

**BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY COUNCIL
BUDGET HEARINGS
August 16, 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 reconvened their 2018 Budget Hearings on August 16, 2017 at 12:00 p.m. in the County Council Chambers of the Governmental Office Building, 440 Third Street, Columbus, Indiana.

President Laura DeDomenic called the meeting to order.

The first hearing on the agenda for today was the Emergency Management as presented by Director Shannan Hinton. Director Hinton stated that she had asked for an increase in the salaries above three-percent (3%) as well as a part-time position to be shared by the EMA and the EOC. She is asking that the Director and Deputy Director salaries be brought up to an amount comparable to other Counties of this size. The committee had approved the positions and increases. She would prioritize the salary increases over the part-time position. She did increase the amount for EverBridge in the 300's. The thirteen-thousand eight-hundred dollars (\$13,800) includes the County's EverBridge portion as well as cell phones and hot spots. Mark Gorbett asked about the

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increase in the insurance line item. Director Hinton stated that she budgets for both employees as family, though currently her Deputy has insurance outside of the County. She has increased the amount for the Hawcreek Stream Gauges. She has increased Other Services and Charges to one-thousand four-hundred dollars (\$1,400) as this is their conferences and they are running tight this year.

The next budget to be discussed was the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) as presented by Director Hinton. There were no changes and no questions were asked.

There was discussion regarding revenues and bonding. They want to learn more about the Indiana Bond Bank.

The next budget to be discussed was the Veteran's Service Office as presented by Director Tom Crawford. Director Crawford is requesting five-thousand dollars (\$5,000) for a wall for his receptionist. He has asked since 2013 for this wall. He put the money in his budget so that he could see the wall built in 2018. His is the only office on the 2nd floor not to be painted this year and it is not scheduled to be painted. He is tired of his Veterans being disrespected. State Board of Accounts are next to his office and he was told that he was getting that office as they were being moved to an office in the basement but he has yet to see this happen. The other item is thirty-five-thousand dollars (\$35,000) for a van to transport veterans to appointments. He currently has a DAV van that he is not allowed to drive. Based on the rules by the DAV, he is not authorized to drive the van because he uses a CPAP machine at night. The DAV van has over one-hundred-

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thousand (100,000) miles on it and is subject to recall by the DAV at any time. It is also a small vehicle which makes it difficult for the veterans to get in and out of. Jorge Morales knows that Director Crawford made us aware of the van and wall at least two (2) years ago. He feels the treatment of veterans in this country is horrible. Director Crawford stated that he asks for things that his veterans need, not things for himself. He is asking for a regular van that seats nine (9) passengers. A veteran in the audience has missed eight (8) appointments in the last two (2) months due to the lack of approved drivers. The veterans bring in over twenty-eight-million dollars (\$28,000,000) to the County. Chris West, Chief Real Estate and Tax Billing Administrator in the Auditor's Office had quickly configured a Ford van through the internet and it was around thirty-seven-thousand dollars (\$37,000). It was suggested to take the money from the wall and put it into the van money. Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence stated that the City is getting ready to order a new Call-a-Bus and wonders if we could get a better deal by purchasing with the City. It was stated that the City's Call-a-Bus is not something that would work for the Veteran's as it is of a smaller size.

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The next budget to be discussed was the Assessor's as presented by Assessor Lew Wilson. There were only two minor changes. They increased a little for their insurance deductible on their vehicles. In communication and transportation they increased it because they have already used most of the 2017 amount. Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence asked if all the positions were filled. Assessor Wilson stated that he has one position

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open that he is just looking for the right person. He stated it has been open for over a year. He also has a couple of retirements that are coming up and hopes to reduce staff at that time. He hopes to leave one position open; however he may never fill it.

