

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR SESSION OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD September 22,
2025**

Comes now the hour of 8:30 am. on the 22nd day of September, 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

- E & H Bridge and Grating, Inc- information
- Health First Indiana updates – August happenings
- County Treasurer Monthly Report

MINUTES

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

MINUTES

Minutes of the Executive session were also read and approved as written. Anita Hess moved to approve the minutes. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

CLAIMS

Claims dated 09/22/2025 were reviewed by the commissioners. This was a 12-page report totaling \$255,998.45 and was approved with a motion from Gary Timmerman. Anita Hess seconded. The motion carries 3-0
claims

PAYROLL

A 3-page Payroll report was reviewed. Payroll dated 09/18/2025 totaled \$557,330.41 and was approved with a motion from Gary Timmerman. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Gary Leatherman shared the information that he had received from Applied Natural Sciences concerning the treewell system. There was a detailed listing of what would be tested and reviewed at the site maintenance review. After review of the listing and more discussion Site maintenance was approved to be done semi-annually with a motion from Gary Timmerman. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Deanna Backman from the Early Childhood Education is requesting a letter stating that Noble County does not require local business license for child care centers. Gary Timmerman moved to approve the signing the letter. Anita Hess seconded. The motion carried 3-0.

WATER RENTAL

The discussion of renting water for the Courthouse and Annex offices was discussed. The fact that a filtering system was part of the upgrades to the buildings was discussed. Zack was present and said that the upgrade was to the hot water system but the cold water tested well for drinking

purposes so nothing was done to the cold-water system. At this time, some departments are paying for the water out of their own pockets, some departments are currently taking it out of their budgets. Anita Hess, in order to be consistent, moved to allow the departments to take the cost of the rentals for drinking water out of their respective budgets. Gary Timmerman seconded. The motion carried 3-0

HIGHWAY

There is a driveway variance for a second drive for Rick and Karen Gouwens on Williams St. in Noble Township. Zack reported that there were no sight or drainage issues but simply the request for a second drive on the same parcel. Gary Timmerman moved to approve. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

In Engineering business, Zack Smith, Highway Engineer, reported the following:

- Zack updated the commissioners on the storm damage, insurance, and renovation. The RFP has been posted with at least 4 interested companies. Zack continues to work with the insurance company for repairs – separate from the proposed addition – to insure payment. Zack also reported that the old shop and salt barn repairs from the storm damage are complete.
- 2026 CCMG – Zack reported that the Asset Management has been submitted to the state as required prior to Community Crossing being awarded. He reported that Richard Rogers and himself have now met all certification requirements.
- Bridge 33 - piling issues are still happening at this project because of the power lines in the area. BFS inspection crews are on-site and the team is working through these issues.
- LPA Call for Projects – Zack will be submitting 3 bridge projects for this round of funding, those being Bridge 45, Bridge 65, and Bridge 75. Also, Zack talked to the commissioner about submitting a phase of the 600 W project as the road project. This is a huge project and Zack feels that the only way it can be done is by doing it in phases. He is proposing the 1st phase be 775 N to 900 N which would be 1.25 miles. This project will require a lot of right of way acquisition as will provide an 8-foot shoulder for oversize loads and buggy traffic. Zack is providing information for the commissioners to consider.
- Bridge Inspection – Zack reported that the last meeting in October, United will have the bridge inspection report for the commissioners.
- Bridge 67 - after the scoring last meeting and Zack's review and calculation, USI was selecting for the engineering of this project.
- Old State Road 3 - there is an LPA voucher in the amount of \$111.72 for this project. Gary Timmerman moved to approve. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carries 3-0.
- Bridge 61- An LPA voucher for Preliminary Engineering in the amount of \$12,313.00 for Bridge 61 is approved with a motion from Gary Timmerman. Anita Hess seconded. The motion carried 3-0.
- Zack summarized the speed study that was done on Appleman Road. He reported that he could not find any ordinance for a 45 MPH speed zone on Appleman near the school but that is what is posted. After the speed study, Zack is recommending that the speed be lowered to 35 MPH in the school zone on Appleman road. Gary Timmerman moved to approve the process to begin to lowered that speed in the school zone from 45 MPH to 35 MPH. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

COURTHOUSE RENOVATION

Zack had a couple of things to report for the renovation project:

- American StructurePoint would like to have some professional photos of the newly renovated courthouse. This will be done on September 26 throughout the day to accommodate the court schedules.
- Water issues- there have been some water issues at the courthouse. Connor Lundquist is work on this along with Zack. Zack told the commissioners that this issue is more to do with condensation than any leaking. Zack reported that the fourth floor is unfinished with all kinds of area where condensation can form and the walls have empty spaces in the middle of them. This is a 140-year-old building that will have these kinds of issues. That being said – the plans for the future need to include tuck-pointing and a new roof at some point. Zack will continue to gather information about issues that arise but, in the meantime, the maintenance crew are doing their best to circulate the air to try and help keep condensation from accumulating.

REZONING

Teresa Tacket, Plan Director, along with Scott Ziegler, Hand to the Plow Surveying, are coming before the commissioners to request that 5.72 acres in Elkhart Township owned by Lucas Barkman with a life estate for Monroe and Rachel Barkman be rezoned from A1 to RE. Teresa is stating that this was reviewed by the plan commission board and the board is giving a favorable recommendation for the rezoning. Gary Timmerman moved to approve the rezoning from A1 to RE. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE MONTH

Jim Mowery, Noble County Prosecutor, Jasmine Hudgens, Victim Witness advocate, and Desirea Burdette, Asst Victim Advocate, were all present to request that the commissioners sign the proclamation making October "Domestic Violence Awareness Month". Gary Leatherman read the proclamation. Anita Hess moved to sign the proclamation. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

The group is also asking permission to decorate the courthouse lawn for the month. Gary Leatherman told the group to work with Glenn before putting in any yard signs because of the irrigation system. Anita Hess moved to allow the area around the courthouse to be decorated for the month of October with the stipulations of yard signs. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

TRI-SHARE CHILD CARE PROGRAM

Jenna Anderson was present to update the commissioners on the Tri-Share Child Care Program. Jenna indicated that there is about \$5000.00 left in the funding that was given by the county to start this pilot program and that will be expended by the end of the year. This was started to roll into a regional program which has not been accomplished. The county program shared this with three employers, YMCA, WN Schools and CN schools 12 families and 14 children benefited from the program. The program was featured in many publications and Jenna reported getting phone calls from other states wanting information on this program. Now that it is the regional phase of the program there is \$5 million dollars in available funding. They currently have 12 employers on board with 4 more going through the process for on-boarding currently serving 47 families and benefiting 74 children. Thrive for 5 will still exist but will be with Crossroads United Way.

RECESS

11:25AM BACK IN SESSION

Corrected minutes signed.

ADJOURNMENT

This session of the Board of Commissioners of Noble County was at approximately 11:30 am recessed from day to day until October 14, 2025

Dated this 14th day of October, 2025


Gary D. Leatherman, President


Anita Hess, Vice President


Gary Timmerman Member

ATTESTED:


Michelle Mayhorter, Auditor