

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR SESSION OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD April 24, 2023**

Comes now the hour of 8:30 am. on the 24th day of April, 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, County Attorney
Zack Smith, Highway Engineer
Matt Getts, KPC Media

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

CORRESPONDENCE

- 2022 Annual Report for Community State Bank – duly entered
- Noble County Council on Aging Financial Statements 2022 – duly entered
- Drainage Board – Notice of public hearing for Stillinger drain – May 22, 2023
- Report – Monthly report for Clerk of the Circuit Court for March
- IDEM – Flint and Walling – modification of air permit
- IDEM – Forest River – modification of operating permit

MINUTES

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

MINUTES SPECIAL MEETING

Minutes of the special meeting were also approved as written with a motion from Gary Timmerman and a second from Anita Hess. Motion carried 3-0.

CLAIMS

A 12-page report totaling \$1,157,814.60 for claims was reviewed by the commissioners. Gary Timmerman moved to approved the claims as presented. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

PAYROLL

Gary Timmerman moved to approve the payroll report dated 04/20/2023. This was a 3-page report that totaled \$477,674.12. Anita Hess seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

OLD BUSINESS

The farm lease agreement between Samantha McGinnis and Noble County had been signed by her and returned. With that in hand, Gary Timmerman moved to also sign the agreement. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS

The title for the 2017 Dodge Charger with vin # 6266 was pulled for signature. This will be sold at auction. Motion to sign the title came from Anita Hess. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

CHAIN O'LAKES FESTIVAL

A request was received from the Chain O'Lakes festival committee to use the courthouse square and the courthouse restrooms for the upcoming festival from June 4th thru the 10th. Gary Leatherman reported that he had also been contacted for the same usage on June 2nd for the car show. Anita Hess moved to allow both requests. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

HIGHWAY

Richard Rogers, Highway Superintendent, was unable to attend the meeting had the following items for the commissioners:

- Precision Utilities Group Utility Permit – duly entered
- A request from Christian Motorcycle Association to close Noble St in Wolf Lake for a run on May 6, 2023 was received. Motion to approve the request was made by Gary Timmerman. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

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

- The county has been awarded \$1,000,000.00 for the Community Crossing Matching Grant. This will allow the county to pave around 26 miles of roads this year. Zack will proceed with bid specs and advertising with a motion from Anita Hess and a second from Gary Timmerman. Motion carried 3-0.
- Bridge Inspection – Zack reported that field inspection was completed and he is expecting a preliminary report before too long with final reporting coming later.
- Bridge 136 - October letting
- Bridge 69 – Zach has an LPA voucher for review. Gary Timmerman moved to approve the LPA Voucher in the amount of \$6,519.30. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- Old State Road 3 – an LPA voucher was also received for this project. Gary Timmerman made the motion to approve the voucher in the amount of \$2,263.00 with a second coming from Anita Hess. Motion carried 3-0.
- Bridge 73 - The deck will be poured tomorrow for this project. This will be the last structural piece of the project.
- Little Long/Round Lake - Zack reported that the wing walls are set and now the dewatering will begin. Zack had attended a meeting of the homeowners association and answered most questions with the exception of the dredging which he advised be directed to the Surveyor's office.
- County road 50 W at 100 N is the latest LPA award received. Zack is working on early coordination with INDOT.

ANNEX

Zack Smith, Project Manager, had the following report for the commissioners:

- Zack has a Short Form Prime Contract between Weigand Construction and Noble County for the finishing of the shell space at the new annex. This area will be the temporary space for Noble Superior II during the renovation of the courthouse. Anita Hess moved to approve the contract to include exhibits B through F and not to exceed \$254,508.00. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- There is enough furniture left in the courthouse to supply furniture for all of the courts in the temporary move.
- The glare issue for the assessor and dispatch will be resolved soon with the shipment of material on April 21, 2023
- Acoustic paneling is installed and complete.

COURTHOUSE RENOVATION

Zack Smith, Project Manager, had the following report:

- The review meeting was held on April 17 with the commissioners, contractors and architects on hand. Design and furnishings were discussed but no final decisions were made at that meeting.
- Project financing was reported to be moving along but mainly being a council project at this time.
- FFE – Courthouse - Zack is requesting that the county move from PSI – who did the new annex – to Innovate Commercial Interiors which is where Jen Lasley is now working with. This should be a positive move as she described in her letter as she will have their own installation staff and control of their schedules.
- In follow up items discussed at the review meeting Zack is asking for a decision on the following items:
 1. Generator - Our current generator is approaching the 30 year mark and Zack is asking whether we replace it at this point or not. The generator has probably not been used more than a hand full of times but with the age of equipment might not

work in the future. After some discussion, it was advised to put it in the project at this time with the option to remove it at a later time if the commissioners so choose.

2. Doors – Do the commissioners want to leave the existing doors with the replacement of new hardware or replace the doors completely. There were 3 options on the table when it came to the doors and Zack will get prices associated with those options and report back to the commissioners for final decisions.
3. Lastly is the elevator – during the meeting there was an option to take the elevator to the 4th floor even though there are no plans to finish that floor. While work is being done on the elevator it was suggested that the shaft include the 4th floor for possible needs in the future. The commissioners decided to include the 4th floor expansion of the elevator in the project.
4. Zack reported again that all efforts to keep historical pieces of the courthouse if at all possible. This will include the tile floor on the second floor of the courthouse which is thought to be original. 1st and 3rd floor tiling will be replaced.

UNSAFE HOUSING

Norm Lortie, Building inspector, was present for unsafe housing issues.

