

BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY COUNCIL

October 12, 2021

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

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

President Bonnell 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 August 16 thru August 19, 2021 and September 14, 2021. **Jorge R. Morales motioned to Approve the Minutes with the noted corrections. Mark E. Gorbett seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item was an Abatement Request for R&L Carriers for an area in German Township as presented by Jason Hester. After abatement roll offs, the company will be paying an average of \$150,000 in Real Estate and Personal Property. Mark E. Gorbett asked Mr. Hester why we were going to 10 years when we had been doing 5 years. Mr. Hester stated that the Council had been granting 10 years for the Real Property and 5 years for the Personal Property. He stated that the increments would start in year 2. Chris West noted that the net would go to the TIF. Mr. Hester agreed that was correct for the Real Estate, but the Personal Property tax would be divided by the units. Greg Duke stated that the County General would not get any of the increase. Mr. Hester stated that the income tax increase would be an immediate benefit. Mr. West stated that the County General would also receive the Personal Property taxes as they are split by all the units and do not go to the TIF. There was much discussion regarding the benefits for the jobs that will be gained. Mr. Hester stated that the increase of Real Property taxes of \$1,400 per year going to \$150,000 a year at the end of the abatement; 100 fold more. Greg Duke stated that they have to consider the welfare of all the taxpayers and not having the increase to spend for the well-being of the County residents' concerns him. Jorge R. Morales stated that the new employees will bring many other economic impact to the County. Matt Miller asked how would they request funds for the fire department. Mr. West stated that the Township Trustee or the Volunteer Fire Department would request funding from the BCRC. Bill Lentz stated that he is concerned about the money that they will not be capturing. There

was more discussion. **Mark E. Gorbett motioned to Approve the Abatement as requested. Jorge R. Morales seconded the motion.** Chris West, as the German Township Trustee stated that the TIF is confusing and he works with it daily, but he is supportive of the Abatement process and this request. Tom Heller asked Mr. Haungs if this is a new idea or is this something they have elsewhere as this seems like a large facility. Mr. Haungs stated they have 2 other terminals like this in Indiana, one in Alexandria and one in Bloomington. He stated this was a big decision that they did not take lightly. They plan on building and growing and being here for a long time. He stated that this area had been on their radar since 2019. They have a large facility in Wilmington, Ohio. Mr. Heller was confused when he saw the story in the Republic as to the role the Commissioners had regarding this. Jorge R. Morales stated that it was a change in the law that required the Commissioners to have to approve the abatements in EDA's prior to the Council approval. Mr. Hester stated what discouraged him the most was that the State has offered a Hoosier Business Investment Credit for logistics. President Bonnell asked for clarification from Mr. Heller as to the question he was asking. Mr. Heller stated that he thinks the elected officials need to be aware of it. Mr. Hester stated that the State of Indiana has tax credits that can offset business tax to the Corporate businesses. **The vote was called for and was 6-1 in favor of the abatement with Bill Lentz as the dissenting vote.** Mark E. Gorbett stated that the Council needs to know what funding would be in 3 to 5 years in future abatement requests so they can see for their 5-year planning.

The next item was a request for an Additional Appropriation for LIT – Jail (1114) in the amount of \$23,536.26 as presented by Jail Commander John Martoccia (via Zoom). Commander Martoccia explained that he has 3 air conditioning bills and a fire control bill that needs to be paid. There is no money that can be transferred. This was normally paid for by the Commissioners but it was shifted to the Jail. Auditor O'Connor stated there is unappropriated money in the LIT-Jail Fund. The time frame for the new HVAC at the Jail is to be done by the end of 2022. **Mark E. Gorbett made a motion to Approve the Additional Appropriation for \$23,536.26 as presented. Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item was the Request for an Additional Appropriation for the Indiana Local Health Trust (1206) in the amount of \$563.61 as presented by Auditor's Chief Deputy Dalene Pattingill. This is money that came in on a grant and needs to be appropriated. **Jorge R. Morales motioned to Approve the Additional Appropriation in the amount of \$563.61 as presented. R. Scott Bonnell seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item was a Request for an Additional Appropriation for Telecommunications in the amount of \$100,000.00 as presented by Auditor's Chief Deputy Dalene Pattingill. The Commissioners currently have a \$25,000 bill for fiber connection at the new Highway Garage and will have a bill for the new Nursing Center. Matt Miller asked why this wasn't budgeted earlier. Chief Deputy Pattingill stated that they normally come before the Council once a year for the Telecommunication funds. **Bill Lentz**

