

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

August 24, 2020

The Bartholomew County Commissioners met on August 24, 2020, in the Commissioners' Chambers of the Governmental Office Building, 440 Third Street, Columbus, Indiana. Commissioners Carl Lienhoop, Rick Flohr and Larry Kleinhenz were present. Attorney Grant Tucker was present. Auditor Pia O'Connor was present through Zoom meeting.

Commissioner Lienhoop called the meeting to order.

In addition to the above listed people, the following were present at the meeting:

County Administrator Tina Douglas	Auditor's Office Tax Administrator Chris West
IT Director Scott Mayes	

In attendance via Zoom were:

Andy East, The Republic	JDAI Coordinator Bobbie Shake
Charlie Day, DLZ	County Highway Engineer Danny Hollander
David Doup, Taylor Brothers	County Assessor Ginny Whipple
John Clark, White River Broadcasting	County Recorder Tami Hines
Tony London	

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

The first order of business was the approval of the August 17, 2020 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Flohr 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 Flohr seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The next item was the weekly permit report as read by Commissioner Lienhoop:

<i>Time frame</i>	<i>New permits</i>	<i>Fees</i>	<i>Value</i>
8/17/20 to 8/21/20	30	\$3,864	\$1,924,515

The next item was the County Highway Weekly Crew Report presented by Engineer Danny Hollander. The following work had been done: they side-winded on 100 W; replaced culvert pipes on 650 E, 300 S & 450 N; ditched along 450 N & 550 N; mowed in Clifty, Flatrock & Hawcreek Townships; dura-patched pot holes and replaced faded signs. Commissioner Flohr stated that they were doing a good job. Commissioner Kleinhenz stated that they had patched 2 pot holes at the Lowell Road boat ramp and wanted to thank them for that. Commissioner Lienhoop stated that thanks to the weather, there had been good progress at the new Highway Garage site. David Doup echoed that comment. Engineer Hollander had also submitted the Highway Monthly Financial Report for July 2020.

The next item was the Consideration of General Trades Contracts for the Bartholomew County New Highway Garage as presented by David Doup of Taylor Brothers. These bids were awarded March 2, 2020. They have been working on getting the contract language correct. They are as follows:

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|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. <i>Agreement with KENNY GLASS, INC for glass & glazing</i> | <i>\$ 73,592</i> |
| 2. <i>Agreement with CIRCLE B CONSTRUCTION SYSTEMS
for interior/exterior framing & drywall</i> | <i>\$160,300</i> |
| 3. <i>Agreement with PERRY ACOUSTICS, INC for acoustical
panel ceilings</i> | <i>\$ 45,500</i> |
| 4. <i>Agreement with REPP AND MUNDT, INC for dust lid,
framing and plastic paneling</i> | <i>\$171,569</i> |
| 5. <i>Agreement with REPP AND MUNDT, INC for finishes,
flooring and painting</i> | <i>\$148,261</i> |
| 6. <i>Agreement with REPP AND MUNDT, INC for doors,
frames, hardware and louvers</i> | <i>\$ 94,429</i> |
| 7. <i>Agreement with REPP AND MUNDT, INC for specialties
and furnishings</i> | <i>\$141,290</i> |

Commissioner Flohr asked if these bids fell within expectations. Mr. Doup stated they did and they were competitive bids. Commissioner Flohr motioned to approve the above listed General Trades as presented. Commissioner Kleinhenz seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Mr. Doup stated that he would probably be back in September for minor tweaking of some elements.

The next item was the Veteran's Monthly Report for July, 2020 as prepared by VSO Larry Garrity. Commissioner Kleinhenz noted that the Veteran's Office is currently down 1 employee. Year-to-date they have had 163 in office visits and made 38 trips to the VA. Commissioner Kleinhenz motioned accept the Veteran's Monthly Report as presented. Commissioner Flohr seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The next item was the Animal Control Monthly Report for July, 2020 as prepared by Animal Control Director Mark Case. Commissioner Flohr noted that this office was also currently down 1 employee. The picked up 35 animals, had 0 bite cases and put 2,965 miles on the vans. Commissioner Flohr motioned to accept the Animal Control Monthly Report as presented. Commissioner Kleinhenz seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The next item was the Consideration of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Bartholomew County Redevelopment Commission and Bartholomew County. The MOU spells out the items the City Redevelopment Commission will provide in exchange for the parking lot and current Court Services Building. The items are:

- *100 spots for County employees in the new parking garage.*
- *The parking lot on the SE corner of the jail.*
- *Conveyance of the parking lot directly West of the Eynon Building at 1st St & Franklin.*
- *The site of the Eynon Building including demolition of said building.*
- *\$1,500,000 for design and construction of a new building for Court Services on the Eynon building lot.*

Attorney Tucker stated that his only concern is the statement that Court Services will be out of the building by March 30, 2022. As the statement reads, it is regardless of the new building being ready for occupancy. He feels it should be that the Court Services will be out of the building only when the new building is complete and ready for occupancy, but that decision is up to the Commissioners. There were no comments from the public. Commissioner Flohr made the following comment: Having an idea of how the vote will go today, I would like to say that my vote will not be as much a reflection of the merits of the project as it is a reflection of my hard head. This has been a long & difficult process. When the City first approached us, we said we were not interested. The property was not for sale. All three Commissioners at one time or another said they wished the whole idea would just go away. As

the City representatives persisted, we reluctantly began negotiations. It has been a journey that we all began together, but we did not all arrive at the same destination. Commissioner Kleinhenz motioned to enter into the MOU with the City Redevelopment Commission with the addition of a statement that Court Services will vacate the current building when the new building is complete and approved for occupancy. A target date for this is March 30, 2022. Commissioner Lienhoop seconded the motion. Commissioner Lienhoop noted that Commissioner Flohr is correct that they have met for many months and the easiest thing to do would be to do nothing, but in the end, for the long term betterment of downtown Columbus, this is a good thing. It will be hard on some County employees for 2 to 4 years due to parking issues but in the end he feels it will be a good addition to downtown Columbus. The vote was called for and passed 2-1 with Commissioner Flohr voting no.

