

NOBLE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY February 7, 2022
1:00pm NOBLE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
NOBLE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Present:

Jerry Jansen
Mary Wysong
Denise Lemmon
George Bennett
Bernie Lawson
Doug Harp – by phone

ABSENT;

Tom Janes

ALSO, PRESENT:

Dennis Graft, Noble County Attorney
Matt Getts, KPC Media
Jacqueline L Knafel, County Coordinator
Zack Smith, Highway Engineer

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

CORRESPONDENCE

- Building Department Annual report - duly entered

MINUTES

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved as written with a motion from George Bennett. Jerry Jansen seconded the motion and motion carried 6-0. With Doug Harp voting by phone and Tom Janes absent.

APPOINTMENT

A letter of request was received from Stacey Beam, Chief Probation Officer, asking for an appointment to the newly formed Regional Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council. The request was for the Council President or their designee. George Bennett moved to appoint Denise Lemmon, Council President, to sit on this board. Mary Wysong seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0. There was conversation about an appointment to the Kendallville Economic Development Commission as well but this needs some clarification prior to the appointment. This will be addressed at the March meeting.

HIGHWAY

Richard Rogers, Highway Superintendent, had the following report for the council:

- Work continues on the county roads after the snow storm of last week. Richard mentioned that the sun and warmer temperatures were going to be a big help in the recovery efforts.
- Tony Kirkpatrick has been promoted to Sign Foreman replacing retiring Andy Steffey
- Joe Lortie will go to road foreman to replace Rob Hull who is now Asst Superintendent.
- The department has hired to new employees to fill vacancies. Bill Targgart and Brad Darland. They will begin work 2/28/2022

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

- Wheel & Surtax Ordinance - Much discussion was again had on this topic. Zack reviewed the increase and the expected revenue from the increase. The council members – even though struggling with an increase in cost for citizens – know the need for continues maintenance and upkeep for the road system comes with a price. After a lengthy discussion Jerry Jansen moved to approve the ordinance as proposed. Doug Harp seconded and the motion carried 6-0.

- Bernie Lawson had brought to Zack's attention that surrounding county's buggy plates were considerably more than ours. She had asked Zack to look into this and he found that most of the surrounding counties had a \$100.00 fee while Noble County has had the \$50.00 fee since 2005. There was also (within the ordinance) a trailer fee of \$25.00 and council members thought that maybe should be doubled as well. This being a commissioner's ordinance, Mary Wysong made a motion to recommend that the commissioners considered increasing buggy plates to \$100.00 and trailer plates to \$50.00. Bernie Lawson seconded the motion, Motion carried 6-0.
- The Community Crossing grant that was awarded has been bid out and the low bid was awarded to Pulvers.
- For the 2022 round of Community Crossing – Bridge 73 and Overlay projects have been submitted for consideration. Zack is hoping to hear something in April.
- The LPA projects slated for the next 4 years are going well and on schedule at this point.
- The Baseline Road and Riley Road projects have been submitted for this round of LPA awards.

ANNEX

Zack Smith, Project Manager, gave an update on the new building:

- Zack reported that he has taken department heads on tours of the building and all have been happy with the layout of the building.
- The crews continue to work on flooring and ceiling tiles.
- The county continues to iron out the antenna issues, IT issues etc. prior to move in date of May 11, 2022
- Zack also discussed the plan for moving departments into the building in 3 phases. The first group would be the prosecutor, public defender and IT. the next phase would be the courthouse departments and lastly the south complex.
- Zack addressed the complaints about lighting and the neighbors, he explained that currently (to prevent vandalism) there is construction lighting that is on 24/7 – once the county takes occupancy lights will be motion censored and the current issues should be resolved.

Courthouse Renovation – American StructurePoint is currently working on 2 or 3 different scenarios to present to the departments here in the courthouse. He also indicated that the commissioners are working to extend the lease of the building where the prosecutor is currently housed to provide a space for the probation department during the time of renovation to the courthouse.

CCD CLAIMS

The following claims were submitted for payment from the CCD fund by Max Weber, Noble County Sheriff:

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| • Equiparts | \$1,837.26 |
| • Hossinger Refrigeration | \$ 533.44 |
| • Wagner Electric | <u>\$ 426.55</u> |

Total \$2,797.25 Jerry Jansen moved to approved these claims be paid from the CCD fund. Bernie Lawson seconded and motion carries 6-0.

CIRCUIT COURT EMPLOYEE

Judge Kramer, Circuit Court Judge, is requesting permission to add another employee to his staff. Both Superior I and Superior II have four employees and his court currently only has 3 employees. He indicated that with the new court computer system there has been increased workload and that at least one of his employees has several hours of comp time. She is working some Saturdays and long hours to keep up with everything. This would be a full-time position with benefits and would not need a new job description. Motion to allow the hiring of the new employee came from George Bennett and was seconded by Jerry Jansen. Motion carried 6-0.

ADDITIONALS/REDUCTIONS

Probation is requesting an additional of \$5,000.00 for meals 2000-22700-246 for their Adult Probation fund. This was an omission when preparing budgets this year. Motion to approve this additional came from Doug Harp and was seconded by George Bennett. Motion carried 6-0.

Noble County Probation is also asking for an additional for the Project Income Fund. They are as follows

- | | | |
|------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| • 8180-18502-751 | Adult Prob Officer | \$19,023.00 |
| • 8180-12600-751 | Social Security | \$ 1,456.00 |
| • 8180-18100-751 | PERF | \$ 2,131.00 |

The additional was approved with a motion from Bernie Lawson and a second from Jerry Jansen.

Motion carried 6-0

These lines will be coming from a reduction in the CRRP-Project which no longer has enough funding to support these line items. Budget reduction request is as follows:

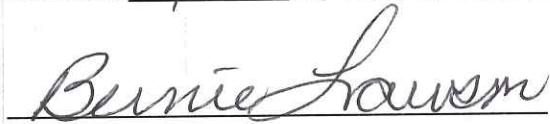
- 8186-18502-759 Adult Prob Officer \$19,023.00
- 8186-12600-759 Social Security \$ 1,456.00
- 8186-18100-759 Perf \$ 2,131.00

The reduction to CRRP-project income was approved with a motion George Bennett and was seconded by Mary Wysong. Motion carried 6-0.

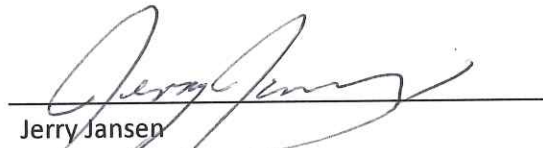
ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the Noble County Council, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00PM until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the council being Monday February 7, 2022.

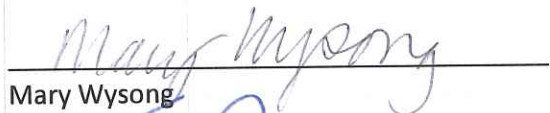
Dated this 7th day of MARCH, 2022



Bernie Lawson



Jerry Jansen



Mary Wysong



Denise Lemmon



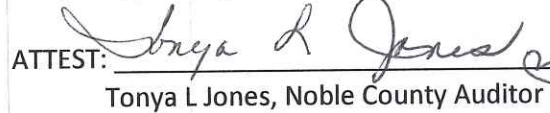
Tom Janes



George Bennett



Doug Harp

ATTEST: 

Tonya L Jones, Noble County Auditor