motioned to Approve the Additional Appropriation in the amount of \$100,000.00 as presented. R. Scott Bonnell seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The next item was a Request for a Transfer of Funds in the Alcohol & Drug Program as presented by Auditor's Chief Deputy Dalene Pattingill in the amount of \$10,000 from the 300's to the 100's. Of the \$10,000, \$9,000 will go to part-time and \$1,000 to FICA. **Mark E. Gorbett motioned to Approve the Request for Transfer of Fund in the amount of \$10,000 as presented. Jorge R. Morales seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item was a Request for a Transfer of Funds in the Treasurer's Office as presented by Treasurer Barbara J Hackman in the amount of \$2,500 from the 100's to the 300's. She is requesting money from personnel to other services for printing services. That line item is currently in the red because of additional mailings due to COVID. **Jorge R. Morales motioned to Approve the Request for Transfer of Fund in the amount of \$2,500 as presented. Matt Miller seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item was a Request for a Salary Ordinance Change for the Reassessment Fund as presented by Assessor Ginny Whipple. She stated that they are asking to increase the hourly pay amount from \$14.31 to \$22.00 per hour in 1224-01-01-19 part-time. They will not exceed their total amount of \$25,000 that was allotted, so they will use less hours at the higher rate. This is to retain a trained individual who does not want to work full-time. He is currently making \$18.20 per hour as full-time. **Matt Miller motioned to approve the request as presented. Mark E. Gorbett seconded the motion. Bill Lentz**

asked if she is setting a precedence. Mark E. Gorbett stated that they did this with other offices and they have not increased the total amount that was appropriated. Greg Duke stated that he has the same concerns. Mark E. Gorbett stated the Salary Study will give them ranges to work with. If someone is at the top of the range, then they will stay there until their rates increase. Jorge R. Morales stated that they had approved some positions for increases. Assessor Whipple stated that the technical employees need to be making more money than the clerical employees. Bill Lentz sees the dilemma. Auditor Chief Deputy Pattingill stated they did approve the Prosecutor range for 2022. Mark E. Gorbett asked if an office holder has all part-time contractual employees and they all leave with the office holder. Assessor Whipple stated that she wouldn't have all employees as contractual. You have to have the funding to get the qualified personnel. She stated that this individual studied at home for his Level I and Level II and passed those. Mark E. Gorbett asked if the employee has stated that he would not work full-time but would work for part-time but not at \$14.00 per hour. Assessor Whipple stated that the employee has not stated that. He has agreed to work the 28 hours a week at part-time. Bill Lentz stated that he supported this during the budget process, but he is concerned with not having full-time positions. Assessor Whipple stated that every office holder should have a range of hourly pay for their part-time as a new hire should not receive what a seasoned employee receives. Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence stated that considering the benefits we give; we appear to be getting more for the money with the part-time. Treasurer Hackman stated that they need to look at each office. The Nursing Department has specific needs for their part-

time. The Highway Department drivers receive more pay. Don't micro-manage the other departments, this office holder knows what she needs for her office. Bill Lentz still has concerns. Mark E. Gorbett stated that he has to fall back on the fact that if the Council sets the total amount of funding and they can pay what they need to get the person they need, then if there is not enough money appropriated, the office holder has to come to the Council and explain why they need more funding. Greg Duke supports the idea, but there is something unique about this business. She has someone with a full-time job in County government who has the ability to debilitate an entire department so we are paying up. He trusts Assessor Whipple. Assessor Whipple stated that she has not discussed the amount with the individual. She does not know if he will stay or go, but she feels the amount needs to be increased. She wants to do everything she can to do to protect the County's investment in this position. **The vote was called for and passed unanimously.**

