

BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY COUNCIL

September 12, 2022

Name:	Representing:	Title:	Present:
Matt Miller	At Large		Via Zoom
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 September 12, 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 was the Approval of Meeting Minutes for 08-09-2022 and the Minutes for the Budget Hearings of 08-15-2022 thru 08-29-2022. **Jorge R. Morales motioned to Approve the August Meeting Minutes of the 8-9-22 and the Budget**

Hearing Minutes of 8-15-2022 thru 8-29-2022 presented. Mark E. Gorbett seconded the motion which passed unanimously via a Roll Call Vote of 7-0.

The next item was a Request of Additional Appropriations for the LIT Correctional/Jail (1114) in the amount of \$126,723.54 as presented by Jail Commander John Martoccia. Commander Martoccia stated that he had one thing taken off. He is here for \$120,000 for food due to inflation. He anticipates being out of funds by the end of this month if this is not approved. The numbers are up across the board. Bill Lentz clarified that this is an Additional. **Jorge R. Morales made a motion to Approve the Additional Appropriation of \$120,000.00 for food as presented. Mark E. Gorbett seconded the motion which passed unanimously via a Roll Call Vote of 7-0.**

The next item was for the repair of lawn irrigation due to construction in the area at \$5,280.00 at the Jail. **Bill Lentz/Mark E. Gorbett motioned to Approve the Request as presented. Jorge R. Morales seconded the motion that passed unanimously via a Roll Call Vote at 7-0.**

The next item was a Request of Additional Appropriations for the Parks Department in the amount of \$68,800 as presented by Grant Administrator Bobbie Shake. Grant Administrator Shake stated the Grant is for Heflen Park. There is a match that the Parks Department has funds for. This is a reimbursable Grant. This is for repair of bank erosion. It functions differently then other grants, but they will be able to handle it. It was clarified that the \$68,800.00 is the full grant amount. **Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence made**

December 12, 2022

a motion to approve the Additional Appropriation of \$68,800.00 as presented. R. Scott Bonnell seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The next item was a Request for Council Approval to pay over-expenditure of JCC/JDAI Grants from YSC General Funds as presented by Grant Administrator Shake. Grant Administrator Shake stated that they purchase gift cards as incentives. They were not aware of changes that the cards had to be handed out prior to June 30, 2022 as that was the end of the grant. They purchased outside what was allowed by the Grant. President Duke asked if they will be in trouble for the giftcards that were over the limit. She has worked with Auditor O'Connor for a change in process and they will no longer be purchasing gift cards. The ones in hand will be handed out. The retailers will not allow returns of gift cards. Once these are given out, there will be no more gift cards purchased and handed out due to the complexity of the grant. **Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence made a motion to Approve to Pay from the YSC General Fund the amount of \$1,140. R. Scott Bonnell seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The next item was the First Reading of the 2023 Bartholomew County SWMD Budget as read by Director Heather Siesel. Director Siesel currently has the 5% for raises but will adjust to whatever the County decides on. There is increase in overtime, FICA and insurance costs. The 100's total is \$1,108,529, the 200's total is \$98,250, the 300's total is \$2,370,750 and the 400's total is \$967,300 for an overall total amount of \$4,544,829. They are up from last year due to the closure of a cell. President Duke asked

about the 100's. In the 100's they have cut 2 positions so they are down on total expenses. Bill Lentz asked about the tax rate. Director Siesel stated they are asking for a 2.5% tax rate plus an increase in gate fees to \$34. President Duke asked how much was cell closure versus fuel and inflation expenses. Director Siesel stated the cell closure is about \$800,000. In 2024, they expect to open a new cell which will cost more money. Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence asked for the length of the current landfill. Director Siesel stated about 80 years based on the numbers they have at this time. President Duke opened the meeting for a Public Hearing. Hearing no comments, the Public Hearing portion was closed.

