

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR SESSION OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD Monday August 25,
2025**

Comes now the hour of 8:30 am. on the 25th 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 brought the meeting to order at approximately 8:30 am.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS APPOINTMENT

Judge Steven Clouse comes before the commissioners to request an appointment to the Community Corrections Advisory Board. By virtue of the position the Victim Advocate Jasmine Hudgens is needing commissioner appointment to sit on the board. Anita Hess moved to approve the appointment. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

PROSECUTOR

Jim Mowery is requesting approval of a contract with one of his attorneys. Megan Packer will be moving to Ohio and during the transition of hiring a new attorney Megan is willing to do remote work to process paperwork and review charges for the department. Hours will be billed at \$100.00 per hour. Anita Hess moved to approve the contract. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

MINUTES

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

CLAIMS

The August 25, 2025 regular claims were reviewed by the commissioners. The 11-page report totaled \$921,213.87 and were approved with a motion from Anita Hess. Gary Timmerman seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

MISC CLAIMS

Both dockets for misc. claims were reviewed. Misc claim docket one was a 2-page report totaling \$25,135,386.80 which included an investment of \$25,000,000.00. Gary Timmerman moved to approve with a second coming from Anita Hess. Motion carried 3-0.

Misc docket two was an 8-page report totaling \$46,732.61. This was approved with a motion from Anita Hess and a second from Gary Timmerman. Motion carried 3-0

PAYROLL

Payroll dated 08/21/2025 was approved by the commissioners. The 3-page report totaled \$ 547,892.09. Anita Hess moved to approve. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS

- Jackie had received a call from Tanner Fischer concerning a property owned by the commissioners in Avilla. This is along the old rail line and is south of their property. This is landlocked so will need to go to an adjoining property owner. Pictures of the properties were provided to the commissioners. After discussion, the commissioner will proceed with an appraisal and title search, then will contact all adjacent property owners to see if there is any additional interest in this property.

- Gary Leatherman had received information concerning the landfill after IDEM's recent inspection report. There was a list of 5 things that need to be taken care of at the landfill. Wilcox has provided a quote for this work in the amount of \$6,165.00. Anita Hess moved to approve the work to be done by Wilcox not to exceed \$6,165.00. Gary Timmerman seconded. The motion carried 3-0.
- Gary Leatherman had also received correspondence from the treewell system at the landfill. The company would like to conduct semi annual inspection of the trees at a cost of \$7,900.00 each. Gary indicated that he would like to see more of a cost breakdown for those visits. Approval of this service is pending until further information is received.

HIGHWAY

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

- Utility permits were issued to NIPSCO and Brightspeed of Indiana.
- Richard wanted to let the commissioners know that there are 4 oversize load permits that will be expiring at the end of the month on 1100 N, the road of concern in northwest Noble County.
- Drive variance – Barb Fulk on 600 S is requesting a driveway variance. Gary Timmerman moved to approve. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- Nathan Byerline on Columbia St is also requesting a variance for a driveway. Gary Timmerman moved to approve. Anita Hess seconded. The motion carried 3-0.
- Stanley Whonstetler is requesting a driveway for a 3rd drive on his property. This is on Swan Rd. Motion to approve this request came from Gary Timmerman. Anita Hess seconded. Motion carried 3-0.
- Orvan Bontrager on 250 W was also requesting a driveway permit indicating that he wanted to move his current 2nd drive to a different location to make it larger for his home-based business. Gary Timmerman moved to approve. Gary Leatherman seconded the motion and it carried 2-0 with Anita Hess abstaining from the vote.

Zack Smith, highway engineer, had the following engineer business to bring before the commissioners:

- Wage Study - Zack updated the commissioners on the recent results of the budget hearing held last week by the Noble County Council. The council voted at that time to do a 3% wage increase across the board for employees. The Highway department had requested a 7% increase for their employees based on a wage study that Zack had conducted for counties in the area. According to Zack the department has a number of employees who are getting close to retirement age and is concerned that replacement of those employees may be a challenge with our wages being less than other counties. Zack cited CDL license requirements be more restrictive and more expensive with changes in 2022.
- Marks – Zack is requesting that longevity be given to an employee that worked in the county for 10 years and returned to the county in March of 2025. At that time the 10% reduction in pay was waved but nothing was discussed about longevity. Zack is requesting that be restored and paid beginning in March of 25. Gary Timmerman moved to approve the longevity request for Mike Marks. Anita Hess seconded. The motion carried 3-0.
- Quote – Zack has a quote for tires from McMahons Best One in the amount of \$16,286.36. Gary Timmerman moved to approve the tire purchases. Anita Hess seconded. Motion carried 3-0.
- Quote – Zack also has a quote from Accurate Striping for the striping of the road at railroad crossings. This quote is in the amount of \$10,650.00 and is approved with a motion from Gary Timmerman and a second from Anita Hess. Motion carried 3-0.
- Storm Damage - Zack has an estimate of design services from American StructurePoint in the amount of \$156,850.00 for repairs and an addition at the highway department. Gary Timmerman moved to approve moving forward with the design services not to exceed \$156,850.00. Anita Hess seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Zack also had a building addition preliminary estimate from Weigand in the amount of \$492,749.00.
- CCMG – Zack provided a list of scoped projects for submission to the state for the Community crossing grant for 4.5 miles on CR 300 S; .8 miles on CR 300 N; 1.5 miles on CR 100 N; .4 miles on Williams Lake Rd; .6 miles on CR 150 W; and 2.9 miles in Pheasant Cove Subdivision. Zack has a letter of financial support for the commissioners to sign for these HMA projects with a local match of \$250,000.00. Motion to sign the letter came from Gary Timmerman. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- Bridge 33 - this project started last week with demolition and dewatering being the main focus at this time. Pictures were provided.

- LPA Call for projects – Zack will be submitting four projects for this round of “call for projects” - Bridge 45, 65 and 75 as well as a reconstruction of CR 600 W.
- Bridge inspection – there is an LPA voucher in the amount of \$6,395.16 which is approved with a motion from Gary Timmerman and a second from Anita Hess. Motion carried 3-0.
- Bridge 67 - the LOI's are due today by noon for this bridge project. The LOI's will be distributed to the commissioners once the return for the afternoon session.
- Bridge 44 – Zack has an LPA voucher for Construction Engineering in the amount of \$8,475.48 for this bridge. Gary Timmerman moved to approve. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- Bridge 136 – the Construction Engineering LPA voucher for this project is in the amount of \$18,592.56. Gary Timmerman moved to approve the LPA voucher with a second from Anita Hess. Motion carried 3-0.
- Bridge 134 – Still working on the right of way on this project with 2 parcels left to finalize.
- Bridge 59 - there is an LPA voucher for preliminary engineering for this project in the amount of \$3,028.00. Gary Timmerman moved to approve. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0. Zack reported that the scores had been tabulated for this bridge project and United Consulting had received the highest score.
- Riley Road – as soon as the environmental study is complete, right of way acquisition will begin on this project.
- Bridge 61 – an LPA voucher for Preliminary Engineering had been received. The amount of the voucher was \$42,096.00 and was approved with a motion from Gary Timmerman. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- Bridge 56 on Perry Road also has an LPA voucher for approval. This is in the amount of \$1,832.50 and is approved with a motion from Gary Timmerman and a second from Anita Hess. Motion carried 3-0.
- 1000 E - this ordinance is being advertised and will be on the commissioner's agenda for September 8, 2025.
- Buggy Plates – The amendment for the additional fees to be retained by the township trustees was discussed further. Gary Timmerman moved to increase this from \$8.00 to \$30.00. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0. Dennis Graft, County Attorney, will prepare an amendment to the ordinance to reflect this change beginning 1/1/26.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Amy Johnson, Health First Coordinator, and Carrie Ryan, Health Nurse, are present to update the commissioners on the HFI funds:

- TB testing was done at The Arc.
- The Noble County Baby Shower was held on 7/16/25 with multiple community partners for information on health for baby.
- First Aid education classes were held at Ascension Living LaVerna Terrace
- Childhood Lead screening was conducted with 60 served in June and 82 served in July. There were many people educated in prevention effects and one Home Risk Assessment being done.
- There was \$39,138.43 issued to sub grantees in quarter two. These went to McMillen Health, St Martins Healthcare, Cole Center Family YMCA and Noble County Wellness participants.
- On the environmental side of the grant, Vector Control found positive West Nile Virus in mosquitos.
- June had 4 pool permits issued with 8 inspections conducted and 102 water samples collected. July had 0 permits, 8 inspections and 30 water samples taken.