The next item was the 2nd Reading of the SWMA 2022 Budget as presented by Director Heather Siesel. She stated that the salaries now show 3% increase in salaries, not the 4% that was in the 1st Reading. The 100's are \$1,167,552 with the 3%. In the supplies, she did increase some items due to rising costs. The 200's are at \$91,500. The 300's are at \$2,099,275 and the 400's are at \$627,300 for a total of SWMA 2021 Budget of \$3,985,627. **R. Scott Bonnell motioned to Approve on 2nd Reading the SWMA 2022 Budget as presented. Jorge R. Morales seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item was the 2nd Reading of the Bartholomew County 2022 Budget as presented by Auditor Pia O'Connor as follows:

Bartholomew County 2022 Budget

<i>Unit</i>	<i>Fund</i>	<i>Requested</i>	<i>Changed</i>	<i>1st Reading</i>
<i>County General</i>	<i>1000</i>	<i>\$29,423,305</i>	<i>-\$1,102,269</i>	<i>\$28,321,036</i>
<i>Reassessment</i>	<i>1224</i>	<i>\$594,129</i>	<i>-\$106,475</i>	<i>\$487,654</i>
<i>Sales Disclosure</i>	<i>1131</i>	<i>\$29,000</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$29,000</i>
<i>Debt Service</i>	<i>4600</i>	<i>\$2,000,000</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$2,000,000</i>
<i>Elected Officials Training</i>	<i>1217</i>	<i>\$15,000</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$15,000</i>
<i>Election Board</i>	<i>1215</i>	<i>\$270,197</i>	<i>-\$2,353</i>	<i>\$267,844</i>
<i>Clerk Perpetuation</i>	<i>1119</i>	<i>\$81,685</i>	<i>-\$688</i>	<i>\$80,997</i>
<i>Clerk IV-D Incentive</i>	<i>8899</i>	<i>\$29,895</i>	<i>-\$420</i>	<i>\$29,475</i>
<i>CEDIT</i>	<i>1112</i>	<i>\$3,408,000</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$3,408,000</i>
<i>Family Recovery Court</i>	<i>9211</i>	<i>\$79,719</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$79,719</i>
<i>Public Defender – Sup Ct II</i>	<i>4903</i>	<i>\$48,990</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$48,990</i>
<i>Comm. Corr. – Project Income</i>	<i>1122</i>	<i>\$598,467</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$598,467</i>
<i>Adult Probation</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>\$390,950</i>	<i>-\$1,012</i>	<i>\$389,938</i>
<i>Juvenile Probation</i>	<i>2150</i>	<i>\$6,947</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$6,947</i>
<i>Alcohol/Drug Program</i>	<i>2501</i>	<i>\$134,952</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$134,952</i>
<i>Comm. Corr. – Grant</i>	<i>9101</i>	<i>\$1,418,518</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$1,418,518</i>
<i>YSC Day Treatment</i>	<i>9102</i>	<i>\$63,631</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$63,631</i>
<i>WRAP</i>	<i>9103</i>	<i>\$86,452</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$86,452</i>
<i>Probation Grant</i>	<i>9107</i>	<i>\$139,150</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$139,150</i>
<i>REALM</i>	<i>9206</i>	<i>\$100,281</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$100,281</i>
<i>Adult Treatment Center</i>	<i>9207</i>	<i>\$148,816</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$148,816</i>

