

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR SESSION OF THE  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD June 26, 2023**

Comes now the hour of 8:30 am. on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of June, 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  
Matt Getts, KPC Media  
Zack Smith, Highway Engineer  
Richard Rogers, Highway Superintendent

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

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- Association of Indiana Commissioners – notice of increase of county commissioners dues for 2024.

**MINUTES**

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

**CLAIMS**

The commissioners reviewed claims dated June 26, 2023. The 13-page report totaled \$740,812.90. Motion to approve the claims came from Gary Timmerman. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

**MISC CLAIMS**

Gary Timmerman moved to approve the misc claims that totaled \$1,042,787.91 for the month of May. Anita Hess seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

**PAYROLL**

The commissioners reviewed payroll for the pay date of 6/29/23. The 3-page payroll report totaled \$477,410.35. Gary Timmerman moved to approve with a second coming from Anita Hess. Motion carries 3-0.

**NEW BUSINESS**

A letter has been received by Anita Hess from INDOT requesting letters of support for the US 30 project. Officials are wanting to make US a freeway eliminating intersections and move to ramps. There have been a number of fatal crashes on this road and it has been the topic of many plans for the future. Anita Hess moved to sign the letter in support of this project. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

**HIGHWAY**

Richard Rogers, current Highway Superintendent, will be stepping down from this position as of 6/30/23. Zack indicated that Richard had taken on this job when we needed the position filled but had no intention to make that a long term situation. Rob Hull has been working with Richard the last few months and is capable of assuming these responsibilities. Richard would like to step back into the position of Inspector. Gary Timmerman moved to appoint Rob Hull as the Highway Superintendent beginning 6/30/23. Anita Hess seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Richard has the following driveway variances to bring before the commissioners:

- Ed Anderson on 525 N is request a variance as it is 195 short of sight distance. Richard indicated that this is the best possible place for the drive and it is on a gravel road. Gary Timmerman moved to approve the variance. Anita Hess seconded. Motion carried 3-0.
- Dennis Kontz on 900 N is wanting to put in a 2<sup>nd</sup> drive. Richard reported no sight or drainage issues. Gary Timmerman moved to approve the variance. Anita Hess seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.
- James & Cindy Clevenger are requesting a variance for a drive that is too close to an existing drive. Gary Timmerman moved to approve. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- Richard filed three utility permits with the commissioners, one for NIPSCO, Frontier and another for NIPSCO
- Chip and seal work will begin very soon.
- Richard reported a small amount of storm damage that was cleaned up in a short amount of time.
- The crews are about 1/3 of the way through brush cleaning and dust control applications continue.

## ENGINEERING

Zack Smith, Highway Engineer, was present to update the commissioners on the engineering business at the department:

- Transportation Asset Management Plan- Zack reviewed the 2023 Road Rehabilitation Plan with the Commissioners. After review, Anita Hess moved to post the plan on the county's web page. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- HMA 2023-01 work will start soon with Pulvers getting the contract
- HMA 2023-02 will begin later this year
- Bridge Inspection – Zack reported that some of the bridge repairs can be handled in house. Three of the bridges (139, 70 and 65 require grout fill, Zack has a quote for this work from RL McCoy not to exceed \$20,000.00. Zack also has an LPA voucher for Bridge Inspection in the amount of \$2, 203.28. Motion to approve the voucher came from Gary Timmerman. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0
- Bridge 136 – there is an LPA voucher for Preliminary engineering in the amount of \$1,963.90. Motion to approve came from Gary Timmerman. Anita Hess seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Zack reported that there is only yet to do is for a Frontier relocation that they are working with the railroad on. This should be taken care of prior to the October letting of this project.
- Bridge 44 – this is also set for October letting.
- Baseline Road – Zack reported that all final paperwork has been submitted.
- Old State Road 3- An LPA voucher has been submitted for approval in the amount of \$2,190.00. Motion to approve the voucher came from Gary Timmerman. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- 100 N and 50 W project – Consultant selection will be this afternoon.
- Riley Road - there is an LPA voucher for Preliminary engineering coming before the commissioners for approval. Gary Timmerman moved to approve the voucher in the amount of \$1198.34. Anita Hess seconded and motion carried 3-0.
- Bridge 73 – Zack reported that the final invoicing for this project was in today's claims and then close out paperwork would be submitted.
- Little Long & Round Lake - This project is almost complete – waiting on signage at this point.
- Mobile Mapping – Zack reported that he will have a presentation for the commissioners before too long.
- Concerning the petition for the removal of the stop sign on 500 N that was discussion at the last commissioners meeting, Zack had contacted LTAP for suggestions as to the best solution to this issue. The information that he received back was exactly what he and the commissioners had also talked about – that being that it is very difficult to remove one stop of a three way stop without have issues and it being a liability. Zack had some suggestions for improvement to the hill where there have been issues with stopping in winter weather. The commissioners thought that trying those ideas would be a starting place to try and resolve the issue.
- Zack had a request from a resident close to the Riley Road bridge project. He is requesting to move his pier to the north side during the dredging that will be happening. The

