

BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY COUNCIL

February 8, 2022

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

The Bartholomew County Council met on February 8, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Governmental Office Building, 440 Third Street, Columbus, Indiana.

President Greg Duke 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 January 8, 2022. **R. Scott Bonnell made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mark E. Gorbett seconded the motion which passed unanimously via roll call.**

The next item on the agenda was a Request of Additional Appropriations for the Pre-Trial Grant (9203) in the amount of \$27,193.00 as presented by Court Services Director

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Brad Barnes (via Zoom). Director Barnes stated this is a grant that they have received in the past. **Bill Lentz made a motion to approve the Additional Appropriation of \$27,193.00 as presented. Mark E. Gorbett seconded the motion which passed unanimously via roll call.**

The next item on the agenda was a Request of Additional Appropriations for the Drug Recovery Court (1147) in the amount of \$10,500.00 as presented by Court Services Director Brad Barnes (via Zoom). Director Barnes stated this is from fees that have been collected. This is the initial 2022 Appropriation. Based on the amounts they receive throughout the year, he will be back later in the year. These funds are used to offset the costs of the Court. One of the items they use this for is a Graduation for those that complete the program. **Mark E. Gorbett made a motion to approve the Additional Appropriation of \$10,500.00 as presented. R. Scott Bonnell seconded the motion which passed unanimously via roll call.**

The next item on the agenda was a Request of Additional Appropriations for the Veteran's Treatment Court (9108) in the amount of \$9,500.00 as presented by Court Services Director Brad Barnes (via Zoom). Director Barnes stated this is again, fees that are collected from the participants. All in this program have served in the armed forces. These fees will offset expenses of the Court. These amounts are for money that is in the bank, not anticipated amounts. **Jorge R. Morales made a motion to approve the Additional Appropriation of \$9,500.00 as presented. Mark E. Gorbett seconded the motion which passed unanimously via roll call.** Director Barnes stated that this

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Thursday at 1:00 p.m. in Superior Court 1, they will have a Veteran's Graduation and all are welcome to attend.

The next item was the Attorney for 2022 for the County Council. Attorney Chris Monroe has minimally adjusted his hourly rate for this year. Mark E. Gorbett asked if the salary amount was approved at the 2022 Budget Hearing. Auditor O'Connor stated that the base amount was approved and that is the amount that is in the line item. The per hour rate would be under Professional Services. Jorge R. Morales motioned to Approve the Contract with Attorney Chris Monroe for the 2022 year as presented. R. Scott Bonnell seconded the motion which passed unanimously via roll call.

The next item was Financial Updates as presented by Auditor Pia O'Connor. Auditor O'Connor presented a COVID Response update. She showed how much money had been received for COVID Response and how much we have spent. She stated that the first four items were Grants that are still being spent out of. The last Grant was a newer one that Bobbie Shake, Grant Administrator in the Auditor's Office, was able to secure. The Cares Act money was the first round from the Federal Funds. The American Rescue Plan is the most current round of Federal funds that one-half of were received in 2021 with the other half due this May. All of the ARP money has to be spent out by the end of 2026. She explained that the CARES funds deadline to spend was December 31, 2020 as everyone thought it would be over by then. Obviously, that was not the case. We were on track to spend the CARES funding by the deadline, but then wanted to hold some back for 2021. The State then changed the reimbursement policy to Government Response,

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allowing the money to be spent. We purchased 2 transport vans for the Sheriff's Department. Each van has pods so that each inmate is in their own pod with their own air, including air conditioning. The \$1,100,000 is the amount of CARES Act that was moved into the County General. The next sheet is for the American Rescue Plan and shows the line items of the expenses. The first half was received in May. In January, they changed the rules for expenditures again. The first \$10,000,000 could then be considered "revenue loss" and could be spent on anything. President Duke asked if we have to show a corresponding loss? Auditor O'Connor stated that in the beginning we did, but not now. She had received many calls from consultants wanting to help with the original rules. Once the rules were changed, Auditor O'Connor set aside the \$10,000,000 as revenue loss. We are still doing things with the Health Department as COVID continues. Greg Duke asked what a UVC Robot was. Auditor O'Connor stated that it is robot that goes into a room and disinfected the room.

