

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR SESSION OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD January 22, 2018**

Comes now the hour of 8:30 A.M. on the 22th day of January, 2018, in the Commissioners Court in the Noble County Courthouse, Albion, Indiana, being the time, date and place set for a regular session of the Board of Commissioners of Noble County, Indiana.

Present were:

Gary Leatherman, President
Dave Abbott, Member
Dave Dolezal, Vice President

Also present were:

Jacqueline L Knafel, County Coordinator
Dennis Graft, Noble County Attorney
Jim Abbs, Noble County Chief Public Defender
Matt Meerman, SJRBC
Matt Getts, KPC Media
Mark Goodrich, Highway Superintendent
Zack Smith, Highway Engineer
Stacey Beann, Chief Probation Officer
Danyel Wagner, Asst. Chief Probation Officer
Norm Lortie, Building Inspector
Mrs. Fred Colen, property owner
Tina Lough and Jason Pippenger, Health Department
Cherish Smith, Council on Aging
Nicole Noe, Deputy Auditor
Shelley Mawhorter, Clerk

Gary Leatherman, President of the Board of Commissioners, brought the meeting to order at approximately 8:30AM.

PUBLIC DEFENDER

Jim Abbs, Chief Public Defender, was present to request an appointment to the Public Defenders Board. Andy Bell currently sits on the board and is willing to continue to serve. Dave Abbott moved to reappoint Mr. Bell to the Public Defenders Board. Dave Dolezal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

ST. JOSEPH RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

Matt Meersman, Director of the SJRBC, was in attendance to go over some proposed legislation for the river basin commissions. This is HB 1089 proposed by Dave Ober. Matt has requested some revision to the bill and at the time of this meeting has not heard back from representative Ober. Matt discussed those proposed changes with the commissioners and received their support for such changes. Matt was also unclear of the hearing dates for the bill but would like the commissioners to voice their support of the changes to Mr. Ober. Matt explained the differences in the two river basin commissions being that the Maunee River Basin is more about the quantity of water and the STRBC is concerned about water quality. Even though there is different concerns the two must work together to accomplish both ideals. Diane Scott from the West Lake Homeowners Association was also present for Matt's presentation.

HIGHWAY

Mark Goodrich, Highway Superintendent, is present for the following construction updates:

- Mark had the following information concerning the snow and ice removal. Mark reported that since December 9, 2017 the employees at the department had worked 10 days on week-ends and holidays for snow removal.
- At this point the department has used over 1/2 of the salt and sand reserves, but the overtime and salt and sand budgets remain in good shape.
- The department is working on spring drainage project with the department wanting to replace 9 or 10 culverts this year of which the department will need the assistance of contractors to complete the project. Last year the department was able to begin some of the drainage projects in February and Mark is doubtful that this will happen this year.

- Concerning the piece of equipment that Mark discussed at the last meeting of renting, they will not rent the “out of state” equipment due the reasons discussed about repair and the cost of getting it here. Mark will continue to explore other options and has created a “lose” schedule for the use of this piece of equipment.
 - Zack and Mark also indicated that there was \$50,000.00 in improvement to the grounds budget. They have a quote from LA Electric for LED lighting on the two existing buildings. This is estimated to cost \$6,423.00. Motion to approve the purchase over the \$5,000.00 threshold came from Dave Abbott. Dave Dolezal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.
- Zack Smith, Highway Engineer, had the following engineering business to bring before the commissioners:
- Bridge 147 – Zack presented the results of the bids with JCI Bridge Group from LaPorte at \$999,673.34. RL McCoy at \$1,321,684.00 and Primco coming in at 1,282,958.88.
 - Zack had LPA vouchers for the Baseline Road project. Dave Abbott moved to sign the voucher. Dave Dolezal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.
 - Bridge 136 – this project is tracking on schedule with the bridge to be completed in 2022.
 - Bridge 6 – advertisement has gone out and bids will be opened at the February 12, 2018 meeting.
 - Bridge 139 – Zack reported that the RR permit had been received and that the project was on hold until spring.
 - Zack reported that the Call for Projects presentation that he gave last week went well. He is concerned that there were \$350,000,000.00 in project requests received and only \$80,000,000.00 in funding available. He is hoping for at least one project to be awarded to Noble County and is hoping to know something more in March.
 - The annual bids that ~~was~~^{were} received and opened at the last meeting have been reviewed for compliance and only one bid by Caskey Excavating is awaiting more information. Zack is recommending that all bids be accepted upon the receipt of the information from Caskey. Dave Dolezal moved to accept the bids. Dave Abbott seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.
 - The Gradall bid opening is also set for 2/12/18.
 - Community Crossing grant – the state continually changes their rules for grant recipients and Zack will continue to do what is necessary to comply with the changes.
 - Oversize load – Zack indicated that there is some concern as to oversize loads traveling on county roads. The county currently does not have an oversize load ordinance and Zack will work to possibly impose an ordinance to address this issue.
 - Appleman Road Speed Ordinance – the ordinance is advertised and the public hearing will be held on 2/12/18.
 - DOC contract - work continues.

