

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR SESSION OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD April 14, 2025**

Comes now the hour of 8:30 am. on the 14th of April, 2025 in the Commissioners Room in the Noble County Annex building, 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
Gary Timmerman, Member

Also present were:

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

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

CORRESPONDENCE

- DNR – CRS Program
- FEMA – CRS system brochure
- Monthly report – Clerk of the Courts
- Monthly report - Noble County Treasurer

MINUTES

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved as corrected with a motion from Anita Hess and a second from Gary Timmerman. Motion carried 3-0.

CLAIMS

Claims dated 4/14/25 were reviewed by the commissioners. This was a 16-page report totaling \$1,232,239.08. Anita Hess moved approved the claims. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

PAYROLL

April 3, 2025 payroll was presented for approval. This was a 3-page report totaling \$549,021.06 and was approved with a motion from Anita Hess and a second from Gary Timmerman. Motion carries 3-0.

April 17, 2025 was also approved with a motion from Anita Hess. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0. This was a 3-page report totaling \$545,246.25.

OLD BUSINESS

Jackie Knafel, County Coordinator – reported that letters of notification of leases ending had been sent to Bonar Holdings LLC and TBE Investments LLC.

NEW BUSINESS

Jackie had been contacted by April Tackett from the local Alcoholic Beverage Commission concerning a commissioner's appointment to the board. This is to replace Hertha Myers who is no longer able to serve on the board. Anita Hess suggested that Tina Gienger might be willing to serve on the board. Anita will contact her and have the questionnaire filled out and returned for consideration on April 28, 2025.

HIGHWAY

Richard Rogers, Highway Inspector, was present for the following highway business:

- Utility Permits – Brightspeed of Indiana - duly entered
- Richard is requesting permission for a road closure for a Motorcycle Poker run on May 30, 2025 which will close Noble Street in Wolf Lake. Anita Hess moved to approve the one-day closure. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- Richard has a driveway variance for a second drive for Benjamin Eicher on 1000E. Shelley Diehm and another neighbor in the area were present to voice their concerns. While Richard reported that the sight distance is in compliance, the neighbors indicated that this is "in a valley" and that pulling out with a trailer or piece of equipment would be a hazard. Richard indicated that this drive is in a better location than their original drive and maintained the fact that the 525 ft of sight distance is there. As discussion continued and Randy Sexton and Teresa Tackett joined the discussion, it became apparent that this might be used for something more than agricultural. There was a possibility of a commercial business of some sort going to this location. Gary Timmerman had earlier made the motion to allow the variance and Gary Leatherman seconded. After listening to the public concerning this matter, Gary Timmerman told the group that the only

thing before the board at this time is the driveway variance and the highway department is indicating that the sight distance is adequate. He verified that if this does become a situation of something commercial / industrial it would need to be rezoned and this was verified by Teresa Tackett. At that time, Gary Timmerman reaffirmed his motion to approve the variance with the direction to have Zack do a speed study in the area and require signage if necessary. Gary Leatherman seconded and the motion carried 2-1 with Anita Hess voting against the variance.

Zack Smith, Highway Engineer, was present for the engineering business update for the commissioners:

- Storm Damage – Zack provided an update for the storm damage at the highway the end of March. He told the commissioners that they still have no estimate of the damage done to the buildings. Zack indicated that the insurance adjuster was at the building and looked at roof repair etc. Zack is wanting to make sure there is NO structural damage done as well and would like our own estimate as well. We currently have a \$100,000.00 wind damage deductible and a clause that indicated that they will take care of the repairs. Zack believes that if this is the case, that we need audit the repairs being done.
- Annual Operations report – Zack provided the highway's annual operational report to the commissioners that indicated that cash balances at the department are in good shape.
- CCD – Zack talked to the commissioners about increasing the highways portion of the CCD Fund to 90% leaving 10% of the funds to the county for sheriff's repair to the jail and some software programs. Jackie indicated that the current balance of the CCD county portion is around \$1.4 million. Zack told the commissioners that Noble County is one of only a few counties that do not have a Cum Bridge fund so the CCD fund is the only funding source for in-house bridge projects. Zack had spoken to the county council and they indicated that they were on board for the change to 90/10. Gary Timmerman moved to allow Zack to draft the ordinance and advertise for final consideration at their May meeting. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- The department is wanting to purchase a track excavator. The sell price came in at \$125,585.00. The trade-in was valued at \$72,500.00 leaving a balance of \$53,085.00. Anita Hess moved to approve the purchase of the excavator. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- Zack has an estimate for the crack seal work that will be done this year in the county. The estimate came in at \$501,350.00. Motion to approve the crack/seal estimate came from Gary Timmerman. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- The 2025 CCMG projects are out to bid at this time.
- 2024 CN -01 – Richard reported that Pulver's had a meeting with residents on Brookside Estates to inform them about the project that will be starting very soon.
- Bridge 136 – There is an LPA for this project in the amount of \$19,777.07. Motion to approve came from Gary Timmerman. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- Bridge 44 – the LPA voucher for this project is for construction Engineering in the amount of \$4792.12. Gary Timmerman moved to approve. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- Bridge 134 – Zack has an amendment with CSX concerning additional funding for flagging etc. by CSX. Zack also reported that most parcels have now been secured for the construction of bridge 134. Gary Timmerman moved to sign the INDOT contract for this project. Anita Hess seconded. The motion carried 3-0.
- Bridge 69 – There is an amendment for Lochmueller Group for right of way engineering resulting in zero dollars. Motion to sign the contract came from Gary Timmerman. Anita Hess seconded the motion and it carries 3-0. There is also an LPA voucher on this project in the amount of \$9,652.25. Gary Timmerman moved to approve the voucher. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- Old SR 3 – this project will go from Avilla to LaOtto as an overlay project at a total cost of \$4,587,200.00 with 20% being the responsibility of the county. Zack has a contract with INDOT for approval. Gary Timmerman moved to approve the contract. Anita Hess seconded. The motion carries 3-0. There is an LPA voucher for this project in the amount of \$3,260.00. Motion to approve this came from Gary Timmerman and was seconded by Anita Hess. Motion carried 3-0.
- An LPA voucher in the amount of \$7,733.60 was approved with a motion from Gary Timmerman and a second from Anita Hess. Motion carried 3-0. This is for preliminary engineering for the Riley Road & Appleman Road project.
- 100 N 50W – this is the safety project for the county and an LPA voucher in the amount of \$3587.50 has been received. Motion to approved the voucher came from Gary Timmerman. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- Bridge 61 – this is on CR 300 W over the Elkhart River and has an LPA voucher in the amount of \$1,306.00 for approval. Gary Timmerman moved to approve. Anita Hess seconded. Motion carries 3-0.
- Bridge 56 – the LPA voucher for this project is in the amount of \$2,400.00 and is approved with a motion from Gary Timmerman. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

