

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

August 8, 2022

The Bartholomew County Commissioners met on August 8, 2022, in the Commissioners Chambers of the Governmental Office Building, 440 Third Street, Columbus, Indiana. Commissioners Larry S. Kleinhenz and Carl H. Lienhoop, County Auditor Pia O'Connor, Attorney Grant Tucker, and County Administrator Tina Douglas were in attendance. Commissioner Tony London was present via Zoom.

Commissioner Lienhoop opened the meeting.

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

The next item was the Approval of Meeting Minutes of 8-1-2022. **Commissioner London motioned to Approve the Minutes as presented. Commissioner Kleinhenz seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item was the Approval of Payroll. **Commissioner Kleinhenz motioned to Approve the Payroll as presented. Commissioner London seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next items were the Weekly Permits Report as read by Commissioner Lienhoop:

<i>Time frame</i>	<i>New permits</i>	<i>Fees</i>	<i>Value</i>
07/25/22 to 07/29/22	23	\$2,337.00	\$3,890,132

Of note: Tsune Commercial – Market Place Industrial Park (German Twp) \$2,520,000

The next item was the Weekly Crew Report for County Highway as presented by County Engineer Danny Hollander as follows: replaced culvert pipes on 700 E, 620 N, 800 N & 525 E; patched with the hot box; put up signs; added dirt along the drop off along 600 S; and mowed in Columbus & Clay Townships.

The next item was Proposals for the Highway Department for excavating services as presented by Engineer Hollander as follows:

- ***Excavating Services on 700 N (Pipe 1)***

- *Shireman Excavating (Columbus)*
 - *Amount for 1 Day* *\$1,250.00*
 - *If job carries over to 2nd day, would be additional \$1,250*
- *Conwell Construction*
 - *No Response*
- ***Excavating Services on 700 N (Pipe 2)***
 - *Shireman Excavating (Columbus, IN)*
 - *Amount for 1 Day* *\$1,250.00*
 - *If job carries over to 2nd day, would be additional \$1,250*
 - *Conwell Construction*
 - *No Response*
- ***Excavating Services on 700 East***
 - *Shireman Excavating (Columbus, IN)*
 - *Amount for 1 day* *\$1,250*
 - *If job carries over to 2nd day, would be additional \$1,250*
 - *Conwell Construction*
 - *No Response*

Commissioner Kleinhenz motioned to Approve the above items in the amount of \$1,250 each per day as presented. Commissioner London seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Ms. Macey stated that due to the bridge closure on Tannehill Road, there has been damage to one of the corners which is now about 10” of mud. Commissioner Kleinhenz stated that he is aware of that issues. Engineer Hollander stated they would look at it today.

The next item was a Scholarship Presentation by Dustin Renner, of the AIC, to Eliza Whiteside. The scholarship was from the AIC and SRI in the amount of \$500. Zach Hughes, of SRI was also in attendance. Eliza is the granddaughter of Treasurer Barb Hackman and graduated from Columbus East. She will be attending IU this fall.

The next item was the Consideration on First Reading of an Ordinance Amending the Permit Fees for the Bartholomew County Code Enforcement Department as presented by Code Enforcement Director Michelle Cox and Inspector Tony Darnall as follows:

- ***Last time Permit Fees were increased was 1999***
 - *Fees will be increased for the following*
 - *Section 1: Residential Structures*
 - *Section 2: Commercial, Industrial or Multi-Family Structures*
 - *Section 3: Miscellaneous Fees & Charges*

