

BLACKFORD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S

MEETING May 18, 2020

The Blackford County Commissioners met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. on May 18, 2020 in the hallway of 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 Nick Rhodes, John Oxley and John Lancaster present. **Others in attendance in person** were Anne Owen, Bruce Edgington, Dana Turner, Laura Coons, Shella Hyer, Jon Oswalt, Jeff Sones, Warren Brown, Nick Barry, Rick Anderson and Tim Stanley. **Attending on Zoom** were Cheri Brown, Tyler Hunt, Mike Winegardner, Sue Kochanek, Kathy Goodspeed, Dan Eckstein and Mary Beal.

The minutes of the May 4, 2020 meeting were approved as presented by a 3/0 vote after a motion by Nick Rhodes and a 2nd by John Oxley.

Custodian **Tim Stanley** reported that Oracle Elevator has a part and it trying to get the elevator up and running. Indy Elevator is in the process of ordering the parts for the complete upgrade of the elevator.

Sheriff **Jeff Sones** gave the inmate count at 28 inmates, 7 female and 21 males.

Clerk **Laura Coons** reported that early voting is May 26 – June 1. She will need to use the 1st floor to assure social distancing for voters.

BCEDC Director **Warren Brown** has been working on the kickoff for the Gillman Home Center. Although things are behind the original schedule, the project is moving forward. The **downtown revitalization** projects are moving forward as well. Work on the **Wyer lot** on the north west corner of Main and Jefferson streets will begin soon. Brown is asking Hartford City, BCEDC and Blackford County to contribute \$5,000 each and Mr. Peacock, owner of the Old Town Villas, has agreed to fund the remainder of the project. **John Oxley moved to assist the Wyer lot project with \$5,000 and Nick Rhodes 2nd. The vote was 3/0.**

Warren Brown also announced that **Blackford County, Hartford City and Montpelier will share in approximately \$469,000 from an OCRA grant award.** Blackford County Government received \$240,000 of the grant, which BCEDC will administer, to help local businesses impacted by COVID-19.

Superior Court Judge **Nick Barry** reported the rain is coming in around the windows in his office. Circuit court has the same issue. John Lancaster asked custodian Tim Stanley to call someone to look at and fix the problem.

The Commissioners received a complaint about CR 200 N and the RR tracks east near AgBest. Highway Supervisor Bruce Edgington look at the area and reported it is on the RR property. The RR forbids the county highway from doing any work on RR property. Commissioner attorney Jim Forcum has been contacted on the matter.

Highway Supervisor Bruce Edgington reported the Container Collection Site is was open May 9 and collected \$420.

Purdue Extension's Cheri Brown stated work is being done to try to have the county 4H fair in July. It may be different but they are working towards making it happen.

P&Z Director Anne Owen 1) last year a change to the zoning ordinance was proposed to change the allowed an accessory structure on a nonresidential lot. The change died when not all units passed the changes. She would like to take the changes back to Hartford City, Montpelier and Shamrock Lakes. **John Oxley moved to send the change to allow an accessory structure on a nonresidential lot on to the Area Plan Commission to start the process. John Lancaster 2nd and the vote was 2/1 with Nick Rhodes voting nay. 2) A second change to the zoning ordinance which would change the minimum allowable square footage of a residence to be changed from 940' to 720' also died last year. John Oxley moved to send the change to the minimum square footage of a residence from 940' to 720' back to the APC. John Lancaster 2nd and the vote was 2/1 with Nick Rhodes voting nay. 3. There will be a special APC meeting on May 28 to discuss a new Tax Increment financing district (TIF).**

Oil Bids for the Highway Department were opened:

Asphalt Materials	RS2 \$1.49 gal.	90S \$1.69 gal.
Marathon Petroleum	RS2 \$1.46 gal.	90S no bid
Klink Group	RD2 \$372 ton	90S \$391 ton

Highway Supervisor Bruce Edgington recommended the Commissioners accept all three bids. This gives him options in case of transportation issues etc. **John Oxley moved to accept all three bids for Oil and Nick Rhodes 2nd. The vote was 3/0.**

Rick Anderson from Johnson Melloh presented options for solar panels on county property. The courthouse and annex are good on utilities. The jail could benefit from solar energy and lock in utility costs for 25-30 years. **Nick Rhodes moved to take the presentation under advisement and John Oxley 2nd. The vote was 3/0.**

Accounts Payable Claims: Claims were approved in the amount of **\$396,260.82** on a motion by John Oxley and 2nd by Nick Rhodes. The vote was 3/0. The board also approved a claim for \$46,700 to Indy Elevator to order new parts for the elevator in the motion making the total approved \$442,960.82

Payroll Claims:

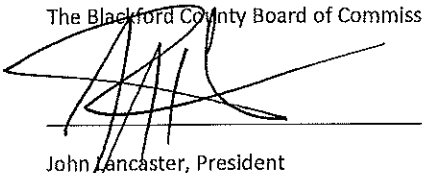
PPE 5/01/2020 Claims for \$122,328.50 were approved on a motion by Nick Rhodes and 2nd by John Oxley. The vote was 3/0.

Public Comment:

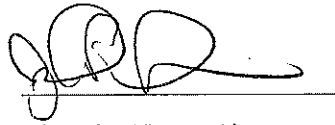
There being no further public comment, John Oxley made a motion to adjourn. **The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 a.m.**

Approved this 1st day of June, 2020.

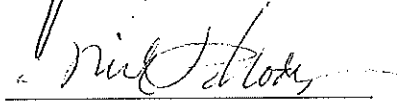
The Blackford County Board of Commissioners



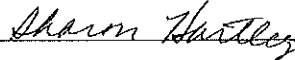
John Lancaster, President



John Oxley, Vice President



Nick Rhodes, Member

Attest: 

Auditor Sharon Hartley