

**BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**Continuation of 2016 Budget Hearings**  
**August 26, 2015**

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Representing:</b>	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Present:</b>
Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence	At Large	President	Present
Bill Lentz	At Large	Pro-Tem	Present
Jim Reed	At Large		Present
Chris Ogle	District 1		Present
Laura DeDomenic	District 2		Present
Mark E Gorbett	District 3		Present
Jorge Morales	District 4		Present
Chris Monroe	- -	Attorney	Present
Barb Hackman	Auditor	Secretary	Present

The Bartholomew County Council met on August 26, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. in the County Council Chambers of the Governmental Office Building, 440 Third Street, Columbus, Indiana.

President Pence called the meeting to order.

The first item was discussion with Brad Barnes and Anita Biehl regarding the Court Services budgets. Anita Biehl believes she can cut the office supplies to \$2,000 by reducing it by \$1,000. She does have concerns with the preliminary cuts of \$17,000 to food and \$3,000 in the machinery and equipment. Laura DeDomenic asked if they would be comfortable with a \$5,000 or \$10,000 cut in food. Anita Biehl stated that she would be more comfortable with \$5,000. It was down last year due to the population numbers being down. She will try to live with it but she would be surprised if they don't have to come back to them for more money next year. Anita also suggested cutting the household supplies to \$5,000, reducing it \$1,000. In 02-90 they could reduce it to \$500

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by reducing it by \$250. They could reduce advertising by \$100 and they could reduce the haircuts by another \$50. Advertising is for open staffing positions. Auditor Hackman suggested that they look at the food again as they had cut it by \$17,000. The consensus of the Council was to replace \$12,000 in the food line item (02-40) leaving it reduced by \$5,000. Mark Gorbett stated that next year we should cut when we suggest cuts while the department heads are present instead of mulling over them for several days of meetings. Brad Barnes noted that they are looking into a new grant. The State has \$5,000,000 that they are handing out and each of the 92 Counties can only send in one request. The next fiscal year will have \$17,000,000 to \$20,000,000. They are hopeful but he will not know until sometime in October.

Next, the Commissioners were present to discuss their budget. The Council knows they are still looking at insurance options. Chairman Kleinhenz stated they had met with Mr. Ketron and that also they will have the Cassman Report by Monday. His discussion with Mr. Ketron was interesting but with no great results. This review will help us but he doesn't believe they will find any glaring issues. They have reduced their budget to the 2015 Budget levels. When it gets to crunch time they would be more than willing to discuss other options. The projections for money returned have not been interpolated yet. The Commissioners believe they should have a good amount of the gasoline money. They would like to have the departments do that. Mark Gorbett brought up the Not-For-Profits. Commissioner Flohr stated that would be up to the Council to decide. Chairman Kleinhenz would like to funnel the Mental Retardation funds from the

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required Mental Health department. Center Stone is the only agency that meets the State requirements. Chairman Kleinhenz asked about a figure for the Health Trust Fund. The employee contributions will go to the General Fund. Bill Lentz stated that the Commissioners had stated this morning that they are looking at about 6% increase to the employees. Chairman Kleinhenz stated that was based on the amount staying at \$5,700,000. They will be utilizing within +/- \$100,000 of the \$5,700,000. We are not underwater; we are staying pretty level. They were hoping to have \$400,000 in the Trust at the end of the year. We have seen a 6% to 9% in medical costs. Chairman Kleinhenz stated that they would like to have \$2,000,000 balance in the Trust, and then they could reduce the amount by \$500,000 due to budget constraints. Bill Lentz had spoken with Cathy Dunn after the meeting last night. He has also talked with several other people and they have had their deductible amounts raised to the \$5,000 or \$6,000 amount. As your deductible increases, your healthcare declines because people will not go seek healthcare as they have not met their deductible. If they put \$5,700,000 in next year and the Commissioners make changes to the plan, they may have some built up in the Trust savings. About 80% of our employees meet their deductible each year. The current deductible is \$1,000 for an individual and \$2,500 for family. Raising it to what they will need to would be competitive in the market place but will be a major hit for the employees. Commissioner Lienhoop had talked with Mr. Eggermann that if we don't do anything drastic we will be in the same situation next year. Mark Gorbett stated that the 200's, 300's and 400's are cut to the bone leaving only the employees as the area to cut.

