

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

April 8, 2019

The Bartholomew County Commissioners met in regular session on April 8, 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 4/1/2019 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 4/1/19 through 4/5/19. Forty (40) permits were issued with fees collected of \$2,990 and estimated construction costs of \$786,441.

County Engineer Danny Hollander gave the Highway Weekly Crew Report which included the following work: put up signs; patched roads; worked on ditches and pipes in Northgate, on 500S, 400N, and Stafford Road, and in Wayne Township; crack-sealed in River Grove; and hauled dirt to 550S and 200W for shoulder widening. Milestone paved 700E, 300S, and 180W (2018 overlay jobs).

Hollander requested permission to advertise the **Notice to Bidders for the Carr Hill Sidewalk Project**. The work includes construction of curb, gutter and sidewalk for approximately 600 feet, plus HMA paving. The notice would be published in the 4/11/19 and 4/18/19 editions of *The Republic*. Commissioners would receive bids in their office until 10:00 a.m. on 4/29/19 to be opened and read in their meeting that morning. Commissioner Lienhoop motioned to give notice to bidders. Commissioner Kleinhenz seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Attorney Grant Tucker then opened and read the bids received for the **replacement of Bridge #66**. The bridge is on 900E in Haw Creek Township just south of the Shelby County line. Bids received were from:

Duncan Robertson, Inc., Franklin \$693,017.40

Force Construction Co., Inc., Columbus \$752,364

Milestone Contractors, LP, Columbus \$848,000

Commissioner Lienhoop made a motion to take the bids under advisement. Commissioner Kleinhenz seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Next, Court Services Director Brad Barnes requested the commissioners' approval of **grant** applications to the **Indiana Office of Court Services** for two (2) new problem-solving courts. The Drug Recovery Court and Family Dependency Court will hold session in Circuit Court under Judge Kelly Benjamin and Magistrate Heather Mollo, respectively. The grant funds would be used for participant incentives, chemical testing, travel, and training. The applications are \$10,000 for each court and the term runs from 7/1/19 through 6/30/20. The funds would be received in advance and require no match. Commissioner Kleinhenz moved to approve applying for grant funding through Indiana Office of Court Services. Commissioner Lienhoop seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

The commissioners asked that elected officials **give up their parking spaces** for taxpayers' use beginning Wednesday, 4/10/19, through Friday, 5/10/19. Chairman Flohr motioned to approve the request. Commissioner Kleinhenz seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Under Miscellaneous, county resident Kelly Blazier came to the commissioners regarding her concerns about a **recent animal abuse situation** she witnessed. She contacted several county authorities to report the starvation of a dog – the Sheriff's Department, Animal Control, and the Prosecutor's Office. Eventually, the dog was removed from the premises, fed and nursed back to health, and returned to the owner.

The inability of the county to act on her multiple reportings in a timely manner has compelled her to pursue changes that would equip the county to step in on animal cruelty cases. In their current state, the county ordinances focus on policies for animal *control*, not their well-being, per se. She asked how to go about changing the county policy and will be on the agenda for next week's commissioners meeting.

The next Commissioners' Meeting will be held on Monday, April 15th, at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Chambers. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RICHARD A FLOHR, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

LARRY S. KLEINHENZ, MEMBER

PIA O'CONNOR

CARL H. LIENHOOP, MEMBER