

February 11, 2021

BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY COUNCIL

January 12, 2001

Name:	Representing:	Title:	Present:
Matt Miller	At Large		Present
Bill Lentz	At Large		Present
Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence	At Large		Zoom
R. Scott Bonnell	District 1	President	Present
Greg Duke	District 2		Present
Mark E. Gorbett	District 3		Zoom
Jorge R. Morales	District 4		Zoom
Chris Monroe	- -	Attorney	Present
Pia O'Connor	Auditor	Secretary	Zoom

Additional people in physical attendance of the meeting were:

Commissioner Larry Kleinhenz	Attorney Chris Monroe
------------------------------	-----------------------

Additional people in "Zoom" attendance of the meeting were:

Chief Deputy Auditor Dalene Pattingill	Auditor's Tax Administrator Chris West
Court Services Director Brad Barnes	Assessor Ginny Whipple
Recorder Tami Hines	Commissioner Tony London
John Clark, White River Broadcasting	

February 11, 2021

The Bartholomew County Council met on January 12, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Governmental Office Building, 440 Third Street, Columbus, Indiana.

Auditor Pia O'Connor called the meeting to order.

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

Auditor O'Connor opened the floor for nominations for President. **Bill Lentz nominated R. Scott Bonnell. Jorge R. Morales seconded the nomination. R. Scott Bonnell nominated Bill Lentz as Pro-Tem. Mark Gorbett seconded the nomination. The vote was called for and passed unanimously.**

The next item on the agenda was the approval of the meeting minutes for December 8, 2020. **Matt Miller made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Bill Lentz seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item on the agenda was a Request of Additional Appropriations for the SIM/Opioid Grant (9212) in the amount of \$60,000 as presented by Court Services Director Brad Barnes. This is to help with problem solving courts. They asked for the maximum amount that is available. It would cover drug testing, program incentives and training. It will be used by the Drug Court and the Veteran's Court. They have spent a lot of the money from last year and are still working on it during the remainder of the fiscal year.

February 11, 2021

The incentives are anything from \$5 gift cards to gift cards to items they may need to help them participate in the programs. **Mark E Gorbett made a motion to approve the Additional Appropriation of \$60,000.00 as presented. Jorge R. Morales seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item on the agenda was the Consideration of a 2021 Contract for Legal Services with Attorney Chris Monroe. Jorge R. Morales asked what they had done for the 2021 budget as far as raises for these contracts. He asked if the increase was within the amount that was budgeted. Chief Deputy Pattingill stated that contract does meet the 2021 budget amounts. Contract employees received 2% increases. **Jorge R Morales made a motion to approve the 2021 Legal Services Contract with Attorney Chris Monroe as presented. Mark E. Gorbett seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item on the agenda was the Consideration of 2021 County Council Member/Liaison to Boards, Commissions & Committees. This will be done at the next meeting as they are still working on trying to get people moved around a little. President Bonnell thinks it is a good idea to serve on different boards/commissions to get a better understanding of what they each do. He asked if there was anyone that was specifically interested in a certain board/commission. Mark E. Gorbett stated that he would like to go to the ASAP and have Greg Duke serve the 911 Board. There was clarification as to how many boards there were with the 911 facility. There are 2 that are normally held the same day and Greg Duke can have both of those. Jorge R. Morales does not wish to relinquish the County Plan Commission as he is an officer with that commission nor does he want to

give up the Bartholomew County Redevelopment Commission as he was just re-elected to be President at the start of this year. Matt Miller has an interest in serving on the Greater Columbus Economic Development Board. Jorge Morales stated he was a proxy last year and would like to continue as the proxy with Matt being the main appointment. President Bonnell would like to serve on the Sheriff's Merit Board. Jorge E. Morales has no issue with that and stated that the Council member is just a liaison and they do not participate in the executive sessions. He is uncertain as to why we even serve on boards/commissions as liaisons. He stated any Council member could attend. Attorney Monroe stated that they need to be certain that no more than 3 members show at any meeting as more than that would constitute a quorum. Matt Miller read the following as of now as follows:

- **Member to County Plan Commission**
 - Expires 12/31/2022 *Jorge R. Morales*
- **Member to County Extension Board**
 - Expires 12/31/2021 *R. Scott Bonnell*
- **Member to Parks & Recreation Board**
 - Expires 12/31/2022 *Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence*
- **Member to Office of Emergency Management Board**
 - Expires 12/31/2021 *Greg Duke*
- **Member to Job Review/Classification Committee**
 - Expires 12/31/2021 *Greg Duke*
 - Expires 12/31/2021 *Matt Miller*
 - Expires 12/31/2021 *Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence*
- **Member to Personnel Administrative Committee**
 - Expires 12/31/2021 *Matt Miller*
 - Expires 12/31/2021 *Bill Lentz*

- **Member to Solid Waste Management District Board**
 - Expires 12/31/2021 R. Scott Bonnell
- **Member to Youth Services Center Advisory Committee**
 - Expires 12/31/2021 Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence
- **Member to Greater Columbus Economic Development Board**
 - Expires 12/31/2021 Matt Miller
 - Expires 12/31/2021 Jorge R. Morales (proxy)
- **Member to County Redevelopment Commission (BCRC)**
 - Expires 12/31/2021 Jorge R. Morales
 - Expires 12/31/2021 OPEN at this time
- **Member to Joint Council of the Emergency Dispatch Services**
 - Expires 12/31/2021 Greg Duke
- **Member to Columbus Area Metropolitan Planning Org Bd (CAMPO)**
 - Expires 12/31/2021 Bill Lentz
- **Liaison to Health Board**
 - Expires 12/31/2024 Bill Lentz
- **Liaison to Sheriff Merit Board**
 - Expires 12/31/2021 R. Scott Bonnell
- **Liaison to ASAP Board**
 - Expires 12/31/2021 Mark E. Gorbett
- **Member to the Broadband Initiative Commission**
 - Expires 12/31/2021 Matt Miller
 - Expires 12/31/2021 Jorge R. Morales

