

May 13, 2014

BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY COUNCIL
April 8, 2014

The Bartholomew County Council met on April 8, 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, Pro-Tem 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.

Chris Ogle gave the invocation. President Lauer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The first item on the agenda was the approval of the meeting minutes of March, 11, 2014. Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence had given a few corrections to Chris West just prior to the meeting. Rob Kittle made a motion to approve the minutes with the noted changes. Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was a request for an Additional Appropriation for the Circuit Court as presented by Circuit Court Office Manager Tammy Johannesen. The original request was for fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) due to the current murder trials. Office Manager Johannesen stated that because of a guilty plea in one of the cases, they can reduce the amount to forty thousand dollars (\$40,000). Jorge Morales questioned the amount as it was his understanding from Judge Heimann at last week's work session that each trial would be about twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000). Rob Kittle stated that even a guilty plea will still result in expenses. It was stated that any money not spent

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would go back into the County General Fund. Chris Ogle asked for clarification as he thought this money was coming from the Jury Fee Fund. Auditor Hackman stated that this is a request from County General as there is no money in the Jury Fee Fund at this time. Jorge Morales made a motion to approve the Additional Appropriation for forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) to the Circuit Court Other Services Fund. Bill Lentz seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was the consideration of an Amendment to the Adoption of a Rainy Day Fund for Bartholomew County Ordinance (2009-11) as presented by Council Attorney Chris Monroe. This is the first reading of said Amendment. Attorney Monroe explained that this Amendment is for the purpose of clarifying what items the Rainy Day Fund can be used for, as the original Ordinance did not give any guidance. President Lauer opened the public portion of the meeting. Hearing no comments from the public, the public portion was closed. Jorge Morales made a motion to approve the Amendment of the Adoption of a Rainy Day Fund for Bartholomew County Ordinance (2014-01) on first reading. 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 – Plan Commission will meet tomorrow. Personnel Committee has not met. Joint Council of Emergency Dispatch Services will meet later this week. CAMPO only meets once every quarter.

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Bill Lentz – had nothing to report.

President Lauer – Community Corrections Advisory Board met and they were told that we have received a performance bonus for exemplary performance. There was an update to JDAI. Also, there had been another graduation from the WRAP program.

Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence – The Park Board will open Heflin Park at the first of May. The BMX track has a major event coming up soon and a lot of the work at the track has been done by volunteers. They are still working with the Health Department regarding the restrooms at Dunn Stadium. Auditor Hackman stated that Park Board President Tom Hawes had suffered a heart attack Sunday and was due to be released from the hospital today. The Council asked that Auditor Hackman send a get well card on their behalf.

Rob Kittle – LEPC will meet tomorrow.

Chris Ogle – had nothing to report.

Next on the agenda was Miscellaneous Items.

Jorge Morales stated that at the work session last week they had discussed the Annex Building and he would like to hear the updates from the Commissioners. President Lauer stated that the Council had formed a three (3) person committee which had met but they were not ready to make a recommendation. Jorge Morales asked why there was a delay as the committee had received input from all the members. President Lauer stated that he had not heard from every member. Jim Reed stated that even though the amount is in consensus, there were differences in opinions regarding how to achieve

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the funding. He suggested the May meeting for making a determination. Jorge Morales is concerned that they had promised the Commissioners that they would have this decision. Rob Kittle stated that they had just met before this meeting and did not feel this was the time to throw out numbers that had not been well thought through. Jorge Morales stated that he understood that reasoning and could agree with it. President Lauer stated that it is his understanding that ground breaking would hopefully be in the spring of 2015. The Commissioners (*Carl Lienhoop and Rick Flohr in the audience*) stated it would be early 2015. President Lauer spoke regarding the meeting with Cummins as to architectural design and fees. Commissioner Lienhoop stated that the two criterion for Cummins to pay for the architectural fees are that it is a public building paid for with tax dollars and it is within Bartholomew County. Cummins had stated that as their headquarters is located here, they are excited about the project as they have not done a project in Bartholomew County since 2009. Cummins will give the County a list of five (5) architects of which the Commissioners can interview and then choose one of them. It will save the County all the architect costs, it will give Bartholomew County a world-wide architect designed building and it will add to the list of architecture within the County known throughout the world. Commissioner Lienhoop stated that if the Council decides to call a special meeting prior to the May meeting or if they want to wait until the May meeting, the Commissioners are fine either way. They need about four and a half million dollars (\$4,500,000). Commissioner Flohr stated that the biggest question was the budget. Cummins is already preparing a list of architects and as soon as they receive

