

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

September 8, 2015

The Bartholomew County Commissioners met in regular session on September 8, 2015 in the Governmental Office Building, 440 Third Street, Columbus, Indiana. Commissioners Larry Kleinhenz, Carl Lienhoop and Rick Flohr were present. County Attorney J. Grant Tucker and County Auditor Barbara Hackman were not in attendance. Chief Deputy Auditor Sandra Beatty represented the Auditor's Office.

Chairman Larry Kleinhenz called the meeting to order and Catherine Greenlee from the Auditor's Office gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The first item on the agenda was the approval of the August 31, 2015 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Flohr made a motion to approve the minutes. Chairman Kleinhenz seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

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

The next item was weekly reports. Chairman Kleinhenz read the New Permit Report dated 8/31/15 to 9/4/15. Thirty-seven (37) permits had been issued with fees collected of \$9,881 and an estimated construction cost of \$17,330,587. Permit fees collected for the month of August, 2015, totaled \$22,326.64.

County Engineer Danny Hollander gave the County Highway Weekly Crew Report which included the following work: patched roads; built gabions; worked and placed gabions on Wolfcreek Road; replaced pipes and ditched on 350W; and picked up trash. He also submitted the Highway Monthly Crew Report for August, 2015.

Mr. Hollander then submitted Amendment No. 1 to an Agreement for Cooperative Action Between the City of Columbus and Bartholomew County dated December 11, 2007. The agreement is specific to the City's Rocky Ford Road/Bridge No. 96 Project. The preliminary engineering associated with bridge design as shown on invoices provided by Strand Associates, Inc. would be modified up from the original

amount of \$47,000 to \$59,360 due to a number of supplements affecting the bridge costs. The County is responsible for 20% of that total, or \$2,472. Commissioner Lienhoop motioned to sign the Amendment No. 1 to the Cooperative Agreement with the City dated December 11, 2007. Commissioner Flohr seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

For the next item of business, a group of high school students along with Columbus North High School principal David Clark accompanied high school students Kira Singer, Columbus East High School and Rawan Abu-Zaineh, Columbus Signature Academy-New Tech who presented and read the Proclamation of “Suicide Prevention Week”, September 7–13, 2015, they were requesting, as follows:

WHEREAS, in the United States, one person dies by suicide every 12.8 minutes, with 41,149 deaths by suicide in our country during 2013;

AND WHEREAS, in our country, suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death for 15-24 year olds, and is the 10th leading cause of death for people of all ages;

AND WHEREAS, each person’s death by suicide intimately affects at least six other people, with over 200,000 newly bereaved each year;

AND WHEREAS, in 2014, 828 Hoosiers including Bartholomew County residents died by suicide leaving several thousand friends and family members forever changed due to the loss;

AND WHEREAS, many of those people who died never received lifesaving behavioral health services for many reasons including the difficulty of accessing services by healthcare providers trained in best practices to reduce suicide risk and the stigma of using behavioral health treatment;

AND WHEREAS, we dedicate ourselves to renewed efforts in suicide prevention as we:

1. Recognize suicide as a significant public health problem in Bartholomew County and declare suicide prevention a community wide priority;
2. Support the development of accessible behavioral health services for all county residents, implementing national best practices in reducing suicide risk for people of all ages and backgrounds;
3. Acknowledge that no single suicide prevention effort will be sufficient or appropriate for all populations; and

4. Encourage initiatives that represent best practices that align with the guidelines set forth by the U.S. Surgeon General and the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention Task Force including a goal of Zero Suicides in Bartholomew County.

AND WHEREAS, too many Hoosiers and Bartholomew County residents die by suicide each year, and most of these deaths are preventable;

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that, we, Larry S. Kleinhenz, Richard A. Flohr, and Carl H. Lienhoop, the Commissioners of Bartholomew County, do hereby designate September 7th through September 13th, 2015, as “Suicide Prevention Week” in Bartholomew County and urge residents to learn how they can help as Suicide Prevention is Everyone’s Business.