The next item was Consideration on Second Reading of a County-Wide Economic Revitalization Area (ERA) as presented by Commissioner Tony London. Commissioner Lienhoop stated that in the past 2 to 3 years, internet availability has been the major complaint over roads and other issues. Commissioner London stated that thousands of Bartholomew County Citizens are without internet service. Meridian has committed to going out to all of the far corners of the County. Meridian is asking for a 95% abatement for 20 years. He stated that the County is currently bringing in \$0 for personal property taxes from this project. \$0 is the amount we will continue to receive if this abatement is denied. If it is approved they will start the first year paying between \$5,000 to \$10,000. Johnson and Brown County have granted 100% abatements. At the last meeting, they declared the County an ERA. If that is approved tonight, then they can grant the abatement. Matt Miller clarified that the ERA has nothing to do with the Broadband; it is for any

company within the County that desires an abatement. Commissioner London stated that is correct. Greater Columbus Economic Development Corporation Director Jason Hester agreed with the comments. He stated that there are 5 things that must be found affirmative ERA; estimate of the value of redevelopment; employees expected; salaries for employees; any other benefits; the totality of benefits is sufficient to justify future abatement. Attorney Monroe confirmed those statements. Jorge R. Morales stated they have 2 issues; 1 for the ERA district and 2 for the abatement from Hoosier Network, LLC. Commissioner London stated that Hoosier Network, LLC they received abatements in Bloomington and Columbus. Matt Miller stated this is not about the abatement, it is about the ERA. Bill Lentz stated that if you don't have 1 then you don't have the other. Attorney Monroe stated that the Declaratory Resolution did spell out the 5 items and that they were met. A copy of the Declaratory Resolution was provided by Attorney Monroe. President Duke opened the Public Hearing Portion of the meeting.

- *Jason Tracy – lives in City limits – parents live in the County – his grandfather died and his family was selling the property – he had to exclude it as an option to purchase because he works from home and has to have internet service which does not exist at this residence. Living in the County is not an option for him. Even living in the City where he does is a bare minimum due to the level of service. He can earn a living simply because of the internet. The first thing home employees look for when*

moving is internet service. He is generally against abatements, but this needs to be approved.

- **Nick Williams** – Director of Technology for BCSC – goal was to increase anytime, anywhere learning – they have on-line sources for the students – they have over 700 students either part-time for full-time with internet classes – please continue taking the steps to move forward with Broadband.
- **Vic Thompson** – have Hughes Net which is not good – it is essential where they live to have better internet.
- **David Smith** – he works construction – he needs this to pass so his 5, 7 & 10 year old need internet service – he can get a hot spot but it doesn't work – is there a way around this ERA so that not every company comes in and doesn't want to pay taxes gets an abatement – his neighborhood had a get together – there were probably 30 kids there and none of them have internet access – this needs to pass
- **Tyler Hodge** – Lucabe Coffee – pays about \$8,000 for his home and much more for his business – father of 4 home school employee – hybrid Cummins employee – relies on efficiency with his internet – examined all sorts of options – currently using a hot spot at 3mb per second – 1 bar unless the wind blows the wrong direction – cannot make a phone call within his house – neighbor has Comcast but that was because former

owner was a Comcast employee – Comcast is their sensus district – quotes have been \$35,000, then \$55,000 and finally \$80,000 for internet – video conferencing is not available – 2 devices brings the internet to a halt – contacted the Governor's Office and still has had no solution – according to Comcast the route of signal on the pole has to be followed by other infrastructures – in favor of abatements – there are lots of taxes placed on businesses – but there should be some restrictions – cap the amount charged to the consumer – an investment timeline should be defined – don't want to wait 10 years for this to occur – would benefit all in his family as well as his business – please vote in favor of.

