

BLACKFORD COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES OF

August 9, 2023 2nd 2024 Budget Workshop

The Blackford County Council met at 6:56 p.m. on the first floor of the Blackford County Courthouse located at 110 W Washington Street, Hartford City, Indiana for the 2nd 2024 Budget Workshop on Wednesday, August 9, 2023. The meeting was also available on Zoom.

President Dan Borgenheimer called the Regular Meeting to order, and Auditor Sharon Hartley called roll. The members answering roll were Dan Borgenheimer, Kyle Lechien, Jack Beckley, Karen Mealy, Ryan Goodspeed and Patrick Cale. Fred Tobey was absent. Also present in person, Tyler Hunt, Warren Brown, Kelly Cale, Kyli Penrod, John Pluimer, Anne Owen, John Oxley, Kelli Schriver, Paul Schriver, Jim Heflin, Sue Kochanek, Cheri Brown, Christy Clark, Joelle Freiburger, Lisa Simmons, Kim Pitts, Meagen Westfall, Cory Brown-Pugsley and John Lancaster. Attending on Zoom: Sheila Hyer, Trisha Keesling, Barbie Coronato, Mary Beal, and Dana Turner.

Commissioner President John Lancaster spoke of the need to keep the part-time position in the Planning & Zoning office. With wind and solar companies coming into the county later this year and next, the need for assistance will increase.

Salaries:

Ryan Goodspeed would like to look at taking the Sheriff's department to the External High Point of the wage study.

Sheriff Jim Heflin presented a document giving reasons the Sheriff Merit Deputies wages should increase. Blackford County spends approximately \$20,000 to send a new officer to the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy. All surrounding counties and the State Police starting wages are much higher than Blackford County currently pays. The county loses officers to higher paying entities.

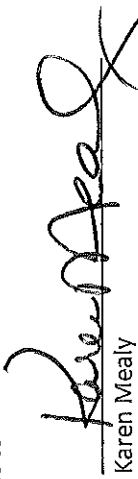
Highway Superintendent John Pluimer does not like the External Midpoint for his department. He presented a proposal using the same total dollars as the midpoint.

It was suggested Council look at a percentage of the External Midpoint of the plan. President Borgenheimer will create a worksheet using 25% and 50% of the External Midpoint for all positions.

There being no further comment President Borgenheimer adjourned the meeting at 8:08 p.m. on a motion by Dan Borgenheimer and 6/0 vote.

Approved this 23rd day of August, 2023.


Dan Borgenheimer, President



Karen Mealy



Kyle Lechien, Member


Jack Beckley, Vice President


Ryan Goodspeed, Member

Fred Tobey, Member


Sharon Hartley, Auditor/Secretary

Attest: 
Auditor/Secretary