

December 17, 2020

**BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**October 13, 2020**

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Representing:</b>	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Present:</b>
Matt Miller	At Large	President	Present
Bill Lentz	At Large		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:

Mark Webber, The Republic	
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Additional people in “Zoom” attendance of the meeting were:

Chief Deputy Auditor Dalene Pattingill	Auditor's Tax Administrator Chris West
Sheriff Matt Myers	Sheriff's Attorney Jeff Beck
Clerk Jay Phelps	Treasurer Barb Hackman
Judge Coriden	Barney Quick
Susan Thayer Fye, Merit Board President	Stanley Brown
Recorder Tami Hines	Jon Rohde
John Clark, White River Broadcasting	Tony London
SWMA Director Heather Siesel	Phyllis Apple
Unknown I-phone	

The Bartholomew County Council met on October 13, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Chambers of the Governmental Office Building, 440 Third Street, Columbus, Indiana.

President Miller called the meeting to order.

Bill Lentz gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The first item on the agenda was the approval of the meeting minutes for the following meetings: September 8, 2020 and September 15, 2020. **R Scott Bonnell made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mark Gorbett seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

<b>M Miller</b>	<b>B Lentz</b>	<b>E Pence</b>	<b>S Bonnell</b>	<b>DeDomenic</b>	<b>Gorbett</b>	<b>Morales</b>
<b>Aye</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Aye</b>

The next item on the agenda was Discussion of Sheriff's Pension, Drop Program and other related items as presented by Susan Thayer Fye, Merit Board President and Attorney Jeff Beck, Sheriff's Legal Counsel. Attorney Beck stated that years ago, the Sheriff and Sheriff's Merit Board decided they did not want outsiders to run for the position of Sheriff so they made the vestment for pension to be 8 years and 1 month. The Sheriff is term limited to 8 years. With this setup, why would an outsider risk their life for 8 years without the ability to have a pension. They would have to be a fool. This was the old boy approach. Sheriff Myers, as an outsider, decided to run and fight the system. He has been called selfish and greedy for trying to get the vesting issue changed. This is not about Matt Myers but it is specifically about changing a rule that was only put in place so that only Sheriff's Deputies would run. If he were selfish and greedy, he wouldn't have signed a contract with the County and walked away from \$153,052.07 in additional salary during his first five and three-quarters years in office. That money went into the County General

Fund. In exchange for this, Sheriff Myers has sought to change the rule so that the best person for the job can run, not just Sheriff Deputies. Fiscally speaking, the County is required to pay into the pension for all Merit Deputies and the Sheriff position from day one of their employment. As of August 15<sup>th</sup> of this year, the County has already paid into the pension fund \$155,350.40 into the pension for Sheriff Myers. That is just \$2,000 more than Sheriff Myers put into the County General that he could have taken as salary to this point. Sheriff Myers has effectively funded his own pension. Overturning the old boy rule will not cost the County any money as it has already been put into the fund. Please do not endorse the old boys network by allowing it to continue. Susan Thayer Fye added that the only other changes that they had requested were the Drop Program as well as the Death Benefit for Officers killed in the line of duty. The current Police Benefit Plan (Death Benefit) amounts are currently set at the State minimum requirements of \$200 per month for surviving spouses and \$30 per month per minor child. They wish to increase the amounts to \$1,000 per month for surviving spouses and \$200 per month per minor child. All three of the requests will help them to compete better with the other agencies for recruiting Deputies. R Scott Bonnell asked if the current pay matrix was comparable to those other agencies. Ms. Fye stated that when the State Police increased their salaries, everyone had to in order to continue to compete. R Scott Bonnell noted that they had put the matrix pay in for the Sheriff's Deputies. Ms. Fye stated that increase for the vestment changes from 8 years 1 month to 8 years, that has already been included in the actuarial estimates for this budget process. It is not an additional cost. They would ask that they

