

COMMISSIONER'S MEETING

November 4, 2013

The Bartholomew County Commissioners met in regular session on November 4, 2013 in the Governmental Office Building, 440 Third Street, Columbus, Indiana. Chairman Carl Lienhoop called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Commissioners Larry Kleinhenz, Attorney J. Grant Tucker and Auditor Barbara Hackman were all in attendance. Commissioner Rick Flohr was attending the Toyota fork-lift plant grand re-opening via invitation. Commissioner Kleinhenz stated that Toyota has been an exemplary corporate neighbor of Bartholomew County.

Catherine Greenlee from the Auditor's Office gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The first item on the agenda was the approval of the October 28, 2013 meeting minutes. Commissioner Lienhoop made the motion to approve the minutes and it was seconded by Commissioner Kleinhenz. The motion passed unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was the approval of Claims. Commissioner Lienhoop made a motion to approve the Claims. The motion passed unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was the weekly Permits report. Chairman Lienhoop read the Permits Report from 10/28/2013 to 11/1/2013. Twenty-Five (25) permits had been issued with a fee amount of \$2,874 and a valuation amount of \$1,735,135. Fees collected for the month of October were \$31,658.

Next item on the agenda was consideration of agreements for remote sand sites. County Highway Engineer, Danny Hollander, submitted agreements with Gary Sims (Sims Sawmill), Columbus Silgas and Growers Farm Service for stockpiling sand/salt mixture from November 15, 2013 to April 15, 2014 for consideration. Mike Lovelace (a taxpayer in the audience) asked if there was any storage site in the northeast, such as, the Hartsville area to which County Highway Superintendent, Dwight Smith, responded that there used to be a person in the Hope area who then went out of business and no replacement has been secured. Several comments were made that a provider in that area would be well utilized and Commissioner Kleinhenz suggested that an effort to find a service provider in the next couple of months would be beneficial and more efficient in time and fuel consumption. Commissioner Kleinhenz made the motion to re-enter into the three (3) remote sand sites agreements as done in the past and it was seconded by Commissioner Lienhoop. The motion passed unanimously.

Engineer Hollander then presented quotes from Palfleet Truck Equipment of Indianapolis and MDI Truck of Auburn, N.Y. for the County's purchase of two (2) Wausau Model AT Plows of same specifications and same 65-85 day lead times. Palfleet quoted \$16,078 and MDI quoted \$18,378. Commissioner Lienhoop made the motion to accept the bid submitted by Palfleet and it was seconded by Commissioner Kleinhenz. The motion passed unanimously.

Engineer Hollander then gave the weekly crew report as follows: they mowed in Clay, Clifty and German Townships, patched roads, replaced box culverts on 875 W and 200 W and ground stumps along roads.

The next item on the agenda was a presentation of the 325 W Project (Project) by Engineer Hollander. County Highway Superintendent, Dwight Smith, was also present to answer questions. Commissioner Kleinhenz began by saying that progress on this project has been frugal and responsible in nature. Properties were bought after the flooding with the intent to improve the section of road by using county resources. Right-of-way negotiations and moving utilities have added to time concerns. Engineer Hollander was asked to present an overview of the Project at today's meeting.

Engineer Hollander said the Project includes a 4,200-foot stretch of 325 W from 200 N to Lowell Rd. The phone company plans to complete their work by the first of December. Work can then begin to smooth out a kink in the road at the intersection of 200 N and 325 W to create a gradual curve. The next section will require widening the road on the west side and then transitioning to the river side of the road and then once again transitioning back to the west side of the road resulting in a straighter, 25-foot wide roadway. The next section at the Zaharako property will be widened on the west side. Some houses along this stretch have been removed. The County has taken possession of two properties after two failed attempts to sell them at tax sale. County Attorney Grant Tucker pointed out that two successive tax sale attempts producing no sales allows the transfer of property to the County with some filing of additional paperwork. The next

section involves the straightening of an s-curve and replacing a culvert. The next section, at the access site, will require fill to elevate. There was some discussion of the water table, its impact and the land usage in that area. There's a 200-foot low spot with a hump requiring vertical work. Engineer Hollander estimated \$175,000 of overlay materials, plus labor and plus roughly \$15,000 for two and a half acres of right-of-way acquisition. Commissioner Lienhoop asked if the right-of-way acquisition process had begun and if most property owners were receptive. Two have signed and the other three seem willing with no foreseen blocks to the process. Co. Highway Supt., Dwight Smith, was confident in getting the job done with time and reprioritizing work.

