

February 8, 2021

**BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**December 8, 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
Greg Duke	District 2		Present
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:

Commissioner Larry Kleinhenz	Commissioner Carl Lienhoop
------------------------------	----------------------------

Additional people in “Zoom” attendance of the meeting were:

Chief Deputy Auditor Dalene Pattingill	Auditor's Tax Administrator Chris West
Community Correction Dir. Brad Barnes	Treasurer Barb Hackman
Assessor Ginny Whipple	Environmental Director Link Fulp
Nursing Director Amanda Organist	Recorder Tami Hines
Clerk Jay Phelps	John Clark, White River Broadcasting
Mark Webber, The Republic	Commissioner-Elect Tony London

The Bartholomew County Council met on December 8, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council 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.

February 8, 2021

The first item on the agenda was the approval of the meeting minutes for November 10, 2020. **R Scott Bonnell made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Bill Lentz seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

<b>M Miller</b>	<b>B Lentz</b>	<b>E Pence</b>	<b>S Bonnell</b>	<b>G Duke</b>	<b>M Gorbett</b>	<b>J 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 Request of Additional Appropriations for the Drug Recovery Court Fees (1147) in the amount of \$6,000 as presented by Community Corrections Director Brad Barnes. These are fees that have been collected and will be used for to purchase drug testing kits that will take them a couple of months into 2021. One of the things they are required to due per the guidelines of the Federal Grant is to expend the money as it comes in. **Mark E Gorbett made a motion to approve the Additional Appropriation of \$6,000.00 as presented. R Scott Bonnell seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

<b>M Miller</b>	<b>B Lentz</b>	<b>E Pence</b>	<b>S Bonnell</b>	<b>G Duke</b>	<b>M Gorbett</b>	<b>J 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 Request of Additional Appropriations in the Health Maintenance Fund (1168) in the amount of \$85,787.00 as presented by Environmental Director Link Fulp. They were told that the IT CARES Act funding did not go through. This money will be used for IT updates and licenses. He worked with Auditor O'Connor and IT Director Mayes. These are specific IT items for the Health

February 8, 2021

Department Office. **Jorge R Morales made a motion to approve the Additional Appropriation for \$85,787.00 as presented. Bill Lentz seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

<b>M Miller</b>	<b>B Lentz</b>	<b>E Pence</b>	<b>S Bonnell</b>	<b>G Duke</b>	<b>M Gorbett</b>	<b>J 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 Request for Additional Appropriations for the Indiana Local Health Trust Fund (1206) in the amount of \$56,350 as presented by Nursing Director Amanda Organist. This is the carryover from the Trust Fund. This will allow them to also upgrade some IT items as well as other items for their department. **Mark E Gorbett made a motion to approve the Additional Appropriation for \$56,350 as presented. Jorge R Morales seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

<b>M Miller</b>	<b>B Lentz</b>	<b>E Pence</b>	<b>S Bonnell</b>	<b>G Duke</b>	<b>M Gorbett</b>	<b>J 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 Request for an Additional Appropriation for County General in the amount of \$2,547,063.57 by Auditor O'Connor. This is the requirement of appropriating the money from the CARES Act. Originally, we were to spend the money and then be reimbursed. In October, the State changed it completely by giving us the money and requiring us to appropriate the funds to spend them. It was being treated as a reimbursable grant and now it is to be treated as a line item requiring an appropriation as they have given us the money. Mark E Gorbett asked if they would then

February 8, 2021

have to appropriate it out of County General. Auditor O'Connor stated that this appropriation will cover COVID-19 expenditures. It covers some items that we have already paid for but we did receive reimbursement from the State. The Commons expenditure was for Jury Selection that was done with an MOU with the City. It is probably a high estimate. Auditor O'Connor added the cost for the vaccine clinics today after talking with Nursing Director Organist. Most of the items are very educated guesses; they are not just pulled out of the air. Jorge R Morales asked if the amounts totaled the amount that we were granted. Auditor O'Connor stated yes. Bill Lentz asked about the additional PPE for \$100,000. Auditor O'Connor stated it was for personal protective equipment and cleaning supplies. Jorge R Morales asked about the numbers that made up the list. Auditor O'Connor stated that all the departments had submitted to the County their reimbursements and continued costs. The Library falls under the County as they were not given any CARES Act money and do fall under the County CARES Act funding that the County is overseeing. Jorge R Morales asked about the cost for the laptops. Auditor O'Connor stated that is for every full-time employee as they will be getting a laptop so that they can work in the office or remotely as needed. Last week was a perfect example of where they would have been useful. Commissioner Kleinhenz noted that every time a laptop is placed in service, a desktop is removed from service to keep our software licenses under control. There may be an occasion where the desktop is left, but it is few and far between. R Scott Bonnell asked if the laptops had the same capability of the desktops. Auditor O'Connor stated they do. Mark E Gorbett asked what will happen if things get worse. Auditor

