

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD JANUARY 19, 2011**

Comes now the hour of 8:40 A.M. on the 19th day of January, 2011, at the Noble County Highway Garage, Albion, Indiana, being the time, date and place set for a special session of the Board of Commissioners of Noble County, Indiana.

PRESENT:

Joy LeCount, President
Jack Herendeen, Vice President
Dave Dolezal, Member

ALSO PRESENT:

Jacqueline L. Knafel, Noble County Auditor
Mike Fitch, County Highway Engineer
Russ Leitch, County Highway Superintendent
Bob Braley, KPC

Joy LeCount called the meeting to order at approximately 8:40 AM.

The purpose of today's meeting was to discuss the county road projects for 2011 and the funds available to do such projects.

Russ Leitch presented the commissioners with a up to date fund ledger and told the commissioners that the highway department currently has around\$ 1, 150,000.00 available in 2011 for road projects. Russ indicated that he is presently looking at 7.5 miles on Old State Road 3 to double chip & seal and 7.8 miles on 350 S from St Rd 109 to St Rd 5. If these projects are completed, this will leave a balance of around \$175,000.00, which Russ would like to be able to do smaller projects in each of the remaining 10 townships. Russ told the commissioners that 150 E is in need of work but the commissioners with the help of the Highway Engineer are looking at Federal Funding for County Road 150E.

Joy LeCount informed the board that each county is only allowed so many miles of federally funded projects and if 150 E is accepted then some miles of road may need to be eliminated from the already funded list.

Mike Fitch is to meet with Dave Armstrong today at 1:30 PM and will discuss the bridge projects and will also discuss some of the above questions with him at that same time.

The commissioners agreed with Russ about the projects of old state road 3 and 350 E and told Russ to proceed with his plans for those roads.

Striping was also discussed and certainly the old state road 3 is a road that will need to be striped. The striping cost was not figured into the above mentioned costs.

The commissioners then discussed bridge projects. Bridge 134 on county road 225E is a project in the works and the county has been awarded in excess of one million dollars for the engineering and preliminary work to be done but have yet to be approved for the actual construction of the bridge. Jack Herendeen said that he is also concerned with the safety of Bridge 136 on County Road 300 E. Both of the bridges are over the railroad and the clearance of the bridge by today's standards is not acceptable. Joy LeCount also mentioned Bridge 70 in Elkhart Township which has been a topic of concern. Mike was aware of the issues of the Bridge 70 over the Elkhart River and would look into whether this may be a project of repair rather than a new construction project.

Mike will review the striping issue and take out the stimulus roads as striping is included in the projects on those roads and then will meet with Russ to determine what roads will be striped in the County.

Other Pending Issues:

- Russ said that Jack and he are to meet with the guy concerning the paver Friday at 9:00AM.
- Russ has received an e-mail from a couple who had just moved to the area and was wondering when they might expect their road (County Road 1075E which is now gravel) to be paved. Russ will respond to the e-mail and inform the couple of the financial restraints that the county is dealing with.
- Russ reported to the commissioners that the truck involved in a recent accident with a county truck was probably totaled but there were no injuries.
- Russ asked the commissioners if it would be acceptable for himself and another highway employee to attend the upcoming LTAP conference at Purdue. The commissioners did not have a problem with that and thought that the agenda would be very informative.
- Russ has been looking into regrind, which is ground up asphalt, to mix with stone to put on some gravel roads. He thought that this might save money and also be less costly for dust control. Pulvers have this regrind for \$7.00 a ton.
- Joy LeCount asked Russ if he had records of the road projects that have been done in the recent years. Russ was able to produce the maps from the last ten years on road projects. The projects have lessened over the years due to the increased costs and less revenue for the county.
- Joy reported that Jim Mowery was continuing to study the Highway Department remodeling project and the concerns that the commissioners have with the project.
- Joy asked Dave and Jack if they had a chance to review the draft letter she had provided to them with her concerns of the UDO project. She would like to have their input or concerns before tonight's meeting at the South Complex.
- Dave Dolezal said that there needed to be a "Stop Ahead" sign on 300 S going East before the 4 way stop at 300 S and 300 E. Russ said that there is suppose to be one there and wondered if it had been knocked down. He would check on that today.
- There was a brief discussion on how to handle the schools and closings. Russ indicated that he, if he knows there is a chance of bad weather, checks the roads at 2:30AM and if needed calls the guys in to work by 4:00AM.

Russ reported to the commissioners that we had received around \$1900.00 for the insurance money for the chain saws that were recently stolen. The cost of replacement would be around \$3600.00. Russ is asking for the commissioner's okay for a purchase over the \$500.00 range. Dave Dolezal made a motion to allow the purchase of the chain saws and Jack seconded

the motion. Jack wants to make sure that Russ purchases something that is capable to what we had so that the recently purchased chain and oil/gas mix will work for the new chain saws. Russ assured them that he would get something that he could use the already purchased items with. Motion carried 3-0.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Noble County Commissioners, the meeting was recessed at approximately 10:40 A.M. until their regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, January 24th, 2011.

Joy Y. LeCount, President

Jack W. Herendeen, Vice President

David J. Dolezal, Member

ATTESTED: _____
Jacqueline L. Knafel, Auditor