

BLACKFORD COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S

MEETING September 8, 2020

The Blackford County Commissioners met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. on September 8, 2020 in the Commissioner's office 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 with the Pledge of Allegiance and Auditor Sharon Hartley called roll with Commissioners John Oxley, John Lancaster and Nick Rhodes present **Others in attendance in person** were Lisa Simmons, Bruce Edgington, Anne Owen, Jeff Sones, Sam Swenson, Paul Schriver, Tim Stanley, Jim Forcum, Warren Brown and Jon Creek. **Attending on Zoom** were Tyler Hunt, Mary Beal, Kathy Goodspeed, Dana Turner,

The minutes of the August 17, 2020 Regular meeting were approved as presented by a 3/0 vote after a motion by Nick Rhodes and a 2nd by John Oxley.

Highway Supervisor Bruce Edgington reported: 1.) chip and seal is finished. 2.) The work on the Cross Avenue bridge is set to begin the first part of October and is a 90-day project. 3.) **INDOT will be paving Walnut Street (State Road 3) from 9th Street to Franklin Street in 2021.** The proposed detour will be 9th Street, Cross Avenue, SR 26, Mill Street. John Oxley moved to approve this unofficial detour route and authorize sending INDOT a letter with the details. Nick Rhodes 2nd and the vote was 3/0.

Sheriff Jeff Sones gave the jail inmate count as 28 local males, 10 local females, 11 DOC males and 1 DOC females for a total of 50 inmates. Sones reported **issues with the door locks.** The problems occur on the weekend and have been addressed with Stanley Controls. Also, there was a **dryer fire** last week. The fire was out before the fire department arrived. Sones also reported the **ERS can get radios** through the CARES Act. Commissioners gave approval to pursue the funding.

Courthouse Custodian Tim Stanley reported the **elevator** repair is in the final stages. Koorsen has finished the electric work and waiting for Indy Elevator to complete the next stage. The elevator must pass state inspection before it can be opened to the public.

Surveyor Paul Schriver told the board of a **grant opportunity for Walnut Creek** in Grant County. The \$100,000 grant requires a \$20,000 match from Blackford County which would be paid from drainage funds. Nick Rhodes moved to accept the grant if approved by Grant County and John Oxley 2nd. The vote was 3/0.

BCEDC Director Warren Brown reported 1.) The **Gilman Home Store** project is moving along. 2.) The **CARES Act** grant funds are now available. 3.) Barnes and Thornburg, LLP have been recommended as attorneys to help the county with the Wind and Solar Energy projects. **Nick Rhodes moved to retain the legal services of Barnes & Thornburg for the wind and solar projects.** John Oxley 2nd and the vote was 3/0. 4.) Brown asked for approval of the agreement with BCEDC. Nick Rhodes wants more discussion on changes to be made before the Commissioners sign the agreement. The agreement was taken under advisement. 5.) Brown will send email updates to the board monthly.

The **county farm lease** will be up for bids soon. Jim Forcum will prepare the legal ad.

Commissioner John Oxley reported that **Blackford Development Corporation** needs an appointment from the Commissioners. John Oxley moved to appoint Council member Patrick Cale to BDC and Nick Rhodes 2nd. The vote was 3/0.

Accounts Payable Claims: Claims were approved in the amount of \$149,752.30 on a motion by John Oxley and 2nd by Nick Rhodes. The vote was 3/0.

Payroll Claims:

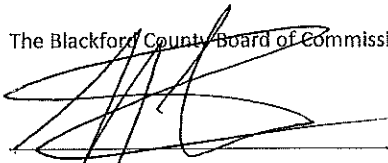
PPE 8/21/2020 Claims of \$120,135.37 were approved on a motion by Nick Rhodes and 2nd by John Oxley. The vote was 3/0

Public Comment: John Oxley commented that on **September 11, Patriot's Day**, there will be a gathering on the South East corner of the courthouse square at 8:30 a.m. with a moment of silence at 8:46 a.m. Everyone is encouraged to participate.

There being no further public comment, Nick Rhodes made a motion to adjourn. **The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 a.m.**

Approved this 21st day of September, 2020.

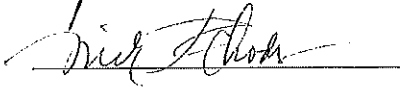
The Blackford County Board of Commissioners

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JL', written over a horizontal line.

John Lancaster, President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JO', written over a horizontal line.

John Oxley, Vice President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Nick Rhodes', written over a horizontal line.

Nick Rhodes, Member

Attest: Sharon Hartley

Auditor Sharon Hartley