

NOBLE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY October 4, 2021
1:00pm NOBLE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
NOBLE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

PRESENT:

Bernie Lawson
Jerry Jansen
Mary Wysong
Denise Lemmon
Tom Janes
George Bennett

ABSENT:

Doug Harp

ALSO PRESENT:

Gary Leatherman, Noble County Commissioners
Jackie Knafel, Noble County Coordinator
Dennis Graft, County Attorney
Matt Getts, KPC Media
Zack Smith Highway Engineer
Richard Rogers, Highway Supervisor
Max Weber, Noble County Sheriff
Tonya Jones, Noble County Auditor

Denise Lemmon, Council President, called the meeting to order at approximately 1:00PM.

CORRESPONDENCE

- A letter was received from Jack Gaby in support of the solar ordinance.

MINUTES

Minutes of the September meeting were read and approved as written with a motion from Tom Janes and a second from George Bennett. Motion carried 6-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Jackie had contacted the insurance broker concerning questions the council had about liability insurance for part time nurses. Black and Ramers response had been sent to the county attorney, the county nurse and council members confirming coverage.

NEW BUSINESS

Jackie had received a request from the Ligonier Library Board to appoint a board member. Diane Groff's term expires October 6, 2021 and she is willing to continue to serve on this board. Jerry Jansen moved to appoint Diane Groff to another term on the Ligonier Library Board. Bernie Lawson seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0. Appointment e-mailed to Angela Scott lp1scan@ligonier.lib.in.us on Tuesday 10/5/2021

HIGHWAY

Richard Rogers, Highway Superintendent, was present for the construction update for the highway department:

- Richard reported that ditching and berming work continues which is in preparation for spring work.
- Road work has been done on CR 600 S to raise the road to prevent flooding.
- The crews are continuing brush cutting at intersections.
- Pulver's are continuing work on the HMA 1 project.

Zack Smith, Highway Engineer, had the following engineering update for the council:

- Zack reported no new updates for the ARP money. Work continues on guidelines and directions for counties as to how this money can be spent.
- Zack provided the council members with the Bridge Asset Management report. Zack continues to work to replace and repair these bridges as funding becomes available. Zack provided some suggestions as to how to increase funding such as increasing the Highway percentage of the CCD fund, possibly CEDIT funding and an increase in Wheel and Sur Tax.
- Community Crossing – Zack reported that the 2020 projects have closed out and HMA 1 is nearly completion. The project information for HMA 2 has been submitted but at this time no word has been received as to whether Noble County has been awarded any money.

ANNEX

Zack Smith, Project Manager, updated the council on the construction of the new annex building:

- Zack reported that the main focus right now has been on the functional items such as radio equipment, wiring, antennas etc... The company is working closely with Dave Baum and the IT department to make sure all needs are being met.
- FFE – the furnishing work is complete with all departments going through the furniture options in their department.
- Construction at the site is focusing on plaza sidewalks and parking at this point, however, weather has been an issue recently.
- Denise asked about exactly what departments would be in what locations:
 1. South Complex will house the Surveyor, and the Health Department, along with Drug Free Noble County.
 2. Courthouse – this will house the courts, clerk and probation
 3. New Annex will house maintenance, assessor, auditor, recorder, treasurer, VSO, EMA, commissioners, council, GIS, IT, Extension, Planning, Building, 911 Dispatch, Public Defender and Prosecutor.

This will allow the selling of the Weber Road annex, and the termination of rental properties for the Public Defender, Prosecutor, and Court Services.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Anne Lowe, County Health Nurse, and Linda Gray came before the council to request a pay increase for the CMA that was hired as a part time immunization employee. Anne told the council that she is currently pay \$15.00 an hour and she has checked with area hospital etc and this is no longer a competitive wage. Anne reported that she is being paid from the immunization fund which has brought in over \$14,000.00 in the past 3 month. We have paid the CMA around \$4500.00 so she is paying "her own way". Anne also reported that the department has gone from scheduling out 2 months to being able to schedule times within 2 weeks. This has also freed up time for Anne to deal with COVID and the many other issues that come before a county nurse. Jerry Jansen moved to set a range of pay for the CMA position from \$16.00 to \$20.00 per hour. Bernie Lawson seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

TRANSFER

A request was made to transfer \$7,000.00 from 1000-17207-035 part time overtime to 1000-32101-035 Contractual Professionals for the EMA department. This will allow payment to Mick Newton for his continued support in the transition of the EMA Director responsibilities. Motion to approve the transfer came from Jerry Jansen and was seconded by Mary Wysong. Motion carried 6-0

SHERIFF

Max Weber, Noble County Sheriff, was present to discuss the CCD claims that were presented for payment.

1. Fort Wayne Door	\$345.00
2. JO Mory	\$212.50
3. All Phase	\$172.94
4. Commercial Filter	\$229.24
5. Equiparts	\$1,371.22
6. Wagner Electric	\$849.50
7. WW Williams	<u>\$1,029.14</u>
Total	\$4,209.54

Motion to approve the CCD claims came from Mary Wysong and was seconded by Tom Janes. Motion carried 6-0.

Max reported that there are currently 168 inmates in the jail of which 22 are federal inmates. Between the housing of federal inmates as well as DOC the department has brought into the general fund almost \$450,000.00. The work release revenue to the general fund stands at about \$126,000.00.

In response to COVID questions, Max indicated that all new inmates are quarantined when first entering the jail and are limited to exposure from the outside.

CHILDREN FIRST

A representative from Childrens First was present to explain what this service provides. This is the 50th anniversary for this organization. The organization provides occupational therapy, speech therapy, and many other services promoting health families. These services are provided at their location or are provided in-home if needed. WICK, the courts, schools or self-referrals is how the organization is promoted and they are funded through the federal and state government, they write many grants and accept donations from individuals and/or other organizations.

2022 BUDGET ADOPTION

Tonya Jones, Noble County Auditor, read the 2022 budget as presented at the last meeting for the public hearing. With no opposition, the council formally adopted the 2022 budget with a motion from Jerry Jansen. Tom Janes seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

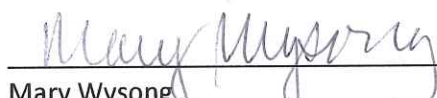
ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the Noble County Council, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:05 PM until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the council being Monday November 1, 2021.

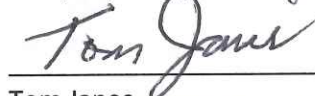
Dated this 1 day of November, 2021


Bernie Lawson


Jerry Jansen

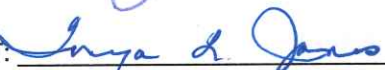

Mary Wysong


Denise Lemmon


Tom Janes


George Bennett


Doug Harp

ATTEST: 
Tonya L Jones, Noble County Auditor