

NOBLE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY May 2, 2022
1:00pm NOBLE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
NOBLE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT

Denise Lemmon

ALSO, PRESENT:

Dennis Graft, Noble County Attorney
Matt Getts, KPC Media
Jacqueline L Knafel, County Coordinator
Zack Smith, Highway Engineer

Jerry Jansen, Council Vice President, called the meeting to order at approximately 1:00PM.

MINUTES

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved as written with a motion from Doug Harp.

- * Tom Janes seconded the motion and the motion carried 4-0. Mary Wysong and Jerry Jansen abstained as they were not present at the previous meeting and Denise Lemmon was not in attendance.

VISITOR

Steve Creason from Todd Rokita's office was in attendance to introduce himself and remind the county of what the office of Attorney General does. He explained the main concern of the department was consumer protection. Medical Fraud is another issue that is concerning. Again, Mr. Creason was traveling through the area and wanted to let the county know that they are there to serve.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Jerry Jansen, Bernie Lawson, and Tom Janes (Salary Committee) had met at in Ligonier on a Thursday morning to discuss the salary of the new full-time nurse as well as discussing a full-time range of the part time nurse. The committee is recommending that the council members adopt the full -time rate for the CMA that was hired to be from \$40,000 - \$44,614 and that the part- time nurse be between \$25,00 and \$30.00 an hour. George Bennett moved to accept the recommendation of both the full and part time wage recommendations. Mary Wysong seconded and the motion carried 6-0.

HIGHWAY

Richard Rogers, Highway Superintendent, was present for a highway construction update:

- Richard reported that in June the department will start mowing the right of way.
- The department is currently still brush cutting and working on culverts for the upcoming road work.
- Richard also reported that will be a couple of safety training sessions - one being the operation of the new excavator - the other will be with REMC on safety around live wires.

Zack Smith, Highway Engineer, has the following engineering business to share with the Council:

- Zack reported that the road ratings are done and he had a preliminary report for the council. Zack indicated that there was not a huge change in the ratings due in part to not received the second half of the Community Crossing money last year. It was not received until early this year. The report did reveal a slight increase from 6.73 to 6.75 on the 812 miles of county-maintained roadway. 78 miles of the 812 are gravel roads.
- This year's awards have been given – Noble County was award the bridge project but not the Old State Road 3 project.

- LPA Projects are now at 11 with the add of Bridge 59 and the Riley Road project. Zack reported that the other 9 LPA projects are running on schedule.
- The Culvert field inspection is also complete. A draft report will be available sometime next week.

NEW ANNEX

Zack Smith, Project Manager, had the following update for the new building:

- The finalization of the new building is rapidly approaching. Zack reported that they will have a walk-through tomorrow and will create a final punch list.
- The Furniture and equipment will be delivered sometime around the end of May.
- 911 dispatch and IT will be the first to move into the building followed by the courthouse employees and South Complex.
- Furniture for the public defender and prosecutor will not be delivered until the end of July with the move for those departments being early to mid-August.
- Weber Road will be used as a storage for furniture during these moves and the courthouse renovation.
- Ribbon Cutting is set for June 3, 2022 with Department Heads and elected officials being in attendance. Tours will be given to employees that afternoon.

COURTHOUSE RENOVATION

Zack reported that the Construction manager bids were out and would be opened at the next commissioners meeting. This process will probably take around 18 months to complete.

JAIL STAFFING

Jennifer Cummins, Jail Commander, and Max Weber, Noble County Sheriff, were present to discuss jail staffing with the council. This was an attempt to prepare the council for requests to raise the salaries of jailers. Jennifer had comparisons of counties in our population group as well as surrounding county information. Max explained that we have one of the bigger jails in the area and with us housing some federal inmates, we deal with some of the more serious offenders. The county council has not – at this point- determined a recommended salary increase for county employees but will consider her request at budget time.