GIS DEPARTMENT

Steve Hook, GIS Director, is present for Abonmarche contract for the update to the GIS Enterprise Migration system. There were some things that County Attorney Dennis Graft pointed out that needed to be fixed such as the initialed points be done by the same person signing the contract. Steve will take care of getting this corrected. Gary Timmerman moved to approve the contract pending corrections as indicated above and to allow Steve Hook to sign the contract once corrected. Anita Hess seconded the motion and the motion carried 3-0.

Steve also introduced his new hire – GIS Analysis Jordan Gibbs. Today is her first day on the job and Steve thanked the commissioners for allowing this additional employee in his department.

REZONING – BARKMAN

Sarah Campbell, Plan Commission, and Scott Ziegler, Hand to the Plow Surveying were present for a rezoning of 14 acres for Lucas Barkman. Mr. Ziegler gave a little of the history as to why this parcel was being handled the way it was as a major subdivision. The plan commission had given a favorable recommendation to the board for this rezoning, however, Anita Hess, who sits on the plan commission board said that after the meeting there were some discrepancies found in the legal description and Jackie Knafel, when preparing the ordinance, found that there was a life estate on the property yet they had not signed the application for the rezoning. County Attorney Dennis Graft advised the commissioners that these items should be cleared up before the rezoning is approved. Scott indicated that he could have these issued resolved by 1:00 pm so the commissioners tabled the rezoning until that time.

FALL CELEBRATION

Kelly Spear, a representative of the STAR Team, was present to ask permission of the commissioners to use the courthouse lawn and sidewalk for an event this fall. Kelly indicated that there would be kid games on the lawn but nothing would be stuck in the ground and that there would be a chalk walk on the sidewalk. Artist would be paying for a square to be judged for awards later in the day. There would also be squares available to kids and others for a free fun drawing. The commissioners were very clear that only sidewalk chalk be used for this event and suggested that maybe the STAR Team be the one supplying the chalk to ensure that it be washable chalk. Kelly told the commissioners that the event was scheduled for September 20, 2025. Anita Hess moves to approve the use of the lawn with nothing to be stuck in the ground because of the irrigation system and that only sidewalk chalk be used for the contest. She also asked that the committee wash off the sidewalks within a few days of the event. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

Recess until 1:00

1:10 PM back in session

REZONING

Scott Ziegler has returned with authorization from the life estate holders and a corrected legal for review. Sarah Campbell indicated that all seemed to be in place and Dennis Graft indicated that he is now satisfied with the paperwork. Gary Timmerman moved to approve the rezoning. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

BRIDGE 67

Zack Smith, Highway Engineer, was present to open and distribute the Letters of Interest for Bridge 67. LOI's were received from the following:

1. Lochmueller Group
2. USI Consultants
3. DLZ
4. V3 Companies
5. Kapur & Associates

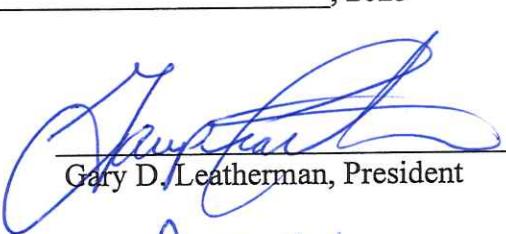
A letter declining the opportunity to submit a LOI came from RQAW.

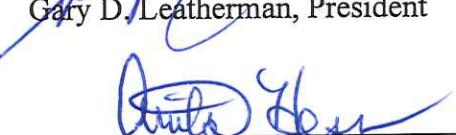
The commissioners will review the documents

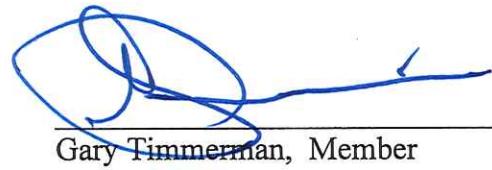
ADJOURNMENT

This session of the Board of Commissioners of Noble County was at approximately 1:20 PM am recessed from day to day until September 8, 2025.

Dated this 8th day of September, 2025


Gary D. Leatherman, President


Anita Hess, Vice President



Gary Timmerman, Member

ATTESTED:



Michelle Mawhorter
Michelle Mawhorter, Auditor