

September 25, 2020

BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY COUNCIL
June 9, 2020

Name:	Representing:	Title:	Present:
Matt Miller	At Large	President	Present
Bill Lentz	At Large		Not Present
Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence	At Large		Zoom
R. Scott Bonnell	District 1	Pro-Tem	Present
Laura DeDomenic	District 2		Zoom
Mark E. Gorbett	District 3		Zoom
Jorge R. Morales	District 4		Zoom
Chris Monroe	- -	Attorney	Zoom
Pia O'Connor	Auditor	Secretary	Zoom

Additional people in physical attendance of the meeting were:

Scott Mayes, IT Director	Chris West, Auditor's Office
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Additional people in "Zoom" attendance of the meeting were:

Dalene Pattingill, Auditor's Office	Tami Hines, Recorder
DeWayne Hines, Assessor's Office	Rob Gaskill, Work Release Director
Brad Barnes, Comm. Correction Director	Amanda Organist, Nursing Director
Heather Siesel, SWMA Director	Elizabeth Smith, Co-Op Extension
John Clark, White River Broadcasting	Mark Webber, The Republic

The Bartholomew County Council met on June 9, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the County Commissioners Chambers of the Governmental Office Building, 440 Third Street, Columbus, Indiana.

September 25, 2020

President Miller called the meeting to order.

The first item on the agenda was the approval of the meeting minutes of May 12, 2020. **R Scott Bonnell made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence seconded the motion which passed unanimously (6-0).**

M Miller	B Lentz	E Pence	S Bonnell	DeDomenic	Gorbett	Morales
Aye	Not Present	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye

The next item on the agenda was a Request of Additional Appropriations in the REALM RSAT (9206) in the amount of \$100,281. Rob Gaskill stated that this was for the continuation of a grant they have had for the past 2 years. This will now be for a 2 year grant, meaning they will have the same amount next year. **Jorge R Morales made a motion to approve the request for \$100,281 as presented. Mark Gorbett seconded the motion which passed unanimously (6-0).**

M Miller	B Lentz	E Pence	S Bonnell	DeDomenic	Gorbett	Morales
Aye	Not Present	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye

The next item on the agenda was a Request of Additional Appropriations in the WRAP RSAT (9103) in the amount of \$86,452. (*Bill Lentz arrived*) Rob Gaskill stated that this was for a 2 year grant as the above. It begins May 1st. **Mark E Gorbett made a motion to approve the request for \$86,452 as presented. Laura DeDomenic seconded the motion which passed unanimously (7-0).**

M Miller	B Lentz	E Pence	S Bonnell	DeDomenic	Gorbett	Morales
Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye

The next item on the agenda was a Request of Additional Appropriations in the Immunization Program Fund (8920) in the amount of \$62,925. Director of Nursing Amanda Organist stated that this was for the Immunization Grant that runs from July 1 to June 30. The requests are very similar to last year's. She did add some data loggers to monitor temperatures as well as computers for drive-thru clinics and in house visits, as well as some new scanners. Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence asked if there was any warranty on the faulty scanners. Director Organist stated that they are old and out of warranty. **Mark E Gorbett made a motion to approve the request for \$62,925 as presented. Laura DeDomenic seconded the motion. Bill Lentz asked if this was a Grant. Director Organist stated it was. The vote was called for and passed unanimously.**

M Miller	B Lentz	E Pence	S Bonnell	DeDomenic	Gorbett	Morales
Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye

The next item on the agenda was a Request of Additional Appropriations in the Public Health Preparedness Fund (8891) in the amount of \$31,895. Director of Nursing Amanda Organist stated that this was a Grant for Public Health Coordinator position as well as supplies for the trailer and clinics. They are also looking to purchase tents for the mobile sites as well. **Jorge E Morales made a motion to approve the request for**

\$31,895 as presented. Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

M Miller	B Lentz	E Pence	S Bonnell	DeDomenic	Gorbett	Morales
Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye

The next item on the agenda was a Request of Additional Appropriations in the County General Co-Op Extension (1000-23) in the amount of \$6,200. Co-op Director Elizabeth Smith asked for the County Council to accept the \$6,200 from the 4-H Council to provide for the summer intern and summer office assistant. Even though the fair is cancelled, they are still doing exhibits virtually. **Mark E Gorbett made a motion to approve the request for \$6,200 as presented. Laura DeDomenic seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

M Miller	B Lentz	E Pence	S Bonnell	DeDomenic	Gorbett	Morales
Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye

The next item on the agenda was a Request for a Salary Ordinance Change in a Grant Fund by Community Corrections Director Brad Barnes. Director Barnes stated that he is asking for a Salary Ordinance Modification for Position # 12 from the Pre-Trial Fund. They have received permission to move some funds to the 100 (personnel) fees. The request is to modify Position #12 to \$3,005 bi-weekly. Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence asked if this was State funding. Director Barnes stated yes, it is State funds and just

allows 2 pays for this position. **Mark E Gorbett made a motion to approve the request for \$34,550.44 as presented. Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

M Miller	B Lentz	E Pence	S Bonnell	DeDomenic	Gorbett	Morales
Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye

The next item on the agenda was Discussion of a Hiring Freeze. Jorge E Morales asked why this was being brought up again as he thought they had already made this decision. Mark E Gorbett stated that as Council, they need to inform the office holders that at budget time, they may not be able to fund some of the positions. It is ultimately up to the Council during the budget process to eliminate any positions for the following year. Jorge E Morales stated that is what he understood from the last meeting and he is uncertain why we would need to have a motion. Mark E Gorbett stated that if there is no further discussion then they can move on to the next item. President Miller asked if anyone else had any comments on this topic. There were no additional comments.

The next item on the agenda was the Discussion of the 2021 Budget Calendar. **Jorge E Morales made a motion to approve the 2021 Budget Calendar. Bill Lentz seconded them motion which passed unanimously.**

M Miller	B Lentz	E Pence	S Bonnell	DeDomenic	Gorbett	Morales
Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye

Auditor O'Connor wanted to discuss the Project Income employee insurance. Director Barnes stated that they have been discussing this issue for the past year. Project Income is a User Fee Fund. This fund has been stressed due to having to cover employees' insurance. At the beginning of the year, they were bringing in a fair amount of income. Since the pandemic, they are bringing in a very limited amount which is putting a strain on this fund. Due to this, this fund will be in the red if it is not already there. They are spending \$15,000 to \$20,000 a month. He would like to request a suspension of the employee insurance portion until they are back to receiving normal funding. Jorge E Morales asked if the State had any CARES Act money that could be used due to cover this loss of revenue. Auditor O'Connor stated there is no coverage at this time for lost income. The amount they are discussing is about \$5,200 per month. Mark E Gorbett asked if there is a way they could be in "survival mode" until the budget hearings. R Scott Bonnell asked if there were any other funds in the Sheriff's Department that they could move money from. Director Barnes stated they are not funded by the Sheriff's Department; they are funded by the State. They will have a better answer in the future. Rob Gaskill stated that they are always looking for other funds and grants from the State. He stated that the Governor has told all the State Departments to reduce their upcoming budgets by 15%. In the past, these types of reductions have not affected the Community Corrections Grants, but they will not know if it will as their 2021 grant applications are not due until July 15th and won't be awarded until October. Bill Lentz complemented them on the way they have gone after grants and funding. He stated

that in a business environment, they would have to reduce personnel. Rob Gaskill stated that due to coronavirus, they have had some reduced hours and costs and have saved funds where they could. Mark E Gorbett asked if they have run short in the user fee funds. Director Barnes stated that they have had this discussion for 6 or 8 years regarding the user fee funds. They do not come before the Council often, but they are here because they do not know what the rest of this year will look like as far as their funding. They are just requesting to suspend this monthly payment for insurance to try and stay out of the red. Director Barnes stated that what is brought in during June does not show up until July. What is brought in December 2020 is then used for January 2021. He is requesting that they suspend the payment from this fund. Jorge R Morales believes that during the 2021 Budget Hearings they need to have an in depth discussion regarding user fee fund short falls. Mark E Gorbett asked if 2 months of relief would help them to get to the 2021 Budget Hearings. Director Barnes stated it would. Mark E Gorbett asked if this is something that needs to be advertised? Auditor O'Connor stated no, as it is just an accounting function. Jorge R Morales asked if a motion was needed. Auditor O'Connor and Attorney Monroe stated yes, it would require a motion. **Jorge R Morales made a motion to suspend the insurance payments from the user fee fund of \$10,400 for the next 2 months' payments.** Mark E Gorbett asked where this would be paid from. Auditor O'Connor stated it would come from the Health Trust Fund where they have built up some funds. **Mark E Gorbett seconded the motion.** President Miller asked why the numbers were down. Director Barnes stated they basically have had to

shut down Work Release due to COVID-19 restrictions. Also, the funding comes from people on monitoring and such, and those individuals have reduced incomes or are unemployed. President Miller asked how hard they go after the fees. Director Barnes stated that March was not as bad as April as there were some payments from people due to tax returns and stimulus money. They could not get into Court for hearings to force the payments as the Courts have been backed up. Rob Gaskill has enforcement items that he can use such as limiting the amount of time they are allowed outside of their house and other concessions. They have been very aggressive with collection of the fees; it is just a large issue with the current pandemic. Mark E Gorbett stated that even before this, the user fees were not keeping up with the expenses. This may have to be picked up by the Council. Jorge R Morales stated that is why they need to discuss this in depth during the budget hearings. Bill Lentz stated that if the State does cut the amounts by 15% or stop funding anything, then the Council won't be able to pick up those expenses so other alternatives will have to be looked at. Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence would like to see a plan for such an event. **The vote was called for and passed unanimously.**

