

**NOBLE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Monday April 1, 2024 1:00 PM**  
**NOBLE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT**  
**NOBLE COUNTY NEW ANNEX**

**PRESENT:**

George Bennett  
Tom Janes  
Trey Forbes  
Max Franklin  
Doug Harp

**ABSENT:**

Mary Wysong  
Brandon Chordas

**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

**MINUTES**

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved as corrected with a motion from Max Franklin. Tom Janes seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Max Franklin reported that he had joined Melanie Kellogg from the EDC on a CF 1 visit to Kendallville Iron and Metal. Max reported that the company was in complete compliance with their tax abatement promises.

George Bennett reported that he and Melanie had visited Terra Supreme Battery and LA Kammerer and found them to be in compliance as well. George also reported that the commissioners had recently approved the solar ordinance to be integrated into the UDO ordinance.

**NEW BUSINESS**

The contract for the school liaison nurse was reviewed by the council. Trey Forbes moved to approve the contract. Doug Harp seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

**HIGHWAY**

Zack, Smith, Highway Engineer, was present for the engineering report from the highway department:

- Bridge Deck Overlay – Zack reported that bids were received and opened at a recent commissioner’s meeting. The engineering estimate for this project was around \$218,000.00. There was only one bid received from Niblock and it came in at just over \$106,000.00. Zack told the group that this will be partially funded out of CEDIT funds.
- CCMG – Zack is hoping to hear in the next week or so if Noble County will receive and funding for the CCMG applications submitted.
- Call for Projects – Zack received award letters for 2 out of the 3 projects he submitted. Bridge 61 will receive \$2,160,000.00 in federal highway funds and bridge 56 will receive \$2,960,800,.00 in federal funds. The third project that was submitted was the baseline road project and it was not awarded in this go- around of projects.

- LPA Project bridge 136 – Zack updated the council on this project. Currently the installation of the huge culvert is underway. Zack provided pictures to the council on the progress being made.
- Overall, the department is ramping up for the summer construction season.
- Zack also reported that he is updating the road plan and will probably have that available for the council at their next meeting.

#### COURTHOUSE RENOVATION UPDATE

Zack Smith, Project Manager, has the following update for the council:

- Zack reported that all of the floors are poured at this time.
- There are many sub-contractors on site doing various jobs such as exterior, electrical etc.
- Nate Jones from the IT department joined Zack for the courthouse security discussion. The discussion included access controls, video surveillance and panic buttons. A quote from TechSolutions – who has the security system at the jail as well as the new annex – came in at \$159,589.58. Discussion then focused on where the funding would come from. This was not an item in the cost of the total project. When looking at different funds, Jackie suggested that possibly the public safety fund could fund this security project. Using the TechSolutions, this will have all buildings on the same system. Doug Harp moved to approve the quote from TechSolutions in the amount of \$159,589.58 to be paid from the Public Safety fund. Trey Forbes seconded and the motion carried 5-0. Zack added that this will be one of the last things that will go into place and with the schedule indicating a January / February 2025 end date, this would be something that could be added to the 2025 budget.
- Zack provided an “up to date” schedule of the work at the courthouse as well as an updated cost summary and pictures of the progress.

#### ABATEMENTS

- MD Kimmell Abatement – a representative from MD Kimmell was present along with Melanie Kellogg from the EDC. This is for a personal property abatement for an energy production system on the Metzger farm in Noble Township. MD Kimmell will be digester system that will process manure into a natural gas product. The estimated cost of the project is \$7,000,000.00. Doug Harp moved to approve the abatement for a 5-year abatement. Max Franklin seconded and the motion carried 5-0.
- LA Kammerer LLC is also requesting an abatement for personal property. This is for CNC Cutting system and powder coat bay. The company is anticipating bringing 3 new jobs into their work force with the placement of this equipment. The total cost of the machine is estimated at \$1,160,955.00. Doug Harp also moved to approve this abatement for a 5-year period. Tom Janes seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

#### ASSESSOR

Ben Castle, Noble County Assessor, came before the council to request appointments to the PTABOA Board. These are annual appointments at this time. He is asking that the council reappoint Kyle Bolyard and Patricia Monroe as the council appointees. Doug Harp moved to make the suggested reappointments. Trey Forbes seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

#### CONVENTION AND VISITORS' BUREAU

Grace Caswell, CVB Director, provided the council with a copy of the 2023 Annual Report for the visitor's bureau. Grace summarized the report with the council members and reported that tourism in Noble County continues to grow. Grace shared numbers with the group and well as the outlook for the upcoming year. Grace also informed the group that the CVB has recently added another staff member who has a degree in marketing and data. The data information will be used to better serve the residents and businesses in Noble County.

