

**COMMISSIONERS' MEETING**

**January 29, 2024**

The Bartholomew County Commissioners met on January 29, 2024, in the Commissioners Chambers of the Governmental Office Building, 440 Third Street, Columbus, Indiana. Commissioners Larry S. Kleinhenz, Carl Lienhoop, Tony London, County Administrator Tina Douglas, Assistant County Administrator Brooke Bowers, and Auditor Pia O'Connor were in attendance.

Commissioner Kleinhenz opened the meeting.

Commissioner London gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The next item was the Approval of Minutes of January 22, 2024. **Commissioner Lienhoop motioned to approve the January 22, 2024 Minutes, as presented. Commissioner London seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

The next item was the Approval of Claims. **Commissioner London motioned to approve Claims as presented. Commissioner Lienhoop seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

The next item was the consideration of the Equitable Sharing Agreement and Certification for the Sheriff's Office for Chris Lane, Sheriff, presented by Bobbie Shake, Matron. The completion of the certification, which reports asset seizure money received and spent for the year, is required annually to comply with the National Code of Professional Conduct for Asset Forfeiture. Electronic submission must be sent within (60) days of the end of the Agency's fiscal year to the Department of Justice and the Department of the Treasury. The Equitable Sharing Fund balances are as follows:

- *Beginning Equitable Sharing Fund Balance:* \$861,637.69
- *Total Equitable Sharing Funds Received:* \$34,676.41
- *Expenditures for Law Enforcement equipment/ training/ education:* \$183,067.44
- *Remaining balance for the year ended 12/31/2023:* \$713,246.66

**Commissioner London motioned to approve the Equitable Sharing Agreement and Certification, as presented. Commissioner Lienhoop seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

The next item was the weekly permits report as read by Commissioner Kleinhenz:

<u>Time Frame</u>	<u>New Permits</u>	<u>Fees</u>	<u>Value</u>
1/22/2024 to 1/26/2024	16	\$5,921	\$1,469,792

The next item was the Highway Weekly Crew Report for the past week, presented by Highway Engineer Danny Hollander as follows: Cut and picked up trees; mowed in Jackson Township; fixed and cleaned plow trucks after snow; fixed yards from snow; dura-patched potholes;

put up signs. Commissioners Kleinhenz and Lienhoop commented that the portion of Lowell Road maintained by the city has worsening potholes, also noting that in prior years the County Highway Department went ahead and patched them due to it being on the line. Commissioner London noted that he had a resident tell him part of Wolfcreek Road has dropped and Engineer Hollander stated that portion of the county is on their continuous list of areas to check and fix due to it being so close to the creek.

The next item was the Highway Monthly Crew Report for December 2023, presented by Engineer Hollander. The report included December's accomplishments, the status of Bridge Projects, the status of Road Projects, the Overlay Phase breakdown, January crew priorities, and permits issued. **Commissioner Lienhoop motioned to accept the December Highway Crew Report, as presented. Commissioner London seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

The next item was the consideration of a Grant Application submitted by the Highway Department, presented by Engineer Hollander. The grant request is for the 2024 Community Crossing Grant through the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) for 2024 road paving. The grant period dates are March 2024 to June 2025 and it is an advanced grant, meaning the county receives the funds upfront. The amount requested is \$3,000,000.00 with a county match of \$1,500,000.00 and \$1,000,000.00 of the county match will be paid for out of the Highway Budget. The remaining \$500,000.00 of the county match amount will be paid for out of the Commissioners' CREDIT Fund. Commissioner London pointed out that the grant has increased by \$1 million this year. The commissioners have been urging State Representative Ryan Lauer to either reduce the required matching funds from the county or maintain the same amount while increasing the grant so that more roads can be completed and the rising costs can be managed. **Commissioner Lienhoop motioned to approve the Grant Application, as presented. Commissioner London seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

The next item was the consideration of a Financial Commitment Letter, presented by Engineer Hollander. The financial commitment letter is to INDOT for the 2024 Community Crossings Matching Grant, stating that Bartholomew County has the funds available and set aside to match the cost of Application #13333. The expected total cost of the project is \$3,000,000.00 with a county match amount of \$1,500,000.00. **Commissioner London motioned to approve the Financial Commitment Letter, as presented. Commissioner Lienhoop seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