- **Courtney Metzger** –CEO of Bartholomew County REMC – not able to make a business case for rural broadband within Bartholomew County – have studied and reached out to vendors for several years – this is a different type of a project – this is coming in to build out to the rural areas of the County – this is a Community Effort with a business partner – the abatement is a reasonable request – out of 38 Coop, 13 are engaged in or are starting projects – 2 have not asked for abatements, 2 are considering abatements, 7 have been granted 100% abatements – the price risk on this project is to the vendor – this is the first rural project that Meridiam has

taken on – **President Duke** asked if she is vouching for Meridiam – she stated that they have been a fantastic business partner.

- **Jim Schacht** – works at Cummins responsibility for community relations and giving – he is here to express Cummins support for the abatement for Meridiam – he grew up in Bartholomew County – his parents lived here for over 30 years – 1st in general terms for the proposal – the need for broadband internet access – they think of it for health/welfare, current & future – attracting talent for their company – the younger the individual may be, the more they will ask is how good is the internet service – to continue to attract new employers in the future – believes companies will have on their short list for moving/starting a company will be internet access – will become increasingly important for employment, education and community – specific to the proposal as he understands it – demonstrable need as based on people here and the survey – very rigorous process was completed – 3 global companies were considered with expert brought in to review – leverage with the ARP with no increase in taxes – feels favorable increase in property values – Meridiam has already committed to surrounding Counties and Cities – Cummins is in favor of the abatement – any abatement request would have to come before the Council so there is a check and balance system

- **Tom Havens** – Executive Director of Indiana Cable and Broadband Association – they are not necessarily in opposition to this, as they are in favor of internet access – he read a letter he had sent to the Council (see attached) – expressed disagreement and stated that other ISP providers would be harmed by the agreement with Meridiam – **Jorge R. Morales** stated that he had just received the letter – only 1 copy was sent to 1 Council Member – he asked where they were in the past 2 years during all the discussions as nothing has been brought to their attention or the attorney's attention – **Mr. Havens** started in this position in November of 2021 – they have specific teams that work on different areas – they get more involved when things like this pop up on a local level – they are chasing 92 counties and many more municipalities – **Mark E. Gorbett** asked if they had met with the Commissioners – no – he is concerned with the last statement that appears to be a threat of lawsuit if they proceed – **Mr. Havens** stated that is what the letter says – **Matt Miller** asked if **Attorney Monroe** has seen the MDA – he has not and he just received the letter today at 5 – **President Duke** asked **Attorney Monroe** if he had not read the MDA – **Attorney Monroe** stated he had not as that is the Commissioners Attorney that would review that – **Mark E. Gorbett** stated they are here to debate the contract – they are here to determine if the abatement should be granted

– he is not here to debate threats of lawsuit with the Commissioners – he was not in the meetings with the Commissioners to know if they did anything wrong – **Jorge R. Morales** stated he seconds those comments – it is the role of the Council to be the financial arm of the County – they are to determine the abatement – he believes they have followed very strict guidelines to get to this point – the City has already agreed – if we are going the wrong way then the City has too – not our issue – **Attorney Monroe** stated that the contracting authority is the Commissioners – it is not his role – what they consider in making the decision is a policy matter – it is his understanding that this issue was not raised with the City – one error is the statement that says the County Council should “terminate the MDA” and the Council has no authority over the MDA – **Matt Miller** stated that the State of Indiana has a grant to cover 600-800 homes in Bartholomew County – did Meridiam get a State grant to cover some homes within Bartholomew County – **Mr. Havens** stated that the State grants are “to the address” where Meridiam is providing the lines for providers to use – he does not believe they would be eligible – he believes their Bloomington project was the first in the nation – **Bill Lentz** – had people tell him that the State had the money to do the project we are looking at and wouldn’t have had to spend the \$4,000,000 – **Commissioner London**