make the change to the vestment as well as the Death Benefit. The Council did already pass the Drop Program several months ago. Ms. Fye stated that if the vestment date is changed the effective date would be the first day of the next month after the Council approval. The Death Benefit was set for January 1, 2020 and could be retro actively or they could change the effective date on it. President Miller is good with effective immediately upon passage. Ms. Fye stated that it is written as retroactive so it would be easier to leave it as is and not have to rewrite it. Stan Brown stated that it is okay that it is retroactive as they have not had the need to use it to date. **Jorge E Morales motioned to approve the Death Benefit change. Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence seconded the motion which passed unanimously.** President Miller asked for a motion to approve the vestment change from 8 years and 1 month to 8 years. There being no motion, the issue died due to the lack of a motion.

The next item on the agenda was a Request of Additional Appropriations in LIT Correctional (1114) in the amount of \$13,120.00 as presented by Dalene Pattingill. This was for an Air Conditioning unit at the Jail that went out and had to be fixed immediately. **R Scott Bonnell made a motion to approve the request for \$13,120.00 as presented. Bill Lentz 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 Drug Court/ASAP (1000-42) in the amount of \$125,000.00. Chief Deputy Pattingill stated that this has been pulled from the agenda as this is actually part of the 2021 Budget.

The next item on the agenda was the Second Reading of the 2021 Solid Waste Budget and Salary Ordinance as presented by SWMA Director Heather Siesel and Donna Hodnett. Director Siesel stated that they have moved some money around in the 100's to accommodate the \$1,500 employee pay increase that was the consensus of the Council at the work session. She stated that the amounts were as follows: 100's Personnel Services - \$1,140,802; 200's Supplies - \$84,000; 300's Other Services & Charges - \$2,136,800; 400's Capital Outlays - \$1,282,300 for a total 2021 Budget of \$4,643,902. Adding the Property Tax Cap amounts of \$58,860 the overall total is \$4,702,762. **Jorge R Morales made a motion to Approve on Second Reading the 2021 Solid Waste Budget and Salary Ordinance as presented. Mark Gorbett seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

<b>M Miller</b>	<b>B Lentz</b>	<b>E Pence</b>	<b>S Bonnell</b>	<b>DeDomenic</b>	<b>Gorbett</b>	<b>Morales</b>
<b>Aye</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Aye</b>

The next item on the agenda was the Second Reading of the 2021 Bartholomew County Budget and Salary Ordinance as presented by Auditor Pia O'Connor. Auditor O'Connor stated that she was sharing a reading comparison on the screen showing the differences between the First Reading and tonight's Second Reading. The difference in

the General Fund is from changes in the reduction of the COVID amount and the salary increases of \$1,500 for all full-time employees, 3% for part-time employees, 2% for contract employees and 0% for the County Council. They also adjusted for other funds that are subject to caps or that have been advertised. When they get their 2021 Budget Order, they can do a reallocation or an Additional Appropriation at the back end. It was agreed by the Council to use the sheet that was displayed on the screen.

**2021  
BUDGET**

		<b>1st Reading</b>	<b>2nd Reading</b>	<b>Difference</b>
County General	1000	\$28,201,761	\$28,201,288	-\$473
Reassessment	1224	\$488,429	\$497,524	\$9,095
Sales Disclosure	1131	\$62,170	\$33,670	-\$28,500
Debt Service	4600	\$1,996,000	\$1,996,000	\$0
Elected Officials Training	1217	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$0
Riverboat	1191	\$127,000	\$127,000	\$0
Election Board	1215	\$261,137	\$261,137	\$0
Clerk Perpetuation	1119	\$76,156	\$78,756	\$2,600
Clerk IV-D Incentive	8899	\$29,280	\$29,350	\$70
CEDIT	1112	\$3,233,000	\$3,233,000	\$0
Family Recovery Court	9211	\$96,095	\$96,446	\$351
Public Defender - Sup 2	4903	\$47,564	\$47,103	-\$461
Comm Corr - Project Income	1122	\$586,085	\$598,466	\$12,381
Adult Probation	2000	\$329,236	\$332,166	\$0
Juvenile Probation	2150	\$6,947	\$6,947	\$0
Alcohol/Drug Program	2501	\$146,422	\$146,422	\$0
Comm Corr - Grant	9101	\$1,530,117	\$1,530,117	\$0
YSC Day Treatment	9102	\$63,631	\$63,631	\$0
WRAP	9103	\$79,874	\$86,452	\$6,578
Probation Grant	9107	\$139,150	\$139,150	\$0
REALM	9206	\$94,121	\$100,281	\$6,160
Adult Treatment Center	9207	\$126,374	\$128,447	\$2,073
Statewide 911	1222	\$2,440,894	\$2,440,894	\$0

