

## BLACKFORD COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES OF

### April 3, 2024 Regular Meeting

The Blackford County Council met at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioner/Council Room of the Blackford County Courthouse located at 110 W Washington Street, Hartford City, Indiana for the Regular meeting on Wednesday, April 3, 2024. The meeting was also available on Zoom.

**President Jack Beckley called the Regular Meeting to order and called roll. The members answering roll were Kyle Lechien, Ryan Goodspeed, Jack Beckley, Fred Tobey, Karen Mealy, and Jim Weiseman. Also present in person, Laura Coons, Jim Heflin, Dan Borgenheimer, Tyler Hunt, Paul Schriver, Dennis Layman, Jon Creek, Pat Redmond, Meagan Westfall, Casey Dick, Jeff Sones, Judge Brian Bade, Fred Walker, Larry Garrett, Eric Garrett, Dean Garrett, Chris Green, and John Pluimer. Attending on Zoom: Sue Kochanek, Jason Semler and Mary Beal.**

**The minutes of the March 6, 2024, Regular Council meeting were approved as Presented on a motion by Kyle Lechien and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Fred Tobey . The vote was 6/0. Mealy absent 3/6.**

**Jason Semler from Baker Tilly was Zoom to discuss a Comprehensive Financial Plan for the county. The plan was introduced at the March 6 meeting. Council wanted to know it the Plan would be available before the budget sessions this year. Semler assured the board it would be available. Ryan Goodspeed moved to have Baker Tilly prepare a plan for 2024 with a second-year plan to be decided later. Jim Weisemen 2<sup>nd</sup> and the vote was 6/0.**

#### Committee Reports

**Community Corrections** – Kyle Lechien – none

**Solid Waste District** – Karen Mealy - no report

**Economic Development** – Ryan Goodspeed – The READI grant will be awarded this month.

**Blackford Development** – Patrick Cale – Dan Borgenheimer reported 20+ properties will be listed for sale soon. Insurance on all properties owned by BDC has been updated.

**LEPC** – Ryan Goodspeed – no report.

**Auditor Sharon Hartley** – reviewed appropriations that can be moved from the Sheriff's department and Jail in County General to LIT PS and PSAP funds. Approximately \$414,500 can be moved. A resolution to reduce County General and Additional Appropriation for LIT PS and PSAP will be presented at a future meeting. Hartley then reviewed the ARP fund. All funds must be assigned to a project before the end on 2024 and spent by the end of 2025.

**Facilities Manager Meagan Westfall** – reported that five quotes were received for work on the Annex roof. All quotes are very different from the others. Westfall, Dan Borgenheimer and Fred Tobey will review the quotes and report back to the commissioners and council. The commissioners approved GMD Construction to investigate the bulge on the north side of the Annex. Later in the meeting Westfall reviewed the work done by the Assistant Custodian and requested the Council consider a raise for the position.

**Highway Superintendent John Pluimer** – (1) Phase 3 of the Small Structures in the county has been completed. The report shows the structures are mostly in good condition. (2) Pluimer reminded everyone that the former Transfer Station will be open on Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> and the second Saturday of every month until November which will be open the third Saturday.

**Surveyor Paul Schriver** reported the proposed pond at the Hartford City Industrial Park can only use SWIFT grant funds for actual construction. The project may need and additional \$300,000 for other expenses.

**Sheriff Jim Heflin** reported the Sheriff's Pension Trust has been moved from Citizens Heflin presented documents for the Council President to sign to complete the transaction.

**Judge Brian Bade (1)** the Public Defender Board approved hiring a Public Defender for the county. The Judge will bring more information to the May meeting. (2) The Security Committee proposes providing security officers at after hours meetings. The wages to be paid at the overtime rate could be paid form remaining security system funds. The estimate is \$2,000 for the remainder of the year.

Financial Reports for COUNTY GENERAL

Ending Cash Balance as of March 31, 2024	\$ 982,501.88
Total Expenditures for March 2024	\$ 451,110.80
Total Revenue for March 2024	\$ 190,348.26

**Additional Appropriations:**

1000-380 Jail - \$25,000 - Vehicle  
1000-380 Jail - \$15,000 - Miscellaneous  
**Approved on a motion by Karen Mealy, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kyle Lechien and 6/0 vote.**

1152 – LEPC - \$8,150 – Training & Education Continued until May 8 meeting.

1168-613 Local Health Maintenance - \$4,000 – PERF  
1168-613 Local Health Maintenance - \$300 - Longevity  
**Approved on a motion by Jim Weiseman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kyle Lechien and 6/0 vote**

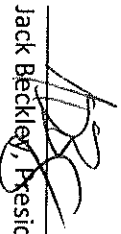
8950 – ARP – \$130,000 – Tower Expense  
8950 – ARP - \$56,000 – Broadband Project  
8950 – ARP - \$90,000 – Rehab Bridge #18 450 S  
**Approved on a motion by Karen Mealy, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Fred Tobey and 6/0 vote.**

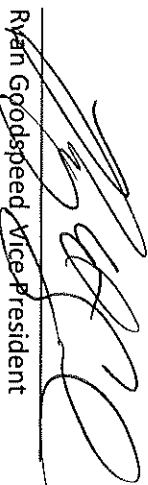
**Transfers:**


1161 Local Health Services \$253.86 from Building to PERF  
**Approved on a motion by Jim Weiseman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Karen Mealy and 6/0 vote.**

There being no further comment President Beckley adjourned the meeting at 7:09 p.m. on a motion by Kyle Lechien, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ryan Goodspeed and 6/0 vote.

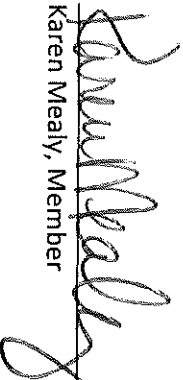
Approved this 8<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2024.

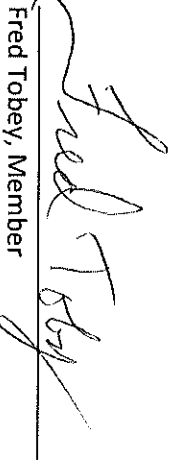
  
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Jack Beckley, President

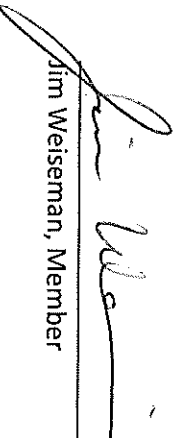
  
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Ryan Goodspeed, Vice President

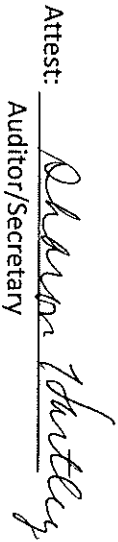
  
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Kyle Lechien, Member

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Patrick Cale, Member

  
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Karen Mealy, Member

  
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Fred Tobey, Member

  
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Jim Weiseman, Member

Attest:   
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Auditor/Secretary