*questioned if **Bill Lentz** had a vested interest in this and should be recused – **President Duke** stated **Commissioner London** was out of order – **Jorge R. Morales** asked if **Bill Lentz** had a vested interest in this – **Bill Lentz** stated yes and he would recuse himself from the vote – **R. Scott Bonnell** had one question – Meridiam puts in all the lines but who connects the homes to the lines – they will get to that with Meridiam – **President Duke** is concerned they are opening the County up to action by the FCC or the State Attorney General – he is an attorney – **Jorge R. Morales** asked what this discussion has to do with the approval of the ERA – it is mentioned in the document he provided.*

- ***Matt Kelley** – Director of Government Affairs for Comcast – was at the last meeting of the Council during the final budget hearing – been with company for over 8 years – has worked with **Commissioner London** regarding Broadband – **President Duke** stated that he should direct remarks to the ERA such as would Comcast be seeking an abatement but not directing his comments – **Mr. Kelley** – applied for a grant from the State – received a grant for \$1,193,500 and Comcast would kick in \$3,580,500 for a total project of \$4,470,000 to serve 681 homes – they did this without the thought of abatements – in principal he and Comcast are not opposed to the ERA – a map of their project was presented for the*

record. **Mr. Hodge** asked that the question from the public to **Mr. Kelley** be answered – **President Duke** stated that **Mr. Hodge** would need to talk to **Mr. Kelley** after the meeting.

- **John Prohaska** - an ERA would allow anyone to get an abatement – by voting in an ERA you are not approving tax abatements for everybody – the ERA would allow any company to come before the Council to request an abatement – he is concerned how **President Duke** had the letter in hand last Friday and no other Council members were aware of the letter or the presence of it until tonight's meeting – he sits on the Plan Commission and just went through issues regarding Solar – one member recused herself from the meeting due to family seeking to place solar on their land – she left the meeting and never returned as **Mr. Lentz** should do – **President Duke** held the letter – also the Comcast individual was allowed to talk at a meeting while he was not on the agenda and should not have been allowed to – the City granted an abatement and yet the Indiana Cable attorneys were not present during their discussions or votes – **Commissioner London** asked him what platform he should run on for Commissioner – he told him broadband – the issue was sent out for RFP – 3 companies applied and Comcast was one – they were rejected for not meeting the RFP requirements – the others were reviewed by professionals – the gentleman

*before him stated that Comcast was granted a \$1,000,000 grant and will serve 681 homes – Meridiam will take the \$4,000,000 and serve possibly 12,000 homes – the Council is not here to debate the contract, but here to declare an ERA – **Jorge R. Morales** stated that this is for education, but it is also for tele-health – **Mr. Prohaska** stated that this is the electric issue of 2022 – it is not acceptable for Brown, Jackson, Johnson & Jennings County to have broadband while Bartholomew County has a Fortune 200 company but no internet access – invest in this and people will move here.*

- ***Lou Ann Denny** – as she understands the ERA, what is the negative of it – it is an opportunity to provide abatement but you are not required to provide it – **President Duke** stated that abatements are to bring in business to provide jobs – **Ms. Jenny** but you are not required to approve any abatement – **President Duke** – the Council issued a declaratory statement – **Ms. Denny** is in total support of the ERA as well as the Broadband initiative – it would have been nice if the Indiana Cable would have showed up a long time ago and been part of the solution, not part of the problem.*
- ***Robert Stillwell** – married into this County 31 years ago from Indianapolis – on September 26, 2021 – at 13900 they have no reliable internet – his son has excellent service in Brown County – he has no reliable satellite service – he does not understand why a county with such an enormous*

employer, it should have been done long ago – this is not the middle of the ocean, top of a hill, or a dessert – this is Bartholomew County and we should have reliable internet – it needs to be done.

