

BLACKFORD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S

MEETING March 2, 2020

The Blackford County Commissioners met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. on March 2, 2020 in the Commissioner's Office located on the first floor of the Blackford County Courthouse, Hartford City IN.

President John Lancaster called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance and Auditor Sharon Hartley called roll with Commissioners John Lancaster, Nick Rhodes and John Oxley present. **Others in attendance** were Anne Owen, Bruce Edgington, Bill Smith, Dan Eckstein, Sam Swenson, Kathy Goodspeed, Tyler Hunt, Jim Heflin, Tim Stanley, Warren Brown, Cheri Brown, Paul Schriver, Mary Beal and Jon Oswalt. Attorney Jim Forcum was also in attendance.

The minutes of the February 18, 2020 meeting were approved as presented by a 3/0 vote after a motion by Nick Rhodes and a 2nd by John Oxley.

The 2020 Commissioner Attorney appointment: Nick Rhodes made a motion to appoint Jim Forcum as Commissioner's attorney for 2020 and John Oxley 2nd. The vote was 3/0. Mr. Forcum stated he will attend the first meeting of every month and, if needed the second meeting of the month.

Courthouse Custodian Tim Stanley:

1. Havel is finished working on the front end of the upgrade to the heating/cooling system that happened during the recent Honeywell work.
2. The elevator is still out of service. The company is working on it. They are also preparing an estimate
3. He wants to cancel the proposed first floor lighting project.
4. Tim would like permission to remodel the first-floor men's restroom. John Oxley moved to take this project under advisement pending estimates on cost and Nick Rhodes 2nd. The vote was 3/0.

Highway Supervisor Bruce Edgington 1. reported the State sign replacement project has started in southeast Blackford County. 2. INDOT will begin work on SR 26 east of Hartford City between 500 E and 600 E. The detour will be 500 E south to 100 S, 100 S east to 600 E, 600 E north to SR 26, SR 26 east. Nick Rhodes moved to approve the detour and John Oxley 2nd. The vote was 3/0.

Chief Deputy Jim Heflin gave the jail inmate count as 27 males, 13 female, 2 level 6, 2 DOC, 8 out-of-county and 2 parole for a total of 54 inmates.

P&Z Director Anne Owen reported the Commissioner's BZA appointment, Richard Thurman, has resigned. Commissioners will work on finding a replacement.

Veteran's Affairs Officer Jon Oswalt reported he will attend meetings at Camp Atterbury in June.

EMA Director Bill Smith passed out the recently completed Mitigation plan report.

Purdue Extension's Cheri Brown:

1. A drone operation program will be held on March 26 & 27 at the Fairgrounds. The cost is \$200. Contact the Extension office for more information.
2. There will be a meeting about Youth Suicide Prevention on March 17 at Hartford City City Hall.
3. "Getting Dirty" is the name of the program that teaches from planting to harvest. The 21-week course will work with 6 students. If interested, contact the Extension office.
4. Candidates for a full-time 4H Educator position will be held soon.

BCEDC Director Warren Brown reported:

1. A broadband committee is working in the county to bring better WIFI to rural areas.
2. MACO in Montpelier is expanding as are Petoskey and Shalee Oil.
3. The Gilman Home Store project is waiting for water and sewer as well as setting up a TIF District to fund infrastructure.

4. He is working with Purdue on a housing study. This will show the type of housing needed in the county. The study will cost \$15,000 for the entire county. Commissioners would like the proposed breakdown of the cost funding at the next meeting.
5. The need for a hotel is being looked at. Nick Rhodes stated he is in favor of a hotel.

Public Defender Board member Lisa Simmons term expired on 1/22/2020. John Oxley moved to reappoint Lisa Simmons to the Public Defender board and Nick Rhodes 2nd. The vote was 3/0.

Employee health insurance renewal with PHP is shows an 8% increase. A second option is a 4.6% increase. Angela Smith with Smith Insurance Services will be at the next meeting with detailed options.

Accounts Payable Claims: Claims were approved in the amount of \$265,305.53 on a motion by John Oxley and 2nd by Nick Rhodes. The vote was 3/0.

Payroll Claims:

PPE 02/21/2020 Claims for \$120,501.70 were approved on a motion by Nick Rhodes and 2nd by John Oxley. The vote was 3/0.

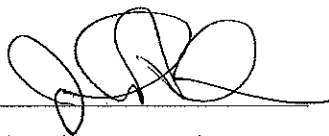
Public Comment:

There being no further public comment, John Oxley made a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

Approved this 16th day of March, 2020.

The Blackford County Board of Commissioners

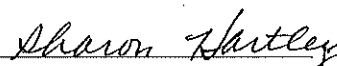
John Lancaster, President



John Oxley, Vice President



Nick Rhodes, Member

Attest: 

Auditor Sharon Hartley