

## MINUTES OF A REGULAR SESSION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD September 27, 2021

Comes now the hour of 8:30 a.m. on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of September, 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  
Anita Hess, Vice President

ABSENT:

Dave Dolezal, Member

Also present were:

Jacqueline L Knafel, County Coordinator  
Dennis Graft, Noble County Attorney  
Matt Getts, KPC Media  
Zach Smith, Highway Engineer

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

### SURVEYOR

Randy Sexton, Noble County Surveyor, was present to request a waiver of the 10 % reduction in pay for his new hire. He has hired Brady Truex to fill this position and he comes to the county with a lot of experience. Motion to approve the waiver came from Anita Hess and was seconded by Gary Leatherman. Motion carried 2-0.

### CORRESPONDENCE

- IDEM – Construction Permit for Dollar General Kendallville Indiana
- IDEM - SEI Manufacturing - Air permit notice
- IDEM – JELD-WEN Inc. – Administrative Amendment - Notice of Decision
- AMA – Request for nomination for AMA outstanding Government Services
- Certification from Plan Commission for Residential – Business Use
- Certification from Plan Commission for Solar overlay districts
- Noble County Drainage Board - Notice of reconstruction for Beal drain.
- Dekalb County Drainage Board – Notice of reconstruction for Bickel Drain
- National Opioid Settlement information - County Attorney Dennis Graft will respond to this request.

### MINUTES

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved as written with a motion from Anita Hess. Gary Leatherman seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

### CLAIMS

A 12-page report was reviewed for claims dates 09/27/2021. The report totaled \$1,414,906.71 and was approved with a motion from Anita Hess and a second from Gary Leatherman. Motion carried 2-0.

### PAYROLL

Payroll dated 09/23/2021 was approved with a motion from Anita Hess and a second from Gary Leatherman. Motion carried 2-0. This 4-page report totaled \$435,324.97.

### NEW BUSINESS

Johnson Controls Fire Protection Agreements were received for the courthouse and south complex. This is to provide basic essential services at both these locations. Anita Hess moved to sign the agreements with a second coming from Gary. Leatherman. Motion carried 2-0

## HIGHWAY

Richard Rogers, Highway Superintendent, was unable to attend the meeting but had sent an agenda which Zack Smith went over with the commissioners:

- Utility Permit – Noble REMC – installation of poles.
- The spraying is done for the year and the report indicated that 3 ½ township in the southern townships were taken care of.
- Ditching and Berming continues which gives the department a good start for next years work.
- The department is starting a road lift on 600 S to help prevent the road from flooding just east of 300 E.
- Driveway Variance – Reuille resident on 1125 N is requesting a variance which is too close to the drive across the road. Richard reported that this is best place due to sight distance and a culvert will be required. Motion to approve the variance with restrictions was made by Anita Hess. Gary Leatherman seconded and motion carried 2-0.
- Driveway Variance – Malott – this is on Northport Rd and the resident is requesting a second drive at the location. Richard is reporting good drainage and sight distance on this request. Motion to approve the variance came from Anita Hess. Gary Leatherman seconded and the motion carried 2-0.
- Driveway Variance – Moore residence on Mapes Rd is requesting a variance for a driveway that is 100' short of sight distance. Richard indicated in the notes that this was the best possible location on this parcel. Motion to approve was made by Anita Hess and seconded by Gary Leatherman. Motion carried 2-0.
- Driveway Variance – The last variance is for the new Dollar General Store on 300 E – this too is close to the church drive across the road but is located between a state road and a railroad. This drive will require a 12 "culvert pipe for drainage. This is the best location. Anita Hess moved to approve the variance. Gary Leatherman seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

## Engineering

Zack Smith, Highway Engineer, was present to discuss the following engineering business with the commissioners:

- HMA 1- Zack reported that the HMA project by Pulver's is about ¾ of the way complete. Rainy weather last week delayed this process.
- Bridge 60 – This bridge repair is scheduled for this fall.
- 400 N - Zack is reporting that 8 of the 17 parcels for right of way have been purchased for this project.
- Bridge Inspection – An LPA voucher in the amount of \$2960.93 is presented for approval. Anita Hess moved to approve. Gary Leatherman seconded. Motion carried 2-0.
- Bridge 136 – This project also has an LPA voucher for approval. Anita Hess moved to approve the voucher in the amount of \$12735.00. Gary Leatherman seconded and the motion carried 2-0.
- Baseline Road – This project is off the ground and according to Zack a lot of dirt has been removed. There are two LPA vouchers for this project. Anita Hess moved to approve the LPA voucher for Construction in the amount of \$3,108.98 and for engineering in the amount of \$889.09. Gary Leatherman seconded. Motion carried 2-0.
- Ball Road – the PFC meeting was held on August 26.
- The other 5 LPA projects are moving on schedule.
- Old State Road 3 – FMIS has been submitted.
- The other Baseline Project from 600 E to old state road 3 is under development.
- Little Long/Round Lake project – all permitting has been submitted and Zack is hopeful for a spring of 2022 start on this project.
- Oak Shore Speed Ordinance Public Hearing - The commissioners held the public meeting for the speed ordinance in the Oak Shores sub division in Orange township. The homeowner's association president was in attendance and spoke in favor of the ordinance which will reduce the speed in the area to 20 MPH. With no other comments be made the ordinance was adopted as presented with a motion from Anita Hess and a second from Gary Leatherman. Motion carried 2-0.