- **Michael French** – lived here 25 years – does not have good internet – using hot spot – fostering a 3 year old – during pandemic they had to do Zoom meetings with the parents that were not good due to the poor service – benefit of better internet – must be and he would vote as well for the abatement – sounds like everyone had the option to ask for an abatement, but didn't.
- **Tim Diehn** - represents Moores Vineyard Road – 6 homes – crushed when they saw the road at the end of Moores Vineyard Road was getting fiber but not their road – he works for Cummins and cannot work from home – they have an Airbnb on the road and are losing revenue due to the lack of internet – they really need the internet – if there are issues then work them out and go forward.
- **Robin Hilber** – she is a resident of Columbus as well as a City employee – she is in support of this project – the City did this earlier this year and was approved unanimously – they had an RFP and chose Meridian as the provider – adding broadband will be an attraction for people looking to move – this is much like the electricity of the 1930's – grant and provide

*the County the same options the City had undertaken – **Jorge R. Morales** asked in the SouthWest portion of the City (NTN, Enkei, etc) – **Robin Hilber** not sure – **Jason Hester** stated they have not surveyed the area recently – 30 responded that it is important that County residents have broadband internet – favorable for the abatement.*

- ***Scott Layman** - Meridiam – **R. Scott Bonnell** asked how they will get it to the County – **Mr. Layman** stated that they are a “fiber to the premise provider” – they will run the fiber directly to the home – there are pricing packages – **R. Scott Bonnell** – if there is already a cable, will they pull that street as well – they will pull down the streets and will not charge \$55,000 or \$80,000 to connect – he applauds Comcast for their project – Meridiam wants to provide fiber to homes that do not have it – the MDA does not provide any funding (ARP Funds) until the build out agreement has been completed – and then it is a step amount – he is not an attorney – these same agreements have been approved by Shelbyville & Bloomington – he has worked at least a year and a half – he is the Director of Infrastructure – there are requirements that if they do not meet a committed threshold, then they do not receive the funding – Meridiam will be investing probably north of \$20,000,000 in the County, not including the City – the ARP funds allow them to build out to the more remote locations as it provides the*

*funding – **President Duke** asked if the MDA specifies that home owners will not be required to pay \$1,500 to \$2,700 to get it to their home – is there a limit or cap – **Mr. Layman** stated that if it is 3 or 4 miles down a private driveway then they would have to look at it – **President Duke** – we have not seen the MDA so we do not know what is in it – **Mr. Layman** stated that this meeting is whether an abatement – **President Duke** asked if any other municipalities are providing \$4,000,000 – **Mr. Layman** stated that the \$4,000,000 is to offset the less dense property areas – the other municipalities do not have that issue – the provision regarding permitting is to make the process easier – **Matt Miller** asked if there was anyone else that wanted to talk about the ERA – we need to determine the ERA first – **Attorney Monroe** stated that the previous meeting they declared the intent to pursue it after a public meeting – **Mark E. Gorbett** motioned to **Approve the County-Wide ERA as presented – Jorge R. Morales** seconded the motion which passed with a Roll Call Vote of 6-0 with **Bill Lentz** abstaining from the vote.*

- There was a 5 minute break.

The next item was a Request for Tax Abatement by Hoosier Network, LLC. Mark E. Gorbett asked for a time frame from Mr. Layman regarding completion of the project if the abatement goes through. Mr. Layman stated 36 to 40 months. Jorge R. Morales asked

how this would be accomplished. Mr. Layman stated that he would use local contractors to run only fiber as it is a 20 year solution. President Duke asked the number of individuals that would be employed and retained for this project. Mr. Layman does not have the number of people that they will be hiring in this County. President Duke asked what his answer was. Mr. Layman stated “0” employees would be retained and if they are not retained then they will not have a salary. He does not have that information so he will pull that statement back. Mr. Hester stated that for jobs & payroll, the company is pledging 0 employees retained and payroll at 0. For this abatement, they are not permanently employing positions – it comes down to the question “is it reasonable”. President Duke asked Attorney Monroe if one or more of the answers in Section 1 is 0, can it meet the requirement. Attorney Monroe stated yes. Mr. Hester stated that the Force shell building was the same situation. President Duke stated he had voted for it as presented by Director Jason Hester. This company is not from here which means no payout to any one in the County. Mark E. Gorbett stated they would have vendors and such coming into to the community for hotels and restaurants. President Duke asked about the County paying for their advertising? Mr. Layman stated that there would be no payments to them for advertising. President Duke asked how they determine whether to skip an area if there is already a provider. Mr. Layman stated that if there is fiber, than there is not a need to install. There is a 74% of the unincorporated areas of the County. Hope and Hartsville are not included as Columbus is not. They have a Duke Pole Agreement and would work with

