

July 13, 2022

BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY COUNCIL

June 14, 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		Present
Chris Monroe	- -	Attorney	Present
Pia O'Connor	Auditor	Secretary	Via Zoom

The Bartholomew County Council met on June 14, 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 of April 12, 2022. **Jorge R. Morales made a motion to Approve the Minutes as presented. Mark E. Gorbett seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item on the agenda was the approval of the meeting minutes of May 10, 2022 with the corrections as noted by Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence. **Mark E. Gorbett**

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made a motion to Approve the Minutes with the noted corrections. Jorge R. Morales seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The next item was a Request of Additional Appropriations for the Veteran's Treatment Court (9202) in the amount of \$8,000.00 as presented by Community Corrections Director Brad Barnes. Director Barnes stated that this is for Fiscal Year Grants from the Indiana Supreme Court. This is a Grant for the Veteran's Treatment Court. It starts July 1 and is for travel & training, participant incentives and drug testing. **Mark E. Gorbett made a motion to Approve the Additional Appropriation of \$8,000.00 as presented. Jorge R. Morales seconded the motion.** Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence asked where the graduation was held for this court. Director Barnes stated that it is held in Superior Court I court room. The veteran's feel more comfortable celebrating in the court room. **The vote was called for and passed unanimously.**

The next item was a Request of Additional Appropriations for the Drug Recovery Court (9208) in the amount of \$8,000.00 as presented by Director Barnes. He explained that this is a Fiscal Grant from the Indiana Supreme Court. It also starts July 1 and covers travel & training, participant incentives and drug testing. The Court has a graduation July 12th at noon at the Commons. Justice David will be the keynote speaker. **Mark E. Gorbett made a motion to approve the Additional Appropriation of \$8,000.00 as presented. Jorge R. Morales seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item was a Request of Additional Appropriations for County General – Sheriff (1000-05) in the amount of \$10,000.00 as presented by Chief Deputy Chris Lane

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(via Zoom). Chief Deputy Lane explained this is for their extradition fund. They have had to extradite 2 people already this year and have spent the amount in the fund. They contract with a transport company. In years past, they have not spent that much so they have maintained the \$10,000 amount for budgeting. **Mark E. Gorbett made a motion to approve the Additional Appropriation of \$10,000.00 as presented. Jorge R. Morales seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item was a Request of Additional Appropriations for the School Liaison Grant (8931) in the amount of \$330,000.00 as presented by Nursing Director Amanda Organist (via Zoom). Director Organist explained that this is for second year of the Crisis Coag Grant. This is the year 2 funding portion. President Duke asked if she expects another round of this Grant. Director Organist does not foresee any funding after this round. She currently has 2 staff but is looking for more employees. **Mark E. Gorbett made a motion to approve the Additional Appropriation of \$330,000.00 as presented. Bill Lentz seconded the motion which passed unanimously**

The next item was a Request for Transfer of Funds in the School Liaison Fund (8931) in the amount of \$7,500 as presented by Nursing Director Amanda Organist. She stated that this funding ends June 30th. She is planning to purchase a school vision screener. It is an upgrade of what they currently have. It has been approved by the Commissioners pending the Council's approval of the transfer. The request is to transfer the funds from 8931-00-02-40 (supplies) to 8931-00-04-40 (equipment). **Bill Lentz made a motion to**

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approve the Transfer of Funds in the amount of \$7,500 as presented. Mark E. Gorbett seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The next item was a Request of Additional Appropriations of \$2,200,000 from either the County General Fund (1000) or the Rainy Day Fund (1186). Commissioner Lienhoop was present representing the Commissioners. This amount they are requesting is the balance that the County owes the City Redevelopment Commission for the new Court Services Center. The Commissioners feel that a 15 year lease would include a 4 to 5 percent interest rate. By paying this off, they believe this would save approximately \$750,000. In talking with the Auditor, he believes that Auditor O'Connor believes this should be paid out of County General. Jorge R. Morales stated that they had talked about increasing the amount for road maintenance as opposed to paying back the money. Commissioner Lienhoop stated that this year road repairs will be \$2,800,000 rather than the anticipated \$2,200,000. They did receive a \$1,000,000 from the State towards this. Until they see the price of oil go down, they doubt the amount will change. They also have the old Foxpointe location up for sale. Commissioner Kleinhenz (via Zoom) stated that at a 5% loan for 15 years, the interest savings would be \$825,000. Of that amount, about \$300,000 of that is more than they had anticipated at the beginning of this project. He stated that they had also spoken with County Engineer Danny Hollander regarding adding a focus on improving 4 intersections, making them better for semis and such. Evelyn Streitmeier Pence asked how much they anticipate from the sale of the building. Commissioner Lienhoop expects between \$625,000 to \$700,000. **Jorge R. Morales made**