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Bill Lentz had several department heads talk to him about the early retirement package. Auditor Hackman stated that if you do the early retirement are they factoring unemployment? If they do layoffs then they have to pay unemployment but if they offer early retirement and someone takes it, they do not pay unemployment. They currently have two positions they have not been filled. Public Safety positions are a different animal. If a position is open, they have to fill it. They have grown IT from 1 employee to 5 but that was supposed to reduce the work flow for other offices. Judge Coriden has not increased their staff due to the IT Department. If they did not have the IT Department, they would have had to increase their staff. They no longer have to buy tapes for the recording system so they are saving money there. No matter what you do with IT they are saving the County large amounts of money. Chairman Kleinhenz stated that if we added the 3 taxes we would still be just treading water. If we increase revenue without a plan we will be no better off. Bill Lentz stated that we are the only County that works 40 hours a day. If we cut the days by 30 minutes a day, it would be a little help to the employees. If they suffer a 6% cut in their salary and then cut them by the half an hour of work time while not affecting their pay, that would be like a 6% raise based on the hours worked. This would only work on those that are not 24/7 employees. Jorge Morales stated that if you do that for half the employees then when would the work load be made up? The Council is just trying to find some reward for the employees that are going to be receiving less money. Commissioner Flohr stated that he thought they would be going line item per line item for discussion. Mark Gorbett stated that we have to

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advertise the higher number and then reduce it at a later time. Mark Gorbett stated that the LOIT Public Safety tax is not an option; they must enact it. Chairman Kleinhenz stated that pulling \$1,000,000 out of the Rainy Day Fund, no matter what the verbiage is, is taking money out of your savings account without replenishing it. President Pence asked about the 04-20. The Commissioners have to build a salt barn before they are fined by IDEM. The Highway has about \$350,000 in their funds for the building but that probably will not be enough. They are trying to do it as reasonably as they can. It will be 4 sides with doors on two ends. They have tried to build this for the past 5 years. Mark Webber (the Republic) stated that Highway Engineer Hollander had gone to the City BZA last night and got beat up. It was stated that the barn does not fit in with their State Street plan. Chris Ogle stated that he does not feel comfortable cutting as they know what can and can't be cut to run the County. Chairman Kleinhenz stated if they get close, they can sit down again and see what else they can come up. They just have to have a little bit for unknown. Mark Gorbett is concerned if there are any unexpected costs for the demolition of the Annex building. They have those covered. Mark Gorbett asked if they had gotten any feedback from any of the Not-For-Profits regarding the 10% cuts. He had only heard from DSI that thanked them for fighting for what they did get. President Pence asked about improvements in other buildings. They don't have a project it is just for pop up issues. The amount was actually lower than last year so they will keep it at the lower amount. Auditor Hackman stated that if they want to reduce any of their line items then they need to do it while the Commissioners are here. Mark Gorbett

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stated that the 04-20 and 04-30 would be a total of \$245,000. \$105,000 in the 04-20 and \$140,000 in the 04-30. If those are the figures then they won't have the room to talk at the end of this process as they will have no money to give. The total in the 400's is \$292,000. Chris Ogle stated that the \$4,800,000 is not including \$1,640,000 that we have just have not moved around. So the amount to cut is \$3,200,000 which is better than the \$3,900,000. Now we need to reduce manpower as we cannot reduce anything else. The 200's, 300's and 400's have been reduced as far as we can. He is not stating that he want to cut or fire people but the only place left to cut is the 100's which is personnel. There was discussion about the Not-For-Profits. Chris Ogle asked why they had raised Agency on Aging. He has seen the work DSI does and believes we are getting a better service than what we are required to pay Center Stone. It was discussed that maybe we need to cut the NaCO funding as they had asked the Commissioners to join it for \$1,600 so we could take advantage of the prescription cards but they do not believe we are getting the return on investment they were expecting. It is not revenue it is just a discount for the residents of the County. Mark Gorbett would suggest cutting the Not-For-Profits by another 10% over last year's number. Jim Reed asked if the Commissioners would be willing to allow Tina to fill the Veteran's Office on her available time. They know they will not being getting the positon in that office.

