

March 9, 2016

**BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**February 9, 2016**

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Representing:</b>	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Present:</b>
Bill Lentz	At Large	President	Present
Jim Reed	At Large	Pro-Tem	Present
Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence	At Large		Present
Chris Ogle	District 1		Present
Laura DeDomenic	District 2		Present
Mark Gorbett	District 3		Present
Jorge Morales	District 4		Present
Chris Monroe	- -	Attorney	Present
Barb Hackman	Auditor	Secretary	Present

The Bartholomew County Council met on February 9, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the County Council Chambers of the Governmental Office Building, 440 Third Street, Columbus, Indiana.

President Lentz called the meeting to order.

Chris Ogle gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The first item on the agenda was the approval of minutes from January 12, 2016.

**Jim Reed made a motion to approve the minutes with the change to add the word “the” in the last paragraph on page 2. Chris Ogle seconded the motion which passed unanimously (7-0).**

The next item on the agenda was the consideration of the 2016 Substance Abuse Council Grants – Drug Free Fund (024) for forty-eight-thousand seven-hundred-forty-five dollars (\$48,745.00) as presented by Larry Perkinson of the Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation and Jay Frederick of the Columbus Police Department.

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This is for various Grants that the Substance Abuse Council has reviewed and approved. The Grants are divided into three (3) categories: Prevention receiving thirty percent (30%), Treatment receiving thirty-one percent (31%) and Criminal Justice receiving thirty-two percent (32%) of the funds. Jorge Morales asked if we need to look at other approaches to this as drug abuse seems to be increasing. Mr. Perkinson stated that it is a roller coaster. Some drugs have disappeared and then reappeared. He doesn't think things are getting worse, but there are areas that are problems. A misconception is that people use drugs to feel good when a lot of them use so they don't feel as bad because they are hooked on something. It is a battle. Mr. Frederick stated that it is something like squeezing a balloon in that you work on one thing and it moves to something else. He believes we need to work more on Prevention so they don't try them in the first place and then Treatment to get those that are hooked off of them. Society does not understand the nature of addiction. There are steps being taken, including new legislation. The groups that are receiving funding are already doing the work in these three (3) areas. The Substance Abuse Council meets monthly to coordinate their efforts. Without groups like Big Brothers/Big Sisters, there would be much more use by kids as they provide direction to steer them away from drugs. Big Brothers/Big Sisters works well because it is a one-to-one mentoring program with the children. Mark Gorbett asked them to explain the group that meets monthly. Mr. Perkinson stated that the school corporation, CenterStone, Columbus Police Department, Sheriff's Department, Turning Point, Foundation For Youth and the Courts are represented at the meeting. There were fifteen (15) Grant

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requests this year with fourteen (14) of them being accepted. Once they were approved the State Criminal Justice Department then had to approve them. Jorge Morales asked what the County Council can do to help. Mr. Perkinson stated that they just need to listen to the groups that come in for funding. The forty-eight-thousand dollars (\$48,000.00) they are granting would not cover a sixty to ninety (60 – 90) day treatment program for two (2) individuals. By listening he means to listen with a critical ear. Jorge Morales asked about CenterStone and the fact that the County is giving them about five-hundred-eighty-thousand dollars (\$580,000) a year but are concerned whether they are getting any results for the money. Mr. Frederick stated that CenterStone is one of the few centers that can treat opioid addiction with suboxone. It is a synthetic opioid that has Narcan built into it. It does have a street value so it has to be closely monitored. President Lentz stated that we have a certain percentage the State requires us to give to a mental health facility to serve our area. Christopher Lowe, from White River Broadcasting, asked what percentage CenterStone received of the County Budget. The percentage of the entire County budget was not readily known. President Lentz stated that he had heard at a CenterStone meeting that we do not have a drug problem, we have a poverty problem. They can't pay the bills so they make meth to make money. Mark Gorbett stated that we have a drug problem. Sheriff Matt Myers stated that he agrees that if we can get to the individuals before they get started, then that is the best chance we have. The drug buyback program was a good success. Jim Reed is encouraged that they feel we are doing better in the schools. Mr. Perkinson stated that the kids are doing better as proven

