

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR SESSION OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD November 13, 2023**

Comes now the hour of 8:30 am. on the 13th day of November, 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.

NEW BUSINESS

Dave Baum and Nate Jones from the IT department were present to discuss cyber security. Dave told the commissioners that the Federal and State government have collaborated to provide a 24/7 security center that monitors cyber attacks. This is at no cost to the counties at this time. During the 2 – year period the center monitors the attempts 24/7 and will notify the county immediately as well as help remediate the issue. Dave believes that this is a huge benefit to the county. Nate provided a live update of the monitoring and it continually was detecting something during the demonstration. Gary Timmerman moved to approve the county opting in to this program for at least the next 2 years. The commissioners will then address this after the two-year period when a possible charge is implemented. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

Also under new business was the transfer of Tax Sale Surplus in the amount of \$69,921.60. Gary Timmerman moved to approve the transfer from tax sale surplus to the unappropriated general fund. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

CORRESPONDENCE

- IDEM – Air Permit application from Terra Supreme Battery
- IDEM – Wastewater Treatment plant construction application – Terra Supreme Battery
- Monthly report for October for the Clerk of the Court – duly entered

MINUTES

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

CLAIMS

Regular claims dated 11/13/2023 were reviewed and approved as presented. The 16-page report totaled \$1,603,501.64. This total included the \$1,038,436.34 payment for the HMA – 2023 -01 project to Pulver's. Motion to approve the claims came from Gary Timmerman. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

MISC CLAIM

Misc claims were also reviewed. This 5- page report totaled #1,520,357.82 and was also approved with a motion from Gary Timmerman. Anita Hess seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

PAYROLL

Payroll dated 11/2/2023 was reviewed. This was a 3-page report totaling \$486,674.86 which was approved with a motion from Gary Timmerman and a second from Anita Hess. Motion carries 3-0.

Payroll for the upcoming 11/16/2023 pay date was also reviewed. This 3-page report totaled \$476,764.77. Gary Timmerman moved to approve. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

FINDINGS & ORDERS

The findings and orders approved at the previous meeting for Jesse Harrison was signed. Copies will be provided to Dennis Graft, Noble County Attorney and also Norm Lortie, Building Department.

HIGHWAY

Richard Rogers, Highway Inspector, was present for the following:

- Utility permits for NIPSCO, Brightspeed and Frontier were provided – duly entered
- Richard has a request for a driveway variance. This is for a 2nd drive for the New Beginning Church on 200 N -- they are wanting a circle drive. Richard reported that there were no sight or drainage issues. Gary Timmerman moved to approve the variance. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- Richard also reported that the ADA project in LaOtto was nearing completion. This was a sidewalk project on the West side of Old State Road 3.

ENGINEERING

Zack Smith, Highway Engineer, has the following business to come before the commissioners:

- Zack has an invoice from Snap-On Tools for tools in the amount of \$6,347.45 he is wanting approved for payment. Gary Timmerman moved to approve the purchase. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- The department is wanting to purchase a boom mower. This is at a cost of \$71,200.00 and is approved with a motion from Gary Timmerman. Anita Hess seconded and it carries 3-0.
- The next purchase is a 2023 Ditch Witch. This is from Vermeer Midwest in the amount of \$89,600.00. The motion to allow purchase came from Gary Timmerman with a 2nd from Anita Hess. Motion carried 3-0.
- Zack is requesting that financial commitment letters be signed for upcoming LPA applications. The first is for Bridge 61. Gary Timmerman moved to sign the commitment letter for Bridge 61 with the county portion being \$640,000.00. Anita Hess seconded. Motion carried 3-0.
- Bridge 56 is the 2nd project and Gary Timmerman also moved to sign this financial commitment in the amount of \$884,400.00 for this project. Anita Hess seconds and the motion carried 3-0
- The 3rd project request will be for Baseline Road between 600 E and 800 E. This is a costly project and Zack is unsure that this will be awarded. The commitment on this project is \$2,008,700.00. Gary Timmerman moved to approved. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- Zack provided copies of his Transportation Asset Management plan for Bridges. The overlay project is a part of this report. After review, Commissioners Gary Timmerman moved to approve the plan to be placed on line for public use. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- Zack is requesting permission to advertise the Annual Bids for 2024. This is done every year for Fuel, Bituminous mix Aggregate gravel, etc. Motion to advertise came from Gary Timmerman and was seconded by Anita Hess. Motion carried 3-0.
- HMA 2023-01 – Pulver's completed the work and the claim was approved at today's meeting for payment – with that the close out paperwork will be submitted.
- HMA 2023 -02 - this work will not be done until early next year and Zack is planning to encumber the money for this project.
- LPA Voucher – Bridge Inspection – Gary Timmerman moved to approve LPA Voucher 20103756 in the amount of \$1,450.20. Anita Hess seconded and motion carried 3-0.
- 400 N – LPA voucher - An LPA voucher for this project is reviewed in the amount of \$144.00. Gary Timmerman moved to approve. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- Bridge 134 – Zack has a contract amendment for right of way services on the CSX Property. Gary Timmerman moved to approve the amendment increasing cost by \$11,650.00 with a “not to exceed” now being \$426,361.00. Anita Hess seconded. Motion carried 3-0.
- There is also an LPA voucher for Bridge 134 for preliminary engineering in the amount of \$2,110.00. Gary Timmerman moved to approve the voucher. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

