter's Registration	101,282.00
Co-op Extension	303,314.00
Park Board	659,471.00
Veteran's	171,818.00
Weights & Measure	65,265.00
County Council	140,240.00
Commissioner	11,257,283.00
Maintenance	1,480,347.00
Jail	885,273.00
E-911	25,000.00

Youth Service Center	1,854,872.00
Court Services	758,710.00
Circuit Court	831,402.00
Superior Ct I	550,225.00
Superior Ct II	622,517.00
Circuit Ct IV-D	93,851.00
Prosecutor IV-D	558,156.00
Information Technology	2,787,100.00
Asap/Drug Court	234,170.00
Asap/Realm	239,525.00
Soil & Water	128,125.00
Asap/Drug Addiction	-
Asap/HUB	555,380.00
Court House Security	421,478.00
TOTAL COUNTY GENERAL BUDGET	34,965,912.00
Reassessment	643,247.00
Sales Disclosure	76,000.00
Employee Benefit Trust	410,000.00
Debt Service	1,808,500.00
Elected Officials Training Fund	25,000.00
Election Board	322,905.00
Clerk Perpetuation	88,931.00
Clerk IV-D	31,638.00
Cedit	3,283,000.00
Family Recovery Court	119,242.00
Jury Supplemental - Superior Ct I	17,500.00
Jury Supplemental - Superior Ct II	10,000.00
Public Defender - Superiod Ct II	51,298.00
Community Corrections Project Income	485,299.00
Adult Probabtion	417,119.00
Alcohol/Drug	145,854.00
Community Corrections	1,530,617.00
Youth Service Day Treatment	63,630.00
Probation Grant	139,150.00
Statewide E-911	2,768,243.00
LEPC	14,690.00
Health Department - Environmental	931,673.00
Health Department - Nursing	1,076,955.00
Indiana Health First - Environmental	491,707.00
Indiana Health First - Nursing	382,767.00
Highway	3,024,867.00
Higway Restricted	1,800,000.00
Local Roads & Streets	905,528.00
Cumulative Bridge	1,797,641.00
Pre-Trial Diverson	82,537.00
STOP	117,102.00
Prosecutor IV-D	62,630.00

VOCA	107,457.00
Adult Protective Services	374,496.00
Recorder's Perpetuation	205,730.00
Security Protection	45,000.00
Jail/LIT	7,431,749.00
Cornerstone Perpetuation	8,700.00
VIP	1,550,000.00
TOTAL HOME RULED FUNDS	32,848,403.00
GRAND TOTAL 2024 BUDGET	67,814,314.00

The next item was the approval of the 2024 Salary Ordinance. President Morales called for a motion to approve, including the new proposal from the Auditor's office salaries. **Mark Gorbett moved so approve the 2024 Salary Ordinance. Leah Beyer seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The final item presented was a request for a Solid Waste Board Liaison. President Morales asked if anybody would be interested in being a member. Greg Patterson asked when the board meets. Heather Siesel said they meet 8:30 to 10:30 am but dates are not set for 2024. They have 7 meetings per year which seems to work and they will move forward with that process. President Morales stated that if nobody is interested, he would be willing to serve on the board. President Morales called for a motion. **Greg Patterson moved to appoint Jorge Morales as the liaison for Solid Waste. Mark Gorbett seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

President Morales stated that in November there will be no work session. The next Council meeting will be on Monday November 13, 2023 at 6pm and will advertise accordingly. President Morales called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Greg Patterson moved to adjourn, Matt Miller seconded and all voted in favor.**

BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY COUNIL

By: _____
Jorge Morales, President

By: _____
Mark Gorbett, Pro-Tem

By: _____
Greg Patterson, Member

By: _____
Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence, Member

By: _____
Matt Miller, Member

By: _____
Bill Lentz, Member

By: _____
Leah Beyer, Member

ATTEST: _____
Pia O'Connor, Auditor
Bartholomew County