PROBATION

Stacey Beam and Danyel Wagner, Chief Probation officer and Asst Chief Probation officer, were both present for the following:

- Smart Grant – earlier the left over money for a tracking system was earmarked to pay for the software and program. This originally had a price tag of \$5,000.00 however there is an hourly rate involved in the process and the two just wanted to be clear as to the cost. They have had some assurance from the company doing the program that the cost should not exceed the \$5,000.00 mark. Stacey and Danyel also wanted to inform the commissioners that the grant initially provided for the case field manage position to be full time and they have been able to use a police officer on a part time bases and get the job done, therefore, they will be transferring some of the funds from the full time line to the part time/overtime line.
- Both Stacey and Danyel are working on the Community Corrections Grant and are requesting that a letter of support be signed by the Noble County Commissioners. Dave Dolezal moved to sign the support letter. Dave Abbott seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.
- The leased building that is used by Community Corrections has some security issues and Stacey and Danyel are asking how to go about doing some interior construction to address these issues. The owner of the building, John McGill, is okay with any changes that the department wants to make. The funding would come from the Project Income funds. The commissioners suggested that they contact either Zack Smith, Norm Lorite or Leatherman Construction to come up with a plan and after that is complete put the project out for quotes.

UNSAFE HOUSING

- Norm Lortie, Building Inspector, was present along with Mrs. Colen concerning a property in Wolf Lake. Mrs. Colen indicated that they would be signing off on the property for the mortgage company to assume ownership. The mortgage company is located in California and at this time the company will not speak with Norm concerning the condition of the property. Mrs. Colen son is also present and has spoken to an attorney and has advised that the Colens will relinquish ownership to the mortgage company and send the paperwork ASAP as it must be received by the mortgage company by the 26th of this month. A copy of the paperwork was provided to Norm and Dennis Graft as well as a copy will be placed in the commissioners file. Once the property has be'transferred, Norm will be able to speak directly to the company to resolve the issues with the property. Dave Dolezal made a motion to set a new hearing date of April 9, 2018 at 10:00AM for an update on the property. Dave Abbott seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.
- The building department's annual report for 2017 was reviewed while Norm was present.
- The Findings, Notice and Order for the Rocky property was signed by the commissioners. The original paperwork was given to the building department, a copy was given to Dennis Graft and a copy remains in this commissioner's file.

MINUTES

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved as written with a motion from Dave Dolezal. Dave Abbott seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

SHERIFF

An e-mail with information concerning the boiler system at the Noble County Jail had been received from Sheriff Doug Harp. The quote was received from BTS Systems. Total of all repairs would be approximately \$12,000.00 upon clarification from Kevin Smith, maintenance at the jail. Dave Dolezal moved to proceed with the repair work. Dave Abbott seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Soil and Water Conservation District meeting – duly entered
- Indiana & Michigan – Avilla to Kendallville improvement project information.
- Town of Albion – leachate disposal

NOBLE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY APPT

A request for appointment to the Noble County Public Library Board had been received. The library is recommending the reappointment of Gwen Jones whose term expires in April of 2018. Motion to appoint Gwen Jones to the Noble County Library Board was made by Dave Abbott. Dave Dolezal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU APPOINTMENT

