

March 11, 2014

BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY COUNCIL
February 11, 2014

The Bartholomew County Council met on February 11, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the County Council Chambers of the Governmental Office Building, 440 Third Street, Columbus, Indiana. Members present were: Chris Ogle, Rob Kittle, Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence, President Ryan Lauer, Bill Lentz, Jorge Morales and Jim Reed. Also in attendance were Auditor Barbara J Hackman and Council Attorney Chris Monroe.

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

The first item on the agenda was the approval of the meeting minutes of January, 14, 2014. Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence had sent four (4) corrections to Chris West. Those changes have been made. Chris also found that there was no motion or vote noted concerning the Economic Development Board. He will fix that as well. Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence made a motion to approve the minutes with the noted corrections. Jorge Morales seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was the Consideration of a Resolution Approving the Designation of Bartholomew County as a Vote Center County as presented by Clerk Tami Hines, Voter Registration Deputy Jay Phelps, Election Board Chairman Jim Holland and Vice-Chairman Julie Schuette. By law they are required to have six (6) Vote Centers for a County wide election. The plan they have developed calls for eighteen (18). For a City wide election, they are required to have three (3) Vote Centers and their plan calls for six (6). Jorge Morales asked if they would have enough machines at the

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Vote Centers. Clerk Hines explained that for the six (6) City Vote Centers there would be thirty-seven (37) machines. She stated that they would maintain the number of machines at the City Vote Centers during both City and County elections as it would be unfair to pull machines for use elsewhere during a County election. President Lauer asked how many machines were at Donner Center for the last City election. Jay Phelps stated there were four (4). Chris Ogle stated that they will need to educate the voting public of the ability they will have to vote two weeks prior to the day of the election. Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence asked about the certification of the machines and when that would occur. Clerk Hines stated that one reason for the delay to next year was due to concerns as to when the vendors would have their certifications. Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence asked if this would be handled by the current staff or would it require additional employees. Clerk Hines stated that the current staff would be sufficient. Rob Kittle asked if they reduce the number of poll workers, will that still allow for the additional days. Jay Phelps stated they had taken all of that into account and it will work while also reducing the costs. Rob Kittle clarified that while the staff may be reduced, the man hours may increase, but that would still result in savings. Chris Ogle asked who and when would be deciding as to whether we purchase or lease the equipment required. Clerk Hines stated that she believes the Board is leaning to leasing the equipment as they may find after a couple of elections that a Vote Center is not needed. Chris Ogle clarified that it is the Election Board's decision. Jim Holland stated that since it is a new process, they are holding off in an attempt to spend the least amount possible. Clerk Hines stated

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that the company that they are most impressed with did offer a nice lease package. Jim Reed asked if it had to be a unanimous decision by the Council as it had to be by the Election Board. Clerk Hines stated it only had to be a majority of the Council. President Lauer thanked the Election Board for their work on this issue and their notification of the public. Rob Kittle asked if there were any concerns that the Election Board had that the Council hadn't thought of or discussed. Clerk Hines stated she had hoped to implement it during a County wide election so it was fair to all voters, though they could not make it happen. Jim Holland wanted to know the issues that other Counties had suffered when they had implemented Vote Centers. He heard only good comments from those Counties. Julie Schuette stated that Secretary of State Connie Lawson had given a demonstration. They had also looked at Wayne County and Johnson County. Her concern was getting the input back from the public. They have only had one negative comment. She stated that every registered voter will receive a post card that will tell them where the vote centers are located and their hours of operation. Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence asked if the IT Department would need additional staff. Clerk Hines stated they had worked with IT Director Hartsook and kept him in the planning process. There should be no problems. She knows that there will be people that think this is the starting year and she is certain that they will get calls during the 2014 elections. Jorge Morales made a motion for the County Council to approve the Vote Centers. Bill Lentz seconded the motion. Jim Reed stated that he thinks it is a good thing but he has two reservations: one is he hates to see the "community" site (*where you see people that you*

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know) disappear and his other concern is with security regarding the computer software. President Lauer is concerned with getting more readable screens. Clerk Hines is hoping to have better screens in place for at least the fall 2014 elections. President Lauer asked for any comments from the audience. Mark Webber (*in the audience*) stated that he had gone through this in Tippecanoe County. He saw no problems with it and it made it easier for the voter, once they were aware of it. He thanked the Council for their diligence with this issue. Hearing no other comments, President Lauer called for the vote. The vote was unanimous.

The next item on the agenda was the Covered Bridge Fund and it was tabled as County Engineer Danny Hollander was still gathering information.

The next item on the agenda was a Request for an Additional Appropriations for the CREDIT Fund (590) for one-million eight-hundred-seventy-three-thousand seven-hundred-fifty-one dollars (\$1,873,751.36) as presented by Auditor Hackman. This is the amount that has been certified to the County for 2014 and she is requesting that the Council appropriate these funds. The use of these funds had been determined during the 2014 Budget Hearings. Commissioner Carl Lienhoop (*in the audience*) asked the amount that was received last year. Auditor Hackman stated that it was one-million six-hundred-ninety-seven-thousand four-hundred-eight dollars and eighty-four cents (\$1,697,408.84). Commissioner Lienhoop asked the amount of the City's share this year. Auditor Hackman stated it was two-million eight-hundred-forty-eight-thousand nine-hundred-thirty-seven dollars and forty-six cents (\$2,848,937.46). Chris Ogle asked who made the

