

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD AUGUST 11, 2014**

Comes now the hour of 8:44 A.M. on the 11th day of August, 2014, in the Commissioners Court in the Noble County Courthouse, Albion, Indiana, being the time, date and place set for a special 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 Bob Braley & Scott Perry, News Media

**SHERIFF – MEDICAL CONTRACT & OFFENDER
OUTSOURCING FROM DEKALB COUNTY**

Sheriff Doug Harp was present to talk to the Commissioners about the contract with Quality Correctional Care for medical services which had been discussed previously. Doug also presented a letter from Chantell M. Spohr, the Jail Nurse, indicating that she would be resigning effective December 31, 2014, contingent on the signed contract with Quality Correctional Care, (H.I.). Chantell indicated that if Quality Correctional Care were to be dismissed from working for the county she would like to be considered for the position she currently holds as the nurse for the Noble County Jail.

Doug said he talked to the sheriff from DeKalb County last week, and they have capped their population and are looking to outsource some offenders. He said Steuben already has ten offenders, and he talked to him about us taking ten. Doug said DeKalb has the same vendor for medical provisions. Chad asked if we would get hit for the medical bill on the offenders. Doug said we wouldn't. He said it would be just like with the DOC housing where the medical would be taken care of. Gary asked if we would be housing them for free. Doug said we would be charging for it. Dennis asked what the rate would be. Doug said it would be the same as with the DOC, \$35.00.

Dennis said he had reviewed the contract and didn't have a problem with it, but he advised the Commissioners to wait until after the Council Budget Hearings to sign it.

LANDFILL DISCUSSION

Bill Etzler, Engineering Resources told the Commissioners that he did a lot of research last week with the information he got from IDEM. He said they are starting to scan in all of the information and eventually they will have a file available. Bill said he will be meeting with the tank manufacturer tomorrow to get final approval on the shop drawing so they can move forward. He said once that is done they will give him a delivery schedule. Bill said they should

get a letter off to IDEM sometime next week with all of the information they have requested. He said over the next couple of weeks they will be getting everything ready so when the tank is available all we will have to do is to drop it into place. Dave asked if Mike could do all of the site prep. Bill said once we get all of the details put together he will meet with him and they could decide if that is the best approach. Gary said if we get it scheduled ahead, the county could go out there with their grade-all. Bill said they want to get it done at the least cost and get it done quickly so we can start gathering some pertinent data.

RECESSED AND RECONVENED

The Commissioners recessed their meeting at approximately 9:00 A.M. and reconvened at approximately 9:10 A.M.

HIGHWAY BUSINESS – ZACK SMITH & MARK GOODRICH **HIGHWAY EMPLOYEE ACCIDENT**

Mark reported that one of the truck drivers had an accident last week and it was his fault. He said he didn't see the vehicle coming and he made a left hand turn in front of it. Mark said it was his second time in less than a year of having an accident like this and he was written up and given a 3-day suspension. He presented an accident report which the Commissioners reviewed (none for file). Dave asked if they hit the truck or if he had a trailer. Mark said it was actually a self-propelled broom.

ROAD SEALING

Mark said we are still on schedule to have the late sealing process done by Labor Day weekend. He said that would have everything double sealed as well as the reconstructed roads being triple sealed.

DISTRIBUTOR PROBLEMS

Mark said they are having trouble with the computer in the distributor. He said it has shut the pump down several times. Mark said Southeastern has been working with us to try to get the issue resolved and they think it is loose wires. Mark said the technician that came out said that is not uncommon with a new truck because with the extreme heat of the tar the fittings start to expand and contract and they will get a little bit loose. Dave asked what the warranty is on it. Mark said thought it was one year. Dave said when we shut it down for the winter if we still have issues we should have Southeastern take it in and go through it. He also asked Mark to make sure he documents all of the problems.

BRIDGE #70 – Zack we have a tentative start date of August 18th. He said they were talking about putting out road closure signs today to get people used to seeing them.

BRIDGE OVERLAYS – Zack said the overlays are still scheduled for a mid-September start date.

BRIDGE #147 – Zack said he would get all of the RFP's on Friday. He said he would review them and have them at the August 18th meeting for the Commissioners review. Zack said he had the DOT contract with INDOT. He said he would like to get that signed today because it could take 6 – 8 weeks for review. Zack said basically it says we will follow all of the guidelines. Chad moved to approve the INDOT Local Public Agency (LPA) Coordination Contract. Dave seconded the motion and it carried, 3-0, (H.I.).

BRIDGE INSPECTION PROPOSALS – Zack said he is still waiting for the Notice to Proceed. He said everything should be ready to go by the time we get it.

LPA CALL FOR PROJECTS – Zack said he thought the 3 projects that we are going to put in for would be based on what would grade the highest, and they would be Bridge #136, Bridge #55, and Baseline Road. He said Baseline Road would probably grade much higher after this weekend (fatal accident) in the area of safety.

AID SUBMISSION – He said he is still waiting on this and has no idea how long it will take.