1. Nicoletti was on the agenda for unsafe house and Norm is reporting that this home has now been torn down and they are building a new home on the site. Norm is requesting that this project be closed. Dennis Graft, Noble County Attorney will take care of the paperwork to close this case.
2. The second home is located at Bear Lake. Harrison is the owner of the property. Norm informed the commissioners that the home burned on March 5th of 2022 and there is still nothing being done with the property. Norm has spoken with the owner several times and he is indicating that he is having trouble with the insurance company. Anita Hess suggested verification from the insurance company that there is an issue and a resolution can be made. Norm indicated that he continues to get complaints from the neighbors and would like to proceed with the process. Gary Timmerman moved to approve Norm to move forward with the process for demolition and to actively seek quotes for the demolition. This is set for review on June 26th, 2023 at 9:30 AM. Anita Hess seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

COUNCIL ON AGING

Cherish Mishleau, COA Director, was present for the following signatures on Federal Transit Administration paperwork:

- Authorizing Resolution – to be recorded and signed by the Noble County Recorder
- De-obligation of \$265,886.00 in operating funds – Gary Timmerman motion. Anita Hess 2nd Motion carries 3-0.
- Request for \$48,045.00 from the Cares Grant - Gary Timmerman motion. Anita Hess 2nd motion carried 3-0
- Request from the Rural Transit in the amount of \$122,245.00 – Gary Timmerman motion, Anita Hess second and the motion carried 3-0.
- And the following grant application forms were all signed with a motion from Gary Timmerman and seconded by Anita Hess. Motion carried 3-0. This included the following:
 1. Categorical Exclusion Classification of Capital projects checklist
 2. Certification of use and project equipment and facilities
 3. Local financial certification and assurances
 4. List of public transportation providers and labor unions.
 5. Statement of acceptance of the special section 5333(b) warranty
 6. Federal Fiscal Year 2023 certifications and assurances for FTA Assistance programs
 7. Section 5311/5339 pass-through agreement.

APPOINTMENT TO CHILD PROTECTION TEAM

Ashleigh Schalinske, from the prosecutor's office and Mariah Walker from DCS were present to request an appointment to the Child Protection Team through the Department of Child Services. Dave Dolezal had previously sat on this board. Motion was made by Anita Hess to appoint Gary Timmerman to this position. Gary Leatherman seconded and the motion carried.

EMA EXPENDITURE

Gabe Creech, EMA Director, and Ann Carpenter, Asst Director, were present to request permission to purchase radios for the department. Gabe informed the commissioners that Health department had received approximately \$330,000.00 from the Covid Vaccine incident and was willing to pay for the new radios for his department. Gabe indicated that the current radios will be obsolete in the near future and are not now compatible with certain bands. Gabe had 3 quotes from ERS, J and K Communications and AMK. Gabe is suggesting the Harris radios from AMK as his preference. Harris radios are made in the US and have a short lead time of 2-3 weeks. The package includes the main multiband system, a unit for the EMA vehicle and 3 hand held radios for Gabe and his staff. This is coming in at \$33,242.19 and is approved with a motion from Gary Timmerman and a second from Anita Hess. Motion carried 3-0.

The Commissioners went on to thank Gabe and Ann for all that they do and in particular their efforts at the recent active shooter incident in Kendallville.

NIGHT MEETING

Jackie has received a request from a group of citizens opposing solar farms in Noble County for a night meeting with the commissioners to share new information about solar. After discussion with the commissioners and County Attorney Dennis Graft it was decided that the group should furnish factual information in writing to the commissioners and that no meeting will be held to discuss this issue further until such time as a solar application is formally filed. At that time the group will have the opportunity to attend public meetings held by the plan commission as well as the commissioners. The board feels that there has been ample opportunity for the group to attend meetings during the development of the solar ordinance over the past year and therefore has requested that the group be taken off of the May 8th agenda as well.

REGION 3-A

Gary had received a letter from Sandra Tamez from Region 3-A requesting signature on a grant application. This is a \$100,000.00 grant from the Covid -19 Response Program and is intended to get small local business back on their feet after the 2020 epidemic. Copy – duly entered.

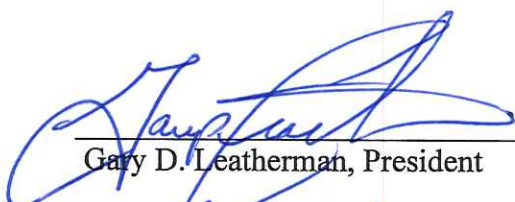
GROUND

Dennis Graft asked if there had been any word from the appraisers on the ground owned by the commissioners directly across from the Noble County Landfill. Anita indicated that only verbal indications that the price of ground has increased. The original appraisal came in at \$209,000.00 on the 29 + acres and at \$74,500.00 for the 10 + acres. The commissioners are wanting to do more than local newspaper to advertise. This will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

This session of the Board of Commissioners of Noble County was at approximately 11: 15 am recessed from day to day until May 8, 2023

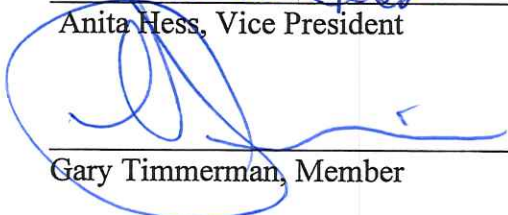
Dated this 8th day of May, 2023



Gary D. Leatherman, President



Anita Hess, Vice President



Gary Timmerman, Member

ATTESTED: _____
Michelle Mawhorter, Auditor