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by eighteen-million dollars (\$18,000,000) in scholarships as well as multiple school championships and other indicators. Chris Ogle knows someone that had an addiction and had no money. He has been making trips to Indianapolis for three years for an addiction to legal pain medicines. Another person he knows is in the same situation and has just started driving to Indianapolis. He asked if they were just replacing one drug with another. Mr. Frederick stated that it sounds like a meth program they are attending. Some people will do whatever they can to avoid getting “dope sick”, even risking death. He has seen some physicians that appear to continue the addiction. It all goes back to the doctor behind the drug. Treatment is meant to go with mental health treatment. There are some people that may need to be on some level forever in order to function. He recommends the book “Dreamland” that explains why we are where we are with the opioid addictions. Sheriff Myers stated that the Joint Narcotics Division is planning on putting on a presentation in March for the County Council regarding the drug problem in Bartholomew County. **Jorge Morales made a motion to accept the 2016 Substance Abuse Council Grants as presented for forty-eight-thousand seven-hundred-forty-five dollars (\$48,745.00). Laura DeDomenic seconded the motion.** Mr. Frederick asked how the Grant recipients would receive their money. Sandy Beatty, Chief Deputy of the Auditor’s Office stated they need to submit a letter to the Auditor’s Office and they could do that starting tomorrow. **The vote was called for and passed unanimously (7-0).**

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President Lentz recognized a member of Boy Scout Troop 585 who was in the audience with his parents.

The next item on the agenda was a Request for an Additional Appropriation for the Highway Department in the amount of nine-hundred-sixteen-thousand four-hundred-seventy dollars (\$916,470.00) for Highway (002) as presented by County Highway Engineer Danny Hollander. These are funds that are non-reverting so he comes back every year to have the funds appropriated. He is asking to break the money down as follows: Salt & Sand - \$30,000; Stone - \$24,000; Utilities - \$10,000; Road Equipment Repairs - \$15,000; Trucks - \$90,000; Tractors - \$10,200; Other Road Equipment - \$30,000; Infra-Structure - \$707,270. **Chris Ogle made a motion to approve the Request for Additional Appropriation for the Highway Department (002) in the amount of nine-hundred-sixteen-thousand four-hundred-seventy dollars (\$916,470.00) as presented. Mark Gorbett seconded the motion which passed unanimously (7-0).**

The next item on the agenda was a Request for an Additional Appropriation for the Local Roads & Streets (003) in the amount of one-hundred-seventy-four-thousand two-hundred-forty-four dollars (\$174,244.00) as presented by County Highway Engineer Danny Hollander. **Mark Gorbett made a motion to approve the Request for Additional Appropriation for the Local Roads & Streets (003) in the amount of one-hundred-seventy-four-thousand two-hundred-forty-four dollars (\$174,244.00) as presented. Laura DeDomenic seconded the motion which passed unanimously (7-0).**

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The next item on the agenda was a Request for an Additional Appropriation for the Cumulative Bridge Fund (004) in the amount of one-million two-hundred-sixty-thousand dollars (\$1,260,000.00) as presented by County Highway Engineer Danny Hollander. He is asking to break the money down as follows: Bridge #16 - \$500,000; Bridge #39 - \$250,000; Bridge #47 - \$260,000; Bridge #58 - \$120,000; Bridge #96 - \$130,000. **Jim Reed made a motion to approve the Request for Additional Appropriation for the Cumulative Bridge Fund (004) in the amount of one-million two-hundred-sixty-thousand dollars (\$1,260,000.00) as presented. Chris Ogle seconded the motion which passed unanimously (7-0).** Jorge Morales asked about the Southern Crossing Bridge and the issue with a certain kind of fish. Engineer Hollander stated that was an ongoing project.

