

BLACKFORD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S

MEETING November 20, 2023

The Blackford County Commissioners met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. on November 20, 2023, 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, Anne Owen, John Pluimer, Warren Brown, Bill Aspy, Kim Pitts, Meagan Westfall, Bill Smith, Chad McCoin, Brad Hile, Jon Oswalt, Mike Daniel, Katie Clark, Greg Beumer, Greg Martz, Greg Delagrange, Mary Beal, Sam Swenson, Jim Forcum, and Jim Heflin. Attending on Zoom was Lisa Simmons, Amy Latham, Paul Schriver, Frances Mays, Elizabeth Witt, Kelly Cale, Diann Wellman, Rhonda Williams, and Ryan Wallace.

Dan Borgenheimer was welcomed as the new commissioner caucused in to finish the term of the late John Oxley.

The regular meeting was recessed at 8:32 am.

The Public Hearing for the Courthouse BOT was called to order on a motion by Dan Borgenheimer, 2nd by Laura Coons and 3/0 vote.

Greg Martz with GM Development, LLC reviewed the purpose of the BOT (Build-Operate-Transfer) agreement for the repairs/renovations to the courthouse. Martz will have contractors at the courthouse tomorrow to look at the pigeon waste problem in the clock tower. The clock will be cleaned/repared and refreshed by the same technician that has worked on it for the last 35 years. Once the clock tower is cleaned and secured, other work will begin. **Public Comment:** Dan Borgenheimer asked if the bankruptcy of Bowman Construction will affect the work on the courthouse. Martz responded that Bowman was not under contract, so the project is not affected. Greg Delagrange is the Project Manager.

The Public Hearing on the Courthouse BOT was adjourned on a motion by Dan Borgenheimer, 2nd by Laura Coons and 3/0 vote.

The Public Hearing for the OCRA Grant was called to order on a motion by Dan Borgenheimer, 2nd by Laura Coons and 3/0 vote.

Greg Beumer with Kleinpeter Consulting asked commissioners to request a one month extension of the completion deadline for the Blackford County Comprehensive Planning project. **Public Comment:** Warren Brown reported that public meetings have been held. A plan was written and submitted. There was no public comment from that action.

The Public Hearing for the OCRA Grant was adjourned on a motion by Laura Coons, 2nd by Dan Borgenheimer and 3/0 vote.

The regular meeting was resumed at 8:44 am.

Minutes of November 6, 2023, Regular Meeting were approved as presented on a motion by Laura Coons and 2nd by John Lancaster. The vote was 2/0.

A letter from the commissioner to OCRA Grant Service Division requesting a one month extension for the grant was approved on a motion by Dan Borgenheimer, 2nd by Laura Coons and a 3/0 vote.

Resolution 2023-R12 for the Comprehensive Plan for the OCRA grant was approved on a motion by Laura Coons, 2nd by Dan Borgenheimer and 3/0 vote.

Resolution 2023-R13, Awarding Build-Operate-Transfer Agreement was approved on a motion by Laura Coons, 2nd by Dan Borgenheimer and 3/0 vote.

Katie Clark spoke on the OCRA Grant noting twelve focus areas. Final approval is expected in December or January.

County Farm Contract – review of the acreage showed 65 tillable acres is correct. Laura Coons moved to reject the one bid that had been received. Dan Borgenheimer 2nd and the vote was 3/0. A motion to rebid the contract was made by Laura Coons and 2nd by Dan Borgenheimer. The vote was 3/0. The bids will be taken until December 15th and opened on December 18th.

Animal Shelter contract – the board meets next week. The revised 2024 contract will be reviewed.

SRI asked if the commissioners would consider holding a Certificate Sale. The county holds Tax Sale Certificates to approximately 70 properties. The sale would put properties back on the tax rolls. **Laura Coons made a motion to hold the certificate sale in the spring of 2024. Dan Borgenheimer 2nd and the vote was 3/0.**

Veteran's Affairs Officer Jon Oswalt offered to stay in the VAO position after the first of the year to help train his replacement if necessary. John Oxley had been seeking his replacement.

John Pluimer, Highway Superintendent – (1) The Transfer Station received \$548 on the last day is was open in 2023. **(2)** The bridge on CR 400 E is finished but there was a problem with the guardrail being too close to the road. The installation company fixed the problem. **(3)** Attorney Forcum prepared a resolution allowing more than 50% of MVH income to be deposited into Fund 1173, MVH Restricted. **Laura Coons moved to approve Resolution 2023-R14, Dan Borgenheimer 2nd and the vote was 3/0.**

Planning & Zoning Director Anne Owen (1) **Laura Coons moved to add Article 12 (Unsafe Building) to the Zoning Ordinance of Blackford County. Dan Borgenheimer 2nd and the vote was 3/0. (2)** The annual Veteran's Tree Lighting Festival will be held on Saturday, November 18th from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm on the square.

