

## BLACKFORD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S

MEETING February 22, 2022

The Blackford County Commissioners met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. on February 22, 2022, 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**, and Auditor Sharon Hartley called roll with Commissioners John Lancaster, John Oxley and Laura Coons present. Also, present was Tyler Hunt, Anne Owen, Jeff Sones, Meagan Westfall, Angela Smith, Jim Forcum, Bill Smith, Cheri Brown, Meg Elliott, Sam Swenson, Steven Holman, Dr Hayes and John Plumer. **Attending on Zoom** were Warren Brown, Kim Pitts, Jessi Pierson, Linda Batten, Rhonda Williams, Chris Snyder, Paul Schriver, Kyle Lechien and Dr. Tom Lee.

**Minutes** of February 7, 2022, **Regular Meeting** were approved as Presented on a motion by Laura Coons and 2<sup>nd</sup> by John Oxley. The vote was 3/0.

**Minutes** of February 8, 2022, **Joint Executive Session** were approved as Presented on a motion by John Oxley and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Laura Coons. The vote was 3/0.

**Minutes** of February 15, 2022, **Executive Session** were approved as Presented on a motion by Laura Coons and 2<sup>nd</sup> by John Oxley. The vote was 3/0.

**Minutes** of February 18, 2022, **Special Session** were approved as Presented on a motion by John Oxley and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Laura Coons. The vote was 3/0.

**Sheriff Jeff Sones** gave the inmate count as 42 local males, 10 local females, 13 Level 6, DOC and parole males for a total of 65 inmates. Jailer Sebastian Sluder-Ross has been named to replace Jon Jinks as a Sheriff's Deputy.

**Highway Department Superintendent John Plumer (1)** presented the 2022 contract with Butler, Fairman, Seufert for the commissioners to sign. **Laura Coons moved to approve the contract and John Oxley 2<sup>nd</sup>. The vote was 3/0. (2)** the county's PASER rating is being updated. This is a count of the county roads that is done every two years for future grant opportunities. **(3)** Quotes for a dump truck are coming in high. Plumer expects to have this put in the 2023 or 2024 budget.

**EMA Director Bill Smith** reported C-pods will be brought in the county. These are a commodity distribution center for use in a disaster for food and other needed goods.

**Planning & Zoning Director Anne Owen** reported that Shamrock Lakes has appointed Fred Kachur as their APC member. **Laura Coons moved to appoint Fred Kachur as the commissioner appointment to the BZA and John Oxley 2<sup>nd</sup>. The vote was 3/0.**

**Meagan Westfall, Head Custodian** reported the cooling tower work has been completed. Havel will be here this week to work on the heating/cooling system. Work on two of the three restrooms on the third floor has been completed.

**Purdue Extensions Cheri Brown** presented the 2022 Contractual Services Agreement with Purdue University for program services at a cost of \$113,350. **John Oxley moved to approve the agreement and Laura Coons 2<sup>nd</sup>. The vote was 3/0.**

**Warren Brown, BCEDC Director (1)** will meet with the broadband towers people next Friday. **(2)** Steven Holman is here today to work with Mainstream to install the new phone system in BCEDC offices.

Dr. Tom Lee and his wife, Lori Lee, sent a request for \$5,000 for the 2022 Heritage Days funding. **John Oxley moved to assist the 2022 Heritage Days with \$3,000, the amount in the budget, and Laura Coons 2<sup>nd</sup>. The vote was 3/0.**

**Health Department LPN Jessi Pierson** gave updated COVID quarantine information. This information will be updated as the CDC gives new information. This is all posted on the CDC website. **Laura Coons made a motion to update the Covid policy to the CDC recommendations with jail staff remaining at the 10 day quarantine level and John Oxley 2<sup>nd</sup>. The vote was 3/0.**

**Covid pay policy - to follow CDC guidelines**, it was requested to set the two occurrences at 5 days each being 10 days total. After discussion **John Oxley moved to change the policy to ten (10) Covid paid days**

in total, being five (5) days per occurrence with jail staff remaining at ten days per occurrence effective January 27, 2022. Laura Coons 2<sup>nd</sup> and the vote was 3/0.

Snow days verses PTO time was discussed. After discussion, Laura Coons moved to amend (page 26, Section 3.17 Emergency Closing) the policy manual to include snow days for all employees when county offices are closed due to bad weather (this excluded essential workers) effective February 3, 2022. John Oxley 2<sup>nd</sup> and the vote was 3/0.

**Amendments to the Personnel Policies Handbook:**

1. Page 25, Section 3.16.6 Maximum FLSA Compensatory Time Accrual – Employees may accrue forty (40) FLSA compensatory time hours before monetary compensation is paid. \* Remove remainder of paragraph. Keep second paragraph. \* Remove third paragraph. **John Oxley moved to amend the section and Laura Coons 2<sup>nd</sup>. The vote was 3/0.**
2. Page 29, Section 4.1 Paid Time Off (PTO) - \* remove "non-exempt" from first sentence. **John Oxley moved to amend the section and Laura Coons 2<sup>nd</sup>. The vote was 3/0.**
3. Page 25, Section 3.16.9 Flex Time – change for Highway Superintendent and Sheriff Chief Deputy was taken under advisement.

Dr. Erik Hayes from Taylor University introduced the **Innovation Health & Wellness Center** located on the east side of the square in Hartford City. They focus on educating the public on diabetes and other health issues.

**Resolution 2022-R2 Approving Rules and Guidelines for the Transfer Station** was approved on a motion by Laura Coons and 2<sup>nd</sup> by John Oxley. The vote was 3/0.

Angela Smith from Smith Insurance presented health insurance quotes from four companies. After discussion John Oxley moved to go with Anthem Insurance effective April 1, 2022, per Angela Smith's recommendation. Laura Coons 2<sup>nd</sup> and the vote was 3/0.

Angela Smith will present a quote for Cyber Insurance at a future meeting.

**Accounts Payable Claims:**

Claims were approved in the amount of \$370,518.54 on a motion by John Oxley and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Laura Coons and the vote of 3/0.

**Payroll Claims:**

Payroll claims were approved in the amount of \$502.57 on a motion by Laura Coons and 2<sup>nd</sup> by John Oxley. The vote was 3/0.

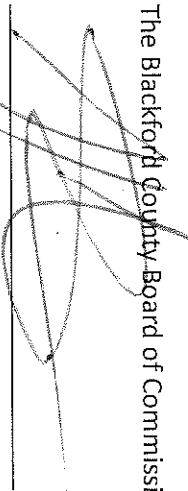
**Payroll for PPE 2/4/2022 \$138,034.99 were approved** on a motion by John Oxley and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Laura Coons and the vote of 3/0.

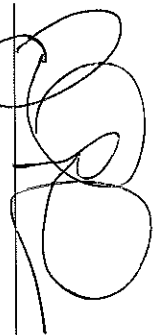
**Public Comment:** Bill Smith is looking or volunteers for the Civil War Days event this fall. This is a nationally recognized event but without help, this may be the last year it is held.

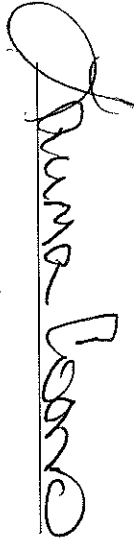
There being no further public comment, John Oxley made a motion to adjourn. **The meeting was adjourned at 9:29 a.m.**


Approved this 1<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2022.

The Blackford County Board of Commissioners

  
John Lancaster, President

  
John Oxley, Vice President

  
Laura Coons, Member

Attest:   
Auditor Sharon Hartley