

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

January 27, 2014

The Bartholomew County Commissioners met in regular session on January 27, 2014 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 and Rick Flohr, County Attorney J. Grant Tucker and County Auditor Barbara Hackman (arriving at 10:15a.m.) were also in attendance.

County Assessor Lew Wilson gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The first item on the agenda was the approval of the January 21, 2014 Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Kleinhenz made a motion to approve the Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Flohr, and the motion passed unanimously.

Next item on the agenda was the approval of Claims. Commissioner Flohr made a motion to approve the Claims which was seconded by Commissioner Kleinhenz. Chairman Lienhoop mentioned there was a Pictometry claim of \$26,000 encumbered from last year. This led to the continuation of a discussion from a previous meeting, whereas, John Dishinger, a constituent, had submitted the IC Code regarding reassessment which required the physical, on-site inspection of properties by the County Assessor. The Commissioners, having been in touch with the State, reported that no changes to the Code are to be expected since the intent is to *not* relieve county assessors from their obligation of on-site inspections. Aerial digital imaging, as provided by Pictometry, would not replace on-site inspections. Assessor Lew Wilson learned at a recent conference that the level of the physical inspection would, however, be lessened with the aid of digital imaging for the over 40 counties using the service. With a motion having been made and seconded to approve Claims a vote was taken and passed unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was the weekly Permit report. Chairman Lienhoop read the New Permits Report dated 1/20/14 to 1/24/14. Ten (10) permits had been issued with a fee amount of \$570.50 and an estimated construction cost of \$30,650.

Engineer Hollander then gave the County Highway Weekly Crew Report which included the following work: plowed, sand and salted roads, fixed signs and fixed up trucks. Fifty-three (53) tons of mix was used over the past weekend compared to last

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday where 690 tons of mix was used. A 25-ton shipment of a 500-ton commitment of salt was on the way and to be mixed with 75 tons of sand.

Next item was the Second Reading of an Ordinance Amending Ordinance 2013-05 Adopting a Personnel Policy (*see attached*) for the purpose of correcting a compilation error. Page 8 of the County's Personnel Policies Handbook regarding part-time employees and their eligibility/ineligibility of employment benefits was inadvertently replaced with an incorrect page by the compiler after the proof edition had been properly approved. Chairman Lienhoop opened the meeting for public hearing. There being no comments, the public hearing was closed. Commissioner Flohr made a motion to pass the Ordinance on the Second Reading amending Ordinance 2013-05. Commissioner Kleinhenz seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

The next agenda item was the consideration of the annual Covered Bridge Certification for continued receipt of State funding for the County's one covered bridge in Mill Race Park. Commissioner Kleinhenz made a motion to sign the recertification letter, seconded by Commissioner Flohr, and the motion passed unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was the monthly Animal Control Report for December. Commissioner Kleinhenz read the report as follows: there were 38 animals picked up, 75 audits, 5 violations, 3 fines, 2 bite cases, 7 door hangers placed, 4 reclaimed animals and 5 traps loaned to the public. The vans traveled a total of 3,241 miles. The yearly Animal Control Report for 2013 was submitted and reported the following totals: there were 582 animals picked up, 1,313 audits, 71 violations, 34 fines, 43 bite cases, 111 door hangers placed, 60 reclaimed animals and 72 traps loaned to the public. Van #1 was driven 27,072 miles and Van #2 was driven 18,939 miles. Commissioner Kleinhenz made a motion to accept both the monthly and yearly Animal Control Reports as submitted. Commissioner Flohr seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The next order of business was the consideration of waiving permit fees to the City Parks & Recreation Dept. for construction of a lean-to shed. Commissioner Kleinhenz made a motion to grant relief from permit fees, seconded by Chairman Lienhoop, and the motion passed unanimously.

Next, Chairman Lienhoop informed the public that the Commissioners met with Columbus Regional Hospital representatives Rodney Ferrenburg and Mike Kutsko to go

over a semi-annual update regarding ambulance services. Since the last review, response times in the County were to equal or improve over previously attained response times under the prior contract. At least ninety percent (90%) of the runs in the County and City met the recommended maximum threshold limits. The entire ambulance service report is to be presented to the City Board of Works. Mike Lovelace, a constituent, asked what was the average cost for ambulance transportation per patient. The County not having financial responsibility for the services didn't have cost figures. Katrina Whitworth, in the audience, said it was about \$800-\$900 per run.

