

April 12, 2017

BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY COUNCIL
March 21, 2017

Name:	Representing:	Title:	Present:
Laura DeDomenic	District 2	President	Present
Bill Lentz	At Large	Pro-Tem	Present
Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence	At Large		Present
Chris Ogle	District 1		Present
Mark Gorbett	District 3		Present
Jorge Morales	District 4		Present
Matt Miller	At Large		Present
Chris Monroe	- -	Attorney	Not - Present
Barb Hackman	Auditor	Secretary	Present

The Bartholomew County Council met on March 21, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the County Council Chambers of the Governmental Office Building, 440 Third Street, Columbus, Indiana.

President DeDomenic 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 February 14, 2017. Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence had noted a few changes and given them to Chris West before the meeting. **Mark Gorbett made a motion to approve the minutes with the noted changes. Jorge Morales seconded the motion which passed unanimously (7-0).**

The next item on the agenda was a Request for an Additional Appropriation for Highway (002) for five-hundred-ninety-one-thousand two-hundred dollars (\$591,200) as presented by County Highway Engineer Danny Hollander. Engineer Hollander explained

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that they had received a Grant last year for one-million dollars (\$1,000,000). The Legislature is currently in discussion regarding this funding process. They may institute an eighty/twenty (80/20) match and may tie it to the Wheel Tax. **Bill Lentz made a motion to approve the request as presented. Mark Gorbett seconded the motion which passed unanimously (7-0).**

The next item on the agenda was a Request for an Additional Appropriation for Local Roads and Streets (003) for four-hundred-forty-thousand dollars (\$440,000) as presented by County Highway Engineer Danny Hollander. **Jorge Morales made a motion to approve the request as presented. Matt Miller seconded the motion which passed unanimously (7-0).**

The next item on the agenda was a Request for an Additional Appropriation for Cumulative Bridge (004) for one-million ten-thousand dollars (\$1,010,000) as presented by County Highway Engineer Danny Hollander. **Jorge Morales made a motion to approve the request as presented. Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence seconded the motion which passed unanimously (7-0).**

The next item on the agenda was a Request for an Additional Appropriation for the Drug Free Community Fund (024) for thirty-eight-thousand three-hundred-twenty-two dollars (\$38,322) as presented by Larry Perkinson of Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation and Substance Abuse Council President Linn Pittman and Vice-President Andrea Vogel. Mr. Perkinson explained that they have three (3) divisions that they can spend the money on. Those divisions are Prevention, Treatment and Justice. No

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division can receive less than twenty-five percent (25%) nor more than fifty percent (50%). They have awarded twelve (12) Grants this year. He provided a list of the breakdown of the twelve award winners and their uses of the funding. Mark Gorbett stated that they have a review committee that will take the application and review it. Mr. Perkinson stated that they now require quarterly reports from the award winners. All the money is used by volunteers; there are no paid positions with this funding. The funding is from Court Fees that are paid by defendants when there are substance abuse charges. They have already appeared in front of the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute and the County Commissioners for their approval. This is the final step in the process. **Mark Gorbett made a motion to approve the request as presented. Jorge Morales seconded the motion which passed unanimously (7-0).**

The next item on the agenda was a Request for an Additional Appropriation for the Health Department (007) for sixty-thousand dollars (\$60,000) as presented by Health Department Administrator Collis Mayfield. Administrator Mayfield stated this is for their vaccination program to purchase the vaccines. They are hopeful this will last until the end of the year. **Bill Lentz made a motion to approve the request as presented. Jorge Morales seconded the motion which passed unanimously (7-0).**

The next item on the agenda was a Request for an Additional Appropriation for the Jury Pay Supplement (310) for seven-thousand five-hundred dollars (\$7,500) as presented by Superior Court 2 Judge Kitty Coriden. Judge Coriden is asking that they take seven-thousand five-hundred dollars (\$7,500) from the Jury Supplement Fund. They

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have already paid jurors and she believes they are in the red. The amount being requested is just a guess. These funds are from court costs on every case filed. Crime has not gone down, but the collection of the fees is the issue. It was asked if they are ever turned over to a collection agency. Judge Coriden stated they have not and that they are limited by law as to what they can do to collect the fees. Chris Low of White River Broadcasting asked if they get additional fees for not paying. They do not. They are limited to ten (10) years. They have hearings set for Friday for one-hundred seventy-five (175) people regarding unpaid fees. They do a lot of work to collect the money around income tax time. **Mark Gorbett made a motion to approve the request as presented. Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence seconded the motion which passed unanimously (7-0).**

The next item on the agenda was a discussion regarding insurance funding with Brad Barnes, Court Services Director. Director Barnes stated that they discussed this at the work session regarding the fact that they are in dire straits as far as money in their User Fee Funds. He needs help paying the insurance premiums. He has spoken with Auditor Hackman and Deputy Auditor Beatty regarding this. Auditor Hackman suggested paying this out of the one-million two-hundred-thousand dollars (\$1,200,000) in the Employee Trust Account. Chris Ogle does not understand how we can use money that must be there for the 2017 Budget. Mark Gorbett asked what that means for the future with these programs. Director Barnes stated that it will get them through this year and then they will need to discuss the future at the 2018 Budget sessions. They have great stability with their employees but that causes the employees to be paid more due to

