

BLACKFORD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S

MEETING October 2, 2023

The Blackford County Commissioners met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. on October 2, 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, John Oxley and Laura Coons present. Also, present were Tyler Hunt, Anne Owen, John Pluimer, Warren Brown, Dennis Laymon, Bill Aspy, Kim Pitts, Taylor Lefever, Jon Oswalt, Mike Daniel, Susan Lannoy, Joyce Gearheart, Dan Eckstein, Meagan Westfall, and Sam Swenson. Attending on Zoom was Lisa Simmons, Bill Smith, Amy Latham, Cheri Brown, Sheila Hyer, Mary Beal, Paul Schriver, Frances Mays, Brian Etchison, Rhonda Williams, Machelie Lindsay, Tyler Sprunger, and Sue Kochanek.

Minutes of September 18, 2023, Regular Meeting were approved as presented on a **motion by John Oxley and 2nd by Laura Coons. The vote was 3/0.**

Susan Lannoy and Joyce Gearheart presented a **Proclamation of the County of Blackford, Indiana** proclaiming October as **Blackford County Extension Homemakers Association month**. President Lancaster read the proclamation and Laura Coons made a motion for approval and John Oxley 2nd. The vote was 3/0.

Bids for Printer/Copiers and Postage Meter results from the committee review.

Postage Meter: Pinnacle Mailing bid of \$370.72 per month for 60 months was awarded on a motion by John Oxley, 2nd by Laura Coons and 3/0 vote.

Printer/Copiers: Ricoh bid of \$1,039.69 per month for 60 month was awarded on a motion by Laura Coons, 2nd by John Oxley and 3/0 vote.

Quotes were obtained from three vendors for a **Xante Envelope Printer**:

Ricoh \$19,036	Perry Pro Tech \$19,735	Digital Print Solutions \$17,490
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After talking with all three vendors, Clerk Kim Pitts, Auditor Sharon Hartley and Auditor Chief Deputy Lisa Simmons recommended the quote from Digital Print Solutions be approved. **Laura Coons moved to approve the quote of \$17,490 from Digital Print Solutions for the Xante Envelope Printer. John Oxley 2nd and the vote was 3/0.**

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.

Tax Sale Certificates for 108 and 110 E Washington Street, Hartford City were obtained. The county must have a title search done and notify any affected parties. The process to obtain deeds takes 120 days.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Taylor Lefever reported there are currently 66 inmates in the jail.

Clerk Kim Pitts reported the voting machine test had no errors.

Planning & Zoning Director Anne Owen reported an APC meeting will be held October 3rd to continue work on the Unsafe Building Ordinance.

John Pluimer, Highway Superintendent – (1) The Lake Trout solar project has started checking roads to be used for the project without contacting Pluimer. Lake Trout has not provided maps and plans or roads to be used. American Engineering Company lied to Pluimer when he found them working in the roadways. After discussion, **Laura Coons made a motion to allow American Engineering Company the right to work in county right-of-way with the understanding that they are truthful in their communications with county officials. John Oxley 2nd and the vote was 3/0. (2)** The unofficial detour for SR 18, 900 E and Balbec Road was approved at the last meeting and the paperwork was brought for signatures today. **(3)** Pluimer presented an updated ADA plan. **John Lancaster moved to approve the plan and get it submitted for compliance. Pluimer was asked to work with Facilities Manager Meagan Westfall on ADA Plans. Laura Coons 2nd the motion and the vote was 3/0. (4)** The Highway barn lot was cleaned up and 37 tons of scrap was sold for \$5,600. More cleanup will be completed next year. **(5)** the Blackford County Soil and Water District asked permission to plant a cover crop at the former transfer station. There will be no crops planted in 2023 due to soil requirements from IDENM.

