

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR SESSION OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD May 22, 2023**

Comes now the hour of 8:30 am. on the 22nd day of May, 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, County Attorney
Zack Smith, Highway Engineer
Richard Rogers, Highway Superintendent

Commissioners President, Gary Leatherman, brought the meeting to order at approximately 8:30 AM.

CORRESPONDENCE

- IDEM – Superior Coatings – notice of decision – approval of air quality permit.
- DeKalb County Drainage – Notice of public hearing for the William Bickel Reconstruction.
- Noble County Drainage – Notice of public hearing for the Aungst Reconstruction.
- Beers/Mallers Attorneys – notice of an upcoming meeting of the LaGrange County Redevelopment Commission concerning an allocation area of the redevelopment commission.
- Monthly report - The April report of the Noble County Clerk was reviewed

MINUTES

The May 8 minutes of the Noble County Commissioners was reviewed and approved as corrected with a motion from Gary Timmerman. Anita Hess seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

CLAIMS

A 14-page report of claims to be allowed May 22, 2023 was reviewed. The report totaled \$1,506,660.28 and was approved with a motion coming from Gary Timmerman. Anita Hess seconded the motion. Motion carries 3-0.

PAYROLL

Payroll dated 05/18/2023 was approved by the commissioners with a motion from Gary Timmerman. Anita Hess seconded the motion and the motion carried 3-0. This was a 3-page report totaling \$475,939.86.

OLD BUSINESS

A credit card ordinance was reviewed by the commissioners. Shelley Mawhorter was also in attendance for this and is also in agreement with the ordinance as presented. Shelley would like a “consequence” for not returning the card or returning it with no documentation of the purchase. Gary Leatherman suggested a note at the bottom of the sign out sheet that the individual using the card will be responsible for the charges if these requirements are not met. Gary Timmerman moved to approve the ordinance with a second coming from Anita Hess. Motion carried 3-0. Jackie will advertise the ordinance within thirty dates of adoption.

NEW BUSINESS

Jackie had received an appendix for our Health Insurance plan. Dennis would like more time to review prior to the commissioners signing. This will move to the June 12, 2023 agenda.

The Noble REMC annual meeting information was received. This has the voting information for the board members as well. Anita Hess moved to allow Gary Leatherman to vote for the

director(s) on behalf of the Commissioners. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

HIGHWAY

The bid opening was set for 9:00 am for the HMA 2023 project. Zack opened bids from the following:

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| 1. Niblock | \$1,447,603.00 |
| 2. Brooks | \$1,443,339.00 |
| 3. Phend & Brown | \$1,448,415.00 |
| 4. Pulver's | \$1,310,470.00 |

Anita Hess moved to take bids received under advisement. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0

Richard Rogers, Highway Superintendent, was present for the following construction update:

- Richard reported that the department has started ditching and berming, as well as dust control on the gravel roads.
- Mowing of the roadsides also started today.
- Driveway variance – Richard has a driveway variance from a Steckler for a 2nd driveway. Richard reported that this is 75 feet short of sight distance to the north. Motion to approve the variance came from Gary Timmerman. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- Driveway variance – this is for a Bret Taylor on 860 W. this is short sight distance on both sides and because of that Richard is suggesting that the resident purchase a “hidden drive sign”. Gary Timmerman moved to approve this variance with that stipulation that a hidden drive sign be installed. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- Eric Wolf on the Albion Road is also requesting a variance. This is widening a second drive on the sight of the swap meet. Motion to approve this request came from Gary Timmerman. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- Emenger, Craig – this is a variance for a 2nd drive in order to build a shop on the parcel. Richard reported no issues with the drive as far as sight or drainage. Motion to approve this variance came from Gary Timmerman. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- The last variance was for a Shoppell residence. This is for a second drive for a storage shed. Gary Timmerman moved to approve. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

Zack Smith, Highway Engineer, has the following engineering update for the commissioners:

- Due to a mild winter, the salt barn is at capacity and we still have more to take on our contract. Zack had received information from the contract holder that they have now extended the deadline for delivery until the end of the year and will only make the county responsible for ½ of the balance of the contract. Zack and Richard were confident that they could accommodate that contract by the end of the year. This actually puts the county in a good situation having excess salt for future years.
- Zack reported that Richard has completed the road rating inspection project and Zack is currently inputting the data. He indicated that he should have a full report by the next meeting.
- Bridge Inspection - Zack has an LPA voucher for bridge inspection in the amount of \$28,317.20. Gary Timmerman moved to approve the voucher. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- 400 N – Zack reported that REMC is scheduled to finish up their relocation of lines this week. Right of way work will be complete and 400 N will be ready for construction.
- Bridge 136 and Bridge 44 - both are set for October letting.
- Safety project - County Road 100 N at 50 W – request for proposal have been posted and are due June 9, 2023.
- Riley Road work is complete as far as construction goes. Berm work etc. will continue.
- Little Long/Round Lake - Zack reported that additional dredging permits were in process.
- Bridge 73 - there was a need for some additional work to allow guardrail installation. This should be done this week or next.
- Mobile Mapping – the company has been out doing the mobile mapping and Zack reported a 40% completion at this time.
- Zack provided the commissioners with a chain of e-mail correspondence concerning the Northport Road detour when work was being done on the State Road 9 project at Rome

City. Zack reported that there will be a meeting set up with the state and would like a commissioner to attend this as well. The meeting is set for June 2.