ADDITIONAL

While Sheriff Weber was in attendance the Council acted upon his request for additional appropriations in his budget. He is asking for \$12205.38 in additional dollars for 1000-13700-007 overtime. This was money that was paid to deputies and jailers during the 2-day emergency closed this past winter. Motion to approve the request came from Bernie Lawson and was seconded by Mary Wysong. Motion carried 6-0.

CCD

Max also had a request for claims in the amount of \$859.91 to Equiparts for repairs to the jail to be paid from the CCD fund. Motion to approve came from Bernie Lawson. Tom Janes seconded and the motion carried 6-0.

CORONER

Lisa Strebig, Noble County Coroner, came before the council to give a report on the activities in her department. She indicated that some of the cases that her office deals with were almost at or near the totals of last year. She explained her process for transporting of bodies and is expecting this to be at a savings to the county. She told the council members that she has requested office space for her department which is currently located at her home. The commissioners have taken this under advisement.

ABATEMENT

Gary Gatman, EDC, Jerry Busche and Wes Spiese, owners were present to request a real estate and personal property abatement for the new facility on State Road 9 at Merriman. SSM Implants LLC will be investing \$650,000 in property improvements and over \$5 million in CNC Machines. This company will be making medical supplies and creatin salaries totaling \$1.5 Million by the end of 2022. Doug Harp moved to approve the personal property abatement up to \$5,000,000.00 for a 10-year period. Tom Janes seconded and the motion carried 6-0.

Mary Wysong moved to approve the Resolution abating the equipment. Bernie Lawson seconded and the motion carried 6-0.

For the Real Estate abatement, Doug also moved to approve this for \$650,000.00 in improvements for a 5 -year period. Tom Janes seconded and the motion carried 6-0.

Tom Janes moved to approve the Resolution with Bernie Lawson seconding the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

ADDITIONAL

Superior Court I is requesting an additional for \$25,000.00 for Physicians. This is account 1000-31202-038 and is approved with a motion from Doug Harp and a second from George Bennett. Motion carries 6-0.

Superior Court I is also needing additional funds in line item 1000-147-00-038 Petit Jurors. This request is for \$10,000.00 and is approved with a motion from Mary Wysong. Doug Harp seconded and the motion carried 6-0.

Reassessment is needing \$6400.00 in the Technical Assistant line for a commercial appraisal. Motion to approve the additional to line 1188-32002-234 is made by Tom Janes and seconded by Bernie Lawson. Motion carried 6-0.

Circuit Court had recently hired an additional employee that was not previously funded. An additional is needed for 1000-14601-037 in the amount of \$28,000.00. Doug Harp moved to approve. Bernie Lawson seconded and the motion carries 6-0.

TRANSFER

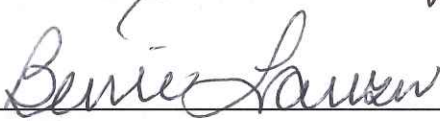
With Mick Newton staying on as a consultant for the EMA there is a transfer of fund request from the EMA. They are asking that \$10,000.00 be transferred from 1000-17207-035 Perm Part time to 1000-32101-035 Contractual Prof. Motion to approve the transfer came from Mary Wysong and was seconded by Bernie Lawson. Motion carried 6-0.


CF-1 for Noble County businesses that had council approved abatements were reviewed by the council members. Some had been visited by council members others were visited by the EDC. Businesses approved were QSI, B& J Specialty, B & J Medical, Brimfield Liquid Terminal, Kendallville Iron and Metal, and Kammerer LLC were all approved for signature with a motion from George Bennett and a second from Mary Wysong. Motion carried 6-0.

ADJOURNMENT


There being no further business before the Noble County Council, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:24PM until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the council being Monday June 6, 2022

Dated this 6 day of JUNE, 2022


Bernie Lawson


Jerry Jansen

ABSENT
Mary Wysong


Denise Lemmon


Tom Janes


George Bennett

ABSENT
Doug Harp

ATTEST: 
Tonya L Jones, Noble County Auditor