The next budget to be discussed was the Reassessment as presented by Assessor Lew Wilson. He wants to raise the amount paid for Level 3 Certifications. He is asking to raise them by one-thousand five-hundred dollars (\$1,500) per person with a Level 3. He hopes this will help keep these employees. The 03-10 line item is reduced as he does not need one of the computer programs with Pictometry. Jorge Morales asked about a software that he purchased six (6) or seven (7) years ago. Is that program still doing what he needs it to do? There was confusion as to which program but it was determined that it was IncomeWorks. He used it for three (3) years and then got rid of it. Assessor Wilson discussed the open position again stating that if he finds the right person, he wants to hire them. Bill Lentz asked whether the Assessed Value had increased. Evelyn Strietelmeier Pence asked about the properties the hospital is buying up and whether they were paying taxes on them. It was stated that they had discussed this yesterday and the person to ask was not the Assessor.

While waiting on the next department on the agenda, it was decided to have a discussion regarding the Sheriff's budget. Mark Gorbett has a problem with the amount requested for the Matron. They do not feel that the Matron should make more money than the Chief Deputy of the Auditor's Office. It was suggested to make the amount the same as the Auditor's Chief Deputy. Mark Gorbett stated the jail side needs the

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employees so he suggests giving only one (1) of the three (3) road deputies requested which will also back down the number of the cars and equipment needed. The overtime amount was discussed. They have three (3) deputies that are hired and will be coming on-line that should help with the overtime situation. The supplies line included the cost for three (3) new deputy's uniforms so that amount can be reduced as they are only allowing one (1). The cost of each car is thirty-five-thousand dollars (\$35,000). They need to reduce the number of cars to nine (9) from the eleven (11) requested. The line item 04-42 needs to be reduced by two-thirds (2/3) as it was equipment for the three (3) new deputies'. There was discussion regarding the cameras. The Sheriff had stated that he needed people over cameras. The cuts made as of this time leaves the Sheriff's budget at three-million seven-hundred-seventy-six-thousand seven-hundred-nine dollars (\$3,776,709).

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The next budget discussed to be discussed was the Information Technology (IT) budget as presented by IT Director Scott Mayes. Director Mayes explained his philosophy as to where we are and where we need to be. That is what has driven his 2018 budget. He wants to implement a life cycle program. This will keep us from having all the hardware expiring at the same time. The staff is currently at four (4) people. He believes that once they have the issues fixed, the number of staff should be sufficient. The salary ranges are lower than the private sector but his staff has stated they are good with the amounts at this time. Mark Gorbett asked if the 300's and 400's

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increase of over four-hundred-thousand dollar (\$400,000) increase for next year will continue to be a yearly increase. Director Mayes stated he doesn't believe so and will get to that in a little bit. Jorge Morales would like to see a "progressive" salary range for the positions going forward. Bill Lentz stated that Director Mayes needs to have items noted so that if the Council has to make cuts, he is aware of items he can actually do without. The critical actions he has identified for 2018. Some of these items are truing up software licenses, planned replacements and department requests. The backup software needs to increase as we have more information to backup that is currently not being done. Microsoft True Up has not been done for several years and it needs to be taken care of. He believes there are a lot of retired computers that are still in the inventory and shouldn't be. He has talked with Microsoft and they are giving him a year to get our counts correct. He is proposing a little more of a Best Practices Model. Jorge Morales asked if his budget contains any money for E911. There are four (4) work stations they have placed in department requests. It is believed these work stations may be able to be paid for by the joint agreement. Jorge Morales asked about the three-thousand eight-hundred dollars (\$3,800) for Co-op Extension. That is for the equipment they use from Purdue. Director Mayes noted that the Data Cave amount has been doubled as they are already out of space out there and it could easily cause issues. He is looking at other options. He noted that there is also some severe security issues that he needs to deal with this quickly. He has already started implementing rules and regulations to fix this, but there will be some costs. Vendors that had been given access to our system were granted

