

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR SESSION OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD February 13, 2023**

Comes now the hour of 8:30 am. on the 13th day of February. 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
Matt Getts, KPC Media
Richard Rogers, Highway Superintendent
Zack Smith, Highway Engineer

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

PROSECUTOR

Jim Mowery, Noble County Prosecutor, was present to have a contract signed for a part time deputy prosecutor. He is currently down 2 employees and indicated that he does have some prospective full-time candidates and might not even need this part-time position. Motion to approve the contract upon the candidate's signature was made by Gary Timmerman. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

PTABOA APPOINTMENT

Ben Castle, Noble County Assessor, is requesting that Trey Forbes be reappointment to sit on the PTABOA board for another year. Motion to reappoint Trey Forbes to the PTABOA board for 2023 was made by Anita Hess. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

PROBATION

Danyel Wagner, Asst Chief Probation Officer, is present to request that the commissioners sign the GPS monitoring contract for the probation department. This service also tests for alcohol while wearing the monitor. Anita Hess made a motion to allow Danyel Wagner to sign the contract with this company for electronic monitoring on behalf of the commissioners. Gary Timmerman seconded and it carried 3-0.

CORRESPONDENCE

- The commissioners received a thank you letter for their \$50,000.00 start up funds for the Early Childhood Coalition Fund.

MINUTES

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved as corrected with a motion from Gary Timmerman. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

CLAIMS

Claims dated February 13, 2023 were reviewed by the commissioners. The 16-page report totaled \$1,403,742.27 and was approved with a motion from Gary Timmerman. Anita Hess seconded the motion. Motion carries 3-0.

PAYROLL

Payroll date 2/9/23 was also reviewed. The 3-page report totaled \$487,030.31. Gary Timmerman moved to approve the payroll. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

HIGHWAY

The 2023-01 HMA bid opening was held. The following were the bids received:

1. Niblock \$1,197,950.00
2. API Construction \$1,181,354.00
3. Brooks \$1,196,761.29
4. Pulver's \$1,025,090.00
5. Phend & Brown \$1,363,030.00

After the opening, Zack recommended accepting all bids under review. Anita Hess moved to accept the bids. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

COURTHOUSE RENOVATION FINANCIAL CONSULTATION

George Bennett, Council President, joined the commissioners for this conference call with Lisa Lee from Ice Miller. The main question seemed to be the concern of bonding the needed funds for the courthouse project – using property tax vs taking a short term loan and paying for it through funds such as the rainy day fund. George was concerned about the amount of fees it takes to bond, however there is cost involved no matter what type of loan is done. The group was informed that even though the “total project cost” is important – because of the use of grant money (being ARP funds) that money does not count in the reporting. After many options were discussed, Lisa suggested going with a loan from them bank with no set payment and then if not enough funding is available then bonding can be done for the remainder of the loan. The county has been doing fairly well on interest income lately and that revenue goes to the Rainy Day fund. The plans are to make payments from that fund and not burden taxpayers with any additional taxes. Zack will follow up with Lisa to get all of the timelines met for this to occur.

BACK TO HIGHWAY

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

- Driveway variance – Richard is requesting a driveway variance for a Taulbee residence on 100 S in Swan Twp. The drive is 70 feet short on sight distance. Gary Timmerman moved to approve the variance. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 2-0 with Gary Timmerman abstaining from the vote.
- The Pulver residence on Waits Road is also requesting a variance. This drive is short on sight on both sides. Anita Hess moved to approve this variance with a second coming from Gary Timmerman. Motion carries 3-0.
- There is a new residence being built in Washington Twp. On 400 S and this drive is also 70 feet short on sight but according to Richard is at the best possible location. Anita Hess moved to approve this variance. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- 600 W resident is requesting a 2nd drive at their location. Richard indicated that the drive is too close to the 1st drive but because of property lines there is no other alternative. Anita Hess moved to approve the request. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carries 3-0.
- Approval of an utility permit for fiber optic on Northport Rd was given with a motion from Anita Hess and a second from Gary Timmerman. Motion carried 3-0.

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

- Bridge inspection contract – Zack has the bridge inspection contract with United Consulting for signature. Motion to sign the contract came from Gary Timmerman. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0
- LPA Voucher – there is also an LPA voucher in the amount of \$12,235.51 for bridge inspection preliminary engineering. Motion to approve the voucher came from Anita Hess. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carries 3-0.
- 400 N – Zack reported that he has the pre-construction meeting today at 1:30 for this project.
- Bridge 136 - with the engineering estimate for bridge 136 being set at 3.8 million for this bridge project, the letting figures came in at about 70% more. RL McCoy came in at 6.4 million and Milestone came in at 6.3. There will need to be a lot more work done on this project to get these costs down so the project will be on hold until a resolution is made.
- Bridge 134 – there is an LPA voucher for this project in the amount of \$7,372.50. Motion to approve the voucher came from Gary Timmerman. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

- A \$1,900.00 LPA voucher was approved for the Riley Road/Appleman Road project with a motion from Gary Timmerman. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- The LPA FY 2028 presentation are complete and Zack is hoping for an announcement in late March as to whether we received those awards.
- The contract for the mobile mapping was reviewed and Dennis Graft, County Attorney, had some corrections that needed done. The county name was wrong in one area and also Dennis wanted clarification is the area of the job completion and what is expected of the next 3 years. Zack will get with the company for those corrections and then sign. The motion coming from Anita Hess was to allow Zack to sign the contract on behalf of the commissioners once the above mentioned corrections are made. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- Zack again mentioned the tractor that had burnt at the highway department and informed the commissioners that the insurance has paid the claim. However, the tractor cost in 2019 was around \$90,000.00 and today for replacement is at \$120,000.00. Zack would like to move forward with the purchase of the mower using equipment funds. Gary Timmerman moved to approve the purchase. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- Zack also has a quote for security cameras and readers for the highway department. This quote is in the amount of \$37,318.18 and will be paid for through the highway building maintenance fund. Motion to approve came from Gary Timmerman with Anita Hess seconding the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

ANNEX

There are still a few punch list items that Zack is working on for the annex such as some more signage, the acoustic paneling and a plaque in memory of Dave Dolezal.

