

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR SESSION OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD August 11,
2025**

Comes now the hour of 8:30 am. on the 11th day of August , 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:

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

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

CORRESPONDENCE

- IDEM - Landfill Semi Annual Inspection Report – Gary Leatherman reported that Mike Haynes has the landfill mowed and he had talked to him about doing some of the repairs mentioned in the inspection report.
- IDEM – Correspondence was received by the commissioners concerning a CAFO on the Danny Parker farm. No copy was received for the file.
- Monthly report from the Clerk of the Circuit Court – duly entered
- Monthly report from the Noble County Treasurer – duly entered
- IDEM – Final decision issued for Air Quality permit for Terra Supreme Battery LLC
- IDEM - Star of the West Milling Company - Air Permits

MINUTES

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

CLAIMS

Claims dated 08/11/2025 were reviewed by the commissioners. There was a 16-page report that totaled \$579,087.35. Anita Hess moved to approve the claims. Gary Timmerman seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

PAYROLL

The payroll report was dated 08/07/2025 was a 3-page report that totaled \$543,011.40. The report was approved with a motion from Gary Timmerman and a second from Anita Hess. Motion carried 3-0.

OLD BUSINESS

The Findings and Orders were signed as approved at the last commissioners meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

The title for the 2020 Dodge Caravan that was totaled in a recent accident was signed with a motion from Anita Hess and a second from Gary Timmerman. Motion carried 3-0. There was additional paperwork signed such as the Power of attorney needed for the insurance company.

In other new business, Jackie had received a phone call from Bob Amber concerning the use of the conference room at the new annex building. This is an evening training session for all the firemen in the county. The commissioners discussed the issue and it was then decided that Gary Leatherman would call Mr. Amber and discuss it further.

ALBION PARK DEPARTMENT – CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Casey Myers, Town of Albion, was present to get permission to put up the strands of Christmas lights from the top of the courthouse for the Christmas season. They will need access to the

courthouse and the 4th floor to get this done. Casey will also get with the Courthouse maintenance supervisor, Glenn Ryan, to make sure that the electricity is working and that all is in order for the placement of the lights.

There are stakes at the four corners of the courthouse to anchor the lights, Casey is thinking that – due to tree growth - the one anchor may need to be moved. Anita Hess moved to allow the town to hang the Christmas lights from the courthouse, have access to the fourth floor and work with Glenn to get this done. Lights will go up the Sunday after Thanksgiving and come down the first Sunday of January. Gary Timmerman seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

HIGHWAY

Zack Smith, Highway Engineer, had the following engineering business to bring before the commissioners:

- Zack told the commissioners that an audit of internal staff has revealed that about half of the current staff will be retirement eligible in the next few years. This could leave the department in a mess. Zack told the commissioners that his budgets will reflect the need to bring the highway up to the wages of surrounding counties. He is hoping with an increase to wages that this will encourage some of those “retirement eligible” to stay another year or two to increase retirement benefits.
- Zack told the commissioners that the adjuster from Liberty Mutual was once again on site to review the damage. This time he was able to get up into the attic part and assess the damage.
- The repairs to the salt barn are nearing completion.
- Community Crossings - this will open up in October for 2026, Zack has several projects identified for this round of funding including: 300 S, 300 N, 100 N, Williams Lake Rd, CR 150 W and Pheasant Cove Subdivision.
- LPA Call for Projects – Zack reached out to United Consulting as the company who does bridge inspections asking about ideas for bridge work. United had four bridges that were in need of repair – Bridge 4, Bridge 45, Bridge 65 and Bridge 75. Zack will begin the work to have these ready for funding. Zack has a contract with United for Professional Services Agreement for Bridge 65 to do a cost estimate and project budget together not to exceed \$8,000.00. Gary Timmerman moved to approve the agreement. Anita Hess seconded. The motion carried 3-0.
- Bridge 67 - the Request for Proposals has been issued and is due August 25, 2025 at noon.
- Bridge 44 – The close out documents for this project have been submitted.
- Ball Road – this project is complete and open to traffic.
- Bridge 134 – right of way acquisition is nearing completion with the last parcel being accepted. This will be ready for a February letting.
- Bridge 69 - this too will be a February letting.
- Bridge 59 - the letters of interest will be scored this afternoon. There is also an LPA voucher for this project in the amount of \$1,559.00. Gary Timmerman moved to approve. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- Riley Road – a field check was recently held for this project, with East Noble School Corporation, Utilities etc. Zack reported that there are still continuing environmental issues with this project.
- Bridge 59 - The LOI's will be scored this afternoon on this project. Zack has an LPA voucher in the amount of \$1559.00. Gary Timmerman moved to approve. Anita Hess seconded. Motion carried 3-0.
- CR 525 W – the commissioners held a public hearing on this ordinance today. This will allow NO THRU DUMP TRUCK or COMMERCIAL VEHICLES except local delivery between CR 625 N and 1500' north of CR 625 N. There being no opposition voiced at the public hearing, Gary Timmerman moved to approve the ordinance. Anita Hess seconded. The motion carried 3-0.
- CR 1000 E between Kammerer Rd and CR 1200 N – Zack has a draft ordinance for approval to reduce the speed from 55mph to 45mph. After review, Gary Timmerman moved to approve the ordinance for advertisement. Anita Hess seconded. The motion carried 3-0.
- Another follow up speed study was done on Old SR3 and while the average speed has reduced as little with making the speed limit 50 mph – there is still a lot of excessive speeding on this road. The construction on the new SR 3 may have something to do with this with the traffic reverting to Old SR 3. This is set for repaving later this year and a fifth study will be done after that time.