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an amount, they will give the list to the Commissioners. Commissioner Lienhoop stated that once the list is given to the Commissioners, it is the County's baby. Cummins will write the checks to pay the architect with no strings attached. They also said that the building will be within the budget that is given, not higher because Cummins was involved. Bill Lentz asked if all five (5) would be interviewed. Commissioner Lienhoop stated that he believes that they would want to interview them all just to see what direction each one is thinking. Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence asked if they had considered utilizing the land behind the garage. She had heard talk about a "State Street Campus" including the Highway Garage, E911 and Youth Services Center. Commissioner Lienhoop stated that ground needs to be held for the Highway Garage as once any project is started on it, he is certain IDEM will make several requirements that will result in more money and more space to accomplish. Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence stated that she had heard they were going to lease space in the new Annex building to Volunteers in Medicine. She is concerned that there are many good agencies and that we should not be picking one over the other with Government Funds. Commissioner Flohr stated that it was a separate issue. Commissioner Lienhoop stated that we have the space and we are not going to use it. He feels Volunteers in Medicine would complement our Health Department. The base criteria for the Cummins grant require that the entity has to be owned and operated by a government agency. They have not committed to Volunteers in Medicine at this time. Jorge Morales thanked the Commissioners and stated that

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knowing how Cummins and the government work, the answer needs to be sooner rather than later. He would support a special meeting.

President Lauer opened the meeting up for public comment. Mike Lovelace (*in the audience*) stated that it is time to build the building. He is not in favor of using Cummins. He hopes they build it with the future in mind. Paul Frankee (*in the audience*) stated that there is a perception that if Cummins funds the architect, you are going to get something wild and crazy. He pointed out that Cummins had funded the architect for the Library at Hope. He feels we are on the right track using Cummins. Jean Wilkins (*in the audience*) stated that she had learned that we had over three million (3,000,000) visitors to Columbus so she believes that attractive buildings are a plus for the County. She has not heard of any issues regarding working with Cummins. Ron Speer (*in the audience*) stated that the Council was elected to make the decisions. He believes the decision needs to be made tonight as they have put off the Commissioners long enough. He does not agree with utilizing Cummins. He challenged the Council to make their decision tonight.

Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence asked if the two hundred dollar (\$200) per square foot price included the landscaping, storm water drains and such. Commissioner Lienhoop stated that would have to be determined when meeting with the architect, as he was uncertain. They will tell the architect what the budget is and he (*the architect*) will have to stick to that budget. Kris Medic has offered her services for landscaping. Commissioner Lienhoop will not have the Highway pave the parking lot as they do a great job on roads, but the paver that the County owns is not made for paving parking

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lots. He stated that he wasn't skirting the question he just does not know at this time. Commissioner Flohr stated they will work within the budget given. Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence has given numbers that she has come up with to Rob Kittle.

President Lauer asked for any other miscellaneous items. Jorge Morales stated that he believes the consensus is for a decision at the May meeting. President Lauer stated they could possibly have an opinion by then. Chris Ogle stated it had to be a firm number by the May meeting. Jim Reed stated that it had to be determined even if it ends up creating a four (4) to three (3) vote by the full Council. Rob Kittle asked if Jorge Morales wanted a special meeting. Jorge Morales stated that he would be in support of one if they felt it was necessary. Rob Kittle stated that if the consensus of the Council was to have a special meeting in two weeks, then they should have one. He stated that the committee would have their recommendation ready for the full Council at that time. Jim Reed believes this does need a special meeting. It was the consensus of the Council members that they hold a Special Meeting on April 22, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. Auditor Hackman will have it advertised and will schedule the meeting room. The Committee will meet before then to finalize their recommendation.

Mike Lovelace asked how they were going to fund it. Rob Kittle stated that is the major concern of the committee at this time and is why they are still discussing it.

Jorge Morales made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jim Reed seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

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BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY COUNCIL

By: _____
Ryan Lauer, President

By: _____
Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence, Pro-Tem

By: _____
Chris Ogle, Member

By: _____
Rob Kittle, Member

By: _____
Jorge Morales, Member

By: _____
Bill Lentz, Member

By: _____
Jim Reed, Member

ATTEST: _____
Barbara J. Hackman, Auditor
Bartholomew County