

NOBLE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday October 7, 2024 1:00 PM
NOBLE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
NOBLE COUNTY NEW ANNEX

PRESENT:

George Bennett
Tom Janes
Max Franklin
Doug Harp
Mary Wysong
Brandon Chordas

NOT PRESENT

Trey Forbes

ALSO PRESENT:

Jackie Knafel, Noble County Coordinator
Gary Leatherman, Noble County Commissioner
Dennis Graft, County Attorney
Matt Getts, KPC Media

President George Bennett brought the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 PM

2025 BUDGET ADOPTION

Michelle Mawhorter, Noble County Auditor, was in attendance to present the 2025 Noble County Budget for adoption. Copies of the proposed budget were provided to all council members. Doug Harp moved to approve the 2025 budget. Mary Wysong seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0. Ordinance number 2024-23 was assigned.

MINUTES

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved as corrected with a motion from Tom Janes. Max Franklin seconded and the motion carried 6-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Doug Harp reported that he had attended the Region 3A meeting and the group is working closely with the schools in the county as far as child care goes. Central Noble and East Noble currently have child care in the schools for staff only.
- Brandon Chordas told the group that he had met with some of the staff at the health department and had suggested that a good way to open up the lines of communication between that department and the council and commissioners would be to possibly update the two boards on the happenings at the department - especially the Health 1st Indiana funds and how they were being spent.

OLD BUSINESS

- Abatement Guidelines - The tax abatement guidelines were presented to the council for final review. With no other additions being added, the guidelines were approved with a motion from Max Franklin. Doug Harp seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.
- B & J Medical abatement needed corrected as the information original provided was incorrect. The abatement improvement were corrected to \$1,797,889.00. With this figure in mind it limited the number of years of the abatement to 5 rather than the 10 that was originally granted on the \$30,477,940.00 amount that was provided. Motion to approve the abatement of \$1,797,889.00 for 5 years was made by Tom Janes and seconded by Mary Wysong. Motion carried 6-0.

- Resolution for both the vacant building and the real estate improvements were received to complete the process. Mary Wysong moved to approve both of the resolutions with a second coming from Doug Harp. Motion carried 6-0.
- A letter of support was signed for the support of a sewer/water infrastructure project for the industrial complex that houses B & J Medical, Color Masters, Glenn Hunter and Associates Atomic Filament and Jonathan Green. The letter was signed with a motion from Doug Harp and a second from Max Franklin. Motion carried 6-0.
- A appointment request was received from the Ligonier Library for an appointment to fulfill the unexpired term of Diane Groff. It was the recommendation of the library to appoint Christy Hofmeister to this position. Tom Janes moved to appoint Christy Hofmeister to the board. Brandon Chordas seconded and the motion carried 6-0.

HIGHWAY

Zack Smith, Highway Engineer, provided the following engineering update for the highway

- Zack is asking the council if they are interested in the information he is providing to them through these updates. He wants to know that he is doing what is expected of him when it comes to this board. He felt as though the lines of communication between him and the council were maybe not what it should be and would like to know if there were changes that were expected of him.
- Zack was concerned about the cutting of some budget items. Zack had previously discussed the increases in pay to some of the employees at the department and was told by the council to bring it back at budget time. He felt that at budget time the matter was not discussed thoroughly and he indicated that he was not aware of the cut until his budget was received after the hearings were over.
- Zack was also concerned about the cutting of his overtime. He told the council that they are different that most county offices in the fact that they deal with emergency situations and that is where the overtime comes from in most situations. He was aware of the issues that had been discussed about the high number of hours of comp time accumulated in some offices but told the council that they had been able to monitor this situation very well and had the comp time under control.
- Council members indicated to Zack, that they all felt as though he was doing a good job and felt that the information that he provided to them was valuable information and they wanted this to continue.
- Zack reported that the overlay project was just about complete this was the HMA 2024-01
- 400 N – Zack told the council that the barricades are still up – but the project is nearing completion and you can drive down the road at this time. Most of the remainder of the project is dealing with seeding and berm work.
- Bridge 136 - Zack provided pictures of this project and informed the council of the issues that he has had to deal with in regards to the railroad changing of requirements. Zack told the group that he has scheduled a meeting with the railroad and was indicating that future bridges like this over the rails may no longer be possible because of these added requirements and the cost involved. On Bridge 136, some of these costs increased the cost of the bridge by over \$3,000,000.00. Zack was able to go back and get more federal money to complete this project, but he is unsure that this type of added cost will be considered in the future.
- Bridge 134 - this is one of the bridges that span the rails. This is currently on hold due to the above situation as well as some right of way issue that the county is trying to work through. This bridge is set for letting in 2025.
- Bridge 44 - Pictures were provided for this projects as well. Zack is reporting that the deck was laid last week and this bridge is nearing completion.
- Zack currently has 13 active LPA projects going on at this time.
- Ball Road is the safety project and is fully funded. Letting will be in December of 2024.

