

BLACKFORD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S

MEETING August 3, 2020

The Blackford County Commissioners met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. on August 3, 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, Laura Coons, Jon Oswalt, Ryan Goodspeed and Jon Creek. **Attending on Zoom** were Mary Beal, Tyler Hunt, Cheri Brown, Warren Brown, Kathy Goodspeed, Rhonda Williams, Sam Swenson and Dale Carr.

The minutes of the July 20, 2020 meeting were approved as presented by a 3/0 vote after a motion by Nick Rhodes and a 2nd by John Oxley.

The minutes of the July 27, 2020 Emergency meeting were approved as presented by a 3/0 vote after a motion by Nick Rhodes and a 2nd by John Oxley.

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.

Veteran's Affairs Officer Jon Oswalt resolved the longest claim held by his office. The claim, from 2012, will see a deserving veteran receive his award.

Courthouse Custodian Tim Stanley reported the elevator is undergoing complete mechanical reconstruction. The project is scheduled to be completed in 3 weeks.

Sheriff Jeff Sones gave the jail inmate count as 24 local males, 9 local females, 9 DOC males and 2 DOC females for a total of 44 inmates. Sones also reported phase one of the E911 system upgrade is complete. Sones has been looking at service/maintenance agreements for the system. He presented 3 options recommending option 2.

1. \$75,000 for 1 year, after that there will be no support agreement. Each call would be a charge.
2. \$100,059.12 for 5 years support/maintenance.
3. \$22,000 per year for 5 years (with \$9,000 paid upfront).

Nick Rhodes moved to recommend full payment of \$100,059.12 for 5 years support to the Council. John Oxley 2nd and the vote was 3/0.

Clerk Laura Coons informed Commissioners that an employee has tested positive for COVID-19. She contacted Dynamite Building & Maintenance to deep clean the Clerk's office, Election Office and 1st floor women's restroom.

BCEDC Director Warren Brown reported 1.) the Community Rural Affairs Grant has been reviewed and approved for small businesses. Blackford County will receive \$234,000. The committee received requests for \$809,000. 2.) Brown advised Commissioners talk to their attorney if they proceed with the proposed Deed Sale and have an ordinance to stop buyers that owe back taxes from purchasing at deed sale.

Health Department is requesting cell phones for Dr. Skidmore and Environmentalist Dale Carr. They want one of their grants to pay for the phones. The request needs to be presented to the Council.

Coroner Zach Crouch sent an agreement with IU Health for morgue space rent. The agreement will be sent to attorney Jim Forcum once an incorrect address is corrected.

The **CARES grant** is close to completion. Warren Brown had recommended Blackford County use Barnes & Thornburg LLP to oversee the claims for the grant. Blackford County's portion of their fee is \$6,000. The County's share of the grant is \$387,000. **John Oxley** moved to use Barnes & Thornburg for CARES grant claims and Nick Rhodes 2nd. The vote was 3/0.

Commissioners reviewed the **January to June Jail Commissary** report.

The **Blackford County Storm Water District** will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Esteban Briz from OOMA reported he has been working with IT Steven Holman on a possible conversion from MainStream's phone and internet service. Commissioners asked him to set up a demonstration with departments. Holman said some MainStream services will still be necessary. Commissioners asked for the details at another meeting.

Questions were asked about community testing for COVID-19. The Health Department does not do testing in Blackford County. They recommend contacting your family doctor or local hospital.

An appointment to the Blackford Development Corporation had John Oxley making a motion to appoint Patrick Cale as a representative. John Lancaster 2nd. There was some discussion as to which board is to make this appointment. The vote was 1/2 with Nick Rhodes and John Lancaster voting nay. Clarification on the appointment will be sought from Jim Forcum.

Jon Creek requested 20 properties be transferred to Blackford Development Corporation. The plan is to rehab some and demolish others. The requested properties are "problem" properties. The Commissioners took the request under advisement.

Accounts Payable Claims: Claims were approved in the amount of \$75,309.38 on a motion by Nick Rhodes and 2nd by John Oxley. The vote was 3/0.

Payroll Claims:

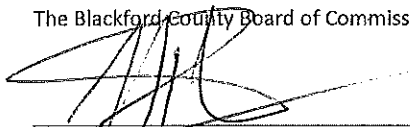
PPE 7/24/2020 Claims of \$120,547.34 were approved on a motion by John Oxley and 2nd by Nick Rhodes. The vote was 3/0

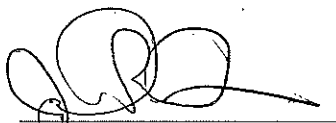
Public Comment:

There being no further public comment, John Oxley made a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Approved this 17th day of August, 2020.

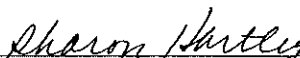
The Blackford County Board of Commissioners



John Lancaster, President

John Oxley, Vice President

Nick Rhodes, Member

Attest: 

Auditor Sharon Hartley