

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR SESSION OF THE  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD January 9, 2023**

Comes now the hour of 8:30 am. on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2023 in the Commissioners Room in the Noble County Annex building, 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  
Anita Hess, Vice President  
Gary Timmerman, Member

Also present were:

Jacqueline L Knafel, County Coordinator  
Dennis Graft, Noble County Attorney  
Michelle Mawhorter, Noble County Auditor  
Matt Getts, KPC Media  
Richard Rogers, Highway Superintendent  
Zack Smith, Highway Engineer

Michelle Mawhorter, Noble County Auditor, closed the 2022 calendar year and opened the 2023 calendar year. Motion to nominate Gary Leatherman was made Anita Hess. Gary Timmerman seconded. Motion carried 2-0 with Gary Leatherman abstaining from the vote.

Gary Leatherman, newly elected president, conducted the election of the vice president. Gary Timmerman moved to nominate Anita Hess for vice-president. Gary Leatherman seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0 with Anita Hess abstaining.

**CORONER**

Lisa Streb, Coroner, came before the commissioners to discuss the purchase over \$500.00. Lisa explained that she has secured grants for various supplies that her office is in need of. She was down to 3 body bags and had to order more bags. The amount of the bags was 637.40 with over \$100.00 in shipping the total was \$820.04. Anita Hess moved to approve the purchase with a second from Gary Timmerman the motion carried 3-0.

Lisa shared the statistics from 2022 with the commissioners. There were 97 total deaths that the coroner's office has investigated. 64 of those were natural causes, there were 10 suicides, 1 homicide, 19 accidental and 3 are pending. Lisa advised that there were 74 in 2021.

Lisa also told the commissioners that she has training sessions coming up dealing with drugs and various other things.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- Information on the 2023 legislative conference
- Monthly report – clerk of the courts
- INDOT – Bridge replacement over Black Creek which will deal with county right of way
- IDEM – Sanitary Sewer - Hollingshead Mixer Company in Avilla
- IDEM – Dexter Axle company – administrative changes
- IDEM – Coldwell - operating permit

**MINUTES**

Minutes of the December 12, 2022 meeting were read and approved as written with a motion from Anita Hess and a second from Gary Timmerman. Motion carried 3-0.

Minutes of the executive session held the afternoon of the 12<sup>th</sup> were also approved. Anita Hess made the motion. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

A special meeting was held on December 15, 2023 and those minutes were approved by Anita Hess. Gary Timmerman seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Minutes of the December 19, 2022 were also reviewed and approved as written with a motion from Anita Hess. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

Lastly, the commissioners met in special session for the new EMA director's contract. Anita Hess moved to approve the minutes. Gary Timmerman seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

## CLAIMS

The Commissioners reviewed a 14-page report totaling \$702,124.14 for claims for the first claims of 2023. Gary Timmerman moved to approve the claims. Anita Hess seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

## PAYROLL

Payroll dates 12/29/2022 was reviewed and approved with a motion from Anita Hess. Gary Timmerman seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

## APPOINTMENTS FOR 2023

Anita Hess moved to make the following appointments for 2023:

- |                    |                          |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| • Norm Lortie      | Building Inspector       |
| • Gabe Creech      | EMA Director             |
| • Shellie Coney    | 911 Director             |
| • Tim Lock         | Maintenance Director     |
| • Richard Rogers   | Highway Superintendent   |
| • Zack Smith       | Highway Engineer         |
| • Mike Clouse      | Veterans Service Officer |
| • Randy Jordan     | Shop Supervisor          |
| • Steve Hook       | GIS Coordinator          |
| • Dave Baum        | IT Director              |
| • Elizabeth Schowe | Health Officer           |
| • Teresa Tackett   | Plan Director            |
| • Jackie Knafel    | County Coordinator       |
| • Dennis Graft     | County Attorney          |

Gary Timmerman seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

## BOARD APPOINTMENTS

- Gary Leatherman will continue to serve on the EMS Advisory Board as well as the EDC Trust board, Northeast Indiana Solid Waste, Work Force One, and the EMS Board
- Anita Hess will serve the Plan Commission, EDC regular board, Council on Aging, WeCare and the St Joe River Basin Board.
- Gary Timmerman was appointed to the Drug Free Noble County Board, LEPC, Maumee River Basin, Region III-A and the RDC Board.

Motion to approve this was made by Anita Hess and seconded by Gary Timmerman. Motion carried 3-0.

## HIGHWAY

Richard Rogers, Highway Superintendent, had the following construction update for the commissioners:

- There is a request for a driveway variance for a 2<sup>nd</sup> drive on 900 W owned by Brian Sharker. Richard is reporting no drainage or sight distance issues. Motion to approve the variance came from Anita Hess. Gary Timmerman seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.
- Since the weather has warmed, the department is back to working on spring preparation such as culvert work and debrushing.
- There is a request to purchase tires for the department. This is in the amount of \$12,373.28 from McMahan's Best One. Motion to approve them purchase came from Gary Timmerman and was seconded by Anita Hess. Motion carried 3-0.

