

**NOBLE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Monday June 5, 2023**  
**1:00pm NOBLE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT**  
**NOBLE COUNTY NEW ANNEX**

**PRESENT:**

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

**ABSENT:**

Trey Forbes

**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.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- George Bennet shared correspondence with the group about the upcoming Indiana County Council State Called Meeting. This will be June 24<sup>th</sup> 2023 with a special session on budgeting to be held on June 23, 2023. Jackie was asked to register George for the budget session and George and Max Franklin for the Saturday Meeting.

**MINUTES**

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Max Franklin reported on his meeting with the Council on Aging. Max indicated that the COA would be sending a letter to the commissioners about increasing their support for the agency. Jackie indicated that a letter was received and placed in the 2024 budget request files.

**HIGHWAY**

Richard Rogers, Highway Superintendent, had the following report for the construction department at the highway:

- Richard reported that the department is continuing with ditching and berming.
- The department is in its 3<sup>rd</sup> week of mowing the right of way
- Dust control is contracted and hopefully will be starting soon
- A safety meeting was recently held dealing with the use of chain saws.
- Richard indicated that they had recently lost one of the drivers that went to a higher paying job.

Zack Smith, Highway Engineer, had the following engineering business to report:

- Zack shared the 2023 road ratings report with the council, He reported a slight improvement over last year with the overall report being 6.81. With the second HMA grant award coming in late last year and not being done until this year and a 2023 full \$1,000,000.00 award be received which will be completed later this year, he feels the

numbers will increase significantly next year. This will go before the commissioners at their meeting next week for approval and then will be posted on the website.

- Community Crossing - we received two of the three awards applied for the LPA projects – 100 N has gone out to bid.
- 400 N – Zack reported that the highway department is done with their right of way clearing, REMC have relocated their lines and the fiber optic is close to being done.
- Bridge 44 and Bridge 136 - still set for October letting.
- All of the other LPA projects are moving along on schedule.
- Zack is planning to submit Bridge 61 and the Baseline Road project for FY 2030 projects.

#### COUNTY ANNEX/ COURTHOUSE RENOVATION

- The memorial plaque designed in memory of Noble County Commissioners Dave Dolezal will hopefully be here by next month and will be placed on the wall outside of the commissioners' room.
- Shell space – the crew have all of the material delivered to start work on the shell space at the new annex in preparation of the courts coming over during the courthouse renovation.
- Zack indicated that the work stations for the clerk at their temporary location would all be ready for their move by the end of this month.
- Bids were received from local banks for the Bond Anticipation Note that the county would like to secure for the courthouse renovation. There were only 2 bids received – one from Community State Bank and one from Lake City. After review and discussion, President George Bennett asking if Zack could contact our financial advisor Jeff Peters as to his thoughts about the two bids. Zack will do so and report back to the council.

#### EXTENSION OFFICE

Ann Kline from the Extension Office is in attendance and updated the council on the changing being made in her office. Half of her office will be the temporary space for two of the court staff which has the department moving supplies etc. into half of their current office. The Purdue educators will be at the extra desks in the Plan Commission office. She indicated that they will be “cramped” for a while but everyone is working together to make this all happen. Ann, again this year, would like to hire a summer intern to help with fair preparation. She is asking for a \$2000.00 additional to pay the intern. She is hoping to have the same college student as last year and will pay \$12.50 an hour to her. If a new intern has to be hired it will be at the \$12.00 an hour cost. Motion to approve the additional request came from Doug Harp and was seconded by Brandon Chordas. Motion carried 6-0.

#### SHERIFF

- Sheriff Max Weber is asking for an additional for his overtime line. This is in the amount of \$170,000.00. Sheriff Weber had talked to the council about this last month – giving them the “heads up”. Doug Harp moved to approve the additional. Tom Janes seconded and the motion carried 6-0
- Sheriff Weber updated the council on the renovation project at the jail telling the council that the contractors are finishing up the roof and Trane hopes to be done with their work by the 10<sup>th</sup> of July.
- Max report that there were 219 inmates in the jail this morning. 22 DOC inmates and 17 Federal prisoners.
- There were 3 different packets of CCD claims being requested:
  1. The first was for \$1,454.21 with a claim from Equiparts in the amount of \$499.21 and one from Shambaugh & Sons for \$955.00.
  2. The second was a total of \$2,230.47 with \$1,105.47 going to Equiparts and \$1,125.00 going to Heat Power Engineering.
  3. The third was in the amount of \$987.84 for Equiparts.

