

BLACKFORD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S

MEETING May 4, 2020

The Blackford County Commissioners met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. on May 4, 2020 in the hallway of 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 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, Sam Swenson, Sheila Hyer, Kelli Schriver, Jon Oswalt, Paul Schriver and Tim Stanley. **Attending on Zoom** were Warren Brown, Cheri Brown, Jim Forcum, Bill Smith, Angela Smith, Tyler Hunt, Jack Beckley, Mike Winegardner, Sue Kochanek, Teri Charnley, Kevin Basey, Kathy Goodspeed and Jeff Sones.

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

The minutes of the April 22, 2020 Emergency meeting were approved as presented by a 3/0 vote after a motion by Nick Rhodes and a 2nd by John Oxley.

Highway Supervisor Bruce Edgington 1) **Container Collection Site** is set to open May 9. Commissioners agree to open as scheduled. 2) **Asphalt millings from Montpelier street work** will be available for \$4 per ton and an estimated 55 ton. Bruce will ask the Montpelier Motor Speedway if millings can be stored there. 3) **The bridge near 3M is on hold** due to fiberoptic lines in the work way. 4) **The sign replacement project** is nearly completed.

Recorder Kelli Schriver asked if title searchers can come in the courthouse by appointment. Commissioners said that would be acceptable if they enter one at a time in the offices.

Clerk Laura Coons asked about child support customers. Commissioners said to keep meeting them at the door unless an appointment has been made.

Veteran's Affairs Officer Jon Oswalt reported the state VA offices are closed and his May conference has been cancelled. He is working online now. He has gunlocks available if anyone is interested in one.

P&Z Director Anne Owen 1) Several **Solar Energy** companies are interested. She will talk to her attorney about an ordinance for solar fields. Commissioner attorney Jim Forcum said he would prepare an ordinance if requested. 2) She commented that the blue lights in the clock tower to honor Blackford County First Responders look great. 3) The Urban Forrest Greenscape planted trees in the lot north of the courthouse.

BCEDC Director Warren Brown has been busy with 1. the **OCRA grant**. The grant has provided the county \$240,000 for economic development to help business in Blackford County affected by the closings. He asked the commissioners to create a committee of 5 people to process requests for assistance from local business. Mayors Bantz and Eckstein have agreed to sit on the committee.

EMA Director Bill Smith 1. Reported the local food banks have received more than 5,000 requests for food during this crisis. 2) He is waiting for PPE to be sent from the state. 3) the Travel Advisory was changed to Yellow on Monday.

EMA Director Bill Smith and Purdue Extensions Cheri Brown will work on getting a FEMA grant for local government.

Licking Township Trustee Chris Holtzleiter's request at the last meeting 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 which Chris will pay for from her township budget. **John Oxley moved to allow the township page on the county website and Nick Rhodes 2nd.** 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. **The representative from CORE Facilities will be asked to be at 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

After reviewing all quotes, Nick Rhodes moved to accept the quote from Indy Elevator for \$77,100 and John Oxley 2nd. The vote was 3/0. Tim was asked to get a timeline from Indy Elevator.

Angela Smith from Smith Insurance Services had notified the board that the courthouse is underinsured at \$6,957,893 replacement cost. After looking at options Nick Rhodes moved to approve Smith's recommendation of replacement cost coverage. John Oxley 2nd and the vote was 3/0.

Offices opening: Commissioners feel county government needs to function on a daily basis and open to the public on Monday, May 11. The Commissioners will work with their attorney for set protocols for county offices. John Oxley made a motion for county offices to open to the public on Monday, May 11 with restrictions. Everyone must enter from the north doors (Main St.) and must wear a mask in the building. Employees may remove their masks while at their desks but use masks while assisting the public. Nick Rhodes 2nd and the vote was 3/0.

Accounts Payable Claims: Claims were approved in the amount of \$106,005.73 on a motion by Nick Rhodes and 2nd by John Oxley. The vote was 3/0.

Payroll Claims:

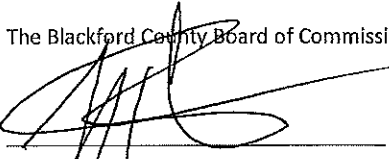
PPE 4/17/2020 Claims for \$120,764.20 were approved on a motion by John Oxley and 2nd by Nick Rhodes. The vote was 3/0.

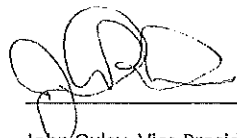
Public Comment: John Oxley is working on a salute to law enforcement during National Police Week. They plan for officers to park their cars around the square and the public can drive by and thank them. This will be on Friday, May 15 at 7:00 p.m.

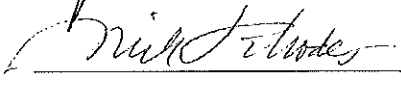
There being no further public comment, Nick Rhodes made a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

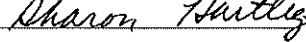
Approved this 18th day of May, 2020.

The Blackford County Board of Commissioners


John Lancaster, President


John Oxley, Vice President


Nick Rhodes, Member

Attest: 
Auditor Sharon Hartley