**PLAN COMMISSION**

Teresa Tackett, plan director, was present to request a 5% increase in pay for the plan commission attorney. An increase in pay was not budgeted at the time that budget for 2024 were submitted, but since that time, the attorney questioned why all employees received a 5% increase and he did not get that same increase. Motion to approve the 5% increase came from Tom Janes making the increase effective immediately. Max Franklin seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

**SHERIFF**

Max Weber, Noble County Sheriff, is present to request that \$5,819.00 of jail repair cost be paid out of the CCD Fund. Kendallville Glass has a billing for 4 tempered glass replacements in the amount of \$4,767.00 and Buckeye Power Sales has a bill for \$1,052.00 for water temp sender and oil pressure sender replacement. Motion to approve the claims came from Doug Harp.

Trey Forbes seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Max reported 199 inmates at today's count.

**TRANSFER**

The Health Department is asking for a transfer in the immunization grant. They want to decrease 8177-11164-919 by \$11,000.00 and increase 8177-31500-919 Professional services by the same amount. Tom Janes moved to approve. Doug Harp seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

The Noble County Auditor is requesting that a transfer of \$500.00 be made from 1000-33100-004 printing to 1000-21300-004 computer forms & supplies. Motion to approve this came from Trey Forbes and was seconded by Max Franklin. Motion carried 5-0.

**ADDITIONALS**

The health department recently had their Health 1<sup>st</sup> Indiana budget approved by the Noble County Commissioners as well as the Noble County Council. The additional items were approved by the council with a motion from Tom Janes and a second from Max Franklin. Motion carried 5-0. With this approval the following will be appropriated in the Health 1<sup>st</sup> Indiana fund:

Fund Name:	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT APPROVED BY FISCAL BODY
<b><u>HEALTH 1<sup>ST</sup> INDIANA CLINICAL</u></b>		
• 1161-13300-161 group insurance	\$40,000.00	40,000.00
• 1161-13301-161 ed & training	\$15,000.00	15,000.00
• 1161-18403-161 TB testing	\$ 2,500.00	2,500.00
• 1161-21100-161 office supplies	\$ 1,000.00	1,000.00
• 1161-21103-161 supp for schools	\$10,000.00	10,000.00
• 1161-21303-161 health prog dev	\$ 8,000.00	8,000.00
• 1161-22100-161 gas oil lube	\$ 2,500.00	2,500.00
• 1161-22200-161 Tires & tubes	\$ 1,000.00	1,000.00
• 1161-23300-161 garage & other	\$ 375.00	375.00
• 1161-24100-161 educational supp	\$ 6,000.00	6,000.00
• 1161-24400-161 uniforms	\$ 1,500.00	1,500.00
• 1161-31106-161 translation serv	\$ 5,000.00	5,000.00
• 1161-31600-161 license fees	\$ 1,170.63	1,170.63
• 1161-32103-161 sub grants / cont	\$65,000.00	65,000.00
• 1161-32400-161 comm services	\$ 4,869.00	4,869.00
• 1161-32932-161 lice shampoo	\$ 3,000.00	3,000.00
• 1161-33100-161 printing	\$ 3,000.00	3,000.00
• 1161-33202-161 advertising	\$ 5,000.00	5,000.00
• 1161-36500-161 Equipment rep	\$10,000.00	10,000.00
• 1161-36701-161 emergency resp	\$ 6,500.00	6,500.00

• 1161-39100-161 dues & subscrip	\$ 1,160.20	1,160.20
• 1161-39200-161 meals & lodging	\$13,526.09	13,526.09
• 1161-44100-161 Furniture	\$ 2,500.00	2,500.00

**HEALTH 1<sup>ST</sup> INDIANA ENVIRONMENTAL**

• 1161-13301-162 Ed & Training	\$15,000.00	15,000.00
• 1161-18404-162 vector control	\$35,000.00	35,000.00
• 1161-21100-162 office supplies	\$ 1,000.00	1,000.00
• 1161-21103-162 supp for school	\$ 3,000.00	3,000.00
• 1161-21303-162 health prog dev	\$ 8,000.00	8,000.00
• 1161-24100-162 educational supp	\$10,000.00	10,000.00
• 1161-24400-162 uniforms	\$ 2,000.00	2,000.00
• 1161-31106-162 translation serv	\$ 3,800.46	3,800.46
• 1161-32103-162 sub grant/cont	\$70,000.00	70,000.00
• 1161-32400-162 comm services	\$ 6,000.00	6,000.00
• 1161-33100-162 printing	\$ 5,000.00	5,000.00
• 1161-33202-162 advertising	\$ 5,500.00	5,500.00
• 1161-39100-162 dues & sub	\$ 2,000.00	2,000.00
• 1161-39200-162 meals & lodging	\$ 8,000.00	8,000.00
• 1161-44100-162 furniture	\$ 2,500.00	2,500.00
• 1161-44302-162 bldg repair /reno	\$52,266.82	52,266.82

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business before the Noble County Council, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:15pm until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the council being May 6, 2024

Dated this 6 day of May, 2024

  
Trey Forbes

  
Max Franklin


ABSENT  
Mary Wysong

ABSENT  
Brandon Chordas

  
Tom Janes

  
George Bennett

  
Doug Harp

ATTEST:   
Michelle Mawhorter, Noble County Auditor