The next item was a Proposal for 9 Chairs for the remodeled Commissioner’s Chambers as follows:

The Office Shop, Inc:

<i>Alera Madaris high back leather with wood trim</i>	<i>\$269 each</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>\$1,345</i>
<i>Alera Big & Tall high back leather</i>	<i>\$359 each</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>\$ 718</i>
<i>Alera Madaris leather guest chair</i>	<i>\$240 each</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>\$ 480</i>
	<i>Total</i>		<i>\$2,543</i>

Alera – www.aleradetails.com

<i>Alera Madaris high back leather with wood trim</i>	<i>\$459 each</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>\$2,295</i>
<i>Alera Big & Tall high back leather</i>	<i>\$649 each</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>\$1,298</i>
<i>Alera Madaris leather guest chair</i>	<i>\$379 each</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>\$ 758</i>
	<i>Total</i>		<i>\$4,351</i>

Commissioner Lienhoop motioned to award the purchase of the 9 chairs to the low bidder, The Office Shop, for \$2,543. Commissioner Flohr seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The next item was the Consideration of an Ordinance Permitting the Bartholomew County Extension Educator to Serve as a Member of the Bartholomew County Plan Commission until October 1, 2021. This is the first reading of this Ordinance.

Indiana Senate Bill 20, passed by the legislature and effective on July 1, has made some changes to the Indiana Code with regard to the eligibility of the Purdue extension educator to serve as a member of a county plan commission. The Code has long required that the extension educator be a member of the commission. However, a residency requirement has not been added. If the extension educator is not a resident of the county they are no longer permitted to serve in a voting capacity, but would remain involved as an advisor. The county extension board must instead select a “resident of the county who is a property owner with agriculture interest” to serve on the commission. These provisions can be found in IC 36-7-4-208.

Cora Carter, current Bartholomew County Extension Educator, is a resident of Jackson County, and therefore will become ineligible to serve on the County Plan Commission.

The County Commissioners are involved in this change due to their role in a transition period included as part of Senate Bill 20. An extension educator who is not a county resident is allowed to continue to serve on the plan commission until October 1, 2020 unless the county commissioners adopt an ordinance that would allow that service to extend until October 1, 2021. Cora has shared that she would be willing to serve until 2021, if the Commissioners would choose to extend the transition.

After that time, the extension board must name a replacement.

Second Reading will be on Monday, September 14, 2020.

Tony London asked if that meant the new person would have to own ag land. Commissioner Kleinhenz stated that he believes there is some interpretation that can be done. It could be someone in ag sales or such. They would have to have an interest in and knowledge of agriculture. If the current Extension Educator were to move to Bartholomew County prior to October 1, 2021, this would not matter as they could continue as a voting member. Commissioner Flohr motioned to sign the Ordinance on First Reading. Commissioner Kleinhenz does feel it should be a resident of the County that is allowed to vote. It was asked if this Ordinance would require them to wait until October 1, 2021. Attorney Tucker stated that if the current Extension Educator were to resign their voting position from the Commission, then the position could be filled at that time. Commissioner Kleinhenz seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The next item was the Consideration of a Grant Application for Circuit Court as presented by Bobbie Shake as follows:

This grant application is for Circuit Court through the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI) for a Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Grant. It is to be used by Justice related agencies (Courts) to prevent, prepare for and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The request by the application is for the benefit of all 3 Courts. A portion would be used for upgrades in the Court rooms for COVID-19 protection.

The remaining funds would allow for 2-3 full-time Court Bailiffs to assist with and ensure compliance of social distancing and mask wearing within the Courts and hallways.

The Reimbursable Grant requested is for the amount of \$187,028.50.

Commissioner Kleinhenz motioned to allow the grant application in the amount of \$187,028.50. Commissioner Flohr seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Kleinhenz stated that the County Building Closure (entrance by appointment only) that was set to expire September 7, 2020 has been extended to October 31, 2020. The Commissioners expect the Governor to maintain the current status of the State COVID policies. If there are any changes made by the Governor, then they will reconsider this at that time.

Auditor Pia O'Connor stated that the Council had wrapped up the 2021 Budget Hearings in 4 days. They are waiting to make a determination on employee raises until they have better revenue numbers at the 1st or 2nd Reading. They did approve the addition of a Jail Addiction Recovery Counselor.

The Commissioners will not meet on Monday, August 31, 2020. The next Commissioners meeting will be on **Thursday, September 3, 2020 at 10 a.m.**

Also, as Monday, September 7, 2020 is the Labor Day holiday, they will not meet that week but will meet again on **Monday, September 14, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.**

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