

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR SESSION OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD January 23, 2023**

Comes now the hour of 8:30 am. on the 23rd day of January. 2023 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
Richard Rogers, Highway Superintendent
Zack Smith, Highway Engineer

PROSECUTOR

Jim Mowery, Noble County Prosecutor, was present for case management system which will be obsolete soon. According to the state, this will be controlled by the state and there is a contract to sign with SBS portals. Anita Hess moved to sign. Gary Timmerman seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Building Department annual report
- Kone - price increase 4.95%
- Unified – welcome letter
- Reports - inmate trust and commissary
- Report – clerk monthly report
- Report – annual report
- Report – Sharx - for the year 2022 the county has in savings \$483,000.00 from prescription cost now going through the SHARX program.

MINUTES

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

CLAIMS

The commissioners reviewed the claims dated 1/23/2023. The 14-page report totaled \$758,563.93 and was approved with a motion from Anita Hess. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0. Embroidering for the dispatch was questioned which was for shirts and 2 jackets. Also, the purchase of boots for the sheriff's department from a new vendor was explained by Chief Deputy Brian Walker to be more cost effective. Brian explained that these higher quality boots will last for 4 years and he is currently getting them at a discounted rate of \$333.00 a pair. The commissioners questioned whether those should be issued to new employees or in the second year of employment as some do not stay. Brian indicated that they had talked about this and would possibly be issued the less expensive the first year and then upgrading after that time.

MISC CLAIMS

Gary Timmerman moved to approve the misc. claims that totaled \$501,172.36. This was a 3-page report and was seconded by Anita Hess. Motion carried 3-0.

PAYROLL

Payroll dated 1/12/23 was approved with a motion from Gary Timmerman. This 4-page report totaling \$517,016.25. Anita Hess seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Payroll dated 1/26/23 was also reviewed and approved. The 4 -page report totaled \$484,200.37 and was approve with a motion from Gary Timmerman and was seconded by Anita Hess. Motion carried 3-0.

BUCKEYE POWER SALES

Brad Rollins had sent up a couple of quotes for repair to the generator at the jail. They completely went through the system and replaces hose etc. for a complete inspection. The first was a troubleshooting inspection at the cost of \$1,165.71 and was approved with a motion from Gary Timmerman and seconded by Gary Leatherman. Motion carried 3-0.

The second billing for the parts etc to update the generator in the amount of \$8,104.07 and this was approved with a motion from Gary Timmerman. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

HIGHWAY

Richard Rogers, Highway Superintendent, was present for updating the commissioners with construction news:

- The department worked a small snow event and Richard reported that above freezing temperature helped with that issue.
- The department continues it's spring preparation work when the weather allows such as debrising and culvert work.
- Richard reported that the county is expecting more snow on Wednesday.

Zack Smith, Highway Engineer, had the following engineering report for the commissioners:

- One of the New Holland tractors had caught fire and was a total loss. Zack reported a full replacement check minus the \$2,500.00 deductible was received and the department is looking to replace the tractor. Zack indicated that new orders are quite a few months out so they are actively searching for a replacement.
- Community Crossing grant – Zack is hoping to hear if awarded by early April.
- Bridge Inspection - The delay with the state has really backed this project up and Zack is actively pushing this along so that the inspection is on track.
- 400 N project - the with the letting last week, the project is coming in at a considerably higher cost than the engineering estimate. Zack is providing a letter from INDOT that they will fully fund the project even at the higher cost.
- Bridge 136 – there is an LPA voucher for this project in the amount of \$1,102.00. Motion to approve the voucher came from Gary Timmerman with the second coming from Anita Hess. Motion carried 3-0.
- Ball Road - Right of way work will begin soon for the Ball Road project. Zack indicated that there are only 2 parcels involved in this project so it shouldn't take too long.
- Bridge 134 - this project is waiting on the environmental study before anything thing else is done.
- Bridge 69 – there is also an LPA voucher for this project. Gary Timmerman move to approve the voucher in the amount of \$2,727.30. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- Riley Road Culvert replacement - the Notice To Proceed has been issued.
- Zack did the presentations for the LPA Call for project for FY 2028 on the 19th of this month. He reported that all went well.
- Little Long/Round Lake - this project is on track for a late February early March Construction.

NEW ANNEX

Zack Smith, Project Manager, had the following update for the new annex:

- There have been some software issues with the boiler system and the company is to be on site tomorrow, January 24, 2023 for work on this issue.
- Weigand will be working on the unfinished storage room in preparation for the court to move over to the new annex during courthouse renovation.
- The remaining FFE is scheduled for delivery on Thursday.
- Snow melt on the plaza is now fully operational.
- And the work on the water softener should be coming soon

COURTHOUSE RENOVATION

Zack Smith, Project Manager, reported that the meeting with the judges went very well and all departments involved in the temporary accommodations are working together to make this all work. Courts will be moving to the new annex in various areas, the clerk – the commissioners and Zack are working to secure a rental space in close proximity to the annex and probation will be moving to Weber Road.

Zack also reported that while Weigand is working on the annex rooms, that they may be able to work on the acoustic paneling in the lobby at the \$25,000.00 original quote.

