

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR SESSION OF THE  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD Monday October 28, 2024**

Comes now the hour of 8:30 am. on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2024 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 Knafel, County Coordinator  
Dennis Graft, Noble County Attorney  
Matt Getts, KPC Media  
Zack Smith, Highway Engineer

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

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- Oak Farm Schools - notice of open house November 8, 2024
- IDEM – Town of Albion Sanitary Sewer construction permit
- IWM Consulting Group – notice of application for air permit

**MINUTES**

Anita Hess moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

**CLAIMS**

There was a 10-page report of claims dated 10/15/24 for review. Anita Hess moved to approve the \$1,429, 880.61 in claims. Gary Timmerman seconded. The motion carried 3-0.

**MISC CLAIMS**

A 5-page report totaling \$398,913.34 of misc. claims was submitted for approval. Anita Hess moved to approve. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

**PAYROLL**

The report for payroll dated 10/31/2024 contained 3-pages and totaled \$515,173.60. Gary Timmerman moved to approve the report. Anita Hess seconded. The motion carried 3-0.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- We are still awaiting some appraisals for parcels that the county is wanting to sell. This has been tabled until all appraisals have been received.
- DAR Flag- the commissioners have been asked to allow the Daughters of the American Revolution to fly a flag for the upcoming bi-centennial. Although there is a great respect for this group the commissioners feel that if we allow one organization to do this there will be many to follow and we can't accommodate many flags to be flown on just one or two flag poles. If there gets to be another option of maybe a month-long display, we may be able to help.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Ligonier Library Board is requesting an appointment to their board. Their recommendation was that of Eli Yemima Fought. Anita Hess moved to appoint Eli Yemima Fought to sit on the board for a 4-year term beginning November 1, 2024 through November 1 2028. Gary Timmerman seconded. The motion carried 3-0.
- Matt Dice has submitted the Extension Contractual Services Agreement for the commissioners to sign. This is for part of the salaries of the three agents of the extension office who are paid through Purdue. This is in the amount of \$110,010.00 and is approved with a motion from Gary Timmerman and a second from Anita Hess. Motion carried 3-0.

- The auditor's office is requesting approval to transfer unclaimed surplus money to the General fund. This is surplus money that has sat in the surplus fund for 3 years from the date of sale. Anita Hess moved to approve the transfer. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

## HIGHWAY

Richard Rogers, Highway Inspector, has the following construction update from the highway department:

- Utility permits for Pearce Service on behalf of Frontier Communications, NIPSCO, ADB Companies and Brightspeed on behalf of CNS Networks
- Driveway Variance - Richard is requesting a driveway variance for resident that would like a 2<sup>nd</sup> drive. Gary Timmerman moved to approve the variance. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