The next item on the agenda was a Request to replace the open position of Dental Hygienist/Coordinator in the Health Department (007) as presented by Health Administrator Collis Mayfield and Director of Nursing Amanda Organist. Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence asked how many other Counties have a Dental Hygienist. Administrator Mayfield stated he is aware of three (3). Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence had spoken to Monroe, Johnson and Shelby Counties. Shelby County wanted to know if we would share our Dental Hygienist as they do not have a program. Director Organist stated that the Hygienist is at a school about every day. Administrator Mayfield stated that other Counties don't do things as Bartholomew County does so it is hard to compare. Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence stated that she thinks it is a good program but asked if they

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could wait until August. Mark Gorbett stated that we had approved the budget with this position in place. He feels that a program that has been in place for forty-two (42) years has proven its need. We should not be micro-managing the offices and that is what we are doing. Laura DeDomenic stated that the kids utilizing the program are the ones that need the program. Jorge Morales stated we should not penalize the children because the parents are not doing their job. He realizes what Evelyn is saying but he does not want to do this at the expense of the kids. President Lentz did some research today with several dentists and other people in the community involved in children's dental health. Some of the schools he talked to stated that there was a nurse in some of the schools that could possibly pick this up. There were a few principals that did not feel it was that pertinent. He has heard that due to some mandates, the County will see increases in expenditures that will have to be dealt with. Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence wants to treat people equal. Sheriff Myers stated that he is concerned that they aren't going to approve a position because they did not give another department a position. This sets a bad precedence. He cautioned against that kind of thought process. Every job is different and if you are going to treat everybody the same, then why does he not have to come before the Council to rehire. This is not how we should look at these projects. Pam Clark (*in the audience*) stated that unmet medical and dental needs of children have a major impact on the kids as they will not do well in school if they are suffering. She asked if it is already in the budget for 2016, why do they even have to come before the Council for approval. Lisa Deaton (*in the audience*) asked if there was a compromise that could be worked out such

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as going to a part-time position. Dr. Sawin (*in the audience*) stated that the position is a Dental Hygienist, not a nurse. The position requires someone that is able to pick up abscesses and other dental issues that are specific to Dental degrees, not something a nurse is trained to look for. Poor dental health can contribute to substance abuse. President Lentz asked about any follow up as far as the dental care of a child. Director Organist stated that the County pays for the Salary and the other needs are paid for through a Grant. If they find an issue with a kid, there is a follow through to see that the issue is resolved. Currently there are three (3) students that are going through treatments. The goal of the program is to treat the immediate need. **Jorge Morales made a motion to approve the Request to Replace the open position of Dental Hygienist/Coordinator in the Health Department (007) with a provision that between now and the upcoming budget process they look at potential alternatives to move to part-time or combining with another County. Laura DeDomenic seconded the motion which passed five to two (5-2) with Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence and Jim Reed as the dissenting votes.**

The next item on the agenda was discussion regarding the filling of open positions by Elected Officials/Department Heads. Jorge Morales reminded everyone that during the last budget process the Council decided to review all open positions to reduce manpower when possible. It is not to micro-manage any office, but to try to reduce the budget. Pam Clark (*in the audience*) asked if that meant that any opening in County government would be required to come before the Council for approval. Jorge Morales



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stated yes for everyone except the Sheriff's Department, E911 and Youth Services Center. Mark Gorbett stated that when he was Sheriff, he did not like to be micro-managed because he was given a budget by the Council to work within. As long as he stayed within his budget, the Council should not require this additional step. If a department does not stay within the budget, then the Council can see to it that they don't get the money in the next budget year. Attorney Monroe stated that on page 5 of the Personnel Policy it is stated that the Department Head has the authority to replace open positions, yet the Council has added to the Salary Ordinance that Department Heads must come back to the Council to replace any open positions. They currently have two written directives that contradict each other. If the Council wants to review a position they would have to amend the salary ordinance to remove the position as it is clearly stated that the Department Head has the right to hire an open position. Jorge Morales has an issue with the fact that they approve a range for each salary. Attorney Monroe stated that they could change that by approving a specific salary for each position, but he will need to do further review on that item. Currently the County has two written documents that state how positions are to be filled. The consensus of the Council was to have Attorney Monroe look further into this matter. Attorney Monroe stated that the Council could eliminate positions during the Budget Sessions. Jorge Morales stated that then they would have the ability only at the budget time. Attorney Monroe stated that they can do it at the Budget time or they can amend the Salary Ordinance at the time of the opening to remove the position. With regard to the Health Department, they have a separate