<i>Statewide 911</i>	<i>1222</i>	<i>\$2,420,641</i>	<i>-\$1,243</i>	<i>\$2,419,398</i>
<i>LEPC</i>	<i>1152</i>	<i>\$14,690</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$14,690</i>
<i>Health</i>	<i>1159</i>	<i>\$1,936,898</i>	<i>-\$114,894</i>	<i>\$1,822,004</i>
<i>Public Health Preparedness</i>	<i>8891</i>	<i>\$25,000</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$25,000</i>
<i>Local Health Maintenance</i>	<i>1168</i>	<i>\$48,859</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$48,859</i>
<i>IN Local Health Trust</i>	<i>1206</i>	<i>\$34,636</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$34,636</i>
<i>Highway</i>	<i>1176</i>	<i>\$4,316,942</i>	<i>-\$11,291</i>	<i>\$4,305,651</i>
<i>Local Roads & Streets</i>	<i>1169</i>	<i>\$716,565</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$715,565</i>
<i>Cumulative Bridge</i>	<i>1135</i>	<i>\$1,689,712</i>	<i>-\$540</i>	<i>\$1,689,172</i>
<i>Pretrial Diversion</i>	<i>2503</i>	<i>\$82,476</i>	<i>-\$499</i>	<i>\$81,975</i>
<i>Prosecutor IV-D Incentive</i>	<i>8896</i>	<i>\$52,005</i>	<i>-\$61</i>	<i>\$51,944</i>
<i>STOP Grant</i>	<i>8897</i>	<i>\$57,720</i>	<i>-\$1,328</i>	<i>\$56,392</i>
<i>VOCA Grant</i>	<i>8921</i>	<i>\$97,475</i>	<i>-\$2,382</i>	<i>\$95,093</i>
<i>Recorder Perpetuation</i>	<i>1189</i>	<i>\$143,135</i>	<i>-\$1,159</i>	<i>\$141,976</i>
<i>Security Protection</i>	<i>1160</i>	<i>\$30,000</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$30,000</i>
<i>Jail</i>	<i>1114</i>	<i>\$6,493,065</i>	<i>-\$96,032</i>	<i>\$6,497,033</i>
<i>Cornerstone Perpetuation</i>	<i>1203</i>	<i>\$8,850</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$8,850</i>
<i>VIP</i>	<i>1127</i>	<i>\$1,400,000</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$1,400,000</i>
<i>TOTALS</i>		<i>\$58,735,752</i>	<i>-\$1,442,646</i>	<i>\$57,293,106</i>

Auditor O'Connor stated that the Council had received a packet prior to the meeting. There were a few minor adjustments as follows: In IT they had taken out the wrong employee and had to add about back \$12,000; there was a new nurse that had not been taken out that affected the overall personnel for the Health Department. **Jorge R. Morales motioned to approve on the 2022 Bartholomew County Budget on Second Reading as presented.**

Mark E. Gorbett seconded the motion. David Apple appreciates everything that the Council has done for the Park Board, but their Contract people received no raises with this budget. They had asked for a 4% increase. After talking to a County Commissioner, it was suggested that they increase that amount due to the amount of work that has been completed at Heflin Park and as well at Dunn Stadium. If they can't get to the amount that was presented, can they at least give a 3% raise as they received no raises last year. He pointed out the amount of money they have brought in at the Parks. Bill Lentz asked about the employees at Heflin Park. Mr. Apple stated that they bring in an RV and stay there for the protection of the park as well as being there for check-in. Mark E. Gorbett stated that it is \$1,100 for the year for Heflin. **Mark E. Gorbett motioned to approve the 3% for the personnel in the Parks Department as presented by Mr. Apple.** It would be \$15,123 for both the parks. **R. Scott Bonnell seconded the motion.** Bill Lentz asked about other employees. Mr. Apple stated that they had given them a part-time top end hourly amount of \$15.00 per employee. Matt Miller asked if this should be done for just the Parks Department or for all contractual employees. Mark E. Gorbett stated that all the departments had an opportunity to review and ask for changes. **Mark E. Gorbett restated his original motion to read as Approving the 2022 Budget on Second Reading with the changes presented by the Auditor and the change for the Parks Department. R. Scott Bonnell seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