the small towns to get fiber to them. Matt Miller asked if they have an actual number of homes that will have internet. Commissioner London stated that the number would require every house to sign up. Mr. Layman stated that they will pass through a certain number of homes but whether or not that home will take it is up to the home owner. He stated that they will run fiber past the homes and will run it to the homes. They have not contracted with ISP's at this point as he has to see how the abatement goes before contracting with the ISP's. Local issues with internet will be directed to the local ISP's for fixes once the fiber is completed. President Duke stated that he had mentioned the assessing of the area – has that not been done. Mr. Layman stated at a high level yes, but they have not gotten down to the exact details. They have a contract with Duke and are working very well with REMC. They applaud the other vendors and their projects; they will get busy on areas that will not be covered. He thought they were here to discuss the abatement to move the project forward. President Duke asked how close they are to closing this out. Mr. Layman stated only the abatement is holding them back. If it is approved, they are ready to sign contracts tomorrow. Mark E. Gorbett stated that we need to refocus. Currently we are receiving \$0 from this company and will get between \$5,000 and \$10,000 a year. It is time to make the decision. Jorge R. Morales stated that this abatement with this company will have an effect on everyone in the County. Mark E. Gorbett stated that one comment was “living in the County is not an option”. The other statement was every kid that walks in a house immediately asks for the password. **Mark E. Gorbett motioned to approve the**

abatement for Meridiam for the fiber project at 20 years for 95% each year. Jorge R. Morales seconded the motion. Matt Miller asked why they do not pass the taxes onto the ISP? Mr. Layman stated that the ISP would pass the amount on to the end user. He does not feel that is necessary after working with three other communities. Matt Miller asked if they would exclude the area that Comcast just got or would they run there as well. Mr. Layman stated that if fiber is existing, he would not go to that area as he is trying to get to those that do not have access to fiber. Matt Miller asked if the 74% would include or exclude the Comcast fiber area. Mark E. Gorbett stated that the 12,000 homes for Meridiam and the 681 with Comcast – what is the 74% based on, the total number. Commissioner London stated they had situation with Charter Corp that had Federal money and was bringing fiber to the southwest corner of the county but then backed out of the project. He is not saying that Comcast will do this but they have a grant for 681 homes but have not provided it to those homes at this time. President Duke stated that MainStream is coming in from the West. Mr. Layman stated that is something that they will look at in the detail design work. They are getting into the low level design work while they are here to deal with an abatement. Matt Miller stated that there are just a lot of questions. He had asked for a meeting two months ago so that these questions could have been answered at that meeting. The meeting was opened for Public Hearing. Elizabeth ? of Charter Communications stated that they relinquished the funds back to the government due to incorrect maps provided by the US government. Mr. Hodge stated that the goal should be