**- - BREAK - -**

Sheriff Myers came to discuss the cars he had requested. He was asked if they could do with any less cars. Sheriff Myers has raised the mileage that they will drive the

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cars to from 100,000 miles to 150,000 which would require 5 cars. If they were to move to 200,000 then they could do without cars. The insurance amount is not affected by the mileage. They have a plan in place if they do not get cars next year. Mark Gorbett would like to remind the Council that if they keep cutting cars then you get a year where you have to purchase a bunch of cars. If they raise it to 200,000 miles they will not need cars in 2016 or 2017. In 2018 they will need 8 cars; in 2019 they will need 7 cars and in 2020 they will need 14 cars. There is also the issue of the fact that they have lost about a car a year due to accidents or other items. Sheriff Myers stated he would not come in and cut his cars completely out. He will deal with whatever the Council does. Laura DeDomenic asked what mileage we would save by not having take-home cars. Sheriff Myers stated that if there is a disaster in the County tonight, all the Deputies are required to come in. Judge Heimann stated that there had been a study in Fort Wayne that when patrolmen were on vacation, there was an increase in crime due to the fact that those people covering their shifts were in unmarked cars and thus their presence was not being seen. Chris Ogle stated that by having a Deputy assigned a specific car, they can be held accountable for that car. Sheriff Myers stated that his Deputies take immaculate care of their cars. He will not compromise Public Safety. There was discussion regarding how many cars to give the Sheriff. Sheriff Myers stated that their line items have been the same and they cannot continue that way. They did want to make a Corrections Officer a Sergeant to reduce over-time. The only other question he had was about the medical clerk. It has been cut at this time. Sheriff Myers stated that he will have to get rid of the

work crew that does mowing for the County and several park members. Sheriff Myers stated he is not strong arming the Council. The service is going to have to be cut due to the lack of staff. Laura DeDomenic asked if this has to be a full-time or could it be done with part-time. Sheriff Myers stated that he would make it work with 2 part-time employees for a total of 40 hours per week. He feels it is more important to have the clerical done than mowing grass. We cannot compromise public safety. If we keep the budget the same then services will have to be sacrificed. The clerk figure was \$33, 155 that had been in the budget. Part-time pays \$12.56 would be about \$7,000 less and less the benefits cost. Sheriff Myers addressed the serving of civil papers. They spend about 9 minutes on average per civil paper. If he could get someone to do the civil papers full-time, then that would free up Deputies for traffic stops and such. It is roughly 10,000 papers per year. Chris Ogle wants to know what the requirement is to serve papers. The answer is that there are no requirements but it is usually a volatile position. Laura DeDomenic stated that if we cut IT then it will take longer to get your computer fixed. Sheriff Myers stated that we cannot cut public safety any more than we already have. It was decided to give two part-time employees for the clerk's position. That will require an increase in the part-time money which will increase it by \$25,000. The Medicare paperwork is one reason plus some clerical work of the nurse. As to the cars, the consensus was to give the Sheriff 3 cars in 2016. The last issue was the position of the Correction Officer to a Sergeant position at a cost of \$2,598 for the year in the Jail. Consensus was to allow the change in the position. The only other question was as to the



change in the shift differential. The consensus was that was not going to go through. It was asked if the \$30,000 had been put back in for the 03-60 for repairs. Also the meal money was questioned. That will all be determined at a later date. The \$300,000 is still in the budget for the healthcare of inmates. Sheriff Myers answered a question from yesterday as to food and the Youth Services. If they could get some more information from them they would be willing to work with them to save funds if they can. It was asked if they have the money for the \$2,598 portion during the remainder of the year. They will bring this to the next work session and the following Council meeting.

They had the issue of the one salary in Health for an increase. They are leaving it alone.

The Coroner wanted to do a contractual service to save money. It was determined that it will be savings so leave it where it is.

The Maintenance Department issue was an open position. It was determined to leave the position open at this time.

