

## COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

September 27, 2021

The Bartholomew County Commissioners met on September 27, 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. County Administrator Tina Douglas was also present. Auditor Pia O'Connor was not present. Auditor's Chief Deputy Dalene Pattingill attended via Zoom.

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

The first item was the Approval of minutes of September 20, 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 Claims. **Commissioner Lienhoop motioned to approve Claims as presented. Commissioner London seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item was the weekly permits report as read by Commissioner Lienhoop:

<i>Time frame</i>	<i>New permits</i>	<i>Fees</i>	<i>Value</i>
09/20/21 to 09/24/21	33	\$4,737.00	\$6,525,664

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: patched with Hotbox & dura-patcher; trimmed trees for school bus routes; replaced culvert on Denois Street; placed stone along Carr Hill Road & on 525 W; mowed in Flatrock & German Townships; and Milestone paved 200 N and Hartman Drive. Commissioner Kleinhenz stated that he was on 800 S and it appeared that it was due for chip-n-seal. Due to the water that moves across and under this road, it requires more maintenance than other roads.

The next item was the Consideration of a Consulting Contract with United Consulting for County Bridge Inspections as presented by Engineer Hollander and Dave Richter, President of United Consulting (via Zoom) as follows:

***Local Public Agency (LPA) & United Consulting (Consultant, Dave Richter, President) for County Bridge Inspections***

- *Countywide Bridge Inspection & Inventory Program in accordance with National Bridge Inspection Standards for Cycle Years 2022 through 2023, Phase 1 (2022) and Phase 1A (2023)*
- *Complete Inspection, Inventory, Appraisal and Report of All Bridges*
- *Term of Agreement – 2-year – May 1, 2022 to April 30, 2024*
- ***Amount of Contract - \$296,397.41***

Engineer Hollander stated this is a typical Contract except that it is for 2 years, not 4 years as is the normal. The 2-year Contract is to get all Counties on the same cycle by INDOT. Commissioner Lienhoop stated that United Consulting has done very good work for our County and they are here immediately if we have any issues. **Commissioner Lienhoop motioned to Accept the Consulting Agreement with United Consulting in an amount not-to-exceed \$296,397.41 as presented. Commissioner London seconded the motion.** Engineer Hollander stated that this is a Federal Mandate and they pay 80% of the cost. Mike Lovelace (via Zoom) asked how many companies submitted bids. Engineer Hollander stated that they had an overview of 4 firms that had submitted. United Consulting came out of that process. The fees are standard per bridge type throughout the State. Dave Richter stated the fees are based on what INDOT allows. They work in 20 to 22 Counties throughout the State. Mike Lovelace asked why a local company that had submitted a proposal was not given the contract. Engineer Hollander stated again that the submitting quotes are rated by numbers and the numbers are added up. **The vote was called for and passed unanimously.**

The next item was the Consideration of Amendment No. 2 to the Agreement with Strand Associates, Inc. for Design Services and Bidding-Related Services, for Bartholomew County Bridges #188 and #189 Replacement as follows:

***Amendment No. 2 Extends the Completion Date from September 30, 2021 to June 30, 2022***

- *Original Agreement signed with Strand Associates July 16, 2018 for Replacement of Bridges #188 and #189*

***Amendment No. 1 below: November 2, 2020***

- *Under Compensation: Change “\$141,400” to “219,000” and replace both tables with the following: INCREASE of: \$77,700 for both bridges combined Under Schedule change date: “July 30, 2021” to “September 30, 2021”*

Engineer Hollander stated this is only for an extension of the completion deadline. **Commissioner Kleinhenz motioned to Accept Amendment No. 2 to the Agreement with Strand Associates, Inc. as presented. Commissioner London seconded the motion which passed unanimously.** Commissioner Kleinhenz stated that this delay is not by Strand or the County, but the State has concerns regarding a wetlands area. They are making the necessary adjustments. Bridge #188 was the bridge that was closed earlier this year due to issues. Repairs were made and it was reopened. This is a good example of the need for the bridge inspection. Dave Richter stated that there are a lot of other Counties that have bridges in much worse condition than Bartholomew. Other Counties also have several bridges that are approaching 70 years old and will all need to be replaced possibly in small time span. His company is working with the Highway Department to prevent us from having a bunch of bridges in need of repair/replacement at the same time.