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LEPC	1152	\$14,678	\$14,678	\$0
Health	1159	\$1,714,619	\$1,714,619	\$0
Public Health				
Preparedness	8891	\$31,895	\$31,895	\$0
Local Health Maintenance	1168	\$48,859	\$48,859	\$0
IN Local Health Trust	1206	\$34,636	\$34,636	\$0
Hwy	1176	\$3,093,596	\$3,093,596	\$0
LR&S	1169	\$715,565	\$715,565	\$0
Cumulative Bridge	1135	\$1,600,000	\$1,600,000	\$0
Pretrial Diversion	2503	\$79,084	\$80,912	\$1,828
Prosecutor IV-D Incentive	8896	\$43,578	\$44,600	\$1,022
STOP Grant	8897	\$49,273	\$49,273	\$0
VOCA Grant	8921	\$87,421	\$87,421	\$0
Recorder Perpetuation	1189	\$141,099	\$142,965	\$1,866
Security Protection	1160	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$0
Jail	1114	\$4,950,834	\$4,950,834	\$0
Cornerstone Perpetuation	1203	\$17,750	\$17,750	\$0
VIP	1127	\$1,400,000	\$1,400,000	\$0
		<b>1st Reading</b>	<b>2nd Reading</b>	<b>Difference</b>
<b>Totals</b>		<b>\$54,229,331</b>	<b>\$54,246,852</b>	<b>\$14,591</b>

It was verified that it does not have the increase in the Recorder's Salary as was requested. President Miller invited Clerk Jay Phelps to speak regarding the Office Manager positions at the Courthouse. Clerk Phelps stated that he is giving a second full-time position back to the County since 2015 and has reduced his Clerk Budget over the years by \$180,000. When combined with his savings in his Voter Registration Budget, it is over \$500,000 in savings over the years. With COVID-19 he was considering the struggling tax payers. He will save \$17,743 due to a retirement, and that does not include the savings from the benefits. He will not replace this position as he has cross-trained all of his staff. He will be moving a full-time position from Child Support to the Clerk side. As far as his Office Manager

positions, he has moved a person into a position while not adding a new position. He stated that the Office Manager in the Prosecutor's Office makes over \$2,580 more than his (Clerk's) and the Judge's Office Managers. After talking with the Judges, he feels that it is only fair that the Judges Office Managers should also receive the increase. The total to increase all 4 Office Manager positions would be \$8,385. When you add the increase for the Clerk's Chief Deputy, the total amount of increase with the 4 Office Managers and the Chief Deputy would be \$13,470. Taking that number from the savings of \$17,743 still leaves a overall savings of \$4,273 in 2021 and \$23,493.30 in 2022. All of these Office Managers are comparable as they all do Court duties. He will not ask for an increase unless there is a savings involved. Judge Coriden stated that Superior Court II brings in a significant amount of money to County General. Her staff is also cross-trained. She has not filled an open position due to the fact that the filings are down due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The position may not be filled until Mr. Rohde takes over. She has been conservative with their funding and agrees that the Office Managers deserve the increase for equal pay. Mr. Rohde stated that he concurred with the statement as does Judge Worton and Judge Benjamin, who were not able to attend tonight. Bill Lentz asked what the pay would be with the increase. Clerk Phelps stated that the increases would bring the pay to \$44,975 per Office Manager. The Mark Gorbett stated that in his 41 years with the County, he believes the employees are underpaid. He feels we are going to have to hire a compensation consulting service to pay our employees what they deserve to be paid. We have added the Loyalty Pay and looked at the Chief Deputy positions. The City of