Commissioner Lienhoop motioned to enter into the public record the Proclamation of “Suicide Prevention Week” for September 7-13, 2015. Commissioner Flohr seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Tony Roberts, spoke to Commissioners of some of the programs available to suicide survivors, those affected by suicide, and those living with mental illness associated with suicide. Mr. Roberts applies his personal experiences when working with CRH Stress Unit patients which may have recently attempted suicide. As a member of National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI), Mr. Roberts also co-leads Faithful Friends peer group on the first Tuesday of each month. NAMI is a nationwide grassroots advocacy group, representing families and people affected by mental illness in the United States. NAMI provides support, psychoeducation and research for people and their families impacted by mental illness through various public education and awareness activities.

Additionally, there will be a suicide awareness/prevention presentation on September 10th at 7:00 p.m. in the Columbus East High School auditorium.

Planning Department Senior Planner Allie Keen presented, for first reading, an alley right-of-way vacation requested by Bryan and Arlene Dailey, B/VAC-15-02 Cross Street and County Road 1050 East Alley Vacation. The vacation is for a portion of the east-west alley (approximately 213 feet) and a portion of the north-south alley (approximately 51 feet) adjacent to their properties between Cross Street and County

Road 1050 East in Rugby of Hawcreek Township. The alley right-of-way vacation was considered by the County's Subdivision Review Committee. The Planning Department believed it was best to vacate the entire width of the alley at this time. The applicants intend to combine all 6 of their properties that are adjacent to these alleys into one (1) parcel. Chairman Kleinhenz opened up the meeting for public comment. There being no comments he then closed the meeting. Commissioner Flohr made a motion to accept the vacation, B/VAC-15-02 Cross Street and County Road 1050 East Alley Vacation, on first reading. Commissioner Lienhoop seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Next, Health Department Director Collis Mayfield presented for consideration a lease agreement with Columbus Silgas for the rental of a 120-gallon propane storage tank used to fuel the Health Department's backup generator at the 2675 Fox Pointe Dr. location. If fuel usage runs below the 250-gallon minimum the County will be charged a \$48 yearly rental fee plus the cost of fuel. Chairman Kleinhenz made a motion to enter into the agreement with Columbus Silgas for tank placement/rental. Commissioner Lienhoop seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Chairman Kleinhenz presented a Notice to Bidders for the Bartholomew County Building (Annex) Demolition Project located at 1971 State Street, Columbus. (*See attached*) A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held on September 24, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. at 1971 State Street. Bids will be opened during the Commissioners' Meeting on October 5, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. Chairman Kleinhenz motioned to approve the Notice to Bidders for demolition of the Annex Building. Commissioner Flohr seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Commissioner Lienhoop read the Veteran's Services Report for the month of August, 2015. The Veteran's Office conducted 112 scheduled/walk-in/outside interviews; made 267 contacts by phone/mail; made 20 trips to the VA Hospital; and traveled 2,027 miles. The office processed 23 new applicants. Commissioner Lienhoop motioned to accept the August Veteran's Services Report for submission to SBOA. Commissioner Flohr seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

To make it official, Commissioner Flohr stated that the Commissioners would discontinue the new Annex Building Project for the sake of the County Budget. Commissioner Lienhoop seconded the motion. Audience member Mike Lovelace said he would like the final action to kill the project be delayed until the County's Budget questions have been resolved. Audience member Lisa Deaton agreed with Commissioner Lienhoop's statement that even though Cummins, Inc. has released the County from reimbursing expenses incurred by them, he felt it was ethical to pay Cummins for the expense of the preliminary site-work. That issue will be addressed later. In response to Mr. Lovelace's comment, Commissioner Flohr said he would be willing to rescind his motion to kill the Project, for now. Commissioner Lienhoop did not agree to rescind his seconding of the motion based on the fact that there is no foreseeable financial windfall and that despite their best efforts Commissioners have been directed to kill the Project and enter into 49½-year leases. Acting on a rumor that money has been found in the budget, no vote was taken on killing the Annex Building Project and it will be tabled until next week.