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full access. They have stripped away all of the vendor's access as a start but have more items to accomplish. City Police Department and City Utilities are oddly enough included in our problems as we have an exposure from them. Maintenance contracts are what are needed to maintain our existing level. The Sharp contract for last year and this year was taken out of the salary line item. The Department requests have increased a bit. He will provide a copy of the requests to the Council. Chris Ogle stated that Solid Waste does not need the IT Department to pay for their computers as they have enough money to cover them. This list was a wish list but he has reduced it to what he believes is needed. Director Mayes gave a power point presentation regarding the current state of our network as well as his current planning. The presentation was regarding possible issues if equipment was to go down and who would be affected as well as his ideas to fix these potential problems. *(Multiple conversations were occurring making it impossible to determine what was being said)* They want to see if the Assessor and/or Surveyor can take their computer equipment out of one of their other funds, such as Reassessment. Chris West, Real Estate & Tax Billing Administrator for the Auditor's Office, stated that the County systems had been down for over three and a half (3.5) hours. He stated that we had been told that we had redundancy in our systems but yet we had been down for hours. The redundancy was supposed to switch over within thirty (30) seconds but it obviously didn't working.

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The next budgets to be discussed were the Highway budgets as presented by Highway Engineer Danny Hollander. These funds are not County General Funds. Engineer Hollander stated that they will be receiving more road money due to the increase that was passed by the State Legislature. He is expecting one-million two-hundred-thousand dollars (\$1,200,000) more for 2018. He is asking for a new dump truck and a new sign truck as well as two (2) pickup trucks. The additional money is listed in the infrastructure line. He is asking to differentiate the pay for equipment operators as opposed to the truck drivers. He wants to increase the equipment operators by one dollar (\$1.00) over the truck drivers. This would be a change to the salary ordinance. He also wants to create a Chief Mechanic position. President DeDomenic asked what portion of County Road 400 North was the County's. The County portion is from River Road to the "dip" and from there to US 31 is the City's. Cumulative Bridge was discussed next. It is less than it was last year.

The next budgets to be discussed were the Health Department Budgets as presented by Administrator Colis Mayfield, Environmental Health Director Link Fulp and Nursing Director Amanda Organist. Administrator Mayfield stated that their operating budget is actually has an overall decrease from last year but that does not include salaries or benefits. Director Organist has asked the Personnel Committee to increase the Public Health Administrative Assistant/Public Access Assistant to make it the same as the other five (5) positions. They are also asking for more money upfront for the vaccines rather than coming back every year for more money. These are funds that

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bring in money. So far this year, this fund has brought in over seventy-thousand dollars (\$70,000). There is also an increase for the billing company. Bill Lentz asked how they figure the health insurance costs; is it actual or family estimated. They calculate based on actual amounts. Environmental Director Fulp explained the increases within his department's line items. Auditor Hackman stated that they did reflect the changes for the Health Department employees. Nursing Director Organist explained the Pregnancy Program. They provide education and pre-natal vitamins for any County resident. Mark Gorbett asked about Scott County's needle exchange program. Administrator Mayfield explained that they had taken a trip down there to review it. Most of the exchange programs have started to go away. Matt Miller had some suggestions for improvements. When they do septic provisional inspections, no one is calling like they used to. Also, there is no coordination for the pool testing. The Health Officer is available whenever they need him.

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The next budget to be discussed was the Visitors Information and Promotion as presented by Nick Sprague. There was an explanation given regarding a difference in what was requested for 2017 and what was actually appropriated. It was asked if the closing of the Clarion Hotel would reduce the income. Mr. Sprague stated that they were up for the year prior to the closing and they project with the new Fairfield opening. Any money received above the amount they budget goes into their account. They currently have a balance in that account. In 2015 and 2016 they received over one-million four-

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hundred thousand dollars (*\$1,400,000*) each year. They used to issue grants but have changed to contracts that allow organizations to manage a certain amount of money. That amount can change based on whether they are on track for the budgeted amount or less than was budgeted. They want to spend some money in branding Exit 76 as they have found that it is the most used entrance into the community by visitors. There was more discussion regarding the loss of the Clarion and the convention area. The Visitors Center has nineteen (*19*) employees that include bus drivers.