- Speed Study - Woodstrail Dr – Zack had been asked to do a speed study at this location by residents in the area. The speed study did not show a consistent speed issue but considering the number of residents signing the petition, it was Zack's recommendation to reduce the speed to the requested 20 MPH. Anita Hess moved to start the process of lowering the speed to 20 mph on Woodstrail Dr. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- Zack is requesting that a quit claim deed be drawn up for .350 acres owned by Eric Strater. This is a road parcel that Eric is wanting to give to the county. Dennis Graft has prepared the deed for Eric to sign. Motion to accept this road parcel was made by Gary Timmerman and seconded by Anita Hess. Motion carried 3-0

ANNEX

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

- There is almost no loose ends to worry about on this project. Work will begin in the storage area in preparation of the temporary court space. There was a revised project scope of work to sign. Motion to sign the revision came from Anita Hess and was seconded by Gary Timmerman. Motion carried 3-0.
- The APWA award plaque was given to the commissioners that was received for "project of the year" for the annex building. The building was also awarded an interior design award from the Interior Design Association.
- The Construction on the shell space is ramping up to get started. IT will schedule the north door entrance for early arrivals for the construction crew. The dumpster will be delivered and placed on the North side of the annex by the end of this month.
- The blinds have been received and installation should happen sometime yet this week.
- Signage was talked about again this week. Zack indicated that this was outside of the FFE project and suggested those office who wanted signage, get with a vendor.
- The memorial plaque design was reviewed and selected for the Dave Dolezal memorial plaque.

COURTHOUSE RENOVATION

Zack Smith, Project Manager, has an amended design contract to sign. Anita Hess moved to sign the contract. Gary Timmerman seconded. Motion carried 3-0

- Storm Sewer – Weigand is wanting a more comprehensive understanding of the Sewer lines from the 1st floor of the courthouse. A quote for A-1 Sanitary Sewer Service would provide that information by running a camera through those lines and cleaning them as needed. The proposed cost is \$2,700.00 + a \$50.00 charge for each clan out plug that needs chiseled out and replaced. Gary Timmerman moved to approve this service. Anita Hess seconded. The motion carried 3-0.
- Elevator – Schindler will be coming in to look at the elevator system and believes that they may be able to install a new custom built car. Cost estimates will be forthcoming.
- The term sheets have been sent to a number of banks with the council to possibly make a selection at their next meeting.
- Procurement bids will be opened by the Commissioners at their June 12, 2023 meeting at 2:00 pm.
- Zack reported that most all remodel has been done to the temporary space for the clerk. Gary Timmerman moved to pay the final construction money to Brad Ebey in the amount of \$29,151.00. Rent will then begin being paid on June 1, 2023. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- Parking could again be an issue with construction workers etc. Gary Leatherman has spoken with Chris Blaising concerning leasing the parking area north of the post office. This will accommodate employee as well as construction workers for the time period of construction. Mr. Blaising was in agreement at the same price that we paid during the annex construction.

Thrive for 5

Jenna Anderson was in attendance to discuss the Regional Tri-share program that the commissioners agreed to give start-up money back in January in the amount of \$50,000.00. At this time Noble County is the only County to do this and they now have one employer that is on board. That being Community State Bank. However the first applicant that they have

is a DeKalb resident and even though she is an employee of CSB she works at a DeKalb County Branch and her child care provider is also in DeKalb County. Jenna is asking if this is permissible? The commissioners discussed this at length and feel that at a minimum, they should at least be a Noble County Resident. Jenna will take this information back to her board for the revision to the requirements. She will also keep the commissioners informed as to major questions that come before the board.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Tina Lough from the Health Department was present on behalf of Anne Lowe to request permission to spend over \$500.00. This purchase was for stress balls to be used for advertisement to promote immunizations for parades, Kids City, etc. and was in the amount of \$2,426.00 + \$108.00 in shipping costs. This will come from the immunization fund. Motion to approve the purchase came from Gary Timmerman and was seconded by Anita Hess. Motion carried 3-0.

GENERAL LIABILITY INSURANCE

Jarrold Ramer and Jona Slone from Black and Ramer Insurance were in attendance to answer any questions that the commissioners may have had concerning our General Liability/Auto etc. insurance as well as our Workman's comp coverage with IPEP. We are currently with Liberty Mutual and according to Jarrold – there was little interest from other carriers to take the coverage. The estimated cost of the insurance for 6/1/23 – 6/1/24 will be in the \$400,000.00 range. Gary Timmerman asked about a deductible on the workman comp coverage and Jarrold will look in to those possibilities.

The Commissioners recess the meeting for drainage board.

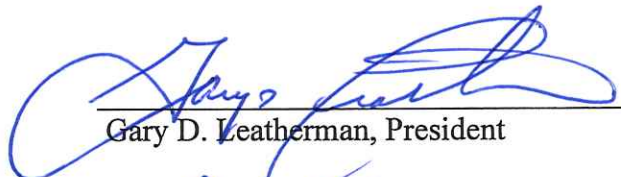
Back in session

The commissioner came back into session around 2:30 pm to work on the Noble County Handbook. They also met with Tammy Bremer and Holly Jones from the Clerks office to discuss the issues with the current municipal elections. According to the clerk's office a "glitch" had occurred because of a recent redistricting that the City of Kendallville had done. This has been corrected and now it is a waiting game until a court hearing that will address an appeal by one of the candidates.

ADJOURNMENT

This session of the Board of Commissioners of Noble County was at approximately 11:00 am recessed from day to day until June 12, 2023

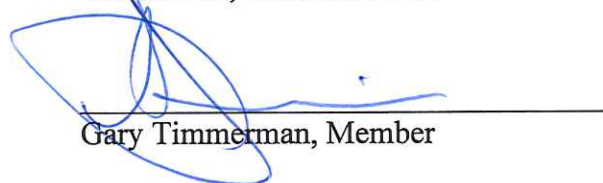
Dated this 12TH day of June, 2023



Gary D. Leatherman, President



Anita Hess, Vice President



Gary Timmerman, Member

ATTESTED: 

Michelle Mawhorter, Auditor