

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR SESSION OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD February 26, 2018**

Comes now the hour of 8:30 A.M. on the 26th day of February, 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
Matt Getts from KPC Media
Judge Kramer, Circuit Court Judge
Becky Calhoun, Drug Free Noble County

DRUG FREE NOBLE COUNTY

Becky Calhoun, Drug Free Noble County, and Judge Kramer came before the commissioners to explain the comprehensive plan and the budget usage for Drug Free Noble County. The state is “flexing” its muscles and have some issues about the usage of the treatment dollars. They are saying that the dollars that are paid from this line item go for scholarships to the Noble House, schools etc. and are not being used for treatment. Judge Kramer indicated that these places are counting on these dollars to operate. After County Attorney reviewed the comprehensive plan that was approved by the state and the IC codes relating to the department, he advised the commissioner that they should allow this department to disperse funds as they had in the past. Dave Dolezal made a motion to allow Drug Free Noble County to go ahead and submit claims as appropriated by council for approval by the commissioners. Dave Abbott seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

WILCOX CONTRACT

The Wilcox contract had been received from Wilcox and had been reviewed by the attorney. Dennis indicated that the contract was fine and Dave Dolezal moved to sign the contract. Dave Abbott seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

PLAN DOCUMENT

The Health Plan Document was received from Unified and reviewed by the county attorney. Upon county attorney Dennis Graft’s recommendation, the contract was signed with a motion from Dave Dolezal. Dave Abbott seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

2019 HOLIDAY CALENDAR

Dave Abbott moved to approve the 2019 Holiday Calendar with the exception of the July 5, 2019 and the December 31, 2018 dates on the calendar. Dave Dolezal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. This will give us 13 holidays for 2019.

HIGHWAY

Mark Goodrich, Highway Superintendent, and Richard Rogers, Highway Inspector, were present for the construction business at the highway department.

- Both reported on high water issues of the past week due to melting snow and record rainfall.
- Richard had a utility permit from Noble REMC. Dave Abbott moved to approve the utility permit. Dave Dolezal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.
- QC communication is working near the tire store near Wolcottville. Motion to approve the permit from Dave Abbott seconded by Dave Dolezal. Motion carried 3-0.
- Centurylink is requesting 6 permits for fiber optic installation. Dave Abbott moved to approve the permits and a second came from Dave Dolezal. Motion carried 3-0.
- Drive way permit – Richard has a request from a resident who is using a shared drive with another resident. Both residents have requested that they have their own drive. To move the one drive, it becomes 100 feet short of sight distance. According to Richard this is a low traveled road and he sees no problem with allowing the variance for the driveway.

Motion to approve the driveway variance came from Dave Abbott. Dave Dolezal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

ENGINEERING BUSINESS

Zack had the following engineering business:

- Bridge 6 - Zack had reviewed the two bids that were received for bridge 6 in this second round of bidding. Even though the bids received were both exceeding the engineering estimate, Zack is recommending that the lowest bid be accepted. This bid came from Northern Indiana Construction Company in the amount of \$347,151.04. Zack is hopeful that some of the items such as dewatering might not be necessary and therefore would lower the bid. Motion to award the construction of bridge 6 to Northern Indiana Construction Company came from Dave Dolezal. Dave Abbott seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.
- We will be beginning a new phase of bridge inspection and Zack will preparing the RFP to begin that progress.
- There is no update on bridge 147 and 136.
- Baseline Road Project - Zack has a LPA Voucher for this project in the amount of \$10,743.36. this is a 90/10 project and our cost is \$277.27. Dave Abbott moved to sign the LPA voucher. Dave Dolezal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.
- Zack reported that he had submitted 2 projects for the Call for Projects - County road 400 N and Bridge 134. Zack was notified that we were awarded the 400 N project in the amount of \$2,248,000.00. Zack will begin work with IDOT to get the RFP out.
- Bridge 55 - This bridge is in the design process. This is located over Elkhart River west of State Road 9. Motion came from Dave Abbott to start a proposal for the scope of the project. This will be done using annual bid rates. Dave Dolezal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.
- Oversize Permit Discussion - Zack developed a draft permit for the oversize permits based on earlier discussions. There were some issues brought up that the commissioners thought could pose problems and so Zack talked about adding a "special provisions" section to the permit.
- Zack also reported that there will need to be some major upgrades done to the fuel pumps. Zack is asking the commissioners their ideas of how this should be paid for concerning other departments. Zack had talked to Ceres about the repairs and they indicated that this could be added onto the gas contract and be paid for over the next several years. Another option would be to pay for it upfront and then charge departments an extra 2 or 3 cents per gallon of gas used in order to repay the shared cost of the upgrade. The commissioners would rather do the latter of the two options which would then leave the gas contract open for yearly renewal.
- Zack has another draft contract for the DOC work crew and again awaiting the Surveyor's input in order to finalize.
- Wheel & Surtax - Zack informed the commissioners that the Noble County Council had approved the increase of the flat rate from 7.50 to 17.50 be implemented and the ordinance had been prepared and gone to the paper for advertisement.
- CCD Ordinance - this ordinance - per the direction of the commissioners has been advertised and will come before the commissioners for public hearing on the 12th of March.
- Zack reported that Diane Scott had requested that the highway department look at the bridge in the West Lakes area. Zack has made his review and reported that everything is flowing good at the bridge - the flooding issue has nothing to do with the bridge.
- The used gradall has been purchased and the title work is on the way.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDEN

Gary announced that the commissioners had conducted the interviews for the highway superintendent and had 3 very good candidates for the position. Asking for a motion to name the superintendent. Dave Dolezal indicated that after the interview and reviewing his notes that he one candidate stood out and he made the motion to name Richard Rogers as the next superintendent. Dave Abbott agreed with Dave and seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

REZONING

The Noble County Plan Commission has received a request from David and Mary Herr for a rezoning from A3 to A1 for 15.46 acres in Wayne Township. This request has received a favorable recommendation from the plan commission board and is now before the commissioners. Motion

to approve the rezoning came from Dave Dolezal and was seconded by Dave Abbott. Motion carried 3-0.

ADDRESS ORDINANCE

The plan commission is requesting that the advertised public hearing for the address ordinance be held and adopted as written. This will require new or major remodeled residences have a displayed sign with street addresses. According to the ordinance, no "certificate to occupy" will be issued until such address sign is posted. Dave Dolezal made a motion to approve address ordinance for new construction or major remodel projects going forward. Dave Abbott seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

ASSESSOR

- Kim Carson, Noble County Assessor is present to request permission for a purchase over \$500.00. She is wanting a new color copier. Kim reported that the printer they received is not doing the job. The commissioners are requesting that Kim get quotes and report back prior to any official approval.
- Form 11 - Kim is also asking approval to have the company that she has had previous print and mail her form 11's. Due to postage increases, the cost is up but still cheaper than what can be done in house. Dave Dolezal moved to approve her request. Dave Abbott seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.
- Kim also discussed the possibility of just having part time do new construction at this point rather than filling the vacant full-time data collector position. This would be paid at the hourly rate based on the full time pay due to the level of training involved. Dave Abbott moved to approve this request. Dave Dolezal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

GAUGE

Randy Sexton, Noble County Surveyor and Mick Newton, EMA Director are both present to request that a letter requesting help from the St Joseph River Basin Commission in putting a second gauge of monitoring water levels in the West Lakes area. We currently only have one gauge in the Cosperville area. The lettering is asking for the commission to support 50% of the \$9000.00 maintenance fee on the gauge. Motion to sign and approve the letter came from Dave Abbott and was seconded by Dave Dolezal. Motion carried 3-0.

MINUTES

Minutes of the February 12, 2018 meeting were read and approved as corrected with a motion from Dave Abbott. Dave Dolezal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Minutes of the executive sessions were also approved as written with a motion from Dave Dolezal. Dave Abbott seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

CORRESPONDENCE

- A thank you note was received from a resident concerning the help that Veterans Service Officer Mike Clouse had given when her parent had passed away. The commissioners asked that this note be passed along to Mr. Clouse.
- Notice of the correction facility board meeting was received by all commissioners. The meeting will be held when they are attending road school so Randy Sexton, Noble County Surveyor will attend on their behalf.

RECESS FOR DRAINAGE BOARD

BACK IN SESSION

INSURANCE PROPOSALS

The commissioners are hearing proposals for the liability insurance for the county. There had been several companies interested in the insurance but only 2 were present for proposals.

STAR INSURANCE

Terry Diller and Trent Diller from Star Financial Insurance along with Bo Collins from Bliss McKnight were present for their proposal. Bo discussed the many additional programs that were offered at no extra charge such as driving and shooting simulators, risk management programs and monthly bulletins, and human resource help in which questions can be asked of an employment lawyer. They also would be able to provide handbook updates to the county. Bliss McKnight

is endorsed by the Association of Indiana Counties. Star is recommending – after reviewing our current policy – that the Cyber coverage be upgraded. Our IT department is feeling that we pretty secure in our firewalls etc. and would not have to pay ransom for something like this but both Star and Black & Ramer are recommending that this coverage be increased from the \$25,000.00 that we currently have. Star's quote is \$227,418.00.