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a motion to approve the Additional Appropriation of \$2,200,000.00 to pay off the lease of the new Court Services Building as presented. Mark E. Gorbett seconded the motion. President Duke asked the attorney if this sounded like an appropriate motion. Attorney Monroe stated yes. President Duke asked the Commissioners if they were prepared to say that was all the funding they would need for this project and would not be back for any additional money. Commissioner Kleinhenz stated that if they would need an additional \$15,000, is he suggesting that they come up any additional out of there budget or the CEDIT Fund? If that is what they want, then they will find any additional funding out of the CEDIT. President Duke stated that is not the motion, but it has been said. The vote was called for and passed unanimously.

The next item was Discussion on a Change to Ordinance for Sheriff Sale Fees as presented by Captain Brandon Slate of the Sheriff's Department. Captain Slate (via Zoom) stated that this is based on a change in legislation that passed and goes into effect July 1. This allows them to increase the fees from a cap of \$200 to a cap of \$300. SRI is the company that manages the sales for the County. This change will allow the County to keep the same portion as SRI is increasing their fees from \$100 to \$180. Mark E. Gorbett stated that if they do nothing, then they would net \$20. Bill Lentz asked who pays this amount. Captain Slate was not sure if it is the buyer or the seller that incurs this fee. The current Ordinance is 2009-09. The changes to the Ordinance will reflect that. The \$300 will be disbursed as \$40 to County General Pension Fees and \$260 will be disbursed to the Sheriff

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Pension Fees. **Mark E. Gorbett made a motion to Approve on First Reading the Change to the Sheriff's Sale Fees Ordinance as presented. Jorge R. Morales seconded the motion.** There was a question regarding the Ordinance. Attorney Monroe explained that an Ordinance requires 2 readings. It does not have to be advertised. Treasurer Barb Hackman stated that you do not have to advertise it. You can do it in two meetings or they can suspend rules to allow only 1 Reading for the Ordinance. **Mark E. Gorbett withdrew his motion. His new motion was to suspend the rules and pass on 1 reading the Ordinance before them. Jorge R. Morales seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Mark E. Gorbett motioned to Approve on this Reading the changes to the Sheriff Sales Service Fees from \$200 to \$300 effective July 1, 2022. Jorge R. Morales seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item was Discussion regarding the Salary Study Information. Chief Deputy Auditor Dalene Pattingill recapped the timeline of events. At the April 12 County Council Meeting, they agreed, as a Council, that it was important that each elected official/department head received and reviewed their office's salary study. They agreed to let Ms. Pattingill meet with those officials. She met with those individuals on April 19. She put together a summary for each office and had the elected official/department head review said summary to assure the information was correct. The packet before them has been divided into 3 categories. Plan A is to bring everyone to the External Mid-Point Salary. It would cost \$527,970.92 for the entire year of 2022. Plan B details those that would require job classification changes. Plan B would cost \$134,043.42 for the year and

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would require approval by the Job Classification Committee. These amounts do include FICA & PERF. Plan C is for positions above and beyond the Mid-Point and Classification items and would cost \$125,780.15 for the year. Overall, had they implemented this at the starting of the year, it would have cost \$787,731.49. She is recommending that as the Council makes their decision, they look at the Mid-Point and get this taken care of prior to the budget sessions. This will make it easier on all for 2023 budgeting session. The miscellaneous tab is for issues above and beyond the salary study. This is something they should look at during the budget session. She is willing to answer any questions they have or if this is not what they were looking for they just need to let her know. She has also included the huge turnover numbers they have had just in 2022. Mark E. Gorbett clarified that they had set \$1,000,000 aside in the 2022 budget. The department heads have had time to review and do some tweaking of the study. The \$527,000+ is the mid-point. Plan B is a wish list that would have to go to the Classification Committee before it comes before the Council. Chief Deputy Pattingill stated that Plan B is justified as the Study did not get some of the differentiations between supervisors and workers due to the job descriptions in place. They had 1 in the Clerk's Office and 1 in each of the Courts that had supervisors that would be making the same as the people they are supervising. That change was made to the Plan A mid-point. Mark E. Gorbett would like to hear where the other Council members stand as they have been discussing this for over a year. The Council thanked Ms. Pattingill for her work on this. Matt Miller stated that the Study is the Study. Given the current economic situation, he is concerned regarding the upcoming budget. He had seen

