

## COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

August 23, 2021

The Bartholomew County Commissioners met on August 23, 2021, in the Commissioners Chambers of the Governmental Office Building, 440 Third Street, Columbus, Indiana. Commissioners Larry S. Kleinhenz, Carl H. Lienhoop and Tony London were present. Auditor Pia O'Connor, Attorney Grant Tucker and County Administrator Tina Douglas were also present.

Commissioner Kleinhenz gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The first item was the Approval of minutes of August 16, 2021. **Commissioner London motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Lienhoop seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item was the approval of Payroll. **Commissioner Lienhoop motioned to approve Payroll as presented. Commissioner London seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item was the weekly permit reports as read by Commissioner Kleinhenz:

<i>Time frame</i>	<i>New permits</i>	<i>Fees</i>	<i>Value</i>
08/16/21 to 08/20/21	19	\$2,231.00	\$1,434,189

The next item was the County Highway Weekly Crew Report presented by Engineer Danny Hollander (via Zoom). The following work had been completed last week: wedged on 550 W, 250 S, 100 W, 900 E, 1000 E, 1200 E, & Parksite; mowed in Wayne Township; patched in several areas of the County with the dura-patcher; spread seed & straw on 1000 E; worked on pipe on 300 W; & cleared & cleaned up log jam under the Gladstone bridge.

The next item was the Monthly Highway Report for July 2021 as presented by Engineer Hollander (via Zoom).

The next item was the Consideration of a Contract with Milestone for 2021 Road Overlay Program – Phase II for the Subdivisions listed below.

*(Work to be completed on or before December 1, 2021.)*

<i>Subdivision</i>	<i>Milestone</i>
--------------------	------------------

<i>The Orchard</i>	<i>\$44,765.30</i>
<i>Pleasant View &amp; Talberton</i>	<i>\$117,049.18</i>
<i>Colony Parke</i>	<i>\$139,281.39</i>
<i>Hillview Estates</i>	<i>\$49,258.15</i>
<i>South Hill Farms</i>	<i>\$52,127.50</i>
<i>Bethel Village</i>	<i>\$155,840.59</i>
<b>Group Total</b>	<b>\$559,322.11</b>

▪ ***Addendum 1 – Subdivisions***

- *Pleasant View & Talberton – 7 roads accessed off of US 31 include:*
  - *Glenwood Drive*
  - *Newton Drive*
  - *Compton Drive*
  - *Bluff Road*
  - *Fairmont Drive*
  - *Randy Road*
  - *Wynn Street*
- *Colony Parke – All Roads*
  - *Random Road*
  - *Farmstead Drive*
  - *Waterford Drive*
  - *Farmstead Circle*
  - *S. Waterford Court*
  - *Chaucer Drive*
  - *Devonshire Road*
  - *Sheffield Court*
  - *Chaucer Court*
  - *Buckingham Drive*
  - *Saxon Court*
  - *Farmstead Court*
  - *S. Chaucer Court*

▪ ***Addendum 2 – 2021 Road Overlay Program Phase II***

- *All vegetation in roadway to be sprayed with weed killer and removed prior to Paving Operations (the cost is to be included in other items)*

**Commissioner Lienhoop motioned to Accept the Contract with Milestone as presented above. Commissioner London seconded the motion.** Commissioner Kleinhenz stated that these are all subdivision streets and they are hard to do. Commissioner London asked if all the roads in Bethel Village will be redone. Engineer Hollander stated yes. Commissioner London asked about the date that is set in the Contract. Engineer Hollander stated that is what they are shooting for. **The vote was called for and passed unanimously.** Mark Webber of the Republic asked for an update on Phase I. Engineer Hollander stated they have started and knocked out 4 or 5 roads so far. Mr. Webber asked about Marr Road. Engineer Hollander stated they may do some in-house work so as to get a wider pavement. Commissioner Kleinhenz asked if the wedging was all on re-paved roads. Engineer Hollander stated that it was a mix.

