

## BLACKFORD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S

### MEETING February 7, 2022

The Blackford County Commissioners met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. on February 7, 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, Mike Daniel, Meagan Westfall, Rich Hill, Jon Oswalt, Paul Schriver, Kelli Schriver, Kathy Goodspeed, Angela Smith, Jim Forcum, Bill Smith, Judy Smith, Cheri Brown, Meg Elliott and John Pluimer. **Attending on Zoom** were Warren Brown, Mary Beal, John Bartlett, Maggie Bartlett, Elizabeth James, Dale Carr, Kim Pitts and Jon Jinks.

**Minutes** of January 18, 2022 **Regular Meeting** 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 January 18, 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 January 20, 2022 **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 January 24, 2022 **Special 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 January 27, 2022 **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.

**Recorder Kelli Schriver** presented a contract with ArcaSearch to scan records from 1963 to 1992 to give a digital file for a 50-year search of records (1993 – present are already scanned). The \$131,339 cost will be paid from Recorder's Perpetuation funds. The annual fee for the second year is \$2,895. **John Oxley moved to approve the contract and Laura Coons 2<sup>nd</sup>. The vote was 3/0.**

**Assessor Kathy Goodspeed** presented a contract with Worrell Corp. to process and mail the required Form 11 notice of assessments. The contract amount is \$5,303.25. **Laura Coons moved to approve the contract and John Oxley 2<sup>nd</sup>. The vote was 3/0.**

**Sheriff Jeff Sones** gave the inmate count as 42 local males, 12 local females, 13 Level 6, DOC and parole males for a total of 67 inmates. He reported the sallyport door is completed.

**Election Clerk Maggie Bartlett** requested permission to dispose of 30 voting machines that were found on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the courthouse. Microvote will take the machines for disposal. The state has approved the request. **Laura Coons moved to approve the request and John Oxley 2<sup>nd</sup>. The vote was 3/0.**

**Highway Department Superintendent John Pluimer (1)** brought guidelines for use of the former Transfer Station property. Jim Forcum will draft the guidelines as a resolution to be posted at the site. **(2)** a used Gradeall Excavator, eight years old, has been found in Ft. Wayne for \$115,000. Others he found online ranged from \$159,000 - \$317,000 plus shipping. **John Oxley made a motion to approve the purchase of the Gradeall Excavator and Laura Coons 2<sup>nd</sup>. The vote was 3/0. (3)** Pluimer asked if the Covid event half pay could be changed from 2 weeks per year to 20 days per year. **The board took this question under advisement.**

**EMA Director Bill Smith** reported the county needs an approved Red Cross Certified Shelter and the proposed new annex could be considered. Smith also needs a plan to rescind emergency travel declarations. Jim Forcum will look into this.

**Meagan Westfall, Head Custodian Havel** will work on the computer part of the heating/cooling system at a cost not to exceed \$4,000. **Laura Coons moved to approve the work and John Oxley 2<sup>nd</sup>. The vote was 3/0.**

**Purdue Extensions Cheri Brown** introduced Taylor student Meg Elliott. Meg will be working on community development in general with a specific focus on building the relationship and strengthening communication between Blackford County and Taylor University. Many students don't know Hartford City exists, even though we are just a few miles away. They go to Marion or Muncie for simple things

like groceries or supplies that they could easily get here. Also, students are always looking for things to do and new opportunities to serve. Part of Meg's role is to help promote opportunities in the county.

**Warren Brown, BCEDC Director (1)** presented the lease for BCEDC's use of the Annex. The lease runs from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2026 for a sum of \$93,000 payable in installments of \$9,300 every six months. **(2)** The weather has slowed work on the broadband towers.

**Elizabeth James from Charter Communications** shared information on her companies plan to install Spectrum high speed broadband in the county. The project is funded by the federal government with nearly \$500,000 for Blackford County. The project will start in the first quarter of 2023 and finish by 2025.

A Conflict of Interest form was signed for **Sheila Hyer**, County Assessor employee and Treasurer of the Jackson Township Regional Sewer District. **Laura Coons moved to approve signing the form and John Oxley 2<sup>nd</sup> and the vote was 3/0.**

**Rich Hill representing COME (Christian Outdoor Ministry Experience)** requested permission to continue to use the former Transfer Station for hunting with the kids. About 400 kids have taken part in the eleven-month program. **John Oxley moved to allow the groups request and Laura Coons 2<sup>nd</sup>. The vote was 3/0.**

**Angela Smith from Smith Insurance (1)** Smith recommended that "stated amount coverage" on owned vehicles be removed. Per review of the forms presented by Astra, she felt we would be capping our limit of coverage as stated amount coverage still reimburses at actual cash value, cost of repairs or stated amount, whichever is less. **John Oxley moved to remove the "stated value coverage" from and Laura Coons 2<sup>nd</sup>. The vote was 3/0. (2)** The official bonds for the Clerk and Treasurer were found to be for incorrect amounts so both were raised to \$300,000. She is also checking on coverage for the Clerk Deputies. **(3)** Smith thanked Highway Superintendent John Pluimer for the complete inventory list and reminds all departments to turn new purchases and deletions to her company for insurance purposes. **(4)** The renewal for health insurance with PHP was received with an increase of 4%. Claims were 162% so the cost increase is minor. She is shopping other companies in the area to see if there are better rates and plans available. **(5)** Smith asked if the broadband towers should be insured and the answer is "yes". She will check into that coverage.

Lori Lee sent a request for **Heritage Days funding**. The board will act at the February 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting after Hartford City decides whether to allow Heritage Days this year or not.

**Attorney Jim Forcum** ask for authorization from the board to continue with the opioid litigation settlement that has been presented. **John Oxley moved to authorize Mr. Forcum to continue with the settlement on the county's behalf. Laura Coons 2<sup>nd</sup> and the vote was 3/0.**

**Accounts Payable Claims:**

**Claims were approved in the amount of \$450,383.49** on a motion by John Oxley and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Laura Coons and the vote of 3/0.

**Payroll Claims:**

PPE 1/21/2022 \$133,934.87 Approved on a motion by Laura Coons and 2<sup>nd</sup> by John Oxley and the vote of 3/0.

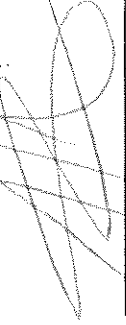
**Public Comment:**

There being no further public comment, John Oxley made a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:34 a.m.

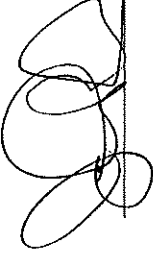
February 7, 2022 Commissioner Minutes

Approved this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of February, 2022.

The Blackford County Board of Commissioners



John Lancaster, President



John Oxley, Vice President



Laura Coons, Member

Attest: Sharon Hartley

Auditor Sharon Hartley