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

- HMA -01 - Zack is reporting that a lot of this work is being finished up for the year
- CN -01 – This project is weather permitting at this time of the year, There are some utility permits that are still pending.
- Bridge Inspection – Zack has an LPA voucher for this project in the amount of \$870.12. Motion to approve the voucher came from Gary Timmerman. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- 400 N – This project is complete with pre-final inspection being completed this week
- Bridge 136 - There is an LPA voucher for this project in the amount of \$26,100.15 coming before the commissioners for approval. Gary Timmerman moved to approve the voucher for Construction Engineering. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0. There is also an LPA voucher for preliminary engineering in the amount of \$1,850.00. This is approved with a motion from Gary Timmerman and a second from Anita Hess. Motion carries 3-0.
- Bridge 44 - Zack is reporting that this project is a few weeks ahead of schedule. There is an LPA voucher for construction engineering in the amount of \$17,330.63 which is approved with a motion from Gary Timmerman and a second from Anita Hess. Motion carried 3-0.
- Ball Road - this is the safety project and Zack is reporting that the letting will be 12/11/24.
- Bridge 134 - Zack is reporting that right of way work continues on the project. He has been in contact with railroad to ask for additional funding for this project due to their requirements.
- Bridge 69 - this project is also working through right of way. An LPA voucher was presented for approval. The voucher in the amount of \$4,769.13 was approved with a motion from Gary Timmerman and a second from Anita Hess. Motion carried 3-0.
- OLD SR 3 - There is an LPA voucher for Preliminary Engineering in the amount of \$9,780.00. Zack reported that letting will occur in July of 2025. Gary Timmerman moved to approve the voucher. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- Bridge 56 and 61 - FMIS has been submitted.
- Zack shared the notice of funding available from INDOT. Application will be accepted be accepted beginning 11/7/24. Zack plans to submitted 2 bridge projects (Bridge 67 and Bridge 75) and possibly Baseline Road from 600 E to Old State Road 3.
- Mileage Certification – Zack has prepared a draft ordinance for the acceptance of Highland Drive, Ballenshire Lane and Wellington Lane. Anita Hess moved to approve the draft ordinance for advertisement. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- Eagle Island Rd Speed. Another draft ordinance was brought before the commissioners concerning speed on Eagle Island Rd. It was earlier discussed that the speed would be reduced to 20 MPH. After further discussion, it was decided to allow 20 in certain areas and then 30 MPH in others. Zack will modify the ordinance accordingly. Motion came from Anita Hess to process the ordinance for publication after modifications were done. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- Zack has contracted with USI Consultants for the ADA Transition Plan and Title VI Implementation plan for the amount of \$43,000.00. This will insure compliant updates for INDOT projects. Motion to approve this service came from Gary Timmerman and was seconded by Anita Hess. Motion carried 3-0.
- Concerning the property on 415 N. Zack has done some research and found some issues so is wanting to put this on hold until further investigations can be done.

## COURTHOUSE RENOVATION

Zack Smith, Project Manager, has the following report concerning the renovation at the County Courthouse:

- There were pictures provided of the courtrooms and the progress being made.
- Zack updated the commissioners on the work of many of the sub-contractors.
- PCO #49 - This is JAVS A/V rough-in at a cost of \$6227.72 which will be deducted from contingency
- Meeting minutes were provided for meeting #19 along with a financial update.
- Zack reported on the FFE for the courthouse. He reported that PSI was on-site for measurements.
- Zack shared some of the pictures of the proposed entry as well as the courtroom wall. The group is working with Pierceton Wood Academy for this project. Zack reported that once complete, Weigand will install the wall.
- Appliances for the Jury room- Zack had the quotes from Van's Home Center for 2 refrigerators for the courts. This was in the amount of \$2,597.00. Anita Hess moved to proceed with the purchase of these appliances. Gary Timmerman seconded the motion and the motion carried 3-0.
- Lastly, the motorized shades quote was received. This is for the lobby at the annex. The quote was in the amount of \$6,485.00 for the shades and installation costs. Motion to proceed came from Anita Hess. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

## UNSAFE HOUSING

Mike Klopfenstein, Building Inspector, came before the commissioners, along with Saleh Ali Omar, owner of the property located at the corner of State Road 9 and US 6. Mike is reporting that the building has been removed and the basement is filled in and leveled. Mike is recommending that the case of unsafe housing be closed. Gary Timmerman moved to close the Omar unsafe housing case. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

## COUNCIL ON AGING

Cherish Mishleau, COA Director, was present for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter reporting. Cherish is wanting to give the commissioners a "heads up" concerning legislation that may put more oversight on the plates of the commissioners. She will keep everyone informed of any changes that may come. Cherish is requesting \$120,068.00 as the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter request be approved. Anita Hess moved to approve the request. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

## HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Melayna Gingerich, Health 1<sup>st</sup> coordinator, Carrie Ryan, Health Nurse and Jason Pippenger, environmentalist are all present to update the commissioners on what is happening at the Health Department.