- Bridge 69 – there are two LPA vouchers for this project, one for preliminary engineering in the amount of \$5,620.50 and one for right of way services in the amount of \$5,502.80. Gary Timmerman moved to approve the vouchers with a second coming from Anita Hess. Motion carried 3-0.
- Old State Rd 3 – an LPA voucher was also received for this project. Gary Timmerman moved to approve the voucher in the amount of \$8,186.00. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carries 3-0.
- The last voucher was for Bridge 59 in the amount of \$10,045.00. Gary Timmerman moved to approve with a second coming from Anita Hess. Motion carried 3-0.
- A public hearing was held for the reduction of speed on Cobblestone Lane, Laurelwood Lane, Sawgrass Circle, Ballenshire Lane, and Carmoustie Court in the Cobblestone subdivision in Orange Township. With there being no public opposition, Gary Timmerman moved to approve the reduction of speed to 20 MPH in this area. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- Permitting Software – Zack was looking into doing permitting on line which would save time in the office and the public would have access to the permitting without having to come to Albion. When final pricing was received, the cost outweighed the permitting revenue. This process may be revisited in the future but right now it does not make financial sense to go with this process.

COURTHOUSE RENOVATION

Zack Smith, Project Manager, has the following information concerning the courthouse renovation:

- All bids were received and reviewed by American StructurePoint. The total cost of bids received for the project came in at over \$11,000,000.00. Engineering estimates were in place around \$9,000,000.00. When demolition work began the flooring on the 1st floor was discovered to have no base and the flooring on the 3rd floor was unsalvageable. This added cost to the project. The team of American StructurePoint, Weigant and Zack have met to trim the construction cost as much as possible but there is not much room for cost reduction. With that information and the increased cost of the project, the crew are looking for some direction as to how to proceed. Zack has spoken with Lake City Bank and there is more borrowing power on the loan and the commissioners exported the Rainy Day fund as well as CEDIT funds for additional funding. With all of the information, Gary Timmerman moved to move forward with the project. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- Conner Lundquist, Weigant Engineer, was present and suggested that the commissioners do material sampling as a way to possibly save money with the entrance masonry. This will be Core sampling of the 2nd 3rd and attic for evidence of strength. This has proven to be cost effective in other historical structures that Conner has dealt with. Gary Timmerman made the motion to do the material sampling. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

CEDIT AMENDMENT

Jackie Knafel, County Coordinator, has prepared an amendment to the 2024 / 2025 CEDIT plan based on the recent decision to increase the EDC funding by \$50,000.00. Motion to sign the amendment came from Gary Timmerman and was seconded by Anita Hess. Motion carried 3-0.

SHERIFF

- Max Weber, Noble County Sheriff, is present to request permission to waive the 10% reduction in pay for Tyler Smoker and to give him 10 days' vacation this year. He was previously employed with LaGrange and Goshen City Police and has training and is a K-9 handler. The dog Jedi, is also now with Noble County. Gary Timmerman moved to approve the waiver and vacation time. Anita Hess seconded. Motion carried 3-0
- Dakota Snyder is employed as a jailer and Max is requesting 10 days' vacation be given to him as well. He will – however – follow the 10% reduction for the 90-day period. Gary Timmerman moved to approve this request as well. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- Max also is requesting that the commissioner sign a resolution to transfer the police dog Jedi from Goshen City to Noble County. Motion to sign the resolution came from Gary Timmerman. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

- Max has an ordinance that will increase the cost of sheriff sales at the department. The department will be going with SRI to conduct these sales and this is will increase cost to \$300.00 per foreclosure. Gary Timmerman moved to advertise this ordinance for public hearing. Anita Hess seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

COUNCIL ON AGING

Carmen Cornwell, a board member for the Council on Aging, was present to request a document for the purchase of a transit vehicle ordered in 2020 be signed by the commissioners. Purchase price was \$102,200.00. Motion to sign the document came from Anita Hess. Gary Timmerman seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Cherish is to scan and send a copy to Jackie on Tuesday November 14, 2023.

HEALTH ORDINANCE

The Noble County Health department has requested that the fee schedule for TB Skin Tests be increased from \$15.00 to \$20.00. Ordinance has advertised and being no public comment received the ordinance passed with a motion from Gary Timmerman. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

USDA BALLOT

The 2023 official ballot for FSA committee elections was received from the Noble County FSA Office. Anita Hess moved to cast the ballot, sign and return. Gary Timmerman seconded and motion carried 3-0.

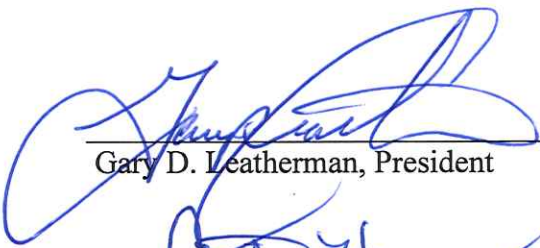
RECESS

Back in session 1:00 PM the commissioners went back in session to do a video for Lockmueller Group concerning the New Annex building and the Courthouse Renovation.


ADJOURNMENT

This session of the Board of Commissioners of Noble County was at approximately 1:30 pm recessed from day to day until November 27, 2023.

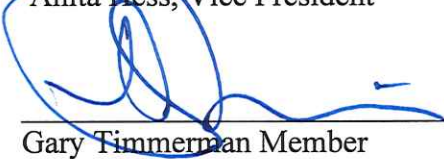
Dated this 27th day of Nov., 2023



 Gary D. Leatherman, President



 Anita Hess, Vice President



 Gary Timmerman Member

ATTESTED: 

 Michelle Mawhorter, Auditor