February 8, 2021

O'Connor stated they would reallocate the funds. They also are receiving an additional 10% of the original funding at the first of 2021. She and the Commissioners are prioritizing and reprioritizing expenditures every day. Commissioner Lienhoop stated that Auditor O'Connor and EMA Director Shannon Hinton continue to work very hard to assure items are eligible for CARES Act Funding. We could not have replaced the laptops without this funding and the oversight of it. Bill Lentz stated that it appears we have obligated ourselves to all the money that is available. Even with some more funding, it may be summer before the vaccine is widely available. Auditor O'Connor stated that the original CARES Act Funding had to be appropriated and spent by December 31, 2020. The State has changed that at this point. It was first laid out as what you don't use, you lose. Commissioner Kleinhenz stated that the County is fortunate to have had a CPA as our Auditor. Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence asked about inventory of the laptops. Auditor O'Connor stated that it will be IT but also, the Auditor's Office is working on fixed asset program. **Jorge R Morales made a motion to Approve the Request for the Additional Appropriation in the amount of \$2,547,063.57 as presented. Mark E Gorbett seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item on the agenda was a Request for Transfer for the Election Board (1215) in the amount of \$20,000 as presented by Clerk Jay Phelps. Clerk Phelps stated that this is an inter-office transfer from the remainder of the absentee pay line item (\$4,000), the overtime line item (\$4,000) and the poll worker line item (\$12,000) and move this (\$20,000) to Professional Services to pay the 2021 maintenance contract for the next four

years of service. **Jorge R Morales made a motion to Approve the Request for Transfer in the amount of \$20,000 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>G Duke</b>	<b>M Gorbett</b>	<b>J 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 was a Request for Transfer of \$6,000 as presented by Treasurer Barb Hackman. This is so she can purchase 3 more validators due to the move of their office. They determined they need a validator at every desk. They currently only have them at 3 desks. She has extra money in her part-time line item and requests to move it to her capital line item. They do not have a firm price on them at this time, but they believe they are about \$2,000 each. She will encumber the money as they will probably not be purchased until 2021. Jorge R Morales asked if this is software. Treasurer Hackman stated it is hardware that is a type of receipt printer. **Mark E Gorbett made a motion to approve the Request for Transfer of \$6,000. Jorge R Morales seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

<b>M Miller</b>	<b>B Lentz</b>	<b>E Pence</b>	<b>S Bonnell</b>	<b>G Duke</b>	<b>M Gorbett</b>	<b>J 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 was a Request for Transfer in the LIT Correctional to County General to pay the Jail Employees Social Security in the amount of \$256,300 as presented by Chief Deputy Auditor Dalene Pattingill. This was agreed to by the Council but the money was

never moved. **Mark E Gorbett motioned to approve the Transfer in the amount of \$256,300. Jorge R Morales seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

<b>M Miller</b>	<b>B Lentz</b>	<b>E Pence</b>	<b>S Bonnell</b>	<b>G Duke</b>	<b>M Gorbett</b>	<b>J 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 was updates from the Commissioners. Commissioner Lienhoop discussed the CEDIT Plan as it currently exists. He broke down the \$3,000,000 that is in the Plan. The first item was for the bond payment of the new Highway Garage. The next item was to help complete the building for any unforeseen cost overruns. The next item is for furniture for the new building. There is not an amount listed but they believe this is something that they need to include. They had told the Highway that they would need to find the funding. The furniture at the current facility is not worth moving. It would be an embarrassment if it was put in the new structure. They have been looking around for good used furniture, including Cummins that will soon be vacating the “Goody’s” location at the Fair Oaks Mall. The Commissioners feel they need to make sure that the furniture is replaced. This building is the property of the citizens of Bartholomew County. The current building has been in use for about 65 years. He stopped at the new site today. The last of the concrete floors will be poured this week in the main building. They are hoping it will be closed in by Christmas. They had hoped to have heat in it by Christmas but it may be by New Year’s before that happens. They are starting construction on one of the out buildings. Jorge R Morales asked how much money they were talking about for the

