

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

March 9, 2020

The Bartholomew County Commissioners met in regular session on March 9, 2020, in the Commissioners' Chambers of the Governmental Office Building, 440 Third Street, Columbus, Indiana. Commissioners Rick Flohr, Larry Kleinhenz and Carl Lienhoop were present. County Auditor Pia O'Connor and County Attorney J. Grant Tucker were also present.

Chairman Lienhoop called the meeting to order. Commissioner Flohr gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The first order of business was the approval of the March 2, 2020 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Flohr made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Kleinhenz seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Next was the approval of payroll. Commissioner Kleinhenz motioned to approve the payroll. Commissioner Flohr seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was a Public Hearing on a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application for Armuth Acres/North Cliff Storm Drainage Improvements Study. Trena Carter, Administrative Resources (ARa) Manager – Municipal Programs, was appointed by Bartholomew County on February 3, 2020 to serve as the hearing officer for any and all Public Hearings associated with this grant application to the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs for a grant from the State Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Planning Program for Storm Drainage Improvements Study for the Armuth Acres/North Cliff Areas. Ms. Carter explained that if the grant is awarded, there will be a 2nd Public Hearing to announce the award and to discuss moving forward. She hopes to have the application put together this week. Any information that the residents of the area have already provided or any additional information they can provide will be used in the application. Chairman Lienhoop opened the Public Hearing portion of the meeting.

Steve Douglas, a resident of Armuth Acres, asked how long it would take for the study period of the grant. Ms. Carter stated that the grant allows one year, but Strand & Associates, Inc. anticipates it being shorter than that. Jo Flohr asked the amount that is

being requested with the grant. Ms. Carter stated it was for \$34,650. Amy Sheehan Walker, a resident of Armuth Acres, stated she has had issues with water in her basement since she purchased the home. She hired a civil engineer. He presented her with his findings and she has given those to Ms. Carter. She has 3 sump pumps set up in her basement. The engineer stated that the problem would not go away until there is a drain to pull water from the ground away from the area. He even recommended a method to drain it to the river. Ms. Carter stated that there was a study in 2002 that will be included in the application as well as the study by Ms. Walker's engineer. Both studies will also be turned over to Strand & Associates, Inc. for review. Ms. Walker stated that she has spent upward of \$20,000 out of pocket on water issues. Commissioner Kleinhenz asked if the issue had been mild this past year. Ms. Walker stated it had. Mr. Douglas stated that he has been keeping track of the rainfall and this year they are 2" below this same time period last year. It was noted that there are few basements in the area, with Mr. Douglas and Ms. Walker each having one. Ms. Walker stated that one neighbor had their basement filled in. Nick Grider, a resident of Armuth Acres, stated he had spent over \$16,000 out of pocket on the water issues. He had to have his house treated for mold, the crawlspace encapsulated and new venting for his HVAC system. He asked if the grant would provide more money once the solution was determined. Ms. Carter stated that this grant is just to determine the problem. Once that has occurred, they will request grants for remediation of the problem. The Public Hearing portion of the meeting was closed. Chairman Lienhoop stated that the requested grant was for \$34,650 with the Commissioners providing \$3,850. He stated that Strand & Associates, Inc. had been chosen as it was a pre-requisite of the grant application. A committee consisting of Commissioner Rick Flohr, Trena Carter, Tom Finke of the Surveyor's Office and County Highway Engineer Danny Hollander had selected Strand & Associates, Inc. At this time, Chairman Lienhoop allowed Harry Wampler to speak as he had just walked in. Mr. Wampler had photos to show the issues. These will be provided to Ms. Carter to include in the application process as evidence. He stated that the reconstruction of 600 N added to the problem as there is not enough drainage under the roadway for the amount of water that collects. Commissioner Kleinhenz motioned to sign the Application for the CDBG Planning Grant. Commissioner Flohr seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was the consideration of a Resolution of the County Commissioners of Bartholomew County, Indiana Authorizing Submission of a CDBG Planning Grant Application to the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs and addressing related matters. This Resolution authorizes the Chairman of the Commissioners to prepare and submit an Application for Grant Funding to address the need for storm water drainage improvement in Armuth Acres/North Cliff subdivisions and to execute and administer a resultant grant contract, including requisite general administration and project management contracts and agreements, pursuant to regulation of the “Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs”. The County Commissioners commit to local funds in the amount of \$3,850 from the County General Consultant Line item. Commissioner Lienhoop motioned to approve the Resolution for the CDBG Planning Grant. Commissioner Flohr seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Chairman Lienhoop stated that ARa had already completed an income study to determine if the County would even be able to apply for the planning grant. Byron Carr stated that he believed there had already been a study determining which river to send the water to. Commissioner Kleinhenz stated that he believed that was the 2002 study. He stated that one study showed the Flatrock River and another study suggested Hawcreek. They expect the cost to remediate the issue to be around \$1,000,000. There are 102 homes in the area but only about 50 are affected by the problem. They will need total participation to continue with this process.

