

BLACKFORD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S

MEETING August 17, 2020

The Blackford County Commissioners met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. on August 17, 2020 in the Commissioner's office 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 with the Pledge of Allegiance and Auditor Sharon Hartley called roll with Commissioners John Oxley, John Lancaster and Nick Rhodes present **Others in attendance in person** were Bruce Edgington, Anne Owen, Esteban Briz, Jeff Sones, Jon Oswalt, Tyler Hunt, Mike Winegardner, Bill Smith, Wayne Bailey, Sam Swenson, Paul Schriver, Tim Stanley, Jim Forcum and Jon Creek. **Attending on Zoom** were Mary Beal, Cheri Brown, Warren Brown, Kathy Goodspeed, Rhonda Williams, Dana Turner, Joe Edwards (SRI), Kendra Crull, Autumn Roach, Sue Kochanek and Dale Carr.

The minutes of the August 3, 2020 Regular meeting were approved as presented by a 3/0 vote after a motion by John Oxley and a 2nd by Nick Rhodes.

Highway Supervisor Bruce Edgington reported the Contalner Collection Site collected \$391 on Saturday. Chip and seal will begin next week.

EMA Director Bill Smith reported 1.) the salary reimbursement grant has been sent to the state. 2.) Smith is working to set up CERT classes 3.) he will be holding safety classes for churches as well.

P&Z Director Anne Owen 1.) the Article 11 amendment to the Planning and Zoning Ordinance concerning solar power has passed the other units of government and needs to be voted on by the Commissioners. John Oxley moved to add the solar amendment to Article 11 of the P&Z Ordinance. Nick Rhodes 2nd and the vote was 3/0. 2.) Owen requested an amendment to Article 4 concerning demolition permits. The change allows for better tracking and authority to make sure the job is done correctly. Nick Rhodes moved to approve the request for demolition permits and John Oxley 2nd. The vote was 3/0. 3.) Owen informed the board that wind project permits issued recently were over \$10,000. That is more than normally collected in one year.

Auditor Hartley and Treasurer Turner requested commissioners consider holding a Deed Sale after the Tax Sale. The deed sale offers all properties not sold at the Tax Sale. The buyer receives a deed to the property without the waiting period of a tax sale. SRI handles the Tax Sale and would hold the deed sale. The Commissioners took the request under advisement.

Sheriff Jeff Sones gave the jail inmate count as 24 local males, 6 local females, 12 DOC males and 2 DOC females for a total of 44 inmates.

Courthouse Custodian Tim Stanley reported the elevator is undergoing complete mechanical reconstruction. The project is scheduled to be completed in approximately 1-2 weeks pending approval from the state.

Community Corrections Director Tyler Hunt and Probation Officer Mike Winegardner are asking permission to apply for another Justice Partners Grant. The \$60,000 grant gives peer support to participants. The grant begins November 1, 2020 and runs until all funds are spent. Nick Rhodes moved to approve the grant application and John Oxley 2nd. The vote was 3/0.

The Association of Indiana Counties virtual conference is September 21-24 and offers 10 educational workshops for office holders and employees. Commissioners approved Auditor Hartley to register for the county and department heads and employees to register for any classes they want.

Joe Edwards from SRI was on Zoom to explain the Deed Sale the Auditor and Treasurer brought up at the last meeting. The Deed Sale happens within a few months after the Tax Sale and offers properties that did not sell at the Tax Sale to bidders. The county must have title search and notification done on each property offered. Buyers receive a deed to any properties they buy without a waiting period. Certificate Sales were also addressed. Commissioners asked Jon Creek, John Oxley and Jim Forcum to be a committee to review properties eligible for deed sales.

Autumn Roach from the Health Department asked that the fee for immunizations be increased from \$5 to \$15 due to Medicaid billing. Roach also presented a revised Vaccine Administration Fee & Hardship Policy signed by Dr. Lori Skidmore to be approved by the Commissioners. John Oxley moved to approve the fee \$15 and the new Hardship Policy. Nick Rhodes 2nd and the vote was 3/0.

BCEDC Director Warren Brown reported 1.) the OCRA Grant funded 39 local applicants. 2.) The CARES Grant is moving forward.

Purdue Extension Office's Cheri Brown is working to get local COVID-19 testing. Both mayors are on board and the Health Department is working to get the test site at the 4-H Fairgrounds.

Local resident Kendra Crull asked to use the courthouse lawn to hold a rally on Saturday, September 19, 2020 to protest Human Trafficking. They will have speakers from public safety and the Department of Child Services. All proceeds go to an organization that helps to stop Human Trafficking. John Oxley moved to approve the use of the courthouse grounds for the rally and Nick Rhodes 2nd. The vote was 3/0.

Wayne Bailey spoke about the Blackford County Storm Water District that needs to be formed to identify problem areas within the county. The startup cost is \$30,000. Drainage Secretary Sam Swenson is the contact person for the district. Nick Rhodes moved to form the Blackford County Storm Water District and John Oxley 2nd. The vote was 3/0.

Esteban Briz from OOMA reported the employees had an opportunity to use the phones his company is recommending and had some questions but no issues. Nick Rhodes moved to take the phone project until October 5. John Oxley 2nd and the vote was 3/0.

Jon Creek's request that 20 properties be transferred to Blackford Development Corporation from the last meeting was discussed. Nick Rhodes moved to transfer the properties to BDC and John Oxley 2nd and the vote was 3/0.

Commissioner John Oxley reported that Blackford Development Corporation need one appointment from the Commissioners. John Oxley moved to appoint Council member Patrick Cale, and Commissioners Oxley and Rhodes each to a 3-year term. The motion died for lack of a 2nd. John Oxley moved to appoint Council member Patrick Cale to BDC and that motion died for lack of a 2nd.

Accounts Payable Claims: Claims were approved in the amount of \$189,995.59 on a motion by Nick Rhodes and 2nd by John Oxley. The vote was 3/0.

Payroll Claims:

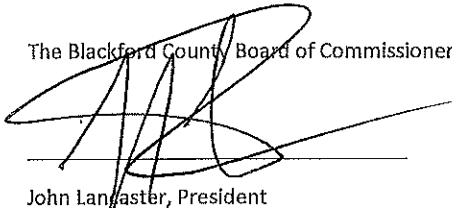
PPE 8/7/2020 Claims of \$119,284.98 were approved on a motion by John Oxley and 2nd by Nick Rhodes. The vote was 3/0

Public Comment: Auditor Hartley asked that the south doors of the courthouse be opened to the public again. Commissioners agreed. The building is now accessible from both entrances. Masks are still required to enter.

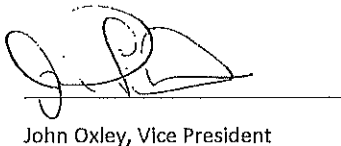
There being no further public comment, Nick Rhodes made a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:41 a.m.

Approved this 8th day of September, 2020.

The Blackford County Board of Commissioners



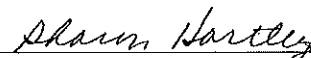
John Lanfaster, President



John Oxley, Vice President



Nick Rhodes, Member

Attest: 
Auditor Sharon Hartley