The next item was the consideration by the Highway Department of a Renewal Software Agreement with NAPA Tracs, presented by Engineer Hollander. The renewal is for the software program that the highway mechanics use to look up parts. The IT Department is aware of the renewal agreement and licensing. Half of the amount due is paid out of the Highway Department and the other half is paid from the Commissioners Highway 02-40 Account. The agreement term is twenty-four (24) months with the option to cancel with thirty (30) days written notice. The amount due to renew the agreement is \$3,700.00. **Commissioner London motioned to approve the Renewal Agreement with NAPA Tracs, as presented. Commissioner Lienhoop seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

The next item was a proposal by the Highway Department for Road and Bridge Signs, presented by Engineer Hollander. Due to new INDOT requirements, updated road and bridge signs are required. The award went to the low bidder, Osburn Associates, and was paid out of Highway Funds. The quote amounts were as follows:

**Osburn Associates, Inc. (Ohio) - \$8,611.07**

- Stop signs, Weight Limit signs, Curve signs, and equipment for signs

**Stello (Spencer, IN) - \$12,743.00**

- Road and Bridge signs

**Commissioner Kleinhenz motioned to award the proposal to Osburn Associates, Inc., as presented. Commissioner Lienhoop seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

The next item was a proposal by the Highway Department for 2024 Guardrail and Weed/Johnsongrass Applications, presented by Engineer Hollander. Both applications are paid out Highway Funds and are as follows:

**2024 Guardrail Treatment & Rip-Rap Spraying:**

<i>- The Daltons, Inc. (North Webster, IN) – Chemical Vegetation Control</i>	
▪ Guardrail Treatment – estimated 87,310 ft. at \$0.06 per ft.	\$5,238.60
▪ Rip-Rap Spraying – estimated 26,800 ft. at \$0.144 per ft.	\$3,870.00
<b>Total Quote:</b>	<b>\$9,108.60</b>
<i>- Midwest Spray &amp; Team (Crawfordsville, IN) - Chemical Vegetation Control</i>	
Guardrail Treatment – estimated 87,310 ft. at \$0.19 per ft.	\$16,588.90
Rip-Rap Spraying – estimated 26,800 ft. at \$0.18 per ft.	\$4,824.00
<b>Total Quote:</b>	<b>\$21,412.90</b>

Commissioner Lienhoop motioned to award the proposed application to The Daltons, Inc., as presented. Commissioner London seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**2024 Roadside Weed Treatment:**

- *Midwest Spraying (Crawfordsville, IN) - Chemical Vegetation Control*
- *Estimated Mileage: 300 Center Line Miles (600 miles of R/W)*  
*Proposed Gallon Mile 150 at \$63.10 gallon* *\$28,395.00*
- *The Daltons, Inc. (North Webster, IN) – Chemical Vegetation Control*
- *Estimated Mileage: 300 Center Line Miles (600 miles of R/W)*  
*Proposed Gallon Mile 50 at \$1.53 GALLON* *\$45,900.00*

Commissioner Lienhoop mentioned that, based on his experience on the Drainage Board, he is grateful that the Highway Department found these proposals. In the past few years, the Drainage Board had to rely on someone local who used a drone to apply the chemicals. **Commissioner Lienhoop motioned to award the proposal to Midwest Spraying (Crawfordsville, IN), as presented. Commissioner London seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

The next item was the Ratification of an Expenditure for Emergency Management, presented by Director Shannan Cooke. The ratification was for the purchase of seven thousand (7,000) viewing glasses for the solar eclipse to be passed out to first responders, employees, and the public at county events. The glasses will have the county logo that was created by the Visitor’s Center. The viewing glasses will be paid in part from encumbered 2023 Emergency Management funds and a portion of the Duke Energy Grant. Director Cooke proceeded with the order because the originally preferred company was cutting off orders to be able to guarantee the glasses were delivered in time for the eclipse. Both the chosen company (American Paper Optics) and the originally preferred company (Rainbow Symphony) are on the approved state list for viewing glasses. All companies are shown below:

**American Paper Optics (Bartlett, TN)**

- *Seven thousand (7,000) glasses at \$0.79 each* *\$5,530.00*
- *Shipping* *\$65.00*
- Total:*** ***\$5,595.00***

**Rainbow Symphony (Reseda, CA)**

- *Seven thousand (7,000) glasses at \$0.45 each* *\$3,150.00*

***\*The company stopped new orders until mid-February and couldn’t guarantee delivery before the eclipse.***

**Baltimore City Eclipse**

- Seven thousand (7,000) glasses at \$0.67 each

\$4,690.00

*\*Not on the state-approved list of verified working glasses*

**Commissioner London motioned to approve the ratification for American Paper Optics (Bartlett, TN), as presented. Commissioner Lienhoop seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

The next item was the consideration of Resolution 2024-02, Establishing the Intent to Conduct a Commissioner Internet Sale, presented by Barb Hackman, Treasurer. The Internet sale would be used to sell tax sale certificates for properties that are severely delinquent in payment of property taxes. Three (3) properties are severely delinquent in the payment of property taxes, having been offered for tax sale, and did not receive any bids equal to or in excess of the minimum sale price. The sale is scheduled for April 3, 2024, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Indiana Statute IC 6-1.1-24-6 ET SEQ. allows for the county commissioners to acquire a lien on those delinquent properties and receive issuance of the tax sale certificates for those properties without taking title to the properties. No property shall be sold on the Internet Commissioner Tax Certificate Sale for less than ten percent (10%) of the amount of taxes and applicable fees or charges owing with respect to said property. **Commissioner Lienhoop motioned to approve the resolution, as presented. Commissioner London seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

The next item was the consideration of the Commissioner's Certificate Tax Sale Services Addendum to the SRI Tax Sale Services Agreement, presented by Barb Hackman, Treasurer. SRI will conduct the sale or auction on the Internet, and prepare all notices, publications, postings, and other documents required to dispose of the property pursuant to the statute upon the adoption of the Resolution Establishing the Intent to Conduct a Commissioner Internet Sale. The county agrees to pay SRI 15% of all amounts collected for all properties sold. Additionally, the county shall pay any expenses associated with legal or display advertising associated with the requirements of the sale. **Commissioner London motioned to approve the addendum, as presented. Commissioner Lienhoop seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

The next item was the Animal Control December Monthly and Yearly Reports, prepared by Director Dean Satterfield and presented by Commissioner London as follows:

**December Monthly Report**

<i>Action</i>	<i>Dogs</i>	<i>Cats</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Picked Up</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>Audits</i>	<i>114</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>114</i>

<i>Violations</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Fines</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Bite Cases</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Door Hangers</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Animals Reclaimed</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Traps Loaned</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3</i>
<b><i>Total Cases</i></b>	<b><i>74</i></b>	<b><i>35</i></b>	<b><i>10</i></b>	<b><i>119</i></b>
<i>Mileage for the month</i>	<i>Van 1 =</i>	<i>764</i>	<i>Van 2 =</i>	<i>2138</i>

**Commissioner London motioned to accept the Animal Control Reports as presented.**

**Commissioner Kleinhenz seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item was the Veteran's December Monthly and Yearly Reports, prepared by Veteran's Service Officer Larry Garrity and presented by Commissioner Kleinhenz as follows:

**December Monthly Report**

<i>Item</i>	<i>Monthly</i>	<i>YTD</i>
<i>In Office Interviews</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>536</i>
<i>Out-of-Office Interviews</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>28</i>
<i>Walk-ins</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>536</i>
<i>Incoming Phone Calls</i>	<i>168</i>	<i>2488</i>
<i>Outgoing Phone Calls</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>284</i>
<i>Outgoing Mail</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>53</i>
<i>Incoming Fax</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Outgoing Fax</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>83</i>
<i>Trips to VA Hospital</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>329</i>
<i>Mileage on Van</i>	<i>976</i>	<i>13381</i>
<i>New Claims Filed</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>195</i>
<i>Veteran Disability Compensation Claims Filed</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>226</i>
<i>Veteran/Surviving Spouse Pension Claims</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>42</i>
<i>Burial Appropriations</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>115</i>
<i>All Forms Filled Out for Veterans</i>	<i>95</i>	<i>1699</i>
<i>Miscellaneous (see below)</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>12</i>

