

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR SESSION OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD November 24 , 2025
2025**

Comes now the hour of 8:30 am. on the 24th of November, 2025 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
Zack Smith, Highway Engineer
Dennis Graft, County Attorney
Matt Getts, KPC Media

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

JRACC GRANT

Judge Steve Hagen and Danyel Wagner, Asst Chief Probation Officer were in attendance to discuss the JRACC Grant applications with the commissioners. Judge Hagen explained that there were only 2 applications received and both met the criteria for acceptance. The JRACC board approved the renewal of the Jail Release Coordinator for the Sheriffs department with 61% of the \$76000.00 request coming from the restricted opioid money and 39% coming from the unrestricted fund. The 2nd application was from Drug Free Noble County of which \$24900 was granted with 100% coming from the restricted funds. Gary Timmerman moved to approve the 2 grant applications with a second coming from Anita Hess. Motion carried 3-0.

CORRESPONDENCE

- IDEM – approval of the Air permit application for Structural Composites
- IDEM – approval of the air permit application for Forest River Inc of Ligonier.
- Noble County Treasurers monthly report for the month of October.

MINUTES

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

CLAIMS

A 14-page report totaling \$369,842.84 of claims dated 11/24/25 were reviewed and approved by the commissioners with a motion from Anita Hess and a second from Gary Timmerman. Motion carried 3-0

PAYROLL

Payroll dated 11/13/2025 was reviewed by the commissioners. This was a 3-page report totaling \$537,483.46 and was approved with a motion from Anita Hess. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0

OLD BUSINESS

The Lutheran resolution was again discussed and Gary Leatherman informed the board that he had conversations with Parkview officials concerning this issue. Gary told the board that Parkview has an internal policy when Parkview Samaritan cannot response. Gary was told that when 1st responder arrives and makes the request for the Samaritan that the dispatch is only responsible for one call to Parkview. Parkview will take it from there and call back up if needed. With this information, the commissioners as well as the county Attorney, Dennis Graft, no longer felt that there was a need for a resolution for Noble County.

NEW BUSINESS

- Stephanie Leonhardt, Deputy Auditor, is requesting permission to transfer unclaimed tax sale surplus dollars to general fund. Anita Hess moved to transfer \$21,448.17 from Tax Sale Surplus to the general fund. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- Health Board – the health department is requesting the reappointment of a board member Michael Jones's term ends on 12/31/25 and he is indicating that he is willing to serve another term. Gary Timmerman moved to reappoint Michael Jones to serve another 4-year term from 1/1 2026 through 12/31/29. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- CVB appt – Grace Caswell, CVB Director, is requesting a board appointment for the Convention and Visitors Board. Kate Emmert's term is expiring on 12/31/25. Kate is unable to serve another term and Grace is recommending Kaitlyn Sproles to replace her on the board. Gary Timmerman moved to appoint Kaitlyn Sproles to serve a 3-year term beginning 01/01/2026 through 12/31/2028. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- TITLE – Randy Jordan, Shop Supervisor is requesting that the commissioners sign a title for a 2016 Western Star Dump Truck that the department will be selling. Anita Hess moved to sign the title for VIN # ending 7978. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- Public Defenders board -Gary Leatherman had been contacted by James Abbs concerning an appointment to the Public Defender's board. They are recommending that Alaina Vargas be reappointed to serve on the board for another 3-year term. Anita Hess moved to reappoint Alaina Vargas to serve another 3-year term on the Public Defenders Board. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- Gazebo Decorations - the commissioners were contacted by the Albion Tri Kappa about decorating the gazebo located at the courthouse. Lori Gagen was present at the meeting and said that the STAR team was considering some type of permanent lighting on the gazebo but other than that they had no issues with the decorating of the gazebo as well. Anita Hess moved to allow the Albion Tri-Kappa to decorate the gazebo for the holiday season. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- VSO - Jackie Knafel, County Coordinator, talked to the commissioners about a conversation that she had with Mike Clouse, Veterans Service Officer, and Cameron Lochmer, the District Service Officer. Mike will be retiring at the end of January and the two had talked with her about the training that will be needed once a new VSO is hired. Jackie is asking when the commissioners would like to post for this job. After some discussion, Anita Hess moved to post the VSO job opening as soon as the posting is ready and approved by the current VSO. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