Black & Ramer

Jarrold Ranner and Jona Slope from Black & Ramer along Jason from Travelers were present for their presentation. Jarrod also had a quote from HCC but it was quite a bit higher than the Travelers bid. Travelers is who we are currently insured with Jarrod is recommending that the same coverage continue with the exception of cyber coverage as mentioned above. The Travelers quote came in \$220,401.00.

CLAIMS REGULAR

Regular claims were reviewed and approved with a motion from Dave Abbott and a second from Dave Dolezal. Motion carried 3-0. This report contained 9 pages and totaled \$534,216.94.

CLAIMS SUPPLEMENTAL

Supplemental claims were also presented for review. There were 2 pages to this report totaling \$68,868.05 which did not include a \$15,000,000.00 investment transfer. These were approved with a motion from Dave Dolezal and a second from Dave Abbott. Motion carried 3-0.

CLAIMS COURT

Court claims were reviewed and approve with a motion from Dave Abbott. This report contained 5 pages and totaled \$65,309.86 and was seconded by Dave Dolezal. Motion carried 3-0.

PAYROLL

Payroll dated 03/01/2018 for the time period of 02/02/18 -02/15/18 containing 6 pages and totaling \$392,182.54 was presented for review. Dave Abbott moved to approve the payroll with a second from Dave Dolezal. Motion carried 3-0.

CORRESPONDENCE CONTINUED

- Plan Commission – Notice to interested parties concerning Richard Squier plat – duly entered.
- IDEM – Confined Feeding for Monroe Barkman Jr – duly entered
- IDEM – Forest River Plant 425 – air permit – duly entered
- IDEM – Air permit for Precision Tank & Equipment
- IDEM – Tower Structural Laminating – air permit – duly entered
- IDEM – Sanitary Sewer Application for Cranberry Development duly entered
- Clerk of court – monthly report - duly entered
- Sheriff's department – annual report - duly entered

CHAIN O LAKES

A request for the usage of the restroom facilities, use of the courthouse lawn and the availability of sitting a portable handicap restroom over by the prosecutor's office was received from the Chain O Lakes festival committee. Motion to approve the usage as presented came from Dave Dolezal and was seconded by Dave Abbott. Motion carried 3-0.

SOUTH COMPLEX FURNACE

Three quotes were received for a new furnace at the south complex for a 95% efficient 90K BTU furnace:

- Rawles Services \$2,600.00
- Hoover Plumbing Heating \$2,700.00
- EEDK's Refrigeration \$2,900.00

Dave Abbott moved to approve the low bid of Rawles Services in the amount of \$2,600.00 receive the bid. Dave Dolezal seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

INSURANCE

After more discussion about the proposal given concerning the liability insurance, Dave Dolezal moved to award the county's liability insurance to Black and Ramer Insurance with the lowest bid of \$220,401.00. Dave Abbott seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

Jackie had received a call from an employee at the prosecutor's office who was going to be having hip surgery soon. The lift chairs at the prosecutor's office were decommissioned due to lack of use. The employee was asking if they could be plugged back in for usage. The discussion of the commissioners was to contact Mr. Blackman, Noble County Prosecutor, to see if the employee's work station could be moved to the first floor allow her to work there until she could once again go up and down stairs. If this was not possible, then the Kone company would need to be called for inspection and reactivation of the lift chairs. Jackie contacted Eric Blackman and he did not think that the relocation of the work area would be possible due to computer access. Jackie contacted Tim Lock, Maintenance Supervisor, to contact Kone for reactivation of the chair lift. Eric Blackman did offer to pay the expense associated from his incentive money.

LONGBRAKE PROPERTY IN KENDALLVILLE

Jackie had been contacted by Kendallville Mayor Suzanne Handshoe concerning the city purchasing a property that needs the structures removed. Mayor Handshoe is indicating that this property has back taxes and is requesting that the commissioners remove these back taxes. Jackie has researched the tax system and has found \$702.73 in back taxes on the property and that the property would be eligible for tax sale this year. This is an expense to the county and Jackie told the commissioners that the intent of the city is to clean the property up and then sell it to a responsible taxpayer. Motion came from Dave Dolezal to remove the taxes from the property upon successful deed transfer to the City of Kendallville. Dave Abbott seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

ADJOURNMENT

This session of the Board of Commissioners of Noble County was at approximately 5:00PM recessed from day to day until March 2, 2018.


Gary D. Veal, President


David J. Dolezal, Vice President


David Abbott, Member

ATTESTED 
Tonya L. Marks, Auditor