The next item was weekly reports. Chairman Lienhoop read the New Permit Report dated 3/2/20 to 3/6/20. Twenty-six (26) permits were issued with fees collected of \$2,569 and estimated construction costs of \$2,207,272.

County Highway Technical Supervisor Stacy Gross gave the Highway Weekly Crew Report which included the following work: Took “Put Together Pipe” to 100 W just South of 550 S, side-winded stone, worked on signs, patched roads, crack sealed Hillview Addition and picked up trash. She also presented the February 2020 Report. It was noted that Highway Supervisor Dwight Smith had a stint put in last Thursday after suffering chest pains. He is home and doing fine and hopes to return in 10 to 14 days. Mr. Smith has been with the Highway for 32 years, longer than anyone else currently there. Wishes for a speedy recovery were offered.

The next item on the agenda was a Proposal for the Modernization of the Courthouse Elevator. Maintenance Director Rick Trimpe was on vacation but they need to get this work started as soon as possible. The proposal they have is from Thyssenkrupp. Thyssenkrupp has the contract with the County for all of the elevators and as such was the only one that would submit a bid. The cost is \$109,975 to replace mechanical and electrical components as well as upgrades to the interior. All new equipment will be covered for 1 year. It will require approximately 5 weeks to complete the work. Mark Webber asked when it would start. Chairman Lienhoop hopes it will start soon once they sign the contract, however there are some parts that must be ordered first. Mike Lovelace asked where the funds would come from to pay for this. Chairman Lienhoop state that, with the help of Auditor O'Connor, the County Council had setup a \$1,000,000 Courthouse Renovation Fund during the 2020 Budget process. This will be the first use of these funds. Commissioner Flohr motioned to approve the repairs as presented. Commissioner Lienhoop seconded the motion which passed unanimously. They understand that it will make the second floor very inconvenient for anyone that is unable to use the stairs. There is a Court Room on the first floor that the Judges may need to make use of as needed.

The next item on the agenda was the Treasurer's Monthly Report for January 2020. Commissioner Kleinhenz made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Monthly Report for January 2020. Commissioner Flohr seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Chairman Lienhoop introduced the members of the Jail Corporation which would be holding their meeting immediately following this one. Members present were Byron Carr, Jim Paris, Paul Frankee and Jim Reed. The 3 candidates for the open Commissioner spot were in the audience today; Jo Flohr, Tony London and Dan Arnholt. Also in the audience was Mr. Thompson, Maintenance Supervisor for the Jail, Jail Commander John Martoccia and Chief Deputy Sheriff Chris Lane.

There will be no Commissioners meeting on Monday, **March 16, 2020** due to Spring Break. There will be a brief meeting this Thursday, **March 12, 2020** at 10 a.m. to approve claims. The next regular session of the Board of Commissioners will be held on Monday, **March 23, 2020** at 10:00 a.m. in the GOB Commissioners' Chambers. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS

CARL H. LIENHOOP, CHAIRMAN

LARRY S. KLEINHENZ, MEMBER

RICHARD A. FLOHR, MEMBER

ATTEST:

PIA O'CONNOR