

## COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

February 25, 2019

The Bartholomew County Commissioners met in regular session on February 25, 2019, in the Governmental Office Building, 440 Third Street, Columbus, Indiana. Commissioners Rick Flohr, Larry Kleinhenz and Carl Lienhoop were present. County Attorney J. Grant Tucker and County Auditor Pia O'Connor were also present.

Chairman Flohr called the meeting to order and Commissioner Lienhoop gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The first order of business was the approval of minutes from the 2/18/2019 Commissioners' Meeting. Commissioner Lienhoop made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Kleinhenz seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

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

Chairman Flohr read into the minutes the New Permit Report dated 2/18/19 through 2/22/19. Thirty-two (32) permits were issued with fees collected of \$2,677 and estimated construction costs of \$1,694,797.

County Engineer Danny Hollander gave the Highway Weekly Crew Report which included the following work: plowed and sanded roads; sprayed brine; put up signs; patched roads; ran the ditcher in Rockcreek Township; and fixed washouts in Sandcreek, Rockcreek, Clifty, and Clay Townships.

SWMD Education Coordinator Kari Spurgeon gave a report on **Solid Waste Management District** activities from fourth quarter of 2018. Her report is inserted here.

*Insert*

## Educator Report 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2018

### Education Update-

October-December I have presented to 450 students and adults with tours, in classroom and community presentations. \*See attached Education Log

Senior Projects- I am mentoring 7 students 3 at North and 4 at East

Adopt a Road- 7 roads cleaned up, 106 bags of trash collected by 75 participants

### Events-

Touch-A-Truck: Pre-school event in October. Well attended, Johnny Smith & staff take yard waste equipment to the event. The compost turner becomes a slide.

Déjà vu Art & Fine Craft Show- November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018 10am-3pm at The Commons; Over 1000 people attended.

50 surveys:

6/50-Out of county

4/50-Out of state

40/50- 14/40-County resident-first time attendees

11/40-County resident-attended at least 10 shows

"Get Caught Recycling"-Goody bags for the first 50 people recycling on November 15, 2018 in celebration of the national holiday-America Recycles Day.

Ice Storm- Handed out bags for two days.

Fall Amnesty Day in celebration of America Recycles Day, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018

8am-3pm

Totals:

130 Refrigerant Appliances

200 Tires

30 Propane Tanks

155 Attendees through the Recycling Center

Little Red School House Too changes for 2019- Open 1/19, 3/30, 7/20, 10/26

*End of Insert*

The next agenda item was consideration of proposal(s) received for one (1) 2018 or 2019 new **Nissan Frontier white truck** for the Technical Code Enforcement Department. Director Brian Thompson solicited bids from four dealers. The only bid received came from Andy Mohr Nissan (Avon) for \$17,589. Commissioner Lienhoop motioned to accept the bid, subject to meeting specifications. Commissioner Kleinhenz seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Next, County Surveyor E. R. Gray III and Department Head Ray Sheldon were present for consideration of the bids received for **replacement of the global positioning system (“GPS”)** equipment used by the Surveyor’s Office. They estimated \$30,000 to replace the 7-year-old equipment which has reached end-of-life, as replacement parts are no longer available. The equipment had to be compatible with the Trimble software and station currently in use. The only bid received was \$28,084.86 from Seiler Geospatial Division (Indianapolis). Funding will come from the Perpetuation Fund. Commissioner Kleinhenz motioned to accept Seiler’s bid subject to meeting specifications. Commissioner Lienhoop seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Cpt. Brandon Slate requested the approval of a **Notice to Bidders for nine (9) new vehicles** for the Sheriff’s Department, listed below.

