

BLACKFORD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S

MEETING October 16, 2023

The Blackford County Commissioners met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. on October 16, 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 and Laura Coons present. John Oxley was absent. Also present were Tyler Hunt, Anne Owen, John Pluimer, Warren Brown, Cheri Brown, Bill Aspy, Kim Pitts, Meagan Westfall, and Steven Holman. Attending on Zoom was Lisa Simmons, Amy Latham, Paul Schriver, Mary Beal, and Sam Swenson.

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

The Animal Shelter contract will be rewritten for \$29,483 as approved by the county council for 2024. County costs over that amount will be prorated. The Commissioners are waiting for the contract from the shelter.

The \$7,500 quote from Eric Wilson to replace the conduit on the east side of the courthouse from the last meeting was revisited. The outlets fed by the conduit are unsafe. **Laura Coons made a motion to approve the conduit repair and John Lancaster 2nd. The vote was 2/0.**

John Pluimer, Highway Superintendent – (1) The 2023 ADA Implementation Plan will be posted on the Commissioner website once it is signed today. **(2) Commissioner had a taxpayer request heavy truck traffic be restricted on CR 200 E from SR 18 to SR 26. Pluimer will do a traffic survey to get a road use count. With farmers currently using these roads, the traffic survey will be done this winter.**

Facilities Manager Meagan Westfall (1) the courthouse cooling tower still has some problems. **(2) The 3rd and a half floor in the courthouse vibration issue has been fixed. (3) three HVAC units (Veteran's, Superior Courtroom and Defendants Room) need replaced. A quote from Havel of \$19,246 was received. The unit in the Recorder's front office also quit working. **Laura Coons moved to approve the three-unit quote and approve an additional unit if the price is similar. John Lancaster 2nd and the vote was 2/0.** **(4) there is a leak on the second-floor skylight in the bathroom at the Annex and the repair company will not work on the HVAC unit due to soft spots on the roof from the leak. (5) the Annex second floor bathrooms are finished.****

Planning & Zoning Director Anne Owen (1) On October 3rd, the APC recommended a property on Industrial Park Road belonging to AC Smith Properties, LLC be changed from I-1 zoning to A-1. **Laura Coons moved to approve the zoning change and John Lancaster 2nd. The vote was 2/0.** **(2) The Unsafe Building Ordinance was passed by Montpelier. It will go the Shamrock Lake on Thursday and Hartford City in November.**

Clerk Kim Pitts reported (1) the voting is running smoothly. **(2) The new postage machine is not working. A new part is expected in the next day or two. Departments will need to pay for postage at the post office or buy stamps until the machine is fixed.**

Purdue Extensions Cheri Brown encouraged everyone to take the internet speed test at home. The results could help the county with funding for better internet services.

Warren Brown, BCEDC Director, (1) On October 24th, a pedestrian bridge from South Jefferson Street in Hartford City to the Disk Golf course (Lions Club Park) will be installed. Council member Patrick Cale will operate the crane and set the bridge. The public is invited to watch the bridge installation. High school students are encouraged to attend. **(2) another internet speed test is being conducted to determine the needs in the county. Everyone is encouraged to participate and report their results. (3) With Blackford County being in the path of the April 8, 2024 Solar Eclipse, Brown requested the commissioners establish a committee to help with planning for the large number of people coming here to watch the eclipse. **Laura Coons moved to establish the Eclipse Viewing Committee and John Lancaster 2nd. The vote was 2/0.****

Auditor Sharon Hartley asked permission to hold the annual Employee Christmas Party on the second floor of the courthouse on December 8th from noon to 1:30 pm. The Make-or-Bake auction will raise money for the local Clothe-a-Child. **John Lancaster moved to approve the request and Laura Coons 2nd.** **The vote was 2/0.**

Regular Claims were approved in the amount of \$727,861.74 on a motion by Laura Coons and 2nd by John Lancaster. The vote was 2/0.

Miscellaneous claims were approved in the amount of \$332,741.22 on a motion Laura Coons and 2nd by John Lancaster. The vote was 2/0.

Payroll Claims were approved in the amount of \$83,903.78 on a motion by Laura Coons and 2nd by John Lancaster. The vote was 2/0.

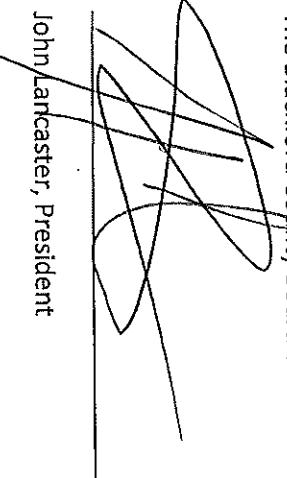
PPO Payroll (PPE 9/29/23) was approved in the amount of \$144,393.44 on a motion by Laura Coons and 2nd by John Lancaster. The vote was 2/0.

OPO Payroll (PPE 9/29/23) was approved in the amount of \$1,383.02 on a motion by Laura Coons and 2nd by John Lancaster. The vote was 2/0.

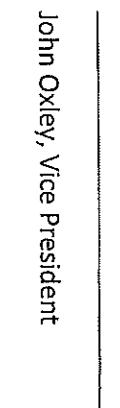
There being no public comment, Laura Coons made a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 a.m.

Approved this 6th day of November, 2023.

The Blackford County Board of Commissioners



John Lancaster, President



John Oxley, Vice President



Laura Coons, Member



Attest: Sharon Hartley
Auditor Sharon Hartley