The IT Department was discussed as to the Director and the other position as well as the increase for the Director position. It was determined to wait on this until we get closer to the end. They discussed the IT Director position. It was determined to continue to leave the Maintenance position and the IT position in the budget for next year. They are allowing the hiring of the IT Director at the current pay. Monday night at the work session would be a good time to look at their hiring policy.

They started moving money from General Funds to other funds as follows:

- a) move Sheriff \$102,753 for cars & radios to CEDIT
- b) move Sheriff \$300,000 for inmate care to CEDIT
- c) move Sheriff \$546,397 for Sheriff's pension
- d) move Sheriff \$30,000 for repairs & maintenance
- e) move Commissioner Mental Health \$568,439 for Center Stone
- f) move Commissioner Redevelopment Commission \$14,000
- g) move Sheriff Extradition \$10,000

There was discussion as to the Redevelopment Commission and the Economic Development Board. They changed the \$14,000 from Redevelopment to \$15,000 from Criminal Investigations in the Sheriff's Department. This resulted in \$3,277,281. This means we will spend \$3,000,000 more than we will take in during 2016. Currently they have approved a \$19,000,000 budget but they need to get to \$16,000,000. They could pay everything right now but they would eat up all of their reserves. Mark Gorbett stated we need a new revenue stream and he wants to know where the Council stands regarding a LOIT Public Safety. Even with the tax they need to cut \$1,300,000 or they will eat up their reserves in 3 years. Laura DeDomenic thinks we need to wait for all the information regarding healthcare and early retirement. Bill Lentz stated that there are two taxes the Council could enact but both of those give money to the City whereas the tax the Commissioners can do will not give any money to the City. The LOIT

is only for residents of this County. President Pence stated that the TIF has hurt us. Chris Ogle stated that the TIF is a moot item as they can do nothing about. Jorge Morales stated we have to increase revenue or reduce personnel. He does not believe an early retirement package will work. If an office loses more than one employee then they would have to re-hire most of those positions plus the cost of training. He believes we need to wait until they have all the data. There are two pieces to the medical. There is the amount the employee pays in and then there is the amount the claims have been. Judge Heimann asked if the employees' amount is paid into the Trust and do the re-insurance claims go back to the Trust. The contract says the re-insurance money is to come back to the County but it does not; it goes directly to the Trust through Dunn and Associates. Auditor Hackman stated that Dunn and Associates should not care where the money comes from. Dunn wanted a set amount of \$5,700,000 for 2015 and that is what they are receiving. It does not matter where it comes from. Dunn pays so much a month for contracts such as for the prescriptions. The claims for employees may be only \$3,100,000 because of the other contractual amounts. Our reserve was declining for years with no additional money being put into it. To have our reserves at 33% would be \$1,600,000. Currently the balance is \$250,000. Mark Gorbett stated it is time to move forward. We have sat here long enough pointing fingers and looking back. We need revenue. Auditor Hackman wants to verify our target budget with Mr. Eggermann. There are going to be no decisions made

tonight. Do they need to advertise another meeting? Dalene Pattingale stated that in talking with other employees, they are willing to pay the additional tax. As to the retirement they would not utilize it as if they had wanted to retire they would have done it last year prior to the changes in PERF. Our average age of County employees is 48. The City deductible for employees is \$750/\$1,500 or \$1,500/\$3,000. The City budgets \$11,346 per employee. The employees pay about \$30 more a month for family. The City has 433 employees on the plan. With employees and dependents they have 1,117 on their insurance plan. Our plan at \$5,700,000 divided by 305 employees comes out to \$18,688 per employee. Chris Ogle stated that Mr. Eggermann told him that Mr. Cassman is the best in the State and if there is anything that can be found, he will find it.

The meeting was recessed.

**BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY COUNCIL**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence, President

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Bill Lentz, Pro-Tem

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chris Ogle, Member

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Laura DeDomenic, Member

By: \_\_\_\_\_

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Jorge Morales, Member

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mark E. Gorbett, Member

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Reed, Member

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Barbara J. Hackman, Auditor  
Bartholomew County