- A billboard contract was discussed for advertising for the health department. The total cost would be \$5,500.00 and will be paid from the Health 1<sup>st</sup> funds. Anita Hess moved to approve this purchase and allow Carrie Ryan to sign the contract with Lamar. Gary Timmerman seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.
- Carrie also has an "Indiana Network for Patient Care Subscription Agreement" for review. This agreement will allow limited access to patient care. Carrie says that currently she spends hours on the phone to gather this information. The amount of the contract is free for the first year and then \$1800.00 as year for the next two years. Gary Timmerman moved to approve this agreement. Anita Hess seconded. The motion carried 3-0.
- Jason Pippenger was present to discuss the remodeling in the basement at the South Complex. This project will also be paid from the Health 1<sup>st</sup> Indiana funding. He has a company that can do the work this winter and is wanting approval from the commissioners. This will be restroom work and making them handicap accessible, as well as creating office space in the basement area. The estimate of the work was given by 323 services in the amount of \$35,705.00. Motion to approve the work came from Anita Hess. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- Melayna updated the commissioners on the accomplishments of the department since the receipt of the Health 1<sup>st</sup> Indiana funds such as programs through McMillen Health, Cole Center Family YMCA and CPR training. There was also funding made available to Noble Government for first aid kits, helmets given for bike safety, sponsorship of 4 participants for the Common Grace Ministries 5 K. Community events included Vector control

education, Kids Fair, 4-H fair and Kid City and immunization education at WIC Resource Fair. There was also training done at the school corporations.

- Melayna also shared the 2025 initiatives with the commissioners, such as bike safety events, CPR training and Stop the bleed training, hygiene kits at back-to-school events, Noble County Wellness Program supplies and many other partnerships to build and improve health throughout Noble County.

#### JRAC

Judge Hagen, Superior Court II Judge, along with Max Weber, Noble County Sheriff, were present to discuss the Opioid money and the grant given to the Noble County Sheriff Department to fund a Jail Release Coordinator. Judge Hagen indicated that four applications were received

- Noble County Sheriff's Department
- SoulMedic Media Group dba RemedyLive
- Inspiration Ministries Inc
- Anthony Wayne Rehabilitation Center

Each application was scored based on identified needs/action plan, Timeline, Performance Measurement Plan and budgeting needs and how it would align with the opioid funding.

Judge Hagen informed the commissioners that by a unanimous vote the JRAC is recommending that the Noble County Sheriff's Department be awarded this funding. 85% will come from the OPIOID Restricted fund and 15% will come from the unrestricted. The amount of funding being requested would be \$90,000.00 which, according to Max would pay salary and benefit expenses for the year. Gary Timmerman moved to approve the use of these funds for a Jail Release Coordinator being in January of 2025. Anita Hess seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

#### SHERIFF K-9

Sheriff Max Weber talked with the commissioners about the release of a K-9 Toby to the city of Ossian. The deputy who worked with Toby has left the department and the City of Ossian is interested in purchasing Toby for \$6,000.00. Gary Timmerman moved to allow the sell of K-9 Toby to the City of Ossian. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

#### RECESS

BACK in Session 1:00 pm

#### INSURANCE

Eric Dreyfus from Sympli Fresh health insurance was present to discuss this new concept of health insurance with "bottom up" pricing. Eric had a presentation of the new method and indicated that this was under the umbrella of Anthem. The company Eric was representing has only been in business 3 yrs. He also told the commissioners that the use of SHARX, True RX and Wellbridge could continue under this program. He presented numbers of which could save the county money. The commissioners had reservations about the pricing concept and would like more information concerning other counties or companies in the area using this system. Eric will provide more information via e-mail.

#### ADJOURNMENT

This session of the Board of Commissioners of Noble County was at approximately 2:30 PM recessed from day to day until November 12, 2024.

Dated this 12<sup>TH</sup> day of Nov, 2024

  
Gary D. Leatherman, President

  
Anita Hess, Vice President



Gary Timmerman, Member

ATTESTED:   
Michelle Mawhorter, Auditor