The next item was the Veteran’s August 2021 Monthly Report as presented by VSO Larry Garrity (via Zoom) as follows:

<i>Item</i>	<i>Monthly</i>	<i>YTD</i>
<i>In Office Interviews</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>510</i>
<i>Out of Office Interviews</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Walk-ins</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>420</i>
<i>Incoming Phone Calls</i>	<i>187</i>	<i>2013</i>
<i>Outgoing Phone Calls</i>	<i>85</i>	<i>602</i>
<i>Outgoing Mail</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>178</i>
<i>Incoming Fax</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>160</i>
<i>Outgoing Fax</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>28</i>
<i>Trips to VA Hospital (13 scheduled, 2 cancelled)</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>90</i>
<i>Mileage on Van</i>	<i>1,121</i>	<i>13,493</i>
<i>New Claims Filed</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>149</i>

<i>Veteran Disability Compensation Claims Filed</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>218</i>
<i>Veteran/Surviving Spouse Pension Claims</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>41</i>
<i>All Forms Filled Out for Veterans</i>	<i>63</i>	<i>1,231</i>
<i>Miscellaneous (see below)</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>17</i>

- *Miscellaneous (2)*
  - *Attended Veteran Court Graduation on 8-12-21*
  - *Set up at the Senior Expo at Millrace on 8-20-21*

**Commissioner Kleinhenz motioned to Accept the Veteran's August 2021 Monthly Report as presented. Commissioner London seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item was the Animal Control August 2021 Monthly Report as prepared by Director Mark Case and read by Commissioner Lienhoop as follows:

<b><i>Action</i></b>	<b><i>Dogs</i></b>	<b><i>Cats</i></b>	<b><i>Other</i></b>	<b><i>Total</i></b>
<i>Picked Up</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>34</i>
<i>Audits</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>92</i>
<i>Violations</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Fines</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Bite Cases</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Door Hangers</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Animals Reclaimed</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Traps Loaned</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3</i>
<b><i>Total Cases</i></b>	<b><i>43</i></b>	<b><i>22</i></b>	<b><i>12</i></b>	<b><i>77</i></b>
<i>Mileage for the month</i>	<i>Van 1 =</i>	<i>582</i>	<i>Van 2 =</i>	<i>1,800</i>

**Commissioner Lienhoop motioned to accept the Animal Control August 2021 Monthly Report as presented. Commissioner London seconded the motion which passed unanimously.** They spent a lengthy amount of time over the past 3 months adjusting the Animal Control Ordinance and that was passed just recently.

The next item was the Treasurer's August 2021 Monthly Reports as prepared by Treasurer Barbara J Hackman. **Commissioner Kleinhenz motioned to Accept the Treasurer's August 2021 Monthly Report. Commissioner Lienhoop seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item was the Consideration of a Letter of Intent with Meridiam Infrastructure North America Corporation for County Wide Broadband as follows:

***Letter of Intent with Meridiam to work towards a Contract by December 31, 2021 to Construct and Operate a Fiber To The Home (FTTH) Network within the County.***

- *Meridiam will be responsible for designing, building, operating, managing, and financing the project and, by doing so, facilitating the following outcomes (the "Primary Project Outcomes").*
- *Developer's commitment to construct a "FTTH" (Fiber To The Home) Network that will provide fiber connectivity to at least 85% of all Bartholomew County premises.*

Attorney J Grant Tucker stated that this is just a commitment by the County and Meridiam to create a contract to provide the infrastructure for at least 85% of the homes in the County to receive Broadband. This letter is to negotiate with the company to create a contract. Basically what Meridiam is wanting, is to be the exclusive provider for the next 25 years. Most providers look to be paid back within 5 to 7 years of the investment. What enables Meridiam to provide this for 85% of the homes is due to being paid back over the next 25 years. Commissioner London stated that Meridiam does not want the Commissioners to enter into any other contracts, but there will be other providers within the County. As Attorney Tucker stated, most companies want to recoup their investment in 5 to 7 years, not 25 years. They are an internet investment company. They build things including tunnels and dams and they own them for the long-term. They are a company from France. The ultimate goal would be 95% of the homes. This would be Gig speed fiber to the home. This will last 40 to 50 years. They will start at Gig speed download & upload speeds (synchronous). This is the start of the process. He feels it is an incredible opportunity for Bartholomew County. Commissioner Lienhoop stated that Commissioner London has worked hard on this project since he became a Commissioner. He has questioned if this is too good to be true. Currently, this company is remodeling LaGuardia Airport. This company is also looking at doing something similar for internet with the City of Bloomington. This only locks us into