COURTHOUSE RENOVATION

Zack Smith, Project Manager, provided pictures, minutes of the meeting with the construction company and then updated the council on the work being done on all three floors by all the sub-contractors on site. Zack also reported that the project was tracking on schedule and on budget. There have been many change orders due to finding issues with the old building and we are down to \$15,700.00 is contingency.

Do to the fact that the project goes into 2025, Zack brought an addendum to the independent contractor agreement that the commissioners have signed to the attention of the council members. There was no action required on their part but Zack wanted them to be aware of this addendum. Extending this by 6 months will ensure that the project is brought to closure. The Council members asked about the historical preservation at the courthouse. Zack responded that of course the outside of the structure has maintained that historical value. The interior of the building, they have done everything possible to keep those historical pieces in place or to reuse them in some way. Zack told the group that in many cases dropped ceiling etc. had covered up paintings that no one knew was there. In these cases, a contractor has been employed to preserve those in pictures.

An open house is planned once the project is complete.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

- Carrie Ryan, Health Nurse, Melayna Gingerich, Health 1st Indiana coordinator, and Tina Lough from the Health Department were all in attendance for this session.
- Melayna told the group that they wanted to clarify that the two positions that were left in the 2025 budget were approved for hiring. The full time position was for lead assessment, pool inspections and vector control. The 2nd position was that of a translator to aid the school liaison nurse with immunizations etc. The council indicated that it was left in the budget so now it would be necessary since it is a new position to be factored and go before the salary committee before it was fully approved.
- Melayna had a handout for the council about how some of the funding of the Health 1st Indiana money would be spent and their accomplishment over the past 9 months. She also went over some of the upcoming events planned for the rest of 2024 and the initiatives for 2025.
- Carrie and Melayna also discussed the department coming to the council meetings monthly for updates on what is going on in the health department. This is an attempt to keep the lines of communication open between the department and the council. They also asked if there were any needs in the community in which the Health 1st Indiana money could be of help to let the department know so that they can reach out.

CCD CLAIMS

Max Weber, Noble County Sheriff, was present for the CCD claims:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| • Professional Food Equipment Service | \$1,800.99 |
| • Equiparts | \$ 211.26 |
| • Equiparts | <u>\$ 590.19</u> |

total \$2,602.44

Doug Harp moved to approve the claims being paid from the CCD fund. Tom Janes seconded and the motion carried 6-0.

- Max told the group that this would probably be the last claims coming from that fund as it is down to around \$500.00 left in the account.
- Max reported 206 inmates at the jail today of which 17 were federal inmates.

NON COMPLIANCE HEARING

Matt Brinkman of Region 3-A was present along with Alison Peterson from LA Kammerer, to request a waiver of non-compliance for LA Kammerer abatements. The public hearing was held at 3:00 pm on this date in compliance with advertisements in the Albion New Era and

Kendallville News Sun. Proof of publications were provided. Ben Castle, Noble County Assessor was also present and spoke on behalf of the company. He told the council that the company had called him and he advised them as to what needed to be done and that the company has now provided all information needed. He also indicated that they now have a local accountant that is familiar with Indiana law requirements and so he is sure that this will no longer be an issue with this company. Doug Harp moved to approve the non-compliance waiver. Max Franklin seconded and the motion carried 6-0.

TRANSFER

The Noble County Surveyor is asking for a transfer of funds in his perpetuation fund. He is asking to decrease 1202-31500-249 professional services by \$5,000.00 and increase 1202-44100-249 Furniture and equipment by that same amount. Tom Janes moved to approve. Mary Wysong seconded and the motion carried 6-0.

Superior Court Judge Steven Clouse is requesting a couple of transfers:

one from 1000-14712-038 Guardian ad Litem in the amount of \$500.00 to increase 1000-14704-038 Pauper Transcripts and the other to decrease 1000-14712-038 Guardian ad Litem by \$1,500.00 and increase 1000-14703-038 Special Appointments by \$1,500.00. This also was approved with a motion from Tom Janes and seconded by Mary Wysong. Motion carried 6-0.

ADDITIONALS

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the Noble County Council, the meeting was adjourned at approximately pm until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the council being November 4, 2024

Dated this 7 day of November, 2024

ABSENT

Trey Forbes

Max Franklin

Mary Wysong

Brandon Chordas

Tom Janes

George Bennett

Doug Harp

ATTEST:

Michelle Mawhorter, Noble County Auditor