CR 1000 E SPEED LIMIT – Zack said they have all of the data collected and we should have no problem raising that speed limit. He said the average speed on one of the counters was 63 MPH. Zack said we have plenty of traffic information to justify changes. Chad asked Zack if he would work with the City Engineer on that. Zack said he had talked to Scott a couple of times. He said preliminarily he thought we could have the city extend their speed limit beyond where the park is and then adjust ours to where it needs to be.

SAFETY POLICY – Zack said they haven't finished the safety policy but they have been making progress at their safety meetings. He said they will have a list of 3 – 5 things based on things seasonally, or based on recent issues we have had and they will push that at meetings and also post it around the office.

OBSTRUCTION IN ROADWAY AND DITCH - Zack said Dennis had prepared a letter to send to Jim and Geraldine Meyers about the obstruction in the roadway (400 S) caused by dirt piled in the roadway on July 14, 2014, as well as the filling in of the county ditch, (H.I.).

ADMINISTRATIVE SUBDIVISION ROAD DEDICATION – Zack said he and Dennis attended a BZA meeting last week and the way the UDO is set up it doesn't require a dedication for an Administrative Subdivision, which is where we are running into problems. He said they are looking at getting that updated. Dennis said Everett is going to meet with him and Zack and then they will make recommendations on amending the UDO.

TRAFFIC RELATED FATALITIES - Zack reported on two traffic related fatalities in the county over the weekend. He said the first was on Baseline Road by 600 E and it involved a motorcycle and a truck. Zack said speed was a factor and he is going to push for the project for the most unsafe intersection in the county. Zack said there was a fatal accident on 6 and 9. He said he would get the accident report today and get back with Dana who is in the traffic division of INDOT, to talk to him about that specifically.

30 MPH SIGN REMOVAL STUDY – Zack said when Keith was here, he was under the understanding that they were Urban Residential Speed Limits per Indiana Code. He said you can do a study to document why the speed limits don't meet the criteria then you can remove them because they aren't enforced by any ordinance. Zack said they have done the field work and now all it is going to take is some time in the office to finish it.

WEIGHTS & MEASURES REPORT – JUNE 15 – JULY 15, 2014

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

IDEM – METHANE MONITORING AT LANDFILL

The Commissioners received notice from IDEM that they had received letters about monitoring being done at the landfill, (H.I.). The letter also said that IDEM staff had met with Bill Etzler on July 30, 2014 to discuss the facility's plan to investigate and improve leachate capture and disposal, and they asked for documentation on the tank that is going to be purchased to capture the leachate as well as other information they need.

IDEM – ALUMINUM RECOVERY TECHNOLOGY –

MODIFICATION AND RENEWAL OF AIR PERMIT

The Commissioners received notice of the above referenced application to IDEM, (H.I.).

TREASURER'S REPORT – JULY 2014

The Treasurer's Report for July, 2014 was submitted, (H.I.).

NIPSCO – CORPORATE CONTRIBUTION

Gary said he had a copy of correspondence from NIPSCO that was addressed to Rick Sherk (Noble County Economic Development Director) regarding a 2014 corporate contribution.

BEAR, HIGH, WOLF LAKE REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT – BOARD MEMBER APPOINTMENTS – CARL NIX INTERESTED

The Commissioners received a letter from Carl Nix from Bear Lake indicating his desire to be on the board and listing some of his experience in different areas, (H.I.). Dave said he received a call from Judy, one of the board members, and she was concerned that the Commissioners are appointing board members without running it past the Sewer Board. Dave moved to table the decision on Carl Nix until after the Sewer Board has seen the letter and reported back. Chad seconded the motion and it carried, 3-0.

USDA – REPORTED COMMODITY CROP HISTORY SURVEY

The Commissioners received a letter from the USDA regarding the 2014 Farm Bill that the President signed February 7, 2014, (H.I.). Also enclosed was the Reported Commodity Crop History Summary of property owned by the county, (H.I.).

MINUTES APPROVED

After reviewing the minutes of the *August 4, 2014* meeting and making corrections, Dave moved to approve them. Chad seconded the motion and it carried, 3-0.

PAY RAISES FOR EMPLOYEES & PERF INCREASE

Jackie Knafel, Auditor asked if the Commissioners want to make a recommendation to the Council about employee pay raises. There was discussion about the raise in the percentage of PERF that has to be paid next year. There was also discussion about the General Fund difference from this year to next year. When asked by Dave, Jackie said the last time the Commissioners got a raise was in 2010. Chad asked about the raise in PERF. Jackie said it is a percentage of the employee's salaries. Chad said on a \$30,000.00 salary they would get \$1200.00 additional in PERF. There was discussion about the study that had been done on salaries. Chad asked if Waggoner, Irwin & Scheele had been able to find some areas where employees are grossly underpaid. Jackie said some of the Sheriff's employees such as the Road Deputies. She said when looking at other county employee's pay, Noble County is always lower. Chad said DeKalb County, for example, pays their employees more but the county is also broke.