OPIOID SETTLEMENT

Judge Steve Hagen, Danyel Wagner, Stacey Beam and Jared Owen from the probation department are present to discuss the use of the opioid settlement restricted money. The county recently received \$124,348.68 in restricted funds from the settlement and the group is present discussing what they would like to use that money for. Certainly they would like to use for drug related issues as well as mental health issues. They suggested many programs that might benefit from these dollars. The commissioners suggested that the group meet again with some solid programs and suggested funding of those programs in order to build a budget for the money.

PROBLEM SOLVING GRANT

Jared Owen is requesting permission to submit the application for the problem solving grant in the amount of \$10,000.00. This helps with urinalysis expenses. Anita Hess moved to approve the submit the grant application. Gary Timmerman seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

COUNCIL ON AGING

Cherish Smith, Council on Aging director, was present for the quarterly report. The report was signed with a motion from Gary Timmerman and a second from Anita Hess. Motion carried 3-0.

Cherish also had a Third Party Lease and Service Agreement for Capital Equipment. The county titles the vehicles that the council on aging uses for transportation, however, the COA takes care of insurance, maintenance and the purchasing of the vehicles. Motion to sign this agreement came from Anita Hess and was seconded by Gary Timmerman. Motion carried 3-0.

Lastly, Cherish is requesting the titles from two vehicles that are no longer of service. She will be selling or trading these two vehicles – one a 2010 and the other a 2014 vans. Motion to sign the titles came from Anita Hess. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

BONTRAGER REZONING TABLED

The tabled rezoning for Bontrager was again before the commissioners. Scott Ziegler, surveyor for the Bontragers and also Teresa Tackett, plan director, were on hand for this session. Scott told the commissioners that he is redoing this rezoning and it will be resubmitted for only the 3 acres. With that information, Gary Timmerman moved to reject the tabled rezoning. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

AMENDMENTS TO THE UDO

Teresa Tackett, plan director, is bringing before the commissioners some changes (approved by the plan commission board) to the commissioners for approval. The first amendment is to 2.03 A1 District adding to Special Exceptions “brewery, Distillery (spirits)”. adding the same to permitted uses in 2.05 and to permitted uses in 2.07. Motion to approve the changes came from Gary Timmerman. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carries 3-0.

The second set of changes proposed involved “private streets” on a subdivision. Zack Smith was here for this discussion as the highway would be involved. He would rather continue with just a driveway permit and then – if the plan commission needs move for the private street – he is suggesting certification of a professional engineer. That would eliminate the liability of the highway department. The commissioners and the county attorney suggested that this would be a better solution than involving the county and the highway department. Gary Timmerman moved to make a moratorium for 90 days on any subdivision coming in with a private street until the standards can again be reviewed as suggested by the plan commission. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

NOBLE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY APPOINTMENT

The Noble County Library is requesting an appointment to their Library board. Ashley Libben currently serves and is willing to continue on the board. Anita Hess moved to appoint Ashley Libben to serve another 4-year term. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

ALBION PLAN COMMISSION

An e-mail was sent to Jackie requesting an appointment to the Albion Plan Commission Board. Jared Owen currently serve and is will to continue. Gary Timmerman moved to reappoint Jared Owen to the board for another 4-year term. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

PLAN SUPERVISOR AGREEMENT FOR NOBLE COUNTY GOVERNMENT

The plan supervisor agreement with Unified was before the commissioners. The agreement was signed with a motion from Anita Hess and a second from Gary Timmerman. Motion carried 3-0. The signed agreement was e-mailed to Cheryl Lee and Julie Imel on Tuesday January 24, 2023.

WILCOX SERVICE CONTRACT

The commissioners signed the Noble County Landfill Environmental Services Contract for 2023 with Wilcox Environmental Engineering with a motion from Gary Timmerman. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0. The contract was e-mailed to Greg Alfrey on Tuesday 1/24/2023.

JOHNSON CONTROLS -FIRE PROTECTION PLANNED SERVICE AGREEMENT

The planned service agreement for Johnson Controls for fire protection inspections was signed with a motion from Anita Hess. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0. The total amount for the South Complex, the Courthouse and the New Annex was \$1,408.88.

ORKIN AGREEMENTS

Orkin agreements were received for the South Complex, Courthouse and New Annex building for 2023. Motion to sign all three came from Anita Hess. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0. Contracts e-mailed to Natalie Kaehr on Tuesday 1/24/2023.

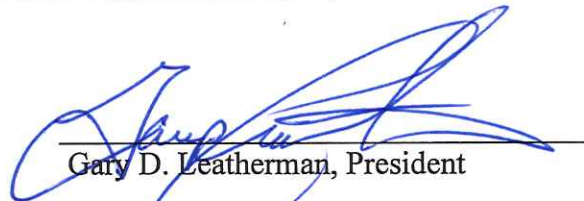
HANDBOOK

The commissioners went over possible handbook changes. More review work is needed.

ADJOURNMENT

This session of the Board of Commissioners of Noble County was at approximately 3:30 pm recessed from day to day until February 13, 2023

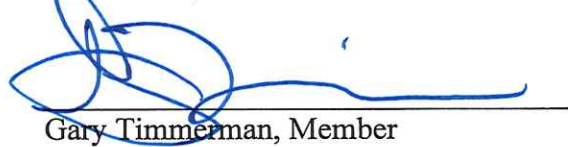
Dated this 13th day of FEB, 2023



Gary D. Leatherman, President



Anita Hess, Vice President



Gary Timmerman, Member

ATTESTED: 

Michelle Mawhorter, Auditor