Greg Duke had met with Bill Lentz and Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence regarding establishing goals for the Council. He handed out a paper with directions where they want to see the Council go. Reduce taxes, minimize public debt, and retain cash reserves that would meet 4 months of expenses. He feels these should be adopted as a starting point. There was a question as to why they needed to vote on this as they already do this. Greg Duke thinks they should codify our feelings and let the people know where they are headed. Bill Lentz thinks when they are making decisions, these should be in front of them. They owe the taxpayers these principles. Jorge R. Morales stated that he understands that Mr. Duke is wanting a list of principles that they look at so that those coming in know what they are looking for. Bill Lentz thinks that they already try to do this. Jorge R. Morales stated that this is not a complete list. He feels that this document is a good beginning statement and is not ready for a vote. He doesn't have a problem with a consensus in favor of this. Bill Lentz stated that this is like a Mission Statement. **Jorge R. Morales motioned to approve the principles to guide the Council. Bill Lentz seconded the motion.** Mark E. Gorbett stated that he just read this 2 minutes ago. He does not have a problem with the statements, but doesn't feel that they need to vote on it. He agrees with the core of it. R. Scott Bonnell stated that he thinks the core values are there and every one of them has the good of the County in their processes. Matt Miller stated that with one election, everything could change. Mark E. Gorbett stated that they already do all these. Greg Duke stated that there are reasons that people put things in writing. Mark E. Gorbett played devil's advocate. If he signed here today, and one of the principles is to reduce taxes, there are

times that they need to raise taxes. They had that issue just a few years ago, so at times, he would be going against it. Greg Duke stated that reducing taxes was not his contribution, but we are entering an era of greater federal taxes. Matt Miller stated this document could be a good policy for the start of the review process that they want to begin. Jorge R. Morales stated that they need to purify the specifics of this document. **The vote was called for. Mark E. Gorbett asked what the motion was for and why. Jorge R. Morales stated that it was to adopt the principles. The vote was taken and was 6-0 with Mark E. Gorbett abstaining.**

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

Sheriff's Merit Bd – nothing to report

Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence:

County Parks & Recreation Bd – they are doing good.

Job Review/Classification Committee – nothing to report

Youth Services Center Advisory Committee – nothing to report

Bill Lentz:

Personnel Administrative Committee – nothing to report

Cols Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Bd – nothing to report

Health Bd – nothing to report

Matt Miller:

Personnel Administrative Committee – nothing to report

Job Review/Classification Committee – nothing to report

Greater Columbus Economic Development Bd – July meeting cancelled.

Bartholomew County Broadband Initiative – nothing to report

Jorge R. Morales:

County Plan Commission – nothing to report

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

Bartholomew County Redevelopment Commission – nothing to report

Bartholomew County Broadband Initiative – nothing to report

The Commissioners had asked him to put together a procedure.

Greg Duke:

Emergency Management Bd – nothing to report

Jt Council Emergency Dispatch Services – nothing to report

Job Review/Classification Committee – nothing to report

Bartholomew County Redevelopment Commission – nothing to report

Mark E. Gorbett:

Community Corrections Bd – nothing to report

Data Board – nothing to report

Drug Epidemic Committee – nothing to report

ASAP – nothing to report

Matt Miller had met with Scott Mayes and asked if contractual help would get them caught up. Director Mayes had stated they spent about \$55,000 in contractual help over the past year and are still behind. Mark E. Gorbett had also spoken with Director Mayes. They are trying to get a procedural list for mid-year budget requests with the Data Board prior to budget processes. They are working on this.

There being no further business to come before the Council, **Mark made a motion to adjourn at 7:58 p.m. Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY COUNCIL

By: _____
R. Scott Bonnell, President

November 15, 2021

By: _____
Bill Lentz, Pro-Tem

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