

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

November 29, 2021

The Bartholomew County Commissioners met on November 29, 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 present.

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

The first item was the Approval of minutes of November 22, 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. Auditor O'Connor noted that this Payroll includes the once-a-year payment of the Loyalty Pay. **Commissioner Lienhoop motioned to Approve the Payroll as presented. Commissioner London seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

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

<i>Time frame</i>	<i>New permits</i>	<i>Fees</i>	<i>Value</i>
<i>11/22/21 to 11/26/21</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>\$1,833.00</i>	<i>\$1,142,020</i>

The next item was the Weekly Highway Crew Report as presented by Engineer Hollander (via Zoom) as follows: 2 crews patched with dura-patcher and hot box; milled bridge approach on 400 W; placed stone along newly overlaid roads; and put up signs.

The next item was the Consideration of a Financial Commitment Letter to INDOT for Lowell Bridge Replacement Application 13943 as presented by Engineer Hollander as follows:

Bartholomew County will dedicate the following revenues out of the County Cumulative Bridge Fund for Lowell Bridge Replacement Application:

- *2022 - \$ 750,000 (PE Contract – covers 100% of estimated engineering costs)*
- *2025 - \$ 140,000 (Required Right-of-Way costs)*
- *2027 - \$1,200,000 (Local share toward the Construction Phase of the project)*

- 2027 - \$ 720,000 (*Reimbursable Inspection Costs*)

Engineer Hollander stated he is turning in Federal Grant Applications for the Lowell Bridge Road and bridge. The bridge is a \$6,000,000 project and he is asking for \$4,800,000. The \$1,200,000 would be the County match if the Grant is received. All of the items qualify for the match. We have to pay up front and then we would receive the Grant funds. Commissioner London asked about the new infrastructure bill that was just passed by Congress, he wondered if that bill will speed up any of this project. Engineer Hollander has not heard anything at this time. Commissioner London asked if the funds come through, could we potentially speed up the process. Engineer Hollander stated that you still have hoops to go through. If it can be done earlier, they will. John Clodfelter, of United Consulting, agreed with Engineer Hollander. Commissioner Lienhoop clarified that there would be 2 applications. Engineer Hollander stated yes, one for the bridge and one for the road.

The next item was the Consideration of a Financial Commitment Letter to INDOT for 325 W and Lowell Road Intersection Improvements for Application 13968 as presented by Engineer Hollander as follows:

Bartholomew County will dedicate the following revenues out of the Local Motor Vehicle Highway (MVH) and Local Roads and Streets (LR&S) Fund for 325 W and Lowell Road Intersection Improvements Application:

- 2022 - \$ 350,000 (*PE Contract – covers 100% of estimated engineering costs*)
- 2025 - \$ 100,000 (*Required Right-of-Way costs*)
- 2026 - \$ 135,000 (*Utility Relocation expenses*)
- 2027 - \$1,200,000 (*Local share toward the Construction Phase of the project*)
- 2027 - \$ 720,000 (*Reimbursable Inspection Costs*)

Commissioner Lienhoop motioned to Approve the Financial Commitment Letter for Lowell Bridge Replacement and the Lowell/325 Intersection to INDOT as presented. Commissioner London seconded the motion. Mark Webber, of the Republic, asked the history for this project. It has served over 60 years and could serve another 20 to 30 years. Engineer Hollander stated that it is now “functionally obsolete” as it is not wide enough for the amount of traffic it receives.

The bridge is in good shape but it was not built for the traffic it has on it today. Commissioner Kleinhenz stated that they started talking about this project 10 years ago. They have done improvements to the roads in that area in preparation for the bridge replacement. Most of this work has been done in-house, saving the County even more money. He appreciates the Federal Bridge program, as without it, he does not know how we would pay for the entire project. Commissioner Lienhoop stated that we should be looking to piggy back the Tannehill Bridge as it has the same issue. Engineer Hollander stated that the Tannehill Overpass over I-65 will be rebuilt by the State in the next year or 2. **The vote was called for and passed unanimously.**

The next item was the Consideration of an Order Establishing Precincts as presented by Clerk Shari Lentz as follows:

- *Order Establishing Boundaries of Precincts to Establish and Revise the Boundaries of Certain Precincts of the County.*
- *A Precinct Description and Map of the Boundaries of Each Precinct has been Submitted to the Indiana Election Division.*
- *The Order becomes Effective January 2, 2022 to Recognize the Precinct Boundaries which became Effective on January 1, 2022.*

