

BLACKFORD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S

MEETING April 15, 2024

The Blackford County Commissioners met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. on April 15, 2024, in the Commissioner/Council room on the first floor of the Blackford County Courthouse, Hartford City IN. The meeting was available on Zoom as well.

President John Lancaster called the meeting to order, and Auditor Sharon Hartley called roll with Commissioners John Lancaster, Laura Coons, and Dan Borgenheimer present. Also, present were Tyler Hunt, Bill Smith, Derek Hagan, Jim Weiseman, Anne Owen, Meagan Westfall, Kevin Love, Deb Worster, John Pluimer, Dan Eckstein, Warren Brown, Taylor Lefever, Angela Smith, Troy Kaufman, Dennis Layman, Kim Pitts, and Jim Heflin. Attending on Zoom was Lisa Simmons, Shelby Maddox, Amy Latham, Sam Swenson, Sheila Hyer, Dana Turner, Linda Batten, Diann Wellman, and Mary Beal.

Minutes of the April 1, 2024, Regular Meeting were approved as presented on a **motion by Laura Coons and 2nd by Dan Borgenheimer. The vote was 3/0.**

Kevin Love and Deb Worster from the Blackford County Soil and Water District requested funding be restored to the district. They had received funding from the county in previous years but not recently. **The Commissioners took the request under advisement.**

Warren Brown BCEDC Director (1) presented a quote from ADM for new signs at the Hartford City Industrial Park entrances. The \$13,345 cost will be split four ways with Hartford City, BIDC, BCEDC and the county (\$3,336 each) if approved. **Dan Borgenheimer moved to approve the sign purchase and Laura Coons 2nd. The vote was 3/0. (2)** A quote from MXP to run fiber to the tower just east of SR 3 near the Elks was received. The \$34,900 cost will be paid from the READI grant with no cost to the county. **Dan Borgenheimer moved to approve the quote and Laura Coons 2nd. The vote was 3/0.**

Angela Smith of Smith Insurance Services reviewed the cost to the county of dependent health insurance coverage. The estimate as given at the last meeting was \$184,851 per year. **The commissioners took the topic under advisement.**

Annex roof quotes – Dan Borgenheimer has reviewed the five quotes received for work on the Annex Roof. The quotes are all very different in terms of work to be done. **Borgenheimer, Meagan Westfall and Fred Tobey will work on better specifications for the work needed.**

Highway Superintendent John Pluimer – (1) the county has been awarded \$226,885.12 in the latest round of CCMG grants. The 25% match from Highway fund is \$75,619.38. The funds will be used to repair Cummins Road near Montpelier. (2) A small structure on Old SR 22 near the railroad is being looked at by Butler, Fairman and Seufert to try to slow the water down and prevent flooding. The study costs \$19,200. **Laura Coons moved to approve the study and Dan Borgenheimer 2nd. The vote was 3/0. (3)** A traffic study on CR 200 E to determine how many semi-trucks use the road was reviewed. (4) the latest round of small structure inventory revealed two high priority structures, one of which will be repaired this year, and one to be repaired next year. The total inventory will be completed next year. (4) The Container Collection site was open April 13th and collected \$335. A lot of recyclables were collected.

Clerk Kim Pitts reported that absentee voting has started and is going smoothly. The eclipse had no effects on the process.

P&Z Director Anne Owen – (1) the owner of a camper illegally parked will be taken to court next month. The second issue was settled out of court. (2) The APC denied the request for four TIF Districts for wind and solar at their last meeting. (3) the P&Z extra help position has enough funds to work through July. The wind and solar projects should start to come in for permits this summer.

EMA Director Bill Smith reported there will be an educational training meeting on Tuesday, May 21st. This is a county wide meeting to be held at the Hartford City, City Building from 9 am – Noon.

Sheriff Jim Heflin - gave the inmate count as 66.

Derek Hagan, Courthouse renovation project manager gave an update on the work on the courthouse. The roof work is moving along as the weather permits. The masonry is complete on the interior of the 4th floor. Work on the outside will continue as weather permits. Shorts Glass will install one window on the NW first floor of the courthouse. This will show what the other windows will look like.

Regular Claims were approved in the amount of \$415,190.44 on a **motion by Laura Coons and 2nd by Dan Borgenheimer. The vote was 3/0.**

Miscellaneous claims were approved in the amount of \$586,019.36 on a motion by Laura Coons and 2nd by Dan Borgenheimer. The vote was 3/0.


Payroll Claims were approved in the amount of \$85,265.58 on a motion by Laura Coons and 2nd by Dan Borgenheimer. The vote was 3/0.

PPE 3/29/2024 Regular Payroll approved in the amount of \$152,843.58 on a motion by Laura Coons and 2nd by Dan Borgenheimer. The vote was 3/0.

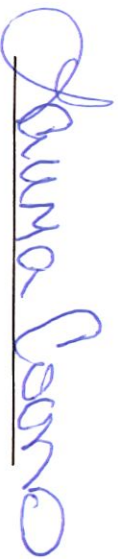
There being no further public comment, Laura Coons made a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:16 a.m.

Approved this 6th day of May, 2024.

The Blackford County Board of Commissioners



John Lancaster, President



Laura Coons, Member



Dan Borgenheimer, Vice President

Attest: 

Auditor Sharon Hartley