COURTHOUSE

Work continues on the funding and its source as well as temporary housing for the offices within the courthouse.

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT ZONE

The designation of an Infrastructure Development Zone for the unincorporated areas of Noble County was signed into ordinance with a motion from Gary Timmerman. Anita Hess seconded the motion and it carried 3-0. The public hearing was held prior to the motion and there was no public opposition. Representatives from Ligtel as well as the EDC were on hand for the ordinance signing.

EXTENSION

Ann Kline, Purdue Extension Ag and Nature Resources Agent, along with Sharon Cripe and Sara Weeks, Extension board members, and Abigail Creigh, Food Safety were all present to update the group on the happenings at the Extension office.

- Ann along with Abigail have been working with the Chain O'Lakes crew in gardening and growing food for local food pantries. Chain O'Lakes has gone from a correctional institute to a "re-entry" facility and this is helping in the process and in turn providing fresh fruit and vegetables for the food pantries in the area.
- Ann does a lot of farm safety programs not only in Noble County but in the region.
- Today they are doing a drone certification program for the area. Anyone flying a drone for the purpose of business decisions whether that be law enforcement, real estate, or farming must be certified. These programs come at a cost to the participant.
- Abigail told of programs she is involved with in the school systems at the middle school level and works with the family consumer science classes. She also has secured a grant to work with low income families and teaches a class on how to provide a good meal at a low cost. At the end of the session, the family is sent home the groceries to fix this meal at home.
- Sharon and Sara spoke of the 4-H program and watching the kids go through the program and learn life skills during the experience. They become productive citizens and lots time end up giving back to the 4-H program.
- Ann report that last year there were 116 mini 4-Hers - this being grades k- 2nd. There were 434 regular 4-Hers – this being grades 3rd through 12th and over 135 volunteers
- Ann announced that they have hired a 4-H educator. Matt Dice has agreed to this position.
- Lastly, the group referred to the information that they had sent earlier to the board concerning the resurveying of the property west of town that the Black Pine animal

sanctuary and 4-H program leases from the county. Dennis Graft suggested a meeting between the two groups so that a good understanding of ground is made prior to the county redoing the lease and surveying work.

PROBATION

Stacey Beam, Danyel Wagner and Jessica Walker were present to request that Jessica be given 10 days of vacation that she lost because she was not aware of the fact that she had 15 of vacation instead of 10. She is claiming she was never notified of the change in the vacation schedule. After a lengthy discussion, Gary Timmerman moved to table this decision to April 10- 2023 under old business scheduled for 8:45 am. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

911 WAIVER

Shellie Coney, 911 Director was present to request that an employee, Kelly Landers, be given vacation, personal and vacation back upon rehiring. Also she is asking that the 10% reduction in pay be waived. Gary Timmerman moved to approve the request. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

TRANE

Max Weber, Noble County Sheriff, Brad Rollins, Jail Maintenance, and a couple of representatives from Trane were present to update the commissioners on the progress being made at the jail renovation.

- The hot water and new boilers are complete
- The company is 60-70% complete on the piping throughout the building
- The chiller is still needed and the roof replacement should start at the end of March.
- The Control system and air handlers have all been rebuilt.
- There were 2 change orders to the project – one being a credit to the county in working with the NIPSCO contract. The amount being -\$6,058.00. The other was a 0 cost. Both were duly entered.
- All the UV lighting is done as well.

Max wanted to inform the commissioners that one of the inmates filed a complaint with the public information department saying that Noble County was charging too much for copies. Max had done some research and is saying that the maximum cost can only be 10 cents per copy. The commissioners and Dennis will revisit this issue and do a new ordinance if needed.

TAX DEED PETITIONS

Dennis has provided 4 tax sale deed petitions for the commissioner's signatures. These had prior approval and were signed accordingly.

SOUTH COMPLEX

Pulver's asphalt are doing work at the South Complex and it has become apparent that if there is a time when the ramps might become wet or slippery that we should put a cover over this area. The quote from Pulver's came in at \$23,891.00. Motion to approve the cost to the cover came from Gary Timmerman to be paid out of ARP funding. 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 February 27, 2023

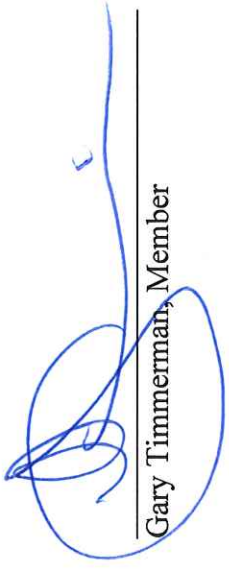
Dated this 27TH day of FEB, 2023



Gary D. Leatherman, President



Anita Hess, Vice President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'G' and 'T' that loops together, positioned above a horizontal line.

Gary Timmerman, Member

ATTESTED: Michelle Mawhorter, Auditor