

BLACKFORD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S AND COUNCIL JOINT

SPECIAL MEETING February 15, 2023

The Blackford County Commissioners and Council met in Special session at 6:00 p.m. on February 15, 2023, in the Board meeting room on the first floor of the Blackford County Courthouse, Hartford City IN.

Vice President John Oxley called the Commissioner's meeting to order, and Auditor Sharon Hartley called roll with Commissioners John Oxley and Laura Coons present.

President Dan Borgenheimer called the Council meeting to order, and Auditor Sharon Hartley called roll with Council members Dan Borgenheimer, Fred Tobey, Karen Mealy, Jack Beckley, Patrick Cale, and Kyle Lechien present.

Others in attendance were Judge Brian Bade, Judge Nick Barry, Ashley Felver, Bill Smith, Joelle Freiburger, Kelly(Cale, Tyler Hunt, Erin Foremen, Frances Mayes, John Pluimer, Meagan Westfall and Scott Cahill.

Attending on Zoom were Mary Beal, Sue Kochanek, Jon Jinks and Chazz Shrader.

The special meeting was called to discuss courthouse security and issues with repairs needed to the courthouse and office restructuring.

Judge Bade spoke about plans for **courthouse security**. Veradak has been selected to install cameras inside and outside the courthouse as well as all software needed. Judge Bade made a recommendation to the Commissioners to appoint a Purchasing Agent to liaison with Veradak. **Laura Coons moved to appoint Meagan Westfall as the Purchasing Agent for the courthouse security project. John Oxley 2nd and the vote was 2/0**. A grant has been obtained and will pay for 97% of the cost of the Veradak equipment and installation. The installation should take six to twelve weeks to complete. The plan calls for the south courthouse doors to be locked and all visitors will enter and exit the courthouse through the north side of the building. Employees will have fobs or key cards and may enter on the south side or north side. Video recording will be taken 24/7 and will be time stamped, watermarked and admissible in court. The recordings will be available for 365 days unless needed longer for court proceedings. Two additional security officers will be assigned to the courthouse to monitor the metal detector and security monitors. Veradak representative Scott Cahill answered questions from Council and Commissioners. Sheriff Jim Heflin gave a drawing of the north side entrance/exit layout for the system. The north entrance door will be on the northwest side and the exit door will be on the northeast side. The security station will be behind the stairs on the northwest side. **Laura Coons moved to approve the layout for the north entrance/exit of the courthouse and John Oxley 2nd. The vote was 2/0**. Judge Bade and Meagan Westfall requested Short's Glass be hired to modify the two interior doors as needed. Judges Bade and Barry will work with Sheriff Heflin to create a security plan for employees that will become a part of the Employee Handbook.

John Oxley spoke on the **repairs needed to the clock tower, windows and roof in the courthouse**. These are the first priority. Architects at DLZ have reviewed the work to be done but haven't provided a cost to the county yet. An elevator in the Annex and remodeling the second floor in the Annex are another project to consider. Commissioners requested bids on a BOT for the projects and received one from GM Development. The council is not comfortable with a BOT for these projects. After much discussion, the Clock Tower is the first repair to be made.

Options for the Prosecutor's office were discussed. Joelle Freiburger does not want to move to the Newberry building. They currently have a lease with Kevin Basey until he sells his building.

A Joint Commissioner and Council meeting to discuss the clock tower repairs will be held on Wednesday, March 8 after the regular Council meeting. DLZ, Baker Tilly and Greg Martz will be invited to give specific information to the boards.

With the Council business concluded Kyle Lechien moved to adjourn the council meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Commissioner then addressed a contract with Shoemaker Construction to remodel the SLG building for the Purdue Extension office. The contract is for \$12,000. **Laura Coons moved to approve the contract and John Oxley 2nd. The vote was 2/0**.

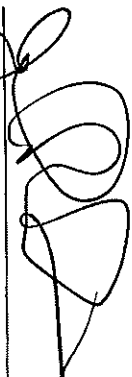
With the Commissioner business concluded Laura Coons moved to adjourn at 7:45 p.m.

Approved this 21st day of February 2023.

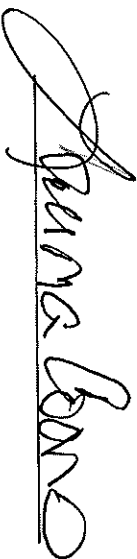
The Blackford County Board of Commissioners



John Lancaster, President



John Oxley, Vice President



Laura Coons, Member

Attest: Sharon Hartley

Auditor Sharon Hartley

Approved this 8th day of March, 2023.

The Blackford County Council




Dan Borgenheimer, President

Karen Mealy on proxy

Karen Mealy, ~~Vice~~ President




Kyle Lechien, Member



Jack Beckley, Member

Ryan Goodspeed, Member

Fred Tobey, Member



Patrick Cale, Member

Attest: Sharon Hartley

Auditor/Secretary