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operating Board. The Council has no authority over a third level of Government. The Sheriff has a Merit Board with respect to some of their employees. The Health Department Budget is technically submitted by the Health Board. These separate Boards create a unique twist and there is a lot of complexity to it. There are specific statutes that set out the authority that the Council has. While the intent is good, the statutes are the rules. Jorge Morales asked if they should still have the Department Heads come before them to decide if the position is needed. He believes they should do a comprehensive review and decide from that. Attorney Monroe stated that as to the Health Department, they do not have a great deal of legal requirements. The Dental Hygienist is something the Health Board has chosen to do, not something that they are required to do. The Council always has the authority to amend the Salary Ordinance at any time. **Mark Gorbett made a motion to have Attorney Monroe review this issue and have something at the next meeting. Laura DeDomenic 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:

**Jim Reed:**

Liaison to Sheriff's Merit Bd – Met – they are putting a large emphasis on training. Deputy Merrill Henderson celebrated his 40<sup>th</sup> year with the Sheriff's Department and stated he has no plans to retire.

Job Review/Classification Committee – nothing to report

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Bartholomew County Redevelopment Commission – nothing to report

**Mark Gorbett:**

Emergency Management Bd – nothing to report

Emergency Dispatch Services – nothing to report

Community Corrections Bd – met and discussed 2016 & 2017 funding

Liaison to Work Release Center Bd – nothing to report

**Jorge Morales:**

County Plan Commission – tomorrow from 8:30 - 11:00 reviewing CAFO

at City Hall on the first floor in the Cal Brand Room.

Personnel Admin Committee – nothing to report

Cols Economic Development Bd – nothing to report

Bartholomew County Redevelopment Commission – nothing to report

**President Bill Lentz:**

Job Review/Classification Committee – nothing to report

Personnel Administrative Committee – nothing to report

Cols Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Bd – nothing to report

**Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence:**

County Parks & Recreation Bd – met and discussed establishing a foundation for the parks. They received a bid for mowing some of the parks but hope to continue with the Sheriff's Work Crew.

Job Review/Classification Committee – nothing to report

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Youth Services Center Advisory Committee – nothing to report

JDAI – met and they are making progress.

**Laura DeDomenic:**

Computer & Data Processing Bd – met but she was unable to attend.

They did hire the 4<sup>th</sup> position with Sonny Mitchell. There will be rewiring of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> floor which the Commissioners will be paying for. The Veteran's Court will require some additional funds for computer software that is required by the State Supreme Court.

Columbus Economic Development Bd – met and they are changing their name/rebranding themselves this year. Laws have changed requiring this name change as well as their affiliations. They are becoming an independent organization. A couple of Japanese companies had been in the area to review possible sites.

**Chris Ogle:**

Liaison to Health Bd – attended for Laura DeDomenic who was unable to attend - discussed hiring a dental hygienist.

County Extension Bd – nothing to report

Solid Waste Management District Bd – nothing to report

The next item was any miscellaneous items. Mark Gorbett asked about the letter from Representative Smith regarding the additional funding. Auditor Hackman explained that the Senate Bill version would give money to the County, Cities and Towns

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while the House Bill version also included the Townships. The Counties portion would be about two-million four-hundred-thousand dollars (\$2,400,000) with the Senate Bill version. The House Bill is looking forward and the funds were to go to the Rainy Day Fund while the Senate Bill is very specific as to where the funds are to go. There are also many bills that are in play at this time. They have switched bills from the Senate to the House and House to the Senate. The Auditor's Association is still tracking 45 bills that directly affect the Auditor's Office.

Auditor Hackman stated that we have received the Budget Order with the Tax Rates. Eleven units have increased while thirteen units have decreased. Chris West, Real Estate & Tax Billing Administrator for the Auditor's Office had prepared handouts showing the comparison of units between this year and last. It was noted that Rockcreek will receive no property tax dollars this year. Jorge Morales noted that Clay Township has turned around for the good.

Laura DeDomenic noted that she had sent out financial review questions to each department. She has received all but the Auditor's Office and one other Department. The next step will be to meet with each Department.

Hearing no other business, Chris Ogle made a motion to adjourn. Mark Gorbett seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY COUNCIL**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

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Bill Lentz, President

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Reed, Pro-Tem

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

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

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

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

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chris Ogle, Member

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Barbara J. Hackman, Auditor  
Bartholomew County