

## BLACKFORD COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES OF

### December 6, 2023 Regular Meeting

The Blackford County Council met at 6:00 p.m. on the first floor of the Blackford County Courthouse located at 110 W Washington Street, Hartford City, Indiana for the Regular meeting on Wednesday, December 6, 2023. The meeting was also available on Zoom.

**Vice President Jack Beckley called the Regular Meeting to order**, and Auditor Sharon Hartley called roll. **The members answering roll** were Kyle Lechien, Jack Beckley, Ryan Goodspeed, Karen Mealy, and Fred Tobey. **Also present** in person, , Laura Coons, Dan Borgenheimer, Warren Brown, Tyler Hunt, Kelly Cale, Judge Brian Bade, Judge Nick Barry, Sue Kochanek, Dennis Layman, and Jimmy Heflin. **Attending on Zoom:** Mike Daniel, Cheri Brown, John Pluimer, Chazz Shrader, Dana Turner, Paul Schriver, and Trisha Keesling.

Former Council President Dan Borgenheimer was caucused in as a Blackford County Commissioner on November 16, 2023.

**The minutes of the November 8, 2023, Regular Council meeting were approved as Presented on a motion by Karen Mealy and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Fred Tobey. The vote was 5/0.**

**Judge Brian Bade** returned to discuss reinstating the third Probation Officer (PO) position. He asked the vote on the issue be taken on December 20<sup>th</sup> when all council members may be in attendance. After some discussion, **Fred Tobey moved to approve the third Probation Officer position. Karen Mealy 2<sup>nd</sup>. Following more discussion the vote was taken with Tobey and Mealy voting AYE and Ryan Goodspeed, Jack Beckley and Kyle Lechien voting NAY (2/3).**

**EMA Director Bill Smith** sent information that a new Mitigation Grant application has been submitted to the state.

**2024 Council Appointments** will be addressed at the next meeting.

**The Unsafe Building Board Appointments** need to be made at the January meeting.

#### Committee Reports

Community Corrections – Kyle Lechien – see Tyler Hunt below.

Solid Waste District – no report

Economic Development – Ryan Goodspeed – see Warren Brown below.

Blackford Development – Patrick Cale – no report

LEPC – Ryan Goodspeed – no report.

**Community Corrections Director Tyler Hunt** reported the CC Advisory Board approved restructuring the wage rates for employees. The funds in a vacant position will be distributed to the remaining employees. **Ryan Goodspeed moved to approve the changes to the 2024 Salary Ordinance. Kyle Lechien 2<sup>nd</sup> and the vote was 5/0.**

**BCEDC Director Warren Brown (1)** The Lake Trout Solar project is set to begin in the third quarter on 2024. **(2)** Work on the READI Grant 2.0 is going well. **(3)** the hotel project cost was \$8M and is now \$12M. **(4)** WI-Fi bids will be opened at the December 18<sup>th</sup> Commissioner's meeting. **(5)** Several restaurants are interested in the Newberry building.

Kyle Lechien had questions on the **Animal Shelter Contract** that was approved by the commissioners on December 4<sup>th</sup>. A list of questions will be sent to Council attorney Aaron Henderson for some clarification.

#### Financial Reports for COUNTY GENERAL

Ending Cash Balance as of November 30, 2023	\$ 934,716.64
Total Expenditures for November 2023	\$ 479,936.79
Total Revenue for November 2023	\$ 171,151.63

#### Additional Appropriations:

County General: Sheriff – \$9,575
Assessor – Deputy Leonard - \$876
Emergency Phone – Chief Dispatcher - \$17,252
Dispatcher Davis - \$4,668
Dispatcher Riggs - \$4,200
FICA - \$910
PERF - \$2,310

MVH Restricted – Road Repairs \$106,153

**Ryan Goodspeed moved to approve all additional appropriations presented. Fred Tobey 2<sup>nd</sup> and the vote was 5/0.**

**Transfers:**

County General Auditor - \$300 Transfer Book Scan to Auditor wage  
\$100 Meals & Lodging to Office Supplies  
Purdue Extension - \$300 Repair of Equip. to Office Supplies  
\$1,100 Lease & Maint. Agreement to Office Supplies  
\$614 Computer Lease to Office Supplies  
Container Collection - \$138.89 Gas, Oil & Lube to Contractual Services  
\$128.38 Gas, Oil & Lube to Driver/Equipment Operator  
Superior Court - \$780.46 from Psych. Services to Legal Research Material  
Health Dept. - \$3,470 Gas, Oil to Group Insurance  
Health Trust - \$900 Cell Phone to PERF

**Kyle Lechien moved to approve all transfers as presented. Ryan Goodspeed 2<sup>nd</sup> and the vote was 5/0**

**Encumbrance:**

LR&S - \$127,699.40 Equipment  
Highway - \$192,623.68 Dump Truck

**Kyle Lechien moved to approve all Encumbrances as presented. Fred Tobey 2<sup>nd</sup> and the vote was 5/0.**

There being no further comment Vice President Beckley adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m. on a motion by Kyle Lechien and 5/0 vote.

Approved this 20<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2023.

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, President

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Jack Beckley, Vice President

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Kyle Lechien, Member

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Karen Mealy, Member

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Ryan Goodspeed, Member

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Fred Tobey, Member

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Patrick Cale, Member

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Auditor/Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pharon Thibault