

NOBLE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday February 3, 2025 1:00 PM
NOBLE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
NOBLE COUNTY NEW ANNEX

PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

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

Doug Harp brought the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 PM.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Building Department Annual Report
- Plan Commission Annual Report
- Sheriff's semi-annual commissary report
- Sheriff's 2024 annual report

MINUTES

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved as written with a motion from Brandon Chordas. Tom Janes seconded the motion and the motion carried 7-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Brandon Chordas reported on the Health Department Board that he sits on. Brandon indicated the departments need for a committee to view the grant application for the Health 1st Indiana grants. The department is wanting a committee member appointed from the Council. This will be further discussed at the March meeting.

Max Franklin informed the council members that Cherish Mishleau will be leaving the position of Director so the search is on for a new director.

NEW BUSINESS

- Budget hearing for this year were set for August 19, 20, and 21, 2025 for the 2026 budget reviews.
- West Lakes Regional Sewer District appointments. Mary Wysong moved to appoint Charlene Sue Bock and Robert Kyser to the West Lakes Regional Sewer Board for a 3-year term beginning January 1, 2025 ending December 31, 2027. Brandon Chordas seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

HIGHWAY

Zack Smith, Highway Engineer, brought the following engineering business to the council:

- Zack talked about some of the bills before house and senate at this time that could negatively affect the county and its' funding. Discontinuation of business personal property would impact dollars for the county, schools etc. Also, there are bills being

presented that would decrease gas tax which is where a lot of the highway funding comes from.

- Community Crossings --- both of the applications that were submitted by the highway department have been accepted for consideration
- LPA projects – 2 new bridge projects were submitted for review. Zack has done the presentation of both project and told the council that there were fewer projects submitted this year so feels that we have a good chance of receiving funds for these projects.
- Zack currently has 13 projects under development and all are going well with the exception of a couple of the bridge projects having right of way issues.
- Ball Road is the safety project with construction of the project being fully funded by the state.
- Old State Road 3 from Baseline Road to State Road 205 in LaOtto will be a huge project with letting set for this year.

COURTHOUSE RENOVATION

Zack Smith, Project Manager, has the following update to share with the council:

- With the project coming to a close, a walk-through is scheduled for this week to create the punch list for the project. Weigand will probably be done then with this project. Furniture is set to be delivered in March.
- April 4, 2025 has been set for the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony with past judges being invited to attend. Zack asked the council if anyone wanted to speak on behalf of the council at this ceremony.
- Zack had pictures of the courthouse and also a copy of the plaque under design for the courthouse.
- Lastly, Zack talked to the council about the thought of purchase of the eagles building which would provide extra parking as well as storage for the county offices. Storage space at the courthouse was consumed by request of private offices for many of the probation and court staff. This building was designed for the court system and is secure without the need for a security officer. This was for discussion only and the council would be interested in exploring all options, such as what the cost of the building would be and also the comparison of this building to the Weber Road facility as to square footage etc. The better part of this building would be the added parking spaces as well as the updated design.
- Questions again came up about the selling of property and the process that the county has gone through. The small slivers of property have been handled all in the same way with title searches and the offering to adjacent property owners. Most of these properties are very small slivers of land with very little property value. Gary Leatherman was in attendance and told the council members that the commissioners had met with an auctioneer and that the upfront costs of advertisement etc. was \$2,000.00. There would also be a buyer's fee for the sell. That is the reason these small parcels are handled in the manner in which they are.

PROSECUTOR

Jim Mowery, Noble County Prosecutor, is present to talk with the council about a possible per diem for an IV-D agent who is doing not only the work of an IV-D agent but serves as an administrator doing inventory reporting, annual reports, continuing education training for IV-D personnel, assists case workers with case specific issues, difficult clients and difficult cases. Jim had done some research about case workers in some of the surrounding counties which varied greatly. He is asking for a \$5,000.00 a year per diem to be paid out of his prosecutor's incentive fund. Casey Myers moved to approve the per diem pending a salary ordinance change. Mary Wysong seconded and the motion carried 7-0.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The Health Department was to provide an update as to the expenditures of the Health 1st Indiana fund, but were unable to attend due to illness within the department. A summary of events and expenditures was provided for the council's review.

PROBATION

Jared Owen, Chief Probation Officer, was present to speak to the council about the purchase of some new vehicles in his department. Currently they have 3 vehicles – a 2010, 2015 and 2016. Jared indicated that they have money budgeted for the purchase. Jared is looking at new or slightly used vehicles. The council recommended getting some quotes for the vehicle as well as look into the leasing option as the county does with other vehicles before purchasing.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN – PLAN COMMISSION

Teresa Tackett, Plan Director, came before the council to discuss having a new comprehensive plan done. From some of the research that Teresa has done so far, this could cost anywhere from \$150,000.00 to \$200,000.00. She indicated that they are looking at some grant funding that could possibly cut that cost in half. She has reached out to a couple of agencies about this project but wanted at least 3 quotes before proceeding. She also told the council that they wanted to hold some town meetings to get the input from the citizens to see what direction they would like the county to go as far as future needs of the county.

ADDITIONALS

Additional requests were requested for the sewer grinder at the South Complex out of CEDIT 1112-45301-312 in the amount of \$8465.00 and for the Rainy Day Fund for the courthouse renovation funding 1186-44201-548 in the amount of \$1,000,000.00. Brandon Chordas moved to approve both additional requests. Casey Myers seconded and the motion carried 7-0.

CCD

Max Weber, Noble County Sheriff, was present for the approval of the CCD claims. Max had submitted one on 1/13/25 for Equiparts for a commercial disposal as well as some faucet parts in the amount of \$2,284.19 and then one on 1/22/25 for \$216.81 for plumbing parts from Equiparts. Motion to approve the total CCD claims in the amount of \$2,501.00 came from Tom Janes. Max Franklin seconded and the motion carried 7-0.

Max also informed the council that the Jail Release Coordinator has been hired. They had previously worked at the Bowen Center so is coming to the county with some experience in this field.

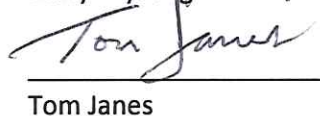
ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the Noble County Council, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00 pm until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the council being March 3, 2025

Dated this 3 day of MARCH, 2025


Trey Forbes



Mary Wysong


Tom Janes

ABSENT
Doug Harp

ABSENT
Max Franklin


Brandon Chordas


Casey Myers