**Commissioner Kleinhenz motioned to Accept the Veteran's Reports as presented. Commissioner London seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item was the Clerk's November and December 2023 Monthly Reports, prepared by Chief Deputy Clerk, Julie Robertson and presented by Commissioner Lienhoop. **Commissioner Lienhoop motioned to Accept the Clerk's Monthly Reports as presented. Commissioner London seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item was the November and December 2023 Monthly Treasurer's Reports, prepared by Treasurer Barb Hackman and presented by Commissioner Lienhoop. **Commissioner Lienhoop motioned to Accept the Reports as presented. Commissioner London seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item was Commissioner Lienhoop's acknowledgment of comments received by the public regarding the closing of last week's Commissioners' Meeting without the option for members of the public to speak. Commissioner Lienhoop highlighted that due to the large number of items on last week's agenda, the loud demonstration outside of the meeting, and the meeting exceeding the set time, the Commissioners motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Lienhoop cited Indiana Code 5-14-1.5-1, commonly known as the Open Door Law, which is outlined below:

- *The Open Door Law, also known as Indiana Code 5-14-1.5-1, states that government agencies must hold official meetings of a majority of their governing body, such as council or board meetings, publicly. As a citizen, you have the right to attend and record these meetings. While you can attend or record these events, you do not have the right to speak at them. You may have the opportunity to speak if meeting officials allow members of the public to speak. Public meetings must be in rooms and buildings that people with disabilities can access. For detailed information on the Open Door Law, you can review the Handbook on Indiana's Public Access Laws.*

Commissioner Lienhoop stated that the public will continue to be allowed to comment at meetings unless otherwise expressed due to time, or extenuating circumstances. He also mentioned the windows facing the street in both the Commissioners' and Council's Chambers are on the list to be replaced in the coming years to help reduce the noise pollution during meetings stating the windows are at least 50 years old.

Under miscellaneous, Jason Eckert, Town Manager of Hope, Indiana, expressed gratitude to the commissioners and IT Director Scott Mayes for their collaboration in upgrading the technology used by the Hope Police Department. The goal was to align the department's equipment with that of the Bartholomew County Sheriff's Department to facilitate seamless cooperation between the two law

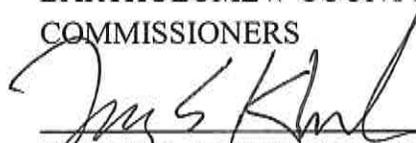
enforcement agencies. The commissioners also expressed their appreciation for the hard work put in by everyone involved in the project.

Audience member, Nick Smith, wanted to make the commissioners aware of an incident that happened in the early morning of December 31, 2023, regarding a dog that was wandering and he almost hit. Mr. Smith said that he found the dog in Bartholomew County and tried calling various departments and counties, since it was near Edinburgh and Shelby County, to get help. After being redirected multiple times, he finally reached Bartholomew County Animal Control. However, when he informed them that the dog was not doing well, he was asked if the dog was in immediate danger. Upon replying that the dog was in distress, he was told that the dog could not be picked up until the following Tuesday. Mr. Smith claimed he was advised to take the dog back to the area where he found it.

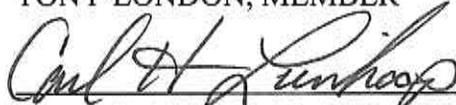
Audience member, Kelly Farlow (via Zoom), asked if the glass in the meeting chambers would be replaced in the future due to the disturbance caused by last week's demonstration. In response, Commissioner Lienhoop explained that the replacement of windows had been planned for several years and the incident only emphasized the need for the update. He also mentioned how outdoor noise, usually traffic, can be disruptive during meetings.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS

  
LARRY S. KLEINHENZ, CHAIRMAN

  
TONY LONDON, MEMBER

  
CARL H. LIENHOOP, MEMBER

ATTEST:

  
PIA O'CONNOR, AUDITOR