

BLACKFORD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S

MEETING July 20, 2020

The Blackford County Commissioners met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. on July 20, 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 and John Lancaster present. Nick Rhodes attended on Zoom. **Others in attendance in person** were Anne Owen, Bruce Edgington, Warren Brown, Bill Smith, Cheri Brown, Tyler Hunt, Esteban Briz, Steven Holman, Laura Coons, Jeff Sones, Dan Eckstein, Sam Swenson, Paul Schriver, Judge Brian Bade, Judge Nick Barry, ^{Warren} Warren Bailey, and Tim Stanley. **Attending on Zoom** were Mary Beal, Nick Rhodes, Kathy Goodspeed, Jimmy Brock (OOMA) Rhonda Williams, Sue Kochanek, and Jack Beckley.

The minutes of the July 6, 2020 meeting were approved as presented by a 3/0 vote after a motion by John Oxley and a 2nd by Nick Rhodes.

Auditor Hartley presented the **2021 Form 144 Salary Request** for Commissioner review.

Highway Supervisor Bruce Edgington reported 1.) the Container Collection site brought in \$188. 2.) Pug mix is complete. 3.) The Highway department bought reclaimed asphalt to use on CR 800 E. The cost was \$4 per ton. 4. Chip and Seal will start soon.

EMA Director Bill Smith asked for permission to apply for a Salary Reimbursement Grant for the EMA Director's salary. **John Oxley moved to approve the grant application and John Lancaster 2nd. The vote was 3/0.**

Judge Nick Barry reported that given the elevator repair timeline of July 28 – August 17 his court will not need to relocate for trials at this time. He does ask how many people can be on the elevator at the same time with social distancing in effect. After discussion it was decided that, given the size of the elevator, only one person at a time should be on the elevator.

P&Z Director Anne Owen 1.) brought the zoning ordinance change for a structure on a lot without a residence back to the Commissioners. The change which sets the minimum size at 100 sq. ft. and cannot be a pod or trailer has passed at Hartford City, Montpelier, and Shamrock Lakes meetings. **John Oxley moved to approve the change and John Lancaster 2nd. The vote was 2/1 with Nick Rhodes voting nay.** 2.) The next change to the zoning ordinance change lowers the size of a single-family residence to 720' and must follow all set back guidelines. **John Oxley move to approve the change and John Lancaster 2nd. The vote was 2/1 with Nick Rhodes voting nay.**

Sheriff Jeff Sones gave the inmate count at 38 inmates. This includes 23 local males and 6 local females, 8 male DOC and 1 DOC female.

Judge Brian Bade stated he would hold jury trials and use a company that will supply workers to sanitize jury areas and equipment for the duration of the trial. The cost can be reimbursed through the CARES Grant. The Judge will forward more information to the Commissioners.

Courthouse Custodian Tim Stanley stated the elevator repairs will begin July 28 and are scheduled to be completed by August 17. Nick Rhodes stated he will work with Attorney Jim Forcum to cancel the contract with Oracle.

BCEDC Director Warren Brown reported that all projects are moving along nicely.

Jackson Township Sewer District is asking the county for \$350,000 in assistance from the 2021 budget. They have applied for a USDA grant which will fund 75% of the needed project. The remainder will be assessed to the Sewer District residents.

Commissioner Lancaster introduced the need to form a **Blackford County Sewer District**. This will be a legal entity with a 5-member board and an advisory committee. This will serve rural areas of the county. There is a request for \$40,000 from the 2021 budget to form the district. **Nick Rhodes moved to form the District with \$40,000 in 2021. John Oxley 2nd and the vote was 3/0.**

Blackford County needs to form a Storm Water District. This topic will be considered at the August 3 meeting.

Josh Francis with Tri Global Energy reported that they have leased over 11,000 acres in the county for solar and wind energy. They are asking for permission to bury cable in the right-of-way. If the county would like to furnish conduit, Tri Global will install it while they have the trench open for future use by the county. The project should start by next summer. They don't know how many miles they will work in yet. John Oxley made a motion to give preliminary approval to use the R/W and John Lancaster 2nd. The vote was 3/0.

Esteban Briz from OOMA and Steven Holman the county IT technician gave a demonstration of the proposed phone system from OOMA. Jimmy Brock from OOMA was on Zoom and gave part of the demonstration. Commissioners asked them to set up a demonstration with departments. The group was going to the Jail after the meeting to test reception and Internet connection at that site. Internet service is part of the phone/Internet package offered by OOMA.

Accounts Payable Claims: Claims were approved in the amount of \$406,837.76 on a motion by John Oxley and 2nd by Nick Rhodes. The vote was 3/0.

Payroll Claims:

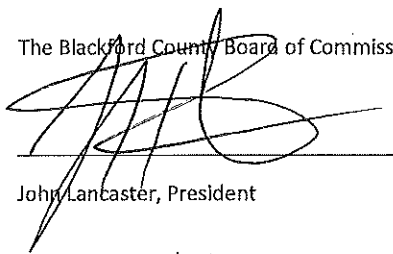
PPE 7/10/2020 Claims of \$120,857.55 were approved on a motion by John Oxley and 2nd by Nick Rhodes. The vote was 3/0

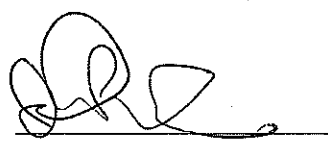
Public Comment:


There being no further public comment, John Oxley made a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 a.m.

Approved this 3rd day of August, 2020.

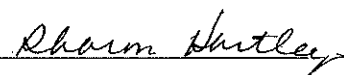
The Blackford County Board of Commissioners


John Lancaster, President


John Oxley, Vice President


Nick Rhodes, Member

Attest:


Auditor Sharon Hartley