Clerk Lentz stated that they need to Create Precinct 5350 due to a change in Congressional Districts. They also cleaned up some of the Precinct Splits, where they were created by Annexations such as a Council District. Commissioner Kleinhenz stated that an Annexation means those voters get to vote in the City and that is what causes a split. John Clark, of White River Broadcasting, asked where the new Precinct was located. Clerk Lentz stated it is in Sandcreek Township and includes part of Elizabethtown. They have received several phone calls from a group that lobbied to get this cleaned up. We were non-compliant because you are not supposed to have Split Precincts. Commissioner Lienhoop stated that we have to do this after the Census. Mr. Clark asked how many splits have been cleaned up by this. Clerk Lentz stated 15 splits. **Commissioner London motioned to Approve the Order Establishing Precincts as presented. Commissioner Lienhoop seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item was the Consideration on First Reading of an Ordinance of the Board of Commissioners of Bartholomew County Creating and Defining Certain County Council Election Districts as presented by Clerk Shari Lentz as follows:

Changes to Voter Precincts 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the Ordinance have been described in maps and previously submitted to, and are on file in, the Office of the Indiana State Election Board.

County Council Election District Number 1:

- *Voter Precinct Number 1000, 1200, 1300, 1400, 1500, 1600, 3200, 3500, 3550, 3600, 3700, 4600, 4700, 4800, 4900, 5200*

County Council Election District Number 2:

- *Voter Precinct Numbers 0700, 0900, 1100, 2500, 2600, 2700, 2800, 2850, 2900, 3300, 3350, 3800, 3850, 3900, 4000, 4100, 4200, 4250, 4300, 4350*

County Council Election District Number 3:

- *Voter Precinct Numbers 0100, 0200, 0250, 0300, 0400, 0600, 0800, 1700, 1800, 1900, 2000, 2100, 2200, 2300, 2400*

County Council Election District Number 4:

- *Voter Precinct Numbers 0225, 0500, 3000, 3100, 3400, 4400, 4450, 4500, 4550, 5000, 5100, 5300, 5350, 5400, 5500, 5600, 5700, 5800*

Second Reading will be on Monday, December 13, 2021.

Commissioner Kleinhenz opened the meeting for Public Comment. Hearing no comments, the Public Comment portion of the meeting was closed. Clerk Lentz stated that the Order moved the Precinct lines and this will move the Council Election lines to match the Order. Commissioner London asked if this is in direct response due to the change in Congressional Districts. Clerk Lentz stated that it is a part of the reason. The other was the Splits being cleaned up. **Commissioner Lienhoop motioned to**

Approve on First Reading the Ordinance Creating Certain County Council Election Districts as presented. Commissioner London seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The next item was the Consideration on First Reading of an Ordinance of the Board of Commissioners of Bartholomew County Creating and Defining Certain County Commissioner Election Districts as presented by Clerk Shari Lentz as follows:

Changes to Voter Precincts in Sections 1, 2 and 3 of the Ordinance have been described in maps and previously submitted to, and are on file in, the Office of Indiana State Election Board.

County Commissioner Election District Number 1:

- *Voter Precinct Numbers 3400, 3800, 3850, 3900, 4000, 4100, 4200, 4250, 4300, 4350, 4400, 4450, 4500, 4550, 4600, 4700, 4800, 4900*

County Commissioner Election District Number 2:

- *Voter Precinct Numbers 0100, 0200, 0225, 0250, 0300, 0400, 0500, 0600, 0700, 0800, 0900, 1000, 1100, 1200, 1300, 1400, 1500, 1600, 1700, 1800, 1900, 2000, 2100, 2200, 2300, 2400, 2500, 2600, 2700, 2800, 2850, 2900, 3000, 3100, 3200, 3300, 3350, 3500, 3600, 3700*

County Commissioner Election District Number 3:

- *Voter Precinct Numbers 5000, 5100, 5200, 5300, 5350, 5400, 5500, 5600, 5700, 5800*

Second Reading will be Monday, December 13, 2021

Commissioner Kleinhenz opened the floor for Public Comment. Hearing no comment, the Public Hearing was closed. Clerk Lentz stated this is the same as before, but for the Commissioner Districts. Commissioner London stated this is just verifying that no districts have 2 Commissioners being voted for. Commissioner Kleinhenz stated that there was a recent Letter to the Editor that touched on this issues. Commissioner Lienhoop stated that they were informed that while the County Council Districts need to be of close population, the Commissioners Districts do not need to be. This is because the entire County votes for the Commissioners. The only requirement is that the Commissioner candidate