ONE (1) 2019 OR NEWER DESTROYER GREY EXTERIOR, FOUR-DOOR DODGE CHARGER, POLICE PACKAGE, 5.7 L. AWD V8

FIVE (5) 2019 OR NEWER WHITE EXTERIOR FOUR-DOOR DODGE CHARGERS POLICE PACKAGE, 5.7 L. AWD V8

TWO (2) 2019 OR NEWER BRIGHT WHITE CLEARCOAT DODGE RAM 1500 SSV 4WD V8 AUTOMATIC VEHICLES

ONE (1) 2019 OR NEWER BRIGHT SILVER METALLIC DODGE RAM 1500 SSV 4WD V8 AUTOMATIC VEHICLE

The notice will be advertised in the February 28th and March 7th editions of *The Republic*. Commissioners will receive bids in their office until 10:00 a.m., March 18th, and be opened and

read during their meeting that morning. Chairman Lienhoop motioned to give Notice to Bidders. Chairman Flohr seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Chairman Flohr read the **Animal Control Report** for January, 2019. There were 85 cases, 30 animals were picked up, 102 audits, 1 violation, 0 fines, 0 bite cases, 5 door hangers placed, 7 reclaimed animals, and 3 traps loaned to the public. The two vans traveled a total of 2,612 miles. Commissioner Lienhoop moved to accept the monthly report. Commissioner Kleinhenz seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Veterans Services Officer Larry Garrity read the **Veterans Services Report** for January, 2019. The Veterans Office processed 17 new applicants; conducted 96 scheduled, walk-in, and/or outside interviews; made 270 contacts by phone/mail; traveled 1,585 miles; and made 19 trips to the VA Hospital. Chairman Flohr made a motion to accept the monthly report. Commissioner Kleinhenz seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Charlie Day of DLZ presented **Supplement No. 3** to an agreement signed 7/30/18 with **DLZ Indiana, LLC, to provide a situation survey** on the proposed site of the new highway garage facility. For the county to purchase the property, the city requires recording a minor subdivision plat since it is a lot off of an agricultural remainder. An additional \$7,000 will be charged for the plat work. Commissioner Lienhoop motioned to sign Supplement No. 3 for \$7,000. Chairman Kleinhenz seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Also attending the Commissioners' meeting were a number of **Armuth Acres and Northcliff residents** to discuss drainage, water table, and surface/field runoff issues plaguing their area leading to damages to the properties and evacuation of their homes. Area residents have periodically dealt with excessive water for decades, but the frequency and severity of those events have increased in recent years. Residents are realizing the probability of repetitive and expensive repairs, evacuating their homes for extended periods, declining marketability, and safety issues. Resident Amanda Burdine said she has had standing water in her home for more than 20 days with the recent water event. Her situation is similar to other residents, as well, even though most utilize internal and/or external pumps. Others who spoke included: Steve Douglas, Dave Allman, Abigail Noel, Tim Dillingham, Jason Johnson, Harry Wampler, Jana [inaudible], Brandi Hellman, and Charles Doup. They made references to the County Road 600 North culvert, the lack of field ditches, how east/west road improvements impair water flow, etc.

Residents want the county to help them with short and long-term solutions. They would like to have an updated study for the significantly changed status of the waters in the area, similar to the one done some years ago. In 2002, at the request of residents, the county commissioned a study and offered up corrective options at that time. But when the ground dried up and the cost of correcting the problems became public, a petition was circulated among the property owners to kill the project. The BC Drainage Board then lacked the legal standing to pursue the project. When asked who would pay for corrective measures, County Attorney Grant Tucker said the costs would moreover be shouldered by residents of that area and also the landowners included in the watershed areas, as determined by the study. One attendee (who is not a resident there) said that the community should help. This type of problem is popping up all over, he said, and that all county/city residents should share in the financial responsibility, including himself. A previous commenter had suggested that some of the 40-percent increase in county taxes that went into effect last year could be used.

As a member of the BC Drainage Board, Commissioner Lienhoop explained that the board projects proceed under certain constraints. The state mandates that all project costs be paid within 5 years of job completion and sets the repayment interest rate. First year pays on the balance only, but then interest accrues at 10% for the remaining years. Even if the cost is reasonably manageable, the short repayment term and added interest exacerbates the financial burden. On the question of grant funding, he stated that this problem exists elsewhere in the state making the chances of obtaining highly sought after grant funding slight to none.

In closing, Tucker said the Drainage Board would be the governing body to address. The next meeting of the Drainage Board is scheduled for Monday, March 11th at 6:30 p.m. in the Bartholomew County Council Chambers.

The next Commissioners' Meeting will be held on Monday, March 4th, at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Chambers. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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RICHARD A FLOHR, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

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LARRY S. KLEINHENZ, MEMBER

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PIA O'CONNOR

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CARL H. LIENHOOP, MEMBER