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decision as to how the money was split up. That is decided by the State, but then the Council decided if it were to be divided by levy or by population. Bill Lentz asked if that Council decision could be changed. Auditor Hackman stated she is not sure but would think they could change it. Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence asked if we had access to see what other units are spending their funds on. Auditor Hackman stated that yes, as they have to turn in a two (2) year plan prior to receiving any funding. If a plan is not received by March 1, then their funds are held until one is received. If one is never received then they are required to pay back the January and February distributions. The plans must spend at least seventy-five percent (75%) of the funds received. Rob Kittle motioned to approve the Additional Appropriation. Chris Ogle seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was a Request for an Additional Appropriation for the Indiana Local Health Department Trust Fund (507) for three-thousand four-hundred-forty dollars (\$3,440) as presented by Assistant Director of Nursing, Carla Wolff. She stated this is unspent money from the 2013 Trust Fund. Once the money is here, it stays here and with approval from the State they can utilize the funds. They want to use these funds in cooperation with the hospital for a smoking cessation program. Chris Ogle asked who would be eligible for this program. Assistant Director Wolff stated they would require participants to be residents of Bartholomew County. Bill Lentz made a motion to approve the Additional Appropriation. Jim Reed seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

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The next item on the agenda was a Request for an Additional Appropriation for Jury Pay Supplemental (310) for ten-thousand dollars (\$10,000) as presented by Judge Coriden of Superior Court 2. Judge Coriden stated that they only have one-thousand dollars (\$1,000) in their Jury line item and that won't last. She is requesting appropriation of ten-thousand dollars (\$10,000) from the Jury line item. They do have a medical malpractice trial coming up at the end of April which they believe will take seven (7) days at a cost of about three-thousand five-hundred dollars (\$3,500). President Lauer asked if this was from the General Fund. Auditor Hackman stated that it was a user fee fund. Rob Kittle motioned to approve the Additional Appropriation. Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was a Request for an Additional Appropriation for the JDAI (*Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiatives*) Grant for twenty-thousand six-hundred-seventy dollars (\$20,670) as presented by Circuit Court Juvenile Magistrate Heather Mollo. Magistrate Mollo presented the Grant Application to the Council. This will allow them to have a Coordinator to assist in the process. They are simply taking advantage of money that the State believes should be used. This will not add any benefits or positions. Chris Ogle asked if any of the Counties that have implemented this have carried on with it. Magistrate Mollo stated that if they proceed, then they are guaranteed funding for the following year. President Lauer asked Magistrate Mollo to explain the goals with this grant. The main goal is to ensure good supervision of juveniles without interruption of school or home life that detention would cause. She sees some of this

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work being done in the Court House and Work Release Center. The position would be a Contract Employee. Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence asked if they needed to state in the motion that the position was over when the funding is gone. Attorney Monroe stated it is not a salaried position; it is a contract employee and if there is no money, there is no position. Auditor Hackman asked who would be responsible for the reporting requirements with this grant. They believe it will be Community Corrections. Chris Ogle asked who would be responsible for hiring this person. Magistrate Mollo stated it would be the Community Corrections Advisory Board or a portion of the Board. Bill Lentz made a motion to approve the grant. Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was updates by the Council members as follows:

Jim Reed – had nothing to report.

Jorge Morales – the EOC met after the last Council Meeting. They are updating the plan for winter storms. CAMPO only meets every quarter. There was nothing to report regarding the Plan Commission.

Bill Lentz – had a very successful Extension meeting.

President Lauer – JDAI talked about the grant. The Data Board has a new Chairman, Magistrate Joe Meek. They ratified about \$160,000 in items and had a discussion concerning a new County wide phone system.

Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence – The Youth Services Committee had presented a list of accomplishments. They have turned in \$74,329 to the County. The Park Board

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met and the primary discussion concerned the proposed hog farm operation near Anderson Falls.

Rob Kittle – had nothing to report.

Chris Ogle – had nothing to report.

The next item on the agenda was miscellaneous. Jorge Morales asked what they should do about the books that had been sent to them in the mail. President Lauer suggested that the individual Council members deal with their mail as they saw fit. The Commissioners had received the same thing.

Jim Reed had a statement that he wanted to make regarding the Annex building. He stated that he was elected by the citizens to do a job as a Councilman. He does not want to make the Commissioners mad. The Council and Commissioners have a good working relationship and they will continue to have a good relationship. He is in favor of a Cumulative Capital Development Fund. Everyone talks about how good the bridges are in the County and that is due to good foresight years ago by the Commissioners to establish a Cumulative Bridge Fund. If this CCD Fund were created, it would be 0.017 cents and would raise \$651,000 the first year. It would double the second year unless the Commissioners did not want it to. He met with the Commissioners last Thursday and discussed this. Attorney Tucker stated that the Council had not raised the Wheel Tax, but did create the CEDIT tax with some cost to those elected officials. Had the Commissioners enacted the CCD Fund twenty years ago, then we would not be in the

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need we are today. He asked that the Commissioners enact this tax and show that they had the foresight for the future of Bartholomew County buildings.

Auditor Hackman stated that she has talked with Dan Eggermann (*Financial Consultant*). She believes a CCD would not only cover the Annex and a new Highway Garage but would also help with the continued maintenance of all the existing buildings. She appreciates Jim Reed's comments and hopes the Commissioners will look into this.

Auditor Hackman noted that the AIC Conference had been postponed due to the weather and will now be held on February 19 & 20.

Jim Reed returned to the Annex building issue and stated that since the Commissioners want the building, they should have a dog in the fight regarding funding.

Chris Ogle made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jorge Morales seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY COUNCIL

By: _____
Ryan Lauer, President

By: _____
Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence, Pro-Tem

By: _____
Chris Ogle, Member

By: _____
Rob Kittle, Member

By: _____

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Jorge Morales, Member

By: _____
Bill Lentz, Member

By: _____
Jim Reed, Member

ATTEST: _____
Barbara J. Hackman, Auditor
Bartholomew County