Director Cox stated they took the mid-point from surrounding counties to come up with the amounts. Commissioner Kleinhenz stated that they had let this fall through the cracks in waiting 20 years to review this. Director Cox stated that the contractors had questioned the low rates. Commissioner Lienhoop opened the meeting for Public Comment. Mark Webber asked for a copy of the current amounts. Tom Heller asked what was collected last year and what would be anticipated from the increase. Director Cox stated that it is based on square footage. Currently it is \$0.07 and will be increasing to \$0.10. The base will also go up. There is a base amount and then the per square footage amount is added on top of that. Commissioner Lienhoop stated that half of the fees go to the County and the other half to the City. Last month they took in \$23,000 but it was a very busy month. Commissioner Kleinhenz stated he had started a house in Jennings County and their fee is \$0.11. Commissioner London stated that Johnson County has a \$1,400 Park Impact Fee for new home permits. Tom Heller stated the amounts here are paltry compared to the Seattle Area. Hearing no other comments, the Public Hearing portion of the meeting was closed. **Commissioner London motioned to Approve on First Reading the Ordinance Amending the Permit Fees for Bartholomew County Code Enforcement as presented. Commissioner Kleinhenz seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item was the Consideration on First Reading of an Ordinance Amending Ordinance 1998-09 Pertaining to Prohibited Health and Safety Hazards as presented by Code Enforcement Director Cox as follows:

- *Amendment Empowering County Government (Code Enforcement) to notify property owners whose properties are deemed to be a Health/and or Safety Hazard of the existence of such condition & provide a deadline to bring the property into compliance & inform the property owner that if the property is not brought into compliance, the*

County will cause the property to be brought into compliance & assess the cost there of against the owner and the property.

Attorney Grant Tucker stated that this is basically due with issues with abandoned houses. They are encountering a number of structures that no one lives in for whatever reason. This will empower the County to secure these structures. The owners will be notified that they need to secure the structure. If they do not secure it timely, then the County has the ability to secure it and then have the owner pay for the cost of securing it. Mr. Darnall stated that they currently have 4 structures that fit this criteria. Two of these are in estates. A couple of these are in foreclosure which can take up to 2 years to complete. He has had homeless people move into them and the structures are not safe. Commissioner Kleinhenz stated that this is needed. This will allow us to secure the facility. Commissioner Lienhoop opened the meeting for Public Hearing. Hearing no comments, the Public Hearing was closed. **Commissioner Kleinhenz motioned to Approve on First Reading the Ordinance Amending Ordinance 1998-09 Pertaining to Prohibited Health and Safety Hazards as presented. Commissioner Lienhoop seconded the motion which passed unanimously.** Second Reading will be in two weeks on August 22, 2022.

The next item Ratification of Expenditures for the Maintenance Department as presented by Maintenance Director Rick Trimpe (via Zoom) as follows:

- *Ratification of AC Unit in the Commissioners' Chambers*
 - *Emergency purchase*
 - *South Central Company (Columbus, IN)* *\$5,107.41*

Director Trimpe stated they had to get one from Michigan and ended up going and picking it up. **Commissioner Kleinhenz motioned to Ratify the Expenditure with South Central Company in the amount of \$5,107.41 as presented. Commissioner London seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item was the Consideration of Agreements with Universal Valuation, Inc. for Annual Appraisal Services as presented by Commissioner Lienhoop as follows:

- *Annual Maintenance Fee for “Proof of loss service guarantee” for “Building valuation” for 16 of the County’s structures through March 2023.*
 - *Total Cost* *\$625.00*

Commissioner Lienhoop motioned to Accept the Proposal in the amount of \$625 as presented. Commissioner Kleinhenz seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The next item was the Consideration of Agreements with Universal Valuation, Inc. for Annual Appraisal Services as presented by Commissioner Lienhoop as follows:

- *Site Inspections of 3 new County Buildings through March 2023 as follows:*
 - *New Highway Garage Site at 10150 E 25th Street*
 - *New Court Services Center at 555 N 1st Street*
 - *New Foxpointe Building at 2625 Foxpointe Drive*
 - *Total Cost* *\$1,325.00*

Commissioner London motioned to Accept the Proposal in the amount of \$1,325 as presented. Commissioner Kleinhenz seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Under Miscellaneous, Commissioner London stated that they have been working hard over the past 2 years to get fiber internet to those living in the County. He stated that the company that is going to provide this will be at the Council meeting tomorrow night at 6:00 p.m. to request a tax abatement. He urges anyone that can to come out and show their support for this abatement.

The next Commissioner’s Meeting will be on Monday, August 15, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS

CARL H. LIENHOOP, CHAIRMAN

LARRY S. KLEINHENZ, MEMBER

TONY LONDON, MEMBER

ATTEST:

PIA O'CONNOR