

NOBLE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday February 6, 2023
1:00pm NOBLE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
NOBLE COUNTY NEW ANNEX

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT

Doug Harp

ALSO PRESENT:

Gary Leatherman, Noble County Commissioners
Jackie Knafel, Noble County Coordinator
Dennis Graft, County Attorney
Matt Getts, KPC Media
Zack Smith Highway Engine 2024
Richard Rogers, Highway Supervisor

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

COORESPONDENCE

- Noble County Sheriff's Annual Report – duly entered
- Noble County Building Department – year-end report – duly entered

MINUTES

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Brandon Chordas had visited the Health Department and reported that the department may be able to receive up to \$1,400,000.00 in funding from the state. He reported that half of it would be received in 2024 with the second half coming in 2025. If passed this money will have specified uses and comes with a county commitment of \$400,000.00 +. Currently the health department draws around \$500,000.00. with another \$200,000.00 coming in from grants.
- Max Franklin reported that he has reached out to the department heads that he is a liaison for.
- George Bennett reported that the plan commission board continues work on the solar plan with changes to land use etc...

LIBRARY APPOINTMEN

The Noble County Public Library is requesting an appointment to their board. Dian Allen is completing her second term and would like to continue on. With that information and the directors recommendation to reappoint Diana, Mary Wysong moved to reappoint Diane Allen to the Noble County Library Board. Trey Forbes seconded and the motion carried 6-0.

HIGHWAY

Richard Rogers, Highway Superintendent, provided the council with the following construction update from the Highway Department:

- Last week – snow removal, salting and sanding were on the agenda
- As temperatures warm the department is backing a preparing the roads for spring construction.
- Richard reported that there is a new employee starting Friday, with another one starting the 24th.

Zack Smith, Highway Engineer, had the following engineering update for the council:

- The CCMG 2023-01 applications have been submitted to the state and Zack is hopeful that an announcement will be made by April.
- Zack reported that the 11 LPA projects currently active are moving along on schedule.
- 400 N from State Rd 9 to CR 150 E went to letting in January. Three bids were received:
 1. Phend and Brown Inc \$4,117,259.43
 2. Brooks Construction Fort Wayne \$3,933,646.00
 3. E & B Paving LLC \$3,898,369.00
- Bridge 136 – letting is scheduled this month for this project.
- Additional - Zack has requested a \$60,000.00 additional for the “no passing” and “pavement marking” study system. This was brought before the council in the January meeting and again this month. Zack reported that there have been a lot of changes in road conditions, speed limit changes etc that warrant this study and is really a liability issue at this time. This will also be valuable for field studies and most can be done right at the office with this information. Zack is hopeful that this will be used by the assessor’s office as well as the surveyor’s office.

NEW ANNEX

- All furniture has now been delivered and the FFE will be closing out very soon.
- With the relocation of the courts to the new annex during construction time there will additional work needed here at the new annex. The storage area on the north end of the building will be upgraded to house one of the courts, the judge and his staff. The extension office will be divided and the extension office having the north half of the office and the other 2 judges and their staff being housed in the south half of the office. The conference room will house the two courts.
 - Pricing continues to justify acoustic paneling.
 - Water softener is to be delivered yet this week.

COURTHOUSE RENOVATION

Zack informed the council of the relocation of the offices currently housed in the courthouse during the renovation process. The county is hoping to secure a rental space close to the courthouse for the clerk. The courts will move to the new annex and the probation department will occupy the rental on Hazel street as well as the Weber Road facility. Zack has a quote from TechSolutions in the amount of \$12,806.56 for camera surveillance and security buttons for the Weber Road facility. These will be relocated to the courthouse once the renovation is complete. Max Franklin moved to approve the security measurers to be paid for out of the Rainy Day fund. Tom Janes seconded and the motion carried 6-0. FUNDING – funding was discussed and how the best solution for the additional money that will be needed. A conference call with Jeff Peters was done and for some of the questions he suggested bond counsel. We will set up a conference call with Lisa Lee from Ice-Miller,

PTABOA APPOINTMENT

Ben Castle, Noble County Assessor, was unable to attend Monday’s meeting but had provided information for these appointments to Jackie. He is asking that Kyle Bolyard and Pat Monroe

be reappointed to the PTABOA Board for 2023. Trey Forbes moved to approve the appointments. Brandon Chordas seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

PROBATION

Stacey Beam and Danyel Wagner from the probation department were present to request a new position be approved for the department. Currently the department has the chief probation office and an assistant chief and 2 supervisors. They are now asking that there be two assistant chief probation officers and there would be no supervisors. There was a lot of discussion concerning this and where the additional money would come from. For this year there is enough budgeted money to cover the expense since there is a retiring veteran officer leaving. However in the coming years this will put an additional \$10,000.00 burden on the general fund. After the lengthy discussion Tom Janes moved to approve the request. Brandon Chordas seconded and the motion carried 6-0.

SHERIFF

Max Weber, Noble County Sheriff, was present for the following update:

- CCD Claims - Max is requesting claims for Kendallville Glass in the total amount of \$4,468.65 be paid from the CCD Fund. Motion to pay these claims came from Max Franklin. Mary Wysong seconded and the motion carried 6-0.
- Max reported that the inside work at the jail is about 65% done and that the roofing will probably begin late March. He is hoping that the entire project will be done by the end of June.
- 220 inmates were reported at the jail today with 20 of those be federal and 11 being state inmates.

ADDITIONALS

Additional were requested for the following funds:


- CREDIT 1112-47814-312 space needs \$52,000.00
- CREDIT 1112-47830-312 Thrive for five child care \$50,000.00
- CREDIT 1112-47829-312 Regional Partnership \$25,000.00
- Highway 1176-31500-201 professional services \$60,000.00
- Rainy day 1186-31002-548 engineering consult \$50,000.00


Brandon Chordas moved to approve the additional. Max Franklin seconded and the motion carried 6-0.


ADJOURNMENT:

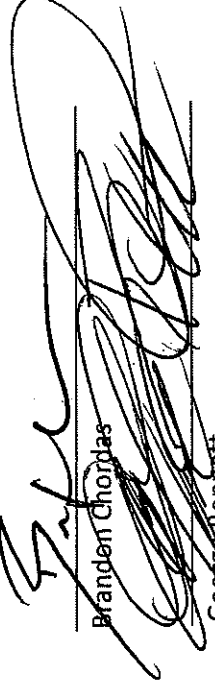
There being no further business before the Noble County Council, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:00 PM until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the council being Tuesday, March 6, 2023

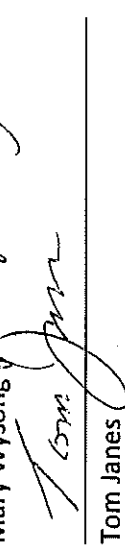
Dated this 6th day of March, 2023.



Trey Forbes


Max Franklin


Mary Wysong


Brandon Chordas


Tom Janes


George Benfett

ABSTRACT
Doug Harp

ATTEST: Michelle Mawhorter
Michelle Mawhorter, Noble County Auditor