There is a new group forming concerning Homelessness. They have asked the Council & Commissioners to appoint a person to this Board. This initiative is being led by Love Chapel. Mark E. Gorbett believes this needs to be tabled. Jorge R. Morales suggests that they request more information before making a decision on this. Matt Miller asked

February 11, 2021

Mark E. Gorbett what role ASAP plays in homeless individuals. Chris West, as German Township Trustee, stated that it is a growing concern especially with the COVID issue. He has seen more homeless individuals in the past year than in the past 14 years. Mark E. Gorbett believes they may be trying to bring ASAP to the table as it is an issue with those in the ASAP program. He feels more information is needed before a decision is made.

There was a discussion regarding a letter about road funding. Jorge E. Morales stated that he has forwarded this on to Senator Cook and Representative Lauer. They do not believe that a County should be penalized for doing a good job and not having to institute a wheel-tax.

Auditor O'Connor asked if they had finalized the Council Boards & Commissions. President Bonnell stated they have table it until the next meeting. Jorge R Morales stated that his understanding is that the only thing that is up in the air is the Homeless board. **Jorge R. Morales motioned to table the Council Appointments of Council Members. Matt Miller seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

There was discussion regarding any updates by the Council members. The meeting was brought back around to the agenda. Bill Lentz wanted to discuss all the appointments and have one vote for all. Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence stated the Park Board would like to have Brian Webber replace Nancy Hoeltke on their board. He has been very active with the parks and with his job at Toyota, he would have access to many volunteers. He served in the Marine Corps and was a contractor in Kuwait. Jorge R. Morales asked if he was replacing Jim Mahoney. Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence stated no, he would replace Nancy

Hoeltke as she has moved and has many changes in her life right now and thus decided to step down. Jorge R. Morales asked about the Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals Barb Dunlap. He has not heard any mention as to whether she wishes to continue to serve. Mark E. Gorbett stated they needed to discuss one appointment at a time. He clarified if this was to finish Nancy Hoeltke's term? Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence stated her term ended at the end of 2020. Chris West stated that her term ends in 2023 so this is to fill the position. **Jorge R Morales made a motion to approve the Brian Weber to the Park Board to fill Nancy Hoeltke's term until December 31, 2023. Bill Lentz seconded the motion which passed unanimously.** Jorge R Morales asked if they should do the same for Eric Scheidt with the Board of Zoning Appeals. Chris West clarified the 5 remaining positions they had to fill. Jorge R Morales stated they were going one by one. Mark E Gorbett made a motion to approve all the remaining positions as slated. Matt Miller seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Jorge R Morales then stated that they had not discussed the Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals. Matt Miller stated that Ginny Whipple had come before them in December and Barb Dunlap had agreed to stay. There was much confusion regarding this. President Bonnell asked if he could get a vote to table these. Matt Miller stated that they had just voted on them. These positions are as follows:

- ***Alcoholic Beverage Commission (ABC)***
 - *Expires 12/31/2021* *Phyllis Apple*
- ***County Board of Zoning Appeals***
 - *Expires 12/31/2024* *Eric Scheidt*

- ***Columbus Economic Development Commission***
 - *Expires 12/31/2021* *Roger Hackman*
- ***Parks & Recreation Board***
 - *Expires 12/31/2023* *Brian Weber (R)*
- ***Property Tax Adjustment Board of Appeals***
 - *Expires 12/31/2021* *Barb Dunlap*

Jorge R Morales made a motion to approve the 2021 Council Member Appointments as presented. Bill Lentz seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Tony London updated the Council on the Broadband Initiative that they have put together. He has been inundated with comments regarding the issues people are having getting their kids on e-learning or maintaining their jobs with working at home. Out of over 2,000 responses to the survey, over 60% of County residents are unsatisfied with their internet connections. Even those who have it are not happy. He hopes to make it public next week.

Commissioner Kleinhenz discussed County Employees and the COVID issue. He stated that he feels the Commissioners have tried very diligently in dealing with the employees. They sent out this week that as of December 31, 2020, the mandate to pay employees up to 80 hours for COVID illness. They have received very negative feedback regarding this. Mark E Gorbett stated that he had noticed an uptick in employees having COVID. The Commissioners are very concerned about it and the way it spreads, but they are also trying to be responsible employers. Commissioner London stated that they have to strike a balance. They have to be careful with the money that we have to pay salaries.

February 11, 2021

They have to have the long term in view as well as taking care of the employees. Commissioner Kleinhenz gave an example of a Jail employee who has a son at home with COVID. To protect the jail, the employee needs to stay home but he needs to do his work to keep the jail running as well as to continue to receive his pay. They ask the employee that is living with someone that has tested positive to stay home to protect the rest of the staff. While balancing this, they also have to be very careful as to not have ghost employment occurring. Some positions can work remotely while others, like a jailer, cannot.

Commissioner Kleinhenz stated that the Commissioners have discussed their outlook for the coming year. They believe that the IT Department staffing will be a continued high value issue. The Commissioners have also been in discussion with local leaders regarding the upcoming Presidential Inauguration and any impacts on the community.

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:

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:

February 11, 2021

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

Auditor O'Connor reminded them that the next meeting will be on February 9, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Council, **Mark E Gorbett** made a motion to adjourn. **Jorge R Morales** seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY COUNCIL

By: _____
R. Scott Bonnell, President

By: _____
Bill Lentz, Pro-Tem

February 11, 2021

By: _____
Matt Miller, 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