commissioners decided against allowing this because of others then wanting to do the same. Zack thought that if the resident understood that this might only be a couple of weeks that he would understand this decision. Zack plans to return to the drainage board meeting to get an idea of when the dredging is scheduled for this area.

#### ANNEX

- Zack and others met with a representative about the schlinder elevator at the new annex. There have been several issues with new elevator and at least three or four times that it has been down for a day or two.. We have also been billed for the visits even during the warranty period. There was an amendment to the existing contract that was in place for the Sheriff's department elevator. During this meeting Zack was able to get the charges that were invoiced dropped and the contract separated for billing purposes for the future. Anita Hess moved to sign the amendment with Schlinder for maintenance and billing going forward. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- Shell space improvement are going very well with drywall complete at this time.
- The extension will be moving the 3 agents upstairs and this move should be complete the first week of July. Then two of the court staffs will be able to move into the vacated extension space on a temporary bases. Zack has a floor plan for the layout for Superior I and Superior II

#### COURTHOUSE RENOVATION

- Zack informed the Commissioners that the council will be selecting the bank for the BAN loan at their July 5, 2023 meeting.
- Drainage – Zack explained that the way the drainage is set at this time it loops around the courthouse and everything goes into the sanitary system. The town would like to separate the sanitary water from the storm sewer. This should be able to be accomplished during the renovation.
- Procurement package Trane has the bid for the Chiller and is the recommendation of the engineers that they get the work. Gary Timmerman moved to award the bid for the chiller to Trane.in the amount of \$79,877.00. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- The Electrical was also bid out but after review the engineering firm would like to do a rebid. Weigand Construction will reach out to all of the original bidders and let them know of this decision. Gary Timmerman moved to rebid this procurement package. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0
- The clerk should be moving the second week of July to their temporary location.

#### UNSAFE HOUSING

Norm Lortie, building inspector, was present for this session concerning a Harrison property on Bear Lake. This house burnt over a year ago and nothing had been done with the property. Norm had been talking to the owner and finally asked that the county get bids for demolition. At that time the owner contacted the commissioners and informed them that this is a court case as his mortgage company had not paid the insurance and therefore there was no insurance on the property. Jackie had contacted the clerk's office to get a Case Summary. The case was transferred to Federal Court. In a phone call from Mr. Harrison this morning to the Commissioners office, Mr. Harrison said that he could not get off work to come to the meeting but would be available by phone if the commissioners and Norm wanted to speak with him. He is agreement that the home needs removed but would like to do it himself once the court case is resolved and the money is received from the insurance company. He indicated that he had spoken with both the mortgage company and the insurance company last Friday and that the case was being pushed through to get a resolution but as of the time of the phone call had still not heard anything. He did ask if Norm would be willing to share the names of the companies who bid on the demolition. The commissioners did open the bids – receiving 3 one from Impact Contractors in the amount of \$20,658.80 one from Ley Excavating in the amount of \$18,867.20 and from Forker Excavating in the amount of \$17,400.00. With the information available today and the pending court case, the commissioner have extended this time table and set another hearing update for August 28, 2023 at 10:00 am.

#### HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Anne Lowe along with Tina Lough and Dr. Schowe were present for discussion about new flooring and cabinets at the clinic at the South Complex. Anne is telling the commissioners that they received two quotes for flooring. One from Flooring Concepts in the amount of \$8,505.11 and

one from Select Flooring in the amount of \$9,051. Anne is wanting to go with the low bid of Flooring Concepts. She also had a bid for cabinets in the amount of \$20,112.00 from Country Mill Cabinets. Anne indicated that she had asked for a quote from Orr Cabinets but did not receive anything. Ann says that all of this expense will be paid from the Public Health Vaccine Fund. Gary Timmerman moved to approve the low bid from Flooring Concepts and the bid from Country Mill and also allow Anne to sign any agreement needed for the completion of the project. Anita Hess seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Anne is also discussing the public health funding of 2024 and 2025 with the commissioners. This is a program that the Commissioners of each county have to "opt in" on. From the information provided from Anne, there is much more funding to be had if the county opts in. Anne and Dr. Schowe thinks that this a great option and that they are ready for the requirements of the programming associated with the funding. Anne brought a letter that would need to be signed but as it was read there seemed to be errors or omissions from the document. Anne was asked to get a new letter from the state and then the commissioners would sign at their next meeting.

#### ST JOE RIVER BASIN

Dan Lash, the proxy board member to the St Joe River Basin Commissioner came before the commissioners to update them on a new program that the state has. Matt Meersman and David Abbot are also present at the meeting. This will allow the STRBC to become a coalition that would charge a fee to all property owners within the basin to pay a special assessment to generate money to help with flooding in the counties. Dave Abbot explained to the group that all counties involved would need to agree to form this group for it to go through – if one county is not doing it then it will not go. Dan is telling the commissioners that this will allow some clean up of the Elkhart River – however that still requires DNR approval and that is where the issues have come up in the past. It sounds as though there are still many questions and many things to do before this will need a vote from the commissioners.

#### RECESS

Back in Session 1:30 PM

#### CONSULTANT SELECTION

Zack conducted the consultant selection for the 100 N 50 W LPA project. The commissioners scored each of the Letters of Interest along with Zack in the selection process. LOI were received from the following companies:

- American StructurePoint
- A & Z Engineering
- Bean Longest Neff
- DLZ
- Fleis & VandenBrink
- Lawson Fisher
- Troyer Group

#### TITLE

Jackie had been contacted by the Orange Township Fire Chief about an EMS that was given to them by the county back in 2012. Orange Township had never transferred the title and are now wanting to give the ambulance to One World Medic. Jackie has spoken with the BMV in Indianapolis and their suggestion was a Certificate of Title Correction. Jackie will send the form to the Orange Twp Chief on Tuesday.

#### CEDIT PLAN

Jackie gave a copy of the draft CEDIT Plan that she had drawn up for 2024 2025. There was a question about increasing EDC and Parkview contributions. Gary Leatherman will contact Gary Atkins to see if they are requesting an increase in funding.


#### ADJOURNMENT

This session of the Board of Commissioners of Noble County was at approximately 3:30 PM am recessed from day to day until July 10, 2023

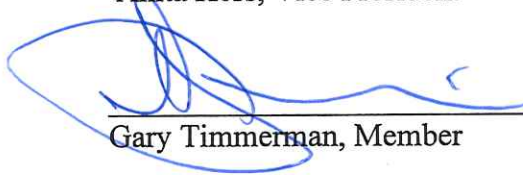
Dated this 10<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2023

  
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Gary D. Leatherman, President

  
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Anita Hess, Vice President

  
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Gary Timmerman, Member

ATTESTED:   
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Michelle Mawhorter, Auditor