

BLACKFORD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S

MEETING March 18, 2024

The Blackford County Commissioners met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. on March 18, 2024, in the Commissioner/Council room 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, Laura Coons, and Dan Borgenheimer present. Also, present were Tyler Hunt, John Pluimer, Bill Smith, Derek Hagan, Cheri Brown, Warren Brown, Taylor Lefever, Angela Smith, Jim Weiseman, Brad Neff, Dan Eckstein, Max Tarter, Rich Hall, Diann Wellman, Bill Aspy, Mike Daniel, and Jim Heflin. Attending on Zoom was Lisa Simmons, Paul Schriver, Elizabeth Witt, Shelby Maddox, Amy Lathem, Sam Swenson, Sheila Hyer, Patrick O'Donnell, Linda Batten, Dana Turner, Sue Kochanek, and Mary Beal.

Minutes of the March 4, 2024, Regular Meeting were approved as presented on a **motion by Laura Coons and 2nd by Dan Borgenheimer. The vote was 3/0.**

Patrick O'Donnell from Solentia Energy talked briefly about what his company has to offer in energy savings programs. He will send information to the board.

Rich Hill with Christian Outdoor Ministry Experience requested permission to use the land at the former Transfer Station for the program. COME is used the land for several years. **Dan Borgenheimer moved to approve the request and Laura Coons 2nd. The vote was 3/0.** Hill is to provide a Certificate of Insurance for the group.

Angela Smith, Taylor Lefever and Linda Batten provided information on dependent health insurance coverage at an affordable cost to employees. Various options were explored. Cost to the county will depend on the number of employees taking the insurance. This will be discussed at the April 1 meeting. Smith also requested acceptance of the health insurance renewal with Anthem. **Dan Borgenheimer moved to approve Anthem for employee health insurance and Laura Coons 2nd. The vote was 3/0.**

John Pluimer, Highway Superintendent (1) presented seven permits from BSC/Charter Communication to work in county right-of-way. **Dan Borgenheimer moved to approve the permits and Laura Coons 2nd. The vote was 3/0. (2)** in 2023, a car was damaged by rocks thrown by a county mower. Estimates for repairs were \$2,077 and \$2,645 were received in February 2024. **Dan Borgenheimer moved to send the information to the county liability insurance. Laura Coons 2nd and the vote was 3/0.**

Derek Hagan, Courthouse renovation project manager gave an update on the work on the courthouse. The weather has slowed work on the roof and masonry. Work will continue as the weather allows.

EMA Director Bill Smith (1) FEMA training will be held on April 15 from 10 am – Noon at the Fairgrounds. **(2)** There will be an educational training meeting on Tuesday, May 21st. This is a county wide meeting to be held at the Hartford City, City Building from 9 am – Noon. **(3)** the radio system currently in use for police, fire and EMS needs updated/replaced. A meeting will be held with all county law enforcement, fire departments, EMS, and EMA to determine the needs for each group. **(4)** a tornado drill will be held at the courthouse. Department heads need to require all employees and customers to go to the lower level of the building.

Tyler Hunt – Community Corrections Director reported the grant proposal for calendar year 2025 is completed and needs commissioner approval to apply for the grant. **Dan Borgenheimer moved to approve the grant application and Laura Coons 2nd. The vote was 3/0.**

Sheriff Jim Heflin - (1) gave the inmate count as 67. **(2)** Sheriff Heflin, Chief Deputy Bell, and Deputy McCoin went to Winchester to help with the tornado security and cleanup. They were impressed with the number of public safety personnel that were there to help.

BCEDC Warren Brown – (1) the road use and decommissioning agreements for RWE (wind/solar) has been sent to the attorney for final review. **(2)** broadband - movement on 100' tower should begin soon. **(3)** The process for reporting internet availability and speed to the state is a cumbersome process. Internet providers are sometimes incorrect in their reporting.

Purdue Extension – Cheri Brown (1) The next Small Business meeting will be held on Thursday, March 21. **(2)** the April 8, 2024 Solar Eclipse committee meeting will be held tomorrow in Montpelier.

LEPC Chairperson Diann Wellman – requested permission to travel to Charlotte NC for LEPC conference. Laura Coons moved to approve the request and Dan Borgenheimer 2nd. The vote was 3/0.

The PTO Donation Committee presented revised guidelines for PTO donors and recipients. Dan Borgenheimer moved to approve the guidelines and Laura Coons 2nd. The vote was 3/0.

Resolution 2024-2 - A Resolution to Approve the Blackford Comprehensive Plan was approved on a motion by Laura Coons, 2nd by Dan Borgenheimer and 3/0 vote.

Regular Claims were approved in the amount of \$172,715.53 on a motion by Laura Coons and 2nd by Dan Borgenheimer. The vote was 3/0.

Miscellaneous claims were approved in the amount of \$68,750.00 on a motion by Laura Coons and 2nd by Dan Borgenheimer. The vote was 3/0.

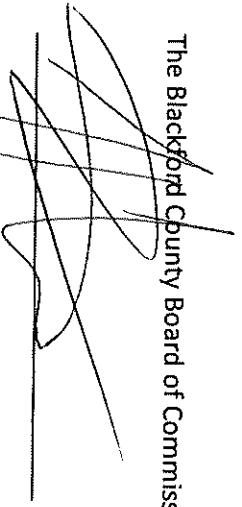
Payroll Claims were approved in the amount of \$58,409.17 on a motion by Laura Coons and 2nd by Dan Borgenheimer. The vote was 3/0.

PPE 3/1/2024 Regular Payroll approved in the amount of \$159,984.07 on a motion by Laura Coons and 2nd by Dan Borgenheimer. The vote was 3/0.


There being no further public comment, Laura Coons made a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Approved this 1st day of April, 2024.

The Blackford County Board of Commissioners


John Lancaster, President


Laura Coons, Member


Dan Borgenheimer, Vice President

Attest: Sharon Hartley
Auditor Sharon Hartley