

**NOBLE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Wednesday August 7, 2023**  
**1:00 PM NOBLE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT**  
**NOBLE COUNTY NEW ANNEX**

**PRESENT:**

Mary Wysong  
Max Franklin  
George Bennett  
Trey Forbes  
Doug Harp  
Tom Janes  
Brandon Chordas

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Jackie Knafel, Noble County Coordinator  
Dennis Graft, County Attorney  
Matt Getts, KPC Media  
Gary Leatherman, Noble County Commissioners

George Bennett, Council President, brought the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 pm

**MINUTES**

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved as corrected with a motion from Doug Harp. Max Franklin seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0 with Mary Wysong, Tom Janes and Brandon Chordas abstaining due to being absent from the last meeting.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Brandon Chordas sits on the Health Board and advised the council that the department is working on the creation of two new positions at the Health Department. This will be further discussed with the council at the upcoming budget hearings.
- George Bennett sits on the Plan Commission Board and said that the board is working on the integration of the solar ordinance into the UDO ordinance. They have employed a firm to help with this project.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There is a contract for 2023 and 2024 that the health nurse is providing for signature. Motion to approve the contract and authorizing George Bennett to sign on behalf of the Noble County Council came from Mary Wysong and was seconded by Brandon Chordas. Motion carried 7-0.

**HIGHWAY**

Zack Smith, Highway Engineer, was present to update the council on departmental issues:

- Brandon Chordas is questioning the cost of road repairs for the local detours due to the US 33 road closures. Zack indicated that there are always the agreements in place to repair damages but is getting harder and harder to get the estimated dollars from the state.
- CCMG - HMA 2023 01 should be starting soon with the HMA 2023 -02 to start shortly after that.
- Zack is now working to put a paving package together for 2024.
- All LPA project are proceeding on schedule with the exception of the two bridges that were delayed due to pricing. Letting on those bridges will be done in October.
- For this years "call for projects" Zack is working on Bridge 61, bridge 56 and a section of the Baseline Rd.

- Zack informed the council that he has responded to the concerned citizen who was questioning the wheel/sur tax costs and gave him a number of resources for him to look into.

#### ANNEX

Zack Smith, Project Manager, has the following report on the new annex building:

- Zack reported that everything is now wrapping up here at the annex. The new window that needs to be installed in the shell space should be completed on Tuesday August 8.

#### COURTHOUSE RENOVATION

Zack Smith, Project Manager, has an update on this project for the council:

- Information from Peters Consulting and Ice Miller – duly entered
- Zack also provided the council members with copies of the Weigand projected cost of renovation as well as a copy from a 3<sup>rd</sup> party for cost estimates. Weigand estimate came in at \$8,380,289 with the 3<sup>rd</sup> party estimate being \$7,987,343. That being a difference of \$392,946.00. Requests for bids will be going out soon.

#### KENDALLVILLE LIBRARY

Mindy Patterson, Executive Director, Melissa Erwin, board finance secretary and a representative from Baker Tilly were all present to give the council information about money they want to borrow from their Rainy Day fund to do roof repairs. Mindy informed the council that when roof repairs were done in 2005 – they were not done properly. They have consulted an attorney who feels that litigation on this issue would take time and would probably not worth the effort. Mindy has a quote from Apex out of Michigan. The quote is in the amount of \$285,000.00. This is a repair not a replacement in which the company <sup>will</sup> sand the roof, prime, paint and put down an additional layer of protectant. There is a warranty on this job. Mindy is telling the council that they will need to approve the budget for the library since this is such a large increase in their budget. Shelley Mawhorter is involved in this process and was also present for part of the meeting. She will be in touch with Mindy for additional information. No action of the Noble County Council is needed at this time.

#### PROBATION

Danyel Wagner and Jared Owen are present for the monthly update on the probation department. They passed out information about the community corrections program. Danyel informed the council that the CC grant provided \$560,505.00 dollars to the program in 2023. This program keeps offender in the community. Jared Owen provided information about the Problem Solving program. He says the program helps in the transition of offenders and sets goals for the participants.

#### SHERIFF

Max Weber, Noble County Sheriff, was present for the following update for his department:

- Max had provided a copy of the commissary report for the 1<sup>st</sup> six months of this year to all council members. The ending balance of this report is showing \$143,117.34.
- CCD Claims – the following claims are being requested to be paid from the CCD fund:
 

1. Equiparts - metering penal valve	\$499.21
2. Equiparts - another metering penal valve	\$500.07
3. Equiparts - flexible J bend	<u>\$ 79.73</u>
Total	\$1,079.01

Motion to approve the CCD Claims came from Doug Harp. Tom Janes seconded and motion carried 7-0.

- Max reported 229 inmates at this morning count.
- Max also reported that the department had a water main break on Sunday July 23. This break was close to another break a few years back. The main was fixed by Jack Owen Excavating.

- The roofing project at the jail is now complete except for one issue that will have to wait until the fall.
- The department has lost two deputies - one to the city of Fort Wayne and one to another line of work. Max indicated that he will also have another deputy leaving next February due to the "drop" program.

TRANSFERS

- Noble County Superior Court I is requesting two transfers within their 2023 budget.
  1. Decrease 1000-14712-038 guardian ad litem \$7,500.00  
Increase 1000-31202-038 Physicians \$7,500.00
  2. Decrease 1000-14702-038 Pauper Attorney \$4,000.00  
Increase 1000-14703-038 Special Appointment \$4,000.00

Both transfers were approved with a motion from Mary Wysong. Doug Harp seconded and the motion carried 7-0.

- Jackie Knafel, County Coordinator, is requesting a transfer in the American Rescue Plan fund to pay the claims for the repair to the jail roofing.
  1. Decrease 8950-32101-937 Contractual Professionals \$300,000.00  
Increase 8950-45303-937 Sheriff repair to jail \$300,000.00

This transfer was approved with a motion from Doug Harp and a second from Tom Janes. Motion carries 7-0.


BUDGETS

Shelley Mawhorter, Noble County Auditor, handed out the budget information to the council and reminded them of the budget hearings to be held August 21- August 23.

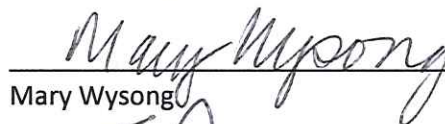
ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the Noble County Council, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:45 pm until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the council being Tuesday Sept 5, 2023

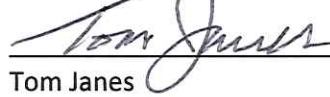
Dated this 5 day of September, 2023


  
Trey Forbes

ABSENT  
Max Franklin


  
Mary Wysong

  
Brandon Chordas

  
Tom Janes

  
George Bennett

ABSENT  
Doug Harp

ATTEST:   
Michelle Mawhorter, Noble County Auditor