live within the District. All 3 of the Commissioners have a portion of the City, which could lead to all 3 County Commissioners residing in the City Limits. Commissioner Kleinhenz stated that he was involved in the changes around the year 2000 when they wanted to keep Districts on Township Lines. It did add a little shift in the population burden. He believes the Districts were originally created to have Commissioners live outside of City Limits. Commissioner London stated that he makes decisions based on all County residents, not just his District. Commissioner Kleinhenz stated that some Counties even still have a Highway Garage in each District. There are guidelines that they follow. One of those is not by population. Mark Webber asked if he could get the number of voters being moved. Commissioner London stated that is not so important with the Commissioners. Mark Webber stated that he was more interested in the Council Districts. Commissioner London stated that this is sort of a side effect of a County that is growing. Without growth, there would be no need for changes. **Commissioner London motioned to Approve on First Reading the Ordinance Creating Certain County Commissioner Election Districts as presented. Commissioner Lienhoop seconded the motion which passed unanimously.** Commissioner Lienhoop stated that he will not be here on December 13, 2021. Commissioner Kleinhenz recommended that the Second Readings be held on Monday, December 20, 2021.

The next item was the Consideration of Notice of Request for Proposal for “Installation of County-Wide Fiber Broadband Service” as presented by Commissioner Tony London as follows:

ADVERTISE:

- ***The Republic –***
 - ***Thursday, December 2, 2021***
 - ***Thursday, December 9, 2021***
- ***Proposals Due: Monday, December 20, 2021***

The Bartholomew County Commissioners (hereinafter referred to as “County”) are seeking proposals to install fiber optic broadband Internet service to the residents of Bartholomew County. The County seeks to provide immediate solution to underserved areas of the County as initial priority and then continue to serve a minimum of 85% of unincorporated addresses by the end of the 2024 calendar year with the final goal to provide options for 100% of County residents and businesses.

The successful Internet Service Provider (hereinafter referred to as “Applicant”) will be expected to deliver synchronous 1Gbps download and 1Gbps upload speed to the largest population in the most expeditious time frame.

The Applicant is expected to engineer and deliver services within the specification identified in the Request for Proposal document.

Commissioner London stated that out of an abundance of fairness, while they currently have a letter of intent with a company, they want to allow any provider to be able to participate in this project. The Commissioners will be using ARP funding for this project. He stated that they get a lot of phone calls, emails and letters. He stated that the Internet is unregulated. There is nothing stating that people have to be provided the internet. The companies are trying to make the most money for their stockholders. It is easy to offer it in Cities where there are multiple users confined in a small area as opposed to in the County where households could be miles apart. It costs the same amount to stretch the fiber for the County as it does in the City. Commissioner Kleinhenz stated that today they are requesting any company interested in providing this service respond to the RFP. **Commissioner London motioned to Accept the Notice of Request for Proposal as presented. Commissioner Lienhoop seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

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

<i>Action</i>	<i>Dogs</i>	<i>Cats</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Picked Up</i>	12	32	0	44
<i>Audits</i>	0	0	0	92
<i>Violations</i>	1	0	0	1
<i>Fines</i>	1	0	0	1
<i>Bite Cases</i>	1	0	0	1
<i>Door Hangers</i>	0	0	0	2
<i>Animals Reclaimed</i>	3	0	0	3

<i>Traps Loaned</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Total Cases</i>	<i>53</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>89</i>
<i>Mileage for the month</i>	<i>Van 1 =</i>	<i>907</i>	<i>Van 2 =</i>	<i>1,535</i>

Commissioner Lienhoop motioned to accept the Animal Control October 2021 Monthly Report as presented. Commissioner Kleinhenz seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The next item was the Veteran's October 2021 Monthly Report as presented Commissioner London as follows:

<i>Item</i>	<i>Monthly</i>	<i>YTD</i>
<i>In Office Interviews</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>571</i>
<i>Out of Office Interviews</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Walk-ins</i>	<i>54</i>	<i>513</i>
<i>Incoming Phone Calls</i>	<i>181</i>	<i>2,403</i>
<i>Outgoing Phone Calls</i>	<i>69</i>	<i>720</i>
<i>Outgoing Mail</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>194</i>
<i>Incoming Fax</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>172</i>
<i>Outgoing Fax</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>38</i>
<i>Trips to VA Hospital</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>38</i>
<i>Mileage on Van (Odometer 50,443)</i>	<i>514</i>	<i>15,476</i>
<i>New Claims Filed</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>176</i>
<i>Veteran Disability Compensation Claims Filed</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>259</i>
<i>Veteran/Surviving Spouse Pension Claims</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>47</i>
<i>All Forms Filled Out for Veterans</i>	<i>86</i>	<i>1,393</i>
<i>Miscellaneous (see below)</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>22</i>

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

The next Commissioners Meeting will be **Monday, December 6, 2021 at 10:0 a.m.**

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:51 a.m.

BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS

LARRY S. KLEINHENZ, CHAIRMAN

CARL H. LIENHOOP, MEMBER

TONY LONDON, MEMBER

ATTEST:

PIA O'CONNOR