Chairman Kleinhenz then began a discussion about taxes. Commissioners have the authority to enact the cumulative bridge tax (as was done in the 1970's) and a cumulative capital development tax. Both taxes are property taxes (not user or income taxes). Other tax revenues can be implemented by the County Council and would include a local option income tax (LOIT). Three taxes fall under that umbrella: the county economic development income tax (CEDIT), the county adjusted gross income tax (CAGIT), and a public safety tax. All but the public safety are being utilized at this time. Additionally, a wheel tax (user tax) is a revenue option for the Council. Implementation of a wheel tax could free up some of the CEDIT money being used for road maintenance.

There was also some discussion about the underfunding of the Employee Benefit Trust over the last several years. A "Statement on Status of Health Trust" was distributed. (*See attached*)

Purdue Extension Educator Kris Medic announced the CAFO Regulation Study Committee meeting is scheduled for September 10, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Public comment will not be included on the agenda due to time constraints.

The next Commissioners' Meeting will be held on Monday, September 14, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Chambers. There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS

LARRY S. KLEINHENZ, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

CARL H. LIENHOOP, MEMBER

BARBARA J. HACKMAN

RICHARD A. FLOHR, MEMBER

ORDINANCE NO.: _____, 2015

AN ORDINANCE VACATING PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY

**To be known as the: Cross Street & County Road 1050 East Alley Vacation
Plan Commission Case No.: B/VAC-15-02**

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Bartholomew County, Indiana, has received a petition to vacate existing right-of-way in Rock Creek Township, Bartholomew County, Indiana pursuant to IC 36-7-3-12, and;

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners held a legally advertised public hearing on the proposed vacation petition, as required by IC 36-7-3-12, and have found that the requested vacation should be granted.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of Bartholomew County, Indiana, as follows:

SECTION 1: Right-of-way Vacated

The following described right-of-way shall be vacated:

A PART OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 14, TOWNSHIP 10 NORTH, RANGE 7 EAST, HAWCREEK TOWNSHIP, BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY, INDIANA; ALSO BEING PART OF THE "PLAT OF THE TOWN OF HARTSVILLE CROSSING" AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK "B", PAGE 64-65 IN THE OFFICE OF THE BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY RECORDER, AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

BEGINNING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 1 (LOT NUMBERS HEREIN REFERENCED ARE AS SHOWN IN SAID "PLAT OF THE TOWN OF HARTSVILLE CROSSING"), THENCE NORTH 00°00'00" WEST (AN ASSUMED BEARING) A DISTANCE OF 14 FEET TO THE SOUTH LINE OF LOT 15; THENCE NORTH 90°00'00" EAST ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF LOT 15 A DISTANCE OF 69 FEET TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF LOT 15; THENCE NORTH 00°00'00" WEST ALONG THE EAST LINE OF LOT 15 A DISTANCE OF 50 FEET TO THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF LOT 15; THENCE NORTH 90°00'00" EAST A DISTANCE OF 14 FEET TO THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 3; THENCE SOUTH 00°00'00" EAST ALONG THE WEST LINE OF LOT 3 A DISTANCE OF 50 FEET TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 3; THENCE NORTH 90°00'00" EAST ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF LOT 3 A DISTANCE OF 130 FEET TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF LOT 3; THENCE SOUTH 00°00'00" WEST A DISTANCE OF 14 FEET TO THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF LOT "C"; THENCE NORTH 90°00'00" WEST ALONG THE NORTH LINES OF LOT "C" AND LOT 1 A DISTANCE OF 213 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING 0.08 ACRES MORE OR LESS AND SUBJECT TO ALL APPLICABLE EASEMENTS AND RIGHTS OF WAY.

SECTION 2: Effective Date

This ordinance shall take effect upon the recording of documents required by the Bartholomew County Subdivision Control Ordinance (a plat providing for the allocation of the vacated right-of-way among adjoining properties).

Statement on Status of the Health Trust

For the benefit of our employees, we would like to clarify some of the information you have been hearing as the County has been going through a difficult budgeting process.

We wanted to make it clear, our County health claims cost has NOT increased by 137%, and there has NOT been a request for an additional \$570,000 for the Employee Benefit Trust for this year.

Let us clarify where those two issues are coming from because it is the misconception of these two issues that are driving the panic around the Health Trust and unfairly characterizing the advice we are getting from our Benefits Consultant, Greg Fox, and our Plan Supervisor, Dunn and Associates.

