

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR SESSION OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD April 25, 2022**

Comes now the hour of 8:30am. on the 25th day of April, 2022 in the Commissioners Room in the Noble County Courthouse, 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
Dave Dolezal, Member

Also present were:

Jacqueline L Knafel, County Coordinator
Dennis Graft, Noble County Attorney
Richard Rogers, Highway Superintendent
Zack Smith, Highway Engineer

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

CORRESPONDENCE

- Plan commission – Notice of Varian meeting for Steven & Kathie Wobler
- IDEM – Clifford Aggregate
- IDEM – forest Ricer air permit
- IDEM – Wastewater Treatment Plant construction – Town of Avilla
- Town of Albion – Redevelopment commission – TIF increment
- Noble County Treasurer - March monthly report

MINUTES

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

SPECIAL MEETING

Minutes of the special meeting held April 18, 2022 were also read and approved as written with a motion from Dave Dolezal. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

PAYROLL

Payroll for the time period of March 25, 2022 through April 7, 2022 and dated April 21, 2022 was reviewed and approved. Dave Dolezal moved to approve the 4-page report totaling \$455,405.73. Anita Hess seconded and motion carried 3-0.

CLAIMS

Claims dated 04/25/2022 were reviewed. This 16-page report totaled \$1,274,182.08 and was approved with a motion from Dave Dolezal and a second from Anita Hess. Motion carried 3-0.

HIGHWAY

Richard Rogers, Highway Superintendent, had the following construction information for the commissioners:

- Utility Permit – Frontier Communications – duly entered
- Richard had a request for a road closure in Wolf Lake for a motorcycle event. Dave Dolezal moved to approve the closure. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- Richard also discussed a water issue on County Road 100 N just east of State Rd 9.

Engineering

Zack Smith, Highway Engineer, had the following engineering business to bring before the commissioners:

- HMA – 2022-1 This was the project from last year that didn't get approved until early this year. The notice to proceed is pending but Zack hope to get started by mid to late May.
- For this year's projects – Zack received notice that Bridge 73 was awarded but the Old State Road 3 project was not.
- Bridge Inspection – the NTP has now been received and United Consulting was on site today.

- Bridge 136 – Zack has an LPA Invoice for Bridge 136 for right of way services in the amount of \$5,675.00. Motion to approve the invoice came from Dave Dolezal. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0. There is also an LPA voucher for preliminary Engineering on this project. This is in the amount of \$2,320.00. Motion to approve this also came from Dave and was seconded by Anita. Motion carried 3-0.
- Baseline Road - An LPA voucher for Baseline Road was also received. This was in the amount of \$859.56 and was approved with a motion from Dave Dolezal. Anita Hess seconded. Motion carried 3-0.
- Ball Road – Zack indicated that during the construction of the Ball Road Safety Project has been contacted by the state to allow a boat launch to be constructed at the site of the improvements. More information will be coming.
- Bridge 134 - LPA project – work continues with the CSX Railroad.
- State Road 3 – LPA Voucher in the amount of \$19,248.00 for preliminary engineering. Dave Dolezal moved to approve the voucher. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- The “request for proposals” is out for Bridge 59 and will be opened at your May 9, 2022 meeting.
- RFP for the Riley Road Intersection improvement project is also out for advertisement and will be due May 13, 2022.
- Bids will be due May 20, 2022 for Bridge 73 and will be opened at the May 23, 2022 commissioners meeting.
- Zack has a supplemental Agreement for the Culvert Inspection; this is between Noble County and USI. Motion to approve the agreement came from Dave Dolezal. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- Little Long/Round Lake - all right of way parcels has been acquired for this project.
- Petitioners from the Buena Vista turn-a-round issue were present. Zack had presented an alternative to the situation at the last meeting, and the group is coming in saying that they do not want the alternative – they want it to stay the way it is. After a very lengthy discussion, it is coming down to issues between neighbors and the group was asked to reach out to Mr. Misner in an effort to reach an agreement. If this cannot happen, then the board will need to make a decision to either go with the most cost-effective alternative proposal that Zack provided or go through the legal aspect of condemnation.

ANNEX

Zack Smith, Project Manager, shared the following information for the new annex:

- PCO-46 – There was a landscape modification requested by owner, this change is in the amount of \$11,292.38 and was approved with a motion from Dave Dolezal and a second coming from Anita Hess. Motion carried 3-0.
- PCO – 47 – This change is additional outdoor outlets in the plaza area. The amount of this change is \$3,984.08. Dave Dolezal moved to approve the change order. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- PCO – 48 – the sidewalk area needed revised and this will be a shared cost between the company and us. The total amount of the change was \$48,435.35. Motion came from Dave Dolezal and was seconded by Anita Hess. Motion carried 3-0.
- Zack reported that move in dates were still on target based around the furniture delivery with the courthouse offices going in June and the Prosecutor and Public Defender moving in August.
- Dispatch furniture in coming April 26 with appliances delivered on the 27th.
- The proposal for the signage for the new building was received. The amount is \$9,422.45 and was approved with a motion from Dave Dolezal and a second from Anita Hess. Motion carried 3-0.
- The building plaque is in production and lettering on the outside of the building will be black aluminum and will sit on the limestone.
- Zack is reporting that once the building is complete and the parking areas are opened up that there will be approximately 97 spaces available. Assigned parking was discussed but no decision was made at this point.
- Zack reported that American StructurePoint will be here Tuesday May 3, 2022 for the punch list walk through.

