

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

Comes now the hour of 8:30 am. on the 23rd day of October, 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
Zack Smith, Highway Engineer

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

CORRESPONDENCE

- EES - Air permitting and Wastewater pretreatment permitting notice for Terra Supreme Battery 1563 E State Road 8 Albion Indiana
- IDEM - Ashley Industrial Molding – Notice of approval
- Monthly Treasurers report for the month of September

MINUTES

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

CLAIMS

A 14-page report totaling \$545,880.31 was reviewed by the commissioners. Gary Timmerman moved to approve the claims dated 10/23/2023. Anita Hess seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

PAYROLL

Payroll dated 10/19/2023 was also approved. This was a 3-page report that totaled \$479,848.35. Gary Timmerman made the motion to approve payroll. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS

- There was a maintenance contract rider that the county was thinking of canceling at the courthouse, however after discussion with Jason Schoeff, Construction Manager, it was decided to leave the maintenance contract in place until the new elevator is installed. Anita Hess made the motion to continue the agreement until a later time. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- A quote for the scanner at the new annex building was received from Smiths Detection. This is for prev main, 1 yr. and corr main 5030 in the amount of \$3711.00. Gary Timmerman moved to approve the quote provided. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0. The quote was sent back to ken Pasquale at Smiths Detection and a contract was requested on 10/25/23.
- Randy Jordan, Shop Supervisor, has requested that a title be signed in order to sell the trailer. Anita Hess moved to sign the title for the Ditch Witch Trailer. This is a 2014 trailer with the last four VIN of 1472. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

HIGHWAY

Richard Rogers, Highway Inspector, is present for some driveway variances for the department:

- Four Utility Permits were provided for the file. Three from NIPSCO and one revised permit from Frontier Communications.

- Floyd Lehman on 1000 N is requesting a 2nd drive on his property. Richard reported that there were no issues with sight distance or drainage. Motion to approve the variance came from Gary Timmerman. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- Leona Gordon on 1000 W is also requesting a variance for a 2nd drive. Richard is reporting no issues with this variance as well. Gary Timmerman moved to approve the variance. A second came from Anita Hess and the motion carries 3-0.
- The 3rd variance came from Joseph Selby on Old State Road 3. This is for a drive that is 40 feet short on sight distance but Richard reported that this is the best possible sight for the drive. Gary Timmerman moved to approve. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

Zack Smith, Highway Engineer, is bringing the following engineering business before the commissioners:

- Zack reported that the LPA projects FY 29 will open at the end of this month and he plans to submit 3 projects. Bridge 56, Bridge 61, and the Baseline Road project.
- HMA 2023-01 - this project is complete and the last invoice has been processed.
- HMA 2023 -02 – Pulver’s plan to start this project in early spring of 2024.
- Bridge Inspection – there is an LPA voucher for the bridge inspection in the amount of \$8463.74. This is approved with a motion from Gary Timmerman and a second from Anita Hess. Motion carried 3-0.
- Bridge 136 - Zack has received great news on this project. The bridge bids earlier this year came in extremely high. It was set for letting this October and the bid was still higher than the engineering estimate because of material prices. Zack has now been able to secure federal funding for the 80% of this project which added \$3,220,890.15 of additional federal funding. With this information the project will move forward.
- Bridge 136 – with the additional funding comes an Amendment #1 to the original contract for this project. Anita Hess moved to sign Amendment #1 for the Bridge 136 project with INDOT. Gary Timmerman seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.
- Bridge 44 - This is a similar case of which the bids were high in the spring. The October letting has still seen increases and Zack has secured 100% Federal funding for this project. There is an Amendment #1 for this project as well. Motion to sign the amendment came from Gary Timmerman. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- Riley Road at Appleman - Zack has an LPA voucher for this project. Gary Timmerman moved to approve the voucher in the amount of \$44,055.48. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carries 3-0.
- Zack has prepared a draft ordinance for the commissioner’s review based on the decision at their last meeting to lower the speed limit in the Cobblestone addition. The draft was approved for advertisement with a motion from Anita Hess. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- Zack had met with the other department concerning permitting software. At this time the decision was to move forward with the software for Utility, Driveway and Oversize permitting. They will then add others as needed or as the interest allows.
- Richard reported that he had received notification from INDOT that they would be doing work on State Road 3 south of the State Road 8 South intersection.