February 8, 2021

furniture. Commissioner Lienhoop stated that Maintenance Director Rick Trimpe estimated it would be about \$100,000, but that is only a guess. They will keep the Council advised as they learn more. Jorge R Morales agrees that they need new furniture in the new structure, however, a \$100,000 seems like a lot of money. Commissioner Lienhoop stated he was shell shocked by the amount but he will keep them updated. President Miller asked about the plans for the current State Street Garage. The Commissioners do not have a plan currently, but they will still have a salt barn and the fuel pumps at the location. They are putting only diesel fuel pumps at the new garage. R Scott Bonnell stated that the City is looking for a site for a new City Garage. The Commissioners believe that it eventually needs to be sold to get it back on the tax rolls. There were comments made about the hospital buying it and keeping it off the tax rolls. Auditor O'Connor clarified that the Hospital does pay property tax. Commissioner Lienhoop stated that they did find the soil at the new site to be a bit of an issue that has caused some of the change orders. The next item on the list was the new Court Services Building. They believe the bond payment on that will be about \$170,000 a year. They have also done several updates at the Courthouse. Building improvements come out of CEDIT as well as some funding for Highway road projects. Jumping to the Court Services building; the City Redevelopment Commission had a pre-bid meeting today with Taylor Brothers. Taylor Brothers is assisting the County with this project. Bids may be awarded Monday, December 21, 2020. They have worked with Architect Steve Risting of Indianapolis for the design. He did the addition to the St. Bartholomew Catholic Church. Commissioner Kleinhenz stated that they wanted to



February 8, 2021

maintain the architectural style of the Jail so that they appear to be associated with each other. Commissioner Lienhoop stated that the agreement they have entered into with the City Redevelopment Commission includes the City putting \$1,500,000 towards this project but it does not include demolition. In addition, the City RDC will build a parking lot for the Jail. In addition to that parking lot, the County will receive 100 spaces in the new parking garage for County employees to use. Mark E Gorbett asked how many currently use our parking lot. Commissioner Lienhoop stated that it holds about 200 and the County, prior to COVID, was using about 135 or so. The new lot off the corner of the Jail will have 100 parking spaces and will be owned by the County. Also, they will have a parking lot that is West of the Eynon building. It was constructed by the County on City property. That property will be transferred to the County with the agreement. That lot has about 50 parking spots. Bill Lentz stated that there would be plenty of parking, but the employees will have to walk further to get to the GOB or the Courthouse. Commissioner Lienhoop stated that they realize that there will be lots of grumbling from the employees, and probably rightfully so, especially when development starts on the current parking lot. He feels that after 5 years or so, it will be okay. Bill Lentz stated that once that lot starts to be developed, they may need to work with City during that timeframe. Commissioner Lienhoop stated the Commissioners did this for the good of downtown Columbus, at least two-thirds of them did. He stated that it has been a difficult year for everyone. He thanked Clerk Phelps for the wonderful job with the elections. He thanked Auditor O'Connor for keeping on top of the CARES Act. He also thanked the Sheriff's Department and also the

February 8, 2021

Highway Garage working to assist with the new Highway Garage site. Jorge R Morales stated that he is concerned that we not lose the 100 parking spaces if the City hosts a convention or some other event. Commissioner Lienhoop stated that the spaces would be the County's from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and that will be stated in the contract. Jorge R Morales asked about the Broadband Initiative. He saw that we have \$450,000 in the CARES Act Funding for this. He feels that this is a much needed item. Commissioner Kleinhenz stated that he and Commissioner-Elect London had met with the CEO of REMC. He stated that if broadband could make people money, it would already be here. The Commissioners do not want to be a provider of internet. They want to be a facilitator to see that others can accomplish this. Jorge R Morales and Matt Miller are on the committee. They will probably divide the County into quadrants and then review what they can do to get those quadrants covered. Jackson County just went through this process. Commissioner-Elect London stated that is correct and frustrates him that we are not at the same or higher level yet. He stated that there have been some major developments in the past few days. The FCC just granted \$159,000,000 to providers in the State of Indiana. This was just announced 2 days ago. There is a 30-day moratorium during which the providers cannot speak about it. He believes Bartholomew County will benefit greatly. He wants to figure out how to get to the top of the list as they only have 6 years to get this accomplished. Basically the FCC auctioned off census blocks. He believes we will get this accomplished with very little tax payer money. Mark Webber asked the Commissioners regarding a vote for the money for the broadband, the \$450,000 that is

February 8, 2021

listed in the CARES Act Funding. Commissioner Kleinhenz stated that Auditor O'Connor had created a budget for the CARES Act Funding and had penciled this amount in for planning purposes. Auditor O'Connor agreed that was correct.

