

BLACKFORD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S

MEETING March 16, 2020

The Blackford County Commissioners met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. on March 16, 2020 in the Commissioner's Office located on the first floor of the Blackford County Courthouse, Hartford City IN.

Vice-President John Oxley called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance and Auditor Sharon Hartley called roll with Commissioners Nick Rhodes and John Oxley present. John Lancaster joined the meeting by phone but did not vote. Others in attendance were Anne Owen, Bruce Edgington, Bill Smith, Dan Eckstein, Sam Swenson, Kathy Goodspeed, Tyler Hunt, Tim Stanley, Paul Schriver, Mary Beal, Judy Smith, Sue Kochanek, Deb Perry, Ethan Cox, Zach Crouch, Aaron Henderson, Dana Turner, Laura Coons, Angela Smith, Mike Winegardner and Jon Oswalt.

The minutes of the March 2, 2020 meeting were approved as presented by a 2/0 vote after a motion by Nick Rhodes and a 2nd by John Oxley. John Lancaster was absent 3/16.

Highway Supervisor Bruce Edgington 1. The new tractor is in. 2. The sign replacement project is continuing. 3. Frontier wants permission to install fiberoptic in the right-of-way in the county. They want to start in Jackson Township in July. Nick Rhodes moved to allow the fiberoptic installation and John Oxley 2nd. The vote was 2/0.

Surveyor Paul Schriver asked Commissioners to sign a Resolution Recommending Establishment of a Blackford County Cumulative Drainage Fund (2020-R2). This resolution allows the Council to act of the request for the Cum Drainage Fund. John Oxley move to approve the Resolution and Nick Rhodes 2nd. The vote was 2/0.

Clerk Laura Coons asked for approval on the voting center locations. Oxley and Rhodes approved the centers. Coons stated she has been in contact with Health Officer Dr. Lori Skidmore and EMA Director Bill Smith about the upcoming election and COVID-19.

Jail 1st Sgt. Deb Perry gave the jail inmate count as 37 males and 12 females for a total of 49 inmates. Ten of the 49 inmates are out-of-county and one is DOC. Perry reported that they have established a protocol for Jail Safety in wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

P&Z Director Anne Owen reported Mayor Eckstein and BCEDC Director Warren Brown are working to rezone the area north of Hartford City for the Gillman Home Store project.

EMA Director Bill Smith stated that if the Commissioners declare a disaster, he can move forward with aid due to COVID-19. P&Z Director Anne Owen will put updates on Facebook for the public to stay accurately informed. Smith also asked for approval of the Mitigation Plan which was given to the board at their last meeting. Nick Rhodes moved to approve the plan and John Oxley 2nd. The vote was 2/0.

Custodian Tim Stanley stated the elevator is currently working but needs a complete replacement of the motor(s). John Oxley move to ask for quotes to replace the motor(s) on the elevator. Nick Rhodes 2nd and the vote was 2/0.

Lori Lee sent a request to put a tent on the courthouse lawn for the Heritage Days beauty pageant. The request was continued until a future meeting.

Employee health insurance renewal with PHP starts May 1. Angela Smith from Smith Insurance explained options available. Nick Rhodes moved to approve changing the deductible to \$6,750 and employee co-pay to \$40 per pay. The employee out-of-pocket will remain the same at \$2,400 with the county picking up the remainder. John Oxley 2nd and the vote was 2/0. Employees that meet over \$2,000 deductible must file a form with the Auditor's office for reimbursement. Smith also informed the board that an inspection by their insurance company, EMC, shows the courthouse is underinsured. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Accounts Payable Claims: Claims were approved in the amount of \$109,841.39 on a motion by Nick Rhodes and 2nd by John Oxley. The vote was 2/0.

Payroll Claims:

PPE 3/6/2020 Claims for \$122,257.02 were approved on a motion by Nick Rhodes and 2nd by John Oxley. The vote was 2/0.

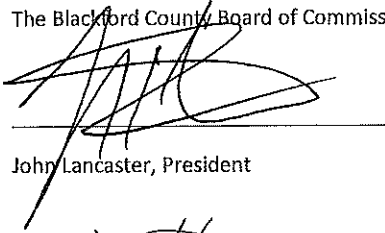
Public Comment:

John Oxley assured everyone that the Commissioners are taking the COVID-19 pandemic very seriously and they are working on plans for the county.

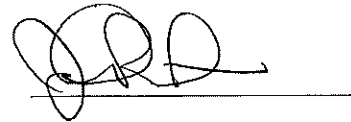
There being no further public comment, Nick Rhodes made a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 a.m.

Approved this 6th day of April, 2020.

The Blackford County Board of Commissioners

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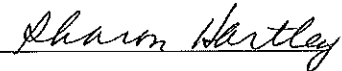
John Lancaster, President

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JO', written over a horizontal line.

John Oxley, Vice President

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Nick Rhodes', written over a horizontal line.

Nick Rhodes, Member

Attest: A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Sharon Hartley', written over a horizontal line.

Auditor Sharon Hartley