

BLACKFORD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S

MEETING April 6, 2020

The Blackford County Commissioners met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. on April 6, 2020 in the hallway of the first floor of the Blackford County Courthouse, Hartford City IN.

President John Lancaster called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance and Auditor Sharon Hartley called roll with Commissioners Nick Rhodes, John Oxley and John Lancaster present. Others in attendance in person were Anne Owen, Bruce Edgington, Dana Turner, Laura Coons, Brian Bade, Bert Witkamp and Tim Stanley. Attorney Jim Forcum was also in attendance.

Attending remotely Jack Beckley, Cheri Brown, Warren Brown, Mary Beal, Tyler Hunt, Bill Smith, Sue Kochanek, Kathy Goodspeed, Christy Clark, Jeff Sones, Kevin Basey, Heidi Still, Steven Holman.

\*this meeting is held on Zoom with access available to the public to promote social distancing during the shutdown due to COVID-19.

The minutes of the March 16, 2020 meeting were approved as presented by a 2/0 vote after a motion by Nick Rhodes and a 2nd by John Oxley. John Lancaster was absent March 16.

The minutes of March 16, 2020 Emergency Meeting (COVID-19) were approved as presented by a 3/0 vote on a motion by John Oxley and 2nd by Nick Rhodes.

The minutes of March 23, 2020 Emergency Meeting (COVID-19) were approved as presented after a motion by John Oxley and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nick Rhodes. The vote was 3/0.

Shella Hyer and Collin Green from the Jackson Township Regional Sewer District filed Conflict of Interest forms as required by the SBOA and Commissioners need to sign. John Oxley moved to sign and Nick Rhodes 2<sup>nd</sup>. The vote was 3/0.

The Health Department requested a credit card for their office. With COVID-19, their need to order supplies quickly has gone up. Nick Rhodes moved to approve the credit card for the Health Department and John Oxley 2<sup>nd</sup>. The vote was 3/0.

Resolution (2020-R3) approving the Auditor as the authorized agent for credit card changes was approved on a motion by Nick Rhodes and 2<sup>nd</sup> by John Oxley. The vote was 3/0.

May 5<sup>th</sup> was approved as Election Day holiday for county employees. The Election has been moved to June 2. The question was asked which day will employees have as the holiday. The question was taken under advisement until the next meeting.

Highway Supervisor Bruce Edgington 1. The Transfer Station is set to open April 18 due to the Easter holiday and he would like to remain closed due to COVID-19 and open on May 9. Commissioners agreed. 2. The state is set to start repairs on Bridge 22 by 3M on April 13. The detour will be county road 075, 100 S (9th Street) and SR 3. Signs will mark the detour. 3. Community Crossing money will be open for applications in July. Bruce would like to repair 075, Willmann Road to 100 S (9th Street) and 300 S to Gadbury by Shamrock Lakes if they receive the grant. John Oxley moved to apply for the grant and Nick Rhodes 2<sup>nd</sup>. The vote was 3/0. 4. Met with state on 200 E SR 26 culvert replacement. State wants 200 E closed for the winter. 5. He needs a shed big enough to store 80% of the salt he purchases. The county needs to get at least three quotes to move forward. John Oxley made a motion to move forward by requesting quotes for a salt shed.

Treasurer Dana Turner stated the tax statements went out last week. The interest rate from the bank has gone down. Last month the interest was approximately \$25,000, now is around \$7,000. She also asked about a drop box for taxpayers to deposit tax payments. John Oxley said Pat McAtee will install it Wednesday morning.

Judge Brian Bade informed the board that his office is working from home. They cannot handle emergency procedures.

Custodian Tim Stanley – elevator repair estimates are being sought now.

Sheriff Jeff Sones gave the inmate count as 26 males and 6 females for a total of 32.

Assessor Kathy Goodspeed - stated the Form 11's giving taxpayers the new assessed value for taxes that will be billed next year will be mailed April 20 and appeals must be mailed in with a postmark of June 15

or before. Personal Property returns are due and may be dropped in the drop box on the north side of the courthouse or mailed to the office.

Tyler Hunt and Kevin Basey reported things are going well in their offices. Employees are working from the office and from home.

BCEDC Director Warren Brown informed that the Gillman project is moving forward. BCEDC can help with Zoom meetings if needed.

Purdue Extension Cheri Brown has a lot of remote meetings available to anyone interested. Check out the website for more information.

EMA Director Bill Smith stated the request for public assistance forms are due in April 19. The food banks are getting low on food. Donations are requested and appreciated.

Cyberian Technologies Steven Holman presented a quote for new servers at the Jail. Both servers are out of maintenance. When completed, everything will be under warranty for 5-6 years and there will be room for expansion. Nick Rhodes moved to approve the purchase of the new servers and John Oxley 2<sup>nd</sup>. The vote was 3/0.

There is a laptop available if an office needs it to work from home.

The Hotel Study and Housing Study have been reviewed by the Commissioners and approved by the other units. John Oxley moved to approve both studies and Nick Rhodes 2<sup>nd</sup>. The cost is \$7,000 and \$6,922. The vote was 3/0.

The PDO plan which was frozen on March 23 was discussed. After it was brought to the attention of the board that those employees that are still working should still accrue PDO time. Those off for COVID-19 would not accrue time for those hours not worked. John Oxley moved to reverse the original decision and retroactively make PDO time accrue on hours worked. Nick Rhodes 2<sup>nd</sup> and the vote was 3/0.

The shutdown due to COVID-19 was originally set to end on April 8 and has been extended by the Governor until April 17. Department heads and elected officials will determine which employees are essential to come to work. Nick Rhodes moved to continue the shutdown until April 17 and employees will be paid. John Oxley 2<sup>nd</sup> and the vote was 3/0.

CORE Facilities provided a quote on a checklist for Courthouse, Jail and Annex. This is a checklist of monthly maintenance duties that will be available to anyone needing to complete the maintenance. Jeff Sones stated it is a real good idea and he is in favor. John Lancaster wants to take this under advisement so they can review the proposal.

Accounts Payable Claims: Claims were approved in the amount of \$110,840.09 on a motion by John Oxley and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nick Rhodes. The vote was 3/0.

Payroll Claims:

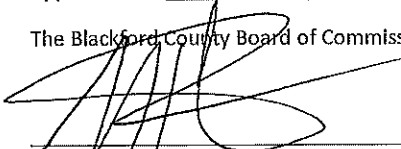
PPE 3/20/2020 Claims for \$121,071.72 were approved on a motion by Nick Rhodes and 2<sup>nd</sup> by John Oxley. The vote was 3/0.


Public Comment:

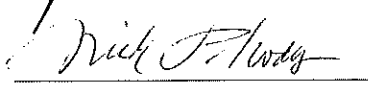
There being no further public comment, Nick Rhodes made a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

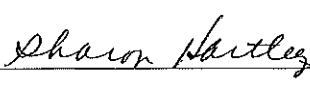
Approved this 20<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2020.

The Blackford County Board of Commissioners

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John Lancaster, President

  
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John Oxley, Vice President

  
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Nick Rhodes, Member

Attest:   
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Auditor Sharon Hartley