

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR SESSION OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD OCTOBER 7, 2013**

Comes now the hour of 8:32 A.M. on the 7th day of October, 2013, 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
Chad Kline, Member

Also present were:

Marion S. Cavanaugh, Deputy Auditor
Dennis Graft, County Attorney
and Scott Perry, News Media

CUSTODIAL POSITION

Gary reported that last Wednesday the Commissioners interviewed 5 candidates from the 11 applications they received for the Custodial position. He said they had good interviews from all five. Chad moved to offer the position to Tim Lock. Dave seconded the motion and it carried, 3-0. Auditor Jackie Knafel presented letters to be sent to the applicants that didn't get chosen for Gary's signature, (H.I.).

DRUG FREE – ELECTRICAL WORK AT SOUTH COMPLEX

Becky Calhoun from Noble County Drug Free came before the Commissioners to discuss the need for some additional electric outlets in the front office at the South Complex where Drug Free will be located. She explained to the Commissioners what was needed.

Becky said October 15th is their proposed date to move to the South Complex. She said they had talked about using the Chain O'Lakes Camp Crew and they were told it would cost \$250.00 for that. Becky asked if that is something Drug Free would have to pay or if the Commissioners would pay for it. Chad said it is something Drug Free would have to pay, because otherwise it would come from the Surveyor's budget.

Gary told Becky the Commissioners would see to it that the electrical box is installed.

CLERK'S REPORT – AUGUST 2013

The Commissioners received the above referenced report, (H.I.).

CLAIMS APPROVED

After reviewing the claims and getting answers to their questions, Dave moved to approve the regular claims and the supplemental claims. Chad seconded the motion and it carried, 3-0.

COURT SECURITY REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2013

The Commissioners received a report from Courthouse Security showing that 3902 people went through security in September, 15 people were incarcerated, and there was one emergency response, (H.I.).

STERLING INSURANCE, INC. – REQUEST TO BID EMPLOYEES MEDICAL AND ANCILLARY BENEFITS

The Commissioners received the above referenced request from Thomas Weartz, President of Sterling Insurance, Inc., (H.I.). Chad said they are a little bit late for this year. The Commissioners requested that Jackie reply to the letter, which she did, (H.I.).

MINUTES APPROVED

After reviewing the minutes of the *September 30, 2013* meeting Chad moved to approve them. Dave seconded the motion and it carried, 3-0.

WOOD-LAND-LAKES RC&D – DAVE DOLEZAL REAPPOINTED

Dave said his appointment to Wood-Land-Lakes RC & D will be up at the end of the year and they would like to have him reappointed. Chad moved to approve Dave for another three year term. Gary seconded the motion and it carried, 3-0.

HIGHWAY BUSINESS – MIKE FITCH, ENGINEER & MARK GOODRICH, SUPERINTENDENT UTILITY PERMITS

Mark presented Utility Permit #UP-051-13 from Noble REMC for work on CR 250 S between CR 50 W and US Hwy 33 in Noble Township and #UP-052-13 from the Knapp Lake Area Conservancy District for work at: 200 S; 950 W; Turkey Creek Drive; Bause Lake Drive; Harper Lake Drive; 900 W; 90 S; North Shore Drive; Woodview Drive; Madison Drive; Circle Drive; Highland Drive; Wildwood Drive; Oakwood Drive; Parkside Drive; April Drive; May Drive; and June Drive for a pressure sewer, force main structure, electrical conduit and electrical risers, (H.I.).

SIDE BLADES FOR SNOW REMOVAL

Dave asked if the Highway Department ever uses side plows. Mark said they don't because most of the roads aren't wide enough and they would be hitting a lot of mailboxes with the snow.

TREE REMOVAL AT BIG LAKE

Mark said he got in touch with Jay Painter at Big Lake about the tree removal, and he said he would be willing to cost share if we elected to go that route. Gary asked if the \$1200.00 quote was to take down both trees. Mark said it was. He said Jay told him the gentleman (Mr. Sprague) was bonded, and he would contact him and get a copy of his insurance if that is the route the Commissioners want to go. Dave moved to approve the tree removal pending verification of insurance and bonding. Chad seconded the motion and it carried, 3-0.

REAR DIFFERENTIAL REPAIR

Mark reported that they had two rear differentials repaired last week and the total cost was \$3,390.29. Chad moved to approve the expense over \$2,000.00 for rear differentials. Dave seconded the motion and it carried, 3-0.

TRUCK #11 REPAIRS - HYDRAULIC PUMP & VALVE

Mark said they had the hydraulic pump repaired on truck #11 because it was leaking fluid really bad. He said they got it all back together and the pressure was running low, and it appears a valve in the front has a broken spring in it which causes the pressure to stay down. Mark said the valve helps control a constant pressure. He said the valve assembly is \$2,000.00. Mark said Doug is going to call today to see if he can get more information before they replace the valve, but he would like permission to spend the \$2000.00 if needed. Dave moved to approve the repair to the valve assembly in the event they can't get parts to repair it. Chad seconded the motion and it carried, 3-0.

PHASE II LINE STRIPING

Mike said he received quotes from Three Rivers and Air Markings for the Phase II line striping. He said Three Rivers had the lowest cost per foot and he gave them notice to proceed on Friday. Mike said the total estimated cost is around \$48,000.00. There was discussion about which roads would be striped. Mike said this is a little more expensive because the slag material we are using on some roads takes two coats of paint the first time it is painted, but it holds the paint longer.

45 MPH SPEED LIMIT – LISBON ROAD

Mike presented a proposed speed limit ordinance for Lisbon Road (CR E 415 N) from SR 3 to CR N 1000 E in Allen Township as was discussed last week, (H.I.). Chad said Mike had also talked about continuing the speed limit on further east to get people to slow down before approaching the intersection. Mike said he looked at that and he thinks we are ok there with the current speed limit. He said going westbound towards 1000 E there is a "Stop Ahead Sign". Mike said he would also like to put a sign that shows there is a "T" intersection and put an advisory sign to reduce speed to 25 MPH on the same post. He said that would be before the top of the hill. Mike said there isn't any requirement for an ordinance to place that sign.

Chad moved to approve the advertisement for an ordinance regulating the speed to 45 MPH on CR 415 N between State Road 3 and 1000 E. Dave seconded the motion and it carried, 3-0.

CR 415 DRAINAGE WORK

Mark said they are going to try to finish the berm and lawn work on CR 415 in the next two days, and do the seeding on Wednesday or Thursday.

UPDATE ON WETLAND MITIGATION SITE FOR 1000 E PROJECT

Mike said he received information on the wetland mitigation from Kim Skiver from Earth Source, (H.I.). Mike said Kim met with John Roberts from the Army Corps of Engineers, and from that meeting it was determined that the site needs 60 additional trees planted, because there is a minimum amount of trees that need to be there. He said there are some trees that are still alive that were planted 5 years ago, but they are only about 12 - 18 inches tall, and the Corps is not going to let us count those trees. Mike said Heartland Restoration would be planting the trees and they have an estimated cost of \$1,980.00 for 60 containerized trees, (H.I.). He said they feel if they plant containerized trees they will have a better chance of surviving. Mike said with the new trees being planted they are going to require monitoring for two more years, and the cost for the monitoring is \$3,375.00 a year. He said that includes mowing. Mike said the trees that are going to be planted will be at least 3' in height. Mike said the site inspection fees will

include a spring, summer and fall visit. He said during the inspections they will: check the conditions of the pipe; check for erosion; check the vegetation; apply herbicide as needed; and mow as needed. Mike said in addition to the three site visits a year they will prepare a report and send it to the Corps. He said all total, it comes out to a little under \$10,000.00. Mike said he asked about the possibility of getting federal funding or assistance for this, and he hadn't received a reply yet. There was discussion about money that has been set aside and what would still be needed. Mike said he is willing to go back to Earth Source to try to negotiate something less than that, because it seems like a lot of money. Chad asked if the Army Corps has approved the plan. Mike said based on what Tim said, this is what John Richey said he would require.

PUBLIC HEARING - SPEED LIMIT ORDINANCE IN ELKHART TWP. – CR 1050 N, 500' N & 500' W OF WEST WALDRON LAKE SCHOOL

No one being present to object to the ordinance, Dave moved to approve the it. Chad seconded the motion and it carried, 3-0.

REPLACEMENT OF PLOTTERS

Dave Baum, IT said there is a plotter/copier that the Surveyor has been using for years that was originally in the Recorder's Office that has been cobbled together forever and is due to be replaced. He said the plotter in Steve Hooks Office is almost ten years old and it is about due for replacement too. Dave said they have replaced parts on it. Dave said he would like to replace the Surveyor's existing black and white laser scanner/plotter with a color 36 inch wide unit that is even cheaper than the black and white unit. He said he would like to replace Steve Hook's unit upstairs with one that is 44 inches wide. Dave said Steve has a 66' unit up there now but we never print anything that big. He said since that unit is still functional he would relocate it to Weber Road and let Mick Newton be the primary user of it. Dave said we would maintain it with our own IT labor until we can no longer keep it running and then we would get rid of it. He said he didn't think we want to purchase the 24 month extended warranty for the two units until the first year of the basic warranty elapses. He said that would give us a chance to see if they have maintenance issues or not, and at that time we can purchase the extended warranties.

Dave Dolezal asked if it is cheaper to lease them than to buy them. Dave Baum said he has the money to buy them and he didn't see a benefit to leasing them. He said it would be \$11,400.00 to purchase them. Dave said he might have to buy some supplies but that would come out of his maintenance budget and he didn't think anything would be over \$500.00.

Dave Dolezal moved to replace the plotters for the Surveyor's Office and GIS in the amount of \$11,400.00. Chad seconded the motion and it carried, 3-0.

RECESSED AND RECONVENED

The Commissioners recessed their meeting at approximately 10:56 A.M. and reconvened at approximately 11:12 A.M.

WELLS FARGO INSURANCE – HEALTH INSURANCE RENEWAL FOR 2014

Shelly Hanson from Wells Fargo came before the Commissioners to go over the Health Insurance Renewal costs for 2014 and to explain changes that have been made. She presented the information she was going to talk about, (H.I.). Shelly went over some health care reform things. She said last year the county had to pay the research fee which was a dollar per person,

and in 2014 that will increase to \$2.00 per person. Shelly said based on the number of insured's through August it would be about \$804.00. She said the county will be subject to the reinsurance fee this year to fund the individual mandate, and it is \$63.00 per person. Shelly said Pro-Claim will report that to the HHS by November 15th, and then the HHS will tell the county what they owe for the fee. She said if looking through the end of August, the reinsurance fee would be about \$25,326.00.

Shelly said the renewal this year is not what she would have liked to have seen because it is higher than it has been in the last couple of years. She said the reason is that there have been a lot of high claims the last two years. Shelly said they are saying they want an increase of 27% on the fixed cost and a 9% increase overall. She said she doesn't like the 27% because that is what the county is paying out every month. Shelly said she asked for a couple of options which she will review with the Commissioners later.

Shelly talked about the companies that they asked to quote the insurance. She said they only got four companies (out of 10) to actually quote. Shelly said we have an individual with a laser of \$150,000.00 which means that instead of the first \$60,000.00 to be picked up by the county, they will pick up the first \$150,000.00 on this person.

Shelly said she would like the Commissioners to consider Renewal 2 in section 4. She said we could get the fixed cost down to a 17% increase with a 7% overall. Shelly said this quote has what is called an aggregating specific deductible. She said that keeps the fixed costs down, but if you would have someone that hit the specific deductible then the county would pay an additional \$30,000.00 and that could be for 1, 2 or 3 people. Shelly said if no one meets the specific, then you don't pay anything and you have decreased the fixed cost by \$30,000.00. When asked by Dave, Shelly said we have had three people hit the specific for the last three years. Dave asked if we stayed at 3, if renewal 2 would cost us more or less. Shelly said if there are 2 that hit the specific the county would still be saving \$10,000.00. She said if you don't have any hit it you would save \$30,000.00 and if you have 1 hit it you would save \$20,000.00. She said it is kind of a gamble. She said this is the renewal (renewal 2) she would recommend because there is a chance to save the \$30,000.00 where if we just take the renewal we don't even have a chance to save.

Shelly said ProClaim, the third party administrator is raising their cost 50 cents a month per employee. She said she thinks that is justifiable with everything that they have to do with health care reform. Shelly said there are a lot of different programming things they have to do. She said ProClaim is still extremely competitive with everybody else's fee. Shelly said Signature Care, our PPO network would also be increasing their costs from \$4.00 - \$4.25 per employee per month. She said they hadn't raised their fees for years.

Shelly said she did go out and look at another network hoping we could get some better discounts. She said she looked at the Cigna network and unfortunately the re-insurance carrier didn't feel that the savings would be great enough and were actually going to increase their fees if we made the move, so we will just stay put.

Shelly went over the costs to the county for the insurance. She said the total plan costs right now are \$1,269,000.00. She said in 2006 the cost was \$1,500,000.00 and they had been able to stay under that since then. Shelly said currently the plan is grandfathered, and she thinks we should stay grandfathered.

Shelly said the prescription drug costs are down from last year. She said she is hoping that it has to do with the WeCare Clinic and more people are going there for generics.

Shelly said she recommended making a change to the office visit co-pays this year by \$5.00. She said there will also be an increase to prescriptions of \$5.00, and there will be a slight increase to the employee contribution to generate a little extra revenue.

When asked, Shelly said that through August there were 402 people covered under the plan, which includes spouses and children. There was discussion that people that pay for insurance are paying a portion of the insurance for those that can't afford it. There was discussion about the Obama Affordable Care Act.

While discussing renewal options, Shelly explained that if we go with the #2 renewal option, we would have the possibility to save \$10,000.00 per person if three people did not go over the specific. She said when asked by Chad, that there is no additional charge over the \$30,000.00 if four people go over the \$60,000.00 specific.

Chad moved to accept renewal #2 with a 17% increase. After further discussion, Dave seconded the motion to go with renewal plan #2, and the motion carried, 3-0.

Chad asked about the vision and dental renewal costs. Shelly said the vision has a July renewal. She said the dental insurance will increase 5% which is a little below the trend. Jackie said the employees pay for the dental and vision insurance.

BIOTERRORISM GRANT

Cheryl Munson, County Health Nurse and Corey Simcox, our contract person involved with the grant came before the Commissioners to answer any questions they have. Corey gave

the Commissioners a brief overview of what has been done with the grant money and she said they have had a very successful three years. She talked about the many events they have participated in. Corey talked about the discussions they have had with the schools about doing the POD at the schools. She said they will have to do a full POD activity this year. She said they also have to submit a full inventory of emergency supplies this year.

Corey said they will be working on fatality management this year. She updated the Commissioners on the other things they have been working on and participating in.

Dave asked if the grant amount is \$15,000.00. Corey said it is and she will be getting paid \$11,000.00 out of that, and \$4,000.00 will go for supplies.

Cheryl said most of the supplies are at Weber Road. She said she thought the tables and chairs are still being stored at the Albion Town Hall. There was discussion about storage room.

Dave moved to approve the application for renewal of the grant. Chad seconded the motion and it carried, 3-0.

Chad said he didn't think the Commissioners need to tell them what they can and can't spend their grant money on when the State and Federal Government already have guidelines telling what they can spend it on. There was discussion on what would happen if all of the Bioterrorism grant money had been spent and we didn't meet all of the requirements of the grant. Corey said we could be penalized, and normally they would just withhold the amount of the penalty from the next grant we apply for.

Cheryl asked if the only money she needs to get approval to spend is if it comes from the County General Fund. Chad said that, and if it is something that would end up costing money from the General Fund such as insurance, license plates, etc.

COUNCIL ON AGING – QUARTERLY REPORT

Gregg Parker from the Council on Aging came before the Commissioners to review their quarterly report. Gregg said the rides for the quarter were up a little bit, and the amount of fuel used is down a little bit. He said they have been able to double up and triple up more, especially on medical trips to Fort Wayne. Gregg said the total costs are up a little, but that is because the State has required them to calculate the costs differently, which he explained.

Dave asked if they have two new vehicles. Gregg said they have two new mini-vans that just went into service two weeks ago. He said he just found out that the Sedan that they had applied for is available. Chad asked if they are cycling out vehicles or adding to the fleet. Gregg said they are adding to the fleet. He said at this time he didn't think he was going to sell any. He said there is an old van that has almost 350,000 miles on it that runs well. He said he was going to keep it for employees to use rather than getting paid mileage. Gary asked how many vehicles they will have then. Gregg said they will have 17. He said when they pick up the next two, probably at the end of the year, then he would have some to sell. Gregg said when they had their 5311 compliance review at the end of last year they told him he didn't have enough back-ups.

Dave asked about the advertising on the vans. Gregg said they would receive about \$10,000.00 this year for the advertising wraps that are put on the vans, and that they have to pay about 15% of that in taxes.

Chad moved to approve for Gary to sign the Contract Invoice Voucher for reimbursement for Noble Transit. Dave seconded the motion and it carried, 3-0.

UNCLAIMED SURPLUS MONEY FOR TAX SALE

Deputy Auditor Sheri Auld told the Commissioners that three years after a tax sale if there is any unclaimed surplus money it can be transferred to the County General Fund, (H.I.). She presented a letter explaining that there is \$243.07 in unclaimed surplus money from the 2010 tax sale. Gary asked if the person that didn't claim the money could come in next year to claim it. Dennis said they are out of luck. He said three years is the limit.

Chad made a motion to move the surplus of \$243.07 of the unclaimed tax sale money from 2010 to the General Fund. Dave seconded the motion and it carried, 3-0.

DEEDS FOR TAX SALE PROPERTIES THAT DIDN'T SELL

Sheri also presented three quit claim deeds for property that the County had taken possession of. Chad moved to approve the quit claim deeds for Zimmerman's 2nd Addition (part of) Lot 1 in Avilla to Timothy & Shelly Turner; the second one to David & Bobbie Likens of Marshall County, Kentucky, a plat of ground in Wawaka near Steinbarger Lake; and the third one to Roger & Sherri Thon, a triangular piece of property at the intersection of Appleman and Riley Road. Dave seconded the motion and it carried, 3-0.

2013 TAX SALE UPDATE

Chad asked how the tax sale went on October 3rd. Auditor Jackie Knafel said there weren't as many bidders as we have had before, but it went well. She said we got rid of probably 60% of the properties that were available. Jackie said we took in \$519,000.00. Sheri said there will be 31 Certificates that are left over. She said some of them are repeats from previous years.

LETTERS TO APPLICANTS FOR CUSTODIAL POSITION

Jackie presented letters she had prepared to send to the applicants for the Custodial position who were not selected, (H.I.). She had a letter for the applicants that had interviews and one for those who weren't interviewed. Gary signed the letters.

ADJOURNMENT

This session of the Board of Commissioners of Noble County was at approximately 11:49 A.M. recessed from day to day until the 14th day of October, 2013 on a motion made by Dave and seconded by Chad which carried, 3-0.

Gary Leatherman, President

David J. Dolezal, Vice President

Chad Kline, Member

ATTESTED: _____
Jacqueline L. Knafel, Auditor