COURTHOUSE RENOVATION

- The bid timeline has been extended again due to some of the issues that were uncovered with flooring. Bids for the renovation will now be received on October 26, 2023 at 2:00 pm.
- With some of the issues being uncovered as the preparation for remodel begins have extended the time of completion. Zack is now indicating a 12–14-month process. This would make completion time at the end of 2024.
- Zack advised the commissioners that since there is going to be floor work needed on the first floor there would be an option to enhance the work on the restrooms on that level. This would also allow a janitorial storage area. This is the time to do it if that was something the commissioners thought would be a better option. All commissioners agreed that this would be the best way to go so Option 2 was selected.
- There were a couple of quotes that are coming before the commissioners for lead and asbestos removal of the courthouse. One from EMS at \$29,855.00 the other from SevenGen at \$36,044.00. Both companies were able to start on Monday so the bid was approved with a motion from Gary Timmerman to go with the low bid of \$29,855.00 to EMS. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

UNSAFE HOUSING

Norm Lortie, Building Inspector, came before the commissioners with the Harrison unsafe housing report. Norm reported that the homeowner has had the structure removed and that the case needs to be closed. Dennis Graft, County Attorney, will prepare the Findings and Orders to close this case. Norm also informed the commissioners that he will be retiring on February 1, 2024.

HEALTH

Health Officer Dr. Schowe along with Tina Lough and Jason Pippenger from the Health department and Sheila Paul from the State were all present to discuss the Local Public Health Funding Grant from the State. The department is asking for increases in salaries as well as two new employees. The department suggested that there will be a lot more requirements of their jobs once this funding comes. There were lengthy discussions had with the department as to the job responsibilities etc. Job descriptions were also included in the information. Gary Leatherman advised the group that these would need to go through the factoring committee then on to a salary committee prior to approval. Then on to the Council for funding and budget approval. Once all of the job descriptions are received, Jackie will set a meeting with the factoring committee.

COUNCIL ON AGING

Cherish Mishleau, Council on Aging director, is present for the 3rd quarter report for COA. Her financial request for this quarter is \$116,321.00. Gary Timmerman moved to sign the quarterly report for the Rural Transit Operating Grant. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

PROBATION UPDATE

Danyel Wagner, Asst Chief Probation Officer, was present for the monthly departmental update. Danyel talked about the drug and alcohol program that the department administers. She gave numbers of offenders that are on the various programs and supervisions that they have.

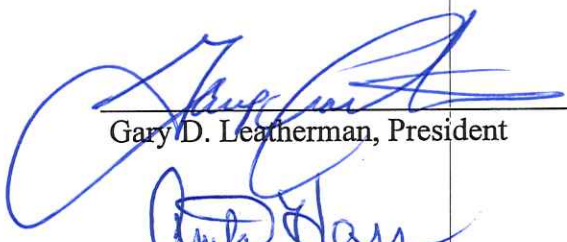
EXEMPT

The commissioners discussed again the exempt employees. Brian Walker, Dave Baum and Jim Mowery were in attendance for this discussion. Brian again spoke up in reference to the sheriff department being a 24/7 operation and that they are needed when needed. He referenced a department car verses a deer a few nights ago and when he was called in the middle of the night. The commissioners had polled over counties and have had several discussions about exempt employee and decided to move forward with the proposed list which adds Chief Deputy Sheriff, Jail Commander, Chief Deputy Assessor, Chief Probation Officer, Asst Chief Probation #1 and Asst Chief Probation #2 and the Asst IT Director to the exempt list. Motion was made by Gary Timmerman seconded by Anita Hess and the motion carries 3-0.

ADJOURNMENT

This session of the Board of Commissioners of Noble County was at approximately 11:15 AM recessed from day to day until November 13, 2023

Dated this 13TH day of Nov, 2023



Gary D. Leatherman, President



Anita Hess, Vice President



Gary Timmerman, Member

ATTESTED: 

Michelle Mawhorter, Auditor