HIGHWAY

Zack Smith, Highway Engineer, and Richard Rogers, Highway Inspector, are present for the highway department update:

- Zack spoke to the commissioners about the requirement of "physically worked" when it comes to overtime. The recent snow event on Veterans Day and the highway department working that particular day brought this to the forefront again for the workers. The motion from Gary Timmerman was that the highway department be exempt from "physically worked" statute when called in for an emergency situation due to storms on the week-end and holidays. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- Annual Bids – these are due for opening at the December 8, 2025 commissioners meeting.
- Community Crossing – the 2026 applications have been submitted. The 2025 projects awarded to Pulvers will be completed in the spring.
- Storm Damage – Zack reported that they have met with American StructurePoint for the design meeting. Looking for a spring bidding with a summer completion for the renovation.
- LPA Call for Projects - Zack told the commissioners that all four of the projects have been submitted and accepted for consideration.
- Bridge 33 - the deck has been laid and the bridge will soon be open to traffic.
- Bridge Inspection – Zack has an LPA voucher for preliminary engineering. This is in the amount of \$2,151.11. Gary Timmerman moved to approve with a second coming from Anita Hess. Motion carried 3-0.

- Bridge 44 – the LPA voucher for this project is in the amount of \$141.06 and is approved with a motion from Gary Timmerman and a second from Anita Hess. Motion carries 3-0.
- Bridge 136 - Construction Engineering has an LPA voucher for Bridge 136 in the amount of \$124.33. Gary Timmerman moved to approve. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried. 3-0.
- Bridge 134 - Zack has finally gotten everything that is ^{needed} to begin this project, however the paperwork from the railroad was not in time to do a February letting. Zack has moved this to a March Letting.
- Bridge 69 - this bridge project is on track for the February letting.
- Riley Road - The RFPs were opened that were received for this project. Zack handed out the RFPs to the commissioners and plans to set a time for rating the proposals. Zack also had a right of way contract with American StructurePoint for the Riley Road Intersection Improvement Project. This is in the amount of \$87,965.00 and is approved with a motion from Gary Timmerman. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- Bridge 61 – There is an LPA voucher for preliminary engineering in the amount of \$4,772.00 for this project. Gary Timmerman moved to approve. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0
- Bridge 56 - the LPA voucher for this project is in the amount of \$521.50 and is approved by a motion from Gary Timmerman. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING

The commissioners had received a call from the sheriff's department concerning active shooter training on December 9, 2025. They are asking that the courthouse and the annex building be closed to the public during this time period of 1:00 PM through 4:00 PM. Gary Timmerman moved to approve the closure of the Courthouse and the Annex building to the public during this training process. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

HEALTH FIRST INDIANA

Amy Johnson, HFI Coordinator, was present to update the commissioners on the HFI funds.

- Lead Screenings – the department served 63 individuals, screened 3 and had one home risk assessment.
- Provided funding for quarterly drawings for the Noble County Wellness participants.
- Held a respiratory vaccine clinic at the Council on Aging
- Safe sleep education and resources for portable cribs for the Bowen Center
- Provided funding for discounted swim lessons at the YMCA
- Amy provided vector control data and pool data to the commissioners.
- There were approximately 15- 20 people in attendance for when the State deputy Health Commissioner came to Noble County on October 31, 2025


REZONING

- Krause – Teresa Tackett and Cody Kraus were present for this rezoning. Cody has made amendments to the business that he has established and went before the plan commission board for approval this is not a change of rezoning but just amendment to that original rezoning. One letter had been received via e-mail by the commissioner by Eric Heineman, but Eric was present for this public hearing and made no public comment. With a full favorable recommendation from the plan commission board, Gary Timmerman moved to approve the amended ordinance. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- Noble REMC – Rezoning from A1 and HI to HI for .645 acres. This was approved with a motion from Anita Hess and a second from Gary Timmerman. Motion carried 3-0.
- Noble REMC – rezoning from A1 and HI to HI for .999 acres. This too was approved with an motion from Anita Hess and a second from Gary Timmerman. Motion carried 3-0


ADJOURNMENT

This session of the Board of Commissioners of Noble County was at approximately 10:50 am recessed from day to day until December 8, 2025

Dated this 8TH day of Dec, 2025



Gary D. Leatherman, President



Anita Hess, Vice President



Gary Timmerman Member

ATTESTED: 

Michelle Mawhorter, Auditor