

**NOBLE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Monday November 3, 2025 1:00 pm**  
**NOBLE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT**  
**NOBLE COUNTY NEW ANNEX**

**PRESENT:**

Tom Janes  
Mary Wysong  
Casey Myers  
Doug Harp  
Max Franklin  
Brandon Chordas

**ABSENT:**

Trey Forbes

**ALSO PRESENT:**

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

Doug Harp, Council President, brought the meeting to order at approximately 1:00PM

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- Doug Harp announced that the State Treasurer would be in Noble County on November 10, 2025 around 3:00 PM to talk with local government about Senate Bill 1
- Open enrollment for Health Insurance will be November 7, 2025 all day in the conference room here at the Annex building.
- Drug Free Noble County will have a luncheon on December 17 at the CDC in Kendallville.
- Councilman Max Franklin announced that he will not be seeking re-election to the council in the 2026 elections.

**MINUTES**

Minutes of the previous meeting was read and approved as written with a motion from Brandon Chordas and a second from Tom Janes. Motion carried 6-0.

**COMMITTEE REPORT**

Max Franklin reported on the recent board meeting for the Council on Aging. Sharon Montoya has resigned as the director and Max reported that there is a lot of turmoil in the department. Board members are working through this and application have been received for a new director.

Brandon Chordas reported on the Health department reporting that the current Health officer has also given notice that she will be resigning at the end of this year.

**HIGHWAY**

Zack Smith, Highway Engineer, had the following engineering business to report:

- Storm Damage – Zack reported that the consultant ratings had been done for the highway building and that American StructurePoint has been selected.
- Community Crossing - to be in compliance for funding a bridge asset management plan was submitted and Zack had received the letter stated that the “plan met all the criteria required”. Also, both applications for 2026 funding have been received by INDOT and are being reviewed for consideration.

- Bridge Inspection – Zack summarized the recent Bridge Inspection report done by United Consulting
- LPA PROJECTS – Zack is bringing before the council members 4 LPA projects for the council to review for submission for future projects. There are 3 bridge project and one road project he is considering submitting. This was brought before the commissioners and they signed Financial Commitment letters for all four projects. Discussion was had about the bridges with Bridge 75 being the top priority, followed by Bridge 45 and then Bridge 65.
- Bridge 75 is estimated to cost \$3,810,000.00 with the county share being \$762,000.00.
- Bridge 45 is estimated at \$2,370,400.00 of which Noble County will be responsible for \$592,600.00
- Bridge 65 – this is estimated to cost \$4,230,000.00 with Noble County paying \$846,000.00.
- All three bridge project were approved for submission and the Letters of Financial commitment were signed with a motion from Brandon Chordas and a second from Casey Myers. Motion carried 6-0.
- 600 W is the fourth project and is a large project. 600 W will be 1.25 mile stretch of road between 775 north and 900 North. This will require a lot of right of way acquisition as shoulder work will be done to accommodate the buggy traffic. This is estimate came in at \$9,103,000.00 with the county having a commitment of \$1,820,600.00. There was a lot of discussion about this project but the council felt that it is a necessary project mainly for safety in the area with wide loads using this road as well as all of the buggy traffic. Max Franklin moved to sign this commitment letter as well with a second coming from Brandon Chordas. Motion carried 6-0.
- Lastly, Zack brought up the employee issue again. He told the council that the department had recently interviewed a good candidate for the department that had experience. He was hoping to work closer to home but when informed of the wages said that he could not take a \$6.00 cut in pay. Zack told the council that WIS has been contacted and would be willing to do a wage study for the county but at a cost. He thought that maybe a third party evaluation might be what was needed. The Council indicated that they didn't want to spend a lot of money on that project.

#### ABATEMENT

Ben Castle, Noble County Assessor, was present along with Melanie Kellogg from the EDC to talk about abatement and how SB 1 might affect the abatement process. Ben talked a lot about the personal property and the fact that anyone with personal property values under \$2,000,000.00 would be exempt from paying personal property tax.

Melanie was here representing Metal Craft and asking for a real estate abatement for \$115,000.00 in improvements to the parking lot area indication that 1 new job would be established. After much discussion, Brandon Chordas moved to deny the abatement due to the personal property tax for this company being zeroed out in 2026. Casey Myers seconded and the motion carried 6-0.

#### HEALTH FIRST INDIANA

Amy Johnson, HFI Coordinator, was present to report on the HFI Funding:

- Lead Screening and case management – 6 individuals served
- Wellness – provided funding for quarterly drawings for the county
- Schedules vaccine clinic at Council on Aging
- Funded two programs at St Martins Healthcare
- Safe Sleep education and resources for Bowen Health, as well as a tobacco cessation program, weight management and STI testing
- Sponsored a 5 K run with Common Grace Ministries
- And swim classes were sponsored at the YMCA
- Amy also reported on vector control data as well as the pool data.

CCD

Max Weber was present for the claims that he is asking be paid from the CCD Fund:

Equiparts in the amount of \$182.11 for a spindle assembly

Trane for Repair and misc supplies in the amount of \$490.97

Brandon Chordas moved to approve. Max Franklin seconded and the motion carried 6-0.

ADDITIONAL

The Cum Courthouse is in need of more funding due to additional repair work needed. An additional in the amount of \$30,000.00 is being requested and is approved with a motion from Mary Wysong and a second from Tom Janes. Motion carried 6-0.

TRANSFERS

- Superior I is requesting the following:

Decrease 1000-13301-038 Education & Training	\$1,000.00
Decrease 1000-31202-038 Physicians	\$2,000.00
Decrease 1000-33100-038 Printing	\$ 792.00
Decrease 1000-39100-038 Dues and subscriptions	\$ 500.00

Increase 1000-14703-038 Special Appointments	\$4,292.00
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Brandon Chordas moved to approve Tom Janes seconded and the motion carried 6-0.

The Health Department is requesting the following transfers:

Decrease 1159-13301-208 Education & Training	\$150.00
Increase 1159-11171-208 Deputy Health Officer	\$150.00

Decrease 1159-13301-208 Education & Training	\$100.00
Increase 1159-11170-208 Food Sanitarian	\$100.00

For Health First Indiana the following transfers were requested:

Decrease 1161-17211-161 School Liaison Nurse	\$8,000.00
Increase 1161-16402-161 HFI Coordinator	\$8,000.00

Casy Myers moved to approve the above transfers with a second coming from Brandon Chordas. Motin carried 6-0.

THANK YOU

Casey Myers thanked the commissioner for the approval of the clean-up of pigeon droppings in the courthouse tower. Netting has been placed as well in an effort to keep pigeons out of the tower. Casey works the Christman lighting and was very appreciative of the efforts made.


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 December 1 2025


Dated this 1 day of Dec, 2025

  
Trey Forbes

  
Max Franklin

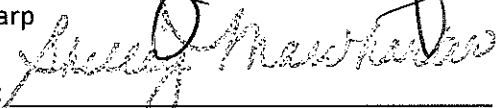
  
Mary Wysong

  
Brandon Chordas

  
Tom Janes

  
Casey Myers

  
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Doug Harp

ATTEST:   
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Michelle Mawhorter, Noble County Auditor