Commissioner Kleinhenz stressed the value of the Project's improvements in aiding motorists. It is a heavily-traveled road conveniently providing access to the north edge of Columbus from the west and bypassing the 46 W train traffic. This might also be the time to look at any needed improvements to Lowell Rd. to make it smoother and safer in anticipation of increased traffic count once the 325 W Project is completed.

Mike Lovelace (taxpayer in the audience) stated that he sees a total disaster coming. He appreciated the County's initiative to do the Project in-house, but he foresees that complications caused by slowed/closed traffic may be more problematic and costly than bidding out the Project and getting it done quickly. He concluded that the County could do a good job, but was concerned by number of workers to complete it in a timely manner without neglecting other areas of the community. His comments were acknowledged.

The next item on the agenda was to ratify an auction service contract for the sale of an old dirt loader. This action was to correct an oversight and secure a contract between the entities. The County Highway Department assuming authorization, directed Mike Mensendiek, of Mensendiek's Auction Service to sell the loader on the internet. Commissioner Lienhoop made a motion to ratify the service contract with Mensendiek's Auction Service for services rendered regarding online sale of the old dirt loader. The loader sold for \$1,500 (what might have been expected from Kroot's) and Mensendiek's fee is 10% of proceeds. Commissioner Kleinhenz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Online sale of equipment has been contemplated by the Commissioners for the disposing of Sheriff's vehicles and office equipment historically sold at County Auction. Auction service fees may run higher than online sales, but may also result in higher proceeds, as well. Targeting some other markets through advertising might produce increased online sale proceeds.

Next agenda item was ratifying an expenditure for the Maintenance Department. Rick Trimpe, Maintenance Superintendent, had requested the purchase of a tool to handle 4" copper line for \$2,239 from Ram Tool & Supply. Supt. Trimpe estimated the tool would pay for itself after two uses, since a local contractor estimated \$1,400 for one repair job on the copper line at the County Jail. Commissioner Lienhoop authorized the purchase. Commissioner Kleinhenz made the motion to ratify the expense. Commissioner Lienhoop seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The next agenda item was the appointment of an ADA (American Disabilities Act) Coordinator as recommended by Greg Fehribach of The Fehribach Group out of Indianapolis which specializes in ADA compliance. The position will administer, oversee and ensure ADA Compliance of Bartholomew County facilities. Commissioner Lienhoop made the motion to appoint Debbie Londeree to this position, indefinitely. Commissioner Kleinhenz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Miscellaneous business included an announcement that County Offices would be closed next Monday, November 11th, in observance of Veteran's Day.

Additionally, the County Annex building and its services would be closed Friday, November 8th to facilitate inspection of that building. Supt. Trimpe will aid DLZ with their investigation of the premises.

Auditor Hackman stated that the deadline to pay taxes is next Tuesday, November 12th.

The floor was opened to public questions or comments. Mike Lovelace, taxpayer, asked if there was a way to recoup some of the \$100,000 EDIT tax money from Nusun, Inc. County Attorney Grant Tucker answered that recouping the money could come from splitting proceeds from sale of the building. The County's investment of EDIT money was for the building and property, not the business itself. Mr. Lovelace commented that "it was crooked the way they got the building to start with".

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Lienhoop at 11:00 a.m. The next Commissioners' meeting will be on Tuesday, November 12, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Chambers.

BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS

CARL H. LIENHOOP, CHAIRMAN

LARRY S. KLEINHENZ, MEMBER

RICHARD A. FLOHR, MEMBER

ATTEST:

BARBARA J HACKMAN