

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR SESSION OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD March 24, 2025**

Comes now the hour of 8:30 am. on the 24th day of March, 2025 in the Commissioners Room in the Noble County Annex building, Albion, Indiana, being the time, date and place set for a regular session of the Board of Commissioners of Noble County, Indiana.

Present were:

Gary Leatherman, President
Anita Hess, Vice President
Gary Timmerman, Member

Also present were:

Jacqueline L Knafel, County Coordinator
Dennis Graft, Noble County Attorney
Matt Getts, KPC Media

Gary Leatherman, Commissioner President, called the meeting to order at approximately 8:30am.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Noble County Convention & Visitors Bureau – 2024 annual report
- INDOT – State Road 8 - Small Structure Improvement
- INDOT – State Road 3 – Small Structure Improvement

MINUTES

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved as written with a motion from Anita Hess and a second from Gary Timmerman. Motion carried 3-0.

CLAIMS

Claims dated 3/24/25 was a 14-page report that totaled \$991,571.23 were reviewed by the commissioners. Motion to approve the claims came from Anita Hess. Gary Timmerman seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

PAYROLL

Payroll dated 3/20/2025 was reviewed. This was a 3-page report totaling \$541,843.91. Anita Hess moved to approve with a second coming from Gary Timmerman. Motion carried 3-0.

OLD BUSINESS

- Lawn mowing bids were reviewed and awarded to the Green Edge Lawn Care with a motion from Gary Timmerman. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- The contract that County Attorney Dennis Graft had created for part-time employment in 911 dispatch was reviewed by the commissioners. Gary Timmerman moved to approve the wording of the contract and to allow Shellie Coney, 911 Director, to sign on behalf of the commissioners. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS

- HARLOW ENTERPRISES- Glenn Ryan, Maintenance Director, has provided a copy of the quote for the 2025 landscaping maintenance at the new annex building. This is in the amount of \$11,245.00 for spring and fall maintenance. Motion to approve the proposal came from Gary Timmerman. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- Jackie Knafel, County Coordinator, had received an e-mail from the Resistance Coalition of Noble County advising of another nationwide demonstration planned for Saturday April 5th. Anita Hess moved to allow the use of the SE corner of the courthouse for this purpose. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

HIGHWAY

Richard Rogers, Highway Inspector, was present for the commissioners meeting on behalf of Zack Smith:

- Richard had the following driveway variance for approval. Kenneth Klooze is requesting a variance for a 2nd drive on Jones Lake Road in Orange Township. Richard is reporting that there are no issues with sight distance or drainage. Gary Timmerman moved to approve the variance. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

- Ryan Rothenbuhler on 375 W in Noble Township is also requesting a driveway variance. This is also for a 2nd drive on this parcel. Richard reported no issues with this request. Gary Timmerman moved to approve the variance. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- Richard also provided Utility Permits for Pearce Services on behalf of Frontier Communications and also one for NIPSCO.

Engineering business - Richard had the following engineer business to bring before the commissioners:

- Richard has an INDOT contract for Bridge 33 on 150 E for review. Anita Hess moved to approve the contract not to exceed \$525,000.00. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- INDOT also has a contract available for review for the Overlay project for 2025. This is not to exceed \$975,000.00 and is approved with a motion from Anita Hess and a second from Gary Timmerman. Motion carries 3-0.
- Richard reported that the 2024 CN-01 should begin shortly. Pulvers asphalt will be meeting with residents in the area of this project to go over the plans and answer questions about the project on April 2nd.
- Richard has an amendment to the contract with CSX Railroad capping the railroad's financial contribution at \$400,000.00. Anita Hess moved to approve this amendment. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- Bridge 61 – there is an LPA voucher in the amount of \$26871.00 for this project. Gary Timmerman moved to approve the voucher. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

COURTHOUSE RENOVATION

Richard had the following update for the courthouse renovation:

- PCO 122 – the change order is for outlet repositioning in the amount of \$1,229.72. Gary Timmerman moved to approve PCO 122. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- A financial update was provided to the commissioners.
- The ribbon cutting is set for April 4th at 10:00 am with moving of the departments scheduled starting April 7, 2025.