Warren Brown, BCEDC Director, (1) ON October 24th, a 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) Requests for information for the broadband towers will be published with bids opened on November 20th. **Laura Coons moved to approve the RFI bid process pending review by county attorney Jim Forcum. John Oxley 2nd and the vote was 3/0.**

Facilities Manager Meagan Westfall (1) recent work on the courthouse cooling tower has caused problems with some HVAC units. Required work will need to be done on a weekend. The budget for chemicals used in the cooling tower prior to the repairs has been used and additional funds will be needed for the rest of the year. (2) The 3rd and a half floor in the courthouse will need jacked up. This will need to be done on a weekend. (3) the HVAC unit on the south side of the Annex needs replaced. (4) three HVAC units need replaced. (5) Pigeons are a problem on the east and south sides of the courthouse with the conduit. Westfall obtained a quote from Eric Wilson to replace the conduit on the east side of the courthouse. **The \$7,500 quote was taken under advisement.** (6) The Hartford City Greenscape committee refurbished the large wreaths that used to be hung on the north and south sides of the courthouse. Westfall has a quote from Eric Wilson for \$1,500 to put outlets on the outside of the courthouse on the third floor level so the wreaths can be plugged. Anne Owen, Tree Lighting committee member, offered to pay \$500. Hartford City Mayor Dan Eckstein offered to personally pay \$500. **Laura Coons moved to approve the outlets on the exterior of the courthouse. John Oxley 2nd and the vote was 3/0. With outlets on the 3rd floor exterior, Westfall will look into a Falcon call to help with the pigeon problem. The commissioners thanked the Greenscape Committee, Tree Lighting Committee and Mayor Eckstein for the donations for the wreath lighting project.** (7) 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.

Bill Smith, EMA Director reported LEPC will hold a tabletop exercise on preparing for a chemical disaster on November 8th from 9:00 am – Noon at the 4H building. Everyone is invited. Set up help is requested. If interested in attending, contact Bill at bsmith@blackfordcounty.in.gov.

Regular Claims were approved in the amount of \$266,516.26 on a motion by Laura Coons and 2nd by John Oxley. The vote was 3/0.

Miscellaneous claims were approved in the amount of \$34,427.00 on a motion by John Oxley, 2nd by Laura Coons and 3/0 vote.

Payroll Claims were approved in the amount of \$145,801.47 on a motion by Laura Coons, 2nd by John Oxley and 3/0 vote.

Payroll (PPE 9/15/23) was approved in the amount of \$145,801.47 on a motion by John Oxley, 2nd by Laura Coons and 3/0 vote.

Public Comment: Dennis Layman thought the **County Building Inspector** was a bad idea until the inspector stopped work on a roof repair Layman was having done. The work was found to be shoddy and the building inspector saved him time and money in finding the problem before it was too late.

Brian Valenti had issues with the road work being done in Hartford City. The commissioners referred him to the mayor's office.

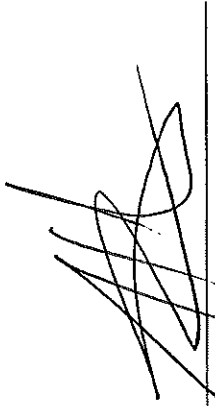
Hartford City Mayor Dan Eckstein reported paying in the city will be continuing this week.

Mary Beal asked if the **Health Care Task Force** had met. Warren Brown replied that they had met and were in the process of collecting data including the possibility of Police training.

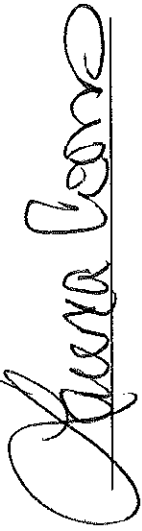
There being no further public comment, John Oxley made a motion to adjourn. **The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 a.m.**

Approved this 16th day of October, 2023.

The Blackford County Board of Commissioners



John Lancaster, President



Laura Coons, Member

John Oxley, Vice President

Attest: 

Auditor Sharon Hartley