Next, Katrina Whitworth (*in the audience*) expressed her desire for the County to make 325 W between 46 W and Lowell Rd. wider and safer for current users and cyclists in the future. The posted speed limit is 50 m.p.h. and there are some treacherous turns and bends in the road. She felt the road may become increasingly treacherous and would like to see safeguards implemented now, but if not now, she asked the County to give forethought on how to expand it properly and keep it on the County's budget/agenda for the future. Its usability increases when 46 W shuts down due to flooding, railroad traffic, etc. Bill Klakamp (*in the audience*) also asked that cyclist enhancements be considered for the future planned improvements. Ms. Whitworth wants to make sure that improvements will be able serve future generations given the projected use and expansion of that area.

Next, Jack Spinks (*in the audience*) opened a discussion about the passing of a City Ordinance partnering with LeadsOnline which requires dealers of "second-hand" merchandise to extensively itemize, detail, and value all merchandise as well as photograph and identify the previous owners of the merchandise for input onto this world-wide database. LeadsOnline is an electronic reporting and criminal investigation system for receiving data for the use of law enforcement officials in their official duties. A few other small business owners including Jerry Coomer of Granny Bea's and Scott Brown of Columbus Pawn were present to express dissatisfaction with the City's establishment of the Ordinance as well as their concerns that the County may follow suit. Mr. Spinks stated that the City has made more than one statement that the County would also be onboard to adopt such an ordinance. He was concerned that the required paper-work, labor-intensive reporting practices and computer-related expenses will put him out of business. While none of the business owners present desired the County to adopt such an ordinance, Scott

Brown, owner of Columbus Pawn, suggested that if the County doesn't adopt a like ordinance the disparity between City and County regulations would create an unlevel playing field for area businesses. Responding to County Attorney Grant Tucker's question about the frequency of in-taking stolen items, Mr. Coomer said he's worked with law enforcement a few times over the past few years. Mr. Brown estimated that his company logged 89,000 items and 9,000 unique customers last year producing only two stolen items. Mr. Brown also had reservations about uploading his customers' identities onto a world-wide database. Chairman Lienhoop stated that City Hall has not approached the County Commissioners about the program. Several months ago, Sheriff Mark Gorbett briefly informed the Commissioners about the program. At this time, the County has no intention of increasing regulations on any businesses in the County or participating in the program. Any future consideration would be publicized and public comment welcomed at that time.

Lastly, Mike Lovelace (*in the audience*) asked who determines the level of severe weather warnings and travel restrictions for the County. The highest level of warning allowing for *emergency* travel only requires declaration from both the Commissioners and Mayor. Dennis Moats, Emergency Management Director, has authorization for lower level warnings one of which includes *essential* travel only.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Lienhoop at 11:00 a.m. The next Commissioners' Meeting will be held on Monday, February 3, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Chambers.

BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS

CARL H. LIENHOOP, CHAIRMAN

LARRY S. KLEINHENZ, MEMBER

ATTEST:

RICHARD A. FLOHR, MEMBER

BARBARA J. HACKMAN

ORDINANCE NO. 2014-_____

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2013-05 ADOPTING A
PERSONNEL POLICY FOR BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY, INDIANA**

WHEREAS the Board of Commissioners of Bartholomew County, Indiana by means of Ordinance No. 2013-05 passed on October 28, 2013, (“Commissioners”) did adopt a Personnel Policy for Bartholomew County employees; and

WHEREAS it has been discovered that the County’s Personnel Consultant inadvertently replaced the intended page 8 of said personnel policy with an incorrect page 8; and

WHEREAS it is the desire of the Commissioners to correct this error and cause to be inserted into the Bartholomew County Personnel Policy the page 8 that was originally intended to be a part of said Personnel Policy.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY, INDIANA AS FOLLOWS:**

1. To remove the presently-existing page 8 from the Bartholomew County Personnel Policy which became effective on November 1, 2013 and replace it with the originally-intended page 8, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit “A”.
2. That because this amendment simply corrects a compilers error and embodies the original intent of Ordinance 2013-05, the effective date of this Ordinance shall be retroactive to November 1, 2013.
3. All other portions of the Bartholomew County Personnel Policy adopted through Ordinance No. 2013-05 shall remain unchanged.