M Miller	B Lentz	E Pence	S Bonnell	DeDomenic	Gorbett	Morales
Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye

The next item on the agenda was a Financial and Health Trust Update as presented by Auditor O'Connor. She stated that the Health Trust continues to do fine but she is concerned that people have not been going to their doctors so we may see an

increase in costs as the pandemic eases. There is still \$4,200,000 in the Rainy Day Fund and the Treasurer's Office has been collecting taxes. She and EMA Director Shannon Hinton are working on getting all COVID-19 expenses reimbursed. They are also working on ways to mitigate costs as we continue to re-open to the public. The DLGF has sent out a statement that due to the delay in income tax payment, this will also delay the estimates for the LIT funding for 2021. Mark E Gorbett asked if there was a way to massage the numbers and still meet the required dates. Auditor O'Connor stated that we will still have to meet the required dates, so they will just want to be conservative with the budget.

The next items on the agenda were updates by the Council members regarding Boards and Commissions as follows:

R Scott Bonnell:

County Extension Bd – nothing to report

Solid Waste Management District Bd – nothing to report

Health Bd – nothing to report

Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence:

County Parks & Recreation Bd – attended meeting at Heflin Park. They wanted to know what percentage to put in the budget for raises. Auditor O'Connor stated that she put out a memo to all the department heads to

keep the budget flat with 0%. If there is a possibility of any increase, they will do that at budget time.

Job Review/Classification Committee – nothing to report

Youth Services Center Advisory Committee – nothing to report

Bill Lentz:

Job Review/Classification Committee – nothing to report

Personnel Administrative Committee – nothing to report

Cols Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Bd – nothing to report

Matt Miller:

Personnel Administrative Committee – nothing to report

Job Review/Classification Committee – nothing to report

Jorge R. Morales:

County Plan Commission – nothing to report

Sheriff's Merit Bd – nothing to report

Greater Cols Economic Development Bd (proxy) – nothing to report

Bartholomew County Redevelopment Commission – nothing to report

He wanted to discuss the letters they received letters regarding the body cameras for the Sheriff's Deputies. He is suggesting that President Miller

respond on behalf of the Council. President Miller stated that back in 2016 or 2017 he believes the Council approved the funding for the cameras but the Sheriff decided at the time not to pursue the cameras. Jorge R Morales thinks the letters deserve a response from the Council.

Laura DeDomenic:

Bartholomew County Redevelopment Commission – nothing to report

Greater Columbus Economic Development Bd – CRH discussed best practices for reopening businesses.

ASAP – discussed funding for 2021 budget. The REALM is asking for \$205,042. It was recommended to split this between City and County. The County Adult Drug Court is requesting \$103,951. They would like more money to expand the Court. They are requesting \$249,410 for the Jail Substance Abuse Program. They have actually graduated some people from the program. Mark E Gorbett asked if they would have information regarding the amount that was set aside and what portions would be County versus City. Laura DeDomenic stated she and Mary Ferndon would work with Auditor O'Connor to have that information available. She is proud that the County took the initiative.

Mark E Gorbett:

Emergency Management Bd – nothing to report

Jt Council Emergency Dispatch Services – nothing to report

Community Corrections Bd – nothing to report

Data Board – nothing to report

Drug Epidemic Committee – nothing to report

Auditor O'Connor stated that she talked with Maintenance Director Rick Trimpe yesterday. The Commissioners Chambers has been upgraded with new electronic equipment. The Auditor's Office is pretty much complete. The Treasurer's new office is very close to being completed. He hopes to have the new Council Chambers ready by the 2021 Budget Hearings.

Bill Lentz made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jorge R Morales which passed unanimously.

BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY COUNCIL

By: _____
Matt Miller, President

By: _____
Bill Lentz, Pro-Tem

By: _____
R. Scott Bonnell, Member

By: _____
Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence, Member

By: _____
Jorge R. Morales, Member

September 25, 2020

By: _____
Laura DeDomenic, Member

By: _____
Mark E. Gorbett, Member

ATTEST: _____
Pia O'Connor, Auditor
Bartholomew County