

BLACKFORD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S

MEETING June 1, 2020

The Blackford County Commissioners met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. on June 1, 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 Nick Rhodes, John Oxley and John Lancaster present. Others in attendance in person were Anne Owen, Bruce Edgington, Laura Coons, Jon Oswalt, Jim Heflin, Judge Brian Bade, Warren Brown, Judge Nick Barry, Rick Anderson (Johnson Melloh solutions) , Matt Stechly (CORE) and Tim Stanley. Attending on Zoom were Cheri Brown, Tyler Hunt, Sue Kochanek, Kathy Goodspeed, Barbie Coronato, Christy Clark, Mary Beal and attorney Jim Forcum.

The minutes of the May 18, 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 May 22, 2020 Emergency 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 1) asked the board to approve her as the Certified Home Inspector after training. She and Commissioner Oxley have been working on hiring an inspector and Owen has agreed to take the 80-hour course to become licensed. She will call in professionals as needed. The training will cost \$825 plus the unknown fee for 12-hour shadowing of a licensed inspector which is required. Commissioners like the plan and want Owen to take it to the Council for their approval since it will require an additional appropriation of funds to accomplish. 2) the Solar Ordinance needs updated and is at attorney Forcum's office now.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Jimmy Heflin gave the Inmate count at 28 inmates.

BCEDC Director Warren Brown reported 1) work on the Wyler lot on the north west corner of Main and Jefferson streets has started. 2) the work to make a TIF District at the site of the new Gilman Home Store is complete. 3) the TIF District at 3M and surrounding are will go the Hartford City tonight. 4) Petoskey Plastics will be expanding.

Superior Court Judge Nick Barry presented an invoice for an air quality study that was done recently. The air quality came back as good.

Circuit Court Judge Brian Bade is submitting plans to the state to reopen his court. After certain proceedings the entire courtroom would need to be disinfected by courthouse custodial staff or an outside firm.

Purdue Extension's Cheri Brown reported 1) they had applied to AEP Foundation and received \$10,000 for the local food bank. They were able to get two new freezers and refrigerators. 2) There will be a virtual animal show for the 4H Fair this year. Details to come.

Rick Anderson from Johnson Melloh presented options for solar panels on county property. The Jail has enough ground for solar panels. The projected savings from using solar verses electricity is \$3,100,000 over 18.5 years. The cost is estimated at \$1,900,000. The project would take approximately six months to complete. Solar panels typically last 25-30 years. Mary Beal asked "what happens if the electricity goes out"? The generator should kick on but it is possible there would be no power. Commissioners recommended Rick attend the July Council meeting to talk about funding.

Matt Stechly from CORE Facilities explained his proposal for an inspection agreement which he will detail maintenance/inspections to be done on county facilities monthly and quarterly. The price for the Courthouse, Annex and Jail is \$9,650 for 3 years. After discussion, John Oxley moved to accept the inspection agreement and Nick Rhodes 2nd. The vote was 3/0.

The Commissioner's meeting was recessed at 9:25 a.m. to hold the Public Hearing on the OCRA Grant. Minutes of that meeting will be available later. Greg Beumer with Kleinpeter Consulting Group conducted the public hearing.

The Public Hearing was adjourned at 9:38 a.m. on a motion by Nick Rhodes.

The Commissioner's meeting resumed at 9:38 a.m.

Greg Beumer presented documents that need approved for the OCRA Grant:

1. Certification of Exemption – this document states "This project will fund a business grant program to assist its hardest hit manufacturers and retail businesses. This will be administered by the Blackford County Economic Development Corporation. Nick Rhodes moved to approved the document and John Oxley 2nd. The vote was 3/0.
2. Resolution Authorizing Application Submission and Local Match – this document states "Blackford County, Indiana hereby commits the requisite local funds in the amount of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000), in the form of General Funds, as matching funds for said program. Nick Rhodes moved to approve the resolution and John Oxley 2nd. The vote was 3/0.
3. General Ordinance #2020-03 Fair Housing Policy repeals and replaces Blackford County Ordinance 97-03. John Oxley moved to approve the Fair Housing Policy Ordinance 2020-03 and Nick Rhodes 2nd. The vote was 3/0.

The Commissioners received a complaint about CR 200 N and the RR tracks east near AgBest. Highway Supervisor Bruce Edgington spoke to the railroad and he can work to within 8' of the rails. If the Highway Department works any closer, they are required to have a railroad flag man. Being within 2' of either side of the rail is trespassing. The RR said they will look at the crossing and try to widen the lane.

1) The county notified the railroad of the problem. 2) The driver left the roadway due to oncoming traffic. 3) The driver has a responsibility to slow or stop if oncoming traffic will cross into their lane. 4) The driver should have let the oncoming traffic cross the RR first.

Accounts Payable Claims: Claims were approved in the amount of \$133,435.27 on a motion by John Oxley and 2nd by Nick Rhodes. The vote was 3/0.

Payroll Claims:

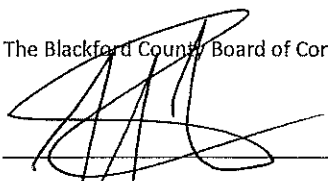
PP# 5/15/2020 Claims for \$122,062.24 were approved on a motion by Nick Rhodes and 2nd by John Oxley. The vote was 3/0.

Public Comment:

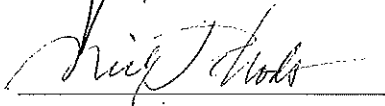
There being no further public comment, John Oxley made a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:52 a.m.

Approved this 15th day of June, 2020.

The Blackford County Board of Commissioners


John Lancaster, President


John Oxley, Vice President


Nick Rhodes, Member

Attest:


Auditor Sharon Hartley