Item #1: 137% in claims cost

In the past (2014 and prior), the County had funded the Bartholomew County Employee Benefit Trust from 3 sources:

- The General Fund - in which cash flow is readily available
- Department Budgets – which have some restrictions on funding availability due to grants and state funding
- Employee contributions – which are available only after each payroll cycle

In 2013 and 2014 two key issues required us to make an **INTERNAL** change for 2015. Those issues were:

- 1) The reserves in the health trust were depleted by the end of 2013. The reserves were down to less than one month's average claims cost.
- 2) The County was only able to sporadically fund the Trust in the first half of 2014. Therefore, payment of claims was often delayed due to lack of funding.

Once the annual budget for 2015 was set at \$5.7M, a County **INTERNAL** change was made to fund the Employee Benefit Trust at a level of \$475,000 a month in order to give the health Trust the cash it needs to pay our claims. This change was discussed and recommended in May of 2014 and was not a surprise in 2015.

As a result of the change, the Auditors' office started using CAGIT to fund the \$5.7M for the 2015 budget year, as it simply needed a source of funds that were readily available. Again, this was the County's **INTERNAL CHOICE** to fund the Trust from a different account and **did not in any way increase the cost to the plan.**

A simple analogy would be electing to pay for an item out of your savings account versus your checking account. Changing accounts does not change the price of the item you are paying for; it is simply a personal decision on which account to use.

The reference to a 137% increase in cost is inaccurate and misleading. The prior (2014) General Fund **portion of the health budget** was \$2.4M. The other two parts to the funding total were the Department Contributions and the Employee Contributions. The overall County Health Plan Budget for 2015 is \$5.7M, which includes employee contributions of approximately \$330,000 and Departmental Contributions of \$1.5M+/- **To be clear, the employee contributions and the**

departmental contributions should be used to offset the \$5.7 coming from CAGIT for the health plan. **THEY ARE NOT IN ADDITION TO THE \$5.7M health plan budget for 2015.**

Historically speaking, the total deposits into the Bartholomew County Employee Benefit Trust in 2014 were \$5,646,472.91. The 2015 Overall Budget for this year is \$5.7M. A 137% increase in cost over last year would equate to \$13,382,140.80 and that is simply not the case.

At the department level, if a department over budgets for health plan costs, the excess funds are NOT deposited into the health Trust. Those excess funds never go to the Employee Benefit Trust and should not be considered ACTUAL PLAN COSTS or CLAIMS COST. This issue is also causing some confusion. Dunn only manages the plan out of the Bartholomew County Employee Benefit Trust account, which is a 501-C-9 trust. They do not have access to our internal budget accounts.

With the 137% issue being cleared up, it should be understood we are experiencing Year to Date average monthly claims in 2015 right in line with that of 2014. **No sign of a 137% increase!**

Item #2: \$570,000 increase in funding

At budget time in May of this year, we were advised that claims were still running higher than we would like and similar to 2014. If the benefit plan stays the same, we should be prepared to increase funding 10% or \$570,000. Thus, the request for \$570,000 was not for this year (2015). It was considered in discussions about the 2016 plan year anticipating medical trend, older population etc...

Due to the current budget negotiations, we **DO** anticipate benefit changes again this year, but those specific changes are not clear at this time as the budget has yet to be finalized.

Addressing the Cassman Report

In general, his advice was very similar to what we have been hearing from our current Benefits Consultant, Greg Fox, and Dunn and Associates. We understand our employee contribution levels are below the norm, which was behind the changes implemented last year and the addition of the Wellness incentive.

We also added the Wellness screenings last year to gather general information about what was driving our cost, with the intention of measuring them again this year and making plan adjustments accordingly.

Furthermore, we are well aware we have a benefit plan that is a rich plan design and we had planned on adding a new second plan this year and possibly a third option. 2015 was the second year of plan changes and more can be expected for 2016.

The Cassman report helped reiterate some key points, especially the need for reserves. Reserves have been difficult to rebuild. Therefore, achieving adequate reserves in the health Trust will be a continued area of focus.