

NOBLE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, February 5, 2024 1:00 PM
NOBLE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
NOBLE COUNTY NEW ANNEX

PRESENT:

George Bennett
Trey Forbes
Tom Janes
Brandon Chordas
Max Franklin
Mary Wysong

ABSENT:

Doug Harp

ALSO PRESENT:

Jackie Knafel, Noble County Coordinator
Dennis Graft, County Attorney
Matt Getts, KPC Media
Gary Leatherman, Noble County Commissioners

George Bennett, Council President, brought the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 pm

HIGHWAY

Zack Smith, Highway Engineer, was present to update the council member on the Highway department:

- CCMG – both of the projects were submitted and both were accepted for review. There is 1.5 million dollars available this year and Zack has asked for the total amount.
- LPA Projects: a couple of the projects are getting underway. 400 N will be done this year as well as Bridge 136 started work today.
- There is a lot of extra work being done on Bridge 136 due to it crossing CSX Rail. This requires coordination between the contractor and the railroad.
- LPA FY 2029 – presentations were done on January 16, 2024 and Zack indicated that they went very well. He said that there were only 12 projects presented of which 3 were Noble County's.
- Zack presented his 4-year contract that had been signed by the commissioners. Max Franklin moved to approved the contract as written. Trey Forbes seconded and the motion carried 5-0

COURTHOUSE RENOVATION

Zack Smith, Project Manager, reported that demo work is continuing on the courthouse. Zack indicated that they are working their way through PR1 which is staying nearly cost neutral and then PR2 - which be a large amount of change.

The council also reviewed the updated schedule for the project. It is looking like the completion of the project may go into February of 2025.

George Bennett asked how everything was working with the courts being in the annex building. Zack responded that it has not been the best of situations but was the only option available. Seeing what they have seen in the demo process, there would have been no way that the courts could have remained at the courthouse during renovation. There are a couple of high-profile trials coming up that will be challenging but we will work through it all.

PUBLIC DEFENDER

Jim Abbs, Chief Public Defender, came before the council to get permission to hire a replacement for Howard Hanson who is retiring on June 30, 2024. Howard has been with the county since 2001 and was full time. Jim informed the council that there is a shortage of attorneys at this time. He reported that currently Marion County has 30 openings. Jim is concerned that he will not be able to replace Howard with a full-time attorney and is asking that he be able to hire two part time to replace him. He does have some interest when it comes to part time. This will also help with compliance issues should cases increase in the county. Trey Forbes moved to allow Jim to hire two part-time attorneys. Tom Janes seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0. Brandon Chordas was not in attendance for this motion.

PROBATION UPDATE

Jared Owen, Asst. Chief Probation Officer, was present for an update of the Probation Department:

- Jarod remind the council that the department is really 5 departments within Probation
- Problem Solving court is one and the one that Jarod oversees. He reported that there are 37 active members at this time.
- Community Corrections – this is where the GPS Monitoring and bracelet monitoring is supervised.
- Pre-Trial Supervision is fairly new to the department and is in force while cases are pending. Jarod reported that in 2023 there were 819 pre-trial assessments
- Adult Probation – Jarod reported that there are 769 active supervision cases in adult probation. There are different requirements based on the risk. Jarod report that there are 300 low risk offenders.
- The Adult probation officers wrote 141 pre-sentence investigations in 2023
- Alcohol and Drug program – the department had 433 cases referred to this program in 2023

CORRESPONDENCE

- Plan Commission – 2023 Annual Report – duly entered
- Building Department – 2023 Annual Report – duly entered
- Sheriff's Department – Semi Annual Commissary Report
- Jackie talked about the upcoming council visits with the companies that have abatements through the county. The members gave their availability of which Jackie will pass on to Lori at the EDC.

MINUTES

- Minutes of the December 27, 2023 Special Meeting were read and approved as corrected with a motion from Mary Wysong. Tom Janes seconded and the motion carried 6-0.
- Minutes of the January 2, 2024 regular meeting were read and approved as written. Max Franklin moved to approve the minutes. Brandon Chordas seconded and the motion carried 6-0.
- Minutes of the January 5, 2024 special meeting with the Commissioners in attendance were read and approved as written with a motion from Brandon Chordas. Mary Wysong seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Brandon Chordas reported that he had attended the health department meeting. Brandon indicated that the group were a little confused as to exactly what the council is wanting to get the Health First Indiana money budgeted. Jackie told the council that

the Health Department had reached out to her and she met with them on Friday February 2, 2024 to discuss the budget further.