The next budget to be discussed was the Solid Waste as presented by Director Heather Siesel. The information is not in the packets. Chris Ogle told them that they were putting the computers back in their budget from the IT budget. Director Siesel stated that overall the 2018 budget is lower primarily due to no new cell construction and no new major equipment needed. They will not need a new cell until 2022. Their budget has been through their board and she is presenting it to the Council for their approval. Jorge Morales asked when the next new cell would need to be built. Director Siesel reiterated that it would be in 2022. In the supplies, they looked at a three (*3*) to five (*5*) year average and were able to lower the 2018 amounts. They have also lowered the 300's. They were also able to lower their capital expenses again due to no new cell construction or new equipment. She will note that the laptop to add it to their budget. The discussion switched to items in the Sheriff's budget. Mark Gorbett backed out about six-thousand dollars (*\$6,000*) from his shift differential. In the 03-60's he did not understand the one-thousand eight-hundred dollars (*\$1,800*) increase so he would suggest

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taking it back to last year's amount. There was discussion regarding the Sheriff's Pension plan. Mark Gorbett stated that we need to check on the longevity. They told the Sheriff to cap the longevity at twenty-five (25) years for anyone under the cap and to grandfather those that were above it so that they would continue to receive their amounts.

Mark Gorbett moved to the Jail budget. There is no question in his mind about adding the two (2) medical and five (5) rovers. He would suggest lowering the additional part-time to only four (4) instead of the requested ten (10). He would suggest leaving the over-time as requested. In the 01-28 he suggested moving it down to forty-five-thousand dollars (\$45,000). Bill Lentz questioned tripling the nursing staff with a twenty-percent (20%) increase in jail population. Mark Gorbett stated that they were behind prior to this year so he does understand the request for increase. Medical has to be a priority. The nurses' salaries would be forty-six-thousand nine-hundred-fifty-eight dollars and seventy-three cents (\$46,958.73) with a three-percent (3%) increase. He would set 02-40 to thirty-thousand dollars (\$30,000). They need to leave 02-41 in there for the tazers. Mark Gorbett asked if they could use the firearm's fund to purchase the tazers. There is currently thirty-three-thousand dollars (\$33,000). The 03-10 line item of Inmate Medical he took sixty-thousand dollars (\$60,000) out as he did not have a new contract. He has spent more than the three-hundred-thousand dollars (\$300,000) over the past two (2) years. This is with Advanced Medical Care. It was asked if they could use contract nurses in the jail. The Sheriff is working with CRH but their nurses get seventy-thousand dollars (\$70,000). Mark Gorbett stated that 03-90 needs to be cut by forty-thousand nine-

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hundred-fifteen dollars (\$40,915) out of it. He reduced 04-40 to two-thousand dollars (\$2,000) from four-thousand dollars (\$4,000). Also the work crew had been increased by twelve-thousand dollars (\$12,000). It was stated to cut it to two-thousand dollars (\$2,000). *(There were several conversations going on at the same time)* It was asked what the Commissary Fund could be used for. Mark Gorbett stated that the Council cannot reduce the Sheriff's budget by using funds from the Commissary Fund. Mark Gorbett stated that he had paid for things such as elevator maintenance and other maintenance items. It was stated that we need a more defined itemization of what is being spent out of the fund. The 02-31 and the 03-51 shows both as Jail Repair and Maintenance but that may be separated between supplies and services. *(Again, multiple conversations were taking place)*

They discussed meeting changes. The consultant will not be here on Friday. It was suggested that they meet Monday from 2:00 to 6:00 and then Wednesday 1:00 to 5:00 if it is needed.

The meeting was recessed at 5:52 p.m. until 12:00 p.m. Friday, August 18, 2017.

BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY COUNCIL

By: _____
Laura DeDomenic, President

By: _____
Bill Lentz, Pro-Tem

By: _____

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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