The CVB has finally been able to find another appointment to their board. A recommendation was received from Sheryl Prentice to appoint Gary Gatman to the board. Dave Dolezal moved to appoint Mr. Gatman to the board with a second coming from Dave Abbott. Motion carried 3-0.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Tina Lough and Jason Pippenger from the Noble County Health Department were in attendance to request permission to purchase a new vehicle for their department. This purchase would be made from grant money. The title will be done in the Commissioners name as well as insurance for the vehicle will be paid through the commissioners. The vehicle currently used by this department will be traded for the new vehicle. Dave Dolezal made a motion to sign the purchase agreement between the health department and the commissioners as well as the signing of the 2012 title for trade in. Dave Abbott seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

COUNCIL ON AGING

A letter requesting an extension for the council on aging grant was signed at the request of Matt Brinkman from Region III-A. Dave Dolezal moved to sign the letter with a second from Dave Abbott. Motion carried 3-0. The signed letter was given to Cherish Smith from the Council on Aging to be delivered to Matt Brinkman at Region III- A. A conversation with Matt on 1/23/18 verified that the letter was delivered.

PAYROLL

Payroll in the amount of \$388,976.06 for the time period of 12/22/17 – 01/04/18 and dated 1/18/18 was approved with a motion from Dave Abbott. Dave Dolezal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

COUNCIL ON AGING VEHICLE

Cherish Smith, Council on Aging Director, was present to get a signature on a purchase agreement for a 5311 council on aging van purchase. As a part of the grant award, these vehicle must be titled in the commissioner's name. Dave Dolezal moved to sign the agreement. Dave Abbott seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Original document went to Cherish Smith. Copy filed in 1/22/18 Commissioners file.

HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN AGREEMENT

A Plan Supervisor Agreement was received from Unified for commissioner's signature. Attorney Dennis Graft reviewed the agreement and advised the commissioners that the agreement was the same as last years with the exception of the fees. Dave Dolezal moved to sign the agreement. Dave Abbott seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

REGULAR CLAIMS

Claims containing 10 pages and totaling \$762,497.55 were reviewed and approved with a motion from Dave Dolezal. Dave Abbott seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

COURT CLAIMS

Five pages of court claims were also reviewed. These claims totaled \$62,923.46 and were approved with a motion from Dave Dolezal and a second from Dave Abbott. Motion carried 3-0.

Adjourn 11:10 AM for drainage board meeting.
Back in Session 1:50PM

COURTHOUSE PAINTING

Shelley Mawhorter, Noble County Clerk, talked to the commissioners concerning the painting project currently in progress. She wanted to know their thoughts on what has been done as of now. There has been some comments made about the baseboard being changed with no change to the door jams. The commissioners would like for Mr. Riecke to finish the project as proposed and possibly give a quote for the door jams etc. for a decision to be made at a later date. Shelley will speak with Mr. Riecke concerning the quote.

BOARD OF HEALTH APPOINTMENT SIGNATURES

Paperwork had been received from the Health department concerning appointments that the commissioners had made at an earlier meeting. The commissioners signed the requested forms.

CONTRACT CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND NEPOTISM AFFIDAVITS OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

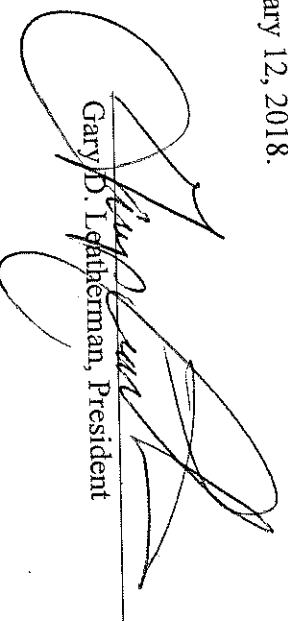
Jackie had sent out the Nepotism disclosure statements to all elected officials. The commissioners signed all forms that had been received as well as their own disclosure statements and contract conflict of interest statements.

LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

Jackie had provided the commissioners with the hotel confirmations and copies of the conference registration forms for the upcoming legislative conference in Indianapolis. This will be held next week on January 30 and 31.

ADJOURNMENT

This session of the Board of Commissioners of Noble County was at approximately 3:00PM recessed from day to day until February 12, 2018.



Gary D. Latherman, President

David J. Dolezal
David J. Dolezal, Vice President

David Abbott
David Abbott, Member

ATTESTED: Tonya L. Marks
Tonya L. Marks, Auditor