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an e-mail regarding a consultant stating an 8.2% increase. Auditor O'Connor stated that is incorrect, it will be 5%. Matt Miller would like to come to an understanding regarding the upcoming budget. If they say okay to this (Part A) and they would limit the upcoming budget not to increase by more than 4% of last years budget, then he is on board. He is not trying to balance the budget on the back of employees. He would feel much better about doing this with a commitment. Mark E. Gorbett is comfortable with the idea. If we pay the employees then they may have to turn down some big ticket items to stay in budget. He thinks this is a positive shot for the employees. He would like to go to mid-point at the first pay in July of 2022 which would only be half of the amount that has been discussed as it would only be for half the year. Jorge R. Morales stated that to bring people to the mid-point is well below what they have budgeted for during this year. He has not seen any requests for budgets for next year so he does not know what will happen with this. Mark E. Gorbett stated that Matt is concerned because this goes on forever. Bill Lentz agrees and likes the idea. Mark E. Gorbett likes that we are taking care of the employees. The upcoming budget will come in with the 144's that will show how raises would affect the bottom line. Mark E. Gorbett stated that he is not sure if it will be 3% or maybe 5%. R. Scott Bonnell is concerned that doing the mid-point in the middle of the year would be an issue. He is thinking of starting at the beginning of the next year. The 3% he mentioned is regarding salaries. He does agree with trying to get to the mid-point. He is concerned if they raise it in the middle of the year, then people will be back for more money in the next budget. President Duke asked what employees will say when the Public Safety people

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come in for increases? Will anyone here stand up against that? Mark E. Gorbett stated that he would do it. President Duke stated that the Salary Study is not writ. This is not about \$500,000 it is about \$1,000,000. It takes off from here. A vote of a \$500,000 will grow exponentially. He is not saying to not pay the employees more. There will still be employees that will come out on the short end of it even after this study. We have established the validity, a morale imperative that we stay with what other counties are doing. Jorge E. Morales asked if he is saying that the Salary Study doesn't show that our employees are under paid. President Duke stated that the Salary Study does show that they are underpaid. Jorge E. Morales stated that we have pushed it and pushed it down the road. Mark E. Gorbett asked Bill Lentz if he was in agreement with the mid-point. Bill Lentz stated yes. Mark E. Gorbett asked Matt Miller. Matt Miller stated he is if they can reach an agreement amongst the Council members that we will stay in check with the upcoming budget session. Bill Lentz stated that Jorge keeps saying that we just keep pushing it down the road and are hurting the employees, but he feels it was important that they heard from each of the department heads and he wanted to thank Dalene for doing that. Matt Miller thinks the most dangerous thing right now would be to open up the can of worms as to the validity of the study. R. Scott Bonnell stated that the 3 years he has been on here, they have given 3% each year and this is within that range. Bill Lentz stated this has not been fun. R. Scott Bonnell is okay with it. Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence agrees with Matt Miller's statements. She is concerned about the situation with the economy. Mark E. Gorbett asked if he made a motion to come to the exterior mid-point and explained that their may be a

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tightening of the belt at budget time would it go anywhere? Bill Lentz would do that but not to exceed 4% of last year's budget. Mark E. Gorbett stated that it is hard to tie it to a number when you don't even know what is going to be requested for next year. President Duke stated that he sees both sides of this. Mark E. Gorbett asked if we could come to common ground. President Duke said no because we are balancing it on the backs of taxpayers and he will not vote for it. We are starting down a very slippery slope. He is saying no to this in mid year as opposed to doing this at the budget time when we know the totality. Mark E. Gorbett stated this is still part of last year's budget and he wants to kick it to another year. President Duke stated yes, as it is best done to do this all at the time of the 2023 budget. Mark E. Gorbett stated we need to make a decision as to do this or not do this and move on. Matt Miller is still concerned with next year's budget; can they set a cap for next year's budget? He stated that the Auditor had just stated a 5% growth quotient so we need to be at that or below. Bill Lentz thinks everything is a compromise. He sees what everybody is saying, including President Duke. As he looks at the study, then he sees some are under paid and some are over paid but the department heads have reviewed this and they know more than he does about their personnel. Jorge R. Morales stated that we have never approved a budget that we cannot afford. This is money for this year. Matt Miller stated that this will go on year after year. Mark E. Gorbett asked Auditor O'Connor or Treasurer Hackman if we had ever exceeded our growth quotients. Treasurer Hackman stated that the State does not allow you to go above your Maximum Levy. Matt Miller asked Ginny Whipple. Auditor O'Connor stated that she was the Auditor and please ask