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their years of service. Bill Lentz asked if they are getting less people or fewer receipts. Director Barnes stated they are on line for their yearly average. The work has not gone down on a noticeable trend line. There has been a slight dip in the last eighteen (18) months. It is like the Judge had stated earlier that they are just not able to collect everything that is owed. Jorge Morales stated that the system we have now is not working as it is based on user fees. The ones that are in trouble don't have the funding to pay the fees. Mark Gorbett stated that it does work as we have been pulling in Grants and other funding. Jorge Morales stated that he is not saying that Director Barnes or the programs are the problem, but rather the collections. He believes there needs to be a fix done by the State. He stated that forty percent (40%) to fifty percent (50%) of the County budget is funded by Grants and when the Grants go away the programs must also go away. Matt Miller asked if they had seen a drop in December of last year. Director Barnes stated that they did see a drop but the budget process was already over at that time. Matt Miller asked how much longer they can operate. Director Barnes stated that they are in the red at this point. Matt Miller asked what the plan is from here. Director Barnes stated that they are requesting the funding for the rest of 2017 and then look at where the trends are. If the Council does not approve the funding then they will do whatever they need to in order to stay within the budget. The seventy-three thousand dollars (\$73,000) does not include the open position in his department. The Commissioners have asked that the Council absorb the additional six (6) or seven (7) positions into the insurance. He is not in favor of using the fund this way. Chris Ogle

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asked if we had used any money in the Rainy Day Fund. Auditor Hackman stated we have not. There was more discussion regarding the funding issue. Director Barnes stated that the open position has a full case load. Chris Ogle asked if that open position was filled and the Council paid the insurance he is asking for, would he have any money at the end of the year. Director Barnes stated he does not believe so. His hope is that by doing this, they will have relief for 2017 and be able to build up some reserves. Chris Ogle stated that to him it is a no brainer. It comes down to whether the County can support the current staffing level of Court Services in the following years. Deputy Auditor Beatty stated that she does a journal account from Court Services and then to Dunn and Associates. Now she will just move it to Dunn and Associates without the step from Court Services. Chris Ogle explained his thinking that if Director Barnes was to have a “surplus” at the end of the year of seventy-three-thousand dollars (\$73,000) they wouldn’t actually have a surplus but rather the money that the Council had given them. Jorge Morales stated the mistake is due to the paying of the salaries and benefits from the Grants. We should have been paying the employees out of County General. Bill Lentz stated that Director Barnes does a great job but with everyone wanting more and more money, there just isn’t enough money available even if the County was to implement every tax that is available at its maximum amount. Director Barnes stated that as long as we have a shelter and beds, the State will continue to pay a good per diem for those beds. **Mark Gorbett made a motion to pay the insurance amounts of seventy-three-thousand dollars (\$73,000) from the Employee Trust Account.** Evelyn Strietelmeier

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Pence asked when the last time Director Barnes had a Six Sigma Study. Director Barnes stated it was about three (3) years ago. Matt Miller is concerned about the future. He is not in favor of this at this time. **Chris Ogle seconded the motion. The vote was four (4) to three (3) in favor of paying the 2017 insurance. The breakdown of the vote was Mark Gorbett, Laura DeDomenic, Bill Lentz and Chris Ogle in favor of and Matt Miller, Jorge Morales and Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence opposed.**

The next items on the agenda were updates by the Council members regarding Boards and Commissions as follows:

Chris Ogle:

County Extension Bd – nothing to report

Solid Waste Management District Bd – 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

Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence:

County Parks & Recreation Bd – Driftwood Builders won the bid for the restrooms at Dunn Stadium. They have also installed AED's at Dunn Stadium.

Job Review/Classification Committee – nothing to report

Youth Services Center Advisory Committee – nothing to report

JDAI – nothing to report

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Affordable Housing Meeting – they want tax money. Laura DeDomenic mentioned that they are currently suing the County and several officials.

Laura DeDomenic:

Liaison to Health Bd – nothing to report

Bartholomew County Redevelopment Commission – nothing to report

Columbus Economic Development Bd – nothing to report

Consultants – She, Mark Gorbett and Bill Lentz along with Barb Hackman had met with Umbaugh and Associates today regarding the work they will provide as financial consultant to the Council. They will work on a financial plan by looking back three (3) years and give a baseline report with recommendations including the capital needs portion. They will meet with two (2) to three (3) Council members at a time on one given day so they can answer any questions they have. Jorge Morales asked why they had not met with two (2) or three (3) vendors to select from as they had discussed. Auditor Hackman stated that the Council had given their approval at the last work session to use Umbaugh as we already have a good working relationship with them.

Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence asked if the cost of insurance that the employees pay had gone up this year. Auditor Hackman stated it had not.

Jorge Morales:

County Plan Commission – nothing to report

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Liaison to Sheriff's Merit Bd – nothing to report

Cols Economic Development Bd – nothing to report

Bartholomew County Redevelopment Commission – nothing to report

Mark Gorbett:

Emergency Management Bd – nothing to report

Emergency Dispatch Services – nothing to report

Community Corrections Bd – nothing to report

Data Board – nothing to report

Matt Miller:

Personnel Administrative Committee – nothing to report

Job Review/Classification Committee – nothing to report

Mark Gorbett asked if they would be discussing the additional requests from the Judges at the next work session. Auditor Hackman stated yes. They will also need to appoint a Board Member for the Library. Bill Lentz asked if the Public Defender Committee was still coming to the April Work Session. Not to the Auditor's knowledge.

Hearing no other business, Jorge Morales made a motion to adjourn. Chris Ogle seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY COUNCIL

By: _____
Laura DeDomenic, President

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By: _____
Bill Lentz, Pro-Tem

By: _____
Chris Ogle, Member

By: _____
Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence, Member

By: _____
Jorge Morales, Member

By: _____
Mark Gorbett, Member

By: _____
Matt Miller, Member

ATTEST: _____
Barbara J. Hackman, Auditor
Bartholomew County