

**NOBLE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Monday June 3, 2024 1:00 PM**  
**NOBLE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT**  
**NOBLE COUNTY NEW ANNEX**

**PRESENT:**

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

**ALSO PRESENT:**

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

George Bennett, Council President, brought the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 pm

**JUDGES**

Judge Kramer, Judge Clouse and Judge Hagan along with Jared Owen and Danyel Wagner from the probation department were present to talk about probation officer pay and fact that the base pay for the probation officers will now come from the general fund. They explained that the admin fee now being put into the adult and juvenile fund are approximately \$33,000.00. They want to only use that amount going forward for salaries with the remainder coming from the general fund.

Judge Clouse also indicated that in the past there were two asst chief probation officers in the department and now there will be the Chief and one assistant. Judge Clouse provided a handout with all of the information he shared.

**ABATEMENT**

Ben Castle, Noble County Assessor, was present for the abatement discussion. He explained the forms and the process involved in, and explained what the council members would need to be looking for when visiting the companies for compliance.

**MOBILE HOMES**

Ben also discussed the mobile home situation when it comes to Senate Enrolled Act 183. This bill gives the authority to the county to discontinue the assessment of Mobile Homes in the county. According to the fiscal impact statement provided by the state, this would amount to about \$\$284,877.00 in lost revenue. This would mostly affect the city and towns but would have an impact. With the information available, the council decided to continue to assess the mobile homes as we have done in the past. This was done with a motion from Mary Wysong and a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Brandon Chordas. Motion carried 7-0.

**HIGHWAY**

Zack Smith, Highway Director/Engineer, has the following update from his department:

- Zack provided council member with a copy of the 2024 Road Rehabilitation and Maintenance Plan. Zack summarized the plan with the council members and highlighted all areas of improvement. He commented on the use of all of the federal & state money that has come our way and indicated that those dollars have made a huge impact in getting us to where we are today.

- HMA projects for this year had bids received prior to the last commissioners meeting. Zack reported that 4 bids were received for asphalt projects and only one bid was received for the cement project, but all were within or close to the engineering estimates.
- Bridge 136 - the earth work on this project has now shifted to the north side of the bridge.
- 400 N – most of the ditch work is now done on this project with still some piping to be done.
- Old State Road 3 - The letting for construction of this project will start in September of this year.
- Zack reported that the county had received 5 LOI's (letters of interest) for Bridge 56 and Bridge 61.

#### COURTHOUSE RENOVATION

Zack Smith, Project Manager, has the following update for the council on the courthouse renovation project:

- Work continues on the West entrance to the courthouse. This includes a ramp for ADA compliance.
- All sub-contractors are on site and the crews are working on schedule with that January completion date in place.
- Zack reported that he had department head meetings with the ones going into the courthouse and they went very well. The FFE cost were not in the total cost of the project and will be paid from CREDIT funds.
- The pre-wiring for the courts will be paid from Cum Courthouse fund.
- Zack is questioning where the council would like the remaining \$220,362.74 for the audio, recordings, sound, etc. for the three courts will come from. After some discussion, Doug Harp moved to pay this also from the Cum Courthouse Fund. Tom Janes seconded and the motion carried 7-0.

#### HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Carrie Ryan and Tina Lough from the Noble County Health Department were present to request permission from the council to purchase 4 vehicles from the Tobacco Master fund. This is a legacy fund that will be going away once the funds are exhausted. Three of the vehicles will be replacement with the 4<sup>th</sup> vehicle being new to the department. Tina explained that the quote had come from Max Platt as they were the only one with vehicles on the lot. Shepherds did not have four of the type of vehicle needed for their department. Mary Wysong asked if they had approached BZ Auto in Ligonier. Tina indicated that they had not done that. There were questions about the mileage on the current vehicles. Carrie and Tina explained that the commissioners had suggested that they look into the trades as used vehicles with low miles were in demand right now and that this might be a good time to make those trades. They also told the council that they have added employee through the Health 1<sup>st</sup> Indiana funding and the requirements of that funding. Motion to approve the Health Department move forward with the purchase of vehicles was made by Max Franklin. Brandon Chordas seconded and the motion carried 6-1 with Trey Forbes voting against citing the low mileage and the possible use of these funds being directed for other expenses.

#### ADDITIONALS

Shellie Coney, 911 Director, was present to discuss the additional that she had requested last month which was tabled by the council. Doug Harp moved to "un-table" the request. Max Franklin seconded and the motion carried 7-0. The council had questions about the Service Contracts and the part time/overtime request. Shellie explained that the Communication services request of \$17,535.00 was no longer needed. For the Service Contracts in the amount of \$6,000.00, this was for the Motorola radio system and Shellie had not figured the cost increase in her budgets for 2024. As far as part time/overtime, Shellie is down one full time

employee and there is a medical leave as well as a maternity leave coming up, which is why the request for \$31,000.00 in additional funds to either pay overtime for shift coverage or part time for that coverage. Brandon Chordas moved to approve the additional as requested. Doug Harp seconded and the motion carried 6-0. Trey Forbes had left the meeting at this time.

#### CCD

The following claims were submitted for payment from the CCD Fund:

- Equiparts \$520.83
- Equiparts \$402.35
- Equiparts \$309.83
- Equiparts \$ 51.36
- Buckeye Power \$4597.01
- Buckeye Power \$752.00

All claims were approved for payment with a motion from Doug Harp and a second from Mary Wysong. Motion carried 6-0.

Max Weber, Noble County Sheriff, was present for this session and reported the cost for the Buckeye Power was for the generator and Equiparts was for plumbing issues. Max also reported 211 inmates at this morning's count.

#### TRANSFER

The Noble County Probation office is requesting a transfer of funds from furniture & equipment 2000-44100-246 in the amount of \$6,200.00 to Chief Probation officer 2000-18500-246. Brandon Chordas moved to approve. Mary Wysong seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

#### SALARY ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

There was a salary ordinance amendment for the operators and Controller at the highway department as well as the Chief Deputy in the Auditors office. Motion to approve the amendment came from Brandon Chordas. Mary Wysong seconded and the motion carried 6-0.

#### SALARIES

Shelley Mawhorter, Noble County Auditor, came before the council to discuss their recommendation for raises for 2025. She told the council that her department had figured raises for employees in the amounts of 4%, 5% and 6%. She suggested they go with the 6% knowing that this could be reduced if needed. All in attendance were on board with going with 6% but letting the employees know that this may not be the final decision of the council.


#### MINUTES

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved as corrected with a motion from Doug Harp and a second from Max Franklin. Motion carried 6-0.

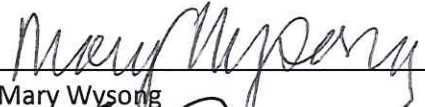
#### ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the Noble County Council, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:30 pm until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the council being July 1, 2024.


Dated this 1 day of July, 2024

  
Trey Forbes

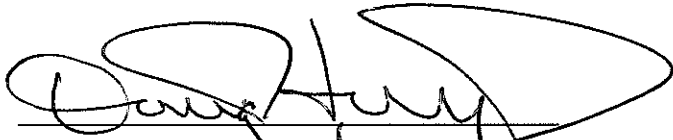
  
Max Franklin

  
Mary Wysong

  
Brandon Chordas

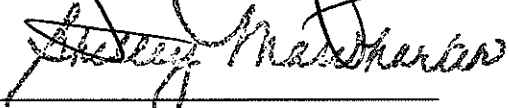
  
Tom Janes

  
George Bennett



Doug Harp

ATTEST:



Michelle Mawhorter, Noble County Auditor