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her the Auditor questions. Matt Miller asked if the economy tanks, will the houses being reassessed be with the lower values or will they continue as they are. Auditor O'Connor stated that the Assessed Value does not effect the Revenue. Your revenue divided by the assessed value is what determines the tax rate. Mark E. Gorbett is in agreement. Matt Miller asked about the Maximum Levy. Auditor O'Connor stated that you cannot go above your Maximum Levy. Also, they spoke earlier about paying the jail bond early and if they do that, it would free up an additional \$1,800,000 a year. If they agree to do the mid-point, it does not have to be advertised as it was advertised when it was in last year's budget. Attorney Monroe stated they could take the numbers in front of them and have an amended Salary Ordinance. As far as tying it to a next year's budget, it would have to be a separate motion but he is uncertain as to how binding it would actually be. Matt Miller stated that based on the Sheriff's Extradition request tonight, everything is going to cost more in the next budget. Mark E. Gorbett said he would go with 5% and negotiate it down. President Duke asked if there was a motion on the table for the Salary Study. Attorney Monroe stated he has never seen a "binder" put with a motion. Matt Miller asked if Mark E. Gorbett would agree with 4% over last year's budgets. Mark E. Gorbett stated that he could live with 5%. President Duke asked if the motion was in order. Attorney Monroe stated that it sounds like you are voting on a motion for a budget you have not been presented yet.

Mark E. Gorbett made a motion to Accept the Exterior Mid-point (Plan A) as presented effective the first pay in July, 2022. Jorge R. Morales seconded the motion.

Attorney Monroe clarified that they were incorporating the numbers from Plan A. Mark

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E. Gorbett stated yes. Matt Miller asked the President to poll the Council with regards to their standing on the percentage of budget increase. President Duke asked if they could post this motion without advertisement. Attorney Monroe stated due to the steps they had taken last year in the budget process, they can vote on this without the additional steps. He just advises that they are very clear on which numbers to put into the Salary Ordinance. His short answer is yes. By utilizing the document Plan A that Chief Deputy Pattingill had put together, that will provide the numbers. Attorney Monroe was not at the hearing for the Budget acceptance for 2022. Mr. West stated that it was in the 2022 Budget. Attorney Monroe stated then it should be fine. Chief Deputy Pattingill stated the amount would be \$263,953.96 as there are 2 months that have 3 pay periods within them in the last half of the year. They also have to include FICA & PERF in the amounts. President Duke asked Matt Miller for his Poll question. Matt Miller stated that he was looking for a consensus that the members would agree to cap the 2023 Budget at no more than a 4% increase over the 2022 Budget. Jorge R. Morales stated he would agree in the same way the members have agreed to the Salary Study as we are still discussing it a year later. Mark E. Gorbett cannot agree to that without seeing the numbers. President Duke stated his opinion is not relevant as he is going to vote against the motion. Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence is in agreement with the 4%. R. Scott Miller is okay with the 4%. President Duke asked for any other comments. **President Duke called for the vote and the motion passed 6-1 with President Duke as the dissenting vote.** Mark E. Gorbett is willing to work with Matt Miller's idea. President Duke asked what they were going to do for the taxpayers?

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Does Jorge have an answer to that? Jorge R. Morales stated that he thinks the taxpayers have spoken as of the election. President Duke thinks the taxpayers took a back seat in this discussion. Mark E. Gorbett stated that he feels the voters spoke loudly in Mr. Duke's election. President Duke stated that he doesn't vote based on election or election results. He stated that he votes on the imperative of his sovereign duty. He stated that their position is well staked out: politics trumps political expediency trumps the interests of the taxpayers. Mark E. Gorbett stated that the taxpayers will vote; and they did.

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

BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY COUNCIL

By: _____
Greg Duke, President

By: _____
Matt Miller, Pro-Tem

By: _____
R. Scott Bonnell, Member

By: _____
Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence, Member

By: _____
Jorge R. Morales, Member

By: _____

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Bill Lentz, Member

By: _____
Mark E. Gorbett, Member

ATTEST: _____
Pia O'Connor, Auditor
Bartholomew County