## ANNEX

Zack Smith, Project Manager, was present to update the commissioners on the new building:

- Zack reported that all department are done with the FFE projects for their locations. The commissioners will come back this afternoon to complete their review on the commissioner room and lounge area.
- PR-08 in the amount of \$66,135.51 for Extension 1400 and Corridor 1401 was approved with a motion from Anita Hess and a second from Gary Leatherman. Motion carried 2-0.
- PR -09 – this is for the furniture up grades that have been made and funding will come from the departments requesting the upgrades. This is in the amount of \$102,281.81 and is approved as “not to exceed” this amount with a motion from Anita Hess. Gary Leatherman seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.
- Zack updated the commissioners on the progress for the building with a lot of sidewalk, parking and plaza work being done. This process should be complete in the next 8 to 10 weeks.
- Courthouse renovation – Zack has a proposal from American StructurePoint for the courthouse renovation. This is signed with a motion from Anita Hess and a second from Gary Leatherman. Motion carries 2-0.

## SHERIFF

Max Weber, Noble County Sheriff, and a representative from Trane were on hand to discuss further the infrastructure investments to the jail. The jail is almost 25 years old and is requiring some upgrades or replacement of the roof, HVAC and water and sewer distribution. All totaled nearly \$4,000,000.00 and Max is requesting ARP funds to make these improvements. With no clear and concise direction from the federal government, Jackie indicated that she would like another set of eyes to review the plans. Lisa Lee from Ice Miller was a speaker at the recent AIC conference and indicated that if we had questions their company would try to be assistance. Jackie will contact her for assistance. Lisa was e-mailed on 9/29/21 with information and request for an opinion.

## 4-H WEEK PROCLAMATION

Joanna Claudy, Purdue Extension Agent, was present to request that the commissioners sign a proclamation for 4-H week October 3 through October 9, 2021. The proclamation was signed with a motion from Anita Hess and a second from Gary Leatherman. Motion carried 2-0.

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE MONTH

Jim Mowery, Noble County Prosecutor, Eric Murray, Deputy Prosecutor, Ashley Schallinski, Victim's advocate and Jodi Messer, Asst Victim's advocate were all present to ask that October be proclaimed Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The group reported that 1 in 4 women in their lifetime will experience some type of domestic violence. Anita Hess moved to approve the proclamation. Gary Leatherman seconded and the motion carried 2-0.

Ashley then provided an “event” calendar to the commissioners and is asking permission to put the calendar on the bulletin boards at county owned facilities and is also wanting permission to “chalk it up” on the sidewalks and place banners in a couple of locations. Window clings will also be placed on the north and south doors to the courthouse. Anita Hess moved to allow these activities to process during the month of October. Gary Leatherman seconded and motion carried 2-0.

## HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Linda Gray, office manager, is present to request permission to purchase a new refrigerator for the office. This would cost in the area of \$1200.00. Anita Hess moved to approve the purchase over \$500.00. Gary Leatherman seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

Anne Lowe, Public Health Nurse, was also in attendance to discuss purchases she will be making out of some of the grant money. She will be paying for flu vaccines out of the immunization grant. She has already received a bill for over \$4000.00 and will be ordering more vaccines. She also has a bill for KPC Media for the printing of packets that will be distributed to all the schools in Noble County. This bill was for \$3496.00. Out of the Covid 19 Grant equipment and supplies will be purchased for the remote clinic sites. Purchases of containers to transport vaccines amounted to \$4238.18 and two refrigerators that will be left at the sites on the west and east sides of the county amounted to \$8123.10. Anita Hess moved to approve all expenditures presented and also the purchase of additional flu vaccines as needed. Gary Leatherman seconded and motion carried 2-0.

Ann also reported that the county is still Orange because of COVID positivity rates but indicated that the last few weeks have shown a slight decrease in cases.

ST JOE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

Matt Meerson, SJRB, is present to discuss with the commissioners the efforts of the basin commission and make it clear that if the commission is doing something that the commissioners are not in favor of that this be brought to his attention. This was brought on by Dan Lash being at the commissioners meeting and also posting his comments on Facebook. Matt provided his responses to Mr. Lash's comments that were read at the commissioners meeting and on Facebook. Matt referred to the study that was conducted recently to see what could be done to help with flooding at West Lakes and also to assure that downstream would not be affected by anything at West Lakes. Matt would like to have one of the commissioners sit on a committee to assure that their thoughts and concerns are met. Some residents from West Lakes were also present and indicated that someone that lives around the lakes be involved in this committee as well.

Recess --- 1:00

ANNEX

The commissioners came back in the afternoon to discuss and make some suggestions/ comments about the commissioners meeting room as well as the lounge area of the new building. After the session was over, the commissioners took a tour of the new building.

ADJOURNMENT:

This session of the Board of Commissioners of Noble County was adjourned at approximately 2:00 p.m. recessed from day to day until Tuesday October 12 2021.

Dated this 12<sup>TH</sup> day of October, 2021

  
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Gary D. Leatherman, President

  
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Anita Hess, Vice President

WAS NOT PRESENT @ 9-27-21 meeting  
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Dave Dolezal, Member

ATTESTED:

  
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Tonya L. Jones, Auditor