the negotiation process. Recorder Tami Hines asked if that is why we do not need to go through the normal bid process. Attorney Tucker stated that we could do Requests for Proposals. Commissioner London stated that the Letter of Intent includes a line regarding the right to do RFP's. Jon Meyer (via Zoom) stated that he has been struggling with broadband access since moving here. He has filed a complaint against AT&T. He was paying \$700 per month while they were staying home during COVID and he was only receiving about 25% use out of it. He supports this Letter of Intent. Holly (via Zoom) supports this Letter of Intent. Her only option at this time is Xfinity or Hughes.net. Xfinity is wanting \$15,000 to get them connected to internet. She feels this would prevent people from being ripped off in the County areas. Leah Childress asked if the 18-month timeframe includes all of the County? Commissioner Kleinhenz stated that it does not include the entire County. They need to clarify whether it is 85% of ALL households or 85% of non-municipal households which is a very different amount. Commissioner London stated that he does not believe 100% can ever be achieved. Speed will not be an issue with this as it will start at Gig speed; coverage will be the issue. Once a Contract is in place, Meridiam plans to start immediately. Attorney Tucker stated that the Letter of Intent states that the County will not pay anything to Meridiam until at least 80% of the coverage is in place. Commissioner London stated that the only money going towards this would be the ARP funds. Commissioner Kleinhenz made the point that those who spoke today are in extremely hard locations and questions if they will benefit from this project. Commissioner London stated that this is a Letter of Intent for 2 parties to try to come to terms. The goal is to have a Contract in place by the end of the year. If that happens, they would start with shovels in the ground by the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2022. Commissioner Lienhoop stated that they have heard Commissioner Kleinhenz concerns. While it is not a Federal Mandate, it is the push of the Federal Government to get broadband to everyone. He wonders if this could become a model for other communities. Attorney Tucker stated that if you are the only house on the road, you may not fall into this plan. Commissioner Kleinhenz asked if they sign this Letter of Intent, would we sign other Letters of Intent. Attorney Tucker stated that he is not certain that we can entertain another Letter of Intent if this one is signed. Generally speaking, the exclusivity of the proposal leads to concerns for any attorney. Commissioner Kleinhenz is supportive, but he is concerned that by signing the Letter of Intent they could prevent better plans. Should we not just do RFP's and go from there. Commissioner London stated that the Letter of Intent starts the ball rolling. It will cost the company a lot of money to determine what will be needed by them to make this happen. They agreed to add the statement regarding future RFP's. He stated that if it weren't for the ARP

money, they would not need the County's permission. The money allows them to start now and go deeper into the County areas. In his opinion, signing this only starts the ball rolling. Engineer Hollander stated that someone is already installing a lot of fiber in the County. Commissioner London stated that is Great Plains and they only plan to serve the Mount Healthy area. Great Plains received a Grant from the State. Engineer Hollander asked if this would exclude Great Plains. Commissioner London stated it would not. The internet is unregulated. Engineer Hollander asked if the County would end up with 5 or 6 fiber lines in the right-of-ways? Commissioner London stated that this would prevent that situation. Commissioner Lienhoop stated that Meridiam could start the engineering process and determine that they want to bow out of the agreement. Commissioner London agreed that is possible and is why we would not give a dime to anyone until a large portion of the County receives coverage. Commissioner Lienhoop stated that this is based on the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the ARP funds being received. If we promise \$4,000,000 and we only receive half of the ARP funds, then we may have to go to the County coffers. Commissioner Kleinhenz stated that they could also adjust the ARP plan. Commissioner London stated that they need to include language regarding that issue in the contract. Commissioner Lienhoop stated that there are several County Council members that are supportive of broadband throughout the County. Commissioner London stated that Bob & Jill Stilwell sent him a message to read as they could not connect to the Zoom meeting do to service. They do not have not reliable phone, internet, or satellite service. They are not limited by options; there are NO options. Commissioner Kleinhenz would like item 9 to be 90% of non-municipal homes instead of just 85% of homes. **Commissioner London motioned to Sign the Letter of Intent with Meridiam Infrastructure North America Corporation for County Wide Broadband changing line 9 to read "90% of non-municipal homes". Commissioner Lienhoop seconded the motion which passed unanimously.** Attorney Tucker stated that the other companies that Commissioner London has dealt with are nowhere near this point at this time.

The next item was the Consideration of Amendment No. 3 to the Employee Benefit Trust/Plan Summary Plan Description/Master Plan Document as read by Commissioner Kleinhenz as follows:

***Amendment No. 3 to the Employee Benefit Trust/Plan Summary Plan Description/Master Plan Document for Mental Health Care/Substance Abuse allowing the first three (3) Mental Health visits at 100% then \$20 copay applies. Plan B copay applies after the deductible has been met.***

- *Effective January 1, 2022*
- *Inpatient: 80% after deductible 50% after deductible*
- *Outpatient: 1<sup>st</sup> 3 visits 100% No deductible 50% after deductible*  
*then \$20 copay (Plan B copay applies after deductible)*

Commissioner Kleinhenz stated this is an additional benefit that they are adding for the employees.

**Commissioner Lienhoop motioned to Approve Amendment No. 3 to the Employee Benefit Trust/Plan Summary Plan Description/Master Plan Document as presented. Commissioner London seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next regular scheduled Commissioners Meeting will be **Monday, October 4, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.**

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:03 a.m.

BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS

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LARRY S. KLEINHENZ, CHAIRMAN

\_\_\_\_\_  
CARL H. LIENHOOP, MEMBER

\_\_\_\_\_  
TONY LONDON, MEMBER

ATTEST:

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PIA O'CONNOR