- Bridge 41- there is a proposal for Project design from Kurdziel Barker in the amount of \$108,300.00. Gary Timmerman moved to approve the proposal not to exceed \$108,300.00. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- Speed Study – Old SR 3 – Zack has completed the 3rd speed study on Old SR 3. Zack indicated that while there were still some high speeds on the road, the number of high speeders was down about 50%. Zack said that while this was good news his fear that when the overlay project was complete that he thought those speeds may increase again and was recommending a 50 MPH speed limit on the road. While posting are just that – the excessive speed margin becomes more of an issue as far as fines are concerned. There was also discussion about a reduced speed limit of 45 MPH in the Swan area of the road. Zack was asked to draft an ordinance with the speed reduction for approval at the next meeting.
- Anita Hess moved to approve a local detour for a SR 9 town project. This will be CR 100 N to CR 150 E to CR 400 N. Gary Timmerman seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

COURTHOUSE

Zack Smith, Project Manager, has the following update for the Courthouse renovation:

- PCO #124 – This is for furniture feed hookup in the amount of \$599.10 and is approve with a motion from Gary Timmerman and a second from Anita Hess. Motion carried 3-0.
- Zack reported that there are still a few pieces of furniture on back order and should be here soon.
- Zack reported that the ribbon cutting ceremony went well will several in attendance. Moving started last week with the clerk and Superior II moving tomorrow and the probation department moving the week of the 21st.
- Zack had a quote from PSI for signage at the courthouse in the amount of \$12,312.98 which is approved with a motion from Anita Hess. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- Zack had received an e-mail from the board members of IFMA wanted to take a tour of the facilities here in Noble County. They would like to tour both the annex building and the courthouse, with a luncheon to follow. The commissioners okayed the tour and luncheon with a motion from Anita Hess and a second from Gary Timmerman. Motion carried 3-0. Tentatively this is set for October 23, 2025.

COUNCIL ON AGING

Cherish Mishleau, COA Director, was present to get the commissioners signature on the purchase order for the new van. Anita Hess moved to approve the signing of the voucher in the amount of \$60,350.00. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

GIS

Steve Hook, GIS Director, came before the commissioners to discuss his contract for the next 4 years. After some discussion, the contract was approved as amended with a motion from Anita Hess and a second from Gary Timmerman. Motion carried 3-0. The contract calls for the salary of \$81,500.00 for 2026, \$83,500.00 for 2027, \$85,600.00 for 2028, and \$87,700.00 for 2029.

Steve is also a member of the STAR team for Albion and is asking permission to use the court yard here at the annex for the first STAR event of the year which will be held on May 30, 2025. This will be the monopoly game in which they use chalk. Steve was given permission provided that the team wash down the courtyard after use. Anita Hess moved to approve. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

RECESS

1:00 PM Executive Session

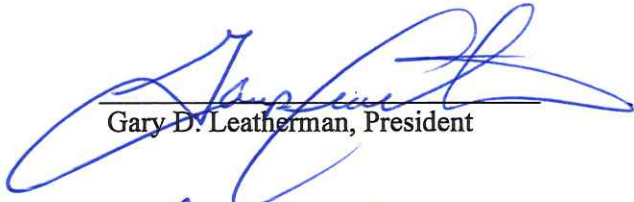
Back in session

Following the executive session, the commissioners went back into session and approved the purchase of the parking lot north of the post office from Blaising LLC in the amount of \$30,000.00. Anita Hess moved to approve the purchase pending council approval. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

ADJOURNMENT

This session of the Board of Commissioners of Noble County was at approximately 2:30 pm recessed from day to day until April 28, 2025.

Dated this 28TH day of April, 2025



Gary D. Leatherman, President



Anita Hess, Vice President



Gary Timmerman Member



ATTESTED: _____
Michelle Mawhorter, Auditor