- Baseline Road and Old SR 3 intersection - Katherine Pierce was in attendance for this session. She had been seriously hurt at this intersection and has submitted a petition to increase awareness of the upcoming stop. Zack indicated that stop ahead signs, spinners etc. have been installed at this intersection and he has contacted LTAP for a full safety road audit. This report could potentially set the intersection up for full funding for a safety project. Katherine is suggesting that in the mean time possibly rumble strips could be added to the roadway to draw awareness of the stop. Zack indicated that LTAP will probably do this study sometime in September.

BUGGY PLATES

Donna Swartz, Elkhart Township Trustee, and Barb Donley, Perry Township Trustee, were present to talk to the commissioners about the increase in buggy plates. They wanted to know why such a large increase. The commissioners showed the two the examples of the horseshoes that the Amish are now using on the horses. This decreases the horses slipping on the pavement but in turn is like using a sledge hammer on the asphalt. It is becoming a real issue for road repairs. The two are also asking for an increase to the stipend that the townships are able to retain for processing the buggy plates. Currently the stipend is set at \$8.00 a plate. With the increases to the buggy plates this stipend has not been increased. The two did not really have an idea of what they wanted the stipend to be. The commissioners will decide what the stipend will be and then an amendment to the new ordinance will have to be done.

SHERIFF

Max Weber, Noble County Sheriff, was in attendance along with Nate Jones from the IT department. The door lock system at the jail is the original system that was put in the jail when it was built. The system is no longer supported and it is becoming increasingly hard to get replacement parts. Max is wanting to go with Security Automation Systems which is currently used by some of the surrounding counties. Max now has a quote for the new system in the amount of \$236,400.00. This quote includes the integration of the current security camera system with Genetic. Max told the commissioners that this will be paid for from his federal inmate fund and commissary fund. Anita Hess moved to sign the SAS contract. Gary Timmerman seconded. The motion carried 3-0.

GIS /IT

Dave Baum, IT Director, was present to talk to the commissioners about the electronic access door controls for the basement access to the south complex building. Dave has a quote from Tech Solutions in the amount of \$2,298.32 of which he is able to cover through his current budget. With the remodeling about complete at the south complex and offices being downstairs, this door will be used a lot more than before. Anita Hess moved to approve the electronic door system to be installed. Gary Timmerman seconded. The motion carried 3-0.

Steve Hook, GIS Director, and Dave Baum, IT director, were present to discuss the software update system needed for the GIS department. Steve has a professional services agreement for review. This is at a cost of \$30,000.00 which will be coming from CEDIT and his general fund budget. This is also eligible for a grant which will be reimbursed. Steve did indicate that this upgrade will affect other offices that integrate with his department such as the Spillman system at the sheriff's department, the Assessors office and the Surveyor's office. There are 3 phases to this project with phase 2 being the road map to Steve's strategic plan. The 3rd phase breaks down the cost of different service which will allow different agencies to use this company to implement a plan that may apply only to them at their cost. This will allow Steve the time to do other things when requests are made. Currently, phase one is the most important. This needs to be done as soon as possible. Dennis Graft, County Attorney, has reviewed the contract and had several questions about some of the content of the contract and why that would even apply to county government. Steve will get back with the company to see if some of this can be removed and return to the commissioners for approval.

Steve informed the commissioners that his new hire will start August 25, 2025. She graduated from Ball State and has been working with the City of Elkhart. She is interested in continuing her certifications in the GIS field and Steve feels will be good asset to his team.

ELKHART TOWNSHIP INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT

Donna Swartz, Elkhart Township Trustee, had left the signed interlocal agreement for the buggy plates for the remainder of this year. Anita Hess moved to approve the agreement. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

RECESS

Back in session 1:00 pm

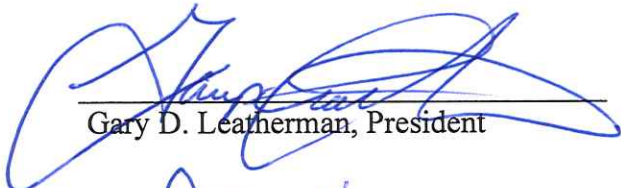
The commissioners went back into session to score the letters of interest for Bridge 59. Scores were entered by each commissioner as they reviewed the LOI's received from:

- American StructurePoint
- Butler Fairman Seyfert
- EGIS
- Lochmueller Group
- SJCA
- United Consulting

ADJOURNMENT

This session of the Board of Commissioners of Noble County was at approximately 1:40 pm recessed from day to day until August 25, 2025

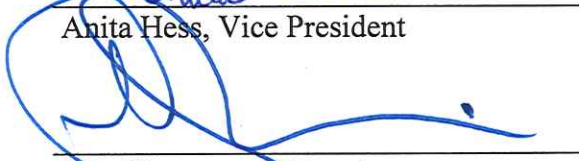
Dated this 25TH day of August, 2025



Gary D. Leatherman, President




Anita Hess, Vice President



Gary Timmerman Member

ATTESTED:



Michelle Mawhorter, Auditor