REZONING

Teresa Tackett, Plan Director, along with Rachael Rogers from the plan commission, were present for the two rezonings on the commissioner's agenda:

- Larry and Wilma Bontrager are requesting 16.64 acres in Elkhart Township be rezoned from A1 to RE. Scott Ziegler, Hand to the Plow Surveying, is present representing the Bontrager's. Teresa Tackett reported that there were no objections by the public at their plan commission meeting and that the plan commission board gave a favorable recommendation for this rezoning. Gary Timmerman moved to approve the rezoning. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- The second rezoning is a request of Nasreldin Anwar Ardab. He is asking that .351 acres in LaOtto be rezoned from R3 to C2. Teresa indicated there were some objections to the rezoning but it did receive a favorable recommendation from the plan commission. Gary Timmerman moved to approve. Anita Hess seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Melayna Gingerich, HFI Coordinator, was present to update the commissioners on the Health First Indiana funds:

- Events that the department have sponsored include Emergency Response Exercise focusing on Earthquake Stimulation)
- Conducted a mock emergency preparedness flu drive and the CLC in Kendallville.
- Fresh Air for baby and me class in Albion. This was given by McMillen Health.
- Melayna told the group that the Movie Night at West Noble featuring the Addicts Wake Documentary was a success with 71 people in attendance to view the documentary.
- Melayna reported that Isaac Mansfield has completed the certification in Lead assessment. All training is now complete.
- The department had booths at Noble Palooza and the Public Health day events.

Upcoming events include:

- Blood Pressure Education and Screening at LaVerna Terrace

- Safe sleep training and baby fair
- Measles education & Clinic
- Fresh Air for Baby & Me in Ligonier
- Kindergarten Roundups & vaccination Clinics for upcoming 6th and 12th graders.
- The Health board will begin work on the 2026 budgets
- The HFI committee meeting will be scheduled for sometime in April.

PROBATION

Jared Owen, Danyel Wagner, Rob Haywood and Judge Steve Clouse were present for this session. The probation department is once again preparing for the grant application for community corrections. This will all totaled around \$600,000.00 in funding. Danyel told the group that a 6% raise for probation employee was figured into the budgeting but whatever the state gives the probation officers and whatever the county gives the employees will be actually used for the employees. When asked about cut backs from the state, Danyel indicated that what they are hearing from the state is that there will probably be no additional funding rather that current funding should still be in place. Gary Timmerman moved to allow the probation department to proceed with the grant application. Anita Hess seconded. The motion carried 3-0.

Jared told the commissioners that after meeting with Enterprise about the leasing of vehicles, they talked to dealerships in Kendallville Ligonier and Auburn and Shepherds in Kendallville had pricing of 2 Chevy Equinox for less that \$30,000.00 each. Jared told the commissioners that the department had budgeted \$60,000.00 for cars and with this pricing it would enable them to replace both the 2010 and 2015 Chevy Impalas with these two equinoxes which are all wheel drive. Anita Hess moved to allow the purchase of the 2 equinoxes at the quotes price. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

COURTHOUSE

Zack Smith had sent a quote for the rugs that were requested by Circuit court for under the attorney tables. This was in the amount of \$5,000.00 which was approved with a motion from Anita Hess and a second from Gary Timmerman. Motion carried 3-0.

ADJOURNMENT

This session of the Board of Commissioners of Noble County was at approximately 11:00 am recessed from day to day until April 14, 2025.

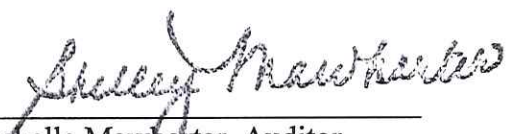
Dated this 14 day of April, 2025


Gary D. Leatherman, President


Anita Hess, Vice President


Gary Timmerman, Member

ATTESTED:


Michelle Mawhorter, Auditor