100% coverage of the County, not worrying about numbers. Matt Miller stated that he asked about the numbers because of the number of exemptions. Steven Walker stated that they had all asked a lot of questions but he does not understand what risk the Council feels they are facing. He only sees benefits to the community. Jorge R. Morales stated that is what he and Mark E. Gorbett have been trying to say. President Duke disagrees as there have been people that come back for money. He thinks everybody in the room is in favor of broadband but he is not inclined to vote for it. You all live in the county as he has all his life, but there are questions that need to be answered. President Duke wanted to know if they will pull out if the abatement is not granted by October 1, 2022. Matt Miller asked if they delay the vote, would Meridiam pull out after all this work. Mr. Layman stated they would have to evaluate it. Matt Miller asked if other communities have asked for an extension? Mr. Layman stated that Bloomington was different as it was a TIF. President Duke stated that it is his statement that 15 to 30 days to mull it over is unacceptable? Mr. Layman stated they would have to evaluate it. Mark E. Gorbett stated that he received a letter today that the President has had since last Friday. Matt Miller stated that he asked Commissioner London for a meeting for a couple of months, is that correct. Commissioner London stated that was correct, they had not connected. Matt Miller stated that the letter they received that threatened law suits. Mark E. Gorbett stated that is not the question for the Council. The Council has to determine to grant or deny the abatement. He trusts the Commissioners to do their job. That is the Commissioners job, not the Council's. Jorge

R. Morales stated that they need to talk to the Commissioners for answers to the questions. Commissioner London stated he has tried to answer the questions. President Duke stated if there is a potential for law suits then we need to steer clear. Commissioner London stated that the Commissioners sign the contracts, not the Council. Someone in the audience asked how long will this take if it is denied. They have worked on this for 2 years. His kid is in the fourth grade, will he be in the eighth grade before this happens. Attorney Monroe asked what the Council wants him to do with the letter that he received today as he would like to know so that he can determine how much it will cost the Council. President Duke wants someone to review whether we are violating FCC law. Jorge R. Morales stated they have nothing to do with the contract. How much longer will they be here tonight. He asked the other members if they were ready to vote. President Duke stated that if Jorge R. Morales is done managing the Council. Someone in the audience asked for a show of hands of the audience that require internet to work. President Duke stated that is nice but not how it works. If he asked Mr. Hester, he would have another set of numbers. Matt Miller asked if Attorney Monroe had any comments regarding any risk regarding the letter. Attorney Monroe stated his legal opinion is it is not a concern. Jorge R. Morales called for the question. **The vote was called for and the roll call was 6-0 with Bill Lentz abstaining from the vote.** Auditor O'Connor reminded President Duke that they had one more item.

The next item, under Miscellaneous, was a Request for Transfer of Funds for Highway as presented by Engineer Danny Hollander (via Zoom) as follows:

- ***Fund Reductions***

○ 1176-04-02-21	\$15,015.00
○ 1176-04-04-46	\$ 5,000.00
○ 1176-04-04-47	\$ 5,000.00
○ 1176-04-01-23	\$10,000.00
○ 1176-02-01-19	\$20,000.00
○ 1176-04-03-50	\$ 8,500.00

▪ <i>Total</i>	<i>\$63,515.00</i>
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- ***Fund Increases***

○ 1176-04-03-42	\$20,015.00
○ 1176-04-02-30	\$30,500.00
○ 1176-02-03-91	\$10,000.00
○ 1176-02-02-10	\$ 1,000.00
○ 1176-04-03-20	\$ 1,000.00
○ 1176-01-03-90	\$ 1,000.00

▪ <i>Total</i>	<i>\$63,515.00</i>
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Engineer Hollander stated he has 6 budget items that will not make it to the end of the year so they need to transfer money from other funds to stay out of the red. He reviewed the

funds and amounts listed above. **Mark E. Gorbett made a motion to approve the Transfer of Funds within the Highway Department in the amount of \$63,515.00 as presented above. Jorge R. Morales seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

Auditor O'Connor would like to have the First Reading of the Budget on October 4, 2022 and the Second Reading on October 20, 2022 and use the latter meeting as their regularly scheduled meeting. The consensus of the Council was that was okay.

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: _____
Greg Duke, President

By: _____
Matt Miller, Pro-Tem

By: _____
R. Scott Bonnell, Member

By: _____
Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence, Member

By: _____
Jorge R. Morales, Member

By: _____
Bill Lentz, Member

December 12, 2022

By: _____
Mark E. Gorbett, Member

ATTEST: _____
Pia O'Connor, Auditor
Bartholomew County