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Columbus hired a consultant in 2017. His concern is that when they raise one person's salary, then every other employee probably deserves it as well. We need to hire a professional compensation consultant to figure this out. He does not believe we have implemented any across the board plans to compensate the employees as they should be. Jorge R Morales stated he agrees with what Mark E Gorbett stated. President Miller suggested that they form a Committee with 1 or 2 Council members, a Commissioner as well as someone from the Auditor's Office. He stated that they need to make a vote on this 2021 Budget tonight. Jorge R Morales asked if Clerk Phelps requests were in the First Reading they voted on. Chief Deputy Pattingill stated there is a slight increase but the Office Manager full increase for the position was not included. They can adopt the Budget and then do an Additional Appropriation to increase it at a later time. Jorge R Morales wants to be on the Committee. Mark E Gorbett stated that if they hire a consultant then the Council needs to be prepared to fully implement or at least have a plan for the future to accomplish the changes. Bill Lentz clarified that the \$1,500 would be added to the employee's salary and distributed throughout the year. Auditor O'Connor stated that it would be added to their salary and distributed per pay. The Loyalty Pay will be paid every 5 years at the first pay in December. Auditor O'Connor stated that it will be paid on the first December pay which will be December 4<sup>th</sup> this year. Chief Deputy Pattingill clarified that the Loyalty Pay is not every 5 years, it will be paid every December based on their years of service. It was enacted for 5 years as funding allows. **Jorge R Morales made a motion to Approve on Second Reading the 2021 Bartholomew County Budget and**

**Salary Ordinance as presented by Auditor O'Connor. Laura DeDomenic seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

<b>M Miller</b>	<b>B Lentz</b>	<b>E Pence</b>	<b>S Bonnell</b>	<b>DeDomenic</b>	<b>Gorbett</b>	<b>Morales</b>
<b>Aye</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Aye</b>

The next item on the agenda was a Consideration of the 2021 County Council Meeting dates as presented by Auditor O'Connor. Jorge R Morales asked if these dates were consistent with the second Tuesday of the month. It is confirmed that they are. **Mark E Gorbett made a motion to approve the 2021 County Council Meeting dates as presented. Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

<b>M Miller</b>	<b>B Lentz</b>	<b>E Pence</b>	<b>S Bonnell</b>	<b>DeDomenic</b>	<b>Gorbett</b>	<b>Morales</b>
<b>Aye</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Aye</b>

The next item on the agenda was the Presentation of the Wayne Township Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) as prepared by Wayne Township Trustee Brenda Mijares. Chief Deputy Pattingill stated this does not require a vote. There is no action to be taken, it is just an FYI item. Tony London asked if he could get a copy of this CIP plan. Chief Deputy Pattingill will send it to him via e-mail.

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 – The Parks are now using Square to satisfy SBOA requirement to show how the funds are coming in and being distributed. They are very happy with it at this 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

**Laura DeDomenic:**

Bartholomew County Redevelopment Commission – nothing to report

Greater Columbus Economic Development Bd – nothing to report

ASAP – nothing to report

**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

Under miscellaneous, Auditor O'Connor wanted to thank the Council for all their work and effort with the new medium. Mark E Gorbett asked when they will handle the Council

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Attorney contract. Auditor O'Connor stated yes, that would be handled in December. Bill Lentz thanked IT Director Scott Mayes for his help this year.

**Bill Lentz made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence 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

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Laura DeDomenic, Member

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mark E. Gorbett, Member

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Pia O'Connor, Auditor  
Bartholomew County