

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR SESSION OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD September 8,
2025**

Comes now the hour of 8:30 am. on the 8th 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

- IDEM- Notice of approval of air permit for Jeld-Wen Inc
- IDEM - Notic of approval of air permit for Star of the West Milling Company
- Clerk of the Circuit Court – August Monthly report

MINUTES

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

CLAIMS

Claims dated September 8, 2025 were reviewed by the commissioners. Gary Timmerman moved to approve the 12-page report totaling \$723,020.22. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

PAYROLL

Payroll dated 09/04/2025 was approved with a motion from Anita Hess and a second from Gary Timmerman. The motion carried 3-0. This was a 3-page report totaling \$545,370.47.

OLD BUSINESS

- Anita has heard from Kyle Bolyard and he will do the appraisal on the county owned parcels in Avilla. An invoice for services will be coming soon.
- Dennis Graft has a draft ordinance for the proposed change to the trustee retained fees for the buggy plates. After review, Anita Hess moved to advertise the amended ordinance for public hearing. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

HIGHWAY

Zack Smith, Highway Engineer, is present with the following engineering update from the Highway Department:

- Zack is requesting approval to purchase blades for the trucks for the upcoming winter season. He has a quote for \$26,920.00 for 8 scarifier grader blades and 16 dual carbide blades. Motion to approve the purchase from MacAllisters came from Anita Hess and was seconded by Gary Timmerman. Motion carried 3-0.
- Employment – Zack informed the commissioners that a truck driver has been hired for the department. John Wood will come to the county with a lot of experience and Zack is asking that the 10% reduction in pay be waived due to his experience. Gary Timmerman moved to approve the waiver of the 10% reduction. Anita Hess seconded. Motion carried 3-0.
- When asked about the upcoming winter season, Zack indicated that the salt barn is full, the trucks are ready and we now have a full staff of drivers for the department.

- Storm Damage - Zack provided the information for the RFP for the building extension at the highway. Gary Timmerman moved to allow the RFP to be posted and advertised. Anita Hess seconded. Motion carries 3-0.
- Bridge 33 - Zack reported that dewatering continues and the contractor is working on piling. There have been some issues with the piling and how deep they are having to go. This may constitute a change order to the project.
- LPA Call for Projects - there will be 3 bridges submitted - Bridge 45 54 and 75. Also 600 W will be submitted for consideration but because of the magnitude of this project Zack will more than likely submit this in phases, thinking that the 1st phase will be between 775 N to 900 N.
- Bridge 44 – right of way work is complete
- Bridge 134 - still trying to finalize 2 parcels on this project. Zack is also requesting another 3-month extension for Mrs. Millhouse. She is having trouble securing housing in her price range. This will continue her lease until January 2026. Zack indicated this will not have any impact on the project as letting is set for February. Anita Hess moved to approve the lease extension to January 13, 2026. Gary Timmerman seconded. Motion carried 3-0.
- Bridge 59 – there is an LPA voucher for right of way services for Bridge 59 in the amount of \$3,027.50. Motion to approve came from Gary Timmerman and was seconded by Anita Hess. Motion carried 3-0.
- Riley Road Appleman Rd – there is an LPA voucher for Preliminary Engineering in the amount of \$18,644.90 needing approval. Gary Timmerman moved to approve. Anita Hess seconded. The motion carried 3-0.
- 100 N 50 W – this project also has an LPA voucher for preliminary engineering in the amount of \$14,561.60. Gary Timmerman moved to approve the voucher. Anita Hess seconded the motion and it carried 3-0.

PUBLIC HEARING SPEED ORDINANCE 1000E

A public hearing was held in reference to reducing the speed on CR 100 E between Kammerer Road and CR 1200 N to 45 MPH. There being no public opposition to the ordinance, Anita Hess moved to approve the ordinance with a second coming from Gary Timmerman. Motion carried 3-0. Copies of the ordinance were sent to the highway department and to Municode for posting.

HIGHWAY

Richard Rogers, Highway Inspector, has the following construction update for the department:

- Richard is requesting a variance for a second drive for James Wormcastle on 100 E. There is a shortage of 200 ft on sight distance but there is a drive right across the road from this sight so Richard is okay with the location. Gary Timmerman moved to approve the variance. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- Richard filed a utility permit for NIPSCO with the commissioners – duly entered
- The Town of Cromwell is asking permission to use CR 200 N to CR 900 W as a detour during the festival in Cromwell on September 27 and 28th. Anita Hess moved to approve. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

COUNCIL ON AGING

Sharon Montoya, COA Director, was present with the second quarter rural transit report. Anita Hess moved to approve the current request of \$184,546.00. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

Sharon also invited the commissioners to join them on September 20, 2025 at 11:00 AM for a ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony at the Kendallville location of the Council on Aging.

STAR TEAM

Lori Gagen, member of the STAR TEAM along with Steve Troyer, Contractor, were both in attendance to update the commissioners on the gazebo improvements. The STAR team will be renovating the gazebo. Troyer Construction has been secured to do the work on the gazebo and Steve is explaining the plans to the commissioners. The roof will be replaced in its entirety. The bench seating will be widened for more comfortable seating. Steve indicated that all construction would be wood construction with agricultural grade asphalt shingles. The only request from Troyer Construction is that they would be able to block off 4 parking spaces during construction for a dumpster and machinery. Anita Hess moved to allow the STAR Team to continue with

construction plans and asked them to speak with the Town of Albion as far as blocking off parking spaces. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

ORDINANCE FOR PHONE VOTING

Dennis Graft, County Attorney, asked the commissioners if they were interested in doing an ordinance for the Board of Commissioners concerning be able to vote by phone if one of the commissioners were unable to attend. None of them seemed to be interested in doing this as none of them plan to be absent unless something out of their control happened. Dennis will discuss this further with the council concerning their board.

RECESSED

1:00 PM BACK IN SESSION

The commissioners returned to do scoring on the Letters of Interest received for Bridge 67. Scoring was done on the following companies:


- DLZ
- Kapur
- Lochmueller
- USI
- V3

Tabulation of the scores will be done by Zack and he will report back to the commissioners.

ADJOURNMENT

This session of the Board of Commissioners of Noble County was at approximately 1:30 pm recessed from day to day until September 22, 2025

Dated this 22nd day of September, 2025



Gary D. Leatherman, President




Anita Hess, Vice President



Gary Timmerman, Member

ATTESTED:



Michelle Mawhorter, Auditor