COURTHOUSE RENOVATION

- Zack reported that the bids for the Courthouse Renovation were out for advertisement and are due Friday May 6, 2022. He said he is aware of two interested bidders at this time.

COUNCIL ON AGING

Cherish Smith was here for her 1st quarter reporting. Motion to sign the report came from Dave Dolezal and was seconded by Anita Hess. Motion carried 3-0. Cherish also some grant paperwork to sign. As Dennis reviewed the paperwork it indicated that our insurance would cover the drivers. We have never insured the vehicles or the workers as this grant money is only a pass-through on the county's part. Cherish will revise the paperwork and report back at the next meeting.

ENGINEERING FIRM

Dan Watson, BLN Engineering, was present to introduce himself to the commissioners. He indicated that the company has been in business for 75 years and pride themselves in customer service. They are becoming more present in Northern Indiana and are doing projects in Steuben County at this time. Looking forward to possibly working with Noble County at some time in the future.

EXTENSION

Ann Kline, Extension Agent, is present. Abigail Creigh was to be here but due to illness was not available. Ann handed out the flyer on the cooking classes that Abigail will be offering. Ann also indicated that 400 kids are enrolled in 4-H with 100 of those being in Mini 4-H. She also talked about the bird flu. There are no cases currently in Noble County and is hoping that we do have any however there are some cases in Elkhart Township. Ann told the commissioners that she recently spoke to a group in Avilla – discussing safety tips for Ag Safety.

PROBATION

The Grant cycle is beginning at the Probation department for Community Corrections. Danyel Wagner was present to discuss this with the Commissioners. She explained that there have been a number of changes as Community Corrections is trying to show exactly how much each program costs them. This has typically been a \$500,000.00 grant and Danyel indicated that they are asking for \$685,807.00 on this cycle. There are additional amounts needed for Alcohol testing and GPS monitoring. Dave Dolezal moved to allow Danyel to apply and sign the grant applications. Anita Hess seconded the motion and the motion carried 3-0.

CORONER

Lisa Strebis, Noble County Coroner, was present to update the commissioners on the activities of her office. In 2021 there were a total of 5 suicides and Lisa reported that already this year there have been 5. To date there been 9 accidental deaths and 16 natural deaths that her office has been involved with.

She discussed her change in the transportation of bodies and how she expected that to be much more cost effective.

Lisa said that she writes grants when they are available to help with the cost of equipment and office supplies.

Lastly, she did ask the commissioners if there might be some office space available at some point for an office for her. She currently has office space at her home and consequently the deputies that she uses have to come into her home to get supplies and to pick up the vehicle for transport. The Commissioners will keep this in mind as we start the moving process for the new annex.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Max Weber was present to let the commissioners know that the pit was dug for the new grinder. The grinder should be going in sometime within the next 2 weeks.

Courthouse Security – Max reported that the job opening for the 3rd security officer was posted. They would like to get this position hired and trained for them to be in place prior to the first office moves.

INSURANCE GENERAL LIABILITY

Jarrold Ramer and an associate from Black and Ramer Insurance were present to discuss the increase in building values and the cost of insurance. Jarrold provided an appraisal report from

Kroll which provided an estimate of the cost of reproduction. This came in at \$67,072,000.00 for all buildings. Jarrod indicated that for insurance purposes the write the policy based on 90 % of the value. Jarrod will be getting the cost of insurance for the upcoming year very soon but wanted to explain the process and the adding of the new building. We also discussed off site storage of building materials that have been purchased for the jail project.

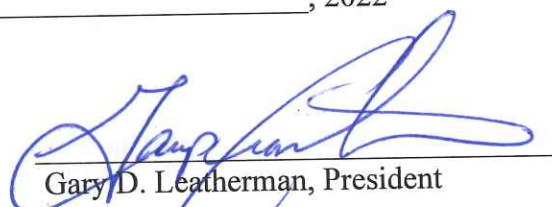
SOLAR

The commissioners discussed the Solar issue again as they have been looking at limiting the number of acres that can be used for solar fields. A group of citizens opposed to the solar "farms" was present for this discussion. The commissioners are torn between allowing owners to do with their property what they want while controlling this to lessen the impact on those residents that are impacted by being surrounded by the operations. The group provided a newspaper article about the LaGrange County Commissioners and dealing with this very subject. After some discussion with Teresa Tackett, Plan Director, and knowing that the plan commission board would not meet again until June, the commissioner put a 120-day moratorium on the solar discussion. This will give them time to research further and get them opinions of the planning board as to limiting the acreage by county, by township or by ownership. Motion to set this 120-day moratorium came from Dave Dolezal and was seconded by Anita Hess. Motion carried 3-0.

ADJOURNMENT

This session of the Board of Commissioners of Noble County was at approximately 3:30PM recessed from day to day until May 9, 2022

Dated this 9th day of May, 2022



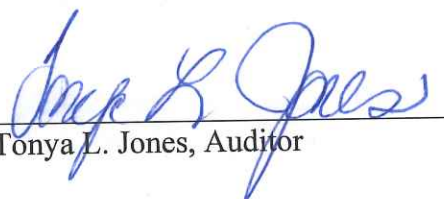
Gary D. Leatherman, President



Anita Hess, Vice President



Dave Dolezal Member

ATTESTED: 

Tonya L. Jones, Auditor