Auditor O'Connor stated that she and Chief Deputy Pattingill had met with the new DLGF Representative Vicky Neely. The contribution to the Rainy Day can be 15% of the previous year's budget. This allows us to move \$4,230,193.35. If the Council agrees to move this, the ending balance in the Rainy Day would be \$10,222,475.57. Jorge R. Morales stated that they had hoped to set aside money to pay off the Jail Bond early. He wants them to keep this in mind going forward. Mark E. Gorbett asked if the 2015 year was when we had to move money from Rainy Day to the Healthcare Fund. Auditor O'Connor stated that was correct. Jorge R. Morales stated that the conversation in 2015

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was that they would put the money back in. Auditor O'Connor stated that they did have revenue of \$1,800,000 so the net was \$2,000,000 to the healthcare fund. In 2020, she supported not putting money in the Rainy Day due to the unknown future with COVID. Matt Miller suggested setting the entire amount in the fund. Auditor O'Connor stated she believes this needs to be advertised before they take action on it. Greg Duke commended Auditor O'Connor and her staff for the very concise and well explained information. Auditor O'Connor stated that her and the Accounting Department worked on this during the snow day last Thursday. Greg Duke again commended her leadership for a very helpful report. R. Scott Bonnell stated that it makes it easier to understand where we stand. Auditor O'Connor stated that the reports show that we have responded to the pandemic and still have funds available if we need them. We also can start looking at paying down or off the Jail Bond.

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 – they are getting a little short in their funds. He will have another meeting in March.

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 & his wife, Shari, went to the AIC meeting at the Hyatt in Indy. It started off with someone jumping from the 20th floor. They had some good information on tax abatements and projecting the growth quotient in the next couple of years. He then reviewed the bills that are in session. One bill is to eliminate personal property tax and what effect it would have on each Township in each County. If it was eliminated, the Bartholomew County residents would see a 12% increase in taxes. Jorge R. Morales asked if this was over a 10-year bill. Bill Lentz stated that was another bill. Mr. ? stated that there would be a 16% increase in farm ground taxes. Greg Duke asked that he bring that information to the next meeting and present it to the Council. Bill Lentz stated that is on the AIC website and can be viewed.

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Matt Miller:

Personnel Administrative Committee – nothing to report

Economic Development – 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) – attended – nothing really to report

Bartholomew County Redevelopment Commission – met January 3rd with same officers re-elected. They will be meeting in February which will include discussion regarding a stoplight at US 31 & 800 N.

Greg Duke:

Bartholomew County Redevelopment Commission – no report

Greater Columbus Economic Development Bd – missed the EDC meeting.

ASAP – no report

EOC – meeting tomorrow. He wanted to thank EMA Director Shannan Cooke for the excellent information she provided during the recent storm.

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Mark E Gorbett:

Emergency Management Bd – nothing to report

Jt Council Emergency Dispatch Services – nothing to report

Community Corrections Bd – purchased a magnometer and are looking at other equipment they need.

Data Board – nothing to report

Drug Epidemic Committee – nothing to report

Auditor O'Connor stated that they needed to come up with a time to have a work session as WIS is finishing up. Greg Duke will get with the Council members to set up a time. Matt Miller asked when they were suppose to receive the information. Auditor O'Connor stated that they were hopeful to have it by the end of the year, but that did not work out.

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: _____
Greg Duke, President

By: _____
Matt Miller, Pro-Tem

By: _____

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R. Scott Bonnell, Member

By: _____
Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence, Member

By: _____
Jorge R. Morales, Member

By: _____
Bill Lentz, Member

By: _____
Mark E. Gorbett, Member

ATTEST: _____
Pia O'Connor, Auditor
Bartholomew County