EMA Director Bill Smith – (1) The District 6 LEPC tabletop exercise was held last week at the 4H building. FEMA will pay for disaster recovery if reporting comes from EMA Director Smith. He would like to hold a luncheon for department heads to review procedures during a disaster. **(2)** The Comprehensive Plan should be completed in late March.

Community Corrections Director Tyler Hunt has an opportunity to apply for a grant for Juvenile Diversion. The grant provides up to \$110,000 with priority to small counties. **Laura moved to allow Hunt to apply for the grant. Dan Borgenheimer 2nd and the vote was 3/0.**

BCEDC Executive Director Warren Brown – (1) The READI Grant project has been submitted. It will be February to April before the grant is finished. He is working on the regional plan. **(2)** Cheri Brown is working on a \$20,000 grant from AEP for assistance to seniors.

Sheriff Jim Heflin – gave the inmate count as a total of 61.

Clerk Kim Pitts reported the election went well.

Facilities Manager Meagan Westfall (1) The elevator maintenance agreement is raising from \$165 per month to \$171. The agreement rolls over and she would like to stay with this company. Commissioners agree. **(2)** Provided the commissioners with five quotes for the Annex roof repairs. **Laura Coons moved to take the quotes under advisement and Dan Borgenheimer 2nd. The vote was 3/0.**

Regular Claims were approved in the amount of \$130,758.39 on a motion by Laura Coons and 2nd by Dan Borgenheimer. The vote was 3/0.

Miscellaneous claims were approved in the amount of \$336,168.78 on a motion by Laura Coons and 2nd by Dan Borgenheimer. The vote was 3/0.

Payroll Claims were approved in the amount of \$49,252.39 on a motion by Laura Coons and 2nd by Dan Borgenheimer. The vote was 3/0.

Payroll (PPE 10/27/23) was approved in the amount of \$138,898.94 on a motion by Laura Coons and 2nd by Dan Borgenheimer. The vote was 3/0.

Payroll (PPE 11/09/23) was approved in the amount of \$140,958.90 on a motion by Laura Coons and 2nd by Dan Borgenheimer. The vote was 3/0.

Longevity Payroll was approved in the amount of \$25,400.00 on a motion by Laura Coons and 2nd by Dan Borgenheimer. The vote was 3/0.

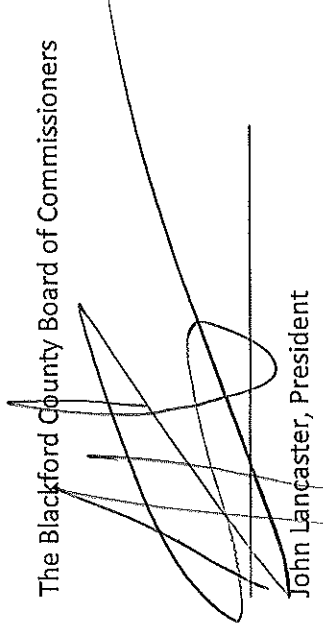
Election Payroll was approved in the amount of \$1,430.00 on a motion by Laura Coons and 2nd by Dan Borgenheimer. The vote was 3/0.

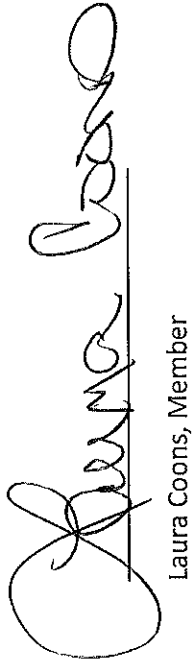
Achievement Payroll was approved in the amount of \$2,000.00 on a motion by Laura Coons and 2nd by Dan Borgenheimer. The vote was 3/0.

There being no further public comment, Dan Borgenheimer made a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 a.m.

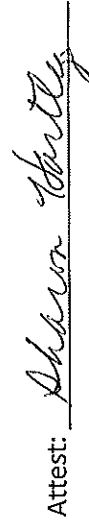
Approved this 4th day of December, 2023.

The Blackford County Board of Commissioners


John Lancaster, President


Laura Coons, Member


Dan Borgenheimer, Member

Attest: 
Auditor Sharon Hartley