All were approved for payment with a motion from Doug Harp and a second from Max Franklin. Motion carried 6-0.

#### MORE ADDITIONS

- Circuit Court is asking for an additional for its Pauper Transcript line in the amount of \$10,000.00. Motion came from Max Franklin to approve this with a second coming from Mary Wysong. Motion carried 6-0.
- Health Department - Anne Lowe from the Health Department had spoken with the council at their last meeting in regard to grants that she had available and is approved to hire the School Liaison Nurse she requested. The following are appropriations that need to be done to hire that nurse:

1. Lead Grant \$1,250.00 for per diem
2. COAG Grant \$34,125.00 for the nurse  
\$3,822.00 for PERF  
\$2,611.00 for Social Security  
\$11,611.00 for group insurance

This was approved with a motion from Brandon Chordas. Doug Harp seconded and the motion carried 6-0.

#### TRANSFER

Superior court I is requesting a transfer of funds. They would like to decrease their Guardian Ad Litem line 1000-14712-038 in the amount of \$4,000.00 and increase line 1000-31202-038 Physicians. Motion to approve this transfer came from Tom Janes and was seconded by Doug Harp. Motion carried 6-0.

#### KSN KAMMERER

In 2022 KSN Kammerer neglected to send in their CF-1 form for council approval resulting in them not getting their abatement for 2022 pay 2023. Matt Brinkman, Region 3-A was present to help with the appeal that KSN Kammerer had submitted. There was no representative present from KSN Kammerer. After a lot of discussion and questions about tax revenue and how now granting the appeal would affect the revenue to different agencies, the council denied the appeal. Motion was made by Max Franklin with Brandon Chordas seconding the motion. Motion carried 6-0. Original in the Ordinance Book 4. Copy to KSN Kammerer and Region 3-A.

#### PROBATION

Stacey Beam, Chief Probation Officer, gave the following update to the council for her department:

- 750 offenders on probation currently
- They have done around 60 pre-trial investigation which can take up to 7 hours to complete
- The department has 50 juveniles on supervision and 148 processing. Juvenile are the probation department's responsibility from start to finish. With the recent hiring of a juvenile probation officer, the department is now fully staffed.
- Pre-Trial - Stacey reported that in 2021 there were 841 assessments with it up in 2022 to 1002 assessments. Stacey reported to date there have been 362 this year.
- Stacey indicated that new legislation may requirement them to do an assessment on every person making sure they show up for court etc...
- Stacey explained the on-call situation with 2 juvenile officers on call and having to find a place for them if needed. She said the last time she spent 2 hours just trying to find a bed and ended up in Vigo County. They also have someone on for Work Release and now for the Remote Breath program – which monitors an alcohol sensor at home.
- The department has 10 probation officers that can do field checks

#### BUDGETS

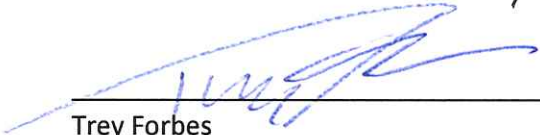
Shelley Mawhorter, Noble County Auditor, is asking the council for a suggestion as far as raises go for 2024. The COLA from social security is predicting between a 3 and 5% increase for 2024. In recent correspondence from the state they are giving 7.8% to the judges, prosecutors and public defenders as

well as the departments that at derived from those salaries such as sheriffs. The council talked about 4% 4.5% and finally decided to start with a 5% and then see where we stand with those raises. This will be the direction that is sent to the department to build their budgets.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the Noble County Council, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:15 PM until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the council being Wednesday July 5, 2023

Dated this 5 day of July, 2023

  
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Trey Forbes

  
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Max Franklin

ABSENT  
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Mary Wysong

ABSENT  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brandon Chordas

ABSENT  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tom Janes

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Doug Harp

ATTEST:   
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Michelle Mawhorter, Noble County Auditor