- Max Franklin told the group that he had met with Ben Castle and they had discussed the “claw back” procedure for abatements. Max asked that we put Ben on the March agenda to discuss this further.
- George Bennett reported that the plan commission is working on the integration of the solar ordinance into the UDO. This will then go to the commissioners for final approval.

2024/2025 BUDGET HEARINGS

The council review times for the August Budget Hearings and have set August 27 – 29, 2024 as the dates.

WEST LAKES APPOINTMENT

The West Lakes Regional Sewer District had sent a request for an appointment to the board. Their recommendation was Daryl Minter. There being no other interest in this position, Tom Janes moved to appoint Daryl Minter to the board for a 3-year term January 1 2024 – December 31, 2026. Trey Forbes seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0. Notification mailed 2/6/24 to West Lakes.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Tina Lough, Chief Deputy Health Officer, introduces the new County Health Nurse Carrie Ryan to the Council. She also introduces Melayna Borg, who was recently hired by the department as the new Health1st Indiana Coordinator.

- The first item for review was the contract for Melayna. This is a 2-year contract in coordination with the Health 1st Indiana commitment of funds. Melayna will be overseeing this grant money – writing budgets, overseeing subgrants etc. Brandon Chordas moved to approve the contract as presented. Max Franklin seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.
- The council discussed with Tina, Carrie and Melayna their vision of what the budget should be for this new program. George would like goals set for the money being received and then that will give them a better understanding when approving the budget.
- Additional – The request from the Health Department for additional pay wages for the Health 1st coordinator and the school liaison nurse were reviewed.

1. 1161-16402-161 Health First Coordinator	\$54500.00
2. 1161-17211-161 School Liaison	\$58500.00
3. 1161-12600-161 Social Security	\$ 9000.00
4. 1161-18100-161 PERF	\$13000.00

Motion to approve the above additional pay for the Health Department came from Tom Janes and was seconded by Mary Wysong. Motion carried 6-0.

ADDITIONALS

CEDIT

1112-47802-312 Economic Development Operations	\$50000.00
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This was approved with a motion from Mary Wysong and a second from Brandon Chordas. Motion carried 6-0.

RAINY DAY FUND

1186-45301-548 Sewer Grinder	\$88000.00
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Motion to approve this additional came from Brandon Chordas and was seconded by Max Franklin. Motion carried 6-0.

AMERICAN RESCUE GRANT

Jackie is asking that the council appropriate the balance of the ARP money to help pay for the Courthouse Renovation Project. \$4,000,000.00 was appropriated to do this and there remains \$945,923.41 in the fund which will now be appropriated to 8950-44302-937 Bldg. Repair Renovation. Motion to approve the additional came from Max Franklin. Tom Janes seconded and the motion carried 6-0.

SHERIFF

- Max Weber, Noble County Sheriff, was present for the CCD Claim approval.
Equiparts \$369.39
Shambaugh & Sons \$2148.00

These claims totaling \$2,517.39 was approved with a motion from Tom Janes and a second from Mary Wysong. Motion carried 6-0.

- Equiparts \$596.50

This claim was also approved. Motion to pay from the CCD Fund came from Brandon Chordas and was seconded by Trey Forbes. Motion carried 6-0.

- Max explained that all of the claims were parts for the showers in the jail.
- Max Franklin questioned what the "bonus" was for on the Commissary semi-annual report reviewed earlier. Max explained that this was a grant given by the company that administers the commissary for a while and then they just decided to give it as a bonus rather than making the counties go through a grant process. This money is put into the commissary fund automatically.
- Max report 186 inmates today. He told the council that they had just taken 20 inmates to DOC.
- Max reported that the jail was down 4 jailers with interviews coming up. He also told the group that Joe Hutsell would be retiring the end of this month and will then go to security for the third man at the courthouse/annex.

SALARY ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

An amendment to the salary ordinance was made with a motion from Max Franklin and a second from Trey Forbes. Motion carried 6-0. This will allow a retired employee from the prosecutor's office to come in and help cover vacations etc. when needed and be paid at the full-time deputy rate of \$22.01 per hour.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the Noble County Council, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:30 pm until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the council being March 4, 2024

Dated this 4 day of March, 2024

ABSENT
Trey Forbes

Mary Wysong
Mary Wysong

Tom Janes
Tom Janes

ABSENT
Doug Harp

Max Franklin
Max Franklin

Brandon Chordas
Brandon Chordas

George Bennett
George Bennett

ATTEST: Michelle Mawhorter
Michelle Mawhorter, Noble County Auditor