

BLACKFORD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S

MEETING April 20, 2020

The Blackford County Commissioners met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. on April 20, 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, Jon Creek, Sam Swenson, Sheila Hyer and Tim Stanley.

Attending remotely Cheri Brown, Warren Brown, Tyler Hunt, Bill Smith, Kathy Goodspeed, Jeff Sones and Kevin Basey.

*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 April 6, 2020 meeting were approved as presented by a 3/0 vote after a motion by John Oxley and a 2nd by Nick Rhodes.

P&Z Director Anne Owen reported the APC gave a favorable recommendation to rezone land in Licking Township for the Gillman Home Center project.

Highway Supervisor Bruce Edgington wants to delay the salt barn project until the future MVH income is determined. The Commissioners agree.

Treasurer Dana Turner wants to keep her office door closed during the employees only open hours. She wants her deputy to work in the office and she will work from home to eliminate the possibility of both of them becoming ill at the same time. Commissioners agree with her decision.

Sheriff Jeff Sones gave the inmate count as 26 males and 7 females for a total of 33. All new arrestees are quarantined for 14 days.

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

Purdue Extension Cheri Brown has a lot of remote meetings available to anyone interested. Check out the website for more information. A roundtable meeting is held on Zoom every Friday at 10:00 a.m. for government, school and local organization leaders.

BCEDC Director Warren Brown has been busy with 1. the OCRA grant. The grant could give the county \$250,000 for PPE and economic development to small business. Nick Rhodes moved to approve the OCRA COVID-19 grant application. John Oxley 2nd and the vote was 3/0. 2. Brown is working to get a weather siren at Shamrock Lakes. 3. The Gillman Home Center project is moving along with a two-month delay from the COVID-19 restrictions. 4. TIF Districts for the Gillman project and 3M are in the works. 5. Work is being done for downtown Hartford City renovations.

EMA Director Bill Smith 1. received a donation of hand sanitizer wipes from Save-a-lot. He will supply hand sanitizer wipes and gloves to the courthouse for employees. Cheri Brown from Purdue Extension has CDC approved masks for departments that want them. 2. A prayer service will be held on Sunday, May 3 in the Blackford Jr-Sr High School parking lot. Donations to the food pantry will be collected.

The original Holiday Calendar includes Tuesday, May 5 as the election day holiday. With election day moved to Tuesday, June 2, Clerk Laura Coons will need the entire first floor on June 2. After discussion, Nick Rhodes moved to change the election day holiday from May 5 to June 2. John Oxley 2nd and the vote was 3/0.

Licking Township Trustee Chris Holtzleiter would like to have a page on the county website for information and forms for citizens. Matt Gavenda, designer of the county website, quoted \$500 for the work. Commissioners took the subject under advisement.

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 continue this to the next meeting.

Custodian Tim Stanley – received three elevator repair estimates:

1. Otis Elevator \$235,000
2. Indy Elevator \$77,100
3. Oracle \$145,325

The quotes were taken under advisement. Stanley was asked to get references for each company.

Offices opening: Commissioners feel county government needs to function on a daily basis but not open to the public at this time. Judge Bade stated he is following guidelines from the state but will follow any clear, written guidelines from the Commissioners. The Commissioners will work with their attorney for set protocols for county offices. John Oxley made a motion for county employees to return to work on Wednesday, April 22 with buildings remaining closed to the public. Nick Rhodes 2nd and the vote was 3/0.

Accounts Payable Claims: Claims were approved in the amount of \$299,544.89 on a motion by Nick Rhodes and 2nd by John Oxley. The vote was 3/0.

Payroll Claims:

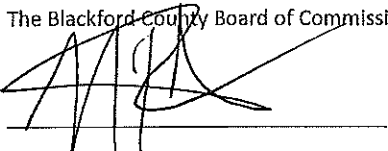
PPE 4/03/2020 Claims for \$127,848.02 were approved on a motion by Nick Rhodes and 2nd by John Oxley. The vote was 3/0.

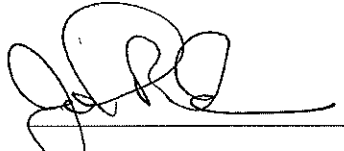
Public Comment:

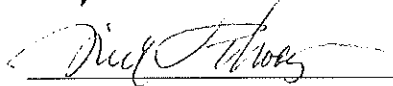
There being no further public comment, Nick Rhodes made a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:39 a.m.

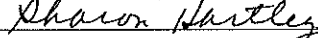
Approved this 4th day of May, 2020.

The Blackford County Board of Commissioners


John Lancaster, President


John Oxley, Vice President


Nick Rhodes, Member

Attest: 
Auditor Sharon Hartley