

**NOBLE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**MONDAY November 1, 2021**  
**1:00pm NOBLE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT**  
**NOBLE COUNTY COURTHOUSE**

**PRESENT:**

Bernie Lawson  
Jerry Jansen  
Mary Wysong  
Denise Lemmon  
George Bennett  
Doug Harp  
Tom Janes

**ALSO, PRESENT:**

Dennis Graft, County Attorney  
Jacqueline L Knafel, County Coordinator  
Richard Rogers, Highway  
Zack Smith, Highway Engineer  
Gary Gatman – EDC

Denise Lemmon, Council President, called the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 pm

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- Employee promotion – Health Department

**MINUTES**

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved as corrected with a motion from George Bennett and a second from Tom Janes. Motion carried 6-0 with Doug Harp abstaining.

**TRANSFER**

The Noble County Highway is requesting a transfer in the 1176 highway fund. Decrease 1176-19811-104 Asst Shop Supervisor \$44,000.00 and increasing 1176-19810-104 Mechanics by that amount. Motion to approve the request to transfer cam from Jerry Jansen and was seconded by Doug Harp. Motion carried 7-0.

**ADDITIONALS**

The following were additional being requested by a couple of departments. The Noble County Coroner is requesting \$5,000.00 more in her deputy's line item 1000-11102-009. Motion to approve this additional came from Doug Harp and was seconded by Tom Janes. Motion carried 6-1 with Tom Janes voting against.

The second additional was requested by the Public Defenders office. An additional in the amount of \$2,000.00 in line item 1000-31500-040 Professional Services was approved with a motion from Mary Wysong and seconded by Tom Janes. Motion carried 7-0.

**HIGHWAY**

Richard Rogers, Highway Superintendent, was present to update the council on the construction at the department:

- Richard reported that the brush crews were working on clearing the middle townships.
- Drainage and culvert work continues in preparation for spring construction.
- Ditching and berming continues as weather permits.

Zack Smith, Highway Engineer, has the following engineering business to bring to the council:

- Funding again was the topic of conversation as funds become tight at the highway department. Even though there have been millions brought into Noble County through federal grants that comes with the commitment of 10 or 20 percent to be paid by the county. Zack is discussing the need to increase the Wheel and Sur Tax and is showing the projected incomes based on several scenarios. The \$25.00 scenario would sustain the county but the \$30.00 option would allow the department to continue to be aggressive on the grant stage. Also, an LTAP

presentation was provided to all council members concerning "revenue forecasting for road and bridge funding" by Purdue University.

- Community Crossing – Zack has still not heard if Noble County has been awarded any money in the second round of funding.
- Zack reported that all of the LPA projects are in various stages and all are on track and on schedule.
- Call for Projects – the call for projects has now opened and will close prior to the next council meeting, therefore, Zack is requesting "Letters of Financial Commitment" to be signed by the Council
  1. Riley Road Appleman Road Intersection – This project is a \$2,285,125 with the county liability being \$457,025.00 and is a safety project. Motion to sign the "letter of financial commitment" came from Doug Harp. Bernie Lawson seconded and the motion carried 7-0.
  2. Bridge 59 – the projected cost of this project is \$3,200,000.00 with the county's portion being \$640,000.00 and the motion to sign this letter came from Jerry Jansen and was seconded by George Bennett. Motion carried 7-0.

This next project came with a lot of questions. The Baseline Road project from 600 E to Old State Road 3 at a total price tag of over \$11,000,000.00 and Zack is advising that unless the wheel and sur tax is raised this may not be a fundable project. After much discussion, Jerry Jansen moved to prepare a draft ordinance for council review and then move to advertisement for a public hearing to raise the wheel and sur tax to the \$30.00 + 15%/\$60.00. George Bennett seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

3. With the above process in place the letter of commitment for the Baseline Road intersection project was signed with a motion from Doug Harp and a second from George Bennett. Motion carried 7-0.

#### ANNEX

Zack Smith, Project Manager, had the following update for the New Annex:

- Exterior work is continuing and fast approaching an end. Zack is reporting a possible reopening of York Street prior to Thanksgiving.
- The FFE project is also nearing completion with wood samples and furniture samples on their way.
- Access controls are almost complete with the IT department being a great resource in getting this all done.
- Courthouse renovation – Zack reported that the commissioners had signed a contract with American StructurePoint for design of this project. A meeting between the commissioners and StructurePoint will be held on November 22, 2021

#### SALARY ORDINANCE

The 2022 Salary Ordinance was provided to the council for review. Tom Janes moved to approve the salary ordinance as provided. Doug Harp seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

#### SHERIFF

Max Weber, Noble County Sheriff, was present to update the council on his department:

- CCD – Claims had been submitted to be paid from the CCD fund in the amount of \$10,024.02 with a break down as follows:
  1. Building Temperature Solutions \$3,433.11
  2. JO Mory \$ 280.00
  3. All Phase \$ 182.71
  4. Shambaugh & Sons \$4,325.00
  5. RTA Mechanical \$1,197.05
  6. Tri Star Pipe & Supply \$ 481.68
  7. Equiparts \$ 124.47\$10,024.02

Motion to approve the above claims be paid from the CCD fund came from Jerry Jansen and was seconded by Bernie Lawson. Motion carried 7-0.

- Max reported 156 inmates in the jail at this time.
- Spillman system – Max and Jackie had spoken and Max was wanting to pay off the Spillman system. We have money sitting in the public safety fund for this very purpose and will save

interest money if we pay it off. Max is predicting this to be in the \$700,000.00 range. He will contact Motorola for a payoff. Motion to pay the Spillman system off once a payoff amount is received came from Bernie Lawson and was seconded by Tom Janes. Motion carried 7-0.

**SOLAR DISCUSSION**

Gary Gatman, EDC Director, and Lori Gagen were present to discuss the economic impact of allowing solar field into Noble County:

- Gary indicated that this could be a \$300,000,000.00 project investment
- He also hinted at a 10-year 100% abatement for the company.
- Gary is looking at indications that this will not impact the value of properties in and around the solar field.
- Gary talked at length about "agreements" that can be made with no restrictions on what the money can be spent on of which he is talking Broadband etc. as a possible use. When asked if the "agreement" of millions of dollars was dependent on whether or not tax abatements were granted, he indicated that it was dependent but could impact the amount of the agreement.
- Gary will provide the council members with a summary sheet of the items he discussed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Noble County Council, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:10 p.m. until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the council being Monday December 6, 2021.

Dated this 6 day of Dec, 2021

Bernie Lawson  
Bernie Lawson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jerry Jansen

Mary Wysong  
Mary Wysong

Denise Lemmon  
Denise Lemmon

Tom Janes  
Tom Janes

\_\_\_\_\_  
George Bennett

Doug Harp  
Doug Harp

ATTEST: Tonya L Jones  
Tonya L Jones, Noble County Auditor