The next item on the list was Discussion of County Council Appointments for 2021. Mark E Gorbett stated that Phyllis Apple does want to continue with the ABC Board next year. Matt Miller asked for a list of those positions that need to be appointed. Chief Deputy Pattingill sent it out in an e-mail on Monday. Mark E Gorbett would like to fill the position with ASAP that was vacated when Laura DeDomenic left the Council. Matt Miller asked if Dalene would reach out to the people that are currently serving and see if they wish to continue with their positions. Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence stated that Nancy Hoeltke of the Park Board has resigned as she is moving. Jo Flohr has stated that she would be interested in filling the position. Some of the Board members also had some people that were interested. Matt Miller asked if Assessor Whipple knew if Barb Dunlap wished to continue. Assessor Whipple stated that she did. Matt Miller stated that Mark E Gorbett wants ASAP. President Miller would like everyone to come to the January Meeting with a list of Boards/Commissions they would like to serve on so that they can fill those positions. Commissioner Kleinhenz asked about Roger Hackman's appointment to an Economic Development Commission and exactly what was that Commission. Treasurer Hackman stated that is a Commission that is between the City and County and is separate from the Redevelopment Commissions (City and County). Jorge R Morales stated he wishes to continue with the ones that he serves on. He also stated that the list he received

February 8, 2021

did not include the ASAP. Matt Miller also suggested that they add the Broadband Initiative to the list as well.

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 – nothing to report

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

He asked if there would be a work session next month. There will not be.

**Matt Miller:**

February 8, 2021

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

**Greg Duke:**

Bartholomew County Redevelopment Commission – no report

Greater Columbus Economic Development Bd – no report

ASAP – no report

**Mark E Gorbett:**

Emergency Management Bd – nothing to report

Jt Council Emergency Dispatch Services – nothing to report

Community Corrections Bd – attended a Zoom meeting

Data Board – nothing to report

Drug Epidemic Committee – nothing to report

February 8, 2021

Mark E Gorbett wanted the Commissioners to know that he is working from home for this meeting and he realizes how much stress the Commissioners and Office Holders are under in trying to protect their employees.

Matt Miller noted that a letter had been sent to the Council regarding the loss of the K-9. Matt Miller read the letter (see attached). Commissioner Kleinhenz stated that he had spoken with Sheriff Myers and Chief Deputy Chris Lane. They stated that they do have a review process and it is being handled as if it were a human deputy that was lost. He believes the Sheriff is handling it appropriately and he is certain that the findings will be made public. Jorge R Morales had met with Chief Deputy Chris Lane yesterday and stated that the Council has no say in this matter. He also has an issue with a letter that is not signed. Mark E Gorbett agreed that this is a Sheriff's issue. President Miller also had a letter he had received from an inmate in reference to a Civil Rights Lawsuit (see attached). Mark E Gorbett asked for the Council Attorney's opinion as to the reading of the letter. Attorney Monroe stated he was not certain that it needed to be read. He stated that the letter is pretty common as people don't get things they want while in jail. This is a Civil Rights Action that is filed in Federal Court. The Council has nothing in this. It is the Commissioners and the Sheriff that are responsible. There are many of these filed. If the Council receives these at home, they should get them to the Commissioners or County Attorney Grant Tucker. The Council is the fiscal body and has nothing in this. President Miller just wanted to make certain the other Council Members were made aware of the letter. The Commissioners noted that they typically receive 2 or 3 of these per month.

February 8, 2021

Mark E Gorbett stated that his original objection was not to read it in the public meeting. Attorney Monroe suggested not making the name known, as well.

There being no further business to come before the Council, **Jorge R Morales made a motion to adjourn. Mark E Gorbett seconded the motion 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: \_\_\_\_\_  
Greg Duke, Member

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

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