

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR SESSION OF THE  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD December 12, 2016**

Comes now the hour of 8:30 A.M. on the December 12, 2016, 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  
David J. (Dave) Dolezal, Vice President  
Dave Abbott, Member

Also present were:

Jacqueline L. Knafel, County Coordinator  
Dennis Graft, Noble County Attorney  
Steve Garbacz, KPC Media  
Jarrod Ramer, Black & Ramer Insurance  
Mick Newton, EMA Director  
Zack Smith, Highway Engineer  
Mark Goodrich, Highway Superintendent  
Norm Lortie, Building Inspector

President Gary Leatherman brought the meeting to order at approximately 8:35AM.

**PROPERTY & CASUALTY INSURANCE**

Jarrod Ramer, Black & Ramer Insurance, was present to ask the commissioners whether or not they want him to go fully out to bid this year which has not been done since 2011. Jarrod is recommending that we get quotes from 3 different companies such as EMC, Travelers and HCC. The commissioners feel that this would be a good idea to do this and asked Jarrod to proceed.

**EMA**

Mick Newton, EMA Director, is present to request a purchase of over \$500.00 for all red lights for his vehicle. He currently has an old sheriff's vehicle with red and blue lights of which he has been able to use as he is a reserve officer. There have been issues with these lights and Mick would like to replace with all red incase the next EMA director is not a law enforcement officer. This will be at the cost of around \$1500.00. Mick is in various situations and wants to be seen and feels that lights are a necessity. Dave Dolezal moved to approve the purchase of the lights. Dave Abbott seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

**2017 CALENDAR**

Jackie Knafel, County Coordinator, had put together a 2017 calendar for commissioner's review. After review, Dave Abbott moved to approve the calendar with a second coming from Dave Dolezal. Motion carried 3-0.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Leachate report – duly entered  
Town of Albion invoice – duly entered – November Billing  
Town of Albion Invoice – duly entered - December Billing  
IDEM – Wastewater Treatment plant – City of Kendallville  
Noble County Court Security – November report – duly entered

**PAYROLL**

Payroll for the time period of 11-11-16 for 11/24/16 dated 12/08/2016 was reviewed. This report contained 6 pages and totaled \$419,968.72. Motion to approve the payroll came from Dave Dolezal. Dave Abbott seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

**LIBRARY APPOINTMENT**

A request for a board appointment was received from the Noble County Public Library. A letter of interest was also included from Gwen Jones, who lives on the west side which is the area represented by the resigning member Pat Voor. Dave Dolezal made a motion to appoint Gwen

Jones to fill the remaining term of Ms. Voor. Dave Abbott seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Appointment sent to Noble County Public Library 12/12/16 via first class mail.

#### CLAIMS

Utility Claims were reviewed by the Noble County Commissioners. This report contained 2 pages and totaled \$168,432.50.

Regular Claims were also reviewed along with Nicole Noe, Deputy Auditor. Fourteen pages were reviewed which totaled \$1,527,395.43.

Motion to approve both the Utility and Regular claims came with a motion from Dave Abbott and was seconded by Dave Dolezal. Motion carried 3-0.

#### HIGHWAY

Mark Goodrich, Highway Superintendent, and Zack Smith, Highway Engineer, conducted the opening of the Highway Supplies bids for 2017. After all bids were opened and reported, Zack suggested that the bids be accepted for review with a full report and awarding to be completed at the next commissioners meeting. Dave Dolezal made a motion to take all bids under advisement and review. Dave Abbott seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Mark Goodrich, Highway Superintendent, had the following information to share with the commissioners:

- Mark had a fiber optic line utility permit for 900 W. Dave Dolezal moved to approve Century Links request for a fiber optic line. Dave Abbott seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.
- Mark also had a request from Cody & Kasey Johnson on 600 E for a driveway variance. Mark indicated that the denial came from the sight distance being 50 ft. short, however because of the location the highway did not have a problem with the variance. Dave Dolezal moved to approve the variance with a second coming from Dave Abbott. Motion carried 3-0.

A citizen from Swan Township, John Leman, was present to discuss an issue that happened earlier this year with his yard. Mr. Leman had pictures of how his yard was cut up when the Highway came through in preparation of chip and sealing the road. Mark Goodrich said that he had been contacted by Mr. Leman prior to the county coming through asking for additional time to locate his irrigation system which Mark allowed and so when the county did the rest of his road – they skipped his property to allow him the additional time he required for location. When they were in the area again to do chip and seal, a different piece of equipment was used to push back the edge on his property. Also, Mark commented that Mr. Leman has a very well kept lawn and has “deep roots” which sometimes will cause the sod to tear rather than cut cleaning due to the depth of the root. Mr. Leman want a resolution to this problem and wants the county to come back out and repair the damage done. Zack indicated that the county is not in the lawn care business and does not have the equipment to “edge” etc..... as Mr. Leman requested, however, they would be willing to come back out with another piece of equipment and try to straighten the edge out – with no guarantee that the work will meet his expectations. Mr. Leman then left the meeting stating that he would pay to have the lawn repaired.

#### Engineering Business

Zack Smith, Highway Engineer, then continued with the engineering business as follows:

- Bridge Inspection – No Update
- Bridge 147 - Zack had a LPA voucher for this project which was signed with a motion from Dave Abbott and seconded by Dave Dolezal. Motion carried 3-0.
- Zack reported that Bridge 136 and the Baseline Road projects would be completed in 2021 but there was an early coordination meeting scheduled for these two projects.
- Community Crossing grant – Zack continues to contact the state for release of this money from the state.
- Highway Garage - the garage project is proceeding according to schedule with an expected completion date of February.
- Bridge 16 and 24 – bids will go out early next year.
- Speed Studies ordinance were given to the commissioners for review and approval for advertisement. This will be for 400 E and 225 E as well as a yield sign removal for 800W and 850 N.

- Zack also was requested to do a speed on 825 N which was also reviewed by the commissioners.
- Zack also brought up the “conflict of interest” policy and suggested that the county wait for more direction from the state. The commissioners tabled this issue until next year when more information can be gathered.

In closing for the highway business, Mark was asked how yesterday – first significant snowfall of the season went. Mark commented that there were several breakdowns and the drivers worked 12 hours on Sunday to try to keep up with the snow. The crews hit the road at 4:00AM today to continue their efforts.

#### UNSAFE HOUSING

Norm Lortie, Building Inspector, was present along with Neil Buckhardt to discuss the property located on 400 S. The removal of the trailer was to be complete by today. Norm indicated the Mr. Buckhardt has made progress and plans to build a home once all permitting is granted. This process is underway and Norm is willing to give Mr. Buckhardt the time he needs to complete what he wants to do. Mr. Buckhardt is asking for an extension to April. Dave Dolezal moved to review this case at the April 24, 2017 commissioners meeting at 9:30AM. Dave Abbott seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

The John Gries property was also on the agenda for review. This property is now owned by Mr. Gries’s daughter Angela Reed. This property is on Big Lake and Norm reported that the owners are keeping the outside of the property clean but is unaware of any progress being made on the inside. Norm had not been in contact with Ms. Reed for a while. Norm is suggesting that he be given time to try and reach Ms. Reed to get a plan in place. Dave Dolezal moved to also review this case at the April 24, 2017 meeting. Dave Abbott seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

#### REZONING

Raccoon Ridge/ Key Largo was again on the commissioners agenda for review. Kenneth Hughes, Plan Commission Director, was present along with Jim LaRowe and his attorney Chris Jansen for this meeting. Kenneth reported that this case was heard at its’ October meeting and to date he still does not have a legal of the portion that needs rezoned. Seth Tipton, attorney for Mr. Doug Jennings had spoken with Chris Jansen and all parties are in agreement that this case should be - again - tabled. Dave Abbott moved to table the Raccoon Ridge/Key Largo rezoning until January 9, 2017 at 9:30AM. Dave Dolezal seconded this motion. Motion carried 3-0.

#### LANDFILL CONTRACT

Derek Faulk. Wilcox Environmental, was present to discuss the landfill. Derek had a yearend summary of work that his company had completed in 2016. We are again getting high readings on GP 15 so are back to weekly readings at the probe. Derek said the one solution of the trench would be very costly in the amount of \$75,000 to \$125,000.00. He is suggesting that we add more vents on down south to try to stop the migration of methane to the north. Derek also indicated that the reports were complete and the company was only waiting on direction from IDEM. The deadline – at IDEM’s recommendation if February 1, 2017.

#### CREDIT CARD ISSUES

Stacey Beam, Chief Probation Officer, is present to again discuss the issues that the county is having with the credit card shared by probation, IT, the commissioners and the highway department. IT sometimes exceeds its limit of \$10,000.00 and then this blocks others from using the card. Stacey’s department had issues again this past week with officers being at a conference and the credit card being denied. The commissioners will contact Dave Baum during their lunch break and discuss this further after the drainage board meeting and lunch.

Motion to recess at 11:15AM until 1:00PM.

Back in Session 1:00PM

The commissioners were given the proclamation that was done on Sunday dealing with the weather situation. The proclamation declaring a travel advisory on Sunday December 11, 2016 at 4:00pm was signed along with the cancelation of the advisory declared at 12:00 Noon on December 12, 2016.

**ENCUMBRANCES**

The following encumbrances were approved with a motion from Dave Dolezal and a second from Dave Abbott. Motion carried 3-0.

• Sheriff	1001-22100-007	Gas oil lube	\$11,766.00
• Clerk Election	1001-36500-003	Equipment repairs	\$ 6,645.00
• Building Department	1001-47819-028	Unsafe Housing	\$11,470.00
• CEDIT	1112-47803-312	GIS	\$71,022.49
• CCD – HWY	1135-43200-107	Bridge Repairs	\$586,648.33
	1135-43870-107	Bridge 147	\$24,769.52
	1135-44001-107	Bridge Inspection	\$12,480.00
• Highway	1176-22100-104	Gas oil lube	\$40,000.00
• Adult Probation	2102-44000-246	computer software	\$ 8,750.99
	2102-44100-106	Furniture & equip	\$ 3,849.48
	2102-44100-246	furniture & equip	\$ 6,000.00
• Reassessment	1188-32101-234	Professional serv	\$12,250.00
	1188-44000-234	computer software	\$18,000.00

Denied was a request to encumber \$8,000.00 for IBTR hearings. This could not be determined the exact amount as some require attorneys and appraisals and some do not. This denial came with the same motion as above.

**ADJOURNMENT**

This session of the Board of Commissioners of Noble County was at approximately 1:30 P.M. recessed from day to day until the 19<sup>th</sup> of December, 2016.

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Gary D. Leatherman, President

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David J. Dolezal, Vice President

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David Abbott, Member

ATTESTED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tonya L. Marks, Auditor