Zack Smith, Highway Engineer, has the following engineering business to bring to the commissioners:

- Zack informed the commissioners that the department has found a Gradall in Michigan to purchase. It is coming out of Florida and has about 100 less hours on it than the current piece of equipment. The cost is \$225,000.00 and is a 2011 model. Gary Timmerman moves to approve the purchase. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- Zack has submitted the CCMG request for the full \$1,000,000.00 this year. He is uncertain of the time frame of notification.
- The CCMG award just received in the approximate amount \$600,000.00 has been advertised for bids with the opening on February 10, 2023.
- Bridge Inspections - The "letters of interest" were received and evaluated by Zack and the commissioners. That report has been sent to the state and is pending approval.

- Bridge 136 – LPA Voucher - there is a voucher for preliminary engineering for Bridge 136 in the amount of \$1,102.00. Motion to approve the voucher came from Anita Hess. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- Bridge 134 – LPA Voucher – there are 3 LPA vouchers for Bridge 134 - all for preliminary engineering. One for \$9037.50, one for \$32,670.00 and one for \$2,057.50. These were approved with a motion from Anita Hess and a second from Gary Timmerman. Motion carried 3-0.
- Old State Road 3 - the LPA voucher for this project is in the amount of \$33,690.00. Motion to approve this voucher also came from Anita Hess. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- Bridge 59 - This LPA voucher is for preliminary engineering and is in the amount of \$2,623.50. Motion to approve this voucher came from Anita Hess. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- Zack has submitted the LPA project for fiscal year 28 and they have been accepted by the state.

#### ANNEX

Zack Smith, Project Manager, is updating the commissioners on the new annex building:

- Zack is reporting that there are last minute issues with the boiler and the company is working through those issues.
- FFE – the signs have been ordered but many of them were damaged in shipping. Additional letter for some of the current signs have been ordered.
- The water softener will be taken care of this month.
- Zack is looking into some alternatives for the acoustic paneling and is hoping that things will be wrapped up soon.

#### COURTHOUSE RENOVATION

Zack is updating the commissioners on the renovation process and they are looking at relocation of the offices in that building to speed up the remodeling process and lessen the cost of the renovation as well. They will be meeting with the Judges on the 18<sup>th</sup> of the month.

#### RECESS

#### BACK IN SESSION

#### RECESS

#### YODER DRIVE

During the commissioners meeting, someone had delivered a certification of a third part contractor concerning the condition of the “private street” for Devin and Grace Yoder. This was presented to the commissioners and signed after review by the county attorney. Motion to accept the certification came from Anita Hess and was seconded by Gary Timmerman. Motion carried 3-0. Third property contractor sent a letter - Anita Hess motion approve the certification of third-party contractor as accepted by the commissioners Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

#### BARKMAN REZONING

Teresa Tackett, plan director, is present for a rezoning for Monroe & Rachel Barkman. This is rezoning 2.98 acres for an Amish School. This is be rezoned from A1 to IS. Teresa is bringing a favorable recommendation to the board from the plan commission board. Motion to approve the ordinance came from Gary Timmerman and was seconded by Anita Hess. Motion carried 3-0.

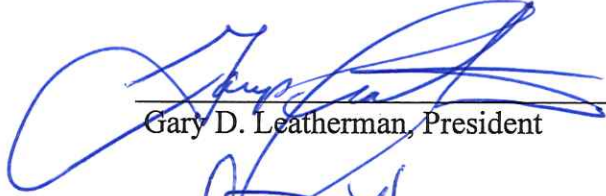
#### BONTRAGER REZONING


This rezoning is for Harley and Vonda Bontrager is for 45.16 acres to be rezoned from A1 to RE to put a large subdivision in place. Teresa is informing the commissioners that this only had a favorable approval on one of the 5 phases of approval at the plan commission. She cited various reasons for this mostly due to what might come up with the 10-acre parcels. Discussion was had by the commissioners and at the end of the discussion, there was a motion to table this decision until January 23 2023 – the next regularly scheduled meeting of the commissioners. Motion was made by Gary Timmerman. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

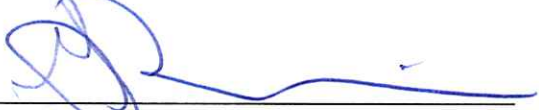
**ADJOURNMENT**

This session of the Board of Commissioners of Noble County was at approximately 11: 15 am recessed from day to day until January 23, 2023

Dated this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of JAN, 2023

  
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Gary D. Leatherman, President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Anita Hess, Vice President

  
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Gary Timmerman, Member

ATTESTED:   
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Michelle Mawhorter, Auditor