

**NOBLE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Tuesday, September 7, 2021**  
**1:00pm NOBLE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT**  
**NOBLE COUNTY COURTHOUSE**

Present:

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

ABSENT:

Jerry Jansen

ALSO, PRESENT:

Jacqueline Knafel, County Coordinator  
Dennis Graft, Noble County Attorney  
Steve Garbacz KPC Media  
Tonya L Jones, Noble County Auditor  
Zack Smith, Highway Engineer

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

MINUTES

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved as corrected with a motion from Mary Wysong and a second from Tom Janes. Motion carried 6-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Denise Lemmon asked George Bennett to update the council on the solar situation. George explained that the plan commission board was to meet on Wednesday September 15, 2021 at 7:00 pm and will hopefully approve the final draft of the ordinance which will then go before the Noble County Commissioners.

HIGHWAY

Richard Rogers, Highway Superintendent, was present with the following report:

- The department has completed the chip seal for the season.
- A system is being used to repair the roads where horse drawn buggies travel. This is call Buggy Chalk Painting and is used in LaGrange County.
- The HMA project will start on Wednesday September 8.
- The crack seal for the year is complete.
- Crews continue to Spray and do debrising.

Zack Smith, Highway Engineer, was also present and had the following engineering business to bring before the board:

- Zack discussed options for highway funding going forward. He provided information to the council with different options for an increase to the Wheel and Surtax and also discuss a change in the percentage of CCD split with the Council. No decision was made today but will need to be done by June/July in order to implement the changes in the following year.
- Zack asked the council about the cut made to his budget for the Asst Superintendent. The county was advised to cut \$20,000.00 from the highway budget. Zack indicated that the advisor was not aware of many local revenues that is brought in during the years such as scrap metal etc. and thought at there was sufficient funds to fund this position. The council indicated that they would discuss further and make a final decision prior to budget adoption on October 4.
- The Community Crossing HMA project phase I has begun as reported by Richard and Phase II has been submitted to the state for the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of funding.

- The 8 LPA projects that have been awarded to Noble County are all on schedule as determined through the awards.

**ANNEX**

Zack Smith, Project Manager, reported the following update on the building project.

- The FFE project discussions are coming to a close with all issues addressed. The contractors are working on the key system as well as the security systems. The radio equipment for the EMA have been figured out and rooftop installation will be in order.
- Construction – Interior and exterior work continues with most contractors on site.
- Beginning September 14, 2021, the exterior concrete work will begin on the sidewalks and parking areas. This will close York Street completely down between Jefferson and Main and will reduce traffic to one way going West on Jefferson between York and Oak, one way going south on Oak between Jefferson and Main, and one way going East on Main between Oak and York. This will last approximately 8-12 weeks. Notices have sent to all employees about these changes.

**ADDITIONALS**

While Zack was present, the council reviewed a couple of Highway additional that had been requested.

- For the highway fund, Zack is requesting an additional in the amount of \$40,000.00 for professional services 1176-31500-201. George Bennett moved to approve the additional with a second coming from Doug Harp. Motion carried 6-0.
- Zack is also requesting an additional for the highway CCD fund in the amount of \$75,000.00 for Bridge Preservation 1135-43554-107. Motion to approve this additional came from Tom Janes. Bernie Lawson seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.
- The last additional was requested by Superior Court II in the amount of \$1,500.00 for Physicians. The account number was 1000-31202-039 and this was approved by Bernie Lawson and seconded by Mary Wysong. Motion carried 6-0.

**SHERIFF**

Brian Walker, Chief Deputy, was present for updates at the jail

- Brian was unaware of the exact number of inmates currently housed at the jail but thought in the area of 150. He reported that Federal inmates continue to come and go.
- Brian expressed his appreciation of the council's approval to hire two new deputies out of the public safety fund. He indicated that the additional manpower is needed.
- Currently the jail staff is down a couple of people so the search continues for jailers.
- CCD Claims – the following were approved for payment from the CCD fund:
 

1. All-Phase Electric Supply	\$668.61
2. Tri-Star Pipe and Supply	\$219.13
3. Equiparts	<u>\$1,515.14</u>
Total	\$2,402.88

Motion to approve payment from the CCD fund pending Commissioner approval came from Doug Harp. Tom Janes seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Ann Lowe, Noble County Health Nurse, and Jessica Price were present to discuss a grant for \$100,000.00 and the staffing of on-site clinics. The grant will pay for expenses but they want to put on 2 part-time nurses and one interpreter for the mobile clinics. They are asking to pay the nurses \$25.00 an hour and \$20.00 an hour to the interpreter. According to Ann the nurses will bring their own Medical Liability insurance but was wondering about general liability. Jackie will contact our insurance agent to verify that part time employees are covered under our current policy. Pending this verification, Doug Harp moved to approve the hiring of 2 nurses at \$25.00 an hour and 1 interpreter at \$20.00 an hour to be paid through the grant for mobile vaccine clinics. Tom Janes seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Ann's plan is to spend 2 days a month in Ligonier and 2 days a month in Kendallville for this service. This will require these employees to work one day a week.

**NOBLE TRAILS**

Representatives from Noble Trails were present to share information about the Fishing Line Trail. The group have recently applied for a matching grant that will give them the \$70,000.00 needed to finish paving this trail. This will enable trail user to stay on the trail and eliminate the need to travel a short distance on a highway. They are indicating that have secured some funding from the City of

Kendallville and asking for \$10,000.00 from the County. They are asking that we use ARP money for this funding. Denise explained that ARP funding is a commissioner's action and that this should go before them for approval. Mr. Nartker indicated that they are on the agenda for Monday the 13<sup>th</sup> to speak with the commissioners.

2022 Budget Public Hearing

The public hearing for the 2022 budgets was held with Tonya Jones, Noble County Auditor reading the requested and council approved budgets for 2022. There were no public comments so an adoption of the 2022 budget will be held at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Noble County Council on October 4, 2021

WEIGHTS & MEASURERS

The council discussed the part time wages that were discussed at Budget hearing time. This was set at \$12-\$16 an hour. With that Rick Wysong is the Noble County Weights & Measurers Inspector and is currently making \$16.00 an hour. With a motion from George Bennett and a second from Bernie Lawson, Rick will be paid at \$17.00 beginning January 1, 2022. Motion carried 6-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the Noble County Council, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:50 PM until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the council being Monday October 4, 2021.

Dated this 4 day of Oct, 2021

Bernie Lawson  
Bernie Lawson

Jerry Jansen  
Jerry Jansen

Mary Wysong  
Mary Wysong

Denise Lemmon  
Denise Lemmon

Tom Janes  
Tom Janes

George Bennett  
George Bennett

ABSENT

Doug Harp

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