The next item was the Consideration of a Contractor Agreement with Public Health Department – Nursing as presented by Director Amanda Organist as follows:

- *Full-time contractor agreement*
- *With Mary Unsworth*
- *For RN to assist in COVID-19 clinics, investigations, & other duties as assigned by the Director of Nursing.*
- *\$28.00 per hour*
- *Paid out of ARP Funds*
- *Agreement Term: August 23, 2021 through December 31, 2026*

Auditor O'Connor stated that we have the ARP funds for this position. **Commissioner London motioned to Accept the Contractor Agreement with Mary Unsworth as presented above. Commissioner Lienhoop seconded the motion which passed unanimously.** Director Organist stated they are bombarded with testing and are getting many positive tests. Commissioner London asked if they are seeing an increase in vaccinations. Director Organist stated that they are.

The next item was the Consideration of a Contract with Smithville for Temporary Internet Service at Foxpointe for the Public Health Department – Nursing as presented by IT Director Scott Mayes as follows:

- *With Smithville*
- *Temporary Internet Service at new Foxpointe Nursing location*
- *6-month Contract*
- *Paid for out of ARP Funds*
  - *Installation cost:* *\$3,000.00*
  - *Monthly recurring cost of \$880/month – 6 months* *\$5,280.00*
  - *Total* *\$8,280.00*

Director Mayes stated that the Brown County IT Department (Laura & Rick) is checking out our Zoom setup. The permanent connection to this position is still in the works. Smithville has had prior service in this building. He believes this is a good agreement as they are integrated with our network. They turned this operation around in a couple days-time, not the usual 180-day lead-time. Auditor O'Connor believes, as this is for COVID & Nursing, she stated this should be paid for out of ARP Funds. **Commissioner Lienhoop motioned to Accept the Contract with Smithville as presented. Commissioner London seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

Under miscellaneous, Mr. Don Strietelmeier had a question regarding the future of solar farms. He feels it needs to be evaluated as to how the general public will be affected. Citizens will be bordering these farms. He wonders what problems could arise from construction to after the end of the project. Commissioner Kleinhenz stated that one of the concerns is what happens if the venture goes bankrupt. Commissioner London stated that it is becoming an issue. There are companies looking to lease ground in Bartholomew County. He has heard that they want 2,000 acres in the eastern part of the County. No property is zoned currently for this kind of project. They would have to go to the Planning Commission to get a variance, so there is a process. The conversations they have had over this include what he has mentioned as well as property rights. They are looking at considerations for the end of the project such as a bond or security fund that would pay for the mitigation if the project was to end. This fund would help bring the property back to its original process. Mr. Strietelmeier asked if they have imminent domain. It was stated that they do not have the power of imminent domain. Mr. Strietelmeier

asked how they would get their power to the companies. Commissioner London stated that is why they are looking to the east part where we have multiple transmission lines. Some of these companies are offering \$1,100 per year per acre. Auditor O'Connor stated she gets these letters all the time. Commissioner London stated that it is hard for him to tell a landowner that he cannot use his property as he wants to. They are very concerned as to how the property will be rejuvenated at the end of the project. The State failed to pass a bill, but it was to take the power away from the Counties and leave it at the State level. It failed in the Senate, but it will be back next year. Mr. Strietelmeier stated that several years ago there was a push for a gas powered generator plant. It too was unregulated. It happened that in California a similar project went bankrupt and that ended the process here. He wants to make certain that the public has a right to comment on this issue. Commissioner London stated that they have discussed it on multiple occasions. County Administrator stated that the BZA will hold hearings that are public if this happens in this County. There have been no filings as of yet, but there have been inquiries. Commissioner London stated that, to his knowledge, there have only been "option" contracts at this time. Commissioner London stated that one company has paid upfront a smaller amount to tie up the land for up to 5 years. There was a company that wanted to come and lobby the Commissioners. They told them no. If they come, they would have to come to this forum and would be given an allotted amount of time. Mr. Strietelmeier is on the fence with it but just wants to make certain there would be time for public input. He is unclear how the assessment would be done. Assessor Whipple stated it would lose its farm ground classification unless the DLGF rules of assessment change. Recorder Hines stated that there have been a number of agreements filed in her office.

Jorge R. Morales stated that they have another meeting to wrap up the budget process on the 30<sup>th</sup> of this month. It was a long process.

The next scheduled Commissioners Meeting will be **Monday, August 30, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.**

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:33 a.m.

BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS

---

LARRY S. KLEINHENZ, CHAIRMAN

---

CARL H. LIENHOOP, MEMBER

---

TONY LONDON, MEMBER

ATTEST:

---

PIA O'CONNOR