

BLACKFORD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S

MEETING December 7, 2020

The Blackford County Commissioners met in regular session at 8:38 a.m. on December 7, 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 John Oxley, John Lancaster and Nick Rhodes present **Others in attendance in person** were Bruce Edgington, Anne Owen, Jeff Sones, Tim Stanley, Jon Oswalt, Sam Swenson, Paul Schriver, Bill Smith, John Pluimer, Travis Storer and Jim Forcum. **Attending on Zoom** were Warren Brown, Tyler Hunt, Kelly Cale, Cheri Brown and Judge Nick Barry.

The minutes of the November 16, 2020 Regular 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 November 16, 2020 Executive Session meeting were approved as Presented by a 3/0 vote after a motion by John Oxley and a 2nd by Nick Rhodes.

Highway Supervisor Bruce Edgington 1.) reported the Container Collection Site collected \$183 in November. The site is closed until April 2021. **2.)** The INDOT Bridge Inspection contract expires soon and the State wants Blackford County to approve a 2-year contract next time and a 4-year contract after that. They have too many counties signed up for the next time and want to spread them out. **3.)** The asset management program that Butler, Fairman & Seufert are working on will be a 10-year program.

Sheriff Jeff Sones reported the state approved the jail using COVID-19 quick check testing.

BCEDC Director Warren Brown reported **1.)** Brown explained the **Spellman Project** which is a grant/loan solution to provide the Blackford County Sheriff's Office, Hartford City Police Department and Montpelier Police Department a way to **purchase updated software to increase policing, productivity and efficiency**. The software cost is \$355,000 which will be split between the three units based on population. The County portion is 50% or \$177,500. The grant will provide \$50,000 and the county would borrow \$127,500. The loan is payable over 5 to 10 years at an interest rate of 2.125%. The Sheriff and both Police Chiefs approve of this plan. **2.)** The **Gillman Home Store** project is waiting for INDOT action to be completed.

Highway bids for Stone were opened:

Rock Creek	#11 \$12.45	no bid for sand
IMI	#11 \$13.15	#24 \$9.00 natural sand \$12.25

The bids were taken under advisement for Highway Supervisor Bruce Edgington time to compare the bids and make a recommendation.

Edgington recommended accepting the bid from IMI and keeping Rock Creek as back up. **John Oxley moved to accept the bid from IMI for stone and use Rock Creek as a backup. Nick Rhodes 2nd and the vote was 3/0.**

Judge Nick Barry 1.) Informed the board that given that Blackford County is considered on the COVID-19 chart, he is following the State protocol and his **office is closed** and employees are working from home. Hearings are being held on Zoom and that is working well. **2.)** the **Superior Court Room has limited space** for a jury so they have been using the Circuit Court Room. Statute states the county must provide suitable space for the Court. He would like to talk about finding a suitable space in the near future.

Highway bids for a backhoe were opened:

McAllister	\$104,795.00	trade-in \$10,000	Cost \$ 94,795
RPM Machinery	\$118,144.18	trade-in \$11,000	Cost \$107,144
West Side Tractor	\$ 96,200.00	trade-in \$14,100	Cost \$ 82,100

The bids were taken under advisement for Highway Supervisor Bruce Edgington time to compare the bids and make a recommendation.

Edgington recommended accepting the bid from McAllister. **John Oxley moved to accept the bid from McAllister for the CAT backhoe. Nick Rhodes 2nd and the vote was 3/0.**

Purdue Extensions Cheri Brown reported **1.)** The housing study is ongoing **2.)** there will be a marketing meeting today

2021 Appointments were made on a motion by John Oxley and 2nd by Nick Rhodes with a 3/0 vote.

Drainage Board Secretary – Samantha Swenson
Planning & Zoning Director – Anne Owen
Highway Supervisor – Bruce Edgington
Veteran's Affairs Officer – Jon Oswalt
Community & Family Services – Tyler Hunt
BCEDC – John Lancaster
PTABOA – Leslie Willmann
Cephia Miles Drain – Allan Peterson
Walnut Creek Drain – Joe Aulbach

EMA Director – Bill Smith
Courthouse Custodian – Tim Stanley
Health Officer – Dr. Lori Skidmore
Commissioner's Attorney – Jim Forcum
Animal Control Board – Nick Rhodes
PTABOA – Judy Trees
Melvin Weaver Drain – Mike Maddox
Prairie Creek Drain – Nell Stroble
Virgil Rogers Drain – Larry Hile

P&Z Director Anne Owen introduced Kort Elzey and John Slade from Huntington Contractors as potential building inspectors for Blackford County. Elzey has 20+ years of experience and is licensed by the state. He provided a fee schedule. The county will collect inspection fees and pay the inspector from those fees. Commissioners asked Elzey to send a contract to their attorney, Jim Forcum, to move forward.

EMA Bill Smith said he has some PPE available for county government offices if they need any.

Accounts Payable Claims: Claims were approved in the amount of \$289,175.98 on a motion by Nick Rhodes and 2nd by John Oxley. The vote was 3/0.

Payroll Claims:

PPE 11/30/2020 Correction \$140.10 Motion to approve Nick Rhodes, 2nd John Oxley, Vote 3/0

PPE 11/13/2020 \$119,597.89 Motion to approve John Oxley, 2nd Nick Rhodes, Vote 3/0

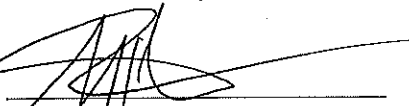
Longevity Pay \$30,800.00 Motion to approve Nick Rhodes, 2nd John Oxley, Vote 3/0

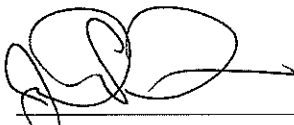
Poll Workers Pay \$1,930.00 Motion to approve John Oxley, 2nd Nick Rhodes, Vote 3/0

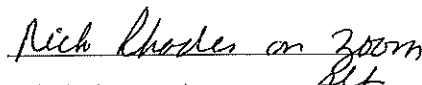
There being no further public comment, John Oxley made a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:24 a.m.

Approved this 31st day of December, 2020.

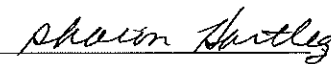
The Blackford County Board of Commissioners



John Lancaster, President

John Oxley, Vice President

Nick Rhodes, Member

Attest: 

Auditor Sharon Hartley