

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR SESSION OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD August 9, 2021**

Comes now the hour of 8:30am. on the 9th day of August, 2021 in the Commissioners Room 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 Dolezal, Member

ABSENT:

Anita Hess, Vice President

Also present were:

Jacqueline L Knafel, County Coordinator
Dennis Graft, Noble County Attorney
Matt Getts, KPC Media

Gary Leatherman, Commissioner President, called the meeting to order at approximately 8:30am.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Indiana Department of Health concerning Weights & Measures training
- Monthly report of Clerk of the court
- IDEM- Aluminum Recovery – modification of an existing source
- FEMA – Flood Hazard Determinations
- Wilcox Environmental Engineering – Tree Well system installation work plan

MINUTES

Minutes of the July 26, 2021 meeting were approved with a motion from Dave Dolezal and a second from Gary Leatherman. Motion carried 2-0.

CLAIMS

A 10-page report of regular claims totaling \$395,311.73 was reviewed by the commissioners. Dave Dolezal moved to approve the report with a second coming from Gary Leatherman. Motion carried 2-0.

MISC CLAIMS

Utility and misc. claims were also reviewed. The 4-page report totaled \$218,565.08 and was approved with a motion from Dave Dolezal. Gary Leatherman seconded and motion carried 2-0.

PAYROLL

Payroll dated 08/12/2021 was reviewed by the commissioners. The 4-page report totaled \$431,095.24. Dave Dolezal moved to approve the report. Gary Leatherman seconded and motion carried 2-0.

OLD BUSINESS

The contract with Nexus was received after revisions were made. This will be for personal property audits as the assessor deems necessary. Motion to sign the contract came from Dave Dolezal with Gary Leatherman seconding the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

NEW BUSINESS

The agreement for the gauge at the Rome City Dam was signed with a motion from Dave Dolezal. Gary Leatherman seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0. A copy was e-mailed to Justin Stump, EMA Director and a copy of the agreement was sent by certified mail to the US Geological Survey in Indianapolis on Tuesday August 9, 2021. This is a 4-year contract that will begin January 1, 2022 ending December 31, 2025 at a cost of \$140,000.00 per year.

HIGHWAY

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

- Utility Permit – NIPSCO
- Richard reported that the chip sealing on roads was finished last week
- Crack sealing is also complete for the year.
- Richard indicated that there is about 2 miles of reconstruction yet to do for the department.
- Spraying of brush in the roadside continues and an invoice for spray materials was presented for approval in the amount \$7,952.38. Motion to approve the purchase came from Dave Dolezal and was seconded by Gary Leatherman. Motion carried 2-0.
- Mowers of the roadsides are almost complete with the second round of mowing.

Zack Smith, Highway Engineer, was present for the engineering update for the commissioners:

- Zack is bringing before the commissioners an invoice for parts for the roller that they use for the chip and seal. This is for \$13,958.10. Zack indicated that the shop will do the repair work this is just for the parts. Dave Dolezal moved to approve the purchase. Gary Leatherman seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.
- The Hma -01 overlay project will be starting in about a week or two.
- Bridge Repair - Zack had a quote for RL McCoy for repair work on bridge 60. The quote is in the amount of \$46,120.00 and is approved with a motion from Dave Dolezal and a second from Gary Leatherman. Motion carried 2-0.
- Striping for this year will begin in a month or two.
- There is an LPA voucher for the 400 N project. Currently the project is in the right of way acquisition phase. Dave Dolezal moved to approve the LPA voucher in the amount of \$1,194.20. Gary Leatherman seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.
- Bridge Inspection – Final report is complete and should be received soon.
- Baseline Road – This project is pushed back due to Bat Nesting Season. Hopefully will resume in September/October.
- Bridge 59 - Zack provided a copy of the Preliminary Engineering Report for Bridge 59 with an estimated cost of construction coming in at \$2,119,244.27.
- Little Long/Round Lake- Project development continues.
- Diamond Lake Rd Extended - Zack reported that an engineering firm had reached out to him concerning the project but he had heard nothing more from the City of Ligonier.
- Oak Shores Subdivision - A request from home owners in this area prompted a speed study of the subdivision. Zack shared the study with the commissioners. This is low traffic area and while most of the counts came in within the 30MPH current speed limit there were some counts far over the limit. Zack is recommending (along with petitioning residents that the speed limit be lowered to 20 MPH. Dave Dolezal moved to start the process by creating an ordinance for review, advertisement and adoption. Gary Leatherman seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.
- Lastly, Zack provided a Letter Agreement – Engineer’s Assessment and Scoping Report for the Baseline Road between 600 E and Old State Road 3. This letter is with Lockmueller Group and is not to exceed \$36,160.00. Motion to sign the agreement came from Dave Dolezal and was seconded by Gary Leatherman. Motion carried 2-0.

ANNEX

Zack Smith, Project manager, was present to update the commissioners on the building project:

- Zack reported that the company continues to work through the FFE for the projects. He indicated there are still a couple of departments that need some changes to the project.
- CO 2 is for the Low Voltage Communications and is in the amount of \$251,680.20. Dave Dolezal moved to approve the change order. Gary Leatherman seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.
- PCO-28 – this is for a custom mail slot at the new building in the amount of \$948.51. Dave Dolezal moved to approve this as well with a second coming from Gary Leatherman. Motion carried 2-0.
- PCO-29 – Denseglass at the topouts by the ductwork prompted this change. The cost is \$235.00 and is approved with a motion from Dave Dolezal. Gary Leatherman seconds. Motion carried 2-0.
- In summary, Zack reported that we are seeing major construction progress in the building with masonry and inside work progressing well.
- As another reminder, Zack is reminding the commissioners of a need to budget for design costs for the courthouse renovation that will likely follow the completion of the new annex.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT – UNSAFE HOUSING

Norm Lortie, Building Inspector, is present to discuss unsafe housing cases Fitch and Hoover. Norm reported that both structures have been removed and we are past the deadline for payment from the owners for the cost of demolition. He is recommending liens be placed on the two properties for the cost of demolition and then dismissal of the cases. Dave Dolezal moved to dismiss both the Fitch cases and the Hoover cases pending lien fillings. Gary Leatherman seconded and motion carried 2-0.

PLAN COMMISSION – REZONING

Teresa Tackett, Plan Director, and Scott Ziegler, Surveyor, came before the commissioners for a rezoning for a 4-acre tract in Elkhart Township. They are requesting this on behalf of Wayne and Sharlene Eash. This business will be an extension of the Shed Time business on 900 W. Dave Dolezal moved to approve the rezoning from A1 to I1 for the 4-acre parcel with the understanding and restrictions based on the plan commission board of a shared driveway and that no more than 35 units would sit on the property at one time. Gary Leatherman seconded and motion carried 2-0.

Discussed with Teresa Tackett and Norm Lortie while they were here in attendance was a letter from Patricia Booker concerning a neighbor's gas tank that Ms. Booker alleges is sitting partially in her driveway. Teresa will take this back to her office and further investigate the issue and e-mail her conclusion to the commissioners and Jackie.

COUNCIL ON AGING VAN

Per a request from Cherish Smith, Council on Aging Director, a title for a 2010 Ford E350 cutaway van was signed for disposal of the vehicle. Motion to sign the title with last four VIN # of 5617 came from Dave Dolezal and was seconded by Gary Leatherman. Motion carried 2-0.

OTHER ISSUES

Jackie had received the following correspondence from individuals and is asking for guidance as to how to respond:

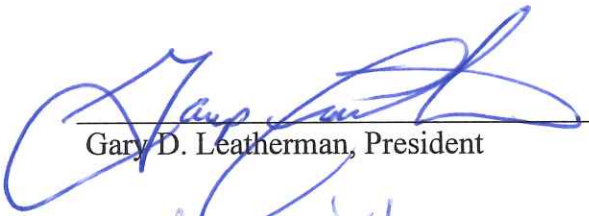
1. E-mail from Holly Chenoweth concerning masking of children on school buses in the Central Noble School Corporation. It is the opinion of the Commissioners that this is a school board issue and they have no involvement in the decisions made by that elected board.
2. Health Insurance – Jackie is asking the board if they want to go out to bid for Health Insurance brokers this year. She has had several requests and given the short amount of time before open enrollment was asking what they want to do. They decided to open this up to the ones that have contacted her recently. Jackie will contact the brokers who have contacted her.
3. Fountain – Jackie shared information concerning the fountain on the courthouse square that she had received from Chris Magnuson. The Town of Albion will be taking over the maintenance on the fountain immediately. Flowers will still be an issue and the town is asking that the county help in some way with the flowers.
4. Jackie had also been contacted by Donna Swartz, Elkhart Township Trustee, requesting that the county adopt an ordinance adopting a Weed Control Board. The board reviewed IC 15-16-7 concerning the development of the board and found this to be specific to Noxious weeds and the requirements would or could be quite expensive to enforce. It was their decision not to proceed with this request.

The board recessed at 11:00 am for drainage board and will return for a scheduled executive session at 1:00PM

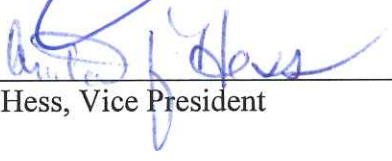
ADJOURNMENT

This session of the Board of Commissioners of Noble County was at approximately 3:00PM after the scheduled executive session recessed from day to day until August 23rd, 2021

Dated this 23rd day of August, 2021



Gary D. Leatherman, President

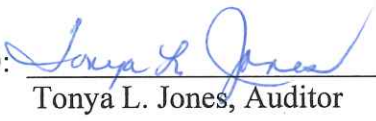


Anita Hess, Vice President



Dave Dolezal, Member

ATTESTED:


Tonya L. Jones, Auditor