Chad moved to not exceed 2% of the average of the salaries across the board. He said they are already getting a 4% raise in their PERF and that would make it a 6% raise. After

further discussion Dave seconded the motion and it carried, 3-0. Chad said that would be “if” a raise is given at all. There was also discussion that the preference would be if there is a raise that it be a specific dollar amount and not a percentage amount.

COURTHOUSE LANDSCAPING

There was discussion about the landscaping that is being proposed for the courthouse lawn. Chad said he would like for the companies to come in and give a presentation with pictures of what is being proposed. Gary said he would like the presentation without the bid amount and then the Commissioners can decide based on what they are looking at. There was discussion that possibly some of the landscaping could be done this year and some next year to spread the cost out.

BUILDING INSPECTOR POSITION

There was discussion about the replacement of the Building Inspector

COUNTY COORDINATOR POSITION

There was a brief discussion about the County Coordinator Position that will possibly be added for 2014, and what the Commissioners would expect from that person. Chad asked about getting a job description from Paula with Waggoner-Irwin-Scheele to see if they have a comparable job description that we could look at to see if it is something we are looking for.

COUNCIL ON AGING PLANNING GRANT

Gregg Parker, Director of the Noble County Council on Aging and Kristine Christlieb, Community Development Planner with Region 3-A came before the Board to get permission to apply for a planning grant. Gregg said the Council on Aging is interested in pursuing a planning grant for the Noble County Council on Aging, and Kristine said we need to get permission to do that. He said they have space problems at the current location and it has been affecting the attendance for activities because of parking issues, and the building is in need of some major work. He said they were thinking it might be a wise move to go through a planning grant to see if it is feasible to renovate where they are now or if they should relocate. Dave asked if there is more space available for parking. Gregg said there isn't. He said currently the vans are parked on property owned by the library to save parking spaces. Dave asked if there is no more room for parking why they would spend the money to see if it is feasible to renovate. Gregg said the grant would be specifically for a Senior Center and would not include the transit portion. Chad said there are OCRA (Office of Community and Rural Affairs) grants available for the purchase or renovation of a new building. He asked if the planning grant is required for that and if it helps. Kristine said it definitely helps with the scoring for the construction application, but it is not required. She said this is more specific in a situation where they don't exactly know their best course of action. Chad asked if the county would just be seen as the pass-through agency. Kristine said “Yes”, the county would be the applicant and the money would come through them. Kristine talked about the match portion of the grant and what could be used for that match. Gregg said as part of the planning grant it will help determine if they can even afford to do anything. There was discussion about the proposed time line for the planning grant and what will be needed. Dave asked Gregg if they have any money to commit to this. Gregg said they do have enough money to cover the planning. Chad said the question is if we want to be the agency for this, and they would still have to go to the Council for the grant. Chad said the

current building is not conducive for elderly and handicapped people. He said there are a lot more services they could provide if they had more parking.

Dave moved to approve the submission of the grant with Noble County being the pass-through agent with a minimum to be determined. Chad seconded the motion and it carried, 3-0. Chad told Gregg the Council would also need to approve the grant, and he could help with that if help is needed.

MAUMEE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

Steve Hook, GIS Coordinator, Mick Newton, EMA Director and Randy Sexton, Noble County Surveyor were present to present a check from the Maumee River Basin Commission in the amount of \$13,039.85 to help cover the Change Finder Program to update the Building Outlines/Footprint Pictometry which will assist in the Flood Mitigation Plan. Randy said the Maumee River Basin Commission only has about a third of the watershed within in our county and Rodney has been exceptional. He said if there is anything we need we call him up and we get an answer right away. There was discussion about the multiple uses of the Change Finder Program. Mick said Rodney is such a resource for them anytime they call him in for recovery efforts and mitigation efforts. He said he thought this software will help us if we have a disaster in damage estimation, and if we have to access the amount of debris he thinks this will help us in getting those numbers using some of the data. Gary asked when this would be available. Steve said he has been told that hopefully it would be deliverable sometime in September. There was further discussion about the many benefits this program would provide. Randy said the three of them have already sent a Thank You card on behalf of the county. He asked that the Commissioners pass the word on to the Council of their generous participation.

RECESSED AND RECONVENED

The Commissioners recessed their meeting at approximately 10:52 A.M. and reconvened at approximately 11:11 A.M.

BUILDING INSPECTOR POSITION

Jackie and the Commissioners discussed the process for advertising for, and hiring a Building Inspector to replace Dick (Richard) Adair who will be retiring September 4th.

2014 COUNTY BUDGET & PERF

Jackie and the Commissioners briefly discussed the budget which will be considered by the Council at their budget meetings this week. There was further discussion about PERF and the large amount of increase in the last few years, as well as the possibility of going with other options for employees who are not vested with PERF and for new employees.

2013 ANNUAL REPORT - NORTHEAST INDIANA REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP

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

ADJOURNMENT

This session of the Board of Commissioners of Noble County was at approximately 11:28 A.M. recessed from day to day until the 18th day of August, 2014.

Gary D. Leatherman, President

David J